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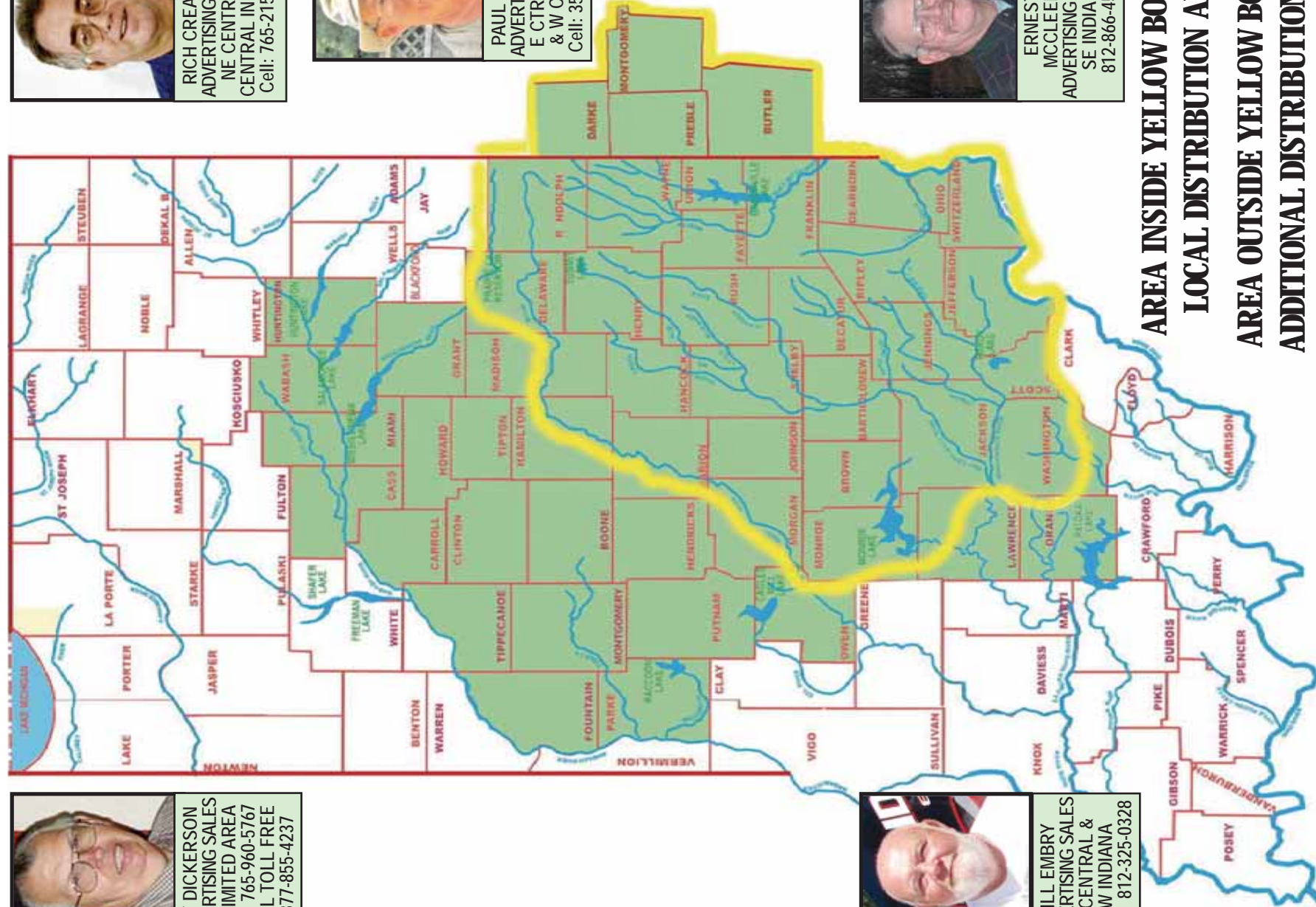
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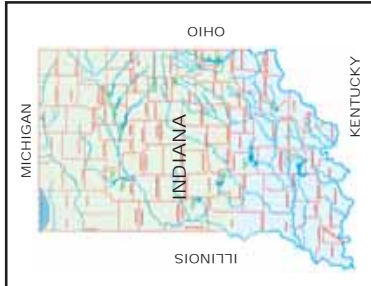


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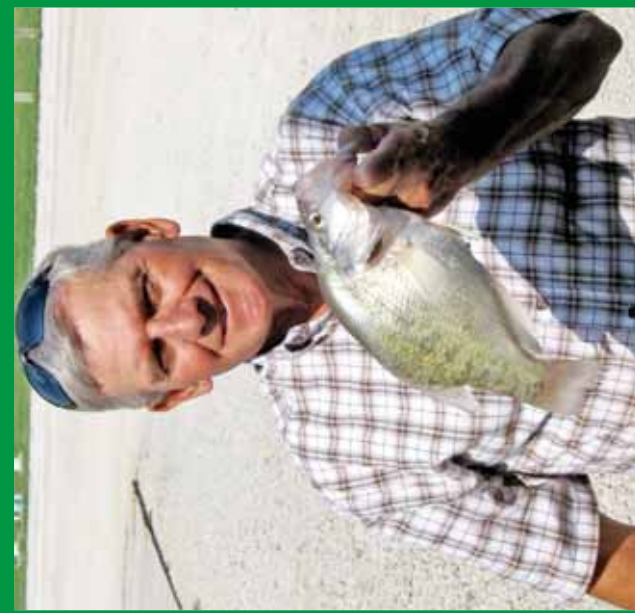


BATS ENDANGERED BY WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME WORLDWIDE SEE PG 27



PAGE 18-19

WWII CBMU #624 SEABEE BUDDY HOWARD STORY 1944-46 - SEE PAGE 18,19 & 28



GREAT LAKES OF THE WABASH RIVER SALAMONIE CRAPPIE - SEE PG 8



CANOEFEEST 2012 IN BROOKVILLE, INDIANA JUNE 29-30, 2012 - SEE PG 16-17

ADVERTISER'S INDEX & PICK-UP PTS PG 2&31 ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS SEE PAGE 3

TO ADVERTISE IN THE GAD-A-BOUT SEE RATES ON PAGE 32 • CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-855-4237 • CELL 1-765-960-5767 • ray@thegadabout.com

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- BROOKVILLE**
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CANOEFEST 2012 Pg 17
Dairy Cottage Pg 16
Noble Boys Furniture Pg 23
Save-a-lot Pg 24
- BROOKVILLE LAKE AREA**
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Dave's Triangle LLC Pg 30
The Sagamore Resort Pg 14
Jay's Midlake Bait & Tackle Pg 4
Parkside Marine & More Pg 3
Quakertown Marina Pg 13
Steve's Marine Pg 12
Whitewater Valley RV's Pg 14
- CAMBRIDGE CITY**
Amish Cheese Shop Pg 23
- CENTERVILLE**
Animal Hospital of Centerville Pg 26
- COLUMBUS**
Gilliland Trailer Sales Pg 14
- CONNERSVILLE**
Griffey Farms Pg 2
Matt's Custom Guns Pg 9
Rem-Bu Gun & Ammo Shop Pg 7
- DEPUTY**
Marion's Greenhouse Pg 10
- DUBLIN**
Rihm's Meat Processing Pg 27
- EVERTON**
Hoosier RV & Equipment Pg 4
- FARMLAND**
Concrete Creations Pg 25
- GREENFIELD**
Highsmith Guns Pg 26
Jensen's Pawn & Guns Pg 2
- GREENSBURG**
Country Mart/Premier Ag Pg 23
Guns & Tackle, Inc. Pg 19
Tree City Metal Sales Pg 2
Wagner's Barber Shop Pg 27
- HAGERSTOWN**
Big Daddy's Guns & More Pg 24
- HARDY LAKE**
Pioneer Village Pg 12
- INDIANAPOLIS**
Indiana State Police Pg 6
www.Indiana Outfitters.com Pg 15
Wanamaker Guns Pg 29
- KNIGHTSTOWN**
Knightstown Meats & Catering Pg 28
McDonald's Bait & Tackle Pg 19
- KOKOMO**
Joe's Beef Jerky Pg 24
- Kokomo Marine Pg 8
Martino's Italian Villa Pg 24
- LAKE MICHIGAN AREA**
Brother Nature Charters Pg 12
- LAPEL**
Hoosier Reel Pg 30
- LAUREL**
Laurel Hotel & Restaurant Pg 23
- LEXINGTON**
McCleery's Dog Carriers. Pg 9
- LIBERTY**
Carl Sharp State Farm Ins Pg 18
Country Mark Station Pg 10
J's Restaurant Pg 19
J.A. Bertch Hardware Pg 27
Liberty Restaurant Pg 28
P.R.S. Insurance Pg 5
Pizza King Pg 21
The Country Store Pg 3
Woodruff's Supermarket Pg 11
- LITTLE YORK**
Little York Store & Restaurant Pg 12
- LOGANSPOORT**
Dale Hardy Supplies Pg 6
- MADISON**
Burris Elect & Plumbing Pg 11
Log Cabin Lodging Available Pg 7
Madison Outdoors Pg 10
- MARION**
Riverside Sporting Gds Pg 13
- MCCORDSVILLE**
Cap'n Hooks Bait & Tackle Pg 18
- METAMORA**
Amish Cheese House Pg 22
Hearthstone Restaurant Pg 22
Kaleidosaurus Books & Toys Pg 22
- MIDDLETOWN**
Norfleet Enterprises LLC Pg 23
- MILROY**
Milroy Shoes Pg 6
- Troyers Country Store & Bakery Pg 2
- MONROE RESERVOIR AREA**
Big Marks Bait & Tackle Shop Pg 20
Lake Monroe Boat Rental Inc. Pg 20
- MUNCIE**
Light House Bait & Tackle Pg 31
McGalliard Guns & More Pg 5
- NINEVEH**
Ed's Trading Post Pg 10
- NOBLESVILLE**
Log Home Center Pg 11
- NURPU River & Mtn Supply Pg 8
- NORTH VERNON**
Diekhoff Mower Sales Pg 26
John's Gun & Tackle Pg 9
- RICHMOND**
Army Navy Store Pg 28
Best Stop Auto Care Pg 23
Mendenhall Hardware Pg 12
Middleton Tool Sharpening Pg 3
Prairie Wolf Gun Repair Pg 25
Riggle-Waltermann Mortuary Pg 27
Rogan Equipment, Inc. Pg 14
Tri County Awards Pg 27
- RUSHVILLE**
Fields' Outdoor Adventures Pg 32
- SALEM**
Red Barn Bait Shop Pg 13
- SALAMONIES LAKE AREA**
Bozarth Country Store Pg 8
D&J's Corner Mart Pg 22
Peacepipe Bait & Tackle Pg 8
- SCOTTSBURG**
C & T Cycles Pg 10
Rick & Jeff's Floor Coverings Pg 4
Scotts Ace Hardware Pg 25
- SELMA**
Dry Dock Marina Pg 7
Light House Bait & Tackle Pg 31
- SHELBYVILLE**
The Gun Den Pg 25
- SEYMOUR**
Burris Elect & Plumbing Pg 11
- SUMMIT LAKE AREA**
Summit Lake Bait & Tackle Pg 31
- VALLONIA**
Tollivers Hunting & Fishing Supls Pg 2
- VERSAILLES**
SEastern IN Hunting Properties Pg 4
- VEVAY**
Dutch Discount Groceries Pg 20
- YEDDO**
Jordan's Bait Shop Pg 30
- OHIO**
CINCINNATI
Boytim Charter Service Lake Erie Pg 3
Stories by Golden Eagle Pg 11
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THE GAD-A-BOUT™

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Created & Published by Ray Dickerson

P.O. Box 85

Centerville, IN 47330-0085

CONTACT THE GAD-A-BOUT

Toll Free: 1-877-855-4237 - Lv Message

Cell Phone: 765-960-5767

Office Phone: 765-855-3857

Fax: 765-855-3857 (Call First)

Website:

www.thegadabout.com

E-Mail: ray@thegadabout.com

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SPECIAL FEATURES

CanoeFest 2012 June 29-30, 2012 Brookville, IN by Ray Dickerson & Jim Suhre. Page 16-17
Edgar "Buddy" Howard U.S. Navy Seabee WWII 1942-46 by Ray Dickerson Page 18-19

REGULAR FEATURED OUTDOOR WRITERS

Roaming The Outdoors by Ray Dickerson (*News, Coming Events, USAF Museum, Seabees, etc.*) Page 4
 So You Wanna Catch More Fish by Tag Nobbe (*June is Flats Fishing Time*) Page 5
 News from the Indiana State Police by Sgt. John D. Bowling (*CVED, Growing Season for Illegal Farmers*) . Page 6
 IDNR News by PIO Gary Catron (*Got INput?, En Garde, It's Free*) Page 7
 Great Lakes of the Wabash River-Fishing News by Ryan Pershing (*The Weather Can Make a Difference*) . Page 8
 For The Serious Shooter by Terry Stover (*Sighting Aids*) Page 9
 Misfires and Snags by Dan Graves (*FISHING EQUIPMENT*) Page 10
 Talking Leaves by Golden Eagle (*MOON OF STRAWBERRIES*) Page 11
 The Order of Red Men by Malcolm Greene (*Red Men National Chiefs meet in Virginia*) Page 11
 Fishing Lake Michigan by Capt. Mike Schoonveld (*Fishing With Otto*) Page 12
 Indiana Slab Masters by Ron Bilbrey (*Geist Tournament*) Page 13
 Camping Here & Beyond by John and El McCory (*Through Greece and Southern Yugoslavia*) Page 14
 Bass Fishing Techniques by Bill Embry (*Big Marks Bait & Tackle on Lake Monroe*) Page 20
 Outdoor Tales by Phil Junker (*If old boat could only talk*) Page 21
 Happenings in Metamora, Indiana by Janice Hunsche (*Metamora, IN Activities for June*) Page 22
 News from West Central Indiana by Don Bickel (*In the quiet of the natural world*) Page 23
 Indiana Outdoors by Joe Martino (*Turkey hunting at its finest*) Page 24
 Looking Downstream by Paul McCloud (*Crappies, Favorite Fish of the Midwest*) Page 25
 Indiana State Trappers Association by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM (*Fishing Canada & Ltr to ISTA Mbrs*) . . . Page 26
 Outdoors with Rich Creason (*White-nose Syndrome Still Expanding*) Page 27

GAD-A-BOUT DEPARTMENTS

2012 Distribution Area Map listing Advertising Salesmen contact information Bottom Half Page 1
 Advertiser Index, Advertiser Supporting Pick-up Locations & Developing Area Pick-up Locations . . . Page 2 & 31
 Rate Sheet, Contract Form Page 31
 Gad's Corner (Readers and Other Fish & Game Photos, Send in your Photo or other) Page 30-31

THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Bats represent around one fourth of all mammal species on Earth. White-Nose Syndrome threatens their very existence. See More on Pages 27 (**Marvin Moriarty/USFWS Photo**)
Inset: The 4th Seabee story on Page 18-19 & 28 in a series thru Sep 2012.
Bottom Left: Tony Colgan Caught this nice crappie on the Salamonie Reservoir. See more on Page 8 and Gad's Corner page 30-31. (**Photo by Ryan Pershing**)
Top Right: At left John Matias from Summit, Illinois, center Buddy Howard from Forsyth,

Georgia and at right Leslie Lee from Bellevue, Illinois all serving in CBMU #624 at Kadena Airstrip on Okinawa 1945. They are standing in front of a F4U Corsair Marine Corps plane. See more on page 18-19 & 28. (**Buddy Howard Photo**)
Bottom Right: CANOEFEEST, Indiana's premier festival held annually in Brookville, Indiana, this year on the weekend of June 29-30. In this 2012 photo 4 canoes are maneuvering to take the lead in the Recreational Canoe Race. For more see Pages 16-17. (**Photo by Ray Dickerson**)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Raymond E. Dickerson

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At Advertiser locations and Advertiser support locations (see advertisers index on page 2 and support locations on page 31) and read The Gad-a-bout on website: www.thegadabout.com

JAY BIAS HAS PURCHASED THE FORMER MIDLAKE TRADING POST

Jay Bias (former manager of J's Dairy Inn) has purchased the former Midlake Trading Post located on Old SR 101 (Fairfield Ramp Road).

The business name has changed just a little bit, its name is **Jays Midlake Bait & Tackle**.

Stop in and say "Hi," he will be glad to see you. While you are there you can buy your bait, groceries, ice, drinks, snacks and more in one easy visit. Oh, too he has LP Gas exchange and Boat Storage too.

Also he is now accepting Credit and Debit cards.

You can keep up with Jay and his new business by reading The Gad-a-bout each month. Jay is a hard worker, an asset to the area, with many years of serving the public when he managed J's Dairy Inn in Liberty. I was very happy when he called and told me about his buying Hud and Diana's store.

Jay's address is 1908 W. Old SR 101, Liberty, IN, you can contact him by calling 765-458-7554 or e-mailing him at jaysmidlake.baitandtackle@ymail.com.

Editor's Note: The former owners of Midlake, Hud and Diana Ozbun, can now really enjoy their retirement. Good Luck you two, I've really enjoyed working with you over the years there at Midlake Trading Post. We have a lot of memories. I won't mention when Hud, Bill and I got stranded over in Wolfe Creek on my deadline weekend. Oops, I already did, sorry Hud. See you soon. Ray

A RECLUSE SPIDER BITE CAN BE DEADLY

I got an e-mail from Ray McCune a while back concerning the Recluse Spider, which is in Indiana thanks to vacationers bringing it here several years ago. A former owner of Triangle, Inc, at the north end of Brookville Lake, was bitten on his foot by a recluse spider when he went to his wood pile for some wood. He had to sit in a chair for the longest time with his foot elevated, as his foot went through the stages of deterioration from the bite. He survived the bite, but it wasn't a pleasant experience for he or his wife at the time.

