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MARCH 2013

THE

# GAD-A-BOUT™

HUNTING, FISHING, ARCHERY, CAMPING, HUMOR, MILITARY ISP & ICO NEWS, EVENTS, TRAVEL, OPINIONS, ETC.



BOAT SHOW ISSUE



STAYIN' ALIVE FUN DAY  
MAY 27, 2013  
BROOKVILLE CANOEFEEST  
JUNE 28-29, 2013  
SEE PAGES 8 & 9

GEM SHOWS RICHMOND MARCH 1-3 &  
INDIANAPOLIS MARCH 22-24 PAGE 2 & 4



FLY ANGLERS INVITED TO APRIL 6, 2013  
WHITEWATER RIVER RENDEZVOUS PAGE 16



MANY KINDS, BUT MORE THE MOST  
POPULAR MUSHROOM - SEE PAGE 22



IDNR FISH & WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS RELEASE  
RIVER OTTER IN PIGEON RIVER FWA PAGE 18

ADVERTISER'S INDEX & PICK-UP PTS PG 2

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS SEE PAGE 3

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

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Shadow® Spirit 750 [honda.com](http://honda.com) ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. NEVER RIDE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, AND NEVER USE THE STREET AS A RACETRACK. OBEY THE LAW AND READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL THOROUGHLY. For rider training information or to locate a rider training course near you, call the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 1-800-446-9227. Shadow® is a registered trademark of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (09/12)

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&  
**MOTORCYCLES**



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**HOW TO LOCATE ADVERTISER ON MAPS**

**(Please Note: Advertiser Location Code Maps are still being drawn. As of this issue we have maps for Brookville Lake (Town Maps of Liberty & Brookville), Hardy Lake, Salamonie Lake, Patoka Lake, Monroe Lake, Summit Lake & Prairie Creek Reservoir.)**

**ADVERTISERS LOCATION CODE**

For Example to find 52 Pik-up's Exact Location in Brookville see their listing in the Advertiser Index under **BROOKVILLE** to the right is **(BV)** which is the Location Code Abbreviation for Brookville, Indiana. Below that in alphabetical order are the businesses in Brookville, Page 5 is where their advertisement is located in this paper. To the LEFT of their listing is their **Advertiser Location Code Number (1)**.

Write down 52 Pik-up's Location Code **BV-1**

Log onto my website:

[www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com)

After the website opens click on the

**LOCATION MAP ICON**

The front page is a map of Indiana, look for the Code BV, beneath it is the page the Map is on, Page 5. On page 5 you will see a map of the town of Brookville. Look for 52 Pik-up Code, BV-1. The arrow to the left of their code points to their exact location in Brookville plus in their case there is a link to their website on the map also. Click on it to see 52 Pik-up's web page.

Follow this same procedure for all Advertisers.

**\*\*Please Note: Work On Maps Will Resume After Sport Show!**

(Questions, See Page 3 for Contact Information)

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40TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW  
**GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY,  
FOSSIL SHOW & SALE**

March 1, 2, 3, 2013

Friday 10-6 / Saturday 10-6 / Sunday 11-4

(SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM 10-3 ON FRIDAY)

Donation: Adults \$5.00 / Senior Citizens (60+) \$3.00

Students (7-18) \$1.00 / Under 7 Free

KUHLMAN CENTER

Wayne County 4-H Fairgrounds - North Salisbury Road

RICHMOND, INDIANA

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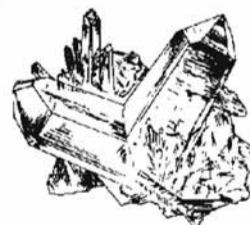
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Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Inc.

(Note: If Salisbury Rd is closed due to construction, take NW 5th to NWL, go west to show)

INFO: Dave Straw 765-966-4249 or John Lamont 765-647-4894



**Treasures of the Earth  
Gem & Jewelry Shows**  
[www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

15th Annual Indianapolis Spring

Bead, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Indiana State Fairgrounds - Ag/Hort. Building

1202 East 38th Street - Indianapolis, Indiana

**March 22-24, 2013**

Friday & Sat 10am-6pm Sunday 11am-5pm

Admission \$5 Ticket good all 3 days

Children under age 16 Free - Hourly Door Prizes

Custom work & repairs while you wait - Food Available

Beads - Pearls - Minerals - Fossils - Silver & Goldsmiths

Displays by 500 Earth Science Club & Indiana Bead Society

October 4-6, 2013 = 15th Annual Indianapolis Fall Show



# THE GAD-A-BOUT™



## IN THIS ISSUE

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Created & Published by Ray Dickerson

P.O. Box 85

Centerville, IN 47330-0085

CONTACT THE GAD-A-BOUT

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

Cell Phone: 765-960-5767

Office Phone: 765-855-3857

Fax: 765-855-3857 (Call First)

Website:

[www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com)

E-Mail: [ray@thegadabout.com](mailto:ray@thegadabout.com)



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RICH CREASON  
CENTRAL INDIANA STATE WIDE

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BILL EMBRY  
S CENTRAL & SOUTHWEST INDIANA

CELL: 812-325-0328

ERNEST McCLEERY  
SOUTHEAST & S CENTRAL INDIANA

PHONE: 812-866-4510

### SPECIAL FEATURES

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 Brookville CanoeFest June 28-29, 2013 Indiana's Largest Canoe Race Turns 50 by Ray Dickerson . . . . . Page 9  
 Brookville Whitewater River Rendezvous, A Get Together for Fly Anglers by Derrick Filkins . . . . . Page 16  
 15th Annual Franklin County Antique Machinery Club Swap Meet April 16, 2013 by Bob Andrews . . . . . Page 17

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### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

**Top Left:** March is the month for you to visit two of the best Gem Shows in the Midwest. On March 1-3, 2013 the 40th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show & Sale will be held at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Richmond, IN. On March 22-24, 2013 the 15th Annual Treasures of the Earth Gem and Jewelry Shows will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, IN. See more on Page 2 & 4. **(Photo by Ray Dickerson)**

**Top Right:** The town of Brookville and Franklin County is rebuilding its physical and hospitality presence in Southeastern Indiana and are excited about inviting anglers to enjoy the fishing in the Brookville Tailwater, East and West Fork of the Whitewater River, Brookville Lake, and Whitewater State Park. Plans are in the works for a big event in

April to showcase all the resources the town of Brookville and the surrounding country have to offer. The invitation is open to all fly anglers statewide, please come and enjoy a day of visiting old friends and making new ones in the Whitewater Valley. See more on Page 16. **(Photo by Derrick Filkins, reprinted here with his permission)**

**Bottom Left:** There are many kinds of wild mushrooms, but morels are the most popular. About the only thing better than wild mushroom hunting in Indiana is mushroom eating. See Page 22. **(Photo by Phil Junker)**

**Bottom Right:** Thanks to efforts of the IDNR and its partners, river otter are now found throughout most of Indiana. It's a true conservation success story that dates back almost twenty years. In 1995, the IDNR began a reintroduction program aimed at bringing river otter back to the Hoosier state. The goal of the reintroduction was to reestablish a healthy otter population in several watersheds of northern and southern Indiana. **(Photo by John Maxwell, IDNR Wildlife Biologist & Photographer)**

## CRESTLINER BOATS

DEALER OF THE YEAR



1750 FISH HAWK



1900 SUPER HAWK



1600 FISH HAWK

## HARRIS Flotebote



200 CRUISER CX



250 GRAND MARINER

**"2013"**  
**boat show specials**  
 COME SEE US AT THE  
 INDIANAPOLIS IN, SPORT,  
 BOAT & TRAVEL SHOW AND  
**"OUR OPEN HOUSE MARCH 9"**  
 AT  
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 765-647-4619



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"We are located across the road from Mounds S.R.A. Entrance at Brookville Lake"

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# Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

**THE GAD-A-BOUT IS FREE**

At Advertiser locations and Advertiser support locations (see advertisers index on page 2) and read The Gad-a-bout for free on my website: [www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com)

### INDYSPORT, BOAT & TRAVEL SHOW

The Gad-a-bout will be in Tackle Town at Booth 346, same place as 2012. I hope some you come by the booth. I may be away from it for many reasons, give me a call on my cell 765-960-5767 and I will return as quickly as possible. There will be two comfortable padded chairs there, just sit a spell until I get there, there's plenty of reading material on the table besides all The Gad-a-bouts.



### GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOWS

Coming first is the 40th Annual Spring Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show & Sale March 1-3, 2013 in the Kuhlman Center in the Wayne County Fairgrounds on Salisbury Rd just north of U.S. 40 in Richmond, IN. Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 11-4. Donation: Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Students \$1 and under 7 Free. See more information on page 2 in their advertisement in this issue.

Coming next is the 15th Annual Spring Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Show

March 22-24, 2013 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Ag/Horticulture Building at 1202 East 38th St., Indianapolis, IN. Friday and Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5. Admission: Adults \$5 ticket good for all 3 days, Children under age 16 Free. See more information on page 2 in their advertisement in this issue.



Joe Belser, the new owner of French's Locker LLC, located at 106 Sycamore St. in Batesville, IN. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

### FRENCH'S LOCKER HAS A NEW OWNER

This past Tuesday, Feb 5th, I had the pleasure of meeting the new owner of French's Locker located in Batesville, IN., Joe Belser, a very pleasant young man who knows his chosen career field very well.

Joe is married, his wife's name is Bethany, they were married on June 16, 2012. They are both from Franklin County.

French's Locker has been in Batesville, IN for nearly 80 years (under various names), most recently it was taken over by Joe in August of 2011. Joe is from Franklin County and is a 2008 graduate of Franklin County H.S. In school he was an active member of the FFA, as well as a ten year 4-H member. With his background knowledge in farming, combined with French's employees, decades of experience butchering, he is sure the future looks bright for French's Locker.

Joe offers a full line of retail meat cuts, as well as year around deer summer sausage. He sells beef, pork, sheep, goat and deer processing. Locally grown 1/4, 1/2 or whole beef available, also 1/2 or whole pork. Other items he sells is liver, tongue, tail, heart, soup bones, farm fresh eggs, pies, chicken breast and whole cut-up chicken.

New changes to an old tradition! Obviously butchering is nothing new. However at French's Locker Joe believes there are some things that could use a little "updating." For instance he now has a

website that has both of his cut sheets available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, online at [www.frenchslocker.com](http://www.frenchslocker.com). He also has plans of setting up online video's for all of his customers so they can see how everything is done. From keeping identification records on each animal, to picking the right cuts to suit your families needs. These are just a few of the things that Joe has in mind to better serve, you his customers.

Visit Joe and his fine staff at French's Locker located at 106 Sycamore St. in Batesville, IN. Contact him by calling: 812-934-2902, e-mail: [jobelser@gmail.com](mailto:jobelser@gmail.com) or visiting his website at [www.frenchslocker.com](http://www.frenchslocker.com).

### CIVIL WAR DAYS RE-ENACTMENT IN CONNERSVILLE APRIL 20-21, 2013

David Hornung called me some time ago about their Historic Civil War Days Re-enactment to be held at Historic Elmhurst in Connersville, IN on Saturday April 20 & 21, 2013. This is their second year of doing the re-enactment. The event starts at 8:30 a.m. until ? Admission is \$4.00 daily, children CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

## Mendenhall

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Help Is Just Around The Corner.

