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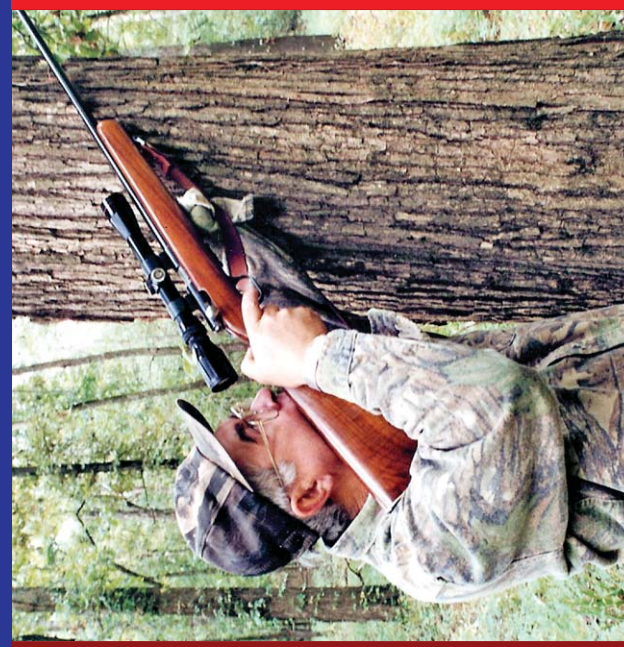
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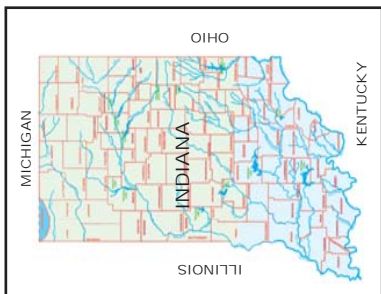


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THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: While I was set up at the 2012 Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show I meandered around the show snapping photos. These 2 photos were taken on a Parkside Marine & More pontoon boat. I took the photo of this cute child sitting in the drivers seat, then asked the parents if I could take one of all three. I got their names and permission to use the photo in The Gad-a-bout, but since then lost their names. Hopefully the parents will see this and contact me so I can put names with their photos, next issue. Call me at 765-960-5767, please. See Page 16 (**Photos by Ray Dickerson**)

Top Right: Todd Huckabee holds a late fall caught crappie. Fall and early winter is a good time for crappie fishing and stashing some fish for a tasty winter meal. See Page 11 (**Photo by Phil Junker**)

Bottom Left: If you want to hunt for what's most abundant, try squirrels. Squirrel season is open right now and will continue straight on into the new year. The hunter harvest limit is 5 per day. A small game license is required, but no other special stamps or tags. See Page 12 (**Photo by Mike Schoonveld**)

Bottom Right: During the 2012 trapping camp, 26 students walked away with traps donated by the ISTA and with a better understanding of trapping, furbearer biology, and why regulations are set in place to regulate trapping. See Page 24-25 (**Photo by Kevin Huff**)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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(Editor's note: Photographer took photo of Mark facing the sun, that's the reason he is squinting.)

DELANEY CREEK LONGBEARDS SUPERFUND MEMBERSHIP BANQUET JANUARY 25, 2013

The Delaney Creek Longbeards Chapter of Washington County are doing a Superfund Membership Banquet, (N.W.T.F.) on **January 25, 2013** at 5 p.m. at the Cornerstone Hall.

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ELECTION 2012

I was as a bit surprised with the outcome of the 2012 Presidential Election, but shouldn't have been too surprised as I predicted it would happen. If you don't believe me ask Steve, Jason, J.R. and many other of my advertisers who I visited Tuesday, November 6th, 2012 as I traveled my distribution area that day checking on their advertising for this issue. I told them I had voted early the week before at the Kuhlman Center in Richmond for Mitt in the Presidential portion of the ballot, but I had a gut feeling that Obama would win. Don't really know why I had that feeling, but as it turned out it was right. Wish I could get that kind of a feeling on the numbers that would win the lottery, oh, I forgot can't win the lottery, would have to buy a ticket first.

After what seemed like 3 years or longer of listening to broadcasts and reading e-mails sent to me about the 2012 election I requested those who were sending me political messages to please refrain from sending me any more and made a mental note to delete them without reading them today and in the future.

I am sick of politics in general. Many times I have said it might be nice to hire the President, then we could fire him, her or it, when it is called for, but alas, that wouldn't work either.

A friend and I were discussing politics several weeks before the election. He made a comment that I really liked, it would solve **three problems** at once. He suggested the President should bring all of the soldiers currently in the Middle East home and assign them to guarding the entire border between America and Mexico. He added part of their mission would be to dig down how ever far it took to destroy all tunnels and bury cement to that depth to discourage future digging by drug cartels and illegal immigrants. By bringing the troops home and assigning them to permanent duty along that border it would **(One)** solve the illegal immigration problem between Mexico and America, **(Two)** solve the employment problem for returning soldiers and **(Three)** it would get us out of the Middle East once and for all. Those countries have been fighting amongst one another for 10,000 years, why in the world does the United States believe they can make peace there. I say, if they want to kill each other, let them. The money we waste on the Middle East could be better spent here in the United States for American problems including the impending "fiscal cliff" and helping those still in the dark up East!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

— IN MY WORLD — & LOCATION MAPS ON HOLD TILL JANUARY 2013

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

-- Thomas Jefferson

In my world we would live by common sense first, and all other things second. ■



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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe

Professional Fishing Guide

Temperate Bass and Brookville Lake

White bass and striped bass are two of the most enjoyable fish to catch at Brookville lake. The limit on white bass is 12 a person with only one being over 17 inches, the rest can be what ever you want to keep. The striped bass limit is 2 with no size limit, but a average size keep-able fish would be about 15 lbs. These fish are a schooling fish, so if you find one you have found a bunch. The white bass and striped bass are a temperate bass. Some lakes in Indiana and the Ohio river are stocked with a hybrid striped bass commonly known as wiper. This fish is a cross between a pure strain white bass and a pure strain striped bass. This can only be done by human intervention it does not happen in the wild. Usually the hybrid striped bass are stocked in warmer shallower lakes and the pure strain striped bass are stocked in deeper cold lakes. The reasoning is the the hybrid can tolerate the warmer water better due to the influx of the white bass. For a while now even Brookville lake has had trouble keeping the pure strain striped bass alive. The optimum water temperature for the striped bass is around 70 degrees and as you all know our weather patterns have been changing.

Our summers are longer and hotter than I can remember and I'm 52 years old. Back in 1988 we experienced our first striper die-off do to a long hot dry windless summer. I can remember this because

that spring Ronnie Rosenberger of Brookville caught the new Indiana State record Striped bass out of Brookville Lake, it was a whopping 26 lbs. That was the biggest fish any of us had ever seen.

Unfortunately that summer we had a very hot long summer with very little rain and absolutely no wind. What this did was set the lake up with a very shallow thermocline. A thermocline is where the upper layer of warm water meets the lower layer of cold water. The thermocline is a barrier that all fish cannot cross due to very low oxygen content. This is why the depth of the thermocline is so important. If you have a 88 degree surface temperature and the thermocline is at 15 feet, all the fish in the entire lake are forced to live from the surface down to 15 feet where the temperature is not going to change much.

Although if you have a deep thermocline say 35 to 45 feet deep the opportunity for the water to be cooler is greater. The thermocline back in 1988 was at 18 feet. A fishing biologist explained it to me like this. Visualize a great big bubble of cool well oxygenated water in the lake. As the hot rainless, windless summer drags on the bubble gets smaller and smaller till it won't contain the large number of striped bass anymore. So fish start getting forced out of it. The smaller striped bass can hold on for awhile, but the 20 plus pounders don't stand a chance and that is that. This warmer water really has a devastating effect on the striped bass, but the smaller white bass does not seem to be bothered at all. A lot of this probably has to do with the striped bass being an ocean fish that usually just moves in to fresh water to spawn, where as the white bass is a true fresh water fish. When they are small they look similar especially in color. A

striped bass has a long torpedo like body and a white bass has a shorter more box like look. Inside the mouth a striped bass has two tooth patches on its tongue where the white bass only has one.

As of right now I would have to say that the population of large striped bass in Brookville lake is pretty low do to the catch rate that we have had in the last couple of years. I talked to the fishing biologist this summer though and he said that Brookville lake got a full stocking this year of 52,000 striped bass so the future looks bright.

The white bass on the other hand is tremendous. You can catch white bass from spring all the way through winter at a pretty regular basis, you just have to know where to look. Start by finding the shad, if you can find the shad you can find the white bass. A good tip is if you can't find the shad on your fish finder it is probably due to them being shallow on the bank, not under your boat, where your fish finder can pick them up. This is especially true in late fall or early winter. From the 1st of October till now we have probably caught 1000 white bass in less then 3 foot of water, that is no joke. So if you want to go out and simply catch fish, think white bass. Cast, troll or throw anything that looks like a bait fish and a white bass will hit it, if its close.

Good Luck, Tag

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At left, Tag holding a Hybrid Striped bass and at right holding a pure strain striped bass. (Author Photo)

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News from the Indiana State Police



by **Sergeant John D. Bowling**
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

School Bus Stop Arm Violations- Give Our Kids a Break

Now I've said it before in these pages, one of the many things we do is track statistics and trends around the state. One trend I've seen this fall and find alarming is the number of school bus stop arm violations being reported to us from school districts all over the Pendleton District, and across the state for that matter.

Two State Police Districts in the state have started enforcement programs putting a trooper on the bus who calls out plate numbers of violators to troopers waiting down the road. The law for school bus stop arm violation states "Any person who drives a vehicle that meets or overtakes a school bus stopped on a roadway when the arm signal device is extended or proceeds before the arm signal device is no longer extended," commits a violation.

Circumstances not requiring an approaching vehicle to stop are if the roadway is divided into two or more lanes by "an intervening space unimproved and not intended for vehicle travel (like a grassy median,) or a road divided by a physical barrier," like concrete Jersey Barriers.

So even if you're on a four or more lane highway, if the lanes aren't split by a grassy median or concrete barrier, you have to stop. The yellow caution lights on buses mean prepare to stop, not speed up to beat the stop arm. All a bus driver has to do is get us your plate number, and we will come visit you at your house or place of business with a ticket in hand. We don't have to witness the violation to write the ticket, as the bus driver becomes the witness.

If you're running late to work and get in the school bus traffic, you still have to protect our kids and be patient. The old warnings we used to issue (and that I still use) had a convenient chart at the bot-

tom showing miles driven at different speeds and how long it would take you to get there. An example would be going ten miles at 65 MPH takes nine minutes, but only takes 11 minutes at 55 MPH.

Running a school bus stop arm is just like running a stop sign or stop light; it's considered a serious moving violation. Getting to your destination a couple of minutes later is surely worth keeping kids safe, not to mention worth saving you \$128.00 for the ticket fine and the points on your license that will cause your car insurance to go up. So make sure you stop completely for those school buses.

Driving Tips for Heavy Rain and Flooding

Less than a half percent of all crashes nationwide involve water or fire. But if you happen to drive or crash into water, you need to know what to do. The State Police offer the following driving tips for high water conditions.

- Carry a cell phone and charger.
- Pay attention to local media reports and warnings issued by the National Weather Service.
- Never drive around barricades at water crossings.
- Be careful at night when it is difficult to see water and it's depth across the roadway.
- Reduce your speed in rain and NEVER enter flowing water. Driving fast through water creates less tire contact with the road surface (hydroplaning) and increases your chance of crashing.
- Driving through water affects your brakes reducing their effectiveness until they dry out.
- If your vehicle ends up in water, exit through a window and climb on top of your car. Call 9-1-1 from there and wait for help to arrive. Most vehicles will float for several minutes.
- Be aware that road erosion can occur anytime there is running or standing water.
- It only takes six inches of water to reach the bottoms of most car doors. One foot of water will float most vehicles and two feet of water will carry most vehicles away.

If your car ends up in the water, unbuckle your belt, roll down the window and go out onto the top of your car to call 9-1-1.

The Indiana State Police is committed to reducing crashes and promoting safety on Hoosier Highways. We continue to monitor the top causes for crashes, and concentrating education and enforcement efforts on these causes.

Driving Tips for Inclement Weather

With cold weather comes the ice and snow we all know and "love." Driving in this weather is some-

times more than a challenge-it can be very dangerous. As a trooper I hate this weather because of all the careless and dangerous crashes we end up working.

Remember that icy roads may contribute to a crash, but these conditions don't cause crashes. **YOUR** driving behavior is what causes or prevents crashes. Below I've listed just a few tips to help you reach your destination safely this winter.