The e-mail said the following: At this time of year, this is worth seeing. Show these pictures to your spouse, your kids, grand kids, family, and

friends. It could save their lives. Remember what this Spider looks like and be careful while cleaning. It's almost summertime and cleanup is going on. Be careful where you put your hands. They like dark spaces and woodpiles.

Also cool areas in the attic...

Go to page 31 to see the graphic photos of the recluse spider bite that accompanied the e-mail. Warning - the photos are very detailed.

REMINDER OF ACTIVITIES COMING HERE ARE JUST A FEW LOCAL ONES

First up is the **East Fork Fishing Expo For Kids and Stayin' Alive 12th Annual Family Fun Day**, both taking place in the Brookville, Indiana Town Park on **Memorial Day, May 28, 2012**. Both activities are for anyone who wants to come and have fun. The initial Stayin' Alive Family Fun Day began in 2001. The event is focused around families by providing them with an alcohol and drug free community event to participate in on Memorial Day. I attended the event in 2011 and what a wonderful time I and hundreds of others had, they had lots of booths, exhibits, kid activities, demonstrations, food, games and more. The times are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3 hours of family fun. In 2010 they added the East Fork Fishing Expo for Kids, it is sponsored by 52 Pik-up Marathon & Convenience Store.

The Fishing Expo is open to all kids near and far. Parents, bring your kids so they can learn how to fish, eat and have lots of fun on Memorial Day. Kids are encouraged to bring their own fishing poles and must be accompanied by an adult. If they don't have their own fishing equipment, a limited supply will be available for them. 52 Pik-up supplies the bait. A shuttle service is available from the park to the Fishing Expo. Be a part of, "the largest gathering of people with no alcohol" at this year's Family Fun Day.

Next up is **CANOEEST 2012**, which will be held on **June 29 & 30, 2012**.

The most popular canoe race to me seems to be the **RECREATIONAL CANOE RACE**, here are this years details on this race.

The Recreational Canoe Races will be put into 2 "Waves", the first at 9AM, and the second at 11:00AM. on Saturday, June 30th starting at the Tailwaters of Brookville Lake and racing down the East Fork of the Whitewater to a finish just below the confluence with the West Fork. A run that is popular with both the families and novices, and the experienced paddlers alike.

2 Person Teams

Price: Teams with at least 1 racer age 17 and under: \$15 Pre-Reg & Day of

Adults: \$25 Pre-Reg / \$40 Day of - 2 person teams (Canoe Included)

Class C-2 includes Adult/Youth or Mixed Couples or Seniors or Fledgling or Mens

Grudge Matches or Juniors or Womens.

Wave 1 - 9:00 A.M.

Adult/Youth; Mens; Women; Seniors; Lawyer Grudge Match.

Wave 2 - 11:00 A.M.

Juniors; Fledgling; Mixed Couples; Banks Race; Media Race; Realtors Race; Hairdressers Race

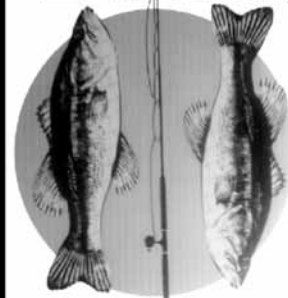
Times subject to change!

Check back closer to Race Time.

These races are intended for the novice, first-timer or even the weakest of weekend warriors--perfect for couples, parents and children, or those just in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Jays Midlake Bait & Tackle



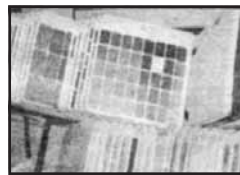
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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
Professional Fishing Guide

June is Flats Fishing Time

June is the month where fish make a transition from the banks to the flats, or should I say the middle of the lake.

In the spring of the year, from about May 1st to the end of the May, most all the fish are on the banks. There are some fish laying eggs in the shallow rocks on the banks. There are some building nests in the sand, on the banks and there are some fish taking advantage of the potential food source on the banks. But in June that all changes.

Once the spawning cycle is over and the water temperature starts to heat up, the fish are on the move. What they are looking for is a home area, were



Chris Renner from Indianapolis caught this 22 inch walleye fishing with me on April 25, 2012 on a firetiger weed weazel tipped with a night crawler. (Author Photo)

they can spend the entire summer.

These places are usually 10 to 15 feet in depth, but close to deep water. They are usually made up of sand, rock or wood. Some places are huge, for example there is a flat at the north end of the lake called Fairfield flat. Its about 3/4 of a mile long and 400 yards wide with a gravel bottom. This spot has the potential to hold walleye, smallmouth, largemouth, white bass, bluegill, and channel cats over the entire flat due to the way it is made. On this spot there are also three isolated spots. One is a pile of rocks, one is several old building foundations, and another is an old house foundation next to a drop off into deep water.

Walleye at times will feed on the entire flat. What the walleye will do is swim up on the flat and lay flat on its belly laying motionless like a statue, using the color of its back as camouflage. You could say its hiding in plain site. When something swims or crawls close to it, it just flicks its tail to catch it.

If you are talking about large or smallmouth bass, they are more likely to be holed up on one of the specific spots. These fish are ambush feeders that like to hide behind something that will block them from view and dart out at the last minute, flare their gills and one bite what ever is there.

Bluegills will also be on one of these three spots, they just won't be hiding. They will be hovering on top of the spots aggressively feeding on anything that they can gets their lips on.

White bass feed like a pack of wolves. They are a huge schooling fish. I have saw schools of white bass feeding on the entire Fairfield flat at one time. When they move into an area to feed it is total chaos. To them Fairfield flat is just one big spot.

Channel cats will feed on just about anything anywhere. What they will do is swim around on the entire flat looking for something to eat dead or alive. A catfish is a little different fish then other fish. Most all fish have scales, but catfish have a skin. A catfish is like a big swimming tongue swimming around tasting the water through its skin. It will taste its next meal before it ever sees it.

As you can see all fish share these feeding spots to feed, they just do it in their own special way. The fish



Breaden Nelson from Greenfield caught this 22 inch walleye. He caught it on a firetiger weed weazel tipped with a night crawler. He fished with me on 4/19/12. (Author Photo)

may not be feeding on these spots in the middle of the lake all day, every day, but I can assure you they will not move back to the banks till the fall when the water temperature starts to cool off.

Good Luck, Tag

If you need more info E-mail me at tag@tagnobbe.com or go to the web site

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sergeant John D. Bowling
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED) Number One in the Nation-Again

Each month I like to highlight one of the many specialties or divisions in the Indiana State Police. This month I've chosen the **Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division or CVED** as we call it. The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED) is responsible for enforcing all state and federal regulations pertaining to commercial motor vehicles (CMV's) operating within the state.

The goals of the division are to reduce the number of CMV crashes, and therefore the number of injuries, and fatalities related to CMV crashes. As well as, to reduce the damage to Indiana's highways and bridges caused by overweight vehicles (for every ten percent increase in vehicle weight the damage to our highways is increased by forty percent).

The Indiana State Police CVED Program, headed up by Major Jeff Walker, Captain Wayne Andrews and Lieutenant Mark Davis, has been named the BEST Commercial Motor Vehicle Program in the country for an unheard of five years in a row. The latest award was received on April 25th in Seattle Washington from Administrator Ferro, who heads up the Federal Motor Carrier Administration.

This division was ranked number one in the nation last year for truck inspections, traffic enforcement and reducing the number of crashes involving commercial motor vehicles by the American Transportation Research Institute..

There are 41 Motor Carrier Inspectors who work at the scale houses weighing and inspecting trucks, and 81 troopers who work the road weighing, inspecting, and enforcing state and federal laws on commercial motor vehicles.

The division is also responsible for inspecting school buses and commercial buses, inspecting 15,864 buses in the state last year. They are also national leaders in bus inspection, with that section being headed up by Sergeant Steve Whitaker.

Their hard work in stopping and inspecting

food shipments was the driving force for the passing of Indiana's "Hot Food Truck" law. According to Captain Wayne Andrews, "Essentially the new law allows us to take enforcement action where we had no authority before."

"In our CMV inspection duties we could inspect the load only. If it was food, we could not deal with the fact that the sanitary conditions were acceptable or not since the Federal Code we were authorized to write did not cover it. The issue became difficult for the local board of health or state board of health since they were not geared to respond to the transportation of food product."

But now officers have the equipment and authority to take spoiled food off our highways before it is delivered. I personally was involved in a couple of those stops where I saw some pretty nasty thawed and cross contaminated food. I was glad our guys had stopped the trucks before the spoiled food was delivered to unsuspecting restaurants all over Indiana. These stops got national attention on NBC's Today Show thanks to the Channel 13 News in Indianapolis doing stories on the troopers and their stops.

In addition there have been several major drug confiscations already this year made by CVED personnel. Earlier this year on January 31st a CVED Trooper assigned to the Pendleton District seized 37 Kilos of Cocaine, Meth and Heroin. He was patrolling I-70 in a high crash area at the 129 mile marker east bound when he stopped a 2007 Freightliner for a routine D.O.T. Inspection. After speaking with the driver and his passenger, he became suspicious.

The driver gave consent to search the tractor and refrigerated trailer. Troopers found 20 Kilos of Cocaine in brick form wrapped in grey duct tape in the cab of the truck. A search of the trailer yielded 17 more Kilo bricks, resulting in a total of 37 Kilos found in the truck and trailer. The Cocaine, Meth and Heroin had a street value of just under four million dollars.

The men and women in the CVED Division not only have to know state laws, they also attend classes for weeks learning the many Federal regulations dealing with Commercial Motor Vehicles. As you can see, they are a highly trained, highly motivated group of people.

While the Indiana State Police are not currently taking applications, if you think you might be interested in a career with the Indiana State Police, maybe even in the CVED Division, you can go to our web site at <https://myweb.in.gov/ISP/Recruitment/> and fill out a pre-application. This will insure you will be notified when the next selection process begins.

Growing Season for "Illegal Farmers"

With the warm weather here many of us are preparing plants and planting vegetables for our gardens. Farmers are planting or already have planted most of their fields. Unfortunately there are other growers out there using farmer's fields and our woods.

Marijuana growers use this time to take marijuana plants they started indoors and plant them outdoors. They plant them in fields and wooded areas and "tend them" just like you or I care for our gardens. They will often have well worn paths into their illegal "crop" where they go in to water and fertilize.

A well tended plant may reach 6-12 feet tall and be worth \$1,000 to \$4,000. With this kind of money involved, is it no wonder our officers find grow operations with a bevy of booby traps? Things like fish hooks suspended by monofilament line at face level, and shotgun shells rigged with a trip wire and detonator, among others.

These "illegal farmers" are robbing you and me of access to woods and valuable farm land. Whether it's a crop of a few plants, or a few hundred plants, growers will often times protect their crop as if their life depended on it. Heaven forbid that we or a family member "stumble in" on their operation.

The Indiana State Police Marijuana Eradication Section needs your help to combat the marijuana problem in Indiana. Many of the grow operations we find come from tips provided to us by you, the public. The Indiana State Police encourages anyone with drug information to call the Indiana Drug Tip line at 1-800-453-4756. Please remember tips can be made and kept anonymous.

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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



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

Got INput?

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife wants to hear your ideas on fishing, hunting and trapping regulations in Indiana, and it doesn't require attending a meeting to give your input.

Call it a "virtual" open house.

From **May 15 to June 1**, the public will be able to use a convenient online form to contribute ideas and suggestions as well as provide input on issues the DNR has identified for consideration.

To find the online form, go to wildlife.IN.gov and click on the "Got INput?" box near the middle of the page. The form will be available for use beginning May 15.

"This is an opportunity for people to let us know what changes they would like us to consider," said Gregg McCollam, assistant director of the Division of Fish & Wildlife. "This process also allows us to get much needed feedback on issues that the division is interested in moving forward."

The online form allows people to comment quickly and enables DFW staff to organize the public input into categories.

Input on fishing, hunting and trapping regulations also can be mailed to:

DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife
Attn: Proposed Regulatory Changes
402 W. Washington St., Room W 273
Indianapolis, IN 46204



USDA Firewood Compliance Stamp (IDNR Photo)

After compiling the input, DFW staff will evaluate the comments and suggestions and come back in mid-summer with a second round of feedback both online and at open house meetings before proposing rules to the Natural Resources Commission.

En Garde

Warning! They swim, fly, creep, crawl, and sometimes just grow: invasive species. Most often the spread of these is not the result of natural population expansion but largely due to human activities associated with the 'traveling man'. With our relative ease of world-wide travel we've got to be careful now, more than ever, we do not inadvertently provide transportation for the invasive hitchhiker.

The invasive emerald ash borer, a little beetle that in numbers can kill a forest of ash trees, is one such hitchhiker. As a duty to conserve forested areas and combat the spread of the emerald ash borer, the Indiana DNR has implemented a new 'firewood management rule' (law). The establishment of detrimental populations of this little beetle has been directly linked to the transportation of firewood. Public and private forested areas are at risk.

The firewood management rule allows only certain types of firewood to be brought into DNR areas.

Can a person bring their own firewood into a state campground or picnic area? Yes, IF all of the bark has been removed prior to it being transported. It is preferred that 1/2" of sapwood under the bark also be removed as extra insurance that under-the-bark dwelling pests are not present.

Is it permitted to bring kiln dried construction lumber to burn as firewood? Yes, kiln dried lumber is permissible. The process of kiln drying construction grade lumber makes it safe to transport. Kiln



Indiana Firewood Compliance Stamp (IDNR Photo)

dried lesser grades of construction lumber that may have a small bit of bark and sapwood remaining would also be safe.

Can a person bring firewood from out of state into Indiana? Only wood bearing a compliance stamp from the United States Department of Agriculture is allowed to be transported in this situation.

Is firewood purchased from a business or a firewood vendor allowed to be brought to a DNR area? As long as the firewood has a USDA or state of Indiana compliance stamp, it is allowed.

How can I locate a vendor that sells firewood with the Indiana compliance stamp? A listing of these vendors can be found at www.in.gov/dnr.

Firewood purchased at a DNR property camp store will have the state compliance stamp.

Should I be concerned if I purchase firewood that still has bark on it that carries a USDA or state of Indiana compliance stamp? Firewood with bark remaining may exhibit the required compliance stamp due to it being properly fumigated or kiln dried to destroy any possible threat of it harboring an invasive pest.

Regarding firewood, campers are encouraged to 'burn it where they buy it' and 'burn all of what they buy.' DNR property personnel will be able to direct patrons to where they can purchase firewood and assist in other firewood related matters.

There are at least 140 known pests and pathogens that can be transported from one place to another in firewood. It's up to all of us, as stewards of this vital resource, to do our part to reduce their spread. Visit www.in.gov/dnr for more information on invasive species and how to combat their spread.

IT'S FREE!

The Indiana 2012 free fishing weekend is almost here. During the weekend of **June 2-3**, Indiana residents do not need a fishing license or trout/salmon stamp to fish Indiana waters. All other fishing related laws and regulations still apply but the licensing is a 'freebie' during this weekend.

Many DNR properties host fun activities like fishing derbies for kids and clinics on various fishing related topics like knot tying and fishing cleaning. Some locations may require pre-registration so make sure you contact your favorite property for complete details.

For information about where to fish, lake maps, tips for fishing with kids, and fishing regulations visit www.in.gov/dnr.

Start planning now to take advantage of the free fishing weekend to introduce Hoosier family and friends to fishing.

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Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

The Weather Can Make A Difference

With the spring season and warmer weather now upon us many individuals can't wait to get outside and take advantage of the many opportunities that present themselves. Here at the Great Lakes of the Wabash River many outdoor enthusiasts have taken to the woods to hunt mushrooms and turkeys, ventured to the lakes to fish, and gathered family members to enjoy time with each other camping. This is an exciting time for everyone in the area as we all look forward for the chance to enjoy all the great experiences the outdoors provides us.

One issue we are dealing with has to do with the unexpectedly dry spell that has hit the area. As mentioned in my previous piece; the Salamonie, Huntington, and Mississinewa Reservoirs are all flood control lakes so their main purpose is to help contain any flood waters that may hit the area. Each lake is held at winter pool as long as needed to enable them to capture the heavy rains that normally are associated with the spring season and thus help prevent flooding downstream. With the early dry spell that has hit the area this has resulted in the lake levels being drastically lower than average. As of May 2nd the lakes range from seven to eighteen feet from summer pool. These numbers can be found by searching the Louisville District Daily Lake Report on the Internet. We all hope to get a little more rain as this will help fill the lake to its summer pool level and allow everyone to enjoy the fishing, boating, and other recreational activities on the lake this summer.

The up and down weather has also made it difficult on the mushroom hunters this year. Every warm day we received would produce little to no rain and every rainy day was accompanied with cooler weather which resulted in very unfavorable conditions for the morel hunters. The season got started out great as many hunters in the area were finding mushrooms in late March, which is typically unheard of in this area. That nice weather turned to the aforementioned and as a result there were not many happy mushroom hunters from then out.

The crappie fishing is really heating up lately as we have had many nice catches brought to our store.



Top Photo: Tony Colgan Caught this nice crappie on the Salamonie Reservoir. (Photo by Author)
Bottom Photo: Kenny Westerfield caught these nice crappie on the Salamonie Reservoir. (Photo by Author)

Things were a little slow in mid April but have been picking up ever since. Within the last few days several anglers had reported bag limits being caught as well as crappie up to 15 inches! Several nice catches of bluegill and catfish have also been reported. Speaking of crappie, we have several fishing tournaments on the upcoming schedule that will be taking place. On **June 2nd** the **Indiana Slab Masters** will have their 7th tournament of the year on the Salamonie Reservoir. This is followed by the **Crappie USA Tourney** which is held on the Salamonie and Mississinewa Reservoirs on **June 9th**. Then the month concludes with the **Bozarth's Crappie Tourney** held on **June 23rd**.