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# CIVIL WAR DAYS

## RE - ENACTMENT

Historic Elmhurst Connersville, IN

**Sat, April 20th. & Sun. April 21st.**

8:30 am-?   
\$4.00 admission (daily)  
Children 10 and under free!  
(with paying adult)

See History Come To Life!



Dinner, Saturday, 6pm



Serving Authentic  
Civil War Era Food \$25.00

Sunday, 10am



Authentic Civil War Church Service

To Purchase Tickets  
please call David Hornung at 825-2295

Tours of Historic Elmhurst (on Saturday only) for an additional charge.



Fishing biologist stripping eggs off a big walleye. (Author Photo)



State egg taking station located at Brookville Lake. (Author Photo)

## So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe  
Professional Fishing Guide

### To Catch a Big Walleye On Brookville Lake

After this years long winter, March marks the time of the year that the lake starts to wake up.

In years past the best time to be out on the water to catch a big walleye was right after ice out. Since the lake never really froze over again this year, I would be on the water no later then March 1st. I have fished most of the winter and the fish have still all moved very deep in the lake just like all the years in the past. My strategy would still have to 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 the year you can catch a really big female walleye looking for a place to spawn. The down side to fishing this pattern is you only catch 1 or 2 fish in a days time. The up side is it could be a walleye weighing 10 to 12 pounds. My god thats a big fish. The walleye is one of the first fish to spawn in the lake and this will start to happen about the 3rd week of March. Now I say that, but last year we had an unseasonably warm early spring and the walleye started their spawning cycle at the beginning of March and it was over by the the third week of March. One of the biggest triggers to the start 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. With your window of opportunity being so small you had better be on top of your game.

Normally for walleye to spawn successfully the female has to deposit her eggs on rocks in shallow swift water. What this does is keep silt from settling on the eggs and suffocating them, but at Brookville lake its a little different. We have only one major flow of water coming into the lake and its the river that feeds the lake. The problem is that the shallow swift waters are few and far between.

So the state fishing biologist have sort of trained the walleye to spawn on rip rap within the lake with no current. They have done this by intervening in the spawning cycle using gill nets. At Brookville lake there is a walleye egg taking station. What they do is place the 100 foot gill nets end to end for say about 1000 feet. The nets are about 20 feet tall and are put in the water about 15 feet parallel to the shore. When the female and male walleye move into the shore to spawn at night they run into this wall of netting. The size of the nets are just big enough for the walleyes head to get through but not its body. The fish gets held in the net by its gills, hence the name gill net. From here the walleye are put in a tank in a boat then transported to a tank in a truck to the egg taking station on the lake property. From here the walleye are put in tanks with in the building at the egg taking station. The next step is to strip the eggs off the females by hand and then fertilize them by hand using the male walleye. Then these walleye are returned to the lake no worse for wear. From here the walleye eggs are taken to a fish hatchery and raised from an egg to a fry and all the way up to fingerling's. Then they are stocked through out the state of Indiana. The strange thing is that even though the walleye eggs were developed in a fish hatchery several miles away from Brookville lake the walleye fry that are stocked



Cody Chanley from Mauckport Indiana caught this big walleye fishing with me in the spring on Brookville Lake. (Author Photo)

back into Brookville lake go right back to the same rip rap areas to spawn when they are adults keeping the cycle going.

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 walleyes priorities switch from feeding to spawning. Good luck on your mission.

Send me the pictures!  
Good Luck Tag,

If you need more info e-mail me at [tag@tagnobbe.com](mailto:tag@tagnobbe.com) or go to the website [www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com](http://www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com) or call my cell phone 765-265-3238.

I guide fish for walleye, striped bass, and crappie starting mid-April till the mid-December, 7 days a week on Brookville Lake. We fish out of a 2007 Lund Pro V 2025 with a 225 Honda motor. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 - 4 people. The price is according to how many people go \$400.00 for 4 people, \$325.00 for 3 people, \$275.00 for 2 people and \$225.00 for 1 person. We start at 7:00 am and fish till 1:00 pm. To schedule trips call me at home 765-647-4329 or on my cell phone 765-265-3238.

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Guide: Tag Nobbe  
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Cell: 765-265-3238  
Web: [brookvillelakeguideservice.com](http://brookvillelakeguideservice.com)

Near Brookville Lake just south of Brookville on U.S. Hwy 52 (765) 647-3600

# News from the Indiana State Police



by Sergeant John D. Bowling  
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

## Douglas G. Carter takes Oath of Office as Superintendent of the Indiana State Police

Shortly after 1:00 p.m. on 1/14/2013, in the Indiana Supreme Court, Chief Justice Brent Dickson administered the Oath of Office to Douglas G. Carter, making him the 20th Superintendent of the Indiana State Police.

Superintendent Carter previously served 18 years with the state police from November 1984 until December of 2002 and was assigned to the Pendleton State Police District where he worked in Hamilton County. (Hamilton County is now part of the Indianapolis Post) He successfully ran for the elected office of Sheriff of Hamilton County, serving two terms from January 2003 to December 2010. After leaving the Sheriff's department Superintendent Carter accepted a position with the RQAW Corporation, an architectural firm specializing in the design and building of municipal buildings inclusive of jails, police and fire stations and criminal justice facilities.

Superintendent Carter was raised in LaPorte, Indiana where he graduated from LaPorte High School in 1980. He attended Ball State University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree with emphasis on Management, Leadership and Organizational Structure. He and his wife reside in Hamilton County, Indiana and have one daughter.

## Pendleton Post Forms New "Meth Squad"

The State Police has a Meth Suppression Section, which is a group of troopers and supervisors trained in the detection and dismantling of meth labs. Every district has troopers trained in meth to help combat the growing problem of the illegal labs. With the number of labs soaring in the Pendleton District, District Commander Lieutenant Tom Dujmovich took four meth trained troopers in the district and formed a "Meth Suppression Squad," and dedicated



DOUGLAS G. CARTER  
SUPERINTENDENT INDIANA STATE POLICE  
(Official Indiana State Police Photo)

them to just meth investigations.

In one 24 hour period in January, the squad went to six homes, dismantled five labs and arrested five people on multiple felony charges. Of those five homes, 2 were condemned on the spot by county health officials due to the level of contamination from the toxic chemical fumes. I wish I could tell you that this was just an unusually busy 24 hour period for the squad, but I can't. Unfortunately since their formation in January, the squad has had days like this every week. Speaking of those homes being condemned brings us to an interesting topic.

I recently took a call from a gentleman who is in charge of a large trust company that owns over 1000 rental properties around Indiana. He wanted to know how to educate his property managers on how to look for and detect a meth lab. He said that property insurance was no longer paying for fire damage caused by illegal meth labs, and it wouldn't pay for the toxic cleanup needed to make a property safe to live in.

Clean up can cost a property owner up to \$20,000, or more, with the problem being that anything porous, including furniture, drapes, carpeting, drywall etc. will absorb the toxic fumes and chemicals. In some cases, properties have to be destroyed because of the contamination. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the local health departments have to access the contamination, as well as the cleanup.

As you can see, if you own a rental and your renter has a meth lab, YOUR costs could add up quickly. Not to mention, if a neighbor's home or apartment is contaminated by the fumes, you could end up paying for their clean up as well. I've spoken to different insurance companies, and most tell me you can no longer count on your policy to cover the costs of damage caused by the illegal activity of a

meth lab.

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.

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. Renters that are meth cooks often have unexplained fires where the fire department is never called.

Other odors are comparable to strong cleaning solvent smells like you would associate with a body shop. Meth cooks use ammonia, which will smell like wet diapers only stronger. Look for aquarium size rubber tubing, used plastic pop bottles that may be melted and have white residue in the bottom, along with used packages of cold medicine, lithium batteries that have been pulled apart, and drain cleaner or camping fuel bottles or cans.

Meth Suppression Troopers are also finding more meth labs left unattended alongside the road, in vacant lots and along the edges of farmer's fields. Sometimes they're in backpacks or bags, sometimes just plastic pop bottles or camp fuel cans left unattended. Picking up one of the bottles or cans could have disastrous results, as the chemicals can explode throwing acid and flames everywhere.

If you suspect a family member, a renter or a neighbor is cooking meth, contact us to check it out before they contaminate or burn down their house or yours. Contact us before an unsuspecting kid finds a lab left on a roadside or in a field and gets hurt. 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.

The Indiana Meth Investigation System or IMIS, can also take tips on meth labs. Just go to [www.meth.in.gov](http://www.meth.in.gov) and click on the "Report Suspected Meth Activity" Link. Tips can be made and kept anonymous.

This ends another month's installment. Stay safe and remember to stop completely at stop lights and signs. Always look before pulling out, even when you have the green light. Just because that car coming the other way has the red light or stop sign doesn't mean they're going to stop.

A young man found that out the other day, as the light turned green for him and the lady in front of men turned left into his path. Luckily no one was hurt, but both vehicles were torn up. This was a prime example of why disregarding a traffic device and failing to yield remain top causes for fatal crashes in Indiana. The driver of the vehicle that failed to yield said her "mind was somewhere else." So, keep your mind on your driving and watch out for the other guy. Remember expecting the unexpected can help keep you and your family safe so we can talk again next month. ■

**CUT THIS OUT  
FOLD & CARRY IT  
WITH YOU AFIELD!!**

**REPORT METH TO:  
INDIANA STATE POLICE  
METH TIP LINE  
1-800-453-4756**



ITEMS FOUND AT METH LAB



# Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



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



## Critters, Conflict and the Web

Each year at about this time, conservation officers, as well as DNR personnel and offices everywhere, begin to field an increase in complaints of nuisance or orphaned wildlife. These calls range from concerns of wildlife babies that are perceived as being orphaned to damage of private property or general nuisance being done by wildlife. Assistance for these and similar animal complaints is available via 'the DNR website' with only a few clicks of the mouse.

Once at the Indiana DNR website [www.in.gov/dnr/](http://www.in.gov/dnr/), find the selection on the left side of the page that reads 'Land Owner & Community Assistance' and click on it. This should open up several selections. Click on the selection 'Fish & Wildlife'. The page that now appears is the nuts and bolts for nuisance wildlife resolutions. Land owners can find information on how to resolve wildlife conflicts themselves, how to find licensed nuisance wildlife control operators and **licensed wildlife rehabilitators for sick or truly orphaned wildlife.**

This is the portion of the DNR website that I seem to visit most often. When I get inquiries and complaints about nuisance or injured wildlife, this

# Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing  
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

## Happenings from the Great Lakes of the Wabash

Slowly approaching the arrival of the spring season and hopes of putting "Old Man Winter" in our rearview mirror, this is the time of year every outdoor enthusiast begins getting antsy to once again roam the outdoors. Fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and mushroom hunting all come to mind as I begin to think of the various activities that are associated with the changing of seasons into spring. It's always an exciting feeling when you look outside and see the trees beginning to bud and you know that the exciting, fun outdoors is soon to come!

Recently, due to the constant weather changes we have been experiencing throughout the winter months, the Great Lakes of the Wabash have seen their water levels go from winter pool to several feet over summer pool in a matter of a few days. This happened as a result of the temperature rising to the high fifties, thus melting the snow, and followed by days of heavy precipitation. It's hard for people to fathom the idea that this past summer the lakes were unable to get within 10 feet of summer pool all year and then to witness the levels recently rise well over 30 feet in a span of days due to the snow melt off and heavy rains! It just goes to show why these properties are considered flood control lakes and how the lake levels are all controlled by water runoff.

