



BOAT SHOW ISSUE

WRITERS APPEARING IN THIS ISSUE
 Roaming The Outdoors **Ray Dickerson**
 Outdoors With **Rich Creason**
 Fishing Brookville Lake **Tag Nobbe**
 Indiana State Trooper **Sgt. John Bowling**
 Indiana Conservation Officer **ICO Gary Catron**
 Great Lakes of the Wabash River **Ryan Pershing**
 Bass Fishing Techniques **Bill Embry**
 Talking Leaves **Golden Eagle**
 Fishing Lake Michigan **Capt. Mike Schoonveld**
 Indiana Outdoors **Joe Martino**
 Big Game Hunting **Joel Blitz (Returns)**
 For The Serious Shooter **Terry Stover (NEW)**
 News & Views From a Vet **Mark Stover**
 Looking Downstream **Paul McCloud**
 News From W. Central IN **Don Bickel**
 Outdoor Tales **Phil Junker**
 Misfires & Snags **Dan Graves**
 So You Want to be a Cowboy **MS Bob Chaitin**
 Camping Here & Beyond **John & El McCory**



KENTUCKY MAN CATCHES A 7.5 LB WALLEYE IN BROOKVILLE LAKE - SEE MORE ON PAGE 5



JOEL RETURNS TO THE GAD-A-BOUT HUNTING COLORADO MULIES THIS TIME - SEE PAGE 18



79TH NCB & CBMU#624 SEABEE STORIES MAR - SEP 2012 SEE PG 4 & 8

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THE GAD-A-BOUT™

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THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Right: This Kentucky fisherman was fishing with Tag Nobbe, Professional Fishing Guide on Brookville Lake when he caught this 7.5 lb. Walleye. See more on page 5 (**Photo taken by Tag Nobbe**)

Bottom Left: The United States Navy Seabee Insignia on top of a USN Marine Air Group 33 photo, of Kadena Airfield on Okinawa, April 1945. Two F4U Corsairs are silouetted against the backdrop of tracer rounds streaking overhead as the Japanese Kamikaze's attack the fleet in the harbor. Seventeen year old William "Bill" Ross was there as was my

father, Raymond E. Dickerson, Sr. Read Bill's story on page 8. Next month Jeannie Winter tells about her Seabee father, Friedrich Karl Johann Taake, who was on Okinawa too. (**USN MAG Photo April 1945**)

Bottom Right: Standing broadside at 250 yards I got on my shooting sticks and put the crosshairs of my Nightforce scope on the bucks shoulder and slowly squeezed the 2 pound trigger on my Gunwerks LR 1000 sending the 180 grain Berger VLD bullet right into the boiler room. See more on page 18. (**Photo taken by Joel Biltz**)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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LITTLE BIT HAS A GOOD HOME

You all will be happy to know that the Cat (Little Bit) I took in on January 1, 2012 and told about here in The Gad-a-bout has a new home.

On Friday, January 20 I delivered Little Bit to the home of Dovin Coffey here in Centerville, Indiana. Here Dovin is trying to get her attention so I could take a photo of them together, but she wouldn't cooperate so I settled for this one.

I stopped by a week later to see how the two were doing and found them getting along real good. She shied away from me to begin with, then after sniffing me a little bit, decided I could pet her.

I want to thank the other two people who called asking about her and offering her a home too.

COMING EVENTS

It's a new year and time to announce some of the coming events that are in the making.

Probably one of the bigger events is **February 17-26, Renfro's Indianapolis Sport, Boat & Travel Show** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, IN. For all the information log onto their website: www.IndySportShow.com. I will have a booth in Tackle Town #346. It is about half way down from the RV entrance, on the same aisle as the Indiana Bass Federation set up is on. Stop by, pick up a Gad-a-bout and tell me why you like reading The Gad-a-bout. See you at the show.

Then in March we have two really interesting Gem and Mineral Shows. The first one is the **EIGGS 39th Annual Spring Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show** that is being held at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in the Kuhlman Center being held **March 2-4, 2012**. For admission, times and other information for the event go to page 15 in the lower

right hand corner of the page is their advertisement.

The other Gem Show is the **Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Show** being held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, IN on **March 23-25, 2012**. The show will be held in the Agriculture/Horticulture building. The show is put on by Van and Rose Wimmer. See page 15 for all of their information including pictures and information.

Next up **May 5-6, 2012 The Indiana Smokin' on the Water Barbecue Festival by the Lake** is sponsored by the **Liberty Lions Club**, all proceeds go to Community Service projects of the Liberty Lions Club. The 2-day event takes place at 3801 West Dunlapville Drive, Liberty, Indiana. Location: **Treaty Line Museum** area in the town of Dunlapville (just south of Liberty, IN - in the area with the log cabins that is located just north of the Quakertown Recreation area on the west side of Brookville Lake. **Activities** include a Craft Show, a KCBS BBQ and Open BBQ cook off of Chicken, Pork Ribs, Pork and Beef Brisket, a Kids Que BBQ contest, Award winning Barbeque (Ribs, Chicken, etc.) & other great eats, Craft Fair, Home Show, Music, Food, & Fun, Antique Tractor & Farm Equipment Exhibits, Handmade Furniture and Instruments, RVs, Mobility Carts, Golf Carts, Mowers, and More, Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby, Corn Hole Tournament (Saturday), Home Improvement Products, Handmade Jewelry, Healthcare Products & Services, Live Bluegrass Music (Saturday Evening), Antique and Classic Car & Truck Show (Sunday), **BBQ Contest** (Sunday afternoon) and all happening in the Treaty Line Pioneer Village. **Event Times:** Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. / Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Setup Times:** Friday evening from Noon to 8 p.m. or Saturday morning from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. **There is no Entrance Fee for the public to attend the event.** To Find Forms And all the activities go to Smokin' website: www.libertyindianalions.com/liberty_lions_club/Smoke_on_the_Water.html

Questions: Contact Carl Sharp at 765-458-5574 (office), or 765-580-0215 (cell) or email at: Carl.sharp.c9mm@statefarm.com

Next up for May is the **The East Fork Fishing Expo for Kids** is on Memorial Day, Monday, **May 28, 2012**. This event is for any kids in the Whitewater Valley, not just Brookville. This event will be the third year for the free event. The event is in conjunction with the **Brookville Family Fun Day**, which is put on by **Stayin' Alive, Franklin County LCC**. More than a thousand kids and adults attend the Family Fun Day event. The event takes place at the Brookville town park. Last year I spent the entire day in Brookville. You have never seen so many kids, adults, officials, visitors and everyone else having so much fun in one place. For more information on the goings on go to my website: www.thegadabout.com, click on **archives** and **scroll down to the July 2011 issue**, then go to **page 8 & 9**. For more information on the East Fork fishing Expo for Kids contact Brian Nobbe at 765-647-3600.

Next up is **Indiana's largest Canoe Race, Canoefest June 29-30, 2012 at Brookville, Indiana**

Indiana's largest canoe and kayak races will take place in Brookville again this June 29-30, 2012 of the big 4th of July celebration. Undaunted by last years fame the masterminds of this years event are looking to break last years record and of course put on the Best ever Canoefest of all time. Don't miss The Great Chicken Fry-off, Canoefest Idol, Free music and entertainment and the areas largest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Fireworks Show on Saturday. For more information go to WWW.CANOEFEEST.ORG. Hope I see you there, until then, be safe and have fun this year.

UPDATE IN MY SEARCH FOR WWII U.S. 79TH NCB & CBMU #624 VETERANS

My search has found a few former World War II Seabees. I have come to the conclusion though that I'm not going to find as many as I was hoping to find. The age group of these former Seabees who would have been sent to Alaska, Saipan and Okinawa would be between 84 and 100 years of age now. Had my father lived until now he would have been 99 this year.

I was pleasantly surprised when I got an e-mail from Timothy J. Mahoney Jr., who lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, Betty. He was inquiring if I was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**

Professional Fishing Guide

March Madness (Brookville Lake Style)

After a long winter March marks the time of the year that the lake starts to wake up. This year the lake hasn't froze over at all yet, matter of fact the water temperature barely got out of the 40's.

Back in the early 80's my dad had a construction company and the DNR hired us over a two to three year period to pour concrete sea walls around the lake. We poured them at several boat ramps to give a clean look around the ramp and to give a anchoring point for the boat docks. We also poured a rather long one at Fairfield marina. We would do this in the winter time when the lake was down to winter pool. We would start in January and finish up at the end of February. I can remember wearing every bit of clothing I owned to try to keep warm while working up there. The lake would be frozen solid. In the late morning the sun would get high in the sky and the ice would start to melt a bit and you could hear a crack screaming up the lake from the dam as we where working. Then in the evening when the sun would start to set the ice would start to harden up and you could see the ice heave up and moan, pretty eerie. But as I have heard so many people say, things change.

Normally the best time to be out on the water is right after ice out, which is about the first week of March. Well I guess we'll just have to wing it this year. I have fished most of the winter and the fish



IDNR Fishery Biologist working with walleye eggs at Brookville Lake last Spring. (Author Photo)

have still all moved very deep in the lake just like all the years in the past. My strategy would still be the same, look for fish the first week of March on sun drenched shore lines. Cast a slow moving shallow diving crank bait or a jerk bait parallel to the shore. This is the time of year that you can catch a huge walleye, looking for a place to spawn. The walleye is one of the first fish to spawn in the lake and this will start to happen the 3rd week of March. One of the triggers to the start of the walleye spawning cycle is water temperature. This will happen when the water temperature reaches about 46 or 47 degrees, on the surface, at the south end of the lake. So your window of opportunity is pretty small. The down side to this is you can fish all day for one walleye. The up side is it could weigh 10 to 12 pounds. My God, thats a big fish.

Most walleye spawn in current or running water, but Brookville lake is a little different. It seems that some fish head for the running water of the river, that feeds the lake. While others head for rocky areas all over the lake.

The Indiana state fishing biologist use Brookville Lake as a walleye brood pond to stock all the lakes across the state of Indiana, with

walleye. The way walleye spawn it's just not possible to sustain a good fishery without the stocking program. The way it is done is with gill nets. This is a way they can catch the walleye, take the eggs off the females, fertilize them with the males and then turn them all back into the lake unharmed, to live and spawn another day. Remember though if you want to catch a big walleye on a rod and reel you have to be fishing some where between a surface temperature of 40 and 45 degrees. Once that surface temperature reaches about 46 to 47 degrees the walleye's priorities switch from feeding to spawning. Good luck on your mission.

Send me the pictures.
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After ice-out, fish rocky areas like this for the hungry monster walleye, before they spawn. (Author Photo)

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News from the Indiana State Police



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



What Does \$4 Million Look Like?

You've read many times in this article how simple traffic enforcement leads to criminal arrests. Often times an officer will stop a car for a crash causing violation only to find criminal activity going on in the vehicle. This is just one more reason to slow down and get over as you approach us on a stop-you never know what may be going on during that "routine traffic stop," or what may be about to happen. Give us room to work.

The stories I've reported on below are reminders that criminals drive vehicles too, and we stop them on a regular basis. Oh, and by the way, if you want to know what four million dollars looks like, check out the pictures. They are of 37 Kilos of cocaine that was recovered from a semi that was east bound on I-70 on an average day, on a "routine stop." It has a street value of just less than four million dollars. It just goes to show, there is no such thing as a "routine" traffic stop.

Troopers Seize 37 Kilos of Cocaine

Henry County – On the morning of 1/31, about 9:33 a.m., a trooper assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division 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 has a street value of just under four million dollars.

The trailer, which was loaded with lettuce, originated in California and was headed to New Jersey. Arrested was the driver, Mosies Delgado, 26, of Homestead Florida and his passenger, Rene Rocha, 52, of Fontana California. Both men were charged with Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Deliver, Class "A" Felony, and Possession of Cocaine, Class "A" Felony. Bond was set at \$69,000 for each man.

Troopers were assisted by officers from the Henry County Sheriff's Department, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, PACE multi agency team and Federal Agents. Anyone with information about illegal drug use may call the Pendleton Post at **1-800-527-4752**, or the Indiana State Police Drug Tip Line at **1-800-453-4756**. Tips can be made and kept anonymous.

Two Traffic Stops, Same Result; Criminal Arrests

Fayette County – Early in the morning on 1/29, around 12:10 a.m. Pendleton Trooper Aaron Edwards was patrolling on State Road One near Big Bear Road when he observed a semi tractor drive left of center. Driving left of center when not permitted is one of the leading causes of crashes in Indiana.

Trooper Edwards got the semi stopped, and while doing a license check found the driver, Jeffrey D. Flynn, 43, of Connersville, was wanted on a warrant out of Franklin County for Class "D" Felony Child Neglect. He was transported and lodged in the Franklin County Jail.

At approximately 2:45 a.m. that same morning Pendleton Trooper Richard Clay was patrolling in the city of Anderson when he clocked a gray 2001 BMW driving in excess of the posted speed. Excessive speed is also one of the leading causes of crashes in Indiana.

After stopping the vehicle and further investigation, the driver, Marlon Jackson, 40, of Anderson was arrested and transported to the Madison County Jail on suspicion of Operating While Intoxicated. While at the jail he was also found to be in Possession of Marijuana under 30 grams, Class "A" Misdemeanor. Jackson was

lodged on both misdemeanor charges.

The Pendleton District covers the eight counties of Delaware, Madison, Randolph, Henry Wayne and Union as well as Rush and Fayette counties. The Indiana State Police is committed to reducing the number of impaired driving crashes as well as all crashes. Motorists are encouraged to report suspected impaired drivers by calling **911**. Give a vehicle description, location, and direction of travel. Never follow an impaired driver.

Meth-An Explosive Topic

The Indiana Meth Suppression Unit found 1346 labs across Indiana last year. That is not counting the labs they cleaned up for other agencies. It is a problem that is growing, and along with it is the growing number of fires and explosions.

Meth cooks are desperate addicts, and they have gone from making their drug in two containers to mixing all the chemicals into one. The best way to describe the process is a series of fiery explosions in a plastic bottle that needs to be "burped" by loosening the cap before it explodes. If they don't get it burped fast enough, it explodes in a fire ball of toxic chemicals, whose fumes can contaminate a house to the point of needing to be destroyed.

Sometimes clean up of a property costs as much as \$10,000. You don't want your neighbor or family member mixing this stuff up-the fumes can damage internal organs and can be deadly if inhaled directly. Signs to look for are an ether smell that is sweet tasting, often associated with a hospital like smell.