Drive according to road conditions:

- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Clear all windows of ice and snow and remove snow from hood, roof and headlights and tail lights.
- Beware of bridges, underpasses, overpasses and intersections where ice tends to form first.
- Don't use cruise control on slick roads.
- Avoid abrupt stops and starts, slow down gradually and keep wheels turning to avoid losing traction.
- Use headlights even during daylight hours
- IMPORTANT!! Increase the following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Decrease your speed according to the road conditions
- Make sure you have a charged cell phone in your vehicle AND NEVER TEXT WHILE DRIVING.
- ALWAYS WATCH FOR STOPPED TRAFFIC AHEAD

• **MOVE OVER AND/OR SLOW DOWN FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND SNOW PLOWS!**
• **ROAD CONDITIONS:** visit INDOT's website www.TrafficWise.IN.gov or dial 800-261-ROAD (7623).
• **WE NEED TO LEAVE OUR PHONE LINES OPEN FOR EMERGENCIES!**

This ends another month's installment. Thank you for allowing all of us serve all of you, have a safe holiday, and we shall talk again next month.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. ■

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INDIANA STATE POLICE CRASH REDUCTION PROGRAM

Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by I.C.O. Gary Catron
LE Division Spokesperson

In case you missed it

The following is a Law Enforcement Division news release from this past September. Congratulations to Jeff Milner and all of the ICO men and women K-9 handlers.

Conservation Officer Milner gets national award

Indiana Conservation Officer Jeff Milner has received national recognition for his work as the chief handler for the Indiana DNR Resource Protection K-9 program. The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) presented Milner with its 2012 Conservation Law Enforcement Award at the organization's recent annual conference in Hilton Head, S.C. Originally formed in 1902, AFWA supports North America's fish and wildlife agencies in advancing sound, science-based management and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. "Even though I was the recipient of the award, our K-9 program would not be successful without all the outstanding work of the entire K-9 team," Milner said. "Part of Indiana's success has also been passed on to other states." Milner has conducted four K-9 academies (2000, 2003, 2008 and 2011) that have trained resource protection officers and dogs from Indiana, as well as Idaho, Kansas,



Indiana Conservation Officer Jeff Milner

Kentucky, Maryland and Virginia. "All the states that have come to Indiana for training have continued their program, and in most cases have grown and expanded," Milner said. DNR Law Enforcement director Scotty Wilson nominated Milner for the award, noting Milner's role as one of the founding officers for Indiana DNR's K-9 program. "He traveled to Florida in 1997 to train with the Florida Game and Fish commission's K-9 program," Wilson said. "He returned to Indiana and proved beyond a doubt the value of these types of working dogs in our profession. "His attention to duty and his efforts to train officers nationwide has not gone un-noticed by his peers and supervisors. He has set a very positive example for our organization. He has dedicated countless hours of his personal time to this calling and the training of new handlers and dogs." Milner currently partners with Fury, who was featured on the front cover of the March/April issue of DNR's Outdoor Indiana magazine. His first partner, Journey, set the gold standard for achievements. Before retiring in 2008, Journey and Milner had almost half of the 800 arrests recorded by the DNR K-9 program. "He has made many successful tracking cases in the commission of wildlife crimes and

search and rescue," Wilson said. "Jeff also has been called upon by different agencies throughout the state, including the FBI, to locate evidence used in various crimes during his tenure as a K-9 handler." The DNR K-9 program has averaged eight units during its 15-year history. "We're currently at six units with expectations of expanding in the near future," Milner said.

Becoming a Conservation Officer...

Do you, or someone you know, have an interest in becoming a Conservation Officer in Indiana? Information about 'all things ICO' is available now, more than ever, for all to view, read and digest via the Law Enforcement Division webpage.

A new selection process is within sight on the horizon.

Potential job candidates meeting the basic requirements must register on the webpage: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2760.htm>. If you already have the Indiana DNR homepage saved in your favorites, link to the law enforcement division webpage and click 'career opportunities' then select the 'becoming a conservation officer' option, then click on 'Begin the hiring process by taking this pre-screening test.'

Good luck.

Deer License frequently asked questions

In the spirit of providing a public service message, here are answers to some of the more frequently asked questions regarding deer licenses and their proper applications.

Additional deer hunting information is available for review by visiting www.in.gov/dnr.

Can a firearms license be used to take an antlerless deer? No, this license can only be used during the firearms season and only an antlered deer may be taken with this license type. The firearms license is not valid during the muzzleloader or the special antlerless firearms seasons.

Can a person use a muzzleloader license during the firearms season? No. The muzzleloader license is good only during the muzzleloader season. Those wishing to take an antlered deer during the firearms season with a muzzleloader must first purchase the firearms license to do so.

Is a bonus antlerless license valid for all seasons? The bonus antlerless license is valid for all seasons, but in counties designated as 'A', the bonus license may not be used until the last four days of the firearm season. A bonus antlerless license is not 'method-specific', so any legal device otherwise allowed dur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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by Dan Graves

FROM LAKE TO POND- TO LAKE

I've often wondered what controls the behavior patterns of fish. Why can the fisherman beat the water to a froth one day, using every lure in the tackle box and catch nothing, and the next day fear for his life when the things savagely attack anything that moves? I've heard a number of so-called valid reasons fish will do one thing or another. "The water temperature isn't right." "The moon is in the wrong phase." "The wind is blowing from the wrong direction." My favorites are, "You ain't holdin' your mouth right" or, "The earth is tilting the wrong way on its axis and the change in the gravitational field is making them spooky."

Okay, I'll agree that weather can play a role and we seem to catch more fish under a full moon, but I credit that to being able to see where you're casting the lure and avoiding hooking a limb twenty feet off the water. Nothing spoils fishing any more than a honked off fisherman trying to jerk a lure out of an oak tree at midnight. But, maybe that's why fishing is so interesting. If we knew we were going to catch certain fish at certain spots every time, we could hire someone else to do the job for us. Imagine calling "Bucks Sure Fire Fishing Service" and putting in an order for a five pound catfish to be ready to fillet for supper. "Ol Buck" would simply motor to the five pound catfish hole, snag one and deliver it to your door, thus saving you all the trouble and expense of doing it yourself. The real thrill of fishing is not knowing what to expect from the little doofus' and spending a lot of time and money on equipment to prove that point.

One other thought came to mind recently. Maybe fishing success or failure depends on the size of the body of water. On a big lake or river the fish have a lot of room to move in and the chances of finding them are slim. On the other hand, a small pond or creek keeps them crammed together and increases the chances of a strike or even snagging a few.. Recently, a friend and I had a chance to test this theory. He called to ask if he and his grandson could fish our paltry 300 acre lake. Since I had just had our boat winterized and taken out of

the water we would have to depend on bank fishing. Starting on a couple of coves our only catches were two scrawny crappies, a curly willow tree, and about a dozen rocks and stumps on the bottom. Since the fish weren't big enough to make a sandwich and we had no use for rocks, stumps or willow tree branches, we moved to the dam where the water is the deepest of the lake. I had caught a few white bass there earlier in the year and felt that we might as well go for the big ones. After a half hour and only the same two crappy to show for it, Evon, Bob's grandson, gave up and stretched out on the grass to play with his iPad. I suggested that we move to a friends pond where the fish were crowded down into only an acre of water and give Evon a chance to catch something other than a text message.

At the pond we began casting crappie jigs. Evon broke the ice by snagging a small bluegill while I caught a cattail stalk and Bob hooked a 'gill so small that when he held it up for me to see I had to ask which was the jig and which was the fish. I know fish start from an egg, but that thing couldn't have been more than three days old. For the next hour Evon drug seventeen bluegill from the water while Bob and I worked frantically to attract a couple of bass that were slapping the surface after minnows with no luck. Finally, he and I decided we weren't going to stand for having a 13 year old iPad addict show us up in fishing, so we called it a day. My theory of smaller bodies of water bunching the fish apparently only works when you have a kid along.

The next day another friend invited Bob and I to accompany him on a trip to the Brookville reservoir. Armed with a twenty foot bass boat shoved along by 150 horsepower of sheer muscle, we felt we could cover the entire lake in a couple of hours. No doubt about it. Our luck was going to change. After launching and cruising through a no wake zone that in itself was bigger than the whole lake in my front yard, Fergie, our captain shoved the throttle forward. Hanging on to our hats I thought that if he doesn't slow down we'll grind to a halt on the main street of the town of Liberty, north of the lake.

"Hey Fergie. Are we supposed to be trolling or trying to break the sound barrier? Wherever you're going, the fish will probably hang around there for the next couple of hours." Having satisfying his "I feel the need for speed" our captain decided to drift fish. Drift fish? No self respecting fish was going to be roaming around in the middle of a body of water just slightly smaller than the Pacific ocean, especially a school of crappie, which was our target. A half hour later and no luck we moved to the nearest cove and casting to the tree stumps where felt there had to be schools of crappie big enough to sink the boat. The wind had other ideas and in spite of constant use of the trolling motor we moved in and out of coves like a group of shoppers on Black Friday. We looked like we were fighting off bees as we cast and retrieved fast to keep from snagging the many stumps and dead trees. Fergie had forgotten to bring an anchor along.

Three hours later we hadn't had a single hit and quit. I guess fishing does depend on the magnetic field of the earth or how you hold your mouth. We should have brought Evon along. ■

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Notes from:
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by **Marshall Smith**

Gun Issues

Gun issues: Failure to load, Failure to fire, Failure to Eject, Dented shotgun Barrels, all can be dangerous condition which the hunter should be alert to.

Hunting season is now in full swing. Indiana has some great public lands to hunt. Safety before, during, and after the hunt is still and always the number one object during your hunt. The **Indiana 2012 - 2013 Hunting & Trapping Guide** is available for anyone who wants to download the PDF version at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2343.htm>

Magazine Plugs

Indiana requires that shotguns used for migratory game birds be plugged so that the shotgun can hold no more than three shells. I interpret that to



Universal Magazine Plug

mean the magazine must be plugged to hold no more than 2 shotgun shells, the 3rd being in the chamber, ready to fire. I know some of you will disagree with that statement so I have included the regulation's wording as stated in the Indiana 2012-2013 Hunting Guide. Of course I would rather be on the conservative side of the regulation than to have to appear before a judge to correct me. Recently I have had the chance to work on a shotgun which had a commercially purchased universal shotgun magazine plug. The plug was made of plastic and was fluted and narrow. The cap end of the plug was small in comparison to the magazine tube size and fit inside the magazine spring rather than having the cap of the plug riding on the top of the spring. Because of its small size it would occasionally get into the spring windings and lock the magazine in such a way that it could not be loaded or unloaded. To operate properly the plug must fit the gun magazine spring and the top of the plug must not slide down inside the spring but remain at the front end of the magazine tube. It should not "rattle" in the magazine tube. Check with the gun manufacturer for magazine plugs for your gun. The noise alone could cost you that nice Christmas duck.

Excerpt from the Indiana 2012-2013 Hunting & Trapping Guide, page 18.

"When hunting for migratory game birds and waterfowl (i.e., doves, ducks, geese, woodcock, etc.), it is illegal to use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun (See pages 28-29). There are no restrictions on magazine capacity for hunting of any other species."* **(Emphasis added)*

Another area that the migratory bird hunting regulations addresses is the use of non-toxic shot. I would like to know our readers thoughts or opinions on the use of non-toxic shot, the types they use, and the success they have with the lighter than lead shot. I will mention here that if you are using steel shot, not to use that in some of the older model shotgun barrels or variable chokes unless the manufacturer specifically has rated the choke for steel shot. There seems to be a lot of information on the net about the use and performance of non-toxic shot and it appears that there is conflicting views and studies on the subject. Email me with your thoughts or opinions at prairiewolfguns@gmail.com. I think the cost of

the various approved non-toxic shot shells will in the end determine what will be used the most in the field. I've check some prices and find that the cost of steel shot appears lower than the others where the newer Hevi-shot brand of shot shells approaches \$3 to \$4 dollars per shell. Just for information I've listed the approved list of non-toxic shot in Indiana, again from the Indiana 2012 - 2013 Hunting and trapping guide.

Approved non-toxic types of shot.

- Bismuth-tin
- Iron-tungsten
- Iron-tungsten-nickel
- Steel
- Tungsten-bronze
- Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- Tungsten-matrix
- Tungsten-polymer
- Tungsten-tin-bismuth
- Tungsten-tin-iron
- Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel

Copper-plated, zinc chromate-plated, zinc chloride-plated and nickel-plated steel shot is approved as long as the plating represents less than 1 percent of the shot's weight. Lead shot plated with copper, nickel or other material does not qualify.

Wild Hogs

Do you have wild hogs in your area? No, I'm not talking about the motorcyclists nor the movie. I'm talking about the real thing. Feral hogs running amok in our fields, wild life area, and suburbs.

The herds of wild or feral free-ranging hogs have created problems in several areas of the state. They are known to cause damage to crops and native plants with their rooting and have become very detrimental to the native wildlife and habitats. The hogs spread diseases and have become a predator of Indiana livestock and poultry. A hunter can take a wild hog at anytime without a permit from the DNR. However, if you are on another's property you must obtain permission from the landowner. Keep in mind the person or persons living on the property may not be the landowner and their permission may not be valid.

As part of a risk assessment program, the Bureau of Animal Health (BOAH) asks hunters who spot or take a wild hog to report the animal to the agency. Reports help BOAH and DNR determine if additional census, disease monitoring and/or control steps are necessary. Anyone who sees or takes a wild hog should call BOAH at (877) 747-3038 or email animal-health@boah.IN.gov to report the approximate location, number, sex and estimated size of the animal(s).