With the temperatures and water levels constantly changing this has also resulted in tough fishing condi-

tions. These lakes would get just enough good ice to start fishing and then the temperatures would rise and melt the ice. We have gone through a couple rounds of these scenarios and it has made it tough on the local ice fishermen. When they were able to get a few days on the ice they did manage to catch good quantities of fish although sometimes the quality didn't always match up.

Another fun activity tied to the snow and winter season is snowmobiling. Not a lot of people know that there are 40 miles of trails available for snowmobilers. These trails take you around the Salamonie Reservoir and provide many scenic views overlooking the lake. We have lacked the heavy snows required but it is something to keep in mind in the future for a fun and exciting local ride!

The Upper Wabash Interpretive Services recently hosted a two day Bald Eagle Watch. The return of the Bald Eagle has been a very exciting thing for people in this area and thanks to a reintroduction effort to help bring the Bald Eagle back to the state we have seen the amount of birds increase annually. These events provide individuals the chance to witness the beauty of the Eagle. Along with learning about the Eagle you are then escorted to a known roosting area and get to witness the birds coming in to the nest. This is a great opportunity to bring you binoculars and get an up close look at the beauty of the Bald Eagle.

In closing, I would like to pass on some important dates for crappie fishermen to mark on your calendars. The first dates are for the Crappie USA circuit which will have two events held in the state. The first one will be **May 18th** on Patoka Lake and this will be followed up on **June 15th** on the Salamonie, Mississinewa, and Huntington Reservoirs. The Bozarth Crappie Tourney dates held on the Salamonie Reservoir will kick off on **April 27th** and will be followed on **June 1st**, **September 14th**, and conclude on **September 28th**. For more info on these tourneys you may contact Bozarth's Country Store at **(765) 981-4522**. Lastly, the Indiana Slab Masters will have two of their ten tourney dates here at the Great Lakes of the Wabash. The first will be held June 8th on the Mississinewa and followed by June 22nd on the Salamonie.

For anyone interested in stocking up on all your fishing tackle needs you need to mark the week of March 2nd thru March 10th on your schedule! This is the annual Bozarth Tackle Sale. With a banquet room full of fishing goods you are sure to leave with a smile on your face! For more information or directions contact us at **(765) 981-4522**.

## Salamonie's Senior Monday Carry-in Luncheon to be held March 4

Seniors age 50 and over are invited to attend the monthly Senior Monday Carry-in Luncheon, March 4, 12 p.m., at Salamonie Interpretive Center, Lost Bridge West SRA, Andrews. Please note the new noon meal time. After the meal, Dan McCain will speak on the Wabash-Erie Canal.

Dan is involved as chairman of the all-volunteer group called "Delphi Historic Trails" which is part of NRCS's Earth Team. He is currently President of the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Association.

Attendees should plan to bring their table service, a prepared dish to share and \$1 donation to help defray costs of the provided main dish. Pre-registration is required.

To register or for more information, contact Upper Wabash Interpretive Services (UWIS) at **260-468-2127**.

For more information on other UWIS programs, see [www.dnr.IN.gov/uwis](http://www.dnr.IN.gov/uwis). Visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/upperwabash](http://www.facebook.com/upperwabash).

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Fisherpersons line the bank of the Brookville Lake Tailwater trying their luck at fishing at the East Fork Fishing Expo just a part of the 12th Annual Family Fun Day at Brookville.



Booths were filled with businesses, activities, organizations, etc. from near and the farthest from Indianapolis, IN. The event is free and everybody is invited. Hours 10am-1pm.

# Stayin' Alive 13th Annual Family Fun Day & East Fork Fishing Expo May 27, 2013

Article & Photos by Ray Dickerson

The 13th Annual Family Fun Day in Brookville, IN will be on Memorial Day, May 27, 2013. Last year it was hot, but well attended by young and old alike. The event is held at the Brookville City Park, which borders the East Fork of the Whitewater River (Tailwater of Brookville Lake), from just south of the U.S. 52 bridge to 8th Street in Brookville.

The East Fork Fishing Expo is open to young people from anywhere who wants to participate. The sponsor of this event, 52 Pickup Convenience Store. Brian "Snook" Nobbe co-owner of 52 Pickup helped originate this event, he especially likes to see youngsters attend who have never fished before.

If you would like to attend the East Fork Fishing Expo, when you get to Brookville go to 8th Street and head east, just before you reach the entrance to the Brookville City Park, on your left you will pass the "Hermitage" now a private home was built by J. Otis Adams as a studio, the entrance is a short distance. Drive slowly the park drive is narrow and may have scores of people walking along it. Continue driving north until you come to a parking lot on your left. The Fishing Expo is just across the park road adjacent to the tailwater. If you don't have a fishing pole, they will have all your child needs to catch a fish. Hopefully I will be there to take a photo of your first catch to put in this paper.

From this same parking area you can walk west to the 13th Annual Family Fun Day at the top of the hill. You will find free food, fun, games and prizes. Last year the booths were the Indianapolis Colts in Motion, Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati Red Rover, Mini 500 Hot

Wheels Race, Story Time by United Families, Crafts, Bounce House, Putting Green, Archery, Water Safety, Balloon Animals, Dunking Booth, CCE Art Van funded by United Way and Live Music. Booths and Setups featuring United Way of Franklin County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, My Brothers Keeper, Franklin County Public Library District, Franklin County Purdue Extension, Imagination Library of Franklin County, Brookville Fire Department, 52 Pickup, Brookville Kiwanis Club, Brookville Police Department, George's Family Pharmacy, E-911, YouthQuake, Franklin County Relay for Life, One Community One Family, Brookville Church of Christ, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Safe Passage, McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital, Department of Natural Resources, Office of the Indiana Attorney General, Franklin County EMS, Whitewater Valley RV, Franklin County Public Transportation, Brookville Healthcare, The Upper Room, Brookville/Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Brendon Higbie Memorial, Franklin Co. American Red Cross, Healthy Communities, Avon, I.W.I.N. Foundation, Brookville's Pink Pajama Party, United Families.

Bonnie and Mark Blades, who live in Brookville, were the co-founders of the Stayin' Alive Family Fun Day twelve years ago to give the children of not only Brookville, but children from anywhere who wants to come to Brookville and enjoy Memorial Day in a big way.

The Blades attended a similar activity, back then, in Cincinnati, Ohio. When they arrived back home in Brookville, Bonnie set about organizing the 1st Annual Stayin' Alive

Family Fun Day on Memorial Day.

On each Memorial Day at 9 a.m. a Parade goes to the 3 cemeteries for Memorial Day services and ends up at the Brookville Town Park for Family Fun Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Brookville Swimming Pool opens at 12 noon, giving visitors and town folk a place to go and cool off. It is located across the street from the park.

Bonnie and Mark Blades began planning the 2013 event when the 2012 event ended.

If you would like to become involved you are invited to attend their monthly meeting that is held the 4th Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Brookville, Indiana Government Center.

Stayin' Alive promotes a safer and healthier community. Melinda Brown is the Executive Director and will be glad to answer any of your questions.

For additional information contact Stayin' Alive at (765) 647-7272 or visit them on the web at [www.StayinAlive24.org](http://www.StayinAlive24.org).

## THE LAUREL HOTEL RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE



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SAME OWNERS FOR 20+ YEARS. WE ARE NOW READY FOR RETIREMENT. This is an Historical building. The original part of the building was built in the 1850's. At that time the train would stop at the R.R. Track next to the Hotel, people spent the night and then continued traveling. This is how it got the name "The Laurel Hotel." We no longer offer Hotel Rooms, but the name was never changed due to historic reasons.

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- For More Information you can call the owner at **765-698-2912** Wed-Sun after 10 a.m. **Ask For Mildred**
- Negotiable payment types can be discussed with the owners.*

## Family Fun Day

Save the Date for Stayin' Alive's  
13th Annual Family Fun Day.

Date: 05/27/2013

Time: 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Please mark your calendar for this annual event. We look forward to your participation by hosting a booth and providing an activity for children. This is a completely free event that will be held at the Brookville Town Park on Monday, Memorial Day. Thank you so much for your willingness to be a part of this fun-filled day.

Stayin Alive, Franklin County Phone: 765-647-7272  
E-mail: stayin\_alive24@hotmail.com  
Contact person: Bonnie Blades  
Melinda Brown Address: P.O. Box 64  
Brookville, Indiana 47012





Participants in a 2012 Canoe Race ply the waters of the Tailwater in hopes of winning.



Check out the new Brookville CanoeFest 2013 Activities at [www.brookvillecanoe.com](http://www.brookvillecanoe.com)

## BROOKVILLE CANOEFEST June 28-29, 2013

Article & Photo by Ray Dickerson

### CHAMPIONSHIP RACE

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

### BIATHLON CANOE RUN

The Biathlon starts at the tailwaters of Brookville Lake. The first leg, which is the canoe portion, runs the entire length of the East Fork where it then joins the west fork. After joining the West Fork the race continues along the Whitewater until the end of the

canoe segment at Morgan's Canoe Rental in Cedar Grove. After docking the canoes the second part of the race, foot race, begins. Leaving Morgan's the race continues south on S.R. 1 to River Road. Traveling along River Road, there will be drink stations along with some beautiful countryside. The finish line is located at the Franklin County Conservation Club ending up to be 15.1 miles in total length. Transportation will be available after the race.

### RECREATIONAL CANOE RACE

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

Racers in these races will finish at the Franklin Co. Conservation Club, approximately 1/2 mile south of the confluence of the East and West Forks of the Whitewater. Brookville CanoeFest officials expect many entrants in the Recreational Races, perhaps 300 or more, mostly novice canoeists.

The Recreational Canoe Races will be put into 2 "Waves", the first at 9:00 AM, and the second at 10:00 AM. on Saturday, June 29th starting at the

Tailwaters of Brookville Lake and racing down the East Fork of the Whitewater to a finish just below the confluence with the West Fork. A run that is popular with both the families and novices, and the experienced paddlers alike.

### 2 Person Teams

**Price:** Teams with at least 1 racer age 17 and under: \$20 Pre-Reg & Day of

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

**Class C-2 includes** Adult/Youth or Mixed Couples or Seniors or Fledgling or Men's Grudge Matches or Juniors or Womens.

### Wave 1 - 9:00 A.M.

Adult/Youth; Men's; Women; Seniors; Lawyer Grudge Match.