Following are other important dates to mark on your calendar of events in the area. On **May 26th** there will be a "Saturday for the Birds" which is a program that helps to gets kids turned onto bird watching. On **June 2nd** the DNR will host a **Kids Fishing Derby** on the Salamonie and Roush Lake. Fishing is from

8:30 to 10:30 and is for ages 2-14. Then on **July 28th** there will be the **2nd annual Wabash River Clean Up**, which is an event planned by the Wabash River Defenders to help clean the river from pollution and other trash. The first year nearly 350 volunteers participated and helped to remove over 40,000 lbs of material from the Wabash River! I feel this is a great event and would encourage anyone wanting to help to get on board. For more information about this great project visit www.wabashriverdefend.com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28




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For The Serious Shooter



by Terry Stover

Sighting Aids

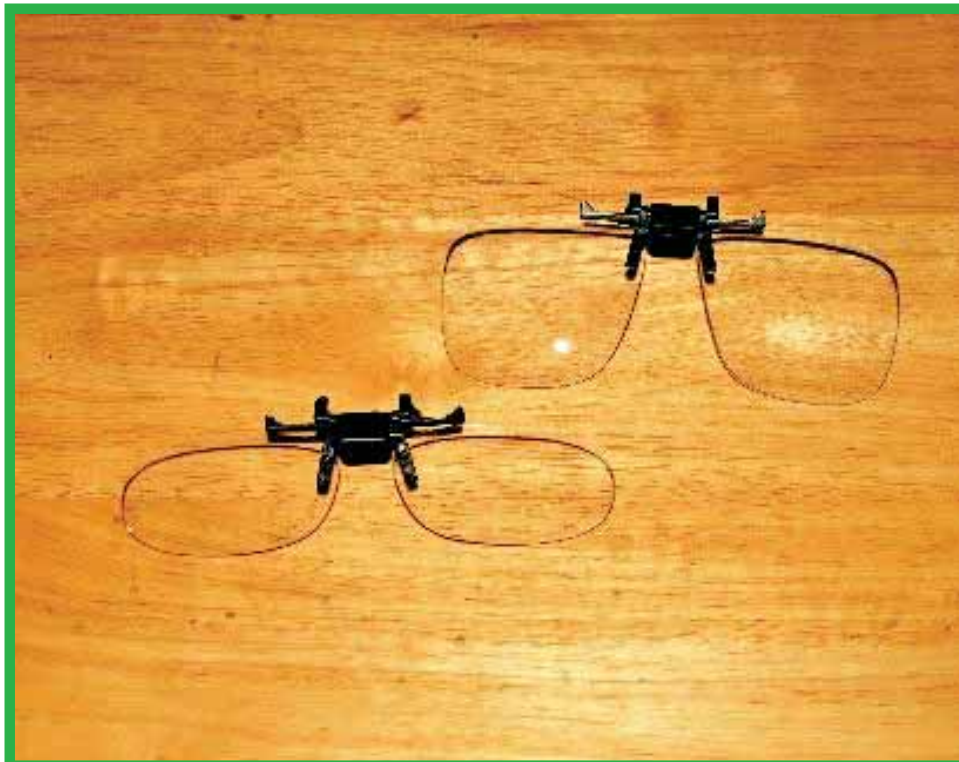
Most of us are blessed with good vision when we are born and keep it usually into our thirties when it starts to decline. Due to this normal occurrence it begins to be harder and harder to maintain a decent sight picture when shooting, especially handguns. It's obvious to those of us with failing eye sight how frustrating it is when the front sight is fuzzy and hard to get a good sharp hold in the notch of the rear sight. If you are among those who are about to just give up or have because of it, take heart because there are helps that are acceptable in sanctioned competition matches and may surprise you with the results you can obtain by using them. I have been using these aids of one type or another since my early thirties with good results. Actually, the use of these devices are beneficial due to bringing the sights into clear relief and rendering anything down range, (target) a blur which is what is needed, as I mentioned in a previous article to obtain good scores. When you have 20-20 vision and don't require using any kind of aid like these it's very easy to let your eye wander from the sights to the target or somewhere in

between without being aware of it. It just seems natural when you start shooting to believe you need to see the target clearly to hit it. Not true. As I said in my previous article, if you're not looking at that front sight and keeping it lined up top and sides in the rear sight notch you're certain to shoot poor scores. If you're shooting a hand gun in a 50 yard slow fire match I can almost guarantee you'll be lucky to even hit the back board let alone the target. Some shooters when sighting use what is called center hold, meaning they put the sight picture center of the bull's eye. I've tried that but due to the bull being black and the sight being black also, it's hard to see the front sight and the light around it on both sides in the rear notch. I use the 6:00 o'clock hold as do most shooters, meaning you set the bull on top of the front sight and hold there. When you hold there the lighter part of the paper the bull is printed on being more reflective enables you to see the sights better. Keeping in mind the bull you're seeing should be 'fuzzy' or just a blur if you're keeping your concentration on the front sight. As I said above, the sighting aids make it impossible to see the target in clear relief and therefore make it much easier to concentrate on your sight picture. I'm sure you also understand whatever hold you use your gun has to be zeroed accordingly.

Getting back to the aids mentioned above, I've included some pictures of a few for your consideration.

These are flip up glasses that are made exclusively for the pistol shooter. They come in three different magnifications. I've found I need the 1.5 sph as the 2.0 was too strong. They attach to your glasses the same as some types of sunglasses do. These with corrected vision will render the sights in clear relief and the target fuzzy. I use the smaller ones and I can look under them for anything on the bench, loading, etc. without having to flip them up. You can find these in the Champion's Choice catalog at www.champchoice.com. Champion's Choice is located in Laverne Tennessee.

This is one that I



These are flip up glasses that are made exclusively for the pistol shooter. (Photo by Author)

haven't been able to find still in manufacture in the past few years. I bought this one in 1984. It works like a jeweler's loupe by attaching to the shaft of your glasses and positioning it where you can get the best sight picture. These come with three lenses ground to different intensities of magnification to suite your particular need.

Well I hope this might help someone out. It's much more fun to shoot when you can see the sights again.

I want to urge everyone to always vote pro-gun and to join the National Rifle Association. I know we wouldn't have the right to own a gun at this time in our history if it weren't for the NRA! There are some other really good organizations that have come into existence in the past few years but the NRA is the daddy of them all and the one who is carrying the BIG stick when talking to representatives of our government.

Keep your powder dry.

Terry



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It works like a jeweler's loupe by attaching to the shaft of your glasses and positioning it where you can get the best sight picture.. (Photo by Author)

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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

FISHING EQUIPMENT

Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed. After the past five or six weeks I'm seriously considering giving all my rods to my wife to use as tomato stakes and making mobiles of all my tackle to hang from the trees in the yard. In spite of a previous column describing the advancements that have been made in the evolution of fishing gear, I'm having a hard time proving that the effort was worth it. For all of man's modern technology, it takes a ham fisted, wind whacking lubber like me to prove that "This thang will take anything I can do to it" to prove that we have a long way to go. On the other hand, I can't understand why six inches of a rod tip would shear off after simply being caught in a car window being rolled up.

It all started a month ago (after the car window incident) while Rollin and I were crappie fishing on the lake. I had re-attached the rod tip with duct tape and it seemed to be working fine. That is, until I hooked a muscle bound eight inch fish that promptly stretched the rod tip at a ninety degree angle to the rest of the rod. If you've never tried to reel in a fish on a rod with half a foot of the rod pointing down at the water and the line trapped under duct tape, you're in for a treat. I landed the monster by using the old method of hauling in the line hand over hand. Now, duct tape may be fine for trapping that wire lever on a lawn mower handle that shuts the mower down if you let go of it, or wrapping around the base of a faucet to stop a leak, but it doesn't do well in repairing fishing rods. I finally removed the broken section, cut the rod off just above the next guide from the end and now have a 5'-2" rod instead of a six footer. It's a little stiffer but great for wabashing a fish. It saves a lot of reeling-in time. Find a hot crappie spot and just jerk 'em out and fling 'em over your shoulder like a tuna fisherman.

A few days later I was using a new closed face spinning reel my wife had given me as a gift. A well known brand name, it worked well while casting 1/16 and 1/8 ounce jigs. That is, until the line looped under that cap over the spool and wound around the center spindle. The thing locked up tighter than a rubber band stretched

around a fifty gallon oil drum. Back home in the garage all attempts to loosen the lock nut that held on the offending cap failed. The "nut" was a weird looking thing that no tool in my inventory would fit, so out of desperation I used a cutoff wheel on a Dremel tool to remove it. With the cap off I found the line had worked its way down the spindle into the gearing of the reel. No amount of mechanical persuasion would allow the rest of the reel to be dis-assembled. Then, I looked to see where the #\$\$\$%^ thing had been made and finally understood. I dropped it in the trash.

That reel was replaced with an open bail model on which I had just wound new line. Anyone using one of those type knows that they require a little more attention to detail when casting. Hold the line firmly against the rod base with the first finger of the right hand, flip back the bail and cast while releasing the line at the precise moment. To start the retrieve, crank the handle to flip the bail back before the line releases too many loops off the spool. Yeh, right! New line hasn't yet taken on the shape of a curly perm and tends to uncoil off the spool quickly. Then, when you start winding, one of the loose loops gets trapped under incoming line and stands out like a finger on the spool, just waiting for you to try the next cast. If you don't correct the trapped loop your next cast sounds like "SPPPHHTTT" and forty yards of line come off in a gob while winding itself into an impossible mess to untangle. Keep in mind that sound carries a long distance over water and with residences right on the edge of the lake, your spicy temper tantrum might get local security called on you.

After cutting off half my line I cast again and watched as a plastic cap the size of a silver dollar bounced across the deck. It had popped off the top of the reel spool. Under that was a plastic widget of some unknown use rattling around on top of the spool. I pushed the cap back in place, tried the rewind and it worked. On my next cast the plastic cap and the widget both flew overboard, and if it hadn't been for pollution rules at the lake, the rest of the reel with the rod attached would have followed.

Just two days ago while using another rod and bail type reel combination, the line made the "SPPPHHTTT" sound followed by a strange object sliding down the line. It was the top guide with about an inch of rod tip attached. I found out that it may be somewhat hazardous to throw a foot stomping, hold your breath until your face turns blue hissy fit on a boat, but it can be done. To add insult to injury, a friend took pity on me and bought me two reels at a yard sale. For fifty cents apiece. It took less than a half hour of work in the garage to dump them both in the trash can.

I'm going back to a willow stick, a line made of buffalo sinew and a hook carved from a bone. That old saying of, "What goes around, comes around" is all too true. I don't care what people

think when they see me fishing from a dugout canoe, wearing a loin cloth with a spare bone hook through my nose. Now, what could go wrong with that? ■

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Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

MOON OF STRAWBERRIES

Recently my daughter, Dark Eyes, and I took a journey down memory lane. We exchanged memories of when she and her brother, Sharp Claw, were children, and we lived at the LaBoiteaux Woods Outdoor Ed Center in northern Hamilton Ohio. After she left I remembered a story that would be perfect to tell this month. In 1966, the Teton Lakota Dancers were challenged by a Boy Scout Troop to spend a weekend at the woods playing a Capture the Flag Type Game, which would use of the entire 58 acres

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of the preserve, and their Native American skills against the Boy Scout Skills. It was a great weekend, the 'Indians' won. The story of the strawberries happened because there were patches of wild strawberries growing in the woods. The girls in the Teton group pretended to be out picking the berries for their supper. They were able to get close enough to the Scout's camp to get the lay out of the camp, including the location of their flag. The Scouts didn't have any girls in their group and so they flirted with the 'native girls', asking them for some of their berries, offering them candy bars in trade. Well you can guess what happened when the girls returned to their camp. After dark, the Teton boys set up a dis-

The Order of Red Men

by Malcolm Greene

The Improved Order of Red Men

Greetings My Brothers!

As the Great Junior Sagamore of the Great Council of the United States, I traveled to Collinsville, Virginia, and attended the one-hundred sixty-fourth session of the I.O.R.M. This was the first state convention for the calendar year 2012, and the last one will be held November 4-5, in South Portland, Maine. The convention was well-attended with other national chiefs from Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia. The Degree of Pocahontas held their one hundred first session at the same time.

On Thursday, the session began with presentation of the Colors, the Pledge to the American Flag, a recognition of all the Veterans, and a invocation, followed with a banquet. On Friday, there were meetings, a joint memorial service recognizing both men and women who had received their eternal rest, and later a joint installation of incoming officers followed with a Great Chiefs

Reception. traction by raiding the Scout's camp, making all kinds of noise while the girls slipped back into the camp a made off with their flag.

Since the flag gave the team capturing it a high number of game points and since the efforts of the Scouts failed to recover the flag, the Teton Lakotas won. At the combined camp fire on final night, the Teton Lakotas did a victory dance which included the girls.

Like the the strawberries this is the time of ripening. It the time when the flutes can be heard in the night singing their love songs. It is a time when everything in the forest is green. The streams jiggle and their way to the river or lake, When the nests and quiet woodland glens are full of new life eager to depart and start living life to it's fullness. They will face many dangers in their quest but still go forward unafraid. The young two legged will also be out and about learning and testing their new skills. How great it was to be young in the month of June.

I remember once saying to my family at the dinner table, (Yes young'uns we did sit, eat, and talk together.) that I knew why so many children were born in March...because so many couples wed in June. (I thought I had discovered a great fact of life).

MAY THE GREAT SPIRIT BE WITH YOU AS YOU ENJOY THE SUMMER.

HANK STOCK/GOLDEN EAGLE

Reception. In Virginia, there are five tribes with over five-hundred members; many of whom are veterans of our armed services.

A Native American Prayer

Let me Walk in Beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make My Hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make Me Wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let Me Learn the lessons you have hidden every leaf and rock. I Seek Strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy-myself. Make Me always Ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So When Life Fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Locally, our Miami Tribe meets in Richmond at the MCL Cafeteria the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 P.M. to eat and our council fire is lit for our meeting at 6:45 P.M. and is quenched at approximately 7:30 P.M. Please join us at our meeting.

May the Great Spirit be with you throughout your journey. Look for us on the internet at www.REDMEN.org and/or call Malcolm Greene at 765-259-1958.

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

FISHING WITH OTTO

I recognized the boat in the distance as one of the people I could count on for an honest fishing report so I hailed him with my marine radio. It was a light traffic, weekday afternoon so instead of a quick "what on and how far down" report, we visited for a few minutes and I happened to ask who else was on his boat.

"Just me and Otto," was his reply.

I didn't know Otto, so I dropped it and turned to switch a line to the recommended bait. A while later I passed just off the other boat's stern and noticed only a 3-rod set-up. That prompted another call asking why he wasn't fishing with the legal limit of rods.

"I told you, it's just me and Otto-my auto-pilot. I'm fishing by myself this afternoon," he modulated back.

I've had an autopilot on the last 2 boats I've owned and though I won't say it's the most important piece of electronics on the boat, it's certainly the handiest and the hardest working crewman I on the boat. I've just never gotten around to naming it!

For powerboats there are two main types of autopilots. Wheel pilots, which work by mechanically turning the vessel's steering wheel as needed and hydraulic pilots which take over the hydraulic steering system in boats so equipped. In general, most trailerable-sized boats have mechanical steering and can use a wheel pilot. A wheel pilot will also work with on bigger boats in the 30 foot range, but most bigger boats are equipped with hydraulic steering and most skippers choose hydraulic autopilots.

The way autopilots are used by most Great Lake skippers is simple. Head in a certain direction and engage the autopilot. The autopilot takes over the steering to keep the boat heading in that direction. Most autopilots are smarter than that and can interface a GPS unit to actually steer a course from waypoint to waypoint to waypoint. I



An autopilot is a handy piece of equipment for any Great Lakes trolling boat. (Author Photo)

didn't bother even hooking that up on mine and I know of few skippers who have ever used the feature (or can even remember how to use that feature.)

The most common autopilot heading sensor is an electronic flux gate compass. Depending on the model, the flux gate may be built into the system's control box or a separate module intended for remote mounting. Regardless of where the sensor is located, it must be protected from local magnetic fields such as those emanating from the boat's entertainment system or the speaker in the VHF radio. If you install an autopilot and find that it steers the boat in small circles it may be that it has fallen in love with the port side hi-fi speaker.

The power consumption of small boat autopilots is usually quite modest. Wheel pilots require a few more amps than hydraulic, especially if the boat doesn't have power steering. Still, a properly working charging system will easily keep up with the electrical demand. I followed the instructions which came with the wheel pilot I put on my own boat and installed it in a few hours, later uninstalled it and transferred it to my current boat. No big deal. A friend of mine successfully installed a hydraulic system on his own boat. Only you know your capabilities. Professional installation is available.

The most important thing to remember about Otto is that though he's smart enough to steer the boat in a straight line, he's not smart enough to recognize what's in front of the boat and steer around them. Don't blame Otto if he heads for the beach or another boat. He only goes where you tell him to go. An autopilot will be a welcome crew member on any boat. In most conditions an autopilot will steer as well (sometimes better) than a human helmsman. In addition, Otto never asks for food, drink or time off to go to the head. It will want to stay out as long as you do and doesn't complain even in a cold, driving rain. With Otto on duty, I can devote better attention to the sonar, rods, GPS and real people on the boat.