Have a good and safe hunt, a great and merry Christmas, and remember

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Marshall Smith

(See Marshall in Veterans Parade Page 27, middle of left side.)

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by Golden Eagle

Time waits for no one.....

How time seems to fly. the older I get the faster it seems to go.

Here we are at the end of another year. For the Cherokee the new moon of December is the start of the new year.

You know that I have to write this column a month or two ahead of the time you read it. Usually it snows around Thanksgiving so I am hoping this fits.

When I was a boy scout, we used to go out into the woods, after a big snow, and cast animal tracks in plaster. We would put a metal fence around the track and pour plaster of paris into it, covering the track. We had rabbit, squirrel, fox, raccoon, domestic cat, dog, and crow. I exhibited them at the merit badge shows one year.

Winter's tale...on the great plains winter came early. The people made preparations for the long winter. Fire wood was stored inside of the lodge. Chunks of wood that would burn slowly. The women had prepared dry meat with berries to put

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off hunger. This was the time of the long sleep. Hibernating like the bears, keeping the lodged closed up tight, allowing the snow to pileup on the sides keeping in the warmth.

When the young ones couldn't sleep grandfather or grandmother told stories to keep them entertained. The old ones didn't need much sleep and they knew that before long they would start their final journey to the spirit land. They told stories of the animals, the fox, the beaver and the rabbit. stories of the star people and their journeys to earth. Stories of the trickster who liked to get normally serious people to do foolish things. Sometimes they would take the song drum and quietly sing a song, perhaps a lullaby to relax the children and get them to sleep. Near the door the dog would grumble in it's sleep.

Perhaps remembering of a rabbit it had chased last summer. All was quiet in the camp winter brought peace.

Old Chief says: Our grandchildren are the living message we send to a future that we will not see. ■

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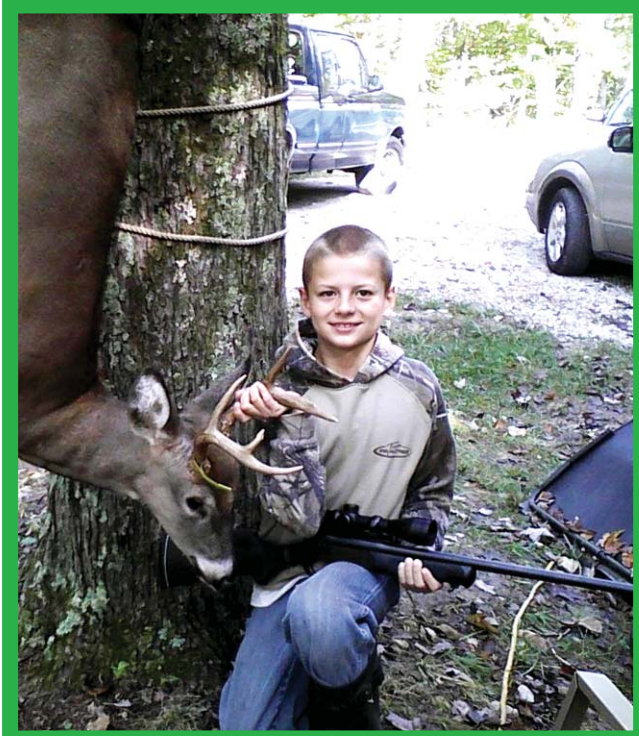
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GAD'S CORNER DEER PHOTOS SEE MORE ON PAGE 30-31



9 year old Andrew Galloup from Jeffersonville IN took this buck in Crawford Co. Andrew harvested the buck with a 44 mag. (Photo submitted by grandpa and grandma Galloup)



Robert Pardo took this old 7 point 225 lb. Buck on 10-21-12 in Wayne County. He showed me a photo of the buck on his cell phone 11-6-12. (Submitted by Robert Pardo)

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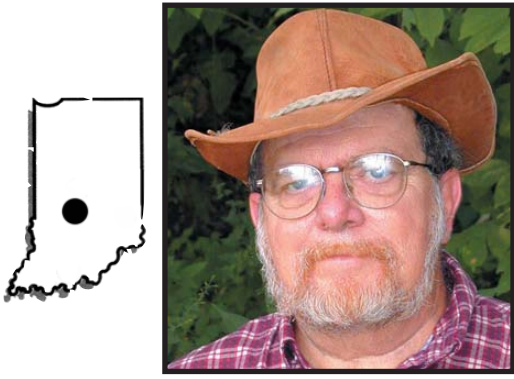
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Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

Late fall good time for crappie

There are three good times to crappie fish. First is during the spring spawn, second is late fall and early winter when waters cool just before really cold weather, and the third is anytime you get a chance to fish.

Late fall crappie ("slab") fishing is time for putting crappie in the freezer for winter meals. They taste mighty delicious with fried potatoes and slaw when the wind and snow are swirling around the door sill.

Most anglers prefer spring crappie fishing when the fish will hit almost anything around the time of their spawn. During this time the fish don't travel much. They are relatively easy to find and catch.

However, fall has its advantages. There usually are fewer people fishing, thus less competition. And, the weather can be beautiful. Spending a day on the water on a crisp, fall day is hard to beat. They usually are some sunny warmer days in December.

It's true that crappie are likely to move more and be more scattered during the fall. As the water temperature begins to cool, the fish will begin to move from deeper water into the shallow to feed before winter. They are looking for food, especially min-

nnows, and you are likely to find the crappie where you find minnows. Many anglers look for the minnows to find the fish.

Even though crappie may be scattered, they still will move close to the shoreline and shallow water. They can be found around structure such as rocks, weeds, ledges and channels. Then as winter arrives, the fish will start gathering together and form schools once more.

Two other productive fall techniques include drifting and spider rigging trolling. Both ways include multiple hooks. One caution is to make sure the number of hooks you want to use is legal where you are fishing.

Whatever method is used, patience and persistence is important. It may take time to locate the slabs, but when you do, they can be caught.

Much like early spring, late fall usually has lots of cold front and they can completely change crappie behavior. The fish change may require fisherman change as well. It probably will require a slow presentation of the lure or bait. The fish may be hungry, but still will not hit a fast moving bait.

In the spring if you catch a couple of crappie, you likely will find more in the same area. You probably can fish one general location and have a good outing. In the fall, the fish move and the fisherman needs to do the same. If you aren't catching fish, you need to be on the move.

Since crappie are on the move in the fall, one of the best methods of fishing for them is casting small lures, using techniques much like bass fishing. Not only is it one of the most productive methods in the fall, it also is fun.

As long as I'm catching fish, I'll stay in the

same general area, but once the action slows it is time to move on. If you think the only way to fish for crappie is to sit in one place, you'll probably think fall fishing isn't much fun or productive. Trolling is another way to cover a lot of water as well as find fish.

If you are casting, small lures in the range of one-sixteenth ounce work well with Road Runners, jigs, curly tail grubs, and small crankbaits all work well at times. It's always a good idea to ask local anglers what lure and color seems to be working best.

A guide friend says his motto is dangle the bait if the fish are deep, cast if they are shallow.

When fish aren't interested in your bait, don't be afraid to change. What works one time, may not work the next.

A plate of fried crappie is a good way to end the day, but may taste even better when taken from the freezer this winter.

###

Contact writer Phil Junker by email at: outdoorscribe@yahoo.com

For more outdoors with Phil Junker, contact his blog at: outdoorscribe.blogspot.com



Todd Huckabee holds a late fall caught crappie. Fall and early winter is a good time for crappie fishing and stashing some fish for a tasty winter meal. (Author Photo)

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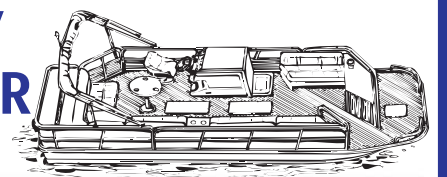
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Squirrel Hunters Need To Get Going

Anglers often fish for what's biting the best. If the walleyes are stacking up below the Brookville Lake Dam, expect to find the fishermen there. When the crappies are hitting at Lake Monroe, every boat dock has a minnow bucket on it. I believe each fishing trip should be blessed with a few stretched lines and there's no better way to insure this than to follow the hot bite and be versatile in what you try to catch.

The same theory doesn't hold true with hunters. There are plenty of guys who hunt only for deer or only for pheasants or only for waterfowl. I have no quarrel with people of that mind set, but it's an easy argument that hunters should turn their attention to what ever type of quarry is most abundant.

If that makes sense to you, then why haven't you been out squirrel hunting yet this year? In this part of the Midwest, squirrel numbers are at or near all-time high numbers.

Squirrels both follow and defy the rules which govern most small game species across the country. The key to a continued abundance of rabbits, quail and other small game (as well as non-game small animals) is their birth rate. It's high. It's simple math to do the multiplication to show a single pair of rabbits can have several hundred offspring by the end the breeding season. That's balanced, of course by a high death rate. With most species somewhere around 90 percent of all that are born don't make it to breeding age. Disease, weather, parasites, predation, starvation and accidents all take their toll. That's why an annual hunter harvest makes little difference, in most cases, and can actually improve populations occasionally by thinning the numbers sufficiently the odds of survival of the ones remaining increase. In either situation, hunters are harvesting animals which would succumb to some other cause.

Squirrels have a high birth rate, just as rabbits. They have relatively large litters and a female can produce multiple litters in a single breeding season.



Want action afield? Try squirrels. (Author Photo)

However, given plenty of food and a modicum of squirrel habitat, significantly less than 90 percent of the squirrel population will die from one cause or another each year.

In the wild, less than 1 percent of all rabbits live to be 2 years of age-even in ideal habitat conditions. Give a mature squirrel ideal conditions, however, and it will probably make it on to the following year and so will plenty of it's offspring.

That's why most places are tree-to-limb with squirrels right now. A couple of falls ago the squirrel populations were scant. However, every oak tree seemed to be loaded with acorns. With few squirrels, plenty of food and what turned out to be a relatively mild winter, the survival of what few squirrels were out there was excellent. Last winter was mild, as well, and acorns were once again abundant so few of the squirrels born earlier in the year were eliminated and, come spring, they too added their offspring to the population.

Some people call hunting a cruelty. I claim a well placed shot ending the life of an animal is a better fate than starvation, disease or most other alternative ends brought on by nature. If you believe this, then know that countless thousands of squirrels are going to die this winter because though the population is high, the amount of food in most forested areas this year is small. Hunger among the squirrels and the ills associated with an inadequate diet will surely trim the now-abundant numbers by spring.

If you want to hunt for what's most abundant, try squirrels. Squirrel season is open right now and will continue straight on into the new year. The hunter harvest limit is 5 per day. A small game license is required, but no other special stamps or tags.

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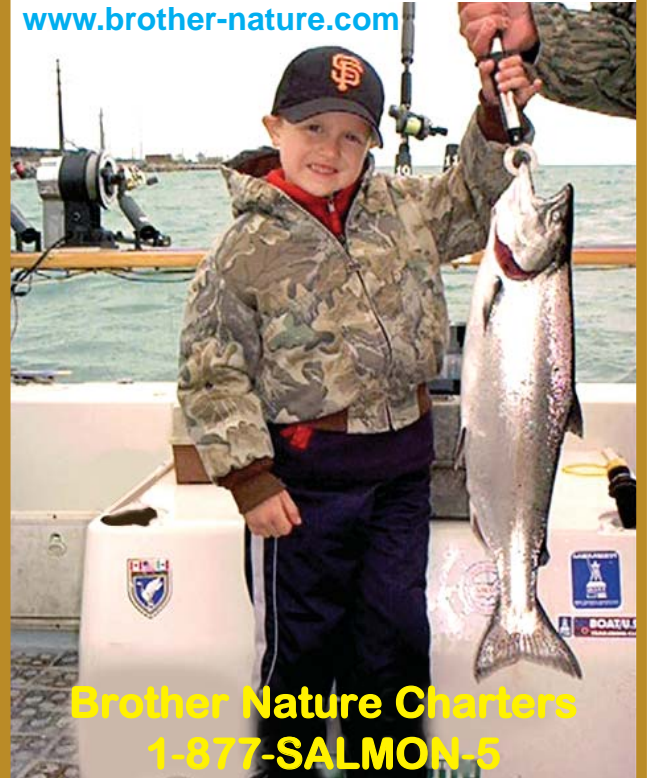
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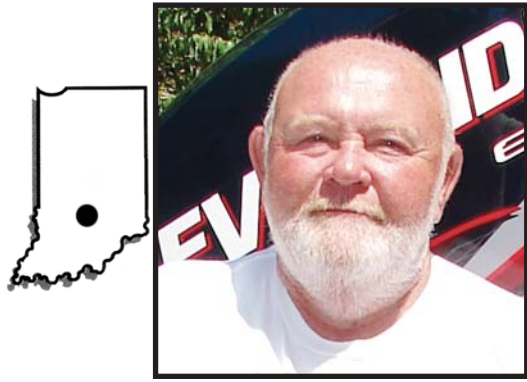
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Bass Fishing Techniques



by Bill Embry

Preparing for the 2013 Tournament Bass Fishing Season

Most tournament organizations are working on or have already set their dates for the 2013 season. Most dates that are drawn from the DNR, are tentative dates and won't be finalized until sometime in December. I have a few of those tentative dates for you. Please see attachment!