### Wave 2 - 10:00 A.M.

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

**Times subject to change!**

**Check back closer to Race Time.**

These races are intended for the novice, first-  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



# Indiana's Largest Canoe Race Turns 50

## JUNE 28th - 29th, 2013



**Canoe Races**



**Chicken Frying Contest**



**Brookville Idol Contest**



**Eventainment Both Nights**



**Fireworks Saturday Nights**

Get the full schedule at:

[www.brookvillecanoeFest.com](http://www.brookvillecanoeFest.com)

# Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

## Indian Ceremonies

As you know, almost every thing I do related to the Native People is involved in my years of relating to them in one way or another. Of the ceremonies, I have conducted most numerous over the years has been the Naming Ceremony. This originally was taken from the custom of adopting people into you family or nation. I have heard the telling of how "adoptions, relative by choice or blood brother ceremonies" were conducted. The one I use comes greatly from the Lakota and the teachings of Black Elk. In addition I have a rare copy of a book back in the 1920s as part of a series based on Native American Culture. The woman who wrote this book did her research with many of the Lakota elders. Some were at the fight with Custer on the Greasy Grass River (Little Big Horn) in the summer "that many men fell into camp." When asked if they would help her put down on the "talking leaves" the most sacred of these ceremonies. Their answer was that it was important to preserve the old ways, and they believed she was sincere in wanting to do this. If you haven't heard of the Lakota Holy Man Black Elk's books, carefully translated by sincere students of language and you should get a copy of "the Sacred Pipe" his great effort to teach both native and non-native the meaning of the pipe and other sacred ceremonies. The next time someone asks how I can be a Catholic and still be deeply involved in the rituals of the Native People, I am going to refer them to Black Elk, who ties not only Christian teachings and Native teachings together but he manages to show similarities with the eastern religions.

Call him God, Wakon tonka, All Father, Jehova, Allah or simply the Creator we are all speaking to the same "Being"

Dakota/Lakota/Nakota means allies, sometimes interpreted as brothers.

The Sioux People are called the Brother People. O'DAKOTA...Peace through Brotherhood. A true peace can only be achieved when we are children of the same Creator.

Next to Naming People my largest request was for the Spirit Releasing Ceremony. This ceremony like Hunka and the Giving of a Name, came with the White Buffalo Maiden, when she brought the Sacred Pipe to the people. In the 'old' days, we kept

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the spirit of a loved one with us for a time after we buried the body. The Spirit was placed in a bundle and kept in a tipi. It was honored as a sacred thing, 'wakan'. It was good to place the spirit outside, when the weather was good. When the spirit was placed outside it was placed in a three pole little tipi with the open side facing south, the direction of the 'holy road'.

The Spirit Bundle was hung inside this tipi while it was outside. When preparing to Release the Spirit, a three pole lodge is set up and the bundle hung inside. Just as when Keeping the Spirit, a woman of the family stays with it and cares for it, when Releasing the Spirit, a female member of the family sits with it by the tipi. At the end of the ceremony the bundle is burned and thus the spirit if released.

It has always been a great honor and personal pleasure for me to conduct these ceremonies. The one I enjoyed the most was the Marriage Ceremony. The binding of two souls together with the binding of LOVE, which can only be broken by one of the two being bound. I look back and hoped that the couples I have married remained strong in their love and thus strong in their union. I ember the weddings more than the others because there were so few. The one at Gov. Bebb where the couple were first married as pioneer settlers and than as native people. Or, the one where the bride's aunt, a Lakota, came to Cincinnati for the ceremony and complimented me on the authenticity of it. Then there was the one at California Woods where the groom and his friends danced before the ceremony, and the bride's female relatives escorted her to the circle. I remember another one where the couple handed out saplings after the wedding. I planted mine at LaBoiteaux.

Where ever they are today, I know that the Great Spirit looks with favor on them all. That he remembers the newly named when they stand before him, the released spirits as they join his family in the Spirit Land and the newly weds and their families as they are today. It's been over sixty years, my how time passes.

May Grandfather look with pleasure on all of you as he has with me.

Until next time, Wakontonka nichiuin.

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# Prairie Wolf Gun Repair



by Marshall Smith

## Customizing your Mosin Nagant rifle

Thought I would bring this up this month as I have a friend who enjoys buying and customizing the Mosin Nagant M91/30 7.62x54r.

- Shortened Barrel to 20", carbine length.
- Crowned muzzle with 11° crown to improve accuracy.
- Stock shortened and sanded smooth with plans to add a camouflaged paint scheme.
- Mounted an NcStar 2-7X32 Pistol Scope on an Aim Sports M44/Mosin Nagant 91/30 Short Scope Mount using Weaver low profile scope rings.
- Attached a UTG Tactical OP Bipod - SWAT/Combat Profile with Adjustable Height.
- Aim Sports Mosin Nagant 1-Inch Extended Recoil Buttpad to replace military stock pad.
- Added a Russian 91/30 M44 Mosin Nagant Rifle PISTOL GRIP by dey for better control.
- A trigger job to shorten and smooth the trigger pull and a pillar bedding job is planned.

Many of the readers may think that customizing and accurizing a military rifle like the Mosin-Nagant is a waste of time and money. The value of the customized rifle is not determined by the amount of



Mosin Nagant M91/30 7.62x54r rifle. (Author Photo)

money spent to customize the rifle but by the value of the benefits to the owner/shooter. I tend to think that the point is not to increase its value but to make the gun yours. That is, your design, your fit, your polish, all goes into the gun and becomes one with you. There is no price tag on fitting the gun to your particular (or sometimes peculiar) requirements. If all you look at when thinking of a gun is how much you can sell it for or what it is worth after you do the customizing, then the don't plan on customizing or tricking out the gun. Customizing a gun is much like customizing your car or motorcycle. You're doing it for you and not anyone else.

The same goes for restoring that old gun in the closet. Maybe it's one your Dad or Grandfather handed down to you when you were a young boy or girl. It's broke, or rusted, or just in poor condition. Is it worth restoring? That question is only good if you are planning on selling the gun. Are you planning on handing it down to a son or daughter? Do you want to take it to the shooting range and plink away like in your youth? Then I'd say, Yes, it's worth whatever joy you found in it before, and the joy it may provide to others.

I see a lot of 22s or 410s that were given as first guns and now are in need of repair or restoration. Most were inexpensive guns then and not rare enough to be worth a large sum on money today. But many were good solid guns with good metal and walnut or beech stocks. I enjoy restoring those guns and making them look and feel like new. The joy I see the customer's face when the gun is picked up makes me realize that you can't put a price on good memories. Do you have an old gun in the closet? Maybe you should think of restoring it or just getting it cleaned up and in good shooting condition again. You might feel the need to pass it on some day or just have some fun today.

Of course there are a few old, rare, firearms that are worth considerable sums of money to collectors. Those firearms are pieces of history and should be considered as museum pieces. Protected and maintained in as close to original as possible. Ours and

future generations need to know how our ancestors lived and hunted in earlier times. If you have a gun that you have customized or restored and would like me to present it in a future article contact me at prairiewolfguns@gmail.com.

### The Gun Control Debate

There have been many stories and misinformation circulating about the Sandy Hook Shooting and the weapons used. Below is the latest press release as of this writing from the Connecticut State Police.

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2013

\*\* UPDATE \*\*

### STATE POLICE IDENTIFY WEAPONS USED IN SANDY HOOK INVESTIGATION; INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

In previous press conferences, the Connecticut State Police clearly identified all of the weapons seized from the crime scene at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

To eliminate any confusion or misinformation, we will again describe and identify the weapons seized at the school crime scene.

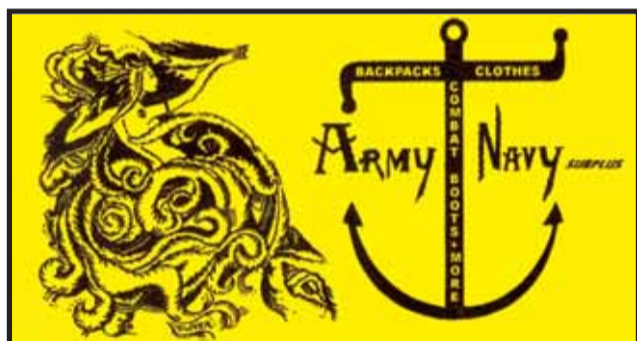
#### Seized inside the school:

- #1. Bushmaster .223 caliber-- model XM15-E2S rifle with high capacity 30 round magazine
- #2. Glock 10 mm handgun
- #3. Sig-Sauer P226 9mm handgun

#### Seized from suspects car in parking lot:

- #4. Izhmash Canta-12 12 gauge Shotgun (seized from car in parking lot)

Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif seems to think she speaks for the majority of the people. In her interview on CBS Face the Nation on Sunday January 27, 2013 she said "You want to talk about rights? Talk about the rights of the Majority too." She was talking about the right to be safe and the survey of 50,000 respondents. Being "safe" is relative to your circumstances or the events taking place around you. A gun neither makes you safe nor does it make you unsafe. A home, an office, theater, school, doesn't make you safe or unsafe. Government imposed laws restricting our rights may make one more unsafe but not safe. Laws only apply to those people who respect the law and obey the law. We humans like to think we are in control but circumstance dictates otherwise. The best we can do is to be and act responsibly in our life. Is Senator Feinstein acting responsibly when she tries to limit guns and gun ownership? I don't think she is. Would it not be more responsible of her and the administration to approach the real prob-



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Continued from page 11: approach the real prob-

# Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

## THE TOUGHEST CATCH

Since there are five species of salmon and trout in the Great Lakes (seven if you count pink and Atlantic salmon), I'm often asked which one fights the best. My answer is surprising to most.

No fish in the lakes is harder to boat than a nine-pound chinook.

I'll temper that answer with one disclaimer. That's most of the time and most consistently.

Anytime someone claims a particular species of fish "always" fights a specific way, they are wrong. I've experienced lake trout jumping like steelhead, cohos pulling like kings, browns hound-dogging like lakers and probably had every stereotype ignored by every species at one time or another.

Suffice it to say, most steelhead jump when they are first hooked. Most kings feel the steel and head for the other side of the lake. Most cohos spin like a top when you try to pull them that last 10 feet to the net. And almost all 9-pound kings are tough to handle.

Since kings twice or three times that big are present in the lakes, wouldn't one think an 18-pounder or 27-pounder would give a greater battle? Pull harder? Sure. Fight longer? Absolutely. Tougher to catch? No way!

Because there are 18 and 27-pound kings in the lake and a good chance to catch one of them on every fishing trip, Great Lake anglers have learned to use tackle suited to the test. Twenty-pound test line on salmon and trout rigs is fairly standard, matched to rods stiff enough for line that strong and reels with slick drag systems.

Hook a big king and (typically) the first thing it's going to do is head for the other side of the lake. Reel in half the line it pulled out and expect it to make another run. Before you can crank it up near the surface and close to the boat, count on one or two more dashes for freedom. Finally, nearly spent, apply a last bit of pressure and float the tired fish over the extended net.

The process may have tired you out. It certainly



The biggest fish isn't necessarily the toughest to catch. (Author Photo)

tired the fish out. I've seen man vs. salmon battles lasting a half hour or more. But realistically, as long as the line doesn't break or the hooks pull free, the end result is almost preordained.

Now have a 9 pound king nail the bait. It will try to head for the other side of the lake, but after a run of 20 or 30 feet, it's snubbed up short. Keep reeling and in a minute or two or three, you've got it up to the top and heading to the net. Or do you?

This isn't a fish that has just burned off it's energy reserves peeling football-field-lengths of line off and endured a half-hour fight for life. This is one that's been dragged towards your boat kicking and screaming on line testing more than twice its weight. This is one that still has energy reserves and you can expect it to use them right behind your boat. That's right where other downrigged lines are set, where diver lines are stretched. I've seen them dive for the shade under the boat or make mad dashes towards the inside planer boards.