Also strong cleaning solvent smells like you would associate with a body shop. They also use ammonia, which will smell like wet diapers only stronger. Look for aquarium tubing, used plastic jugs or bottles, along with used packages of cold medicine, lithium battery casings and drain cleaner or camping fuel.

If you suspect a family member or neighbor, contact us to check it out before they burn down their house or yours. Anyone with information about illegal drug use may call the Pendleton Post at **1-800-527-4752**, or the Indiana State Police Drug Tip Line at **1-800-453-4756**. Tips can be made and kept anonymous.

This ends another month's installment. Thanks for reading and allowing all of us to serve all of you. We will talk again next month. ■

IMPAIRED DRIVING HAS CONSEQUENCES, AND NOT ALL OF THEM ARE LEGAL.....



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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



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

Ahem....

Do you have a gift card, or perhaps several, which you received during the holidays and really can't decide what you want to buy? Think life-long 'investment'. Well, here's an idea that I'm sure you can live with: if you're an ice fishing enthusiast, fisherman or waterfowl hunter perhaps a float coat should be given serious thought. Several major life jacket manufacturers make float coats and are they are USCG inspected and approved as a life saving device.

Prior to float coats, as an example, waterfowlers hunting from boats had to balance their choices of wearing a vest style of life jacket under their hunting coat or not wearing one at all, instead choosing to try to keep their life jacket nearby while they hunt. Float coats are designed to keep the wearer afloat in the event of water immersion and provide warmth, comfort and offer the needed mobility to safely handle firearms in hunting situations. Camouflage designs are available for the hunter. No need to sacrifice safety for function any longer. A float



A Camo Float Coat Example.

coat is the answer.

What? You don't have any gift cards? I just checked several internet sites and credit cards work very well also! **'Wear It Indiana'.**

Hunting for 'ed.'

There is but a trace of hunting seasons to enjoy right now but before long Indiana's spring turkey season will have many frothing and chomping at the bit. 'Now' is always the best time to seek out and plan to attend a hunter safety course. If Indiana law requires you, or perhaps your children, to successfully complete a hunter education course prior to hunting, planning now can eliminate the nervous rush to locate a course to attend at the proverbial last minute before the hunting season is to open.

Perhaps the best way to locate a hunter 'ed' course near you is to utilize the internet. Updated regularly, a visit to the DNR homepage offers a listing of all outdoor education courses which have been scheduled. View these via: www.in.gov/dnr/#. Click on the **'education'** selection along the left side of the homepage, and then click the 'outdoor education schedule' to view the calendar. It has become somewhat commonplace for entire families to travel across the state to attend a course that fits into their personal schedules; something that is getting more and more difficult to do nowadays.

The hunter education program provides an excellent foundation of knowledge to build upon. Experienced hunters and outdoorsmen (okay, outdoors persons) can benefit by attending as well. Courses are open to all who have an interest in the outdoors and natural resource conservation.

To purchase an Indiana hunting license, those born after December 31, 1986 must successfully complete a hunter education course offered by the DNR. There is an Apprentice hunting license exception and this may be viewed by visiting the DNR homepage as well. Indiana does honor the successful completion of a hunter education course from another U.S. state or Canada.

Happy hunting...I hope you take a class.



The Whooping Crane is an Endangered species, here in the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. Reprinted with permission of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[DNR] Reward fund started for whooping crane case Start Date: 1/5/2012 End Date: 1/5/2012

Entry Description INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana's Turn In a Poacher program has established a special reward fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the killing of a federally endangered whooping crane found dead in Jackson County. TIP launched the Whooping Crane Fund with a \$2,500 commitment, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately matched it with a \$2,500 donation. The Humane Society of the United States and its Humane Society Wildlife Trust Fund also added \$2,500. "Whether the shooting was accidental or not, responsible sportsmen and women of Indiana will not tolerate the thoughtless killing of a protected species," said Doug Featherston, a TIP board member and representative of Indiana Quail Unlimited. "The TIP Citizens Advisory Board has unanimously decided to offer a reward 10 times the normal amount to motivate citizens to come forward with any information that will lead to the quick arrest and expeditious prosecution of the perpetrator." The U.S. Attorney's Office of Southern Indiana has offered its full support in the prosecution of the individuals responsible for killing the crane. The reward fund has been established with Indiana Members Credit Union. **Contributions can be made by sending a check payable to Indiana Whooping Crane Fund, c/o Lt. William Browne, DNR Law Enforcement, 402 W. Washington St., Room W255-D, Indianapolis, IN, 46204.** TIP is a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, sportsmen and sportswomen of Indiana, and concerned citizens. Through this program, any citizen can anonymously report violations of fishing, hunting and environmental laws by calling **1-800-TIP-IDNR (800-847-4367)**, and can be eligible for cash rewards. A reward fund helped solve a similar case two years ago when a whooping crane was shot and killed in Vermillion County. A citizen's tip led to the arrest and conviction of two individuals who were responsible. Wildlife law enforcement agents with the Indiana DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are investigating the most recent shooting in which a whooping crane – known as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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William "Bill" Ross

20th & 79th NCB WWII Saipan & Okinawa

Written by William "Bill" Ross
With Comments by Jeannie Winter
Daughter of Seabee F.J. Taake

"There is a painful reality of war that many veterans keep forever silent. Sincerest gratitude is expressed to a 79th Seabee Veteran whom I came in contact with and was so graciously willing to step back some 55 years ago in time and share these recollections."

Note: The above paragraph was written by Jeanne Winter, daughter of Seabee F.J. Taake and webmaster of the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion website, www.79thSeabees.com. When Bill refers to "your Dad" in this article he is referring to Jeannie Winter's Dad.

Bill Ross's story begins here:

"Just a couple of words of background. I was just a few months past 17 when I went overseas with the 20th NCB on their second cruise. To show what an airhead I was, I recall it as a big adventure, like being an extra in an unreal Hollywood epic, completely amazed by what was going on around me, but understanding nothing.

Afterwards, I put it all behind me in the rush to become a civilian again. Therefore my memories are few, somewhat hazy and lacking in depth and probably accuracy. But, for what they are worth, here goes.

Our group, from the 20th NCB, were only with the 79th for a short time after war's end while in transit to other assignments. The original Seabees who had done two cruises were discharged as soon as possible. We "greenies", who had done only one, had to wait another year and ended up in the floating Navy. However, from Saipan on, I think our routes were pretty similar. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a cruise book for the 20th's second cruise, so I will have to rely on a somewhat unreliable memory.

SAIPAN

I'm not sure of the date we arrived there from



Map of the Island of Saipan, World War II - April 1945

Pearl but it was during the buildup in 1944. We were not particularly busy there as I can remember going out on B29 search missions for downed pilots in off duty time. The same flights served as test flights for just repaired aircraft so they were just looking for volunteers with good eyesight.

We also were sent out to clear out stragglers hiding out on Mt Tapotchau. I do remember being frightened by the truck rides down the mountain at high speeds on a one and a half lane dirt road with long drop-offs on the side. The drivers thought this was hilarious

Later on, being the youngest in our company, I was made a Master at Arms and assigned to guard some Red Cross ladies who came to the island. Women being such a rarity, I think they were in less danger from the Japs than from our own.

Like your Dad, I do remember the suicide cliffs where the Japanese and native people were cornered and decided to end it all by jumping down to the rocks a couple of hundred feet below.

I never stopped to think of how the natives must have felt about this inferno that they had not caused but of which they were innocent victims. For us, they looked just like Japanese and while many of them were in the service of the enemy, sadly many others met their end by our trigger-happy mistakes especially at night.

OKINAWA

We sailed from Saipan to Okinawa on an APA (troop transport). When we got there, there were ships as far as the eye could see. We were part of 60,000 troops who landed on April 1st mostly on Hagushi Beaches. We were quite up tight about what might happen during the landing but there was no resistance that I saw in our area. So much for the movies! The Marines moved ahead of us quickly and we first had to drain some rice paddies to set up a campsite. Then we went to work stevedoring at a floating dock someone had built.



Map of the Island of Okinawa, World War II - April 1945

The first ships had a lot of ammunition and were a secondary target for the Kamikazes, the primaries being the warships. The vast majority of the Kami's were shot down by the fleet before getting near us. So, odd as it may sound, we welcomed their appearance sometimes twice a day, as we did not work during the attacks. Instead we sat on deck and cheered as they were shot down.

That changed drastically later on when, through sheer numbers, they started getting through the screen. One day, the ship we were unloading was hit. It had a 500 lb. Bomb on board which did not explode but lodged in the 8 by 8 timbers which separated the levels of the hold. Only one of our people who was in the hold at the time, was killed. I remember that his name was Tersian and that he was a champion boxer. We quickly put out the fire. I will skip the sight of the hold after the fire was out but I will never forget it nor the feeling of fear when it was certain we were going to be hit.

The Kami's kept on coming but we never cheered again. We saw one hit a troop ship not far from us and another time a small tanker loaded with aviation gas about a mile away literally disappeared in front of our eyes. We heard the explosion and then there was no trace of it.

(I learned after the war that my Mother had the family on its knees every night while I was away praying for my safety. I never really got a scratch.)

When the stevedoring was finished we began repairing and then constructing airstrips. There were quite a few air raids in the early days and a lot of runway repair to be done. We were then involved in the building of, I think, the Awase airstrip from scratch. We were working 12 hour days, driving trucks or small bulldozers. I had never even driven a car but was promised training which never came to pass. My

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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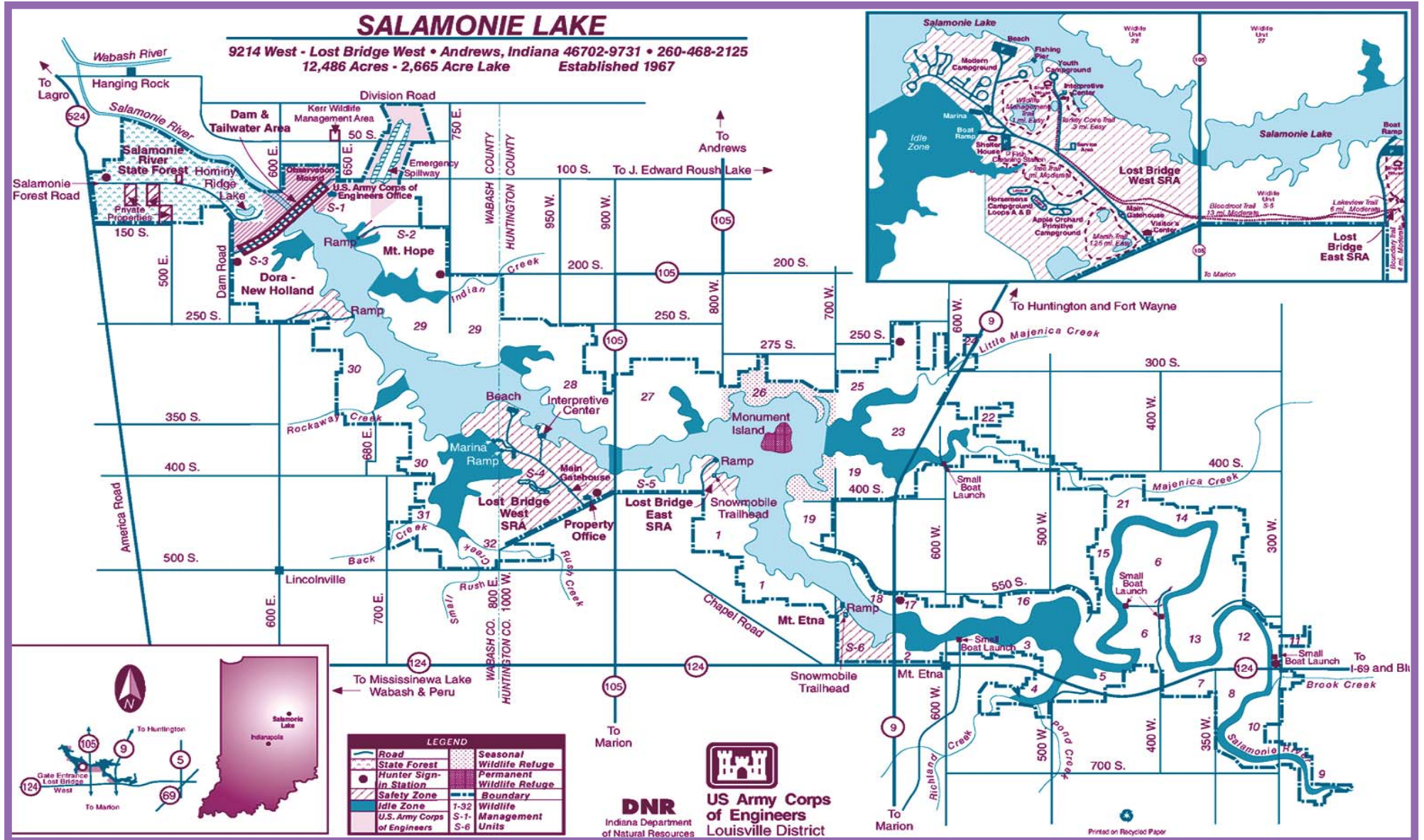


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Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

Fun on the Salamonie

With the final weeks of winter now upon us, everyone is anxiously awaiting the start of the spring season to be able to take advantage of the many opportunities to get outside and enjoy the excitement the warmer weather brings us. When looking for local destinations to be able to enjoy those outdoors experiences one might want to venture to the Great Lakes of the Wabash River. Our Great Lakes include the Salamonie, Mississinewa, and Roush Lakes, which are all man made, flood control lakes that feed into the Wabash River. These lakes are all within a half hour drive of each other and provide many memorable outdoor adventures for your family.

During this issue I will be highlighting the Salamonie Lake property and the many activities to do there. The Salamonie property consists of 11,594

acres along with a 2,855 acre lake that sits in both Wabash and Huntington counties. Also included on these grounds is the Salamonie River State Forest, which consists of an additional 850 acres. While these lakes were erected to control flood waters, the idea of developing these areas into state recreational parks was not absent. Today, these areas provide many opportunities for families to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and get outdoors to enjoy the many activities that are available.