There are many fishing organizations in Indiana, Bass, crappie, carp, and catfish tournaments. I have been into bass fishing for over 30 years now, and have done everything from participating as a contestant, to organizing them. There are many great folks that work very hard on putting these events on for the avid angler. The hours they spend working on the details they must do to make it a success is really unbelievable. Contestants really have no ideal,



Roy Potter at left and Pat Brown at right. Pat weighed in 19.82 pounds in the IBF Classic 2 day event to win \$4,000.00 at Geist Reservoir in October. (Author Photo)

believe me these folks do this for the love of sport! Not the money!

In 2012 I fished about 28 events from northern Indiana to Tennessee. I fished in several circuits. The Hoosier Open Trail, Weekend Division & Seniors Division, Jeff & Terri Rude are the owners from the Kokomo area.. They are great people with a great following of folks. Although I must warn you these anglers are some of the best bass fishermen in the state of Indiana. If you think you might want to fish a tournament give them a call **765-434-3636** or check out their website at www.hoosieropen.com.

The Indiana Bass Federation also has a very good trail. Ran by Kenny Swint, Phone **317-416-4579**, www.indianabass.com. This trail is a draw tournament where you don't have to have a boat to fish from. You can fish as a non-boater or a boater. Kenny does a wonderful job running it. There was an angler that belongs to the Gad-a-bout Bass Club that won the non-boaters division of the Indiana Bass Federation Classic this year, his name is Pat Brown. Pat is from Ohio, he weighed in 19.82 lbs. in the 2 day event to win \$4000.00 in the event held at Geist Reservoir in Indianapolis in October. See Photo: Pat is the guy on the Right! The guy on the left is just a clown!!! Got ya pal!!!!

The BFL is Bass Fishing League, this organization is out of Benton Ky. They are part of the FLW PRO Tour. The BFL is the amateur division. It is also a draw tournament format. I must warn you entry fees for all of the above events are over \$100.00 but the payouts are much higher than most events that are held here in Indiana!

If you are interested in fishing for the big money & for the frills like you see on TV on Saturday & Sunday fishing shows, I suggest that you fish these events because these events are the best the state to offer for the cash & the show.

There are many small team tournaments here also these are a few that I know of:

Fishers of Men: Nathan Sipes. Phone **317-512-3946** (South).

Anglers Choice: Jim McWhirter Phone **574-870-0037** (Geist & Morse)

USA Bassin: Kevin Yeary: Phone **812-276-8043** (many locations)

NBAA: indianabass.com.
Tournament Bass fishing is a very expensive

hobby. By the time you buy a few rods a few baits, a boat, a truck to pull it all with its not hard to have well over \$100,000 in it. Now I have been doing this for over 30 years, I have a 2013 boat & motor, 2011 truck, 30 years collection of rods reels & tackle. My investment is well over \$170,000. Now this doesn't include the gas, rooms, food, & expenses that I have incurred over the last 30 years or so. Sure I've won some, but no where near what I've spent. But I wouldn't trade it for anything. The experiences that I have shared with friends & other anglers over the years are priceless.

This is why in 2013, I'm going to start a new service for folks that think they might like to try there hand a bass fishing & maybe even tournament bass fishing without the high cost of owning all the equipment it takes to do it. My fees will be reasonable enough for the working man to spend a few hours with me learning the techniques of bass fishing to start with. If your interested in advancing your skills to Tournament Bass Fishing! There will be more information about this in next month's issue. Classes starting in February or early March. So until next month have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Bill Embry "Good Fishin"
embrygot2loveit@aol.com

TENTATIVE 2013 SCHEDULE

Date	Organization	Location
Mar 17	Hoosier Open	Patoka
Apr 21	Hoosier Open	Patoka
May 19	Hoosier Open	Tanner Creek
Jun 23	Hoosier Open	Monroe
Jul 14	Hoosier Open	Rocky Point
Aug 18	Hoosier Open	Patoka
Sep 21,22	Hoosier Open Classic	Monroe
Apr 7	Indiana Bass Fed.	Patoka
Apr 28	Indiana Bass Fed.	Brookville
Jun 1,2	Indiana Bass Fed.	Rocky Point
Aug 4	Indiana Bass Fed.	Tanner Creek
Sep 8	Indiana Bass Fed.	Monroe
Oct 5,6	IBF Classic	Patoka
Mar 23	BFL	Patoka
Apr 13	BFL	Monroe
Jun 8	BFL	Patoka
Jul 27	BFL	Rocky Point
Sep 14,15	BFL	Tanner Creek
Apr 20	WISH	Patoka
Jun 15	RILEY'S	Monroe
Jul 20,21	TBF State Finals	Wawasee

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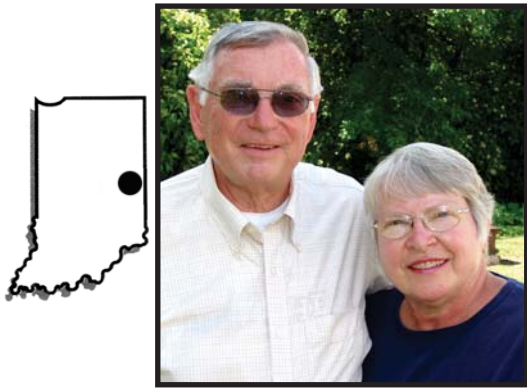
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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

Camper Manufacturers & Dealers Also Have Problems

As you may or may not have noticed that over the years the camping industry, a very valuable part of the recreation division of any state, has its ups and downs. Some manufacturers of various brands of camping units go out of business for, many times unknown reasons. We in the public sector wonder and guess and speculate the reasons for their sometimes abrupt departure from the recreation business. Dealers on one end and manufacturers needing specialized parts on the other are left stranded with literally thousands of dollar's worth of unusable parts or little or no work at the dealerships. The dealership has to try to explain reasons for ordered units not being delivered to that location to the waiting customer.

Haulers or drivers of the camping units hired or assigned days or weeks ahead to deliver or drop ship loads many times need to scramble for something to take their place. The rail lines and flatbed truck companies who have contracted to haul camping units as well as drivers who've scheduled to drive RV's or pull 5th wheelers or travel trailers to waiting sales lots several states away are also put at a disadvantage.

With much better communication delivered by fax or e-mails, less time waiting on letters for five or more days in transit, some of the aforementioned problems can be solved much more quickly. Records stored on computers are surely much better, safer, are much more accessible and take less space than just a few years ago when everything was hard copy files and microfilm. But there are still glitches when whole companies fold or weather or fire damage causes problems at either the manufacturer's, supplier's or dealer's facilities. The chain of command comes to a grinding halt so those who are not close to these parts of the camping industry seldom realize why there are so many alleged problems.

Probably the small manufacturer, supplier or distributor who facilitate the movement of specific camping units or supplies, or small dealers who sell or deal in one or two specific lines or brand of campers are caught in a squeeze play.

Some may need to sell out their existing supplies of specific brands and divest themselves of the types

of parts in their repair portions of the business, if they have one.

We've seen some people drive hundreds of miles to get repairs done that they can't get done near where they're parked or near the place of business where they purchased the unit. The business may have folded or changed brands. The correct type and amount of needed parts may have been sent to the few remaining dealers throughout the country who have the few remaining units of the brand which is not being built anymore.

From the suppliers of the above mentioned parts to furniture, decorative materials for the inside of the RV's, 5th wheels, motor coaches, fold downs, etc., there are just small glitches that affect thousands of people all over the world when decisions are made to close business or stop making brands that have been the backbone of an industry for years. When an industry is at or near full swing there is a great demand for everything that is needed to build the above mentioned units. There are those years when the economics, weather situations or bad decisions cause a downward trend in wanting new camping units.

Getting the raw materials to make the needed parts is sometimes a major diversion, from problems in the field of discovery; to local, state and federal environmental regulations; to labor problems including cost of living strikes; to proper on the job training of new workers. Sometimes the manufacturer of "any" of the parts for the final product decides not to push the panic button and abruptly stops production and closes without any predictable fanfare. As we've said earlier it affects thousands of people from the discovery and obtaining of the raw materials to the people in the sales force at your local RV dealer or sports store. Designers, office personnel, workers on the line, transporters of the units, and people at the manufacturing plants who detail and ready the unit to be shipped to dealers.

One would be surprised how many United States made camping units we see in our travels throughout the world. We've watched more and more travel trailers and small RV's being used all over the world and we try to imagine how any larger campers will be able to navigate some of the roads we've traveled, but, for the most part people usually purchase units twenty or less feet in length so they can be accommodated on their streets and highways.

Before a unit is shown to you and I, the customer, at a local dealer or before it is taken from the dealer to an RV show, all of the people (and we have probably left out a few stations), have to work together to do all the steps necessary to present the best product possible.

If you have any questions about camping or can think about some-

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 23

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West Central Indiana



by **Don Bickel, Forester**

Hal and Mr. Bickel - nuf sid

There's a bit of news which I neglected to tell you about. Other important or not so important things came up and this item sat on the back burner, but not out of memory.

Back during the 2011 firearms season for deer, Hal Bench and I were driving around the county in Hal's pickup. Hal lives in the southwest part of the county, back along Sugar Creek. Not road farming, it's hard to assess the crop situation when there's none in the fields. We were paying attention to the amount of land which had been fall plowed or deeply disced.

So, I suppose - all considered - we were road farming. The other thing we were watching for were the fields, field borders and ditch and stream edges planted with prairie grasses. In Montgomery, Fountain and Warren County you don't drive very far, especially on a county road without seeing the winter-red color of these native grasses. In these counties and those immediately adjacent, there are over 4000 acres of this native habitat, due to the efforts of the Coal Creek Chapter of Pheasants Forever. This trip from the southwest corner of the county to the northern portion was ending as a full circle. As I said, it was during the deer firearms season that we were driving around. A little deer scouting was on the agenda, but not of a pressing nature, since both Hal and I had taken a deer.

Our return route brought us past Mitch's Bal Hinch Store and there were several pickups sitting in the parking lot. Antlers were visible in the beds of two of the trucks, so what do deer hunters do? Pull in and see.

Hal nudged me, well, with a pretty good bump, as we walked toward the trucks and a number of hunters.

"Donald, would ya look over there. That's Homer Gantry standing by the post with the scales hangin' on it. Now, I'd jist as soon not git in a big conversation with him. Lik' I told you before, he don't know the truth from straight up."

"Well Hal, get ready for some tall tales, because he's headed this way."

Now as a matter of introduction, Homer Gantry also lives down in the southwest corner of the county - almost on the county line. Homer lives by himself, maybe by his own choice, maybe by the choice of others. As I've said before, Homer is a deer hunter, in as much as anyone who goes out in deer season with a gun, a little bit of orangish colored apparel and smelling a bit like a buck in rut - is a deer hunter.

With Homer, and maybe that's why he lives by himself, the buck smell is there in July or any other month of the year. Could be he doesn't even use the bottled deer lure. Whatever, Hal and I were preparing to stand upwind if at all possible.

"Howdy there, Hal, and you too Mr. Bickel. Did you two fellers brang in a deer?"

"No Homer, me and Donald here brung in our deer last weekend. We jist stopped by to see whut these bucks looked lik' and then we gotta leave."

"Now Hal, that's why I stopped by, I wanted to see iffen one of them bucks wuz mine. I shot at one down in the Sugar Creek bottoms and probably got it - I don't usually miss. He went into the woods and I thought mebbe one of these fellers brung him in."

This story I had heard before, Homer would take an outlandish shot, swear on a stack of outdoor magazines that he hit it and for one reason or another - generally physical - would figure someone else would bring it in.. Time to head off the story.

"Homer, what gun do you hunt with?"

"Mr. Bickel, I'll jist show you. Th' pickups right here and Ol' Ticklikker is in there, loaded and ready."

And with that , he walked over to the pickup and picked up a J. C. Higgins , 12 gauge single barrel from the abed. He was kind enough to break the thing open and take out the shotgun shell. That shotgun looked like it had seen better days some-time back.

"Yes sir, Mr Bickel, thar she is. As accurat' a deer gun as you'll ever hoped to see. Sumtimes, I didn't git to em' being as they wuz so fur away and ma' leg wuz botherin' . But ever one wuz dead, rite where they stood."

"Homer, I notice there isn't a front sight on the gun. How do you aim it?"

"Oh, they ain't no need fur a front sight. Thataway I kin jist turn it sideways and sight down th' barrel. That is iffen I git in a tough spot. Genally though I jist lay her on top of a fence post on the edge of the road and shoot across the fields."

At that point Hal spoke up. "Donald, don't ya think we'd better git goin'? I got to feed the chickens, ya know."

"You're right , Hal in just a little bit. Homer, how do you keep the gun clean. I noticed you picked it up from the pickup bed and it was a little dirty."