There's no anticlimactic sliding of a whipped fish over the landing net. Try a mad scoop as the fish comes racing by determined to play at least one more bit of mischief before being conquered.

The next time you feel a bit of remorse that your fish wasn't the giant specimen you hoped to hook, be proud. If it was a king of weighing 9 pounds or so, you just caught one of the toughest-to-catch fish in the lake.

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# South Bay



This antler was apparently dropped on the surface of new fallen snow. The time was late February. (Author Photo)



This skull and antlers was found 25 from the remains of the body skeleton. (Author Photo)

### and that's the news from **West Central Indiana**



by Don Bickel, Forester

## Sheds and Deads

Late February and early March, the time for the whitetail buck to shed that headgear he has been carrying through the fall and winter. For us who have seen the passing of various hunting seasons, this event gives another opportunity to go to the woods.

A firearm or other weapon will not be needed. Maybe a walking staff or cane, in case there is yet some frost in the ground, causing a slick spot. With air temperatures rising to the 40's and 50's, what better exercise than walking woods, thickets and field edges looking for shed antlers.

These antlers, whether whitetail deer, mule deer, elk, moose or caribou are the fastest growing tissue in the animal world. With the whitetail buck, the site of the shed antler in march will have produced another full sized antler within 12 to 16 weeks. There is some study in the medical community concerning

the relationship of fast growing antlers and fast growing cancer cells.

Although often misinterpreted, antler size is only slightly related to the age of the deer. There seems to be a closer correlation to nutrition - food supply and the deer population within a particular area. A 1 1/2 year buck may sport an 8 point rack if it is in an area of agricultural food supply, while a similar age buck in an area of woodland browse might produce only 4 points.

But all of this said, now in late February and March is the time to

search through the woods and fields for those shed trophies. This same walk and search may allow the discovery of the skull, with antlers attached, or even the full skeleton of a fall or winter killed deer. Deer do die of events other than bullet or arrow.

Antlers are bone and contain calcium and are readily eaten by woodland rodents - mice and squirrels. For this reason, the perfect antler will be found shortly after it is dropped by the buck. The skull with antlers attached will often have "nibble marks" from mice, particularly if the deer died in November or December and the skull is found in March. The site of the deer's demise is often marked by a large circle of light colored hair, having been scattered about by coyotes.

There is no one specific place to find a shed antler. Unless "anywhere" is a specific place. Begin by walking the noticeable deer trails. Pay particular attention to places where the trail goes through a thicket of heavy and brushy growth. When the antler loosens from it's base or pedicle, a nudge from a branch will cause it to fall.

Where the trail intersects a fence or a narrow ditch, which in turn causes the buck to jump, may be a likely area to find a shed antler. The force of a landing on the opposite side of the obstruction causes the antler to loosen and fall either immediately or several feet away.

If bedding areas are known to the shed hunter, these locations deserve a definite "look through". If beds in these areas are numerous, they may have



Lori Leaman's "Found Dead" whitetail skull and antlers scored 161 typical. It was found in northeast Montgomery County, October 2012. (Author Photo)

been used by a group of does and yearlings. Search the perimeter of these bedding areas where the buck or bucks may have bedded.

Walk the wood's edge where it parallels a crop of pasture field. The field itself may be too large to search, but give the near edge of the field a "lookover" as you walk along. In a corn stubble situation, the color of the antler may blend with the color of the stalk. However in a winter-burned hay field the antler may easily be seen.

A light snow in the woods or field may help the discovery. A spike antler will be a hard item to find in any situation, but the curve and times of the single 4 point rack will tend to stand out above a inch or so of snow.

Antler hunting as any other hunting or outdoor activity means acquire permission to trespass on another's land. Quite likely this permission will be readily given, since a fair number of farmers have experienced an antler time in a tractor tire.

Seldom will the matched pair of antlers be found lying next to each other. For myself, it has only happened one time. It was March, in the bottoms along Raccoon Creek, Parke Co.. The abandoned crop field had grown a great number of cedar trees and at the base of a 10 footer, the matched pair of an 8 point rack lay. The assumption being, the buck raked his antlers across the branch ends of the cedar tree and both antlers dislodged. It is said that perhaps the loosening base of the antler itches, causing the buck

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 27**



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# Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN FEBRUARY

It happens every year. The planet slowly rotates on its axis causing our days to become shorter and temperatures to drop from the reduced exposure to sun light. It starts happening late in October and by February we're trapped in our homes like a bunch of penguins isolated on an Arctic ice flow. It seems like, as soon as we finish breakfast it's time to get ready for bed again. The lakes and ponds are frozen over, the battery in the car wouldn't light a match, and the monthly heat bills would pay for a semester of college for a kid. It's the time of year that causes cabin fever, depression, and in general, the old blue funk. Any attempts to break up the monotony by daily trips to Sprawl Mart just deepens the misery.

Desperate to find anything to keep me sane, I've considered repainting the den by using my dentures to scrape the old paint off the walls and using a toothbrush to apply the new coat. I thought that should occupy at least two months. Then a problem arose that knocked any plans into a cocked hat,

My wife and I had made all the arrangements for a few weeks in Florida but a sudden need for surgery on my shoulder scrubbed those plans, because for at least six weeks the arm will be in a sling with orders not to move it. So now, not only will I not be able to bask in the warm waters of Tampa Bay or spend enjoyable hours fishing off the jetties for strange species of fish, I'll have to learn how to put my socks on with one hand. After that comes six more weeks of passive therapy, whatever that means. In other words I'll probably be a useless derelict until sometime in the middle of May. I'm considering getting a monkey, a tin cup a squeeze box, and a pair of dark glasses and spending the beginning days of spring sitting on a mat on the town square, singing my sad life's story while the monkey collects donations in the tin cup.

Perhaps a sign that reads, "Help An Aging Fisherman Regain His Respect And Former Profession" would help. But, that brings to mind another problem. How does someone with a disabled arm fish in the first place? I've been trying to picture the scene. To put on a crappie jig, I'll wrap the line around my neck and put the end of it in my mouth with about six inches sticking out. With the good hand I'll thread the line through the eye of the hook, clamp onto that end with my teeth and start winding it into a half hitch. With the good hand I'll pull the knot tight. Casting won't prove a problem, but the retrieval could. The best solution would be to take off my shoes and socks, wrap my toes around

the rod butt and the rod limb, then reel in with the good hand. However, if I should catch something, this method may have to change. Then, it might be best to hold the rod butt with the good hand and reel it in with the toes on one foot. Should I boat a fish I'll no doubt have to hold it down with a foot and remove the hook by hand. My only hope is that I don't catch anything larger than a six inch crappie because I have problems enough with two hands handling anything much larger. Ask Rollin, my fishing partner, how many times I've gotten excited and tried to use the old Wabash method to boat a fish and ended up with nothing but a poor excuse to show for it.

Given that I may be allowed to at least move around within a week or two, I may break my standing rule of, "if there is solid water on top of the lake, I have to assume that Mother Nature has built a roof over the fish to protect them." In other words, I've always felt that ice fishing should be left to those brave souls who would dare to risk life and limb by either sitting on ice, freezing, or falling into the water under it and freezing even faster. But, if given the alternative of either being hauled away in a straight jacket from cabin fever or doing something, anything, I might consider ice fishing. Equipment would consist of a folding lawn chair, six layers of thermal underwear, a gas powered Coleman heater, a one man mountain tent, a short rod without a reel, bait, and a concrete block tied to a length of rope. On the end of a dock I'll set up the chair and the tent, fire up the heater and holding on to one end of the rope, drop the concrete block off the dock and knock a hole through the ice. Then it's a simple matter to retrieve the block, lower the fishing line through the hole and settle back in comfort and wait. There is one problem, however. I understand that most successful ice fishing is done with live bait, such as minnows, bee moths or worms. It's going to be a very cold day in you-know-where before I'll hold the bait in my teeth and try to thread it on a hook with my good hand. Perhaps I could use artificial baits, but if I were going to suffer like all the rest of those ice fishing stalwarts out there, I wouldn't think about doing it any other way than using the good old fashioned methods. I guess I'll settle for sitting at the patio door and watching the birds on the feeder.

All joking aside, I admire anyone who adjusts to either a temporary or permanent loss of the use of a limb, especially the strong or primary one. I'm already practicing doing the simple every day things that we unconsciously use both hands to do, with only one hand. If you've never tried it, do so and admire anyone who has mastered the art, permanently.