The most popular things to do at the Salamonie include; camping, fishing, boating, horse back riding, and hunting. If you're looking to take the weekend to camp then your options include; 246 Class A sites, 50 primitive sites, 38 sites at the Apple Orchard campground, 7 youth group sites, and a horseman's campground. The property includes numerous trails for hiking, shelters for picnicking, a beach, basket-

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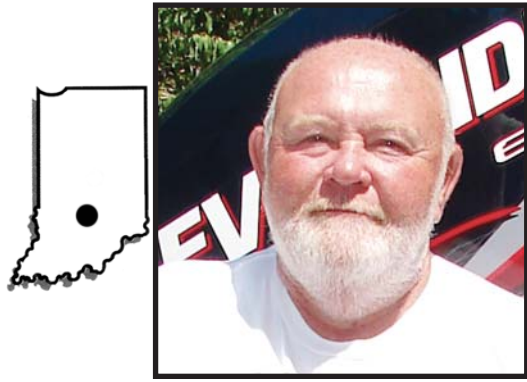
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Bass Fishing Techniques



by Bill Embry

Spring time fishing is just around the corner

Well hopefully we're on the down side of winter. If you're a bass tournament angler it really doesn't matter. My first event will be on March 15, 2012 at Patoka Reservoir in southern Indiana. Hopefully the snow won't be too deep? Ha! Ha! March is probably one of the best times of the year to catch a real lunker bass. I believe there are a couple of reasons for this. One reason being they haven't been under a lot of pressure from fishermen trying to catch them. The other being the moon phases tells them its time to start moving up from that deeper water winter spots. The two largest bass I have ever caught here in Indiana have been in March or the first week of April.

I usually start on main lake points and work my way back into the coves or creeks with 1/2 oz. large spinner baits., 3/4 oz. Rattle Traps, or 1/2 oz. Jigs. Until I find the fish. Then I try to key in on these areas all over the lake. The key this time of year is Slow Retrieve! The slower the better! Also look for ditches or small creeks that comes from these deep water holes. These are the highway for bass in the spring-time. Be prepared to bundle up, for it will still be cold and even raining or snowing.

My largest bass came out of Lake Monroe on April 2, 1996 it weighed 9.04 pounds. It was 28



Largemouth Bass caught 4-2-96 in Lake Monroe weighing 9.04 pounds. (Author photo)



Fishing slow and easy. (Author photo)

degrees and snowing like the dickens.

Try keeping your bait in the strike zone for as long as possible. The day that I caught this fish the water temperature was 48 degrees, I was fishing parallel to the bank in about 10 foot of water close to a ditch that came in from a creek channel-bend. About 20 feet off the bank. I was slow rolling a 1/2 oz. chartreuse and white spinner bait. Just slow enough that I could feel the blades moving. Then I couldn't feel the blades turning, I then set the hook and thought I had just caught a big catfish. After a couple minutes she popped up. I set down in the drivers seat and lipped her and pulled her into the boat. I had just caught a 7.02 pound fish about an hour before that. Naturally I didn't have my camera so I tried calling my wife Donna, to have her bring me the camera. She was on the phone, it was busy. No problem I thought, I was up in crooked creek about 45 minutes from Cutright ramp, surely she would be off the phone by the time I got back? WRONG!!! Still Busy!!! So I loaded my boat and headed towards the

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house. Luckily I only live about 4 miles from the ramp. Guess what??? I walk in the house and she is still on the phone!! I got her off the phone, we took some pictures. I ran by Shedd's Tackle Store they weighed her and I took them both back to Cutright Ramp and released them.

So If your not scared to get a little cold and wet this spring, get out there and give it a try. If you spend the time you will produce. Time is what makes it all happen! See ya next month!

"Good Fishin"

Bill Embry

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Talking Leaves


 by **Golden Eagle**

INDIAN STORIES.....

I can hear the talking leaves, the wind whistling through the branches. What wonderful tales they tell, what lessons they teach...

"The Two Wolves"
 Grandfather told his grandson this story. "We have two wolves that live inside each one of us. One is Bad..he represents everything evil in us... The other one is Good..he represents everything the is good in us. They are constantly fighting..."
 "Which one wins???"
 "THE ONE YOU FEED."

"The Beaver and the Turtle"
 A Beaver lived on a beautiful lake. Since there was no other four foot around he thought he owned the lake.
 One morning when he got up, there was a Turtle swimming in the lake.
 "What are you doing swimming in MY lake? The Beaver asked crossly.
 "Your lake!" Said the Turtle. "There was no one around so I decided to take a swim in MY lake"
 They argued and fussed at each other. Suddenly Turtle had an idea, "We'll race across the lake. Whoever wins, the other will have to leave."
 They jumped into the lake together. Beaver took a quick lead. He was so eager to win that he didn't notice a slight pull on his tail.
 Turtle was hanging on.
 Just before they reached the other side. Turtle bit down on Beaver's tail. His reaction was to whip it up to slap the water. As he raised his tail Turtle let go, flew over his head an landed on the beach.
 When Beaver climbed out of the water, there was Turtle waiting for him.
 Beaver was stunned. "I guess you won." He said. He moved to leave the lake, when Turtle called after him. "We've been together on this lake arguing for some time. This is a big lake, I believe we can be friends and live here together." So that's what they did. When you make friends with your enemies you may find that you can live together in peace.

"The Bird..."
 Once there was a bird. When he was hungry he had to hunt for food. One day he saw a man put some seed on a window sill. He went over and ate his fill. The man opened the window and told the bird he would feed him but the

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bird would have to give him one feather each time the man fed him.

Most of the time the bird hunted successfully for food. However, each time he failed he would get food from the man. The bird got lazy. It was easier getting food from the man than hunting for it. He had plenty of feathers. One day after he had eaten and paid his feather, he tried to fly away but couldn't.
 He had given away his freedom for security.

"The Lone Scout"
 In the long ago time there was a boy of twelve winters. He lived in a large village of wigwams by a big lake. This young man was a braggart and a show off. He went about the village bragging that one day he would have more enemy scalps than the leader of the village. Now the leader was a great warrior and had taken many enemy scalps.
 One day a shout went up...a runner was coming, running in a zig-zag manner. Big News! The messenger went straight to the lodge of the leader. The boy did a bad thing. He listened outside.
 "An enemy war party had been sighted heading this way."

Oh Boy! The boy thought. If I can get out there ahead of everybody else I can get many scalps. If he had waited, he could have heard the leader decide not to go out against the enemy but to set a trap for them near the village. Not being aware of this the boy said goodbye to his family a started off alone. Soon he found many tracks. 'What dumb warriors these are.' He said. 'Leaving all these tracks.' What he didn't know was that tracks were left deliberately, to draw his people into an ambush. He eagerly followed the tracks. Suddenly, he saw big smoke in the distance. 'What poor warriors these are'. He thought. 'They build a big smoky fire for us to see.' Moving ahead quickly, he soon came to the place where the fire burned. Looking out of the brush, he was very disappointed. Only on man sat feeding the fire. "Oh well..one scalp is better than none." He leaped out at the lone man...but from all around him came the enemy. He had walked into their trap...Now this young man was a braggart..He was foolish..But he was not a coward. He gave a war whoop and yelled "Come and get me if you can!!!" He started running..If he could reach the river, he could swim to warn his people...But the arrows of the enemy were faster than he...He was shot and killed...

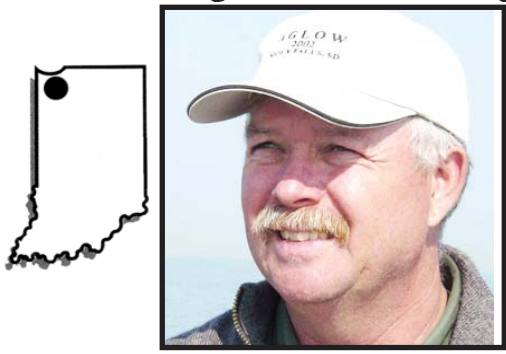
This story taught many lessons to the boys...First don't be a show off..Second, when you go against an enemy, go cautiously..Finally..Go with your leader and experienced warriors.

My Friends, I hope you have enjoyed these stories...They were enjoyed by all but they taught the young ones lessons that they needed to know to survive.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

BASIC BLACK REJUVES OLD PLUGS

Most anglers have them, few know what to do with them. It seems a shame to throw them out, having chunked down hard cash to buy them in the first place. Most of us just leave them in the tackle box hoping we might need them sometime in the future. Then we get another and another until finally we take them all from the tackle box and put them in a drawer until we eventually throw them out.

I'm talking about chipped, scratched and faded fishing plugs. You use them for a year or two and the shiny new finish eventually becomes less shiny and more chipped. Hopefully, some of the chips are from the teeth of big fish but in truth, most of the chips come from the hooks rubbing along the bottom of the lure and most of the luster is lost because of the lure's ride in the tackle box.

I wish it weren't so, but time and again I've proven to myself that a bright, shiny (thus nearly new) lure will out-produce a dull chipped one.

The old, battle-scarred ones work, they just don't work as well; and when I'm out on the lake, I want my best lures in the water, not a bunch of so-so producers.

All lures suffer much the same fate. It's not that lure makers put shabby finishes on their lures so we have to buy more, it's how we treat them. A bit of abuse and any chrome-plated plastic lure will chip and dull, eventually. I suppose I could treat the lures more kindly. If I had a silver or gold Rolex I'd probably store it away in a velvet-lined container rather than toss it into the family junk drawer when I wasn't wearing it. I could roll each lure I own in bubble wrap and store them in individual compartments if I had the space, but we're only talking about fishing lures, not gold jewelry.

Here's my solution. Paint them black.

Go to the hardware store, buy a can of flat black spray paint and pull out your supply of old, faded, scratched lures. Though the fish don't care, probably, I tear out a bit of masking tape to cover the eye, then mist on a coat of flat black. That's it. I don't add any prism tape. I don't airbrush on any colored highlights. There aren't any mylar ladder backs taped on-just a plain, all over flat black plug.

Most angler are surprised how well a solid black lure works until they give a bit of thought about what a lure really looks like to a fish. Most fish strike from below. That means the fish is going to be seeing the lure against a light background. Hold a lure up against the sky-better yet, have someone climb a ladder and hold lure 10 feet above you against the sky. Do you see much color, or do you see mostly the silhouette of the lure? My eyes see mostly the silhouette and it makes sense to me that the lure which shows the most visible silhouette is likely to best get the attention of the fish.

What color of lure is going to cast the most dominant silhouette? Yep, a black one!

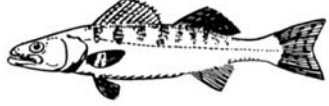
Night time large-mouth bass anglers learned this long ago and black Hula Poppers and Jitterbugs are standard night baits. Black or nearly black plastic worms work great, as do black jigs. Why not other plugs?

Some anglers only use black lures in the dark or dim light of dawn or dusk but don't be afraid to troll or cast a black plug on the

brightest day. It will work.

A little spray paint and a bit of confidence will have you digging for your old plugs to put back into service. It will save you a few bucks, as well.



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A bit of black spray paint can turn old plugs into Black Beauties! (Photo by Capt. Mike Schoonveld)

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

All Choked up over Turkeys

There is plenty of information available for those interested in learning more about turkey hunting, and lots of writers have spilled ink on various topics related to the sport. One area which seems to have little discussion, however tons of importance, is in regards to turkey chokes.

The choke you decide to use on your shotgun can play just as big of a role in whether or not you bag a turkey as anything else, and when it comes to choosing the right one, well, there is no easy answer.

I'm sure it was easier years ago considering there weren't the multitude of chokes available on the market as there are today, plus the fact that screw in choke tubes didn't really rise in popularity until around the 1990's. Until then, most hunters probably just hunted with whatever chokes their trusty shotgun had. At the most, they may have obtained a full choke barrel for it.

Today you can find literally hundreds of different choke tubes made specifically for turkey hunting that range in price from \$20.00 to \$140.00 and when paired with the right loads can be lethal on birds at distances of up to seventy-five yards or so. There is a price to be paid for being able to snap a gobbler's neck at this range, however. That price is that if you have a turkey a mere twenty or thirty yards away, your chances of missing him are significantly higher with a high performance turkey choke. This is because in order to be able to kill a gobbler out to more than seventy yards, the shot pattern must be extremely tight and must remain tight at longer distances. When you squeeze the trigger on a bird at,



The author took this gobbler at a distance of only twenty yards. He used a Benelli Vinci .12-gauge paired with Benelli's extra full turkey choke and Hornady's new Heavy Magnum turkey loads. At short distances, it can be relatively easy to miss a bird with such a set-up so you have to be dead-on your aim. However, as you can see, such combinations are extremely lethal when they find their mark. (Author Photo)

say, twenty five yards, the pattern is so tight that it's nearly like shooting a slug at the bird.

So basically, if you prefer to hunt fields and open terrain, you might benefit from using an after market choke that will enable you to reach out there and put the smack-down on a hung up gobbler. If, however, you plan to spend much of your time in the timber, you might want to back off on the choke a bit. For the most part, and especially here in the Midwest with its broken mix of woodlots and pastures, it's hard to predict whether you'll be in a thick river bottom or an open picked crop field when you strike that bird. For this reason, it's not a bad idea to have a couple of different chokes from which to choose, depending on your situation. Or, if you prefer to simply have one choke that will work in almost any situation, it's hard to beat either a standard full choke or an extra full turkey choke from the manufacturer of the firearm you are using. With the standard full choke you can reasonably expect to shoot out to thirty or forty yards with a .12 gauge, while

the factory extra full choke should get you closer to fifty. These are averages, mind you, not precise exacts. Each set-up will vary slightly.

Another factor to consider is the gun you are using. For instance, due to the increased effectiveness of today's loads and chokes, a lot of hunters are switching to the .20 gauge as their turkey gun of choice. The .20 gauge is also very popular with young hunters. The reasons are simple: less weight to lug around and decreased recoil felt. The drawback – less pellets and powder means decreased killing distance. By outfitting a .20 gauge with a quality after market choke tube such as the Primos Jellyhead or those made by Rhino, it can become effective at crushing turkeys at distances greater than forty yards. Of course it would also be important to pair up such a choke with a quality turkey load if you expect to get the maximum potential out of it. The load is equally important as the choke, so be sure to shoot a handful of different ones to see which one performs best out of your choke and with your gun.

The reality is that there is really no right answer when it comes to deciding on which choke to use for turkeys. I usually just use the extra full turkey choke from the firearms manufacturer. I have found that they tend to perform just as well, if not better, than the lower-end after market ones. I have also become very fond of the Primos Jellyhead lately though too. For around forty bucks, these chokes are simply amazing. As a matter of

fact, Nitro Ammunition Company has performed several tests with their duplex loads and suggests the Jellyhead over chokes costing two or three times as much for most of their loads.