"Oh shucks, thet ain't no problem. Once a year, I wipe er' down with a lettle diesel gas, whether hit needs it or not. An' then I run a rag down through the barrel. Besides ya' cain't let em' git too shiny cause th' sun is gonna make em' show."

And with that statement of cleanliness, Homer reached into his pocket and brought out the shotgun shell he had taken from the 12 gauge. That shell had seen the same loving care as the shotgun it had been taken from. This deer killing punkin ball from all appearances had rolled around in the pickup bed for more than a day or two and the brass was greener than my yard in the summer time.

"Yes siree, this is what gits em' . I bought a box full back in "01" (I hope he didn't mean 1901, but they weren't made then.) I had to shoot 4 times at thet buck, I wuz tellin' you about . He finally had so many holes in him, so he jist walked off into th' woods to die."

"Say, look there, thet pickup thet jist pulled in, has a buck in it. I think I saw a pickup lik' thet down whar I shot thet buck. I'd better go see if hit's mine."

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Photos I took at the 2012 Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show. At left are lots of new boats you can see in the West Pavilion and at right is the Quiet Sports located in the East Pavilion. You can find The Gad-a-bout booth in Tackle Town located in the Blue Ribbon Pavilion. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

58th Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show Feb 15-24, 2013

Largest outdoor show of its kind and associated expos return to Indiana State Fairgrounds February 15-24, 2013

All manner of outdoor enthusiasts from Indiana and across the Midwest look forward to February. While outdoor recreational opportunities may be scarce at this time of year, a different source of excitement fuels their passions.

When the first hints of winter's end begin to appear, the Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show; Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo; and Indiana Motorcycle Expo open their doors to hundreds of thousands of eager show-goers – most of whom are severely infected with cabin fever. The timing is perfect.

The tradition continues February 15-24, 2013, when Indiana-based Renfro Productions and Management will host the Ford 58th Annual Indianapolis Boat Sport and Travel Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Once again, the Indiana Deer, Turkey and waterfowl Expo will anchor the opening weekend of the show, February 15-17, while the Indiana Motorcycle Expo will take place during the closing weekend of the show, February 22-24.

“A bit of the old and a lot of the new”, is what show organizer Kevin Renfro says folks should expect at this year's show. “We've got more boats and RVs than you can look at in a single day”, says Renfro, who encourages visitors to come to the fairgrounds at least twice in order to see everything being offered by the show's over 600 exhibitors. It's the best time of the year to load up on all the latest and greatest fishing gear too, and Tackle Town will return to his year's show providing show-goers with thousands of square feet of the newest fishing products available. “And we'll have the best seminars we've ever offered and more outfitters, lodges and outdoor tourism pros on hand than ever before”, continues Renfro.

An expanded Quiet Sports Expo will return to this year's Indianapolis show with an increased number of featured attractions and exhibitors. America's Quiet Sports movement celebrates the more contemplative, human-powered outdoor activities such as canoeing, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing and fly fishing, and this year's Quiet Sports Expo will deliver more of these activities than ever before. An indoor mountain bike track built and manned by the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) will be available for use all ten days of the show. The HMBA will be on hand with different mountain bikes for visitors to try on the track, as well as to share information on the best places to mountain bike across the state.

Seminar highlights at this year's show include a return of the popular Fishing Camp: Ask the Pros roundtable seminar format. More than just a seminar, Ask the Pros assembles a knowledgeable panel of angling professionals, and then puts the audience in control of the topics and discussion.

It is impossible to list all of the seminars, speakers and show features in this small space, but suffice it to say that the show's lineup of all-star speakers will also be supplemented with a full compliment of knowledgeable local and regional experts

speaking on everything from muskies and striped bass to crappies and catfish.

Familiar favorites returning to this year's show include the 5,000-gallon “Hawg Trough” aquarium filled with a variety of game fish species.

Be sure to check regularly at www.indysportshow.com for up-to-date information on all aspects of the largest and most comprehensive outdoor show in the nation.

Aside from fantastic deals at one of the largest assemblies of motorcycle, ATV and personal watercraft dealers to be found anywhere, the Indiana Motorcycle Expo will offer a variety of features to please and entertain all manner of bikers. Hundreds of vendors will be on-hand for the event with a range of clothing, accessories and other products designed for the trails, lake and open road.

Media Contact: Susan Kreiner, Renfro Productions and Management, 6405 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd., Anderson, IN 46013. 877-892-1723, susankreiner@sbcglobal.net



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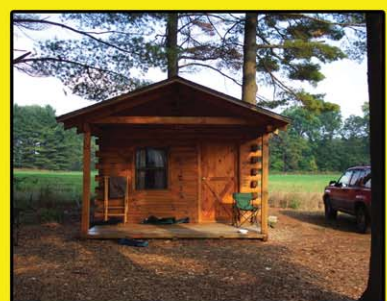
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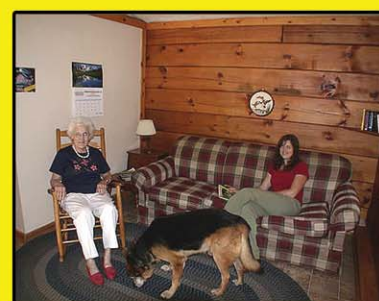


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Big Game Hunting



by Joel Biltz

NEWFOUNDLAND SUCCESS

After two years of anticipation we were finally on the plane to St. Johns, Newfoundland Canada. It was Saturday October 6th and after a long night we were to be picked up the following morning for a two hour drive north to Clarenville. As soon as we got out of the car the Beaver float plane was taxiing in when our outfitter hopped out of the plane, introduced himself and said grab your things its time to go to Spike Camp. Just like that we were off for a thirty five minute flight to our spike camp. We saw about ten moose on the plane ride and we kept getting more and more excited for our hunt. We settled in camp and did some glassing while the guide prepared some moose backstrap steaks and veggies for the first nights meal.

Let the Hunt Begin

The first morning we awoke to dense fog and light misty rain. Our only hope was to go out and try to call in a moose since visibility was only about one hundred yards. The weather was getting worse so we headed back to our camp hoping the weather would pass soon. The afternoon was no better and we ended the day without seeing an animal.

One Down, Two To Go

Day two we woke to clear calm skies and we knew it was going to be a great day. We took the boat across the lake at first light and headed to the ridge to glass and call for moose. We spotted a cow moose and then a bear on the same hillside so



Here I'm taking a rest after a long pack out. (Author Photo)

we moved in closer hoping to find a bull. We sat down and called for awhile when a small six point bull camping running to us. We decided this bull was not big enough so we let him walk. We then continued walking to the end of the ridge overlooking some beautiful terrain where I spotted four moose about two miles away but these were not what we were looking for so we decided to sit and have lunch and call some. After about an hour we decided to head down the mountain and off to another ridge when we looked up and saw a nice bull in front of us. Mark took my Gunwerks rifle and shot the bull at two hundred yards. The bull headed into a bunch of spruce trees and when we got up to him he ran out and headed for a pond. Mark got one more bullet in him before he ran out into the pond. We waited for the bull to come back to land but it was clear he was not going to make it so he finished him off in the pond. Mark had his first bull moose down by noon on the second day of the hunt. The rest of the day was spent quartering and packing the bull about three miles

back to the boat. Once on board, we started back to camp when the prop pin sheered off the motor and we had to row two miles back to

The Best Hunting day of my Life

My main species I wanted to hunt in Newfoundland was a Woodland Caribou and we had not seen any in this camp so the outfitter was due back to pick us up at noon, so we decided to just do a close hunt for a moose today. Since the guide was able to fix the prop, we boated across the lake where we hunted on day one and immediately started seeing moose. We called in a small eight point bull and I was video taping him when the guide turned around and said there is a giant bull right behind us. One look through my Swarovski spotting scope and I knew he was a big bull. We ranged him at six hundred sixty seven yards and I got set up on him and then we tried to call him in closer. He was not coming any closer so I told the guide as the bull turned to leave that I was going to shoot him from there. I had practiced out to eight hundred yards with my



Home Sweet Home for the week. (Author Photo)

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I took this giant bull moose at 667 yards with Gunwerks rifle. (Author Photo)



Mark took this moose on Day 2, he's a very happy hunter. (Author Photo)



I took this all time Boone & Crockett Woodland Caribou. (Author Photo)



Mark is resting and enjoying the beautiful scenery. (Author Photo)

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Gunwerks rifle and knew I could make the shot. We all yelled at the bull and he stopped. I held two minutes of wind and slowly squeezed the trigger. The bull didn't react at first then turned and slowly started to walk away then started to sway a bit. I knew I had put that bullet right in his boiler room but I wanted to insure he didn't get away so I shot him again in the rear breaking him down. The bull bedded down and then got back up and I shot three more times connecting every shot until he went down for good. Boy was I happy I just shot a stud bull and we got to video tape the entire experience.

The next few hours were spent caping, quartering and packing the moose back to the boat. As soon as we got back to camp we heard the roar of the Beaver float plane coming to pick us up and take us to the caribou camp. We loaded our gear and took a thirty minute plane ride to the caribou camp. As soon as we took our gear into our tent the guide said, "Grab your rifle, we are going after the big caribou now." After the long two and half mile hike we were within five hundred yards of a

herd with some great bulls nearby. I noticed one in particular that was tall and had great beze's and double back scratchers on one side. I decided this was the bull I wanted to kill because I knew for a fact that it would score high enough for the Boone & Crockett record book. So we stalked to within two hundred yards of the herd and I looked all the bulls over one last time and decided to take down that bull. One quick one hundred fifty yard shot from my Gunwerks rifle and it quickly became the best hunting day of my life! To kill three animals in basically two days and one being a giant moose, a Boone & Crockett caribou in the same day is unreal. This trip was one of the most rewarding and most physical challenging hunts I've ever been on to date. We had an excellent hunt and a great adventure, and we even filmed all the action. But now it is time to prepare for Alaska Goat hunting.

If you have any questions about my Newfoundland adventure don't hesitate to sen me an email at joel.biltz@etczone.com, until next time, hunt hard and hunt safe.

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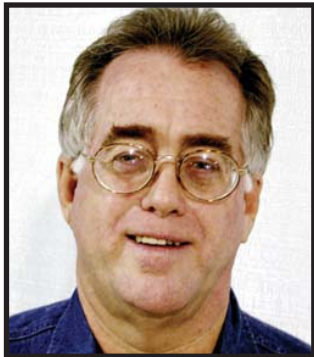
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Left Photo: These are the two staff members digging in the pit when we first arrived. They showed us how to dig, what they were finding, and much more. Right Photo: The blue tent covers the actual dig site where we met the two staff members who were digging. Under the metal frame in the background is where the first rhino was found. The yellow bags in foreground are full of dirt to be sifted for small items. (Author Photos)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Rhinos, Tapirs and Pandas, Oh My!

Time: 7 to 4.5 Million Years Ago
 Place: What is now eastern Tennessee
 Setting: Herbivores, Carnivores, Reptiles, Amphibians and assorted other Fauna and Flora around a large sinkhole, eating and being eaten, living and dying.
 Time: May, 2000
 Place: Just outside Gray, Tennessee, north of

Johnson City
 Setting: A Tennessee Department of Transportation crew is working on road construction for a new interstate highway being built in the area. The bulldozer uncovers numerous fossil remains in black dirt and thanks to Governor Sundquist, the Governor of Tennessee at the time, and the East Tennessee State University, the work is halted and the site is saved.
 Seven years later, in August of 2007, the Natural History Museum Visitor Center at the Gray Fossil Site was opened to the public. Over 33,000 square feet of space, filled with displays, educational videos, dioramas, skeleton reproductions, and more were available for viewing. Four years later, an educational annex of 7,000 square feet was opened at the site.
 Susie (my wife) and I were in the Johnson City area for an outdoor writer's conference. The opening night of this annual conference is usually held in one of the most interesting spots in the area. The Gray Fossil Site was chosen for this honor. All of the attending writers, their spouses, corporate sponsors, Tourism Bureau representatives from all over the southeast, and guests were treated to a tour of the Museum.
 Being the way I am, I asked one of the tour guides if there was any way we could go outside and visit the actual dig site. He escorted us outside as I waved for some of our friends to follow. We walked along a path for about 25 yards and saw two of the staff

actually digging fossils from the pit. They were using hand trowels to carefully unearth bones millions of years old. Having dug dinosaur bones in South Dakota several times, we were extremely interested in how this site operated.
 We were told the first bones found at this dig were from rhinoceroses. Numerous tapirs were then uncovered along with red pandas, elephants, camels, short-faced bear, woodland badgers, and a huge assortment of other animals and plants. Tapirs are a pig sized mammal with three toes on the rear feet and four toes on the front. They have a long nose which looks similar to an anteater which they use like an elephant uses its trunk. Tapir bones are the most common find at this site. All were determined to be from 4.5 million years to seven million years old.
 Assorted leaves, seeds, stems and other plant remains indicate this area was forested primarily by oak trees at the time these animals lived here. Most other fossil remains in North America indicate a grassy prairie type habitat. The critters living here are often rare or unusual because they had adapted and evolved to living in a different type environment than the prairie species.
 We found many differences between digging



This drawer is full of tapir bones. Since tapirs are the most common animal found at this site, numerous bones have to be collected, catalogued, and stored. (Author Photo)

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Left Photo: This drawer contains many assorted pieces of tapir bones. Imagine trying to piece this jigsaw puzzle together to come out looking like a real animal. Just a few of the thousands of bones stored here. All must be cleaned, labeled, and documented.