THE END

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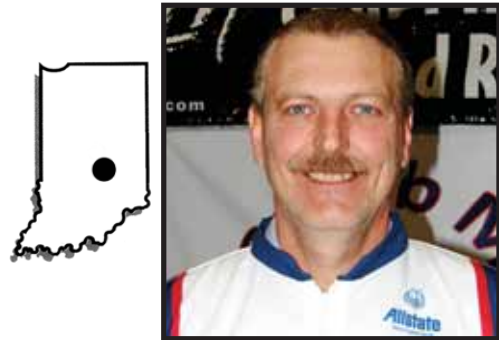


Doug Sikora and Gary Woodcock with four of their seven winning fish. (Photo by Author)



Don and Herschel Licht with some of their 2nd place fish, Herschel is holding the big fish of the tournament 2.06 lbs. (Photo by Author)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

Geist Tournament

Who would have thought after the Patoka tournament drawing a record number of boats and a new tournament high weight, that Geist Reservoir could produce very similar numbers with cooling temps and fronts continuously moving thru providing less than perfect conditions?

Geist, an 1800 acre lake located in central Indiana just outside of Indianapolis is a much smaller lake compared to Patoka, which is the 2nd largest lake in Indiana. Geist however produced a winning weight of 9.2 lbs for seven fish. This is the second highest

weight of a Slab Masters tournament and was caught by Doug Sikora and Gary (Woody) Woodcock. Doug and Woody have been in contention to win at several tournaments in the past and finally put things together on April 7th at the second Slab Masters tournament of 2012.

After the tournament I had a chance to talk with Doug and Woody who gave up a little information on how they caught there 7 winning fish. The team started out fishing Drops just east of the 96th street Bridge. They targeted wood structure on the drops with Crappie Pro spinner jig heads. After the sun came up and warmed the water they moved to shallower parts of the lake to shoot docks using Gant Rods. They also used a technique Doug and Woody refer to as Bob and Crank. As much as I would like to share details of this method of crappie fishing, that was about as much as they would tell me. One can only speculate what this method consists of, but I assure you if it helped produced this kind of weight it won't be the last we hear of it.

With forty boats registered on such a small reservoir, real-estate was at a premium with several boats wanting to fish the same areas. We chose to make the run down the lake to the farthest cove from the ramp to spider rig a small area off an underwater point with a few scattered stumps adjacent to the creek channel. After a 30 min ride and not leaving until live well checks were completed, we arrived at our destination just before 7:00 am and found only a few boats waiting to start fishing this cove. We set up our Drift Master rod holders and caught several fish the first hour but no keepers. We trolled over the channel fighting the wind to get back to a stump we were targeting when we caught our first nice fish, a 1.07 lb white crappie on a green and black Jiffy Jig. Within an hour we had our seven fish in the live well and continued to cull fish under 11 inches the rest of the day. Our plan for the day was to fish this cove until early afternoon then move to main lake points with stumps to finish the day. The points only provided us with smaller fish as the fish became suspended only about three feet deep and we continued fishing around nine feet deep. We finished the tournament in 16th place.

The Father Son team of Don and Herschel Licht finished in second place and also captured the big fish award. Their total weight was 8.88 lbs with their



Tom Hankins and Glen Gill with four of their 3rd place fish. (Photo by Author)

big fish weighing in at an impressive 2.06 lbs. Don and Herschel spider rigged in the upper end of the lake, targeting drop offs and utilizing Roadrunners and shiners to cash in on their second place and big fish prize money.

Third place went to the 2011 Classic winners, Tom Hankins and Glen Gill, with a total weight of 8.18 lbs. Tom and Glen targeted 12 feet of water with their sponsors Lake Fork Baby shad and Juiced up baits, sometimes tipping with shiners. Tom and Glen have been one of the most consistent teams finishing in the top five in the last five tournaments.

Congratulations to the team of Roger Claywell and Mike Wantz fishing with Chris Wantz, on their first top five finish this year. Chris is under 18 yrs of age and can fish with a team, the team being limited to the same number rod and reels as a two person team. Rodger, Mike and Chris fished with Southern Pro tubes tipped with shiners and had a total weight of 8.06lbs. Congratulations also to the team of Richard Jackson and Don Houser who competed in their first Indiana Slab Masters tournament at Geist and finished in 5th place with 7.69lbs. They also fished the upper end of the lake just west of the 96th street Bridge.

Congratulations to all the top finishing teams at the Geist tournament. If you would like to know more about the Indiana Slab Masters club tournament series or if you are just an avid fisherman you can visit their website@ www.indianaslabmasters.com Also click the link page to visit our sponsors to check out some of their

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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCarty

Through Greece and Southern Yugoslavia

When we left you last month we were boarding a ferry at Brindisi, Italy to make our way across the Ionian Sea to Greece. We stopped at the three islands of Corfu, Igoumenitsa, and Patras to drop off and pick goods and supplies and to let people off and to pick up passengers who were going further south in Greece or to Athens. We had half an all-weather davenport on the deck of the ferry, the other half occupied by a pharmacist from Australia. We were allowed to go down into the hold of the ferry once during our 24 hour trip. Sleeping an hour or so was really welcomed on that noisy, rough, ferryboat ride. Thankfully we had purchased food we could put together for one or two meals. Our block ice was holding well in the ice box in the VW camper. We're glad we brought food, as sandwiches, etc., were extremely expensive at the bar on the deck and we hadn't as yet converted any American money to Greek money. We had brought Italian salami, cheese, a long loaf of unsliced bread and cans of vegetables and fruit. Many of the other passengers either went hungry or spent twice as much for food as they would have on land. Again, it pays to plan every detail so that when one gets into situations that would disrupt your financial plans, the extra time studying and planning pays off.

After having crossed the Corinthian Canal we arrived at a campground where the owner/manager had a lamb on a spit and was sharing the meat as he greeted his new campers. We camped on a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea. The tide was in so the rocky shoreline would have been hazardous in which to swim. We did, though, sit at our camp and watch the young octopi play among the rocks. We ate with an interesting couple, Vinnie and Fiona from England who had converted an old Bedford van or step van into a camping unit. They had a bed, cooking area, storage and everything they really needed, except restroom facilities. Now, in 2012, interestingly enough, a lot of the upscale campgrounds in the United States, including, of course, private campgrounds, and resorts, don't allow any type of units, i.e., tents, fold downs, conversion vans, etc., without restroom facilities. It's important to ask, when phoning or e-mailing whether restrooms are available and open all night (or if you get a key or code) if you are camping without your own restroom facilities. Most

county parks, state and federal parks and some private parks will still have restroom facilities for you. We travel in a high top conversion van across country with bed and TV and always ask to be placed in a site near the rest room.

Athens was hot and dry but weather was forgotten as we traipsed along the streets and into the hills where so many people in philosophical history and those written about in the Bible had trod. Traffic was so much less crowded and much slower than in Paris and in Rome. We don't believe it had rained anywhere in Greece for years. Being able to climb up the slopes of the Acropolis, the center of the ancient city's religious life, and viewing the surrounding areas like the Parthenon, finished in 432 B.C. after the Persians destroyed most of the structures on the Acropolis in 480 B.C., was probably my most rewarding part of the whole three month trip. Another of the lower hills is the Aereopagus, the place of the ancient criminal court were St. Paul may have preached. In rebuilding structures on the Acropolis many relics of ancient Greece have been uncovered and stored in museums in Athens and as far away as the British Museum in London.

Traveling north from Athens was the camping grounds at Mt. Thermopylae, where in 480 B.C. Leonidas the Greek was defeated by the Persians. The only other people in camp were a couple from Czechoslovakia. King Leonidas has been credited throughout history for his valiant stand with 7000 men in the small pass at Mt. Thermopylae against the gigantic army of 100,000 Persians. Leonidas was defeated but did not retreat, trying to defeat these armies from the north who eventually ravaged the city of Athens.

El was getting dinner so I took a little walk to see the hot mineral springs flowing from Mt. Thermopylae and flowing away in a small river, about the only water we saw in Greece. I rushed back to get my camera and tell El to come with me to see the hot springs and, making a mistake, I told her the women who were going home from working in the fields were taking mineral baths in the all together or natural bathing suits. My bride wouldn't go and wouldn't let me go back either. What a photo opportunity I missed. She said dinner was ready. Ha

At Thessalonica the campground wells were so low that boys with buckets on poles over their shoulders were carrying water up the steps from the Aegean sea, pouring the water into barrels outside the restrooms, and after 3 or 4 people had used the

ancient facilities, the attendant would dip the bucket into the barrel and get enough water to flush the toilet.

From Thessalonica to Skopje was quite dusty and when we arrived at this beautiful city, much of it damaged by an earthquake in 1959. The people in the city park where we camped helped us clean up our dusty camper van. The town had been almost com-

pletely restored to what it had looked like before the earthquake. We inquired about the road around Albania to Kotor and the reply was gravelly, winding, steep, and that new roads were being built nearby. How true it was. One hundred and eighty-eight

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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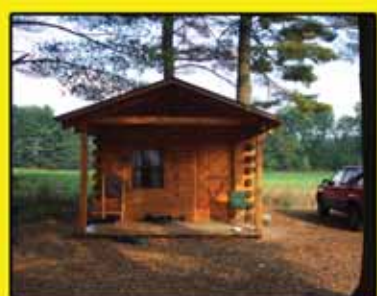
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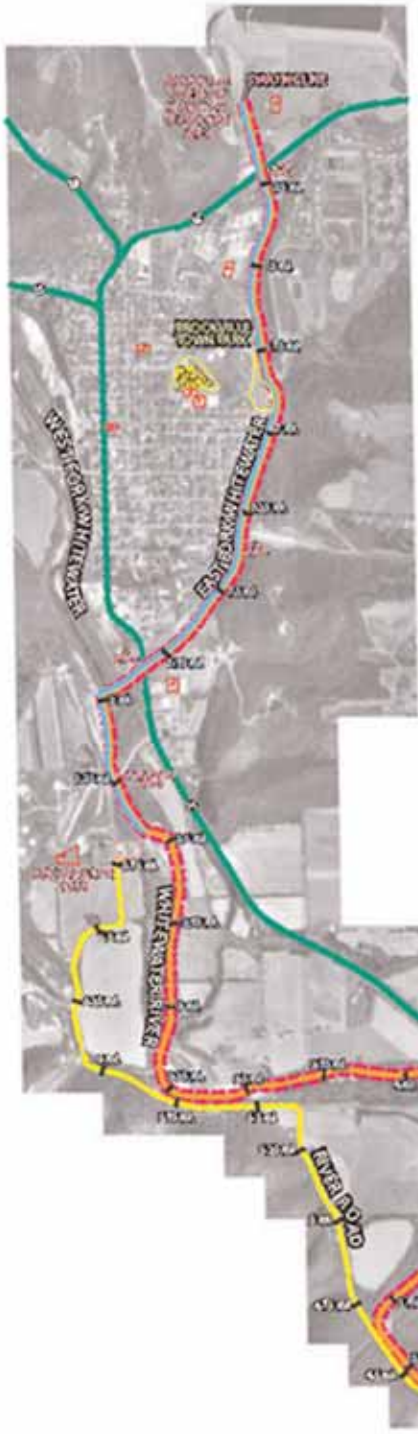


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Canoe enthusiasts and others ply the waters of the East Fork of Whitewater River. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

CANOE FEST JUNE 29 & 30, 2012 - BROOKVILLE, IN

CANOE RACES SAT JUNE 30

STARTING LINE- BROOKVILLE RESERVOIR TAILWATERS RECREATION AREA

Canoes will put in on the East Fork of the Whitewater River, south of the Brookville Reservoir Dam, as directed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

"RECREATIONAL" RACE FINISH LINE- FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION CLUB.

Racers in these races will finish at the Franklin Co. Conservation Club, approximately 1/2 mile south of the confluence of the East and West Forks of the Whitewater.

We expect many entrants in the Recreational Races, perhaps 300 or more, mostly novice canoeists.

CHAMPIONSHIP RACE

The The Championship Canoe Race will starts at the tailwaters of Brookville Lake. The starting line is on the east fork of the Whitewater River. The race runs the entire length of the east fork where it then joins the west fork. After joining the West Fork the race continues along the Whitewater until the finish line at Cottowood Campground south of Cedar Grove. The rugged race totals to be 11.25 miles in length. A shuttle will be available after the race.

BIATHLON CANOE RUN

The Biathlon will starts at the tailwaters of Brookville Lake. The first leg, which is the canoe portion, runs the entire length of the east fork where it then joins the west fork. After joining the West Fork the race continues along the Whitewater until the end of the canoe segment at Morgan's Canoe Rental in Cedar Grove. After docking the canoes the second part of the race, foot race, begins. Leaving Morgan's the race continues south on S.R. 1 to River Road. Traveling along River Road, there will be drink stations along with some beautiful countryside. The finish line is located at the Franklin County Conservation Club ending up to be 15.1 miles in total

Eager canoe teams wait patiently to get launched into the tailwaters below the Brookville Dam. The water they are about to enter comes directly through the stilling basin of the dam, at the bottom of the lake, 125 deep on the other side of the dam, the deepest part of the lake. The water temperature is a bit cool to those who happen to fall in unexpectedly. I attended my first race day in 2010 and several canoe occupants found themselves in the water, but they didn't seem to mind, it was a very warm day. They just got back aboard and continued on their way. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



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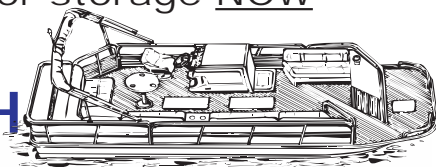
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length. Transportation will be available after the race.

RECREATIONAL CANOE RACE

The Recreational Canoe Races will be put into 2 "Waves", the first at 9AM, and the second at 11:00AM. on Saturday, June 30th starting at the Tailwaters of Brookville Lake and racing down the East Fork of the Whitewater to a finish just below the confluence with the West Fork. A run that is popular with both the families and novices, and the experienced paddlers alike.

2 Person Teams

Price: Teams with at least 1 racer age 17 and under: \$15 Pre-Reg & Day of

Adults: \$25 Pre-Reg / \$40 Day of - 2 person teams (**Canoe Included**)

Class C-2 includes Adult/Youth or Mixed Couples or Seniors or Fledgling or Mens Grudge Matches or Juniors or Womens.

Wave 1 - 9:00 A.M.

Adult/Youth; Mens; Women; Seniors; Lawyer Grudge Match.

Wave 2 - 11:00 A.M.

Juniors; Fledgling; Mixed Couples; Banks Race; Media Race; Realtors Race; Hairdressers Race

Times subject to change!

Check back closer to Race Time.

These races are intended for the novice, first-timer or even the weakest of weekend warriors--perfect for couples, parents and children, or those just in it for the fun. The trip entails beautiful scenery on the entire length of the course. Awards will available to winners as soon as results are confirmed. There will be an official awards ceremony at 7 pm for those who wish to receive their awards on stage, presented by the Canoe Princess and her Court.

ALL RACERS WILL HAVE TO SIGN A WAIVER IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE

Participants under age 18 will have to have a parent or guardian sign a waiver in order to participate. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Give yourself a treat, bring the whole family and some friends too, come to the 2012 Canoeefest

in Brookville, Indiana. Before you leave home visit www.canoeefest.org, click on the canoes at right to learn what all is happening at the Festival. There is something for everyone. (**See photocopy of Canoes that you will see on the website of the list of festival activities at right on this page, just click on the website www.canoeefest.org**)

CANOEEST FRYERS CLUB

On July 3, 2010, the Canoeefest Fryers Club set an official **Guinness World Record** for the Largest Serving of Fried Chicken, filling a brand new Osagian Canoe (donated by Osagian Canoes of Missouri) with 1,645 pounds of FRIED CHICKEN. This brought the record back to the USA from Kuwait, who had held the record at 1,278 pounds. Another attempt by a large corporation in Kentucky reported to fry a contending amount, but the official record was awarded to Canoeefest in Brookville, IN!

Go ahead, look it up

Over 200 fryers and volunteers fried up 2,700 pounds of raw chicken, donated at a discount by OMara Foods in Greensburg, a major chicken supplier to the area. The 2,700 pounds cooked down to the 1,645 that was the world record weight. The chicken was then served up in over 600 dinners, with additional chicken donated to a local food bank.

THE RULES FOR FRYING

Each team will consist of one or two members only. Each team will be provided with two chickens. All other equipment including fryers and tables (etc) must be supplied by frying teams. Any equipment or behavior by team members deemed unsafe will immediately disqualify that team. Teams must be signed-up by 4 PM on the Friday one week prior to the competition. Teams must be signed-in by 3 PM on day of contest, Saturday June 30, 2012.

All chicken must be fried. No chicken sushi or chicken tartar.

THE RULES FOR JUDGING

Judging will be conducted in a blind fashion.

The \$40 judging fee includes T shirt, credentials, one vote and a whole lot of yummy fried chicken!!

All Judges must be checked in by 5 PM on day of contest.