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# CAPT. BILL EMBRY'S 2013 INDIANA BASS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Ramp</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
17-Mar-13	Hoosier Open Team	Patoka	N.S.S.	Jeff & Terri Rude	765-434-3636
21-Apr-13	Hoosier Open Team	Patoka	N.S.S.	<a href="http://www.hoosieropen.com">www.hoosieropen.com</a>	
19-May-13	Hoosier Open Team	Ohio River	Tanners Creek		
23-Jun-13	Hoosier Open Team	Monroe	Cutright		
14-Jul-13	Hoosier Open Team	Ohio River	Rocky Pt.		
18-Aug-13	Hoosier Open Team	Patoka	N.S.S.		
21,22 Sept- 13	Hoosier Open Team Classic	Monroe	Cutright		
<b>April 7 2013</b>	<b>Indiana Bass Federation</b>	<b>Patoka</b>	<b>N.S.S.</b>	<b>Kenny Swint</b>	<b>317-416-4579</b>
<b>May 12 2013</b>	<b>Indiana Bass Federation</b>	<b>Brookville</b>	<b>Fairfield</b>	<a href="http://www.Indianabass.com">www.Indianabass.com</a>	
<b>June 1 &amp; 2 2013</b>	<b>Indiana Bass Federation</b>	<b>Ohio River</b>	<b>Rocky Pt.</b>		
<b>Aug. 4 2013</b>	<b>Indiana Bass Federation</b>	<b>Ohio River</b>	<b>Tanners Creek</b>		
<b>Sept.8 2013</b>	<b>Indiana Bass Federation</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>Cutright</b>		
<b>Oct. 5&amp;6 2013</b>	<b>Indiana Bass Fed. Classic</b>	<b>Patoka</b>	<b>N.S.S.</b>		
23-Mar-13	Anglers Choice	Monroe	Cutright	Travis Feverbach	317-445-0386
6-Apr-13	Anglers Choice	Monroe	Cutright	<a href="http://www.Anglerschoice.com">www.Anglerschoice.com</a>	
4-May-13	Anglers Choice	Monroe	Cutright		
8-Jun-13	Anglers Choice	Monroe	Cutright		
14-Jul-13	Anglers Choice	Monroe	Cutright		
10-Aug-13	Anglers Choice	Monroe	Cutright		
7-Sep-13	Anglers Choice	Monroe	Cutright		
<b>6-Apr-13</b>	<b>Anglers Choice</b>	<b>Geist</b>	<b>Olio Rd.</b>	<b>Jim McWhiter</b>	<b>574-870-0037</b>
<b>18-May-13</b>	<b>Anglers Choice</b>	<b>Morse</b>	<b>Marina Ramp</b>	<a href="http://www.Anglerschoice.com">www.Anglerschoice.com</a>	
<b>9-Jun-13</b>	<b>Anglers Choice</b>	<b>Geist</b>	<b>Olio Rd.</b>		
<b>30-Jun-13</b>	<b>Anglers Choice</b>	<b>Shafer</b>	<b>Beach Ramp</b>		
<b>21-Jul-13</b>	<b>Anglers Choice</b>	<b>Freeman</b>	<b>Dodge Camp</b>		
<b>17-Aug-13</b>	<b>Anglers Choice</b>	<b>Morse</b>	<b>Marina Ramp</b>		
<b>21-Sep-13</b>	<b>Anglers Choice</b>	<b>Geist</b>	<b>Olio Rd.</b>		
23-Mar-13	B F L	Patoka	N.S.S.	<a href="http://www.Flwoutdoors.com">www.Flwoutdoors.com</a>	
13-Apr-13	B F L	Monroe	Cutright		
8-May-13	B F L	Patoka	N.S.S.		
27-Jul-13	B F L	Ohio River	Rocky Pt.		
9/14 & 9/15 2013	B F L	Ohio River	Tanners Creek		
<b>April 24 2013</b>	<b>Hoosier Open Seniors</b>	<b>Patoka</b>	<b>N.S.S.</b>	<b>Jeff &amp; Terri Rude</b>	<b>765-434-3636</b>
<b>22-May-13</b>	<b>Hoosier Open Seniors</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>Cutright</b>	<a href="http://www.Hoosieropen.com">www.Hoosieropen.com</a>	
<b>26-Jun-13</b>	<b>Hoosier Open Seniors</b>	<b>Morse</b>	<b>Marina Ramp</b>		
<b>July 24 2013</b>	<b>Hoosier Open Seniors</b>	<b>Shafer</b>	<b>Beach Ramp</b>		
<b>Aug. 28 2013</b>	<b>Hoosier Open Seniors</b>	<b>Giest</b>	<b>Olio Rd.</b>		
<b>Sept. 25 2013</b>	<b>Hoosier Open Seniors</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>Cutright</b>		
<b>Oct.16 &amp;17 2013</b>	<b>Hoosier Open Seniors Classic</b>	<b>Shafer</b>	<b>Beach Ramp</b>		
20-Apr-13	Indiana Childrens Wish Tour.	Patoka	N.S.S.	Jeremy Case A20 Boating Supplies	
<b>15-Jun-13</b>	<b>Rileys Childrens Tour.</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>Cutright</b>	<b>Troy Keen</b>	<b>317-341-4893</b>
22-Jun-13	Benefit for Susan G. Komen	Monroe	Cutright	<b>Lisa Nesty</b>	<b>812-240-2753</b>
				<a href="mailto:leesa.nesty@gmail.com">leesa.nesty@gmail.com</a>	
				<a href="http://www.Indianabass.com">www.Indianabass.com</a>	
				<a href="http://www.Infn.us">www.Infn.us</a>	
				<b>Nathan Sipes</b>	<b>317-512-3946</b>
				<a href="http://www.Fonmtt.com">www.Fonmtt.com</a>	
<b>July 20 &amp; 21 2013</b>	<b>T.B.F State Finals</b>	<b>Wawasee</b>	<b>Syracuse ramp</b>		
June 29 & 30 2013	B.A.S.S. State Finals	Wawasee	Syracuse ramp		
<b>6-Apr-13</b>	<b>Fisher's of Men South Div.</b>	<b>Monroe</b>	<b>Cutright</b>		
<b>27-Apr-13</b>	<b>Fisher's of Men South Div.</b>	<b>Brookville</b>	<b>Fairfield</b>		
<b>1-Jun-13</b>	<b>Fisher's of Men South Div.</b>	<b>Patoka</b>	<b>N.S.S</b>		
<b>22-Jun-13</b>	<b>Fisher's of Men South Div.</b>	<b>Patoka</b>	<b>N.S.S</b>		
<b>13-Jul-13</b>	<b>Fisher's of Men South Div.</b>	<b>Ohio River</b>	<b>Charlestown</b>		
<b>10-Aug-13</b>	<b>Fisher's of Men South Div.</b>	<b>Patoka</b>	<b>N.S.S</b>		
6-Apr-13	Fisher's of Men North Division	Geist	Olio Rd.	<b>Sharon Tighe</b>	<b>765-620-3753</b>
4-May-13	Fisher's of Men North Division	Shafer	Monon	<a href="http://www.Fonmtt.com">www.Fonmtt.com</a>	
8-Jun-13	Fisher's of Men North Division	Raccoon	Park ramp		
13-Jul-13	Fisher's of Men North Division	Morse	Marina Ramp		
10-Aug-13	Fisher's of Men North Division	St.Joe River	Margaret Pritchett Ramp		
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Dr. Glen Lehman from Indianapolis flyfishing in the Brookville Tailwater has a fish on his line. (Photo by Derrick Filkins, reprinted here with his permission)



Above: A nice brown trout caught and released. Bottom: Carol Filkins Fly fishing in the Tailwater working her way downstream just below U.S. 52 bridge. (Photos by Derrick Filkins, reprinted here with his permission)

## “WHITEWATER RIVER” RENDEZVOUS

by *Derrick Filkins*

Member of *FlyMasters of Indianapolis*

### “Whitewater River Rendezvous is Coming!”

The town of Brookville and Franklin County is rebuilding their physical and hospitality presence in Southeastern Indiana and are excited about inviting anglers to enjoy the fishing in the Brookville Tailwater, East and West Fork of the Whitewater River, Brookville Lake, and Whitewater State Park. Plans are in the works for a big event April 6, 2013 to showcase all the resources the town of Brookville and the surrounding country have to offer.

Some of you may remember that the DNR rules committee considered some rule changes for the Brookville Tailwater during the fall of 2009.

Not only have attitudes changed, but the actions by the town have dramatically changed. I got a call from Jud McMillin a few weeks ago who was inquiring how to get the fly anglers back to town. I met with Jud and several other people from Brookville and they were excited to share their plans and show me what they had already accomplished. These people want to turn their town into something special and they are asking

for support. It is a great opportunity.

They have a very large beautiful gathering hall in downtown Brookville. We have decided to have the First "Whitewater River Rendezvous" in Brookville on Saturday, April 6th, 2013. This will be a gathering of people who enjoy fly tying and fly fishing. They are providing the building for free and it is my job to get as many fly fishing anglers to Brookville on April 6 as I can. The format will be simple. Tables and chairs provided for

people to come and tie flies, sell flies, swap or sell equipment, etc. They will have food and beverages available for purchase right in the meeting area. The town itself will have a few tables for people who have business that might be used by anglers. The tailwater will be open so it could provide opportunity for people to fish or receive instruction. The west fork is only a 5 minute walk from this building and the tailwater a very short drive.

Here is more about what will be taking place at the **First Annual Whitewater River Rendezvous. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5p.m.**

We will meet in an auditorium above the Fitness Center which is located at 734 Main Street, Brookville, Indiana. Main Street is also State Road 52. We will have room for 32, 5 foot diameter tables for anglers to use as a fly tying exhibits; promotion  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 27**



Meeting hall at 734 Main Street, Brookville, Indiana. (Photo by Derrick Filkins, reprinted here with his permission)



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Visit the 15th Annual Swap Meet at the Franklin County Fairgrounds just south of Brookville on the County Park Road. (Photos from past Swap Meets provided by Robert Andrews)

# 15th Annual Franklin County Antique Machinery Club Swap Meet April 6, 2013

by Robert Andrews

Franklin Co Antique Machinery Club, Inc.

2013 will be the 15th year for the Franklin County Antique Machinery Club's Swap Meet located at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Brookville, Indiana on April 6, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

How we came about having our first swap meet took place at one of our early 1998 monthly meetings. One of our members, John Renck recommended we have a swap meet in the coming spring. This was voted upon and our first swap meet was on its way. John Renck was appointed the chairman of the meet. It was decided the club have the swap meet on the first Saturday of April. Admission would be \$2 per person, children under would be 14 free. Since then the admission is \$3



per person, children under 14 free.

At that time the ladies of the club prepared coffee and donuts, to take the chill off. Over the years the food menu went to a hot breakfast and of course homemade sweets, which always goes first. We display the coming fall shows' Featured Tractor with a pedal tractor and sell Club Memorabilia.

Over the 14 years we have had good and helpful club participation getting ready for the swap meet.

Since 1998 the swap meet has grown. Our first year we had approximately 10 vendors. Since then we have grown to about 100 vendors with a 2012 attendance of over 1000. It's a good time for everyone to get together and catch up on the latest deals or just seeing familiar faces. The vendors

swap or sell all types of agricultural equipment, horse drawn equipment to mowers, bikes or whatever attracts the eye. We have vendors from Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and as far as Illinois.

Our club has equipment to load heavy items that have been sold.

Everyone is welcomed whether you are selling, buying or just coming out for a good and friendly day.

Mark you calendar for April 6, 2013 at 9 a.m. till 3 p.m.

For more information contact Wilfred Schwegman 812-525-5351 or Roger Pettit 513-385-7128. Check out their website: [www.fcamc.org](http://www.fcamc.org) for both this Swap Meet and also our *Antique Machinery Show September 26-29, 2013.*

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# Outdoors



With Rich Creason

## River Otters Thriving in Indiana

Around 1942, river otters were officially considered gone from the Hoosier state. For the next 50 years, few, if any, otters were seen here. Then, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources began to reintroduce these interesting mammals to various parts of the state. Beginning in 1995, biologists acquired 303 river otters from Louisiana and started releasing them in 12 various sites in northern and southern Indiana. After being gone for over half a century, otters were reappearing in their historic range.

Because of this successful return to its natural habitat, just 10 years after the first release, otters were removed from the state's endangered species list. After being introduced into streams, rivers, lakes, and other watersheds, those areas considered its prime habitat, otters spread into other areas thought less desirable by the biologists. Now, they can be found in over 80% of the 92 counties of this state. Central Indiana, one of the areas considered undesirable for an otter population, now have a growing number.

While unrestricted trapping for their luxurious fur was one of the reasons for the near extinction of this animal in Indiana, severe decrease in water quality, and habitat loss were also factors. Eastern, southeastern and Midwest states were mostly affected because of human population increase while the northern and western states retained most of their otter numbers. Cleanup efforts in Indiana have made the comeback of these animals possible. Now, most otter mortality comes from accidental trapping and roadkill.

Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge was the site of the first release with 25 of the imported mammals quickly enjoying their new home. Jefferson Proving Grounds was another southeast Indiana location to receive the furry critters. In the northern part of the state, Tippecanoe River State Park, Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area, Mallard Roost WCA, Etna Green, Eel River, and Salamonie Lake became introduction areas. Since those early releases, IDNR figures showed in 2011 that otters were abundant in 31 Indiana counties, common in six, uncommon in 16, rare in 22, and unreported in 17.



Left Photo: A River Otter in the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in South Eastern Indiana. Right Photo: Here a River Otter in the Tippecanoe River State Park. (Photos by John Maxwell, IDNR Wildlife Biologist & Photographer)

The river otter, scientific name *Lutra canadensis*, is a member of the weasel family being a relative of weasels and mink which it resembles in shape if not size, and also with skunks and badgers which it doesn't resemble at all. It is a large, elongated mammal with a broad, flattened head, prominent whiskers, and small ears. Its gorgeous, glossy, fur contributed to the decline of the animal by trappers. While the otter lives on both land and in the water, it is more adapted to an aquatic life. The streamlined body, webbed feet, and long tail allow it to move swiftly and gracefully under water. The eyes are mounted high on the head to allow it to see while most of its body is submerged. Its fur has two layers, a coarse waterproof outer layer and a soft, fine under layer which keeps the animal warm. A thick layer of fat under the skin also insulates it from the cold.