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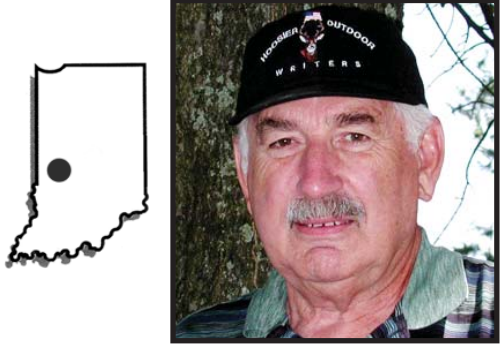
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and that's the news from
West Central Indiana



by **Don Bickel, Forester**

Down on the Farm, 1940's Style

Wildlife habitat does not appear out of nowhere - at least not any more. I and many others of my age can remember when a rabbit hunt might be conducted in the area of land that encompassed the farm house, barn, chicken house and hog lot.

We kept a neat farm yard. I couldn't begin to count the number of Sundays Mom would say, "Stop the car. Donald, go and shut that barn door." , or the crib door or some other open entrance that shouldn't be that way on Sunday mornings.

In the 1940's, rotary lawn mowers were not an item of lawn care equipment on our farm. (I'm not sure when they became commonplace.) The house yard was mowed with a reel-type push mower on a regular basis, because pushing that mower through taller than average grass made you wish you had mowed when Mom told you too.

Gasoline or electric powered string trimmers were called scythes and sickles. The liquid sickle, "Roundup" was not known and 2-4, D was still around the corner. The lack of these modern devices and chemicals meant much to the well-being of rabbits, quail and other forms of wildlife was up to you.

A rabbit or two could be found in the blackberry/raspberry/weed patch behind the brooder house. What is a brooder house? On our farm, it was a small wooden building, perhaps 8X12, which housed a brooder stove (kerosene heat) and a couple hundred baby chick which had been purchased at the feed mill.

Since this brooder house was used only during the spring and early summer weeks, the vegetative cover for wild critters was not kept trimmed back.

Down by the hog house, used only by the hogs during the coldest winter weather. The hog pasture/orchard with its combination of grass, weedy and shrubby growth and some apple trees, provided another haven for rabbits.

Down in the far corner, a covey of quail could often be found. this hog lot, or pasture, connected with a small wood-lot of perhaps six or seven acres.

This wood lot was open to the pigs and often the sow or two we kept would have their litter there - unless Dad could move them into the hog house in time. The rooting and feeding activity of the hogs kept the floor of the woods somewhat open.

In this southern Indiana setting, hickory trees were usually abundant as were both gray and fox squirrels.

At the back of the woods, where it adjoined the

neighbor's hay field, another covey of bobwhite quail could usually be located. Rabbits found both food and shelter on the field edge of the woods. We farmed with horses and they didn't like walking too close to the saplings and tree branches at the wood's edge, so the vegetation grew except for maybe an annual pass with the sickle bar mower to keep the tree sprouts back from the field.

Across the country road, the cow pasture provided forage for the five to seven Jersey milk cows we kept. Dad was a high school teacher and basketball coach, so even after we owned a small Case tractor, there was only time to mow the pasture once a year.

This one pass per season mowing was enough to keep the weeds and tree seedling in check. The cows didn't seem to suffer from the lack of a perfect expanse of fescue and bluegrass. My sister and I garnered a number of ribbons showing our grade Jersey milk cows in county and township shows. This small Harrison County farm is not now owned by our family. The brooder house is gone and the blackberry/ raspberry/weed patch is accessible to a 10-foot rotary mower.

Two homes set adjacent to the hog lot turned crop field and a portion of the woods is kept mowed in order to present a more pleasing appearance. The small stream or creek which meandered through the pasture is now straightened in order to efficiently plant and harvest the pasture turned crop field.

Most of us who grew up on a small farm have witnessed these changes. Most of the changes were and are necessary to continue the progress of agriculture. Some of the changes have more to do with impressing the neighbors or making a good appearance to friends as they roll up the driveway.

Little though has been given to replacing the wildlife habitat lost. Too often the thought is, "the neighbors down the road keep a messy place, the wildlife can stay there." But when that neighbor dozes out the fence rows and clears the thicket and woods, who provides the next stop?

There needs not be a next stop. The solution may be as simple as stopping the mower and parking it and the tractor in the barn. If the native Americans prior to the onslaught of Europeans, had power mowers and used them as we do today, there would be more extinct wildlife than the passenger pigeon.

Almost any quarter section - 160 acres - has some area unsuitable for efficient cropping and more than suitable for the establishment of wildlife habitat. The field corner, inaccessible to modern farm equipment, is a prime areas to undergo a re-establishment of native grasses and wildflowers.

The wooded pasture, which was primarily an exercise lot for the milk cows in days past and is mowed on a monthly basis, would be better served if the tractor and mower were locked in the barn.

If a filter strip of native grasses is established on both sides of an open ditch, two of nature's commodities are served. Rain water flowing from adjacent crop fields enters the waterway with little of the sediment it was carrying and permanent wildlife habitat is available for all forms of animals, birds, reptiles and insects.

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Van and Rose Wimmer in their booth at Indianapolis State Fairgrounds. (Van Wimmer Photo)



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14th Annual Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows March 23-25, 2012

by Van Wimmer

This unique show features jewelry makers, gold and silversmiths from all over the United States that can size, reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer selected gems, stones, opals and crystals on the spot. Wire wrap, wire sculpture, stone beads, pearls, stone setting, amber, opal, fossil and mineral dealers will be featured as part of the show. The dealers are hand picked for the quality of their work. Hourly door prizes. Grand Prize (A Gold Ring/with a precious stone) to be awarded on Sunday evening. You do not have to be present to

win the Grand Prize.

The Indiana Bead Society & The 500 Earth Sciences Club (the local Gem & Mineral Society) will have displays at our show. Visit their displays and meet the members. Find out about the clubs and all their great activities. Jerald Day will be demonstrating and teaching classes in silversmithing continuously during the show.

Pat Westby from the Dayton Gem & Mineral Society will be demonstrating the art of making Lampwork Beads each day. Classes available Friday & Saturday evenings after the show closes. Classes in bead stringing, wire wrapping & viking net with wire will be available each day during the show.

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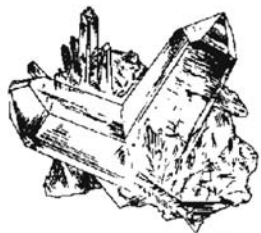
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A large Amethyst Tree. (Van Wimmer Photo)



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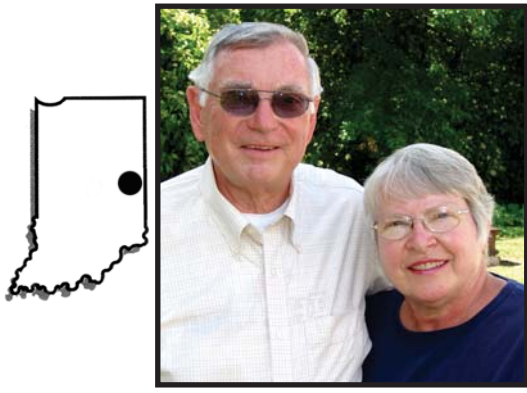
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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

Camping Belgium to Portugal

Usually we opted to camp several kilometers out of town but when we planned to stay several days in such busy places as Paris, Rome, Madrid and Athens we were able to find campgrounds very near the city. We would get a city map, compare what we wanted to see and do throughout the area, and section the map for our five or six day visit so each day would have about as much to do as the other days. Some days we decided not to drive since we were the visitors and drivers in each city had their own driving habits, and we didn't want to try to decipher their methods.

We could see the normal touristy places on our own and wouldn't need to depend on tour leaders. Leaders have their own agendas and take you just about where they want to go. El, being a consummate and voracious reader and note taker had made rather intricate plans for almost every bit of the way according to the route we'd planned. Again, by having read up on places to visit in the library starting months before the trip (today the internet is much more inclusive of things to see and do and is up-to-date on prices) you can determine whether you want to leave an area earlier or stay longer than if on a tour. We've noticed that our time really wasn't our time to see everything we wanted to see on tours. It is well worth the time in the library or on the internet to plan ahead. Usually at the end of the day when site seeing is completed, one doesn't really want to sit down for an hour or two and plan the next day. We each had our definite places to visit such as the history, culture and physical features of Europe. Being newly-weds we didn't have many disagreements. By having camped on the Marne River, a tributary of the Seine near Paris, we found our home made daily schedule worked out really well. I think the major thing El wanted to do in Paris was to walk the 1.8 mile length of the Champs Elysees from the Arch de Triumph to the Place de la Concorde and back on the other side of the street and stop at all the expensive shops and restaurants. Our feet and legs took a beating that day by having walked on hard surfaces the whole time.

Our first stop to check mail and phone messages had been Frankfurt, Germany but the first time we received anything was at the main post office in Paris. Camping on the Marne was crowded but clean and had all the amenities anyone would need. We

met people from all over the world so evenings were not boring. Luxembourg was tiny but very beautiful. It seemed that everywhere you looked there was beautiful well-kept and manicured shrubbery and vast displays of flowering gardens. As we remember the camp site was probably the most beautiful on the whole trip. All the mountain roads lent hundreds of camera spots.

The trip from Paris to the upper coast of the Bay of Biscay was uneventful except to take in the quaint little fishing villages and the friendliness of the residents. Even camping on the coast in summertime brought northerly and westerly breezes that sometimes rocked the camper van. We knew almost immediately why the tents had strong tie-downs. The "rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain" that Lerner and Lowe included in their lyrics in "My Fair Lady" was on the coastal plain and not in the high, hot central plains we were to experience in a few short days. A few months after we returned to the states we heard that an oil tanker had leaked out thousands of gallons of oil that was carried to the fishing villages and beautiful beaches of the Bay of Biscay from Western France to Northern Spain thus ruining the fishing and recreation economy for years to come. Of course they didn't have the methods of today to clean up such messes. Beautiful campsites overlooked the bay from Nantes, France to Bilbao and A Coruna, Spain. Many of the villages are now combined along the coast to make larger towns.

As we drove from Northern Spain into Portugal we saw the remains of Roman aqueducts built during the northern and western movement of the Roman Empire in the second century B.C. The northward movement of the Moors from Africa into the Iberian Peninsula in the fourth and fifth centuries A.D. had brought more intellect and nobility to the areas of western Spain and Portugal. We visited several of the architecturally beautiful buildings the Moors built. People back home had warned us that invariably when we parked to see some of these structures we might be approached by people wanting handouts and for us not to give anything. Others would come out from behind parked vehicles wanting the same things you would have given out to others. We refused the first, jumped into the VW camper and left the area. We would like to go back in the future and visit the large Moorish churches with thick wooden doors and iron trim and other buildings built during that period of history.

On the coast near Lisbon is the Portuguese Riviera, the center of which is Estoril. After the war the exiled and/or idle rich established the area built around the golf courses and the Casino. As we recall the campground that evening was about \$5.00, the most we paid the whole trip. Ships from several countries were anchored way out in the port as the tide was out. The clam diggers climbed down the seaside steps, mucked around in the muddy bay floor in search of clams. The diggers carried the buckets of clams to family members in tents set up at the base of the sea wall and the family rinsed the clams in buckets of "clean" water. The adductor muscles were cut and kids hurriedly carried the opened clams up the steps into the parking lot where people were waiting to purchase the fresh clams. No, we didn't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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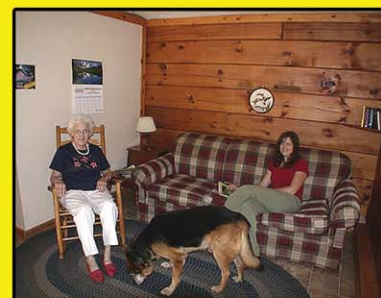


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Big Game Hunting



by Joel Biltz

Colorado

Eastern Plains Mulies

It has been a while since I have been able to write for The Gad-a-bout, but things are starting to get back to normal. A year and a half ago my wife and I welcomed our twins Bentley and Bailey, into the world. Since they were born, most of my free time has been spent taking care of them. Needless to say my hunting has been extremely limited.

My hunt originated when my wife's great aunt visited us from Colorado Springs in the fall of 2010. When she was here she mentioned that her daughter owned 5000 acres in Eastern Colorado. At that point giant mulies danced in my head. I asked her what my chances might be of getting permission to hunt out there. She said she would make a phone call and get back to me. A few weeks had passed and I had pretty much all but forgotten about this opportunity when I got a email saying I had gotten permission. I thought to myself "WOW the Eastern Plains of Colorado is basically all private ground and is very hard to get permission on, and I just got permission in a premier unit." I immediately started getting maps of landownership and looking on Google Earth to do some scouting. I also called and talked to the landowner to find out any details he could give me about the deer. One night while studying the maps I noticed one of the neighbors owned a ton more ground that surrounded the land I had permission on, so I decided to shoot him a call. I figured I didn't have anything to loose and after a brief conversation I was given permission to



Standing broadside at 250 yards I got on my shooting sticks and put the crosshairs of my Nightforce scope on the bucks shoulder and slowly squeezed the 2 pound trigger on my Gunwerks LR 1000 sending the 180 grain Berger VLD bullet right into the boiler room. (Authors Photo)

hunt his land also. I now had access to 22,000 acres and basically had it all to myself.