Visit Website: WWW.CANOEEST.ORG
ON WEBSITE CLICK ON CANOES TO FIND EVERYTHING

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- FESTIVAL
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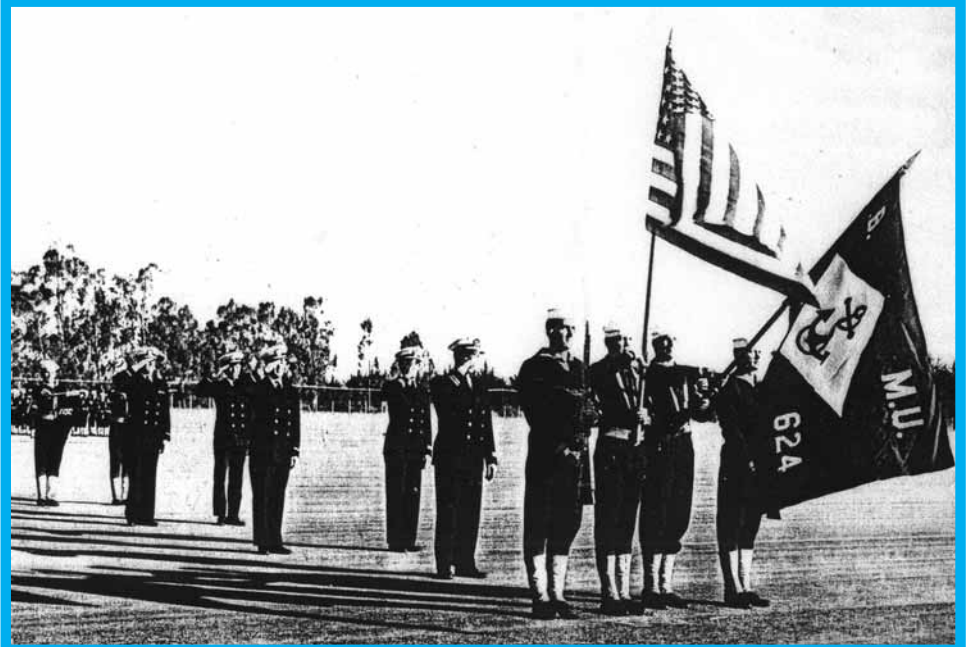
THE AREAS LARGEST FIREWORKS SHOW SATURDAY

JUNE 29 & 30 BROOKVILLE IN

MORE INFO AT WWW.CANOEEST.ORG



At left John Matias from Summit, Illinois, center Buddy Howard from Forsyth, Georgia and at right Leslie Lee from Belleview, Illinois all serving in CBMU #624 at Kadena Airstrip on Okinawa. They are standing in front of a F4U Corsair Marine Corps plane.



This photo sent to me by Belle Howard, Buddy's widow. The Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) #624 being Commissioned at Port Hueneme, California in 1944. CBMU #624 embarked on its journey to Okinawa on January 16, 1945. (U.S. Navy Photo)

U. S. Navy Seabee Edgar "Buddy" Howard WWII 1944 - 1946

by Ray Dickerson

I am continuing my search to find former U.S. Navy Seabees since October of 2007 that might have served with my father, Raymond "Gene" Dickerson from July 3, 1942 thru October 29, 1945. As some of you already know - I volunteered to host the 67th Reunion of the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion to be held here in Richmond and Centerville, IN this coming September 23-27, 2012.

I need to add something here. My sister, Wilma Woodford found the 79th NCB on the internet, hence my involvement with them. Before their 66th reunion I found that Dad had also served with CBMU #624. After I volunteered to host the 67th reunion I asked if I could get permission to invite former members of CBMU #624 to the 79th NCB reunion too. They said I could.

On January 3, 2012 I mailed packets to over a 100 former Seabees to addresses obtained from many sources.

Just a few days after the mailing I got several calls, the first was from Edward Richard (Dick) Patrick from Ashland, KY. If you saw the May Gad-a-bout you may have read the article I did on him. Dick served with my Dad on Okinawa with CBMU #624.

The second call I got was from 98 year-old Earl



Left Photo: Buddy Howard in his Navy dress blues. Right Photo: Sitting at left is Belle Howard, at right is her daughter Leigh "Howard" Dover, standing at left is her son Nolen Howard and at right is her son Neal Howard. (Photos submitted by Nolen Howard)



D. Dushane, otherwise known as the "Reluctant Dragon" from Fallon, Nevada. Earl served with the 79th NCB on Kodiak Island, Alaska. He was in the Headquarters Company.

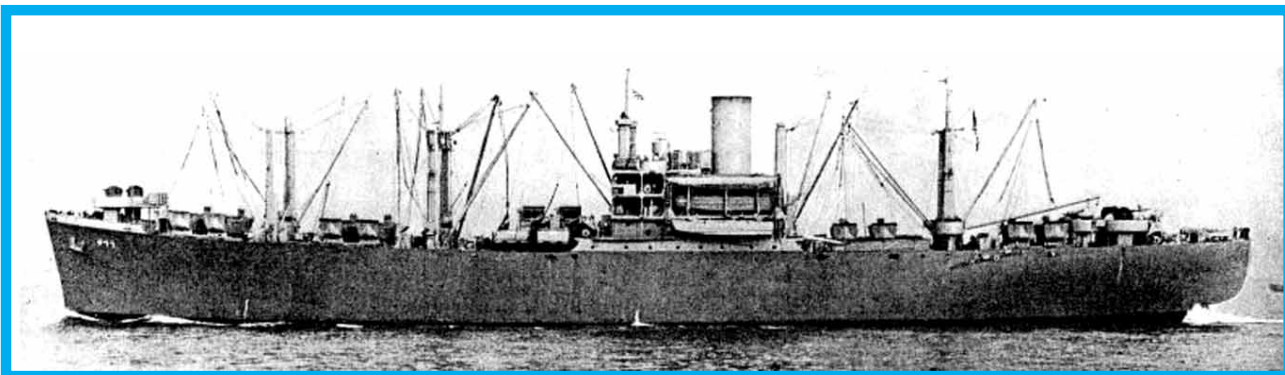
The third call I got was from Belle Howard who lives in Forsyth, Georgia and the wife of the late "Buddy" Howard who passed away in 2001. Buddy

was a Seabee serving in CBMU #624 and 617 on Okinawa.

Belle and I talked for the longest time, I took notes as best I could.

She met Buddy in a Macon, Georgia hospital in 1947 after his discharge from the Navy on 01/04/47. Buddy went to the hospital to have his appendix removed. His room was directly across from Belle's Uncles' room. Her Aunt and she started visiting Buddy too, when they were there to visit her uncle. One thing led to another and on August 1, 1948 they were married. Two important dates followed, September 1st was Buddie's birthday followed by Belle's birthday on October 1st. How you like that for a coincidence of dates. Buddy and Belle had 2 sons and 1 daughter, Nolen, Neal and Leigh Howard. They have seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Buddy was self-employed as a Freight Agent in Macon and Forsyth, Georgia prior to retiring in 1988. Belle was a Lab Technician for a General



The U.S.S. Thurston AP 77 enroute from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor carrying 1,372 passengers. Buddy said, "we watched the Golden Gate Bridge fade into the distance behind us." (U.S. Navy Photo 1945)

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LST's (Landing Ship Tank) unloading on the beach of Okinawa, April 1945. (79th NCB Photo)



The aftermath of Typhoon that hit Okinawa on Oct. 9, 1945 (Buddy Howard Photo)

Practitioner (Family Physician) in Forsyth. The two enjoyed their retirement, visiting with family and friends watching their grandchildren and great grandchildren grow up before their very eyes. They also attended a CBMU #624 reunion in Gulfport, Mississippi meeting with many of Buddy's former Seabee friends, including Ensign B. M. Perkins.

Today, Belle has close ties to her family and at home in Forsyth, Georgia she has her pet Schnauzer, "Seabee" to keep her company. We have had several additional conversations by telephone since January. She has that natural southern accent that I've always liked listening to. My two most favorite accents are Southern and British. The latter I attained a little myself having been stationed in England for 3 years, "Aye Matey!"

Belle sent me a packet of information on CBMU #624, that's worth its weight in gold. Much of the information she sent shed light and eased my hunger for more information locked away in the minds of former Seabees who have passed on, never to be heard again. As Seabee daughter, Jeannie Winter said in her comment to William Ross (Seabee article in April 2012 issue) "There is a painful reality of war that many veterans keep forever silent."

Belle's packet included a copy of the CBMU #624 commissioning photo with the note on it, "CBMU

624 Commissioned at Port Hueneme, CA 1944. From rear: Carpenter Sutton, Carpenter Ferguson, Ensign Perkins, Lt. (JG) Hettema, Lt. McDonald, Leroy Mossman, Milt Nordquist, Al Vanbosheide and Ed Sanden.

A copy of the Unit History of CBMU #624 from the day it was commissioned thru August 1945.

A copy of a letter addressed to, The Officers and men of CBMU #624 dated September 8, 1945 from Lt. Commander, Marine Corps, USNR Harold A. Rosenberg, Air Base Medical Officer Awase Airfield, Okinawa.

A copy of a newspaper clipping out of the Stars and Stripes Newspaper written by Sgt. John L. Duke entitled, "Marine Major Tells Battalion of Seabees" - "Over-worked, Underfed, Cussed At.....The Drinks Will Be On Me." The last paragraph tells it all, "Telling you in words how much I appreciate the...work you have done without complaint is beyond my limited vocabulary...I shall consider it an honor for any man of your unit, who, if he sees me, wherever it may be, to step forth and offer a handshake. The drinks will be on me." The Marine officer was Major C.C. Campbell, commander of a marine air base on Okinawa. The object of his admiration was a Naval Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU #624) who he awarded

the most unique Commendation ever received by an American Unit.

A copy of the Naval Air Bases on Okinawa Action Summary April 1st to May 31st, 1945 certified by Lt. Commander S.M. Thompson, USNR.

A copy of a letter from Thomas P. Sutton to CBMU #624 personnel, in part he said, ".....I am glad that this tour of duty has been affiliated with CBMU #624 and that this unit has been composed if such an excellent selection of personnel, both in ability and as men. Dated October 27, 1945.

A copy of a letter from Colonel Melvin J. Maas, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Air Base Commander to all CBMU #624 Personnel. It was signed by Colonel Maas under the salutation, Affectionately, A Marine Sea Bee. One paragraph read, "To the officers and men of the finest Maintenance Unit in the Navy, I wish both to say good-bye and to express the pleasure and privilege it has been for me to know you, work with you and to live among you.....Your work, from the beginning on this island, made it possible for the Marine planes to fly in the vital defense of Okinawa. You were as much a part of that heroic air defense as if you flew the planes yourselves."

And last but not least, a copy of Buddy Howard's own activities in his Navy Hitch 1944-45-46, subtitled (USN vs EFH)

Here in his own words is Seabee Buddy Howards' "Navy Hitch" (USM vs EFH).

08/28/44 Enlisted in Macon, GA. into the United States Navy (Regular Navy). 3 days before 18, to avoid the draft, no sloshing around in the mud in infantry for me. Given 10 days leave.

09/06/44 Left Macon for Great Lakes Naval Training Center, IL.

09/07/44 Arrived Great Lakes - assigned to Boot Camp Company #1776. Managed to get Company Clerk job. (Thinking it would be a cushion job.) (2nd mistake)

11/18/44 Completed Boot Camp. Nine days leave. (5 spent traveling to Georgia and Virginia.)

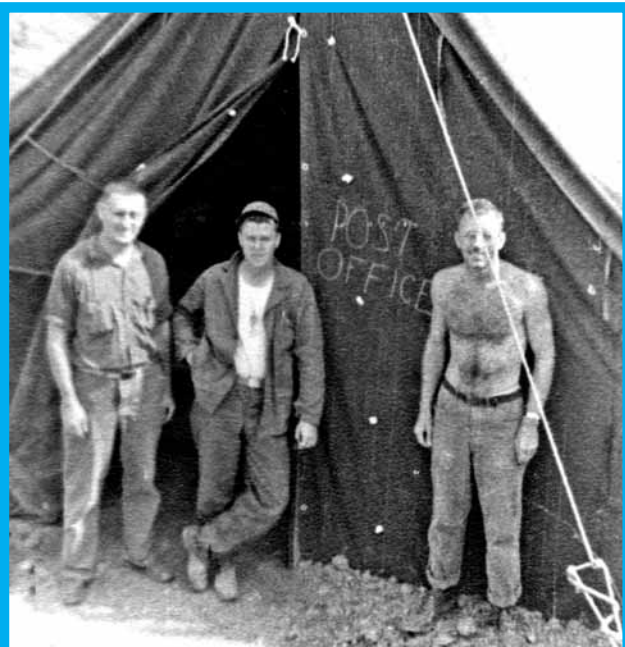
11/29/44 Left Great Lakes on troop train, destination Port Hueneme, California, assigned to the Seabees. (No idea what Seabees were, though maybe they drove P.T. Boats.)

12/05/44 Arrived Port Hueneme. Assigned to 1st Special Battalion. (Stevedores)

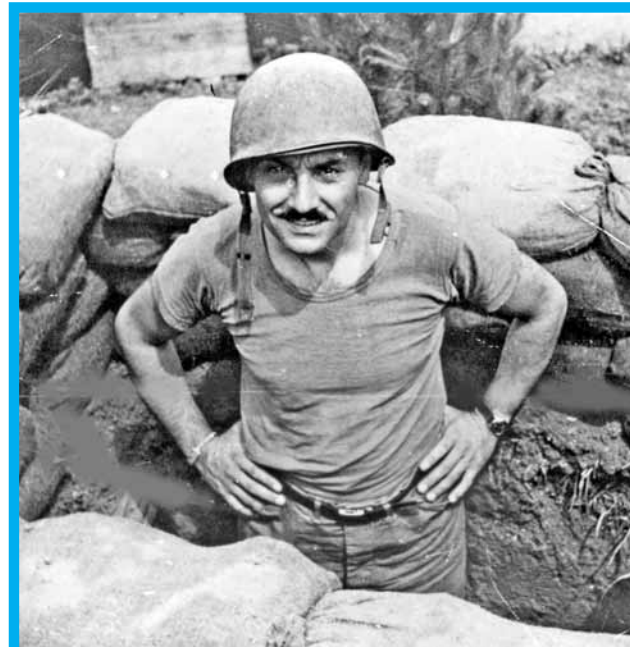
12/29/44 Captain's Mast.. Failure to muster - 6 hours extra duty. (Don't remember this one)

01/13/45 Transferred to CBMU #624 (Construction

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



CBMU #624 Post Office on Okinawa 04/11/45. Left to Right: Rudy M. Nathanson, Y 3/c, Ensign Bradford M. Perkins and J.H. Carpenter, MM 2/c standing in front of our home, cozy isn't it? (Buddy Howard Photo)



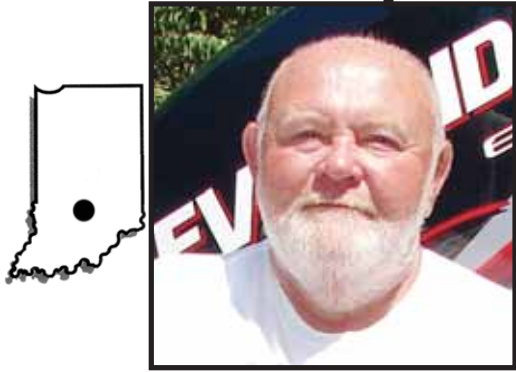
Lt. Harold A. Rosenberg, affectionately called, "Rosey." Dr. Rosenberg and his 7 corpsmen took care of the health of members of CBMU 624 on Okinawa. (Buddy Howard Photo)

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Bass Fishing Techniques



by Bill Embry

Big Marks Bait & Tackle on Lake Monroe

Photos Provided by Big Marks Bait & Tackle Shop

Today's bait & tackle shops consist mainly of big box stores like, Bass Pro Shops, Wal-Mart's, Dicks, Etc. There are not many small bait & tackle stores around these days. This means you can get what you need from these big box stores, but you can't get information on what the fish are biting on, on the lake that you're fishing. These big stores want to sell you fishing equipment; yet they have no knowledge of the local fishery that you may be fishing. This is why I often go to the local fishing shop to purchase my fishing equipment from them instead of these larger stores. Big Marks on the southwest side of the lake is just this kind of store. It is a small store, but, the person behind the counter is full of knowledge, either first hand or passed on from other anglers.

Big Marks Bait & Tackle is located in his basement of his home close to Lake Monroe at 9430 S. Strain Ridge road on the southwest side of the lake. If you're at the dam, or at Fourwinds area you're close to Big Marks bait & tackle. If you're going to Fourwinds on Fairfax road turn right on to Strain Ridge road. It's the last turn on the right before you enter the park. Go down a couple of miles & look for his signs on the right. Just come on in. He will be down there telling fish tales or getting someone some minnows. If you're coming from the Dam area, Turn on Strain Ridge road; he is about 1/2 mile on the left. You can't miss it!

Mark takes great pride in providing high qual-



Big Mark, owner of Big Marks Bait & Tackle shop holding a nice Channel Catfish in front of his business.

ity fishing equipment at a working mans price! Mark sells live bait minnows, Red worms, Night crawlers, Crickets, Shiners, Neon night crawlers, Gold fish, Jumbo red worms, Rosie reds, Skip jack, Chicken Livers, shrimp, Stink bait, etc. He also has a large selection of rods, reels, jigs, bobbers, & other terminal tackle. Indiana fishing licenses are available.

Mark started fishing as a child with a cane pole with his step-father. Through the years he has learned to adapt to fish for a variety of different kinds of fish. Big Cat's & Jig fishing are his passions. He has helped many folks in the area, with their techniques to improve on their catches.

Mark is always willing to help people out with their baits & locations.

Mark served in the U.S. Seabee's for his country, then afterwards he spent sometime working on the Gulf Coast fishing, Shrimping, & Oyster dredging. After gaining much experience, he returned to the Midwest and is now living his dream of sharing his passion with others.

Feel free to ask Mark about anything that is related to fishing, if he doesn't know he can find out in a hurry! Mark keeps in touch with many local angler's & guides about what the fish are eating and gets local fishing reports & he can also connect you



Watch for this sign traveling to Big Marks on South Strain Ridge Road. Just up the road from SR 37



Here is a nice 4.2 lb. Walleye. See inset for exact weight.

to some really great fishing guides in the area that are always on fish. Big Mark & his wife Julie are great folks that just want to earn your business. So when you're down at Lake Monroe stop by, say hi, & find out where the fish are biting?

Big Mark's phone number is (812) 824-4846 his Website: bigmarks.proboards80.com

"Good Fishin"

Bill Embry

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Mark takes great pride in providing high quality fishing equipment at a working mans price!