Otters generally live in a burrow in a bank or under the roots of large fallen trees along a waterway. These aren't built by the otter but usually are a natural occurrence or a former home of muskrats, beavers, and other animals in their environment. They are nocturnal animals, but may come out during the day on occasion. They are strong swimmers often attaining speeds of five or six miles per hour. They can remain underwater for three or four minutes if necessary. They remain active year round, swimming under the ice and playing in the snow on land.

River otters are playful animals, swimming and diving in the water, chasing each other, and generally just seeming to have a good time. They have often been seen sliding down riverbanks on their belly in slippery mud to splash into the water. They do the same thing in the winter, sliding on the snow.

The main food of the otter is fish. It can glide on the surface until it spots its prey, then it arches

its back and dives. Using its powerful feet as paddles and its tail as a rudder, it can capture the most agile quarry. In shallower water, it searches for crayfish, mussels, frogs and other forms of meat.

Mating takes place in the winter, from December to April, but the young aren't born until about a year later from January to May. The litter usually consists of two to four young which are blind and toothless. Their eyes open around a month later, the cubs come out of the den when they are 10 to 12 weeks old, and weaning occurs around four months of age.

Work in Indiana to improve water quality has certainly benefited the increase in otter numbers. As the waters improve, the numbers of the prey sought by these mammals also increases. But, a major problem with a fish diet is if the otters can't find enough fish in its natural habitat, it often goes in search of a pond which some unsuspecting landowner has stocked with captive dinners. The owner will soon discover his valuable fish are now otter food. Other landowners may feel watching the otter play and swim in his pond is worth losing a few fish. In 2011, Indiana Wildlife Biologists received 34 complaints about river otters using privately owned ponds as their private seafood restaurant. Last year, the number increased to 58. Commercial fish hatcheries are also subject to predation by the rapidly expanding population of Hoosier otters. If the problem becomes severe enough, a landowner can apply to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for a Nuisance Permit to kill or trap the offending creatures.

As with other species in this and other states, biologists have to contend with at what point do numbers expand too much and what they will do when that point is reached.

The author may be reached at [eyewrite4u@aol.com](mailto:eyewrite4u@aol.com).

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# Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

## Tips for successfully bow hunting turkeys

Let's face it, bowhunting turkeys is tough – incredibly tough as a matter of fact, but that doesn't mean that it can't be done. Taking a wild turkey with stick and string is one of the greatest accomplishments any bowhunter can achieve, and you can do it with a little preparation and by knowing how to best put the odds in your favor. So, if taking a longbeard with stick and string is on your bucket list, considering some of the following advice to hopefully make the seemingly impossible it a little easier.

### Blinds:

Try bowhunting turkeys without a blind and you will quickly realize just what a challenge you are in for. Getting your bow drawn on a wary gobbler is a feat indeed, but it can be done. If you are hunting without the concealment of a blind, the best time to draw you bow is if the bird is in full strut while facing directly away from you. This is about the only way to avoid being spotted. You might be able to get drawn while the gobbler steps behind a tree, but do so quickly before he steps back in the



Quality blinds like the Double Bull series are worth the money. Since they are made of heavier material and don't flap in the wind, turkeys will walk right up to a blind, so set your decoys close and get ready for a show! (Author Photo)



Bowhunting turkeys can seem like enough to make you want to quit. But, the use of a quality blind (like the Double Bull pictured behind the hunter,) can turn the seemingly impossible feat into a reality. Columbus Indiana resident Paul Vice kows this and used his Double Bull to take this beautiful southern Indiana spring gobbler.(Author Photo)

open. Once drawn, you can execute a killing shot by either shooting the bird directly in the rectum or by waiting until he turns broadside and offers you a shot. While the former mentioned backside shot is not recommended on most game, it is lethal on turkeys.

Should you choose to hunt from a blind, getting drawn on turkeys is much easier. Not all blinds are created equal, however. While most will do the job, I have found that Primos Double Bull blinds are far and away the best. They set up easily, are made of a tougher, heavier material that doesn't flap in the wind, and shooting from them is second to none due to the shooting ports and how they open without zippers. Another thing I really loved about Double Bull Blinds was the Predator deception camouflage they used to use. Unlike most camos, it was actually scaled to match the size of the blind, resulting in a larger pattern that did not turn into a blob at longer distances. The Ground Swat camouflage which is now used on the Dark Horse has proven to be just as effective.

When hunting from a blind, remember to sit back in the blind, not right in front of the window. This will help to conceal you better. I have actually successfully hunted turkeys in a blind without wearing a face mask.

Also, don't feel the need to brush your blind in. If you can, great, but I have been on numerous successful turkey hunts where we simply popped the blind up in a wide open spot and had birds walk right up to it, and actually brush up against it.

### Broadheads:

There are two main types of broadheads used in turkey hunting, the expandable and those made for head shots such as the Gobbler Guillotine. With expandables you have a little more range in case you need it, and with them you need to place you shot just behind the wing butt (where the wing attaches to the body.) Broadheads like the Guillotine are made for shooting right at the

turkeys head and neck.

### Let it down

Consider cranking the poundage of your bow down slightly. You never know how long you will have to remain at full draw on a bird waiting for the shot, and besides, in the case of expandable broadheads, a pass-through shot is not ideal on a turkey. It is better to have the arrow through the protruding bird's wings making it more difficult for him to fly off.

### Keep 'em close

If bowhunting from a blind, set your decoys only about five to ten yards out from the blind.

As earlier mentioned, turkeys will walk right up to a blind, and setting your decoys not only offers you close shots, but may also bring birds into range that may hang up away from the decoys.

### Practice close shots

Besides shooting at ten yards and out, it's also important to practice shooting your bow at short distance, of say, four or five yards. You will be surprised to find out that you arrows will most likely hit three to five inches high at such short ranges.

### Just do it

The bottom line is, you won't bow kill a turkey if you don't try. So, if bowhunting wild turkeys is something you have always wanted to do, but didn't have the confidence, put these tips to use and give it a go this spring

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**Camping Here & Beyond**



by John and El McCory

*Games to Play While Camping*

It's always difficult to write an article about something that has such a plethora of information. Almost every camping facility, every group or every person has their own special choices of games, and playing instructions. It's interesting to travel and learn what people in different parts of the world like to play in small or large groups, in quiet games, athletic events, humorous skits and campfire games. Where do we start?

Several years ago in the campground we owned and managed, someone traveling across the United States, brought out some rails on a standard, some golf balls on short ropes, and set the rails up about 25 feet apart and taught our campers how to play Ladder Ball. We've found that in different locales it is called such names as Polish Golf, Hillbilly Golf, etc. Our work campers, Don and Carol got the measurements; we copied the rules and got the materials to make the game, and Don built it. We didn't want to offend any territorial peoples, ethnic or religious groups so we called it Rope a Rail and that didn't get us into any trouble. We drew pictures, gave dimensions, what materials to purchase and the rules and gave hundreds of people these instructions over the years. We used golf ball sized wooden balls because you never know which way these bolos are going when youngsters play the game. Adults are usually safer than youth with golf balls. Wood doesn't hurt as much as golf balls.

In Florida one year we saw people in a camping resort playing driveway golf by using putter to putt the bail along the campground driveways at various distances into holes made of PVC pipe 5 inches inside diameter and 6 inches long. A small hole was dug into the ground at distances from 45 to 90 feet so driving wasn't necessary, just putting. The 6 inch PVC was placed in the hole and secured with clay soil and stone around them. They were flush with the ground so we could mow over them. We made a course along our driveway coming into the campground and 100's of people played the 18 holes over the years.

We had a young lady who was adept at building stuff so she built, painted and sold beanbag baseball games at our camp. We had some real hot baseball games played under the trees over the years.

For the above games and the others to follow just bring up your Home Page on a computer, type in the Search space at the top of the page Amazon, Yahoo, Google, Dog pile or any search engine into which you want to hunt for campground games. If you don't feel internet savvy, just ask any of your kids or grandkids. They may be proud to help find games new to them and might even introduce these games to friends, neighbors, camping friends or school chums. The local library personnel will probably be happy to help you. Just a few

years ago we asked our then 5 and 8 year old grandsons about something on the computer and with the words, "come on grandpa, don't you know how to get anything on the computer?" they made a few taps on the keys and in a few seconds our needs were met.

On your search space type in "Ultimate camp resources." You'll find such types of games as: adaptive or special needs games, circle, cooperative, dramatic, high activity, improvisation, large group, nature, parachute, quick and easy, rainy day or indoor, sports activities, tag and water. Others would be camp activities, skits, songs, staff resources, stories, ice breakers, rope courses, and team building. The song section might have worship or prayer songs as well as camp songs.

Camping activities with the family is another source. If you want to build your own camping games this will tell you about the types and amounts of materials you'll need as well as the dimensions and rules. Check how to build Kan Jam, Carpet ball, water balloon launchers, alligator cross platforms, all aboard platforms, marshmallow shooters and under Google try "Just Build Stuff."

Dog Pile. Com can give you Games to play while camping, outdoor games to play while camping, camping activities, fun things to do while camping, games to play around the campfire, 10 games you have to play, funny campfire stories, and fun outdoor games. Yahoo.com will lead you to Kaboose and About.com.

A few more types of games with more equipment would be types of scavenger hunts, geo-caching, orienteering, and storytelling.

Traveling throughout the world as we have you'll find extreme variations and names and rules for some of these same games. Along the Southern California, Arizona and New Mexico boundaries with Mexico, bocce, the Italian bowling type game is very popular with all ages, especially with snow birds. Some campgrounds have upwards of a dozen bocce courts and in one campground there was a completely covered, enclosed, air conditioned building with 24 or so bocce courts. They didn't want weather to affect their play. Some regulations ask for 10 foot by 60 foot courses but open fields, grassy yards, etc. can be used if a regulation court can't be built. We've found several "official" rules for the bocce game and they vary widely in their instructions and explanations. There are several types of bocce balls to be used, some of the professional are quite heavy and some are wooden that younger kids can use. Years ago we hadn't heard of Chicken Foot, Mexican Train Dominoes, the card game Golf, and other games, but traveling and going to campground activities throughout the camping world we watched, played, and asked for the rules and dimensions of the games. People like to spread the word.

Back in the 1940's and 1950's (of course without a computer), my father was in charge of summer activities in a school system just southeast of Indianapolis. He asked, copied, and compiled an 8 1/2 by 11 inch folder four inches thick, bound together with binder twine, of hundreds of games he had the school kids play during the summers. He should have written a book and published it, but I remember going home from college one weekend and he was as sad as I ever saw him; someone to whom he had loaned the game book had lost it and he had no backup copies. Please back up all the things you want to save, now a lot easier on the internet.

Let me know of any camping games you find well worth sending on to hundreds of people who read The Gad-a-Bout and we'll spend another session telling about the games.

If there is anything you would like us to research or **CONTINUED ON PAGE 28**

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# Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

## Many kinds of wild mushrooms, but morels most popular

About the only thing better than wild mushroom hunting in Indiana is mushroom eating.