After a lot of preparation, Oct. 21, 2011 the day before my hunt started was finally here. The day before the season starts finds me glassing a huge 2 mile square milo field. As the sun starts to drop below the horizon the deer started to appear everywhere. Does and fawns first and then a small 3 point buck, then a small 4 point and then all of the sudden a nice 26 inch wide 4x4 stood up. I was watching him through my Swarovski spotting scope trying to decide if he was a shooter when another really nice buck stood up, but disappeared just as quick. After trying to relocate him for a few minutes it finally got too dark to glass but I know I needed to get another look at this buck hopefully in the morning. Anxiously awaiting for the sun to come up had me wondering how big that buck was from the night before. Being very cool and clear I knew the deer would be up and moving soon. Suddenly a few does and fawns appeared, and then the 3 point and the 4 point stood up. I watched the 4 point for over a hour waiting for the other buck to show but he didn't cooperate. I then decided to get a closer look at the 4 point. The 4 point and the 3 point and about a dozen does fed off into a CRP field so I stalked to the downwind side and got within 300 yards of the deer. This deer was bigger than any mulie I had killed but it was only two hours into opening morning so I let him

walk but keeping his location in my back pocket. I continued to glass the Milo for the bigger buck from the night before but could not locate him. At about one o clock I glassed the back side of the Milo field only to get a quick glimpse of another 3 point and 4 point buck but I knew they were not what I was after. At about 4:30 I decided to take a drive 4 miles north to another Milo field and when I got there I couldn't believe my eyes. There stood a big 4x4 with brow tines. I couldn't get out of the truck fast enough. Standing broadside at 250 yards I got on my shooting sticks and put the crosshairs of my Nightforce scope on the bucks shoulder and slowly squeezed the 2 pound trigger on my Gunwerks LR 1000 sending the 180 grain Berger VLD bullet right into the boiler room. The buck went straight down. I had to sit down for a minute and gather my thoughts of what just happened. As I walked up to the buck he just got bigger and bigger. He ended up being 28 inches wide and gross scoring just under 180 B&C. It was defiantly one of my most rewarding hunts yet. No guides and no outfitters. To step on a piece of property this size 22,000 acres and kill a buck like this in one day was unbelievable. I can't wait to be able to draw this tag again. It will take me 3 or 4 years to draw again but you can bet I will be back. Until next time hunt hard and hunt safe, joelbiltz@etczone.com.



I passed this Mulie up on opening morning. (Authors Photo)

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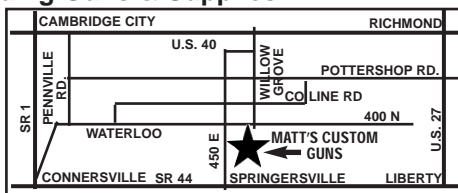
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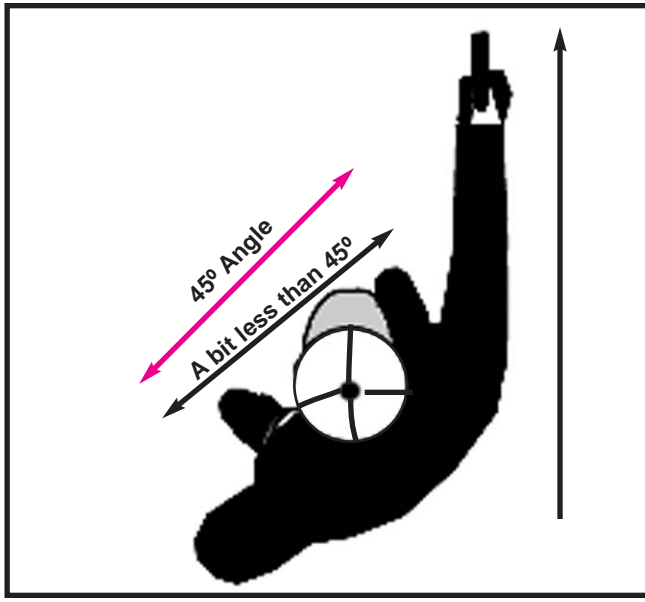


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For The Serious Shooter



by Terry Stover



1. Stand with your body a bit less than 45 degrees to the target with your gun arm extended. (See above)

get when you open your eyes. I used to mark the location of my feet with a piece of chalk after I achieved position and I knew I was ready without repeating the process when I had to move for one reason or another. This gives you your natural point of aim assuming you maintain the same stance every time. Remember to assume the same body stance each time you bring the gun up; strive for uniformity. Remember also to assume a stance with the gun arm at about 45 degrees because if you face away too much it will pull the muscles across your chest and cause problems there. I think a little less than 45 degrees is best.

2. It sounds wrong to the new shooter but you don't want to see the target clearly. This is the reason you go through the process above...so your gun is lined up without having to look at the target. The reason you don't want to see the target clearly is because if you see the target in sharp relief you obviously aren't seeing the sights on the gun. You can't see both at the same time and the accuracy is in the sights, not seeing the target. Get your sight picture in order by concentrating on the front sight and hold it there while slowly putting pressure on the trigger. I don't like the term, squeeze. You actually don't want to squeeze the trigger because you don't want any part of your hand to move but you trigger finger. If you squeeze the trigger you're using your whole hand to achieve breaking the shot. All you want to have movement in is your trigger finger and very, very minimal movement in it...straight back on the trigger, no side pressure. All this is to do your very best not to disturb the sight picture you have and keep it right. The shot should break and be a surprise to you when it does. In other words, if you're applying pressure on the trigger while holding your sight picture and the gun is already lined up on the target by using the above process and the shot breaks while you're doing this and holding everything as it should be the result should be a decent hit on the scoring rings of the target. I know this sounds a bit involved but it

eventually becomes second nature to you and you'll do all of it without even thinking about it.

3. The reason sight alignment is critical to pistol shooting is because you are dealing with such a relatively short sight radius. (the distance between the front and rear sights) If you consider that just one click on a set of target sights will move the impact of the bullet 1/4" at 50 yards in most cases and this isn't even discernible with your eye, you can see why it's important to hold a good sight picture. Another way of thinking is a small misalignment at the gun extends itself into a major misalignment by the time the bullet reaches it's destination at the target. The further the bullet travels, the worse the miss.

Good sight alignment involves positioning the front sight blade in the center of the rear sight notch with equal light on each side and the top of the front sight even with the top of the rear sight...and holding it there. This takes practice. If you're doing this and keeping your mind on holding this picture, you won't be looking at the target. I might add here that your eye will wander from the sights toward the target and you'll have a focus somewhere between the sights and the target if you're not careful. This can happen and you won't even realize it so you don't see either in sharp relief. It's best to put your full concentration on the front sight and keep it there. It takes some practice but you can do it.

4. Breath control is very important. When you gather a breath, hold it for your shot, if you don't achieve what you want in the time given you by your body while holding that breath; put the gun down on the bench and start over. If you try to hold your breath too long your muscles will start to tremor and your vision will start to blur. This pertains to the slow fire stages of a match. When you gather a breath make sure you take in the same amount of air every time as this will give you the same rigidity across your chest each time you do it. I didn't say anything about zeroing your pistol and this has to be done before you can achieve results with all the above. (Maybe another article)

5. Targets; Be sure you use the correct target for the yardage you're shooting. (50 foot for indoor range) Outdoor is 25 yards for timed and rapid fire and 50 yards is for slow fire. Personally I usually shoot a 25 yard reduced target for slow fire practice. The cheapest place I've found to buy these targets is Champion's Choice in Tennessee. Web site www.champchoice.com.

PISTOL SHOOTERS TREASURY is an old book that's been in print for years that was put together by the best in the business from days gone by. When I had been shooting for just a few years and kind of struggling with the game I read this book and my scores immediately jumped ten percent. This book is available at Champion's Choice on page 3 of their catalog under the heading media for \$8.00 and well worth the money.

Keep your powder dry,
Terry Stover

So you want to learn competition shooting with a handgun

The most important part of pistol shooting for score is in sight alignment, breath control, and lining up on the target. Hopefully the following will be helpful to improve your pistol shooting scores. The main intent in this article is to offer tips for improved scores in the Bulls eye, 2700 or 3 gun match. This match was originally called the 3 gun match because the match consists of three separate matches of 90 shots each. The first match is shot with the .22 caliber pistol, the second with a center fire pistol; any gun .32 caliber or above and the third match with the .45 caliber pistol. Each shot has a potential score of 10 points on the target, thus the name (2700). The name bulls eye is because it's shot only at the bulls eye type of target. You can use a revolver or a semi automatic. Most everyone these days uses the semi auto because it's easier to get back on target after breaking a round. You don't have to thumb back the hammer compromising your grip.

1. Starting off, I must tell you the following are instructions for one hand shooting. (It's a hand gun, not a hands gun.) You'll want to stand with your body turned at a bit less than 45 degrees to the target with your gun arm extended. You can put your other hand in your pocket, hook your thumb in your belt, put it behind your back or whatever you find most comfortable. Take a firm grip on the gun, firm but not a death grip as this will have a tendency to cause muscle tremor and you don't want that. Try to grip the gun primarily with the heel of your hand and the two middle fingers. Your thumb just lays along the side of the grip with no pressure. Keep your arm extended with your elbow locked. This is the proper stance for the bulls eye shooter. If you take this stance and close your eyes then bring the gun up to the target and open your eyes the gun should be on target. If it's not, move your left foot one way or the other pivoting on your right foot until it is. The reverse of this would be true if you're left handed. Repeat the process until the gun is on tar-

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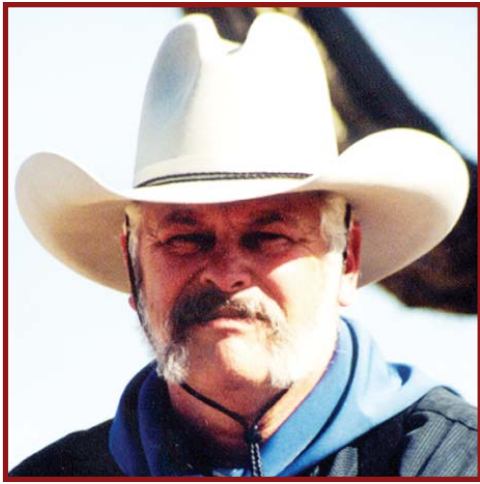
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HOLSTERS

Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA) Rules, B Holsters:

All holsters shall be of leather construction and shall retain the competitors' firearms throughout the strenuous range of motion required in mounted competition. A holster is defined as a leather pouch formed in the shape of a gun. A feedbag or saddlebag does not qualify and is considered by CMSA to be unsafe. Revolvers shall be returned to holsters, which would be limited to belted holsters, pommel, cantle, and/or shoulder holsters.

Over the years there has been a lot of different things tried in cowboy mounted shooting when it comes to holsters. Of course, everyone is trying to find that competitive edge. It is pretty straight forward when it comes to holsters. There are 3 very different and distinct holsters used nowadays. First there is the pommel holster. This can be a gun shaped leather construction that is attached to the saddle horn. Some use a cross draw holster and strap it to the horn. Some have made very elaborate double holster attached either to the horn or to the side of the saddle. I found that these work pretty good for beginners but down the road you will have trouble getting you gun back in to the pommel holster when your horse is moving faster and sometimes you and your horse are not together and this makes it difficult to put the gun up and grab the second gun. Remember,



#6 Dan getting ready. (Author Photo)



Pic A: Jim Haynes mounted shooter with rifle, member of CMSA. (Author Photos)

you are shooting a random course and then you put that gun away for the second gun usually while turning a barrel. See pic #6

The second one I want to talk about is probably the most popular rig. It can be a belt and two cross draw holsters worn up around the chest area. Again, some have made chest rigs very elaborate as well with suspenders, double holsters and so forth. These work well with a lot of people and therefore become very popular. The guns are at your chest making it easy for most people to put away the first gun and grab the second gun in a very short period of time. This takes practice and can be done without looking at the holster which means time and time at this level is very important. See pic #7



#7 Dan off back. (Author Photo)

The third is more traditional. I use this type of rig. It is basically a holster with a cross draw. My first gun is at my hip and the second gun is in a cross draw holster in front. So, I can shoot the random course and holster without looking and get my second gun while turning the barrel. For me, I am 6 -2 and longer arms, so, up on my chest is awkward for me.

About holsters, remember, the holster needs to fit your gun. It needs to hold your gun while riding a horse at high speed and while making stops and turns. You do not want the low slung fast draw type holsters you see on TV and in the movies. They have a tendency to flop around and loose or damage your gun. The holster needs to have a deep pocket for that reason. You can get a lot of money or not so much wrapped up in a good holster. There are many places on the internet you can see "cowboy" holsters. There are getting to be a lot of people around this area that

are making them too. Again, a local cowboy mounted shooting club can help you find where you can get a deal on a holster.

RIFLES

CMSA Rifle Shooting Rules, C. Firearms, i:

The rifle used shall be one manufactured prior to 1900 or a reproduction thereof. It shall be a production weapon, not a one of a kind or a home-made weapon. It shall be a pump action, lever action, or revolving rifle. The pump action and lever action shall be .45

Colt, .44-40 or .44 Magnum calibers. The revolving rifle shall be .45 Colt. Rifle barrel minimum length shall be 16 inches and overall rifle minimum length shall be 30 inches.

Rifle shooting in Cowboy Mounted Shooting competition requires a degree of experience for both horse and rider. In a match where there is also a rifle competition there are only 3 types of rifles that can be used. The pump and lever action rifles are together and the cylinder or "wheel" type rifles are separate. The levers and pumps use a 5 in 1 or 3 in 1 blanks that is different from the pistol blanks used in competition. The pistol type or Cattleman's rifle as it is sometimes called use the standard pistol .45 lc. blanks.

The most popular rifles are the 1866, 1873 and 1892 models. All of these are lever action. The American Western Arms Lightning is sometimes used. It is a pump gun. There are various manufacturers for the Cattleman's guns.

The rifle shooting from horseback is a different ball game. It is much more complicated than it might appear. You need to be a seasoned mounted shooter before attempting this.

SHOTGUNS

New to CMSA this year is the addition of shotgun competition. Right now, there are very few rules for the shotguns. You can use any gauge but it has to be a side by side double barrel. One thing to consider is that the .410 will shoot any of the blanks used in cowboy mounted shooting without any modification or adapter. I think the best bet here is a double barrel .410 coach gun without hammers. That is just my opinion. I would think the hammers would get in the way.

Here is the bottom line on guns and holsters. The best thing you can do before investing your hard earned money is to go to a mounted shooting club's clinic and tryout different guns and rigs to see just what might work best for you. There you will receive help and opinions from active competitors. You will get to experience this sport first hand. You will learn gun safety. You will find out where and who can help you with your choices of firearms and holsters. One thing I have learned above all others is that people in this sport will help you in any way they can. It is not uncommon for a competitor to root for his own class competitors. Most will loan you their guns and sometimes even their horse. The guns are real. The blanks can hurt you. This is why you should never try this sport on your own. You need to find a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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by Mark Stover
Vietnam Veteran

The Red Cross Needs Your Help

Greetings,

Last week I went to one of our local retailers to purchase a small room heater. For most of us this would be an easy task, but I had to make it not so easy because I wanted a heater that was made in the USA! I did notice on many product labels in small print somewhere on the back of the carton down at the bottom the words, assembled in China made in USA, or one part made in Mexico and the outer part made in China and assembled in the USA. The worst thing I see too often is the label (made in China). The heater I found that I thought was made in the USA had a label on the back of the box stating, Sunbeam Products Inc doing business as Jarden Consumer Solutions Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (Made in China). Now, this is the topper, I was reading the bubble bath bottle, (you have to do something in the tub) and low and behold on the label it said, Made in China. What?