Mark sells all kinds of live bait and artificials too. If you have a question, he has an answer, just ask.

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Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

If old boat could only talk

I've always loved being around water. Fishing and boating have always been at the top of my list of pastimes.

Over the years, nearly every place the Junkers have lived has been on or near the water. There were a few exceptions in my early years, but in the last four decades a couple hundred yards has been the furthest we have been from a spot to cast a lure or launch a boat.

During that time, I've always owned a boat. Most were purchased used. I've had canoes, small sailboats, pontoon, ski, and fishing boats. Today, I still have a fold-up Porta-bote.

Late last fall, I saw a small 10-foot, aluminum jon boat at a yard sale. Figured it would slip easily into the back of my old truck, and thought it would be ideal to paddle around the small lake where we currently spend warm weather. I could picture



My old Pioneer boat probably was built in the mid-1950's. My guess, it like many other trusty old boats, would have some fascinating stories to tell, if it only could. (Photo by Author)

myself casting Roadrunners and Beetlespins to the bass, crappie and bluegill as the sun settled behind the trees to the west.

I even purchased a small Minn-Kota trolling motor and a new battery to help propel my new (to me) fishing machine.

The boat in fact did easily fit into the back of the old Chevy. I was right. That was good news.

However, the boat didn't work for this fat old, unstable outdoor writer.

I attempted to launch it in my backyard, and was sure motor battery, rod and reel, and old man were going to end up in the "drink". It was totally unstable for this guy, and it seemed the water level was only about six inches below the side.

So what was plan B?

In the meantime, my 14-year-old grandson thinks the boat is great. He spent a couple days paddling it around the lake. But then, he weighs half or less than this old biscuit and gravy eater.

Plan B was to look on the internet for another small boat, but one not quite so small.

I actually found several within a reasonable distance of home, and decided to check one out located on the north side of Bloomington. The young owner said the older aluminum boat had comfortably and stably held he, his wife, and young son.

Upon arrival at his home, I looked over the boat. It looked much like many I had seen years ago at various fishing camps.

Quickly, I made the decision to buy it. It appeared it would meet my need, but something else also attracted me. Isaiah Bowling, the owner, had found a very old magazine advertisement about the boat. It indicated the boat was a Pioneer and manufactured in Middlebury, IN.

I wish the boat could tell it's story. How many big fish have been pulled over its sides? Where has it traveled to? What lakes? Who took it to picnics and shady sandbars? Did anyone ever fall overboard? How old is the boat?

A guess would be it was built in the 1950's.

The old advertisement called Pioneer Boats, "America's most advanced line of metal boats..."

"Rounded V-bow with flat bottom design provides smoothest ride with utmost steadiness. Eleven models, 33 sizes in galvanized iron and steel and aluminum.

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From a brief internet search I learned Pioneer had been located at 125 Perry Street, In Middlebury, IN, and was purchased in 1972 by Jayco manufacturing, well-known builder of Jayco trailers. I have contacted Jayco in an attempt to learn more, but haven't received a response.

I also discovered there currently is a Pioneer boat company on the east coast, but it doesn't appear to have any relationship, except the same name.

The former owners, Isaiah and Joni Bowling enjoyed the

boat, and I'm sure others did as well. Now I own the old boat, and would love to hear from anyone who knows anything more about lineage of Pioneer boats.

###

FILET FISH -- Today, most people fillet crappie and other panfish (cut out all of the bones), however as a kid we never filleted fish. We cut the heads off of crappie, removed their internal organs, and then removed the scales with a knife or a scaling knife or tool. I probably was nearly 30 before I filleted my first fish.

Now, it probably has been 30 since I haven't filleted one. Although, there still are times when I clean small bluegill the old way, and fry them. Bones need to be carefully picked, but they are tasty cooked whole.

Here are some simple instructions to fillet a crappie. Some people use an electric knife, but they are just as easy with a long, thin, flexible fillet knife.

1. Place the fish on a flat surface. I keep a board for that purpose.
2. Put the knife at an angle to the head and cut behind the top fin down to the backbone.
3. Move the blade along the right side of the backbone, bumping the ribs, but not cutting them.
4. Slice the blade into the flesh meat near the vent and cut the fillet to the tail.
5. Cut the fillet away from the ribs with care.
6. Cut through the skin of the stomach to remove the fillet.
7. Turn the fish over and repeat the process of the other side.

I often vary the procedure at step four by not completely cutting off the fillet. I then flip it over and cut between the skin and the meat. I then remove the fillet and in a separate action cut out the rib cage.

It is a bit complicated to explain, and there are several good videos showing the process on the internet. Simply type in "fillet crappie" and several should appear.

There is nothing much better in the spring than a pan of fresh, fried crappie.

###

Contact writer Phil Junker by email at:

outdoorscribe@yahoo.com

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

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Happenings in Metamora, Indiana



by Janice Hunsche
Owner of Kaleidosaurus Books

Metamora, Indiana Activities for June

From the Metamora site:

Every Friday evening thru September stop by for the **Metamora Cruise In**. It's free from 5:00 pm to dusk on Main Street in Metamora. There will be food, drinks, music, cars, trucks, and motorcycles. All exhibitors will receive dash plaques. Bring your show car/bike/truck or bring your family to see the show vehicles. For more information contact Max Sloan at 765-309-8536. Note: On the final Friday of the month, the Cruise In will be held at the Music Stage on Lovers Lane. **June 2-3** is the **26th Annual Strawberry Dazes** from 10am-5pm. Strawberry shortcake will be sold at the Merchant's Association tent in the yard of the Baner House. There will be live music in the afternoon featuring regional groups. Also on Saturday, **June 2nd** the **2nd Annual Strawberry Days Car Show** from 10 am to 4 pm on Main Street. Registration is 8am-12pm, judging at 1pm and awards at 4pm. For more info, contact Max Sloan at (765) 309-8536.

Finally, **June 29** is **Acoustic Final Friday** from 7pm to 11 pm at the Lovers Lane Stage. It's the usual open mic and free to all.

2nd Annual Gateway Park Bluegrass Festival 2012, Friday, June 29, 12pm-10pm and Saturday, June 30, 10am-10pm. (Gateway Park is across from Metamora on Hwy 52.) You and all your friends are invited to a wonderful weekend of toe tapping fun with lots of great traditional bluegrass music performed live. Admission is \$15. Live performers include The Tillers, New Jerusalem Bluegrass Gospel, All American Bluegrass Band, Vern McEntyers's Appalachian Grass, Brian Keith Wallen and Blue Lightning, Slate-Fall, Shady Valley, Coffee Brothers, Deer Creek, Cave Mountain. Presented by the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway Association. For more information call: (765) 647-2176

From the Whitewater Valley Railroad site:

For more information and reservations be sure to call (765) 825-2054 or visit the website <http://www.whitewatervalleyrr.org/excursions>

The Whitewater Valley Flyer 12pm-5pm every Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. *Please note: the train will not run the weekends of June 16,17,23,24 due to the Thomas the Tank Engine event.* Depart the Connersville station at 12:01 for a 2 hour layover in Metamora. **June 1** the **Twilight Limited Train to Dinner** departs from Connersville Station at 6 p.m. and travels to the Laurel Hotel. The cost is \$29 per adult, \$15 for children (special child's menu) and includes the round trip train ride, the meal, tax and tip. Reservations required.

June 15-17 and 22-24. Day Out with Thomas:TM Mystery on the Rails Tour 2012. This is always a fun couple of weekends for fans of Thomas. Besides a train ride on a full size replica of Thomas the Tank Engine™, there will be storytelling, arts and crafts, build with Mega Bloks®, have your picture taken with Sir Topham Hatt, and much more! Purchase tickets online at WWW.TICKETWEB.COM/DOWT or by calling TicketWeb at (866) 468-7630.

Finally, **June 29** at 6pm the **Wild West Train to Dinner**. Enjoy a Wild West themed Twilight Limited Train to Dinner excursion departing from downtown Connersville. The Wild West entertainment is being provided by the Circle D Rangers. The train departs at 6PM from Connersville's Grand Central Station. Fares are \$39 per person and include the round trip train ride, the meal, tax and tip. Reservations are required.

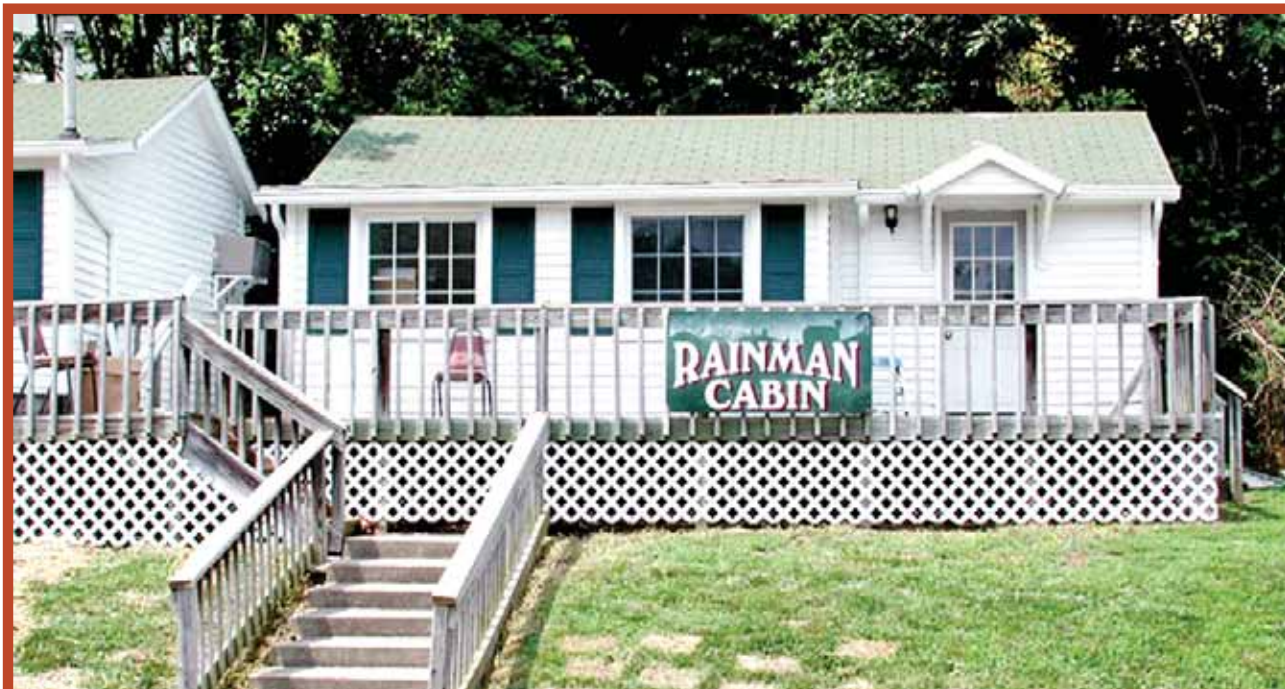
Janice Hunsche, Kaleidosaurus Books, Metamora, IN Kaleidosaurusbooks@gmail.com



The Rain Man Fanquet Room
In 1988, part of the movie RAINMAN was filmed at THE HEARTHSTONE RESTAURANT. That year RAIN MAN went on to win the prestigious Academy Awards for Best Movie, Dustin Hoffman for Best Actor, and Barry Levinson for Best Director.
The two old cabins that made up the RAIN MAN set are still here and renovated. For many in the Brookville - Metamora area it was an exciting summer to meet with both Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise as they added their presence to the continuing legend of THE HEARTHSTONE.



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In 1988, part of the movie Rain Man was filmed at The Hearthstone Restaurant. That year Rain Man went on to win the prestigious Academy Awards for Best Movie, Dustin Hoffman for Best Actor, and Barry Levinson for Best Director. The two old cabins, shown above, that made up the Rain Man set are still here and renovated. For many in the Brookville — Metamora area it was an exciting summer to meet with both Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise as they added their presence to the continuing legend of THE HEARTHSTONE. (Cabin and Plaque Photos by Ray Dickerson)



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and that's the news from West Central Indiana



by Don Bickel, Forester

In the quiet of the natural world

Not much God-inspired activity from the front porch on West Pike Street in Crawfordsville, but here on the cabin porch in back of the maple syrup camp, everything I see is there of its own choice. No pavement, no mowed grass, no vehicles rushing back and forth, just the green of grass, forbs (forbs - wildflowers to some, weeds to many) and trees.

Mixed into this melange of green are the birds. By sitting quietly and writing, they seem to become less apprehensive of this unknown object which has taken residence on an otherwise vacant porch.

A hummingbird just buzzed and hovered six or seven feet away - not sure what attracted her, since I have no red item of apparel. Some day, I hope to discover the nest of a hummingbird - oh, I've seen those that were clipped from a branch and carried to the house as an item of curiosity. To find an occupied nest and quietly observe the feeding of the young birds would surely be a wonder.

A catbird is perched off to my left and is making the call for which it is named. A male rufous sided towhee is scratching through a small brush pile a bit to the right of the cabin. The brushy nature of this section of woods provides many probable nest sites for these shrub or ground nesting birds.

Now, a good reason for selecting this place to write, has arrived. A male Baltimore oriole, with its brilliant orange breast and rump has found a branch on which to preen about 30 feet away.

Its hanging basket of a nest will be constructed on the end of a long tree branch high above the ground. An amazing bit of engineering, since it will withstand all of the strong winds of summer. Generally the branch will break away from the tree before the nest is torn loose.

Several species of warblers have made their appearance, but since both binoculars and identification books are safe at home, their identity will not be known. An identifiable house wren is inspecting a box elder stump. Since the windows are gone from the cabin, this small hyperactive bird may find a nesting site under the cabin's roof. An indigo bunting just sat for a minute, its brilliant, almost

metallic blue is unmistakable.

Now the house wren is sitting on the end of the picnic table on which I am writing. Although many of these birds may be seen within the city limits, only those folks who live on the fringes of suburbia, where the undergrowth and trees have not been disturbed, are likely to see the variety as afforded by the woodland edge.

This is not a familiar territory for the English sparrow, starling and house finch. So their presence is rarely observed.

To move deeper into the woods, would move the observer farther from these "imports" and into the realm of birds not often seen on the open woods edge. While mushroom hunting a short time back, I was fortunate to see a male scarlet tanager. This deep woods bird, actually of a tropical family, with its brilliant red coat and black wings and tail is mistakenly identified by some as a cardinal. When the tree leaves become mature, visual distance will be lost and the bird will be harder to see.

Today, after a night of a much needed rain, the weather is cooling again - perhaps this is blackberry winter. A walk south from the cabin along the lane would bring me to the creek, not a large stream as Sugar Creek, but one with a flat rock bottom and an ample amount of flowing water.

Lying aside the creek is a small pool of water, not much bigger than a large living room. This pool is separated from the creek by a ridge of sand about six feet wide and two feet in height. Nothing unusual here, but his pool is inhabited by - on last count - 16 soft shelled turtles. From spring through fall these turkey platter sized reptiles are present sunning on the bright warm days and staying underwater on days such as today.

There is a small channel which connects the creek and pool and apparently the turtles use it to venture into the creek and find food. I've never seen this movement, but there is no way enough food exists in this pool to feed these turtles.

The soft shell is a bit more wary than the snapping turtle. It requires a very cautious stalk to be within visual range of these turtles. Any slight movement within their sight will send them sliding into the water and to the bottom.

A few hundred yards upstream from the turtle refuge, the great blue herons are incubating their eggs in stick nests high in the tops of sycamore trees. Most nests that were occupied last year have been refurbished, some are now composed of quite a pile of sticks. Although these brush piles would seem to be short lived in a strong wind, even winds near tornadic force seldom dislodge them.

A heron rookery or nesting site is a noisy place, especially when the hatchlings attain a little size and their appetite has increased even more so. When dressed in clothing that blends with the surroundings and finding a rest on an available stump or log, the observer becomes part of the woods and nature's show continues undisturbed. ■



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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Turkey hunting at its finest

There is just something about turkey hunting in the south. Okay, for me, there is just something about turkey hunting in general – but it also just seems right in the south. I mean, as a rule, turkey hunting existed in the southern regions before it did in the Midwest, for example. Plus, the rolling, heavily wooded terrain, broken up by fingers of green fields is just how I envision typical turkey country.

Well, my son Nicholas and I got to experience a good ole' southern turkey hunt first-hand. It was everything I thought it would be and it lived up to my self-imposed hype.

As is usually the case for me, I managed to incorporate an outdoor adventure into a family trip. With a trip to Tennessee planned for spring break – and their turkey season coincidentally being open – I quickly began making plans for some morning turkey hunting with my son Nicholas. My wife made it clear early on that this was not going to be a hunting trip, but rather a trip for the entire family. Luckily for me though, I have a wife who understands our dedication to the outdoors. Plus, she is not an early riser like I am, so we struck a deal that Nicholas and I would only hunt until about nine or ten in the mornings, then be back to enjoy the rest of each day with her and her mother. Fair enough.

Places to hunt weren't a problem as the Big South Fork National Forest lay literally right out the back door-step of our cabin. We also had access to some privately owned land through a friend – both of which held good numbers of birds.

On the first morning's hunt, we heard multiple gobblers sounding off from their roosts. Being unfamiliar with the land, we cut the distance down as much as possible to the closest bird and set up. Luckily for us, he was not in the company of hens and it quickly became apparent that he was making his way in our direction. For the next hour or so the gobbler kept working down the mountain in our direction. He never failed to answer my best attempts at simulating seductive yelps and purrs as I called every so often to keep him interested.

Then, after a period where he became silent, I still knew he was close. I asked Nicholas if he could hear the gobbler do what is called spitting and drumming (a low, dull humming sound) at the bottom of the draw to our left. Nicholas' eyes were nearly bugged out as this was the first time he had ever heard it.