Center Photo: This is a large skull of some type which is in need of major repairs. But unlike a jigsaw puzzle, when the last piece is placed and some pieces are still missing, Butvar can save the day. (Author Photo)



Right Photo: This is a large skull of some type which is in need of major repairs. But unlike a jigsaw puzzle, when the last piece is placed and some pieces are still missing, Butvar can save the day. (Author Photo)



Left Photo: This is a large turtle shell which has been restored after being smashed by the weight of the dirt covering it. Most of the shells found are flattened when found.



Center Photo: Notice the white spider web like material on this fossil. Labworkers use this new material called Butvar to make this strong repair on broken bones or to fill in holes. It can also be removed if a missing bone piece is found later.



Right Photo: Notice the white areas in this lower jawbone. This is where the lab workers have repaired the broken bone with a new material called Butvar. It's lightweight, strong, and may be removed later if necessary. (Author Photo)

dinosaur bones out west and mammal bones from a sinkhole. The bones we have unearthed in South Dakota are in a dry environment and must remain dry to keep from deteriorating. We must wrap them carefully and transport them over 1,000 miles back

to Indianapolis for treatment and storage.

The Tennessee fossils are buried in a mixture of preserved plant and animal remains in a damp matrix of organic-rich clay. The bones are lifted out of the ground, still mostly encased in soil, and carried a few dozen yards to the lab where cleaning, cataloging, and often, reassembling takes place. For every hour spent in the field digging the bones, eight hours to several months may be needed in the lab for proper preservation.

The Museum Collection Area is in the next room. Over 14,000 specimens are housed here. The room is temperature and humidity controlled with the temperature kept between 70 and 73 degrees while the relative humidity is from 40 to 50 percent. The light is UV filtered. Special cabinets contain the carefully labeled remains from the dig site including some species found nowhere else in the world. Numerous turtle shells which are found flattened by the weight of the soil are rebuilt like jigsaw puzzles and stored in this room.

The Gray Fossil Site about 7 to 4.5 million years ago was originally an underground cave which collapsed to form the sinkhole. Animals living around fell into the hole, died, and were eventually covered with plant material which preserved the bones underground until the bulldozer brought them to the surface. The actual dig site is only about four to five acres in size, but is determined by core sampling to be about 130 feet deep. So far, less than two percent of the area has been uncovered and will keep giving

up its treasures for many more years.

Not all of the bones found are big ones. As the diggers remove the remains from the ground, the excess dirt is bagged and tagged and is later screened for smaller pieces, seeds, and anything else of interest. The remains after the screening are then taken to the lab to examine under a microscope for even smaller finds. These are called microfossils.

As the writers evening at the Museum was ending, I asked our hosts if there was any way Susie and I could come back the next day for a guided behind the scenes tour of the dig site, lab, and collection room which the large group was not able to visit. Thanks to the generosity of the Tennessee Tourism ladies and Dr. Blaine Schubert, Director of the Natural History Museum and the Gray Fossil Site, we were invited back and given a 90 minute tour backstage. Dr. Schubert was our guide.

After our extremely interesting and educational visit, we were asked if we would like to come back next year and dig with the staff at the Gray site and another area in nearby Saltville, Virginia where they also dig for ice age animals. If you would like more information on this outstanding Museum and the work they do here, go to www.etsu.edu/naturalhistorymuseum or call 1-866-202-6223.

Digging for ice age mammoths and Miocene mammals in the spring and dinosaur bones in the summer—sounds like my idea of a great time.

The author may be reached at creasons@aol.com.

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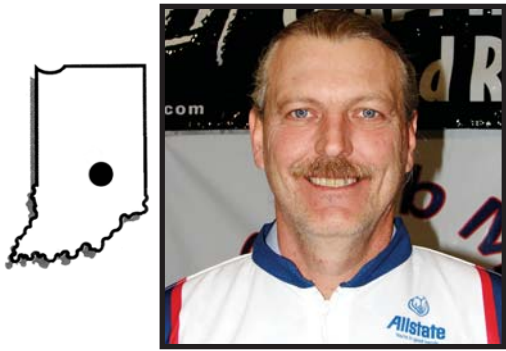
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Left Photo: Doug Sikora and Michael Bledsoe with some of their 1st place crappie. Right Photo: Ryan Rohl and Doug Laake with some of their 2nd place fish. (Author Photo)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

2012 Slab Master Classic

Fall transition is a tough time for crappie fisherman, you have lakes turning over, cold fronts moving through, and crappie are starting to make the journey to their winter homes. The one plus side is they are typically feeding on their way, it is just a matter of locating their routes and depths at this time of year, so if you find them you can usually catch a few. Unfortunately all of these things were taking place or recently took place at the 2012 Classic on Patoka Lake. According to some locals, sections of the lake had turned over two weeks prior to the classic and cold fronts moved thru the night before and of course the crappie were in the midst of their transition period, making it very difficult to catch fish as some anglers struggled to get their seven weigh-in fish per day.

We located fish the day before the tournament on a deep water hump about twenty feet in diameter. The fish were suspended about twelve feet deep over the top of this hump in about 18 feet of water. The day before the tournament my partner and I caught two nice fish before leaving to fish it the next day. We made our way to several spots on the lake from the Dam all the way back to the mouth of the Patoka River. We spent time pre fishing different types of structure from the hump where we located fish early,



Doug Sikora and Michael Bledsoe with their 2012 classic champions plaques. (Author Photo)

to beaver dams back in the shallow waters of some coves, only catching fish sporadically, never getting a good pattern for tournament day.

After spending most of the day on the water we decided to make our way back to Walter and Susie Moore's for a quick shower before the awards banquet at Patoka Station Marina. The point's awards were given after dinner. Congratulations to Tom Hankins and Glen Gill for an incredible season, as well as all the top placing teams this year. There were also some great prizes given away at the banquet, all of which were donated by the Indiana Slab Masters sponsors. I would also like to congratulate, James Lasswell for winning the sportsmanship award for 2012. James is one of those guys that don't preach:

take a kid fishing; he does it on a regular basis with neighborhood kids. James also set his boat up this year to accommodate his partner's handicap.

Just as predicted by the weatherman, a cold front moved thru the area Friday night dropping

the temperature 20 degrees in just a few hours, making good fish even harder to find. We started out on the deep water hump from the day before, after two hours without a fish, we started looking again figuring they had not went too far. We started hitting the channel ledges and points around the area and finally found a few fish on brush piles just off a point. As we kept searching, we lost a good 12" fish, and then found a huge stump on a point that dropped from 15 to 20 feet of water. After two hours we had our 7 fish, all being in the 10 to 11 inch range. Just as we moved back up on the stump (spider rigging) I watched one of my rod tips slowly go down, as I started to pick it up, thinking it was hung on the stump, it suddenly popped back up so I quickly set the hook and the fish started taking line. My first thought was that it was another channel cat or bass but after turning the fish, it came to the top a huge 16" crappie, my partner quickly netted the fish and got it in the boat. Now we were ready for the weigh-in.

After day one we were in second place, behind Doug Sikora and Michael Bledsoe. Doug and Mike had a good consistent stringer with over 6lbs. Don and I had over 5lbs with big fish being 2.48lbs, which ended up being big fish of the year in the Slab Masters. Day two was about par for the course with another cold front moving thru and shutting our fish down completely. After searching the entire area we had been fishing on day one we finally managed four 9 and 10 inch fish. Not everyone's fish shut down, Doug and Mike returned to the scale on day two with an almost identical weight as day one, catching their fish vertical jigging on the main body with Bobby Garland plastics in 12'-14' of water. There were sev-

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Ron Bilbrey with big fish of the tournament and of the year for the Slab Master series 2.48 pounds. (Photo by Tom Hankins)

eral teams that finished day two with stringers equal to day one, unfortunately we weren't one of them and dropped from 2nd to 7th but we retained the big fish for the tournament.

Water temperature was 67 – 68 degrees; Air Temperature was 42 degrees warming to the mid 50's with a slight wind on day one picking up to 10-15 mph on day two. The results for the 2012 Slab Master classic held on Patoka Lake are as follows:

Classic Champions

Doug Sikora and Michael Bledsoe	12.86 lbs
2nd Ryan Rohl and Doug Laake	10.08 lbs
3rd Rick and Krissy Hancock	8.76 lbs.
4th Larry Yates and Doug Allen	8.52 lbs.
5th John Quinn and Gale Risner	7.38 lbs
6th Tony Williams and Tim Dunigan	7.28 lbs.
7th Ron Bilbrey and Don Mandrell	6.47 lbs.
8th James Laswell / Mike Stephenson	5.71 lbs.
9th Eric Milsaps and Jason Snyder	5.28 lbs.
10th Ed Para and Bob Bales	4.95 lbs.
Big Fish Ron Bilbrey / Don Mandrell	2.48 lbs

As we look to 2013 it should be another great year as the schedule has been set and permits approved. To view the 2013 schedule go to www.Indianaslabmasters.com even if you are not a

tournament fisherman come to one of the weigh ins as there is always plenty of information on crappie fishing being given by some of the series top competitors'.

Thanks to all the sponsors that support the Indiana Slab masters please visit their web pages and support them as they have supported our tournament series. I would like to personally thank my sponsors Driftmaster Rod Holders, Check out their Crappie Stalker rod isolation system it is one of the best on the market, and Jiffy jigs, they make several great jigs and jig heads.

Tight Lines Everyone



So You Wanna' Catch More Fish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

thing you would like us to research and write about, contact us at: 260-637-3524 or e-mail us at jmacnut@yahoo.com.

To find out about what events might be taking place in Indiana the rest of 2012 and/or the year 2013, contact Indianafestivals.org for a festival guide and/or VisitIndiana.com for a recreation guide.

We'll see you in January with the conclusion to manufacturer and dealer problems.

John and El McCory ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The "fiscal cliff" according to Wikipedia is "The United States fiscal cliff is a neologism referring to the effect of a number of laws which, if unchanged, could result in tax increases, spending cuts, and a corresponding reduction in the budget deficit beginning in 2013. These laws include tax increases due to the expiration of the so-called Bush tax cuts and across-the-board spending cuts under the Budget

Control Act of 2011."

That's it, I'm done.

I'm making a promise to my readers to try and not write about politics again in this newspaper. My problem has always been that I get so concerned about something that I just have to let it out before disintegrating — so I write about it. Usually writing about it doesn't solve anything, but it makes me feel better to have said it. Of course, if in the beginning I didn't have this problem you wouldn't be reading this explanation right now. Because I wouldn't be publishing The Gad-a-bout, which is the result of my writing about the "Wanton killing of deer" a letter to the local daily editor back in 1972 in response to the lady who lived in Richmond who wrote about hunters killing deer in Indiana in the letter she sent to the newspaper about the wanton killing of deer in Indiana by hunters, whew, that's a long paragraph!

Her letter began a chain reaction within me. Next I asked Mr. Jose if I could write a outdoor column in his weekly newspaper (The Graphic). He let me, it began in September 1972. That column led to my wanting to publish my own Outdoor Magazine so I could reach more people. The Whitewater Valley Gad-a-bout debuted in July/August 1973 and lasted until July 1978 when I discontinued it and started writing a column in the Graphic and several other publications, vowing never to publish my own publication again. That is until 1990 when I originated what would become The Gad-a-bout you are reading here. So I guess one should never say, never, unless....

INDOT RESURFACING U.S. 52 FROM RUSHVILLE TO ANDERSONVILLE, THE RIGHT WAY THIS TIME

On August 16, 2012 I was delivering my September Gad-a-bout driving on U.S. 52 from Rushville heading for Brookville. Just past the stop-light at SR 3 & US 52 I noticed a difference in the road surface, the east bound lane was rough and covered with loose rock, the westbound lane had been milled and was uncovered. As I drove along I noticed the right side of the road was broken and loose under the newly chip and sealed road (see photos page 29). I thought to myself, surely this road can't be finished. The road had been milled then covered with chip and seal, but the rock didn't completely cover the milled area and the ridges caused a rough ride. It sounded similar to riding on a wash board gravel road. As I drove along I became more and more concerned that surely who ever was resurfacing the road was going to put another layer of rock down. I pulled off the road and called the number for Nathan Riggs, INDOT Public Information Officer (PIO) Greenfield District, I got a recording so I left a message. The next day, August 17, 2012, I sent an e-mail to Nathan. It was quite lengthy, in part I asked, "Whoever is doing the U.S. 52 road work, surely isn't finished with this road....they have milled the roadway in both directions and they are beginning to chip and seal the westbound lane from Anderson-ville.....when the contractor reaches the east edge of Rushville going west, will the job be complete? Will they leave US 52 in the condition I witnessed yesterday (east and west bound lane)?"