I want to inform the readers about a service in our County that helps active duty soldiers and their families when they have an emergency or need to get word to their loved one about a death in the family or they need their soldier to come home.

The Red Cross of Wayne/Union County is that service organization that provides this service. Note: the American Red Cross is not to be confused with the International Red Cross. Our local chapter is lead by Director Dan Groth. Dan informed me at our Board meeting of a few things to remember when you need the service of the Red Cross.



You will need detailed information about the emergency. Name of loved one, where the soldier is located, who passed away or what type of illness, etc.

The one important thing to remember is the military makes the final decision if the soldier gets to return home for the emergency.

I am a Board Member for the local chapter of the Red Cross and have been for many years and one thing I have witnessed is the Wayne/Union Red Cross is very active in our community and they need your help to keep the services they provide going for all of our men and women in uniform. The Red Cross receives over 100 local calls a year for Military assistance. The average cost for each call is \$50.00. If you need to make contact with your soldier during an emergency here is the number to call (877) 272-7337.

The Red Cross is not an agency of the Federal Government and does not receive funding for this service. They count on donations to keep it going!

Below are some other services that may help those in need.

VA Regional Office – 1-800-827-1000 or <http://www.va.gov>. This office manages disability claims, pension claims, burial benefits, and widow's pensions for veterans.

National Resource Directory – <http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.org>. This office provides information/services available to wounded and ill service members and their families as well as the families of those killed in action.

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs – (317) 232-3910 or <http://www.in.gov/dva>. This office provides assistance to veterans and members of the military.

American Legion – (317) 630-1300 or <http://indlegion.org>. This office provides utility

assistance.

Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation – (317) 951-0688 or <http://hvaf.org>. This office provides rent/mortgage and utility assistance.

Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation – (317) 951-0688 or <http://hvaf.org>. This office provides housing assistance for homeless veterans.

Attached is information on the Service to the Armed Forces from the

office of the Red Cross.

And I AM PROUD TO SAY THIS INFORMATION IS MADE IN THE USA!

(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF DIRECTOR DON GROTH)

American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces

Serving Those Who Serve Our Nation

Support of the American Red Cross *Service to the Armed Forces* (SAF) is an opportunity to Serve Those Who Serve Our Nation; As the United States approaches nearly a decade of fighting in Afghanistan, the members of our Armed Forces and their families need the Red Cross now more than ever.

Our network spans 700 Red Cross chapters, as well as Veterans Affairs hospitals and military bases worldwide. Through this network, our 7,000 SAF volunteers and staff:

- Provide services and programs that offer resources for deployed service members and their families.
- Provide emergency communications

Who We Serve:

- 24 million veterans
- 3 million military family members
- 1.4 million active duty military
- 800,000 National Guard members/Reservists



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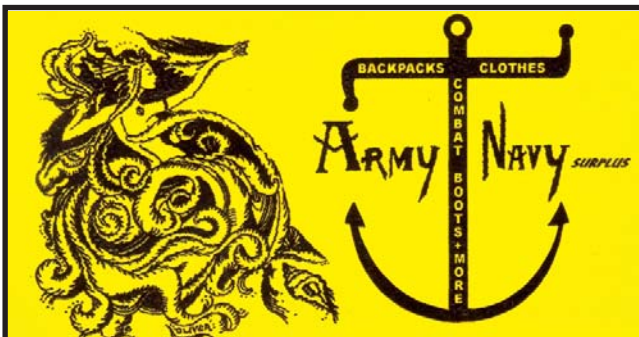
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- Support wounded warriors programs
- Support hospital outreach and veterans programs
- Support families coping with the stress of deployments

"A recent study indicated that Red Cross services reduce emotional stress in 90 percent of families served."

WHERE WE WORK:

On the Front Lines: Serving the Armed Forces requires us to be where the military members are. On 58 U.S. installations and 5 deployment sites in Afghanistan and Kuwait, the Red Cross provides emergency communication services and resources to boost morale and quality of life. Each year, the Red Cross delivers more than 600,000 emergency communications, from birth announcements to notification of illness or death in the family. The Red Cross emergency communications service is a valued resource family members can use to ensure the delivery of important messages to their loved ones in a time of crisis or celebration. Our verification service also helps military authorities make leave decisions for soldiers to return home to their families.

In deployed areas, service members use our on-base Internet cafes to stay in touch with family and friends. Red Cross lounges and canteens provide food, personal hygiene items, calling cards and even words of support through "morale phone banks."

On overseas installations, we educate and serve military families through Red Cross health and safety training courses, volunteer programs and emergency assistance.

In Military Hospitals: Rehabilitation can be lengthy and impose new difficulties on families. To assist the 12,000 service members in "wounded warrior" units and military hospitals, the Red Cross trains and places volunteers who provide support to patients and family members; assists in upgrades to the facilities for the comfort of injured service members and their families; and provides recreational and therapeutic activities, special events and information and referrals. Red Cross care continues after the service member transitions home or to a new duty station. And through its chapters, Red Cross volunteers serve millions more veterans in VA hospitals and other health care facilities.

On the Home Front: Many of today's military families live far from bases and the support services they offer—but many do live near a Red Cross chapter. Through the chapter network, we provide communications and financial assistance to these families, along with courses and information to empower them to cope with deployment and transition back to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

How You Can Help

A gift to the American Red Cross is especially critical at this time, when so many of our military members have been called to active duty and deployed to remote locations. The Red Cross is a charitable organization—not a government agency—and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. Your support of the Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces demonstrates to those who either confront danger daily or face difficult rehabilitation that they are cared for and their service is valued.

Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

Snow brings back ice cream memories

Although snow has been scarce this winter, snow still has been on my mind, and snow brought to mind something I really enjoyed in my younger years--snow ice cream. The fact is, I still enjoy it.

Sometimes March produces some big snows. They don't last long, but long enough for ice cream.

Growing up, ice cream was a real treat. It was something very special.

We had no refrigerator. We felt lucky to have an ice box, but the old ice box wouldn't keep ice cream very long. So, the only time we had ice cream was when we went to town. On Saturday night, we would walk downtown for the band concert at the courthouse square.

While the band played, popcorn was sold from the popcorn wagon. That was a real treat as well, and it was really special to get ice cream at the drug store. I remember we sat on wire back chairs and ate the ice cream from dishes that had little paper liners. It sure was good.

In winter there were no band concerts and fewer leisurely trips to town, and less chance for an ice cream treat. But there was snow ice cream.

When that first measurable snow came, Mom

usually would make a bowl of snow cream. It tasted great, and as I grew older I was able to make the tasty stuff. However, my duties usually related to gathering the white stuff. Someone often chuckled and added, "Don't get any of the yellow snow." I may not have been very old, but knew they were telling me to get clean snow and avoid any area the dogs had used as an outdoor restroom.

Later, when we were fortunate enough to have a refrigerator that had a freezer, it still was fun to make snow ice cream.

Most of the recipes for snow ice cream are quite simple, but there are a few variations.

The simplest, and the way I recall making it, requires only four ingredients. That is one cup milk, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, 1/2 cup sugar and four or five cups of clean snow.

Mix together the milk, vanilla, and the sugar. Stir this mixture until the sugar is dissolved. Slowly add the snow to your mixture, stirring constantly, until it is as thick as the ice cream. Enjoy.

Some recipes add one beaten egg. That makes it a bit richer. Some call for separating the white and yellow of the egg, beating, and then adding together. Others even call for cooking the egg mixture a bit. And then some add a dash of salt.

My cousin, Janet wasn't big on white milk, so she would add other flavorings to the ice cream.

Keeping it simple seemed fine to me.

One of the good things about freezers these days is you can even save some of your snow ice cream and eat it a bit later.

The EPA or some organization probably today says the snow is full of all sorts of toxins, but go for it. Enjoy it. You won't be eating that much anyway.**

Snow and those old memories also brought back the thought on snow angels. I suspect some kids still make them.

If you've never made one, you've probably seen them in movies or on television. You lay down in the snow on your back and move your arms up and down over your head to form the wings. Then you move your legs side to side to make the bot-

tom part of the angel's robe.

When you get up from the snow, your snow angel will be imprinted into the snow. Neat.

If you have youngsters around, encourage them to make some snow angels and gather snow for ice cream the next time we have a fresh snow. Take out the camera, and record some fun memories.

Guess, I'm still a kid at heart. I like snow, and would love a bowl of snow ice cream, although today it would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Snow can be beautiful, and too much isn't a good thing. A fresh, clean snow also can provide the basis for making tasty ice cream. (Photo by Phil Junker)

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theThe entrance to Buck Run Lodge. The pillars on the end are just tree logs. It makes a very rustic look. (Photo by Susie Creason)



The lodge overlooks this pond. We saw many ducks, geese and herons on the pond and deer in the fields surrounding it. (Photo by Susie Creason)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

The Charms of Southern Iowa

A half mile out of town, my wife Susie and I turned on a county road to find Buck Run Lodge where we would be staying for two days. It was four in the afternoon and we started seeing deer

everywhere. They were in the road, standing in the ditches, and wandering across the nearby fields. Twice, a doe and two young just waited until our truck was twenty feet away before they stepped off the pavement and watched us go by. Two bucks, one an eight pointer and the other looked like nine, were in the driveway to the lodge as we started to turn in. They didn't let us get as close as the does did before they went flying across the field!

We were in Iowa to attend an outdoor writers' conference at Honey Creek Resort on Rathbun Lake near Moravia. We left home early so we could spend two days in the town of Anita, Iowa before the conference started. Our Tourism contact person for this area was Linda Harms, 712-249-1201, dharris@midlands.net. She helped us with information on all the local attractions, directions, and much more. (I always contact the local Tourism Bureau before we go anywhere. They know everything about their area and are there to give you this information.)

Linda helped us get registered at the Buck Run Lodge which is a gorgeous, rustic resort set on 40 acres. The property has a large pond (with fish!), hiking and mountain bike trails, and lots of critters. Inside the log structure is four bedrooms, two baths, and a full kitchen, dining area which seats 30 or more guests. The wrap around deck is great for viewing the area from the comfort of the deck. (That evening, while on the deck, we saw ducks, geese, a great blue heron and 14 deer on or around the pond.) The owners are Jim and Kathie Mailander, 712-783-4438, www.buckruniowa.com. The lodge is available for a day or a week for family getaways, reunions, business meeting and more.

The first morning we visited Hansen Outfitters. This is a 1200 acre farm which contains the Anita Sporting Clays Course and also operates their licensed hunting preserve and game bird farm. Half and full day hunting trips for pheasant, quail, chukar and geese are available. Guides and dogs are available or you can bring your own dog.



Wading the waters of Lake Anita with my detector looking for lost treasure. I am in the water getting wet, but I am also wearing a rain jacket because it is raining.



On the beach again looking for treasure. Here I am on the shores of Lake Rathbun in Honey Creek Resort State Park. (Photo by Susie Creason)

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Lake Anita State Park Campground. It's almost empty now (late September) but like the rest of the park is well maintained and extremely clean. (Photo by Susie Creason)

This is one of the play areas at Anita Lake State Park. The area is extremely clean and taken care of very well. (Photo by Susie Creason)

Fields for training dogs are even offered.

Bird dog trials are held here and last October, the Patternmaster's National Bird Dog Circuit World Championships were here at Hansens. (Go to their website for results and pictures.) Owners Paul and Lori Hansen were great hosts. Paul took me around the property and showed me their field dog trials setup and hunting area while Lori took Susie for a guided tour through the facilities. Call **712-762-3533** or visit www.hansen-outfitters.com for more information on this operation.

Next we went to Lake Anita State Park. This area is over 900 acres of wildlife preserve with 120 acres open to public hunting and a 171 acre lake. We had a little time with nothing scheduled, so we drove to the beach, pulled out our metal detectors, and proceeded to search for lost treasure. (Metal detecting is allowed in Iowa State Parks on the designated beach areas only.) Susie searched the dry sand while I waded out about knee deep in the lake. We found metal toy cars, a few coins, an earring and, as always, a lot of bottle caps and pulltabs. Linda and her young neighbor friend, Coady, met us and we taught them how to use a detector.

We were scheduled to do some late afternoon/early evening fishing, but first I wanted to go back to the lodge and put on some dry jeans. When we arrived, I reached in my pocket for the keys and they weren't there! I searched the truck. No keys. They had to be back at the beach where we hunted. We called Linda and explained our problem. She called the owners and they quickly brought us a spare set to get into the lodge. I changed clothes and we drove back to the beach to see if the keys were there. I would not have been too worried except the Buck Run Lodge name was on the keychain so anyone who found it could get into the place. We stopped in the parking lot, got out, and the keys were on the ground where I had parked the truck earlier.

We were now late to meet our fishing guide, but the boat dock was just a couple minutes from the beach and they were waiting on us. Linda and her husband were there with ED Brocker at his pontoon boat. We had not bought fishing licenses, so we were along for the ride. ED was involved with building the lake and explained a lot of the history of, not only the construction, but also of the town and surrounding area. While the lake has largemouth, bluegill, and crappie, his outfit was rigged to troll for crappie. As he talked, he kept bringing in fat Black Crappie. He was catching his dinner. It had started raining as we left the dock, and now was coming down hard, so we headed back for shore. We thanked ED for the information and the fishing lesson and headed to town for dinner.

Linda took us on a tour of Anita on the way to the restaurant. This town of about 1000 people has a fitness center and a beautiful library which had just expanded. The old building was covered outside with the big field rocks which the farmers plow up. The townsfolk went out and gathered truckloads of these rocks so the new portion of the library would look the same outside as the old part. We continued past a new housing development on a hill overlooking a beautiful valley.

We arrived at the Redwood Steak House for a great evening meal. As we ate, we noticed a small plane landing on a grass strip nearby. Linda told us the runway was 2825 feet. People would fly in from places unknown, park their plane, walk across the runway, cross the railroad track, then Main Street and into the Steak House. From the food we had, I can see why folks would fly in just to eat here. After a long day, we headed back to the lodge.