Nicholas Martino, proudly displays his Tennessee longbeard moments after taking him. (Photo by Author)

The tom eventually worked his way right into our laps – literally! The problem was that the bird was to my left and Nicholas was to my right. He came within five yards of us and I thought we were surely going to get busted. But, Nicholas did a great job of sitting motionless at the base of the tree. The tom eventually worked his way around a knob while advancing towards our decoys. The strutting gobbler had no idea he was slowly moving right into Nicholas' shooting lane. When the gobbler stepped behind a tree it gave Nicholas the chance to move his gun the last couple inches he needed to and when the bird stepped out, his head was right in my son's scope. As the love-struck gobbler faced us, still in full strut, Nicholas said, "Dad, I have a perfect shot right now." I gave him the go ahead and within seconds he had his first Tennessee gobbler - and first bird of the season - on the ground!

The next several moments were filled with unspeakable feelings of joy and accomplishment for both of us – so much so that it's almost embarrassing as we acted like giddy goof balls in our excitement. But in reality, there really isn't a thing embarrassing about it. If we didn't get all cranked up the way we do when we encounter success, then I would worry about how much we really appreciated and understood the accomplishment. A quick prayer of thanks, a ton of photos later and we were headed back to the truck. The weight of a longbeard draped over your shoulder as you clasp his ankles in your hand never gets old. Nicholas is finding that out!

Remarkably, a couple days later on our last hunt of the trip, we almost did it again. We called two

gobblers into range and had them there for a while. We just couldn't get it done, however, as they just wouldn't step out from behind a knob for a shot. Instead, they stayed in the same spot for forty minutes gobbling as they waited for the supposed hen to come to them. They eventually lost interest and moved off. We even called them again only to have the same outcome. Hey, that happens, as frustrating as it is. Oh well, at that point my trip was already complete. We had an awesome time as a family and Nicholas had a great bird already.

Knock on wood, but I have yet to find myself on a family vacation without being able to enjoy some form of fishing or hunting – regardless of where we traveled – and I hope I never do!

From our gracious friend and landowner, to everyone we met while in Tennessee, the term "Southern hospitality" certainly applied. It isn't just a cliché. It's a fact.

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Looking Downstream



by Paul McCloud

Crappies, Favorite Fish of the Midwest

In 1952, at the wise old age of three years ten months I caught my first fish, an eight-inch black crappie. It was on a weekend long fishing trip with my parents to one of the many canals connected to Ohio's Grand Lake St. Marys. I'm pretty sure that at the time, Crappie fishing was "the" only kind of fishing we did. I know at a later time, probably a decade or so, my dad and grandpa got into fishing for catfish in one of the larger creeks in our area, but Crappies remained the number one fish that stayed in abundant supplies in our freezer. The main reason for this is my folks both coming from large families that had survived the Great Depression of the late thirties had learned that supplementing meager food stores with fresh game and fish helped stretch much tightened grocery budgets. Both my parents were experienced hunters and live bait fishermen. Even in the fifties and sixties with the good times and good salaries, we had fish or game at almost ever dinner.

The reason Crappies had become our main fish was no other fish that had such good clean taste were accessible in the size and numbers of the Crappies. Using cane poles ten to fourteen feet long and fishing live, tail hooked minnows, fished under pencil floats, my folks and later myself were able to catch many dozens of nice sized (eight to eleven inch) Black and White Crappies almost every time out. The water depth in the canals was maintained by a couple small dredges permanently assigned to the lake at no more than six feet in the middle tapering out from around two feet at the banks, the average canal width was around thirty to forty feet. We



Author's dad with Crappies from Ohio's Hueston Woods State Park, May of 1971. (Photo by Author)

always set our bait shallow, no more than three feet down and the action was most times pretty steady, an unwatched pole would become bait less pretty fast.

In 1964, Ohio opened Hueston Woods State Park and it's 625-acre Acton Lake. Our family was one of the first to fish the scenic yet usually windy lake. When the lake was opened to the public there were several large piles of downed trees that had been cleared and tied together with cables and anchored around the outer edges of the lake.

Nice sized Crappies were easily taken with minnows fished through openings in the logs. Occasionally you'd catch a really big Rockbass but it was obvious this was going to be a Crappie lake. Here today as in the past, live minnows fished near the deeper ends of downed trees can't be beat. Fishing in the varying depths of a lake is much different from the constant shallow depths of canals. Fish will suspend in the water where they are most comfortable. I'm not going to get into thermoclines, suspended particulates, oxygen levels and all that technical stuff. I'm putting it all together and calling it "comfort zone". You will have to move your float up or down till you get some action, then you may want to tweak your depth to see if you can get even more action.

There are hundreds of artificial baits that have proven to be very effective with Crappies and other panfish and though I have not had good results with them myself, I know many guys who do very well with the artificial's. You can't blame them, keeping minnows alive and frisky is work intensive and some days the fish just won't take a minnow. A fellow angler I know who fishes Brookville Lake regularly

swears by the small tube baits and curly tailed jigs. Seems the color is a very important component in this. He says they usually fish three to a boat and they'll start out using different colors and sizes. When one of them gets a hit they all switch to that color and colors close to that shade. He says they usually limit out by lunchtime and knowing this person it's true.

Although they can be aggressive feeders at times, for the most part Crappies are timid. Most Crappie fisherman use light tackle, the lighter the better, four pound test line, six in stained or murky water. With cane poles you can use a strong braided or mono line then a length of light line about four feet long as your terminal leader with shot and hook for your live bait, or bare leader for your jig or other artificial. This same rig works for jigs too, minus the shot.

Cane poles can give you an edge sometimes as you can dip your bait in tight areas where stick-ups are present and interfere with casting.

Pre-spawn and spawning time is when Crappies are fished the hardest. During this time it's possible to catch limits of fish in a comparably short time. Large schools of mature fish move into shallow coves and up feeder streams to spawn. The pre-spawn feeding frenzy can last several days and what many anglers ignore an important fact, Crappies feed as well at night. Bait fish attracted to artificial light sources are followed by feeding Crappies. Areas around lighted boat docks even a lantern suspended above the water can prove quite productive. The bait-fish will be shallow and the Crappies suspended just below them so a shallow presentation works best. If you can see the baitfish your bait should mimic the size, color and action of the baitfish. The only drawback on night Crappie fishing is the same night fishing for any other species is the mosquitoes, have the proper repellents ready or suffer the consequences.

When discussing Crappie fishing you have to go over structure. In fishing structure is any physical item that a fish can relate to as we do to places we're familiar with in our daily lives. A downed tree, a large rock or cropping of rocks, a patch of aquatic weeds, pilings, docks, sand bars, old creek and river channels, anything significant other than the plain lake bottom. Crappies will suspend around structure for protection from predators or to ambush smaller feeder fish. Regardless of your choice of baits, these are all good places to start when going after Crappies. Good luck out there and remember your safety equipment. I appreciate your comments:

pasports@ydial.net



Author with nice string of slab-sided Crappies from a Preble County, Ohio gravel pit, May 1982.



The Author and his parents one day haul from Hueston Woods Acton Lake, May 1972.

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by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

Fishing Canada

The six inch long, red and white Daredevil spoon landed perfectly in the middle of the beaver channel, just feet from the foot of the lodge. As it slowly sank, wobbling back and forth, I anticipated the strike. I took the slack out of the line, reeled in a couple of yards of line, bringing the spoon back to the surface, and started the flutter down again. As I began the process for a third time, with hope fading, a torpedo shadow shot out of the cover and took the spoon in mid flutter. The fight was on. The Canadian northern turned to rush back to its hiding place as I tried to turn it to the boat. After a brief struggle, I won and brought the six pound fish to the boat. At 32 inches, it was a "Queen's fish", i.e. it had to be returned to the Lake, unharmed. There is something morally wrong about having to release a 30+ inch fish, but ecologically it makes for a lot more big fish. Canada has big fish.

I was fishing on Savant Lake, Ontario Province, Canada, in July. I have fished this lake several times over the past 20 years always out of Cat Track Lodge. It is a fly in Lodge, so it is not for the faint of heart. Rusty Myers flying service takes us in from near Ignace, the flight taking near 40 minutes. If you have never flown off of water, it is quite a trip. When the old twin engines of the Beaver aircraft wind up and begin their bouncy run over the lake surface, you just hold your breath. Once you are airborne, the beautiful country passing under you is absolutely amazing. If you are lucky you see a moose, or a caribou. Sometimes you can see schools of fish in the shallows if the sun is right and the water is calm.

Lake Savant has three arms to it. That is part of it's appeal to me. The north arm is known for its northern pike. The northeast arm is known for its walleye. And lastly, the south arm is known for its lake trout. Where you go on the lake, depends on what you wish to fish for. Don't get me wrong, you can find any specie anywhere on the lake, but there are some areas better than others.

In cooler weather, northern pike are hard fighting, vicious striking snakes that will cut a lure off if they hit the line too high. More than once my rod has doubled over, twitched a few times, and snapped back up in only a few seconds with the lure missing. Wire leaders help, but they cut down on the action of the lures and discourage walleye. Once I was reeling in a 16 inch walleye and happened to be over a deep hole full of brush. My father, Phil, was operating the boat and trying to get the net ready. We had seen the walleye twice and I thought we were about to land it. As Dad lost it in the glare of the sun on the lake, my rod doubled over and almost hit him on the head. The water erupted next to the boat in a fury of splashes and chaos. Dad thought I had fallen in for a moment. I caught a glimpse of a northern pike that hit my walleye and then thought better of it and let it go. The bite marks on that walleye were measured at

eight (8) inches apart. It was a huge fish that had hit my walleye and had we boated it, I am guessing that my father would have walked back to the Lodge.

At times, you cannot beg a bite. So you float down to another hole, and suddenly every cast produces a walleye. Walleye tend to stay in schools of similar sized fish. If your first fish was 16 inches, your sixth fish will probably be 16 inches plus or minus a few inches, as will be your 20th fish. When you hit a feeding school of walleye, it is handy to have extra poles rigged with 1/4oz jigs ready to add a minnow to. When the pole you are using loses its lure, you just wind it up and reach for another pole. You can always take the time to re-rig a pole after the bite has ceased. It is not uncommon to catch and release several dozen walleye from one school, and then suddenly they are gone, and it is time to move on to the next hole. When we got tired of fishing (that's blasphemous talk), we would find the next hole by slowly trolling our lures and letting the boat do all the work.

When my son, Colin, was ten, we took him on a week long fishing trip. Beginning on a Sunday, we fished every day from about 8am till near 6pm. On Thursday, Colin and I went for lake trout in the south arm, leaving the cabin at 6am. It was foggy, and it took us a while to find the spot we wanted to fish. After loading up 1oz jigs with herring, we dropped them to the bottom 80 to 120 feet below. Jigging up and down a few feet, it wasn't long before Colin hooked into a four pounder. It was a big fish to him. I hooked up next with a six pounder that was quite feisty. Colin had not been able to see his fish in the water, so he watched for mine. The water was very clear and tended to magnify the size of the fish. As Colin caught sight of it, 30+ feet down, he became quite excited and thought maybe we should call for help. I asked him to look around this huge lake, that we had all to ourselves, and see if he saw anyone to call to. It was a great morning, and the afternoon was going to be even better.

At ten o'clock, the lake trout went to sleep, and the bite stopped. We motored home and had lunch at the cabin. After a brief nap, everyone headed back to the south arm for the afternoon fishing. Dad was once again in our boat and we hit them hard. Dad landed a six pounder. I landed a two pounder. Then Colin hooked into something that threatened to pull him in. Dad was worried enough that he suggested that I stand ready to catch the kid while he would do his best to catch the rod. Colin fought valiantly for almost 15 minutes before the fish finally gave it up and came to the boat. It was a nice 12 pounder. As my father netted the fish, Colin flopped down on the extra cloths bag in the front of the boat and exclaimed that he was done. At ten years of age, he had fished near 12 hours with me that day and caught his limit of nice trout. I was impressed and very proud. Dad was as happy as I had ever seen him.

It was a great trip. It was the last fishing trip that I ever made with my father. Cat Track Lodge

in Ontario, Canada is a beautiful place to fish out of. If you get up that way, tell Carol that I sent you. Maybe she will direct you to a good fishing hole just because. I look forward to my next trip.

Fred Philips, DVM

Open letter to members of ISTA

Dear Members of the ISTA,

The Board of Directors for the Indiana State Trappers Association (ISTA) recently became aware of many errors in our membership list as Bill Lewis took over as Treasurer. We are trying to verify information and make all the necessary corrections to keep the ISTA a viable trappers association. To that end, would you please verify the following information and return it to us at your earliest convenience. If your membership has expired, now is the time to renew it with us. Just fill out the form below. If you have had a problem with your past membership, i.e. did not receive the Magazine that you paid for, please let us know. If you have any other constructive ideas or criticisms of the ISTA, I will be happy to accept them at the above address. If any of the following information is incorrect, please strike it out and clearly write in the correct information and return it to the above address. Alternatively, an e-mail may be sent to fpp@juno.com. We are trying to keep the ISTA website current, so if you have not recently visited it, please do so today. (www.indianatrappers.org) Your patience, as we sort this issue out, will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Fred Philips, DVM
Pres. ISTA






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Bats represent around one fourth of all mammal species on Earth. The U.S. and Canada has over 40 species, but at least 40% of these are threatened or endangered. Most bats produce only one or two young (pups) per year, making it difficult to rebuild their population when numbers dwindle. The total number of these flying mammals is rapidly declining due to disturbance of their nesting and roosting areas



Little brown bat with white-nose syndrome in Greeley Mine, Vermont, March 26, 2009. (Marvin Moriarty/USFWS Photo)

by other animals and people, pesticide poisoning and direct killing. Recently, over 1300 bats were found dead in nets surrounding orchards in Thailand in just a four square mile area.

That is very bad news. But, it gets worse. In the last half decade, a new threat has arrived, killing millions of bats already, with unknown more in serious danger. The White-nose Syndrome fungus has entered the picture, decimating as much as 90% or more of the local population of some cave hibernating bat species in more than nineteen states and four Canadian provinces.

In 2006, WNS was found in bats near Albany, New York. This fungus appears as a white substance around the head, ears, and wings. It seems to thrive in cool, damp, environments and to mostly affect those bats which overwinter in large numbers in caves or mines. Scientists have now decided the problem comes from Europe, but most of the bats there have developed some kind of immunity to it. Although they now know where it comes from, they do not have any idea how to control it. It is thought this fungus somehow awakens the small mammals during their hibernation causing the bat to use up its store of fat. Then, since there is no food source available in winter, the bat will starve to death. The few animals which survive leave the cave in spring and may spread the disease to other locations. (Those studying the problem are not sure how WNS is actually spread.)

Whether the fungus is spread by the animals themselves, by people entering and leaving the caves, or some other way, the disease moved quickly throughout the northeastern states. Since the original outbreak, diseased bats have been found in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia and Ontario, Canada, above New York.

Then, this year, the problem jumped to Tennessee, then Missouri. WNS has now been found in Maine, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and has just been confirmed in the Russell Cave Complex in the northeast corner of Alabama. This is the southernmost area which has shown the disease. It was hoped the spread of the disease would not go this far south as the fungus wasn't thought to be able to live in warmer climates. Most sources say 19 states are now known to be affected.

In an attempt to stop the spread of this terrible dis-

ease, many states have closed mines and caves to the public. While this act will probably only be helpful if WNS is spread by people entering infected caves and then transferring the fungus to other areas on their clothing or equipment, at least something is being tried. The bats are still free to fly where they want. In a press release from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources dated May 1, 2009, it stated "caves on state properties will temporarily close as a precaution against the uncontrolled spread of white-nosed syndrome..." On May 10, 2010, another IDNR release said "DNR's caves to remain closed, for now." This was not enough as the disease has somehow found its way to the Hoosier state. Places as far west as Alberta, Canada are closing some of their caves to the public, hopefully to prevent the spread to their areas.

So far, the WNS has been found in numerous different species of bat. Those on the list already include the Big Brown Bat, Eastern Pipistrelle, Indiana Bat, Little Brown Bat, Northern Long Ear Bat, Small Footed Bat, Virginia Big Ear, and most recently, the Cave Myotis and the extremely endangered Gray Bat. Most of these are found in Indiana, while the Indiana and Gray bat are on the endangered species list. As I write this, another release has added the Southeastern Myotis to the list of those infected.

Not all kind of bats frequent caves. Caves and mines are used as hibernacula (hibernating) spots, as swarming areas (bats fly in and out but don't usually stay inside), as maternity colonies, and as summer bachelor quarters. Some bats prefer "hanging out" under loose bark of some trees, or in buildings and those species do not seem to be as susceptible to the WNS as those packed into close quarters.

By now, some of you may be thinking, "So what? Who cares about some bats dying?"

Well, we all should be caring. Bats are extremely important. One Little Brown Bat can eat 600 mosquitoes in an hour! With the threat of West Nile Virus being carried by mosquitoes, the bat should be our greatest friend. Many cities now must spray thousands of dollars worth of chemicals yearly to attempt to slow West Nile. Bats also eat thousands of moths and other insects which damage crops and gardens. Without their help, farmers will be forced to spend more money protecting their crops. This will cause food prices to rise.

Besides helping to control insects, this flying mammal is necessary for the survival of several species of agave (used to make tequila) and giant cacti. Around the world, wild varieties of bananas, avocados, mangoes, figs, peaches, and many other fruits, nuts, trees, and other essential plants rely on bats for seed dispersal and pollination.