In response I got a message from PIO Harry Maginity, Greenfield District, who Nathan requested to answer my questions. Harry's e-mail said, "U.S. 52 was chip sealed last year by a contractor (not INDOT maintenance).....(bleeding of the liquid asphalt) became evident.....It was determined that the failed chip seal should be milled off and the job redone. That is happening at this time."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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Photo of Salamonie Trapping Class participants and their catch, minus the raccoon. (Photo by Kevin Huff)

Indiana State Trappers Association



by **Dr. Fred Philips, DVM**

ISTA & IDNR TRAPPING

This month I have permission from Justin Harrington, Wildlife Specialist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks and Reservoirs at the Salamonie Reservoir to reprint the article he wrote about the Salamonie Trapping Camp held there October 6-7, 2012. Photos for the event were taken by Justin and Kevin Huff who have given us permission to reprint them also here in The Gad-a-bout.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana State Trappers Assoc continue to Partner in promoting Our Trapping Heritage

by **Justin Harrison**
(Wildlife Specialist Salamonie Reservoir)

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana State Trappers Association Continue to Partner in Promoting Our Trapping

DNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources



Heritage

For the fifth straight year, the Salamonie Reservoir Trapping Camp has been a success for instructors and students alike. Each fall, this course has been continually generating good interest from people who want to learn about trapping throughout northern Indiana. The talented instructors, Scot Dahms, John Adams, Chuck Iser, and Tom Morelock do a great job teaching those interested in trapping for the first time or for those who have not trapped for a long time but want to get back into the sport. These instructors are great at holding attention of kids and adults during the instructional sessions and encourage learning through hands-on experience.

Classroom and field sessions tie together many topics, including safety, trapping regulations, furbearer biology, and a wide array of trapping techniques. During the 2012 trapping camp, 26 students walked away with traps donated by the ISTA and with a better understanding of trapping, furbearer biology, and why regulations are set in place to regulate trapping.

Without trapping and its benefits, Americans would eventually have to pay more to mitigate the resulting wildlife conflicts. The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies estimates that the United States would incur a total cost of \$70.5 billion nationwide in wildlife-associated damages, which equals an amount close to

\$247 cost per citizen if hunting and trapping were lost. Hunter and Trapper Education courses help promote these beneficial activities. Because of this, hunter and trapper recruitment is an important initiative for wildlife management in every state. Not only do events like this encourage memberships in conservation clubs by attendees, but it increases the purchase of trapping licenses, which help fund habitat and wildlife management and improve trapping opportunities in Indiana and many other states. If you're an experienced trapper, please consider helping out in events such as this by contacting your local natural resources agency for more information. ■



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This young raccoon came by for some bird food on School St. (Gad Photo)



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Left Photo: Two beaver caught during the event, largest at 47 pounds. (Photo by Kevin Huff) Right Photo: Two muskrats were also caught in the water-trapping session and the picture shows students checking their traps on Sunday morning with a muskrat in a 110 body gripper. (Photo by Justin Harrington)



Left Photo: One student caught a raccoon in a foot-encapsulating trap (i.e. dog-proof trap) set on a ridgeline overlooking the lake during the land-trapping session. This animal was released, using a catchpole. (Photo by Kevin Huff) Right Photo: Tom Morelock demonstrating the skinning of a beaver caught during the water-trapping session. (Photo by Kevin Huff)

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Looking Downstream



by Paul McCloud

Fall A Busy Time Outdoors

Fall is one of the busiest times of the year for myself and most other outdoorsmen. I'm still trying to complete a few outside projects and deal with a steady shower of leaves falling from ours and our neighbor's trees. Due to the low water levels that have made my favorite lakes inaccessible to my boat I've already parked it and winterized it. Looking forward to happy excursions next year and memories of some really good ones this past season.

In past years I would have been busy hunting squirrels and practicing my archery skills in preparation for deer archery season. I would also be working on finishing my newest black powder gun, but that's another article by itself. These days I'm not up to hunting, don't have the stamina for the long treks and cold weather; it's an age thing. In my younger years I did most of my hunting in Ohio's Preble County where I grew up, just the other side of the state line from Indiana's Wayne and Union counties. I was raised by a very active couple of outdoors folks. My parents having grown up through the Great Depression of the late 1930's took harvesting game and fish quite seriously. My mom was as much a hunter and fisherman as my dad. They had me out fishing the first year I could walk and tagging along on rabbit and squirrel hunts by the time I was in the second grade. My first shotgun was a .410 H&R single shot full choke that I admit I could barely hit the broadside of a big barn with, it was actually my mom's gun which I could use if she wasn't going with dad and me. I got a Winchester 1200 pump in 12 gauge with modified choke when I was 12. I was able to hit squirrels with it but had an awful time with moving targets like rabbits, pheasants and quail. With the moving targets I seldom got off a second shot, the gun kicked so bad by the time I recovered from my first shot there was no time for a second one. It took me a couple more years to grown into that gun. Looking back I would have been better off with a 16 or 20 gauge, a twelve gauge is a lot of gun for a skinny pre-teen. My dad had a Winchester model 12 pump, 12 gauge full choke that he was a crack shot with. I once saw him drop five consecutive quail out of a single flush with that gun. He could stalk through the dry leaf covered forest floor without



Author's mother with a three person limit of Fox and Gray Squirrels from opening day 1978. (Author Photo)

making a sound, where I would sound like an elephant in a bowl of potato chips. Few squirrels, even elusive tall tree grays could elude him and the reach of that big Winchester. It took me some time to learn how to be stealthy, and with squirrels, deer and turkey if you have to move you'd better be good at it. By the late 60's I had switched from a shotgun to a .22 rifle for squirrels and really enjoyed it. Of the various game I've stalked in my life, hunting squirrels with a .22 is my favorite. I'm sorry my mom never tried hunting squirrels with a .22, she was an excellent shot but the little .410 she used didn't have the range for most of the shots she ended up taking. I observed her chasing a wounded squirrel around the ground on more than one occasion and could not help but tease her about it every chance I got.

In the 70's some co-workers got me interested in shooting trap. I had had an awful time hitting quail and pheasant on the wing and was doubtful I would be any good at trap. I did own by that time a nice Remington 870 pump, vent ribbed in 12 gauge, modified choke. My problem had been I couldn't do the proper lead and follow through. Shooting trap was such a good teaching experience for me and I did develop, finally, to become a good wing shot. I would highly recommend trap shooting to all hunters to perfect timing and lead.

As I was growing up through the 50's and 60's, we had no deer in our area. I guess the heavy hunting pressure of the late 1800's and early 1900's had wiped out the deer herds of our area. The first wild deer I ever saw was in 1972. My dad and I were rabbit and quail hunting out back of our home when a big whitetailed buck trotted over a hill a short distance ahead of us. We both stood there with our mouths hanging open in awe of the big beautiful animal. At the time I honestly thought it must have escaped from a specialty farm or zoo. By 1976 whitetails were all over Preble County as well as the whole state. The state established hunting seasons for deer and my friends and I decided we wanted some of the action. There were extended seasons for archery so we were looking for gear. At that time there was an archery center near where we worked in Dayton, Ohio and we all bought Bear Archery recurve bows and would meet there a couple days a week and practice on the 20 yard indoor range. We hunted deer in



Author with a four squirrel limit from October 1977, all were taken with .22 rifle. (Author Photo)

Southeast Ohio and in Preble County for several years; sorry to say none of us ever bagged a deer with our bows. There was a lot to learn about deer hunting and our practice of stalking about looking for deer turned out to be counter productive. It's now common practice to find active deer runs and set up a blind and let the deer come to you. These days with so much high tech gear and bows that look like they fell off a space ship, thousands of deer are being harvested annually in our circulation area. Until next month, good hunting, suggestions and comments appreciated, pasports@vdiad.net. ■

Indiana Dept Natural Resources

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ing a particular deer season may be used to take an antlerless deer.

What kind of license is needed for the special antlerless deer only firearms season? Those hunting during the new special antlerless deer only firearms season may hunt with a bonus antlerless license, deer license bundle, a lifetime comprehensive hunting license, a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license, a resident youth hunting license, or meet a legal license exemption requirement. It applies only to counties with a bonus antlerless quota of four or more.

What kind of license does a person need to hunt with a crossbow? A crossbow license is now required to hunt with a crossbow during the archery season unless a person is hunting with a resident youth hunting license, a lifetime comprehensive hunting license, a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license, a deer bundle license, or exempt from needing a hunting license.

If a person has already taken the quota of bonus antlerless deer in a county, can they take a deer during the special antlerless firearms season in that same county? No, any antlerless deer taken during the special antlerless firearms season also counts toward that particular county antlerless deer bag limit quota. A hunter in this situation may hunt during the special antlerless firearms season by hunting in a different county in which they have not already bagged the antlerless quota.

Enjoy your times afield this fall. Hunt safely. ■

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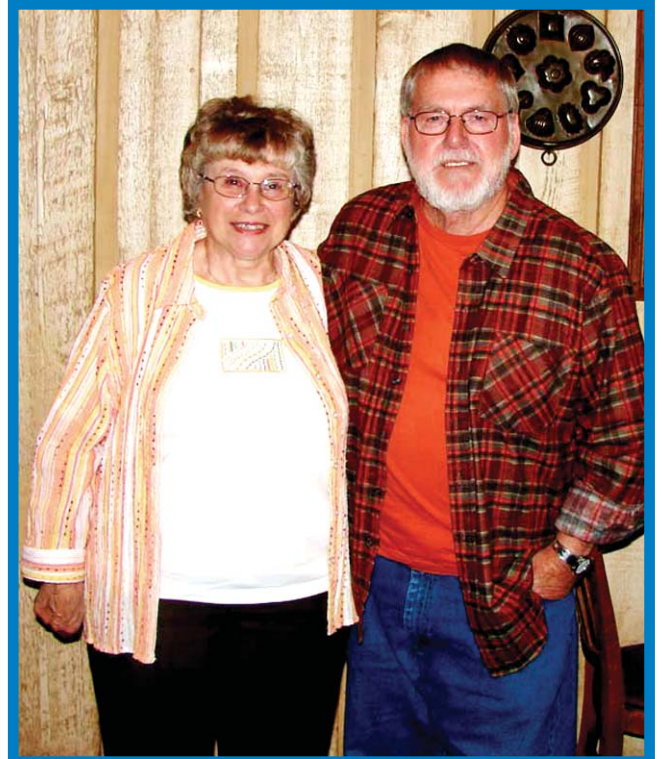
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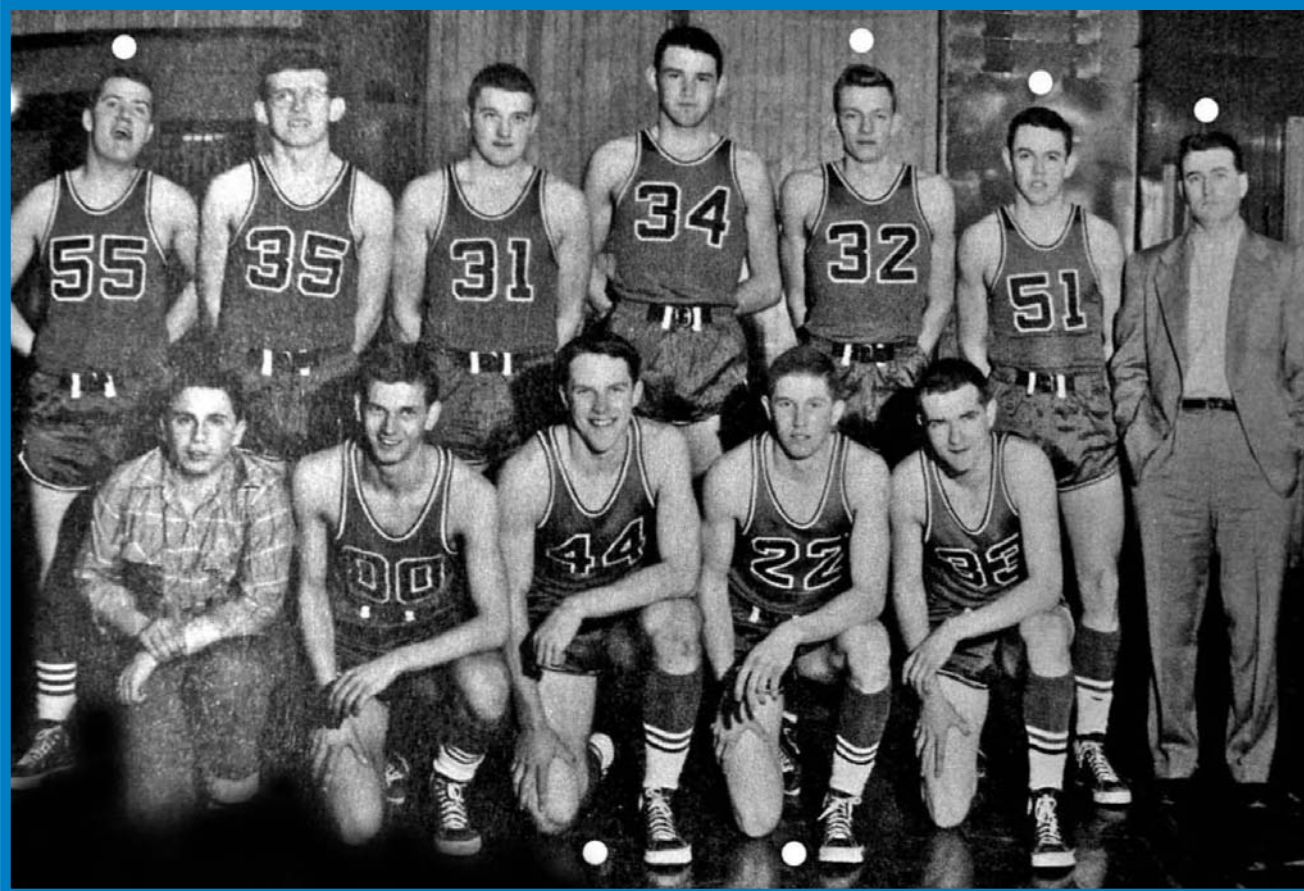
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1953 Centerville Bulldog Basketball Team members (names underlined) and friends. From left to right, sitting in front 1953 Coach Les Slinker and Coach Keith Castelluccio. Second Row: Mary Lou "Loudy" Wickersham ('53 Cheer Leader) and Barbara Widau. Third Row: Pete Widau #22, Bill Harrison #44, Bill Burris #51, Dale Temple #55 and Bob Showalter. Back Row: Ron Harris #32 and Claude Soper (Class of 1958). (Photo by Ray Dickerson, Class of 1959)