Early the next morning, we joined Linda and Coady at the Weather-Vane Café for breakfast. Shelley Mitchell-Schaaf, another lady with Tourism and Development met us there, (sschaaf@midlands.net). The special that day

was blueberry pancakes. When they arrived, they were the size of dinner plates and were delicious. I wanted to stay to see what their lunches were like, but we had to head toward our conference site at Honey Creek State Park on Rathbun Lake.

We checked into the Honey Creek Resort and soon after, we headed to the beach with our detectors. Same results as Lake Anita: some toys, coins, and trash. We didn't get to go fishing, but several other writers did, with excellent results. Four days later, we left Honey Creek and drove east through The Villages of Van Buren County. Twelve small communities are showcased in this county with quilt shops, Milton Creamery Cheeses, Addie May Fudge Factory, Bloom & Bark Farm & Dog Bakery and our favorite, The Dutchman's Store in Cantril.

This Amish establishment had a huge quilt and fabric department for my wife, a boots and coveralls section, aisles of assorted books, toys and games, then, the grocery store part. This area had regular grocery items, plus bulk food stuffs, and an aisle of many styles and sizes of pressure cookers, meat grinders, canning supplies, and all the kitchen stuff I really like. On the front deck of the store was dozens of 30-40 pound pumpkins for \$4 each. I brought several home! With over \$200 worth of purchases loaded into the truck, we started toward Indiana. The last town in Iowa was Keokuk, home of the annual geode festival on the last weekend of September every year. We had found about three buckets of geodes on our way into Iowa a week earlier.

We have traveled as far south, east and north as we can drive, and west to Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Whenever possible, we leave the interstate and drive the back roads through small town America. We always find something worth the trip.

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

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Looking Downstream



by Paul McCloud

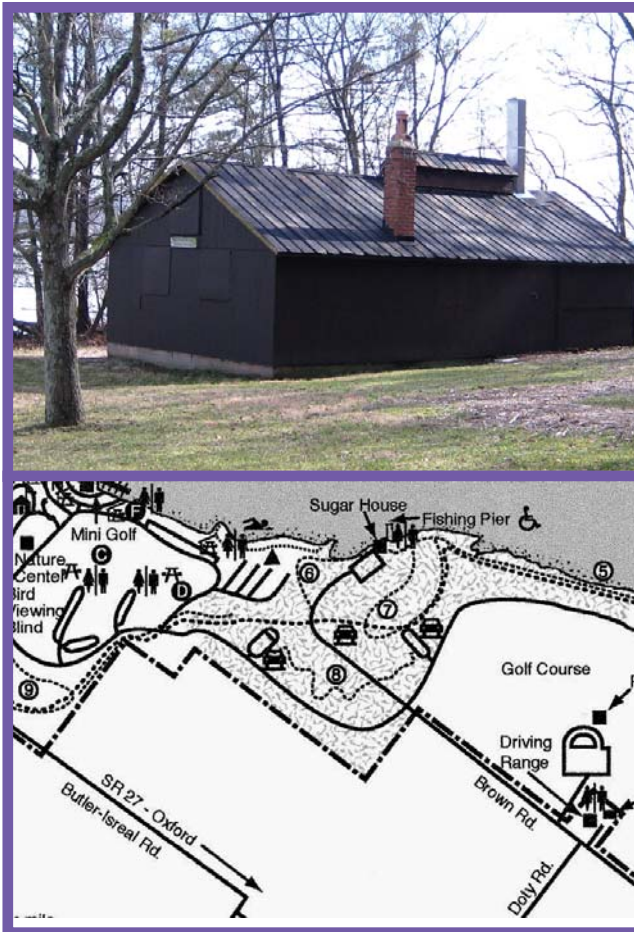
46th Maple Syrup Festival Hueston Woods State Park

With the unusually warm weather we've been experiencing so far this winter you have to figure sooner or later old man winter will hit us with every thing he's got. Whether he does or not we're rapidly approaching that time of year when the sap rises in the trees and that means it's time for the annual Maple Syrup Festival at Ohio's lovely Hueston Woods State Park. Held every year on the first and second weekends of March at the Sugar Camp on the South bank of Acton Lake in the old forest preserve. Begun in 1966, the festival draws crowds every year to observe the process of turning the sap of the stately Sugar Maple and Black Maple trees native to this part of North America into syrup and other distinctive sweet products.

Late winter and early spring is maple season for maple producers in the upper Midwest and New England states. At Hueston Woods, park employees and volunteers begin a few days prior to the start of the festival drilling, tapping and collecting hundreds of gallons of sap from the mature sugar and black maples from the over two hundred acres of virgin hardwoods that were the original stand that the park was established on. Sap can actually spoil if it sets around unrefrigerated for too long, usually no more than 48 hours, depending of course on the temperature. Tapping consists of drilling a hole 3/8 to 7/16 inch diameter and about two inches deep. The hole should be high enough on the tree that once the spout is inserted and a collecting bucket is hung on it, it is high enough up that deer and other bigger animals aren't tempted to disturb it. It is also advisable to install a lid or some covering to keep out forest debris or rain. Special metal spouts are made that have a notch in them to hang your bucket from and specialized sap buckets with hinged lids.

Large commercial producers, run plastic tubing from tree to tree and then to large collection containers to expedite the collection process. They also employ a progressive cooking process that moves the cooking sap along the cooker with a constant flow of raw sap entering one end and finished syrup flowing out the other end.

Making maple syrup from sap requires boiling off of the water until the desired sugar concentration is achieved. On the average, in the Midwest, maple sap averages about two percent sugar content. The math works out that it takes about 43 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of finished syrup. It takes quite a bit of time to boil down a hundred gallons of sap to the two and half gallons of syrup,



Hueston Woods sugar camp. (Author Photos)

even longer when making maple sugar. Sugar and black maple have considerably higher sap sugar content than red or silver maple, resulting in less sap needed and less energy required to produce a given volume of syrup. Good syrup can be made from red or silver maple though it tends to be cloudy. Tapping should be complete prior to any budding of the trees due to a chemical change in the sap that gives the syrup an unpleasant flavor referred to as a buddy taste. On the weekends of the festival workers in the Sugar House start boiling down sap in large cookers specifically designed for the job. Sap is made into syrup by boiling off the water, which increases the sugar content to 66 percent and causes chemical changes that darken the syrup and creates the characteristic taste. The cooking is closely monitored, as under cooked sap results in thin and weak tasting syrup that is likely to spoil in short time and over cooking will create dense syrup that will form sugar crystals in the container. Workers use a hydrometer to assure constant batches of quality syrup. Once the correct consistency is reached the syrup is dipped out of the cookers and strained through filtering materials prior to bottling.

In the pioneer days folks used large copper kettles and filtered the finished product through woolen cloth before storing in earthenware containers. Not surprisingly you can make syrup from the sap of other trees but time and taste has proven the Maple Syrup by far exceeds all challengers.

The 2012 Hueston Woods Maple Syrup Festival will be the weekends of March 3rd and 4th and the 10th and 11th. There will be additional activities going on in the park that relate to the festival, and maple syrup as well as other food items for sale at the sugar camp.

In conjunction with the festival the Lodge will have pancake and syrup breakfast specials from 7 am to 1 pm each day during the festival.

Next month we're going in search of the elusive and tasty morel mushroom. As always your comments are welcome. E-mail pasports@ydial.net

IDNR News ICO Gary Catron

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"Bird 605" – was found Dec. 30 in southeastern Jackson County near Crothersville. Whooping cranes are protected by the Endangered Species Act, the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and state laws. The legal protections have helped the bird's population recover from a few dozen in the 1940s to about 500 in the wild today, but its status remains fragile. The whooping crane killed in Jackson County was part of an effort to establish an eastern continental flock on a migratory path between Wisconsin and Florida that takes them through Indiana. "The loss of whooping crane No. 605 is another blow to the reintroduction program in that this individual bird was an adult with more than five years of life experience flying the same migration path," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetland bird biologist Bob Russell. "We have lost, in essence, a teacher and mentor for young fledglings." Russell added: "Wildlife crimes such as this undo years of time, energy, and private fund-raising efforts on the part of many partners. Our law enforcement agents will work in conjunction with our state counterparts to fully investigate this case."

Great Lakes Of The Wabash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

ball and volleyball courts, and playground equipment. Also available is Pirate's Cove Marina where you can rent a seasonal dock for your boat and they also handle equipment rentals. If seasonal camping interests you then look no further than Bozarth's Campground. We have over 225 sites as well as a designated area for camping clubs. We recently built a new country store that includes inside dining, an arcade room, banquet room, and store that has all your fishing, hunting, camping, and everyday goods. You can contact us at (765) 981-4522 for more details.

Hunting and fishing is another big attraction that brings people to the area. You can expect to catch crappie, bluegill, bass, catfish, and walleye. There are five different boat ramps located on the property where you can launch your boat. The property also has a handicap accessible pier available at the beach for the shore fisherman. There is a screened in fish cleaning stand that has running water and a grinder to allow one to dispose of the day's catch. Many ponds are also located throughout to provide addi-



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tional opportunities to fish. Deer, squirrels, rabbits, and turkey are the top animals hunted here. There is over 8,000 acres of land available to hunt. To hunt the property one must obtain a hunting permit card at a sign in station and carry it with them while hunting then return the card to the same sign in station at the end of the hunt. Lastly, I have to mention mushroom hunting as we are nearing that time of the popular morel season.

The horseman's campground is another aspect of the Salamonie property. There are camp sites at both Lost Bridge West and the Salamonie River State Forest that connect to the bridle trails and allow horse riders easy access to the scenic trails. These trails also connect with the snowmobile trails in the winter.

While visiting you may also be able to catch a glimpse of the bald eagles and river otters that were recently reintroduced to the area. No matter which activities you pick, the Salamonie will be a place for your family to make memories to last a lifetime. We look forward to seeing you at the Salamonie Reservoir this spring.

Talking Leaves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

vive...Things haven't changed that much. Maybe they teach us a lesson or to.

Old Chief Says: Consult your friend on all matters, especially those related to yourself. His counsel may then be useful, where your own self love might impair your judgment.

HANK STOCK/GOLDEN EAGLE

Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

buy any. Next month we'll travel from Portugal through the southern coast of Spain to Andorra, France, and Monaco toward Italy.

If you have any questions about camping you'd like us to write about, contact us at:

260-637-3524 or email at: jmacnut@yahoo.com. See you near the Rock of Gibraltar.

John and El McCory, Camping Europe

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MISFIRES & SNAGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

From that time I considered Roy Rogers, Dusty Rhodes and Rocky Lane to be a bunch of fakes. But it didn't kill my love of western style single six revolvers. Just recently I bought a Ruger Super Single Six with interchangeable cylinders that will allow me to switch from .22 long rifle to .22 magnum in thirty seconds. Now, unlike Bill Chatten who can break balloons from horseback, I probably wouldn't be able to knock a chip off a stone Monument from 25 yards. But I don't care. Just to be able to face an opponent on a dusty street with a pencil sized cigar in my mouth and a steely eyed glare as I throw my serape across my shoulder to reveal the deadly Super Single Six is good enough. Go ahead. Make my day.

So You Want To Be A Cowboy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Mounted Shooting Club and attend their clinic where you will learn all the aspects of this sport and where safety is of utmost importance to them as well as you.

Remember, you might be a cowboy mounted shooter if your horse has only one ear!!!

Next time, I will talk about horses, training and tack. Bob Chatten CMSA #347, founder of the Illiana Rangers Cowboy Mounted Shooting Club.

References:
The Cowboy Mounted Shooting Assoc. website: www.cowboymountedshooting.com
The Illiana Rangers Cowboy Mounted Shooting Club's website: www.illianarangers.org

News & Views From a Vet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

civilian life.

Through the *Get to Know Us Before You Need Us* initiative, the Red Cross has educated nearly 1 million soldiers and family members about our services and benefits available to them. Through a four-hour course taught by mental health professionals, families learn resiliency strategies and psychological first aid to cope with deployment. A recent study indicated that Red Cross services reduce emotional stress in 90 percent of families served.

We partner with military aid societies to allow grieving family members to attend the funeral of a fallen relative and meet other emergency financial needs.

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

have to be with artificial sweetener.

###

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

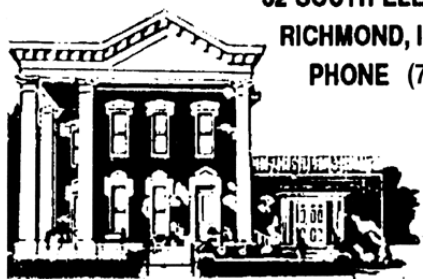
For more outdoors with Phil Junker, contact his blog at: outdoorscribe.blogspot.com

Editor's Note:

**Safe treat. According to snow research done

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by people in the know, there is no need to tell children not to eat snow as long as it is fresh. The pristine snow that has just fallen through the air and landed on the ground is not going to be dangerous or unhealthy according to a recent study. Basically treat it like other desserts - eat it in moderation.

20th & 79th USN Seabees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

first attempts to locate my dump truck anywhere beneath a 4-yard shovel of crushed coral was to understate the case, completely hilarious.

But soon we were roaring down the incomplete strip, 6 or 7 in line, in a cloud of coral dust. I remember many of us were so tired from the long days that we didn't even think about getting into the ditch during air raids, especially at night.

As soon as the strip was anywhere near finished, they started landing Marine fighters on it. Of the first group that came in, four crashed because of the condition of the surface. My recollection was that they were Corsairs but that may be wrong. Anyway, more work was done improving the strip before more landings were attempted. You can imagine our feelings at seeing the crashes.

Your Dad mentioned the burial caves and using them for air raid shelters. We had a bunch of them near our camp. Many had a large turtle shaped concrete entrance. I never went near one but can remember being warned that most were booby-trapped. I believe that they were a favorite hiding place for Japanese stragglers and holdouts.

I remember VE and VJ days and running for the air raid ditches when the celebratory tracers which the fleet fired in V shapes started landing nearby. Having come that far, I wasn't about to go down from that kind of accident. During the time on the island however many did lose their lives from accidental causes. During air raids many would get under a piece of heavy equipment for shelter, fall asleep and then not be noticed when the equipment started up. There were lots of mid-air collisions and the odd ammunition dump explosion that would go on for days dropping fragments all over the island.

After the war was over, there was a typhoon that hit Okinawa. I think it was in October. It sank a number of ships in the harbor and blew down everything but anchored Quonset huts on the island. The rainy winds reached a high of 120 mph. We lived in shelter halves and ate K rations for about ten days. Perhaps your Dad had left by then.