For more information on White-nose Syndrome, go to the Bat Conservation International website at www.batcon.org, or www.dnr.IN.gov/batdisease. If this doesn't get you enough info, just Google **White-nose Syndrome**. Unfortunately, since I started researching this, I have found almost daily reports of worsening conditions. This is the time of year the bats are coming out of hibernation and the researchers are going into the caves and mines to search for new outbreaks. Hopefully, the spread has slowed or stopped this year.

While this deadly disease is not known to affect humans physically, it will eventually affect us all in other ways. Hopefully, the scientists working on this problem will be able to find a quick solution.

The author may be reached at eyewrite4u@aol.com.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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Great Lakes Of The Wabash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

www.greatlakesofthewabash.org

I hope everyone is as excited as I am about the upcoming season and I encourage you all to come visit us here at the Great Lakes of the Wabash! If anyone is interested in looking for a permanent camping site for the season feel free to visit us at **Bozarth's Recreational Resort** as we have full hook up sites available and we are located on the Salamonie Reservoir. Our phone number is (765) 981-4522. ■

Indiana Slab Masters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

products to help you put more fish in your boat. Crappie fishing is evolving constantly with new products coming out almost monthly so stay up to date by visiting these websites regularly.

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Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

miles of the extreme southern end of the Dinaric Alps took us through the beautiful unspoiled portion of what is now Serbia and Montenegro. About half way, at Pec' we luckily filled up our gas tank (there were no other towns with gasoline). Along the way we heard loud noises and saw dust flying further Northeast in the Dinaric Alps and considered it was highway construction, as we'd been told. When we got to the camping area of Kotor we were asked how we'd enjoyed the earthquake. It looked like construction to us. The road was so rough we hadn't felt any big jolts that seemed out of place.

A small event that almost cost us our lives was on this rough journey around the north part of Albania. At one narrow and steep curve in the gravel road we met an old bus, confiscated by the Yugoslavians from the Germans, loaded with workers. We were the smaller of the two vehicles so we started backing up

to a wider part of the road to let them drive past us. Our back tire on the right hand side went over the edge. I quickly put the van in to second gear and gunned the engine. Well, we're here to tell about it. The workers streamed out of the front of the bus, either to hope we'd go over (in a German vehicle) or as they eventually did, cheered us, probably noticing we were from the USA with a football shaped USA bumper sticker and an international license plate on the front. We looked over the edge and the slopes were several hundred feet down and into a valley you could hardly see. We hope they've closed that road and are using the new road they were building. We saw no barriers along the 188 miles of road.

At Kotor we drove back a long, narrow, rocky lane to a beautiful camping area. We were directed to a little store on a little three block long rocky path. We were told a fresh supply of food had just arrived and we waited until a new loaf of salami was opened and sliced. Along the 188 miles we had seen a few little farmers' markets and bargained for the fresh food. We believe we got a delicious melon for five or six cents and a whole quarter for everything else for which we had bargained.

If you have anything about camping you'd like us to write about call us at: 260-637-3524 or e-mail us at: jmacnut@yahoo.com. We'll see you in Zagreb next month.

John and El McCory ■

Seabee Buddy Howard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Battalion Maintenance Unit)

01/15/45 Climbed troop train for San Francisco.

01/16/45 Boarded Liberty Ship, USS Thurston (AP-77). 1,372 passengers. Pulled out 9:30 p.m., watched Golden Gate Bridge fade into distance behind us. Awakened at 2 a.m. for guard duty. Went to head to wash face. Impossible to get in, too many very sick bodies littering floor. (Spent 4 hours guarding potato bin from ??) (See Photo on Page 18)

01/22/45 Arrived Pearl Harbor. (Had shipped all dress uniforms home so couldn't get off base, no liberty)

02/21/45 Left Pearl Harbor on USS Meriwether (APA-203 Troop Ship)

02/21-04/1/45 Enroute to Okinawa via the Marshall Islands, Caroline Islands, Palaus Islands and Phillippines. (Allowed to go ashore one time, some deserted island, somewhere for a beer party. Beautiful sand and water.

04/01/45 Anchored in Okinawa Bay. Watched landings of First Wave. Many ships there.

04/03/45 Went ashore. Worked on beach unloading supplies until 04/05/45.

04/05/45 Lot of planes shot down along our stretch of beach. (Several of our own - including L-5 Reconnaissance plane.) Moved to Kadena Airfield.

04/17/45 Captain's Mast, failure to return to Post of Duty - 60 hrs extra duty. (Actually had been sipping on canteen full of Saki all morning, and just sorta' drifted away.) Also put on KP. (Best duty I'd had.)

05/24/45 20mm AA shell through cot. (Moments after McCloskey had talked me into getting out of it.) Japanese suicide attack on Yontan Airfield.

May-June 1945 Monsoon Season. (Finally got to slosh around in mud.)

06/30/45 Moved across island to Awase Airfield.

09/01/45 Happy 19th birthday - promoted to Seamen First Class (S 1/c) (Oversight on part of Lippincott, I'm sure.)

11/14/45 Promoted to SKD 3/c (Storekeeper Disbursing).

12/15/45 CBMU #624 merged with #617 - Became CBMU #617.

03/04/46 Transferred to Receiving Station for reassignment. (Everyone else already gone or going home. Didn't have any points - USN -)

03/06/46 Assigned to USS Perkins (DD877) from Rec. Sta.

03/08/46 Transferred to USS Duncan (DD874) (Perkins received orders to return to states.) To Japan, then Pearl Harbor.

04/16/46 Transferred to USS Turner (DD834) (Duncan received orders to return to states.) Headed west again.

06/05/46 Arrived Bikini Atoll - Operation Crossroads. (A-bomb tests)

07/01/46 Shot Able (9:00 a.m.) - 520 feet above water.

07/25/46 Shot Baker (8:35 a.m.) - 90 feet under surface of water. (2:52 p.m., detached from assigned duty - proceed to Pearl.)

08/17/46 Arrived San Diego a.m. - Transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital p.m.

08/18/46 Surgery - Detached Retina, left eye. (17 days flat on back, eyes bandaged. 09/14 to 11/10/46 confined to hospital grounds - limited activity.)

11/13/46 Released from hospital - 50 days terminal leave.

01/04/47 Discharge effective. (No more transfers - and no Good Conduct Medal.)

In a most recent envelope, Belle sent me some photos of Buddy and other Seabees on Okinawa and also a most interesting poem written by Seabee Keith Ashinhurst, dated June 25, 1945, CBMU 624. In my original letter sent to Keith's address in Gresham, Oregon, the letter came back, "Return to Sender." I googled his name just a while ago and came up with a Speck Funeral Home in Livingston, TN listing a Mr. Keith Ashinhurst passing away on Dec. 28, 2004, he was originally from Overton Co. TN. In the Obituary it said he was a Veteran of the U.S. Navy during WWII where he attained the rank of Machinist Mate 3rd Class. He also enjoyed reading, poetry, & singing.

I want to thank Belle Howard and her son, Nolen for all their help in getting photos, information and details of a very unique U.S. Navy Seabee, Edgar "Buddy Howard" to me. I have really enjoyed writing Buddies story.

MY TRIP WITH WWII SEABEES 2007-2012

This story is about American boys who at the beginning of 1941 greeted the new year with high hopes of finding a good job, meeting the girl of their dreams, raising a family and enjoying life as all others before them - they believed in the "American Dream of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. But what lay ahead unknown to them was WAR!

The young boys, age 16 thru ?, who now reside (resided) in Centerville, IN, Forsyth, GA, Ashland, KY, Pekin, IL, Sidney British Columbia, CN, Pearl River, NY, Livingston, NJ, Houston, TX, Fallon, NV, Haverstraw, NY, Forest Grove, OR, Boonville, IN, Ephrata, PA, Orange City, FL, Bakersfield, CA, Independence, MO, Marco Island, FL, Greenville, OH, Wappingers Falls, NY, Canton, OH, Jeanette, PA, Mesa, AZ, College Park, MD, Caldwell, NJ, Fremont, OH, Green Bay, WI, Collegeville, PA, Norfolk, VA and thousands of other hometowns in the United States and on ally shores around the world, who would grow up a little too fast, long before their time.

The towns listed above are for a special group of World War II United States Naval Seabees who I have met, talked to or communicated electronically with since October 2007. Before World War II was over, 325,000 American men had enlisted in the Seabees.

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In April of 1941, I was born in Richmond, IN, my dad, Raymond Eugene Dickerson, was a auto mechanic by trade. Dad was 27 years old at that time, that same year, 1941, on December 7th the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Dad joined the U.S. Navy in July 1942, he was assigned to the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) at Camp Bradford, VA. From there and other training camps across America, 20,000 enlisted men and 500 officers had gone to the Aleutian Island chain by January 1944. The Japanese invaded the islands of Attu and Kiska in June 1942. They were stopped from advancing in 1943 and the two islands were liberated that same year by a Army-Navy task force.

Eleven Construction Battalions built 9 new bases in the Aleutians on the islands of Adak and Kiska (after they were liberated), Sand Bay, Great Sitkin Island, Ogluiga, Amchitka, Shemya, Atka and Tanaga.

The 79th NCB returned to the states in the Fall of 1944. The men returning from Alaska, some stayed with the 79th NCB while others were reassigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Units (CBMU). Dad was assigned to CBMU #624. The 79th NCB Seabees were sent to Saipan first and then on to Okinawa. CBMU #624 was sent straight to Okinawa. At war's end those with enough points were shipped home immediately, the others moved around a bit before going back to the states. ■



79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Reunion Sep 23-27, 2012 in Richmond, Indiana



In Memory of my father, Seabee MMS 1/c Raymond "Gene" E. Dickerson, 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (NCB), Company D, Platoon 2 and Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) #624 Veteran 1942-1945.

I will be hosting the 79th NCB Reunion on September 23-27, 2012 in Richmond, IN. I have permission from the 79th NCB to invite members of CBMU #624 to the Reunion also. Dad was with the 79th NCB in Alaska and with CBMU #624 on Okinawa. Anyone reading this message who served with the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion or Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit #624 in Alaska, Saipan or Okinawa during World War II and would be interested in attending our 67th Reunion in Richmond, Indiana September 23-27, 2012 please contact me as soon as possible by: Cell 765-960-5767, Toll Free 1-877-855-4237 (Leave Message), E-mail ray@thegadabout.com Website: www.thegadabout.com

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

it for the fun. The trip entails beautiful scenery on the entire length of the course. Awards will available to winners as soon as results are confirmed. There will be an official awards ceremony at 7 pm for those who wish to receive their awards on stage, presented by the Canoe Princess and her Court.

ALL RACERS WILL HAVE TO SIGN A WAIVER IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE

Participants under age 18 will have to have a parent or guardian sign a waiver in order to participate. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

For more information on this years Canoefest go to page 16-17.

MY VISIT TO U.S. AIR FORCE MUSEUM NEAR DAYTON, OHIO IN APRIL

On April 24th I drove to the U.S. Air Force Museum located in nearby Dayton, Ohio. I went for two reasons, one was to scout it out again with the purpose in mind this time of seeing what kind of obstacles an older group of seniors might have negotiating the museum. When the 79th NCB and CBMU 624 WWII Veterans come to Richmond and Centerville in September of 2012, one of our activities is to visit the U.S. Air Force Museum.

My second reason was just because I wanted to visit it again. Last time I was there I took hundreds of photos, but none of them turned out very good. The museum offers all kind of challenges in lighting and shooting positions. This time I wanted to do better and I did.

The day didn't start out exactly as planned. I know that I have probably visited the museum five times. But for some reason instead of taking the right road to the museum, I ended up at the front gate of Wright Patterson Air Force Base staring at armed Air Policemen who I sheepishly stopped and asked if I was at the wrong place. He looked very stern, but was quite helpful in getting me turned around and on my way to the museum. Whew!!

Once safely in the Air Force Museum I visited all the areas that are open to the public except for the Presidents planes. Here are just a few of the hundreds of planes on display.



I began my tour as everyone does with the beginning of flight, the Wright Flyer built by the Wright Brothers in Dayton, Ohio. Birthplace of aviation. It's a shame one of the Space Shuttles didn't get placed here. I can't quite understand that, but I guess there are reasons.

Next I visited aircraft of WWII, of which I know a little more about. I then walked through the Korean and Vietnam era aircraft, then the modern stealth aircraft and outside I visited the memorials.

Six hours later I went home, satisfied and tired.



SOME TIMES IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO BE MACHO

I had originally planned on going to Dayton on April 18th, but instead stayed home and worked at removing the siding around the porch at my office. I was really doing good, it was cool and a good time to do it. Then I made a big mistake as I was removing two upright 2 x4's with a small window between them, I lost my balance and fell into the wood. I lacerated my lower leg and moved some muscle over a bit. No problem I just cleaned it up, covered it, then kept on working.

When I got home I cleaned up, sat in the recliner over night so the wound would be open and scab over. The next day it looked pretty good, over the next few days it seemed to be better, so I thought.

On Saturday, April 28th, I visited Big Daddy's Guns and More's grand opening. While I was talking to Brent Meadows, the owner and Wendy Wilkinson, Wendy mentioned that she was a nurse at a hospital in Indianapolis. Since I hadn't showed my wound to a doctor I asked her to look at it. She took one look at it and told me I needed to get to a doctor right away, if not sooner, it was infected. Realizing she was really serious I drove to the ER at Reid. No more macho for me I'm under my doctors care and doing much better. And a big thank you goes to two very nice neighbors behind me on South Street, who cut my really high grass, when I wasn't there. I hope they know how much I appreciated their help. ■

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YOU CAN ALSO SEND YOUR PHOTOS BY E-MAIL TO ray@thegadabout.com . View them in living color at my website: www.thegadabout.com



Wendy Wilkinson caught this 12 lb salmonon Lake Michigan April 20. Caught with a spoon. (Photo by Brent Meadows)



Steve Goodson took this tom on 5-1-2012 21 lb.s, 10" beard, 1" spurs. (Steve Goodson Photo)



Cary Hendrix took this 10 point, 190 lb. Buck on 11-31-11. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Ten year old Blake Wolfe from Walton, KY caught this 4.5 lb., 22 1/4" Smallmouth Bass on 4-6-12 in the East Fork of the Whitewater river, near SR 44 bridge. He was up here visiting his granny. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Jarried Hicks took this tom on 5-5-2012 24lb.s, 10 1/2" beard, 1" spurs. (Steve Goodson Photo)



Kyle Highley got this turkey on April 28th. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Ray Terrel caught these crappie on the Salamonie Reservoir. The biggest one measured 15 inches. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



5 year old Kayne Ervin of Lynn,IN took this 22 lb. Tom Turkey opening morning of youth turkey season, in Brookville. It had a 11 inch beard, and 20mm spurs. (Photo by Chad Ervin, his proud Dad)



Matt Barton is pictured with his father Steve. Matt tagged this turkey on April 27th. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)

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89 year old, Hubert Hinds, sighting in his muzzleloader on 12-6-11. Never to old to hunt. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Brothers Daryl and Darren Leist both caught their limit on the Salamonie on May 3rd. Their biggest fish measured 15 1/4 inches. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)

**A BROWN RECLUSE SPIDER BITE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

A Brown Recluse Spider bite can be deadly. See picture below, the spider size in relation to the size of a penny. Under it is a more detailed photo of the spider. We should all know what it looks like. They like the darkness and tend to live in storage sheds or attics or other areas that might not be frequented by people or light.

The three photos to the right show the progression of the bite on Day 3, Day 6 and Day 10.

For more information type Brown Recluse Spider in one of the search engines and send. Lots of web-sites on this dangerous spider.



DAY 3 AFTER RECLUSE SPIDER BITE



DAY 6 AFTER RECLUSE SPIDER BITE



DAY 10 AFTER RECLUSE SPIDER BITE

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THE GAD-A-BOUT ADVERTISING RATES

PLEASE NOTE: EACH DOLLAR AMOUNT BELOW IS PER INSERTION

FULL PAGE 15.75" X 10.37"	1/2 PAGE ALT. SIZES 7.82" X 10.37" 12" X 6.88" 15.75" X 5.13"	1/3 PAGE ALT. SIZES 5.25" X 10.37" 7.82" X 6.88" 15.75" X 3.37"	1/4 PAGE ALT. SIZES 4" X 10.37" 6" X 6.88" 7.82" X 5.13"	1/8 PAGE ALT. SIZES 3" X 6.88 4" X 5.13 6" X 3.37	1/10 PAGE ALT. SIZES 3" X 5.13 4.5" X 3.37	4 COL INCH ONE SIZE 4" X 3.37"	1/15 PAGE MONOPOLY CARD SIZE ONE SIZE 3" X 3.37"
94.5 COL. IN.	48 COL. IN.	32 COL. IN.	24 COL. IN.	12 COL. IN.	9 COL. IN.	6 COL. IN.	8 COL. IN.
1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME	1 TIME
\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI	\$7.00 PCI
\$651.00	\$336.00	\$224.00	\$168.00	\$84.00	\$63.00	\$56.00	\$42.00
2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES
\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI	\$6.00 PCI
\$558.00	\$288.00	\$192.00	\$144.00	\$72.00	\$54.00	\$48.00	\$36.00
12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES
\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI	\$5.00 PCI
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Abbreviations: ALT - ALTERNATE / COL. IN. - COLUMN INCH / PCI - PER COLUMN INCH

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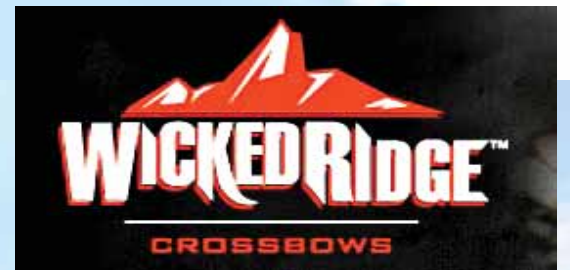
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