Sally and Donald Cook (Class of 1955) had to leave before I took the group photo. For the other newspaper photo I had to insert them into the photo. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



The original 1952-53 Centerville Bulldogs "A", originally known as "The most Winning Team in Centerville's History." Front Row left to right: Johnny Wambo, Jim Cihlar, Bill Harrison, Pete Widau and Jerry Wickersham. Back Row: Dale Temple, Dave Nuss, Don Chance, Loren Hamilton, Ron Harris, Bill Burris and Coach Les Slinker. The White Dot refers to team members who attended 18th Reunion. (1953 Mortonian Photo)



Ron Harris (Class of 1953) at left talking to former Big Ten referee Bob Showalter who visited the 1953 team reunion too. Bob, a 1953 graduate of Fountain City High School is a brother to former Centerville coach Max Showalter. Bob spent his years in education and was also known as an excellent referee for basketball, not only in the high school level, but also in the Big Ten College Conference. He related once he called a technical foul on Indiana coach Bob Knight, and he didn't like it one bit. He is now retired and spends the summers in Indiana and winters in Florida. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

18th Reunion of Centerville 1953 Basketball Team

by Ray Dickerson

I was invited to attend the 18th Reunion of the 1953 Centerville Basketball reunion, October 3, 2012, at MCL Cafeteria in Richmond by Bill Harrison. The team has been meeting 1-2 times a year since 1994 or thereabouts. The last time I attended their reunion was in March of 2011.

As I parked my car I saw Bill Harrison and Claude Soper talking to Les Slinker in front of the MCL Cafeteria. Les Slinker was the coach of the

1953 "A" Team. More familiar faces appeared as we stood on the sidewalk talking. A large tour bus was unloading as we were greeting one another. As soon as the way cleared we made our way to the reserved table (s) in the adjoining room of the cafeteria.

Everyone took a chair at the reunion table and I took a seat at a nearby table. Bill motioned for me to join them at the table, but I told him I wanted to be able to get up and take photos without disturbing them. Which I soon began clicking away. Out of the blue, Bill Burris called me by a nickname that I hadn't heard for quite some time, "ratchit." A conversation about my nickname



Jane Ann Harrison Reagan from Omaha, Nebraska, here talking with Jim Resh (Class of 1958) made a surprise visit to the 1953 Centerville Basketball Reunion at the MCL Cafeteria with her brother, Bill Harrison (Class of 1953). (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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from Bill Burris, Dale Temple and Claude Soper emerged. I told them that I thought only my cousins knew me by that name, back in school. Evidently the nickname was more widely spread than I knew. (*Nickname spelling modified a bit*)

Of the original team, five players attended this day. In the team photo I have placed a white dot near those players, back row from left to right is Dale "Jocko" Temple, Ron Harris, Bill Burris and at right is their Coach, Les Slinker. In the front row left to right is Bill Harrison and Pete Widau. Also attending was Assistant Coach, Keith Castelluccio, who also coached the 1953 "B" Team and Cheer Leader Mary Lou "Loudy" Wickersham.

Shortly someone said, "let's eat." Everyone got up from the table and headed for the serving line with me tagging along behind. It was hard deciding what to eat, it all looked delicious. MCL Cafeteria is located at the west end of the Richmond Square Mall complex, just west of Penny's. We all returned to our table to eat and talk about all the memories we shared back in the 50's, before and after.

Besides the original 1953 five basketball players, Dale, Ron, Bill B, Bill H, Pete, coaches Les and Keith, cheer leader Mary Lou, also attending was Don and Sally Cook (Class of 1955), Jim Resh and Claude Soper (Class of 1958), Pete's wife, Barbara Widau, Bob Showalter (brother of Max Showalter) and of course myself (Class of 1959).

It was a fun time. The last reunion I attended, another member of the team, my cousin Dave "Red" Nuss #35 attended, unfortunately Dave passed away earlier this year. He was one of my favorite cousins, in our family he was known affectionately as a gentle giant, amongst us younger kids.

Here is a quote from page 33 in the 1953 Mortonian, the writer hit the nail on the head in their prophecy. "The basketball season of 1952-53 for Centerville High School is one that will long be remembered, both by the school and the town. The 10 team members, two student managers and two coaches, 3 cheer leaders and others who led us through 21 victories against losses are fellows that will never be congratulated enough for their fine work, and the honor they brought to the halls of CHS. The magnificent way they endeavored to keep up their wins and the excellent showing they made in the 4-team tourney at Hagerstown and sectional are only a few of the reasons why their record will long be treasured."

Just as written above, here we are 59 years later, celebrating the 1953 Centerville Bulldogs basketball team and the celebration will continue.....

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23



Top two photos of U.S. 52 on September 4, 2012 when former contractor was finishing the chip and seal project to correct problems from resurfacing done in August 2011. Bottom Photo was taken Nov 6, 2012 when Milestone Contractors began applying a new asphalt roadway between Andersonville and Rushville. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

On my next trip from Rushville to Metamora selling advertising, U.S. 52 had been fog sealed, it had that black look, but it was still rough riding between Rushville and Andersonville.

I got an e-mail news release from PIO Harry Maginity at INDOT dated September 21, 2012 entitled, "INDOT Works To Correct U.S. 52 Surface from Rushville to Andersonville....The 11-mile section of roadway was chip sealed in early August as a routing pavement preservation measure. But defects in the surface application required remediation.....Based on the engineers' recommendations, INDOT Greenfield Subdistrict maintenance crews will be scheduled to apply liquid asphalt.....weather permitting.

I replied to his e-mail thanking him for INDOT's actions. I mentioned to him that I had taken 50 photos of U.S. 52 and was about to write a story about the condition of the road, but would hold off to see how things developed. My only remaining question was why U.S. 52 between Rushville and Andersonville hadn't been repaired in the same manner as it had been repaired between Metamora and Brookville. I told him I travel U.S. 52 several times a month and looked forward to its improvement.

On October 1, 2012 I got an e-mail from Harry telling me, it said in part, "Pavement engineers are spot testing different combinations of materials....If a larger stone and different rate of application works.....At this time, it's too late to resurface with a "mill & fill".....If this week's remedies prove less than satisfactory, U.S. 52's surface will probably be

addressed again next construction season.

On October 10th I sent Harry an e-mail telling him I had stopped in Andersonville to talk to a couple of INDOT employees who were taking down the construction signs along U.S. 52. I guess that meant we would have to wait until 2013 for it to be, fixed right?

I got an answer back from Harry that same day, "I know the chip and seal has been put on hold.....you could still see work on U.S. 52 this fall.

On October 11th I got an e-mail from Harry, saying that it might be possible that a traditional mill and resurface on U.S. 52 from Andersonville to Rushville, but not to get my hopes up, it wasn't a done deal.

On October 17th Harry sent an e-mail that the U.S. 52 resurface project was advertised.....The schedule called for all work to be completed—weather permitting—by Nov. 30.....Two weeks ago, INDOT officials pulled back from plans for a remedial chip seal application in favor of resurfacing the roadway. Since that time, an all-out effort has been made to expedite the project.

On October 26th I got a news release from Harry Maginity, INDOT the headline read, "U.S. 52 To Be Milled & Resurfaced, Closure Set For November 5."

All of INDOT, Greenfield District, deserve a big thank you on a job well done, especially PIO's Nathan Riggs and Harry Maginity for keeping the news media informed from August to November 2012. I know those who live along U.S. 52 and who travel it more than I do, appreciate INDOT's effort, to make Indiana highways as safe as possible.

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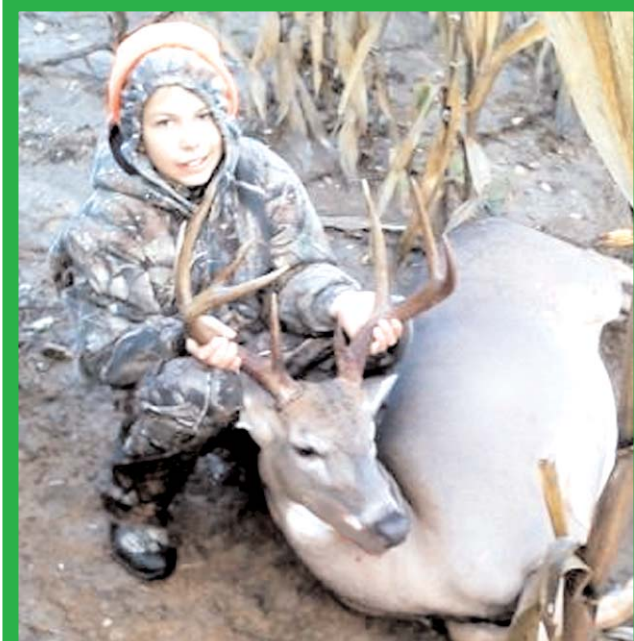
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9 year old Hunter Hawkins from Campbellsburg, IN harvested this 115 lb doe with his dad's crossbow on 10-12-12. First shot, first deer. (Photo submitted by the proud daddy Brian Hawkins)



This is Justin Baner's first buck. A nine pointer shot in Wayne county in youth season. (Submitted by Trav Baner)



Whitney Frame took this 8 point 221 lb. Buck in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

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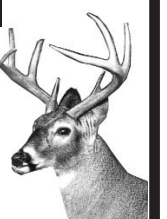
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Cheddar Cheese or Jalapeno Cheese or Habanero Cheese		HOT Snack Sticks	\$7.00/lb. (10 sticks/#)
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Madi Taylor took her first buck during archery season. This was a 6 pointer taken in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



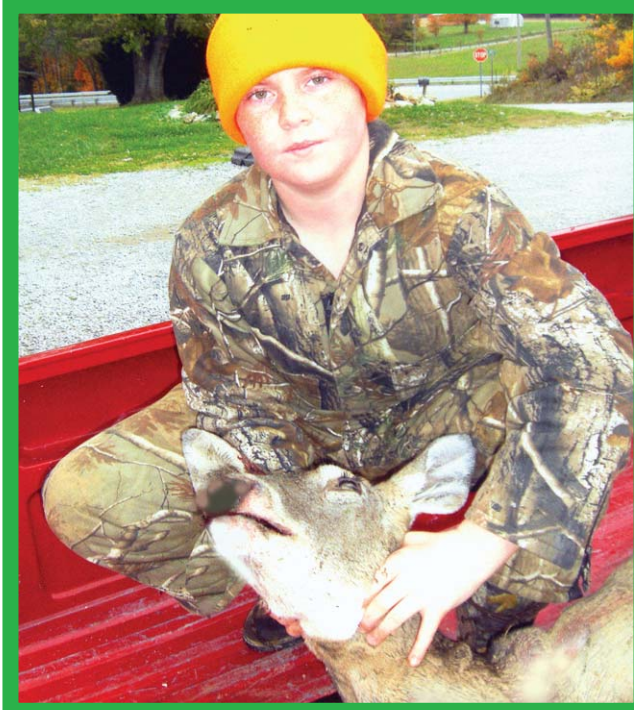
Aaron Harvey took this 8 point 190 lb. Buck in Wayne County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Mick Leis took this 9 point buck on 10-9-12. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Russell Stapleton took this 11 point 193 lb. Buck on 11-6-12 in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Devan Boutelle took this Doe, his first deer, with a cross-bow on 10-19-12. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Shawn Hornsby took this 16 point 170 lb. Buck on 11-01-12 in Franklin County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Leslie Gibbons took this 9 point 205 lb. Buck on 10-6-12. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Jordan Taylor took this 5 point 120 lb. Buck on 9-29-12. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)

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