Those are the things that come to mind off hand about Saipan and Okinawa. I hope they are of some use to you in picturing the world that your Father lived in at the time. I'm sorry there's nothing about the 79th but perhaps it provides some of the ambiance your Dad experienced. It was a defining experience for most of us. That was 55 years ago so I'm amazed that anyone remembers.

On the CEC and Seabee Museum site there are testimonials to the Bees from Marine Generals Holland M Smith and Roy Geiger. The Marines carried most of the heavy land fighting load all through the islands from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. I am proud when these people say that the Seabees never let them down.

All the best: A 79th Seabee Shipmate"
William "Bill" Ross

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SEABEE ELECTRICIANS AND MECHANICS OF

U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION MAINTENANCE UNIT (CBMU) #624 OKINAWA 1945

Kneeling, Left to Right: Raymond "Gene" Dickerson, Unknown, Clinton L. Beaver, Richard Comstock, Norman "Norm" P. Ingraham, Unknown, Lewis C. Morehead, and Robert A. Garcia. Standing, Left to Right: Chief Paul J. Sollenberger, Unknown, Timothy "Joc" J. Mahoney, John J. Bowers, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Leroy "Roy" W. Neitzke and Kenneth "Doc" J. Savage.. Other names identified on back of photo, but not known in picture are: Clifton "Cliff" J. Morgan, Charles M. Suitor, Jr., George V. Garmache, Earl "Bud" W. Moorhouse, Thomas C. Martin and Farley C. Dalrymple. If anyone can match up the last six names with the picture, contact me on my Cell: 765-960-5767 or Toll Free 1-877-855-4237 (Lv Message) or E-mail ray@thegadabout.com.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in CBMU 624 at Kadena, he said he was an EM 3C at Kadena in the Electrical Platoon under Chief Sollenberger.

I read the e-mail again. Thinking I had seen that name recently, his and Sollenberger. Then it dawned on me, in the 4 page pull-out I printed in October 2010, about my Dad's service in the Seabees on Okinawa, I had a photo of 17 men, but didn't know their names for sure until I got the CBMU Muster list from Gina Nichols at Port Hueneme Seabees Museum in California. With her list and the names that were written on the back I was able to identify all of them but one. I quickly found the picture and looked at the back, there was the name, Joc Mahoney and at the top Paul J. Sollenberger.

I then sent an e-mail in reply to Tim Mahoney explaining to him about my Dad, Raymond "Gene" Dickerson who was at Kadena and AWASE airfields on Okinawa. I told him about the photo in the October 2010 issue, asking him if he could go to my website archival issues and open that issue, go to page 15 and tell me which one of the Seabees in the photo was him and Solenberger. (On the back of the photo the names weren't in any particular order, the only one I knew who it was, was Dad on the far left kneeling.) I couldn't wait for the reply, finally after five years of searching since first meeting some Seabees, one who for sure was with Dad on Okinawa.

A day or two later I was here working on the computer when the phone rang. It was Tim Mahoney, in person, calling from Houston, TX. We talked for a long time. I even got to talk to his wife, Betty. It's been 67 years since 1945 and Okinawa, Tim looked up the October 2010 issue and had the picture of the guys there, he said he only remembered a few of them. He

said it was a group-shot of the Electricians and Mechanics at their base on Okinawa, but he couldn't remember why they had taken the photo (above). He was a Electrician and Dad was a Mechanic. He identified eleven guys of the 17 in the picture, there was only 15 names on the back of the photo.

(If anyone can match up the last six names with their picture in the photo above, contact me on my Cell: 765-960-5767 or Toll Free 1-877-855-4237 (Lv Message) or E-mail ray@thegadabout.com.)

I asked Tim where he got the information to contact me about the Seabees on Okinawa. He told me he found The Gad-a-bout on the internet and saw the article about my trying to find Seabees in the 79th NCB and CBMU 624. He told me in 1995 he attended a CBMU 624 Reunion in Gulfport, MS, 12 former 624 members attended including a Ensign Perkins. He added that he thought that there was about 20 men in the 624 about his age on Okinawa. He is 85 now.

He gave the phone to his wife, Betty. We had a really nice conversation, she was as interested in talking about the Seabees as Tim. At the end of our conversation I asked them if they would like to come to the Reunion I am hosting in Richmond, Indiana for the 79th NCB and CBMU 624 in September 2012. They said they would like for me to send them an invitation. They also invited me to call them when I got the chance.

I told them that I would just as soon as I got the March Gad-a-bout printed and delivered.

Also I have talked to Don Palme a former 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Veteran from Greenville, OH. Don wants to come to our reunion also. He sent back a response to the letter I sent to him back on January 2, 2012 when I sent the original 89 packets to 79th NCB and CBMU 624. He sent along a couple of pictures of himself and two buddies on one, Paul Mullinehux-Ellicot

City, MD. (now deceased) and Ray Osbourne-Union Springs, NY and indicated on the form I sent to him that he was interested in receiving an invitation to the Reunion.

I got a second call from Mrs. Belle Howard from Forsyth, GA wanting to know if I got the packet she sent with CBMU 624 documents in it. Her husband, Buddy Howard was in the 624th. I told her I had received it and found the information beyond belief. She is certainly a gem. I will be doing a story on her late husband, Buddy.

Between now and October I will be doing a story a month on members of the 79th NCB or CBMU 624. You can read this months story on page 8, written by William "Bill" Ross from Sidney, British Columbia, Canada, a Veteran of the 20th NCB and 79th NCB on Saipan and Okinawa. He originally wrote the story for Jeannie Winter, webmaster of the 79th NCB website: www.79thseabees.com.

Next month, April, Jeannie Winter will be

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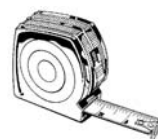
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telling her story about her father, 79th NCB Veteran F.J. Taake.

The saddest part of searching for World War II Veterans is that there doesn't seem to be many still around and as each day, week, month and year passes there are less.

I'm not giving up though, there are avenues I haven't yet pursued, just have to wait until this issue is finished before I can continue my search

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 by:

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RENEWED & NEW WRITERS

I am happy to announce the return of **Joel Biltz**, to our writer contributors list. Joel writes about "Big Game Hunting" see his article this month on page 18. Joel dropped out rather suddenly when his wife gave birth to twins, Bentley and Bailey, a year and a half ago.

New this month for his debut in The Gad-a-bout is **Terry Stover** from Centerville, IN. Terry is writing a column entitled "For The Serious Shooter" his first article is entitled, "So you want to learn competition shooting with a handgun." You can read his column in this issue on page 19. Terry is an avid firearms shooter who really enjoys plinking, competing and other aspects of the sport. When I went to take Terry's photo I found they are another family who takes in strays. Terry and his wife Susanne have 3 cats and 1 dog who were left to fend for themselves until the Stover's took them into their home.

If Terry's last name sounds familiar it's because last month his brother, **Mark Stover**, began a new column entitled, "News & Views From a Vet." I didn't have space to write about Mark in the February issue so I am putting him in here. Mark's article this month is "The Red Cross Needs Your Help" and it can be found on page 22-23. Mark sent me a photo to be used with his column that is more representative of his column's theme. Mark is a Veteran of the Vietnam War and a Board Member for the local chapter of the Red Cross and has been for many years.

VANDALS STILL AT LARGE IN C-VILLE

Centerville, IN. — The little sleepy town of Centerville, Indiana where I live needs to become more alert to what's going on around town, especially after dark. On Sunday morning January 8th quite a few of us who live in the southeast corner woke up to flat tires, damaged car interiors, bent antenna's and assorted other damages. The last count I heard was about 100 autos vandalized with most of them with 2 flat tires on the street side or the back two in driveways. If that wasn't enough, Sunday evening, vandals broke into the Senior Center at the corner of south 2nd & Walnut Street doing \$10,000 worth of damage to its interior, equipment, furniture and stole a 54" Plasma TV. Probably the most incredible thing is that no one heard anything or saw anything.

There is a cure for this, set up a Neighborhood Watch. I have been more alert since Jan 8th, driving around town at various times of the night checking the neighborhood. To help protect your vehicles and property you can set up a Trail Camera, install a



At left Trail Camera, at right night photo taken by camera.

Surveillance Camera or motion sensed spot lights. The Trail Camera captures night time activities and snaps infra-red pictures (see above photos). Hunters use it to watch for animal activity and it will work just as well for the vandals we have roaming Centerville at night. Most sporting goods shops can fix you up with these cameras. At my other property on in Centerville I have had a Surveillance Camera installed there for the past 4 years. Before installing it I had to repaint the side of the barn almost every fall due to vandals damaging the building. I also put signs at either end telling would-be vandals of the punishment they will incur by damaging the building if they appear on the surveillance tape. It has kept most of the graffiti off.

Would you like to become active in a Neighborhood Watch Program, if so call me at **855-5681** or **765-960-5767**, leave a message I will return your call.

SHARPSVILLE RESIDENT DIES IN MORNING CRASH (POLICE ASKING FOR HELP)

Howard County – This morning (February 2, 2012) at approximately 3:48 a.m., officers from the Indiana State Police, the Howard County Sheriff's Department, and the Tipton County Sheriff's Department responded to a single vehicle crash on U.S. 31 at Howard County Road 500 South, which killed a Sharpsville, IN, woman.

The preliminary investigation by Trooper Wendell Beachy revealed that Darian Davis, 21, Sharpsville, IN, was driving a 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee northbound on U.S. 31 near County Road 500 South. It is believed Davis was driving at a high rate of speed, when the right tires of the Jeep partially traveled off the east side of U.S. 31. Davis then lost control of the Jeep, causing it to flip at least four times. Davis, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected onto U.S. 31. It is believed Davis was then struck by a semi-tractor, pulling a box trailer. Davis was pronounced dead at the scene by Howard County Coroner Jay Price.

Witnesses stated a semi-tractor, pulling a box trailer, had driven through the crash debris field shortly after the crash. Witnesses were not able to obtain any identifying information on the semi-tractor. It is not known if the driver was aware that the truck had possibly struck Davis's body.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact Trooper Wendell Beachy at **765-473-6666**.

Early indications are Davis died as a result of the crash, not from being struck by the semi-tractor.

This crash is still under investigation.

Read **Indiana State Trooper Sergeant John Bowling's Column** on page 6 in this issue. ■



2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee lies on its top after flipping at least 4 times after driver lost control on U.S. 31 at Howard County Road 500 South. (Photo by Sgt. Tony Slocum)

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Cody Case with his first Squirrel and his Mountain Cur Star. Cody ate his squirrel that night for supper! (Country Mart Store Photo)



Wyatt Case with his Fall Gobbler taken in Franklin County, IN. (Country Mart Store Photo)



Wyatt, Waylen and Cody Case with their Muskrats they trapped in Decatur, County, IN. (Country Mart Store Photo)



Ten year old Bryson Lutz from Fayette County, IN took this 10 point Buck with his shotgun on November 19, 2011. (Photo submitted by Jason Caldwell from Connersville, IN)



Ten year old Bryson Lutz from Fayette County, IN took this 25 pound Tom turkey on April 23, 2011. It had a 11 1/2" beard and 33mm spurs. (Photo submitted by Jason Caldwell from Connersville, IN.)

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At left, Kenny Kelly holding a 4 pound, 22" Walleye and at right, Jimmy Harper holding a 5 lb. 14 oz., 27" Walleye caught in Nov 2011. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)

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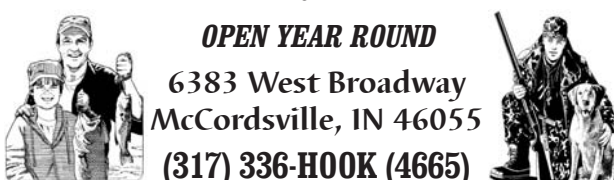


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Ten year old Tyler Soper harvested this 10 point, 125 pound Buck on 12-18-11 with a Muzzleloader. His proud parents are Steve & Rhonda Soper. (Frame Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Waylen Case with his 13 point Buck he took during the Youth Season in Franklin County, IN. (Country Mart Store Photo)



Danny Snyder took this 14 point, 245 pound Buck opening day of shotgun season in Wayne County. (Frame Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Alisha Hobbs to this her first deer in November 2011, it had 6 points and weighed 145 pounds. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Ryan Roberts took these Coyote's in January 2012. His son Nick is sitting on his knee. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)

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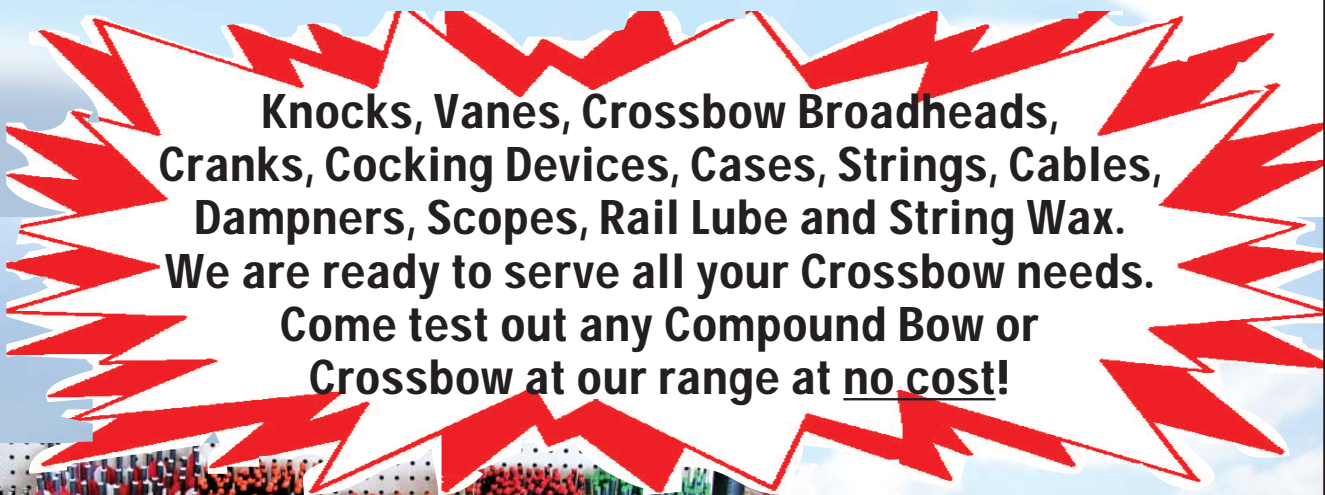
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