My mushroom hunting is limited to morels in the spring. That's because I don't know how to identify other types well enough to eat them. While some mushroom are great eating, others can be deadly. I'll stick with the popular morels.

Years ago, a friend named George "Bait King" Timko, who operated a bait shop in Brazil and spent a lot of time in the woods when he wasn't working or fishing, said he could find edible mushrooms 10 months out of the year.

(Hunting for black morels usually starts at the end of March in southern Indiana and whites and yellows can be found late into May in the northern third of the state.)

Eileen Rutherford lived on a farm near Thorntown, Ind., picked white mushrooms in her pasture each fall that looked much like the commercially raised white mushrooms found in the grocery store. She would pick a mess for me, and I would cook and eat them. They were quite tasty.

Eileen knew which ones to pick in the pasture, but I didn't. She grew up picking them, just like I grew up hunting morels.

A story I read some time ago about a young man named Ty Whitmore, possibly found a world record mushroom, started me thinking about mushroom hunting, and hopes for a good season this year.

Whitmore found the huge fungi while hunting on a relatives farm in northwest Missouri near Maysville.

He spotted the orange and yellow mushroom and starting cutting it down. He said about half of it fell into a creek and the water was too cold and deep to attempt to retrieve it. What he saved, he had to carry some distance to his truck.

He drove it to a store with a reliable scale and weighed it. The huge mushroom weighed 56 pounds.

Whitmore said a search on the internet and the Guinness World Records book indicated the largest edible mushroom previously reported weighed 48 pounds, six ounces.

A Missouri department of natural resources official measured the mushroom and determined it to be 30 inches wide and 16 inches tall.

The fungus was identified as a sulfur shelf mushroom. Around here, I have heard people call them "chicken of the woods" mushrooms. A website of a professor from the University of Florida indicated a maximum size for a sulfur shelf mushroom as 20 inches wide.



Black morels usually are the first to appear under early spring rays of sun. They often are found in deep woods and are no more than a couple inches tall, nothing like the 50-pounder found in Missouri. (Author Photo)

Whitmore said if he had been able to retrieve the rest of the mushroom from the creek it may well have tipped the scales at over 100 pounds.

Apparently the sulfur shelf mushrooms picked up the chicken name because they are quite tasty.

I've eaten "chicken of the woods", which were picked by other people a couple times, and vouch from their good eating qualities. They have a firm texture and plenty of flavor. The ones I have eaten were sliced and then fried like I fry morels in the spring. Some people prefer them for eating over morels.

Just think, more than 50 pounds of mushrooms. Sure would take a lot of steak or crappie for a big meal. Wouldn't that be a feast?

Hopefully, this spring will produce plenty of Hoosier morels to feast upon. If several of my old mushroom ("shroomer") friends are right, it should be a good year.

Doyle Coultas of Perry County and several others say measurable winter snow is a good predictor of a good mushroom season. White it may be a matter of moisture is not certain, but the snow seems to make for more successful morel finding.

###

Contact writer Phil Junker by email at: [outdoorscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:outdoorscribe@yahoo.com)

For more outdoors with Phil Junker, contact his blog at: [outdoorscribe.blogspot.com](http://outdoorscribe.blogspot.com)



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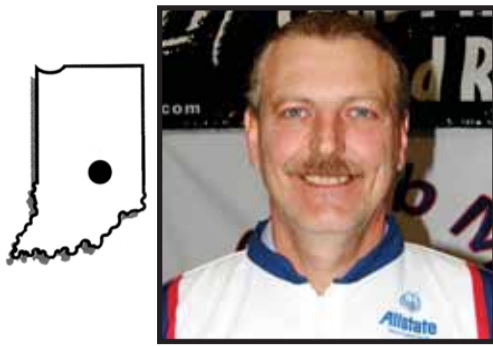


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## Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

### Buy whats best for you

Even though there has been a lot of open water this year the boat is still in storage as I know if I get it out we will get more snow, thus it will remain in storage for a couple more weeks. There are a lot of different makes and models of crappie boats on the market but just about anything that will float can be used for crappie fishing. I have fished in boats ranging from a twelve foot flat bottom to a twenty four foot deck boat set up with rod holders and trolling motor.

After fishing tournaments for three years I have seen some of the nicest crappie boats on the water and after owning my Triton TR 20 for almost a year, I have most of the equipment I wanted when I first purchased it. I have been somewhat patient in getting it finished but finally feel I am getting close. It has taken a while but I did not settle for anything. I just saved until I could get what I wanted.

Every tournament fisherman has his or her preference of equipment and I'm not going to tell anyone which boat to buy or which rod holders to use. But I can tell you to buy what best fits your method of fishing. If you're going to vertical jig or cast jigs the trolling motor is not as critical as if you are trolling. If you plan on trolling, you will definitely want a variable speed trolling motor. As for which manufacturer to buy from, research and see who gives you exactly what you want and can afford. I never buy without researching and reading reviews for at least a week before buying. If you are spider rigging or trolling you will need a set of rod holders and there are a lot of companies building them. There is a lot of difference between rod holders and knowing which one to buy can be pretty tough. My first set I built for about fifty dollars and they worked okay, at least I learned what I wanted in a rod holder, that's when I started looking at websites to see who offered what and after a couple weeks I ordered a set of T 250's with gunslingers from Driftmaster. They were everything I wanted in a rod holder fully adjustable and strong. My current rod holders are the Driftmaster Crappie Stalkers which I ordered after being accepted onto the Driftmaster pro staff. It was tough to switch from the reliable T-250s I had been using for two years but after watching videos and researching on the web I could see the advantages of the Crappie Stalker rod isolation system and have not been disappointed. If I were long lining or pulling crank baits I would not be using this system, I would want something that locked into place and would take the constant strain without the rod coming out of the holder and Driftmaster will tell you the Gunslingers are not the holder for pulling. They would recommend one of their other systems.

As for rods the same thing goes. Research and read reviews and talk to other fishermen. Rods are expensive and you want to get it right the first time, especially if you are buying 6 or 8 at a time. Myself I pre-



My current crappie boat a Triton TR20 before the Driftmasters were installed (pic by Ron Bilbrey) (Photo by Ron Bilbrey)

fer the BnM 16 foot Caps and Coleman trolling rods these rods were designed to have a sensitive tip and medium backbone. Why 16 foot? I have been asked that a lot in the last couple of years and the answer is pretty easy. I want my rods as far from the trolling motor and bow of the boat as I can get them and if I could get used to the 18s and 20s I would be using them. And yes, I have tried an 18 foot rod. I have talked with a lot of guys who prefer the 12 and 14 foot rods, some like the rods with more backbone so they can better manage getting the fish in the boat. This is never a problem for me as I net every fish during a tournament. I guess this brings up one of the most important pieces of equipment, a good long landing net. About any net will get a fish in the boat but I like to get the fish in the net as soon as possible because you just don't know how good of a hook set you have until the fish is in the boat. I use an Ego rubber coated net with the bigger holes. It's about eight feet long. I tried the smaller nylon net but spent too much time getting the hook out of the net.

Another controversial subject is bait. Some will only use jigs, while others (like me) will not go to a tournament without minnows of some type. I may not use them, but I always have them with me. On some lakes minnows will double your catch while on others they are just a pain to have in the boat. For this reason I always keep my minnows in a large cooler with two air stones running all the time. As I need them I transfer them into an insulated minnow bucket with an air stone and keep them up front with me. I always use a double hook rig and about 95 % of the time I am running a minnow on at least one hook of each rod.

To sum things up, if you are new to crappie fishing or maybe thinking about fishing some of the Slab Master tournaments, the internet is a great learning tool to get started with. Try visiting some of the internet forums, no matter what technique you use there are video's and specialty companies making products that will help you catch more fish. Just do some research, talk to other anglers, and visit the Indiana Slab Master website too while you're at it.

I'm looking forward to seeing some new faces this season and I'm looking forward to the first Slab Masters tournament coming up on March  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 28**



My first partner Tanner and myself in our first Crappie Boat a 17 foot Bass Tracker on Picwick lake in Alabama (Photo by Michelle Bilbrey)

# Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

## State of the ISTA

The trapping season is about over. So I thought now would be a good time to reflect on the past year, and look forward to the next year. The ISTA had a very successful Fur Sale Jan. 14, 2012 in Peru, IN. though we did have a few errors in the sale. The affected Buyers and Sellers were all very gentlemanly about dealing with the issues. In February we attended the Tri-State Great Outdoorsman Expo in Auburn, IN. Those who helped out had a good time, and we picked up a few more members. We had two membership meetings, one in April in Greensburg, IN and the other at the 51st Convention and Rendezvous in September in Tipton, IN. The Board met six (6) times formally and held several e-mail conferences. All total there were four (4) Trapper education Classes held that involved members of the ISTA. Two (2) classes were held in August, one in Danville, IN at Director Tom Setser's Fur Shed and the other at the North Fork Service Area of Lake Monroe, Bloomington, IN. The other two (2) classes were held in November, one in LaPorte, IN at the Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area, and the other at Andrews, IN at the Salamonie Reservoir. The Salamonie Class had a nice write up in the December, 2012 Gad-A-Bout authored by Justin Harrington. I don't have a certain count, but there had to be near 100 people / students who attended these events with the ISTA passing out near four (4) dozen donated traps total. If I was to list all of the Members of the Board, their spouses and significant others, and members of the ISTA and the employees of the IDNR who helped put these classes on, I would be way over my allotted word count. You know who you are, the people who attended know who you are. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. Last but not the least, ISTA Director Kevin Dyer made sure that the ISTA was at the 3rd Hoosier Outdoor Experience in Indianapolis, IN. He got it organized, and arranged for the help to be there. The final official count for that event was 24,000 people going through the gate. WE HAVE TO BE THERE AGAIN NEXT YEAR! Stu Grell and Bill Lewis represented us at the NTA Convention in Minnesota. We had a good turn out of the Board in June at the FTA Convention in Evansville, IN. I cannot begin to guess the total mileage that the Board members, and volunteers, ran to make the various meetings and Conventions to be sure that your ISTA was

represented. My sincere thank you to each and every Board member, past and present, and those volunteers who stepped up, for the efforts that you made to make this organization successful. Many of these events had pictures submitted to me to be put onto the website. I have done my best to get them on. See [www.indianatrappers.org](http://www.indianatrappers.org) and go to the Gallery section. If you, as a member, would like me to post a picture of you on our website, please send me a digital copy to [fpp@juno.com](mailto:fpp@juno.com), and I will see what I can do.

For 2013, we started out with our Fur Sale in January up in Peru, IN. The sale totaled \$23,953 worth of fur sold, almost double of last year's \$13,000. Thirty-five (35) sellers sold 1837 skins to thirteen (13) Buyers. The sale began at 10:15 am EST and everyone was settled up, the building cleaned up and put back in order, and we were headed out the door by 2:15 pm. A BIG Thanks to everyone who pitched in. There were 12 hotdogs left over. The results of the sale were as follows:

ITEM	#sold	TOTAL	AVG / Skin
Carcass Muskrat	1	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00
Damaged Muskrat	54	\$289.75	\$ 5.37
Greased Muskrat	37	\$329.00	\$ 8.89
Sm/Med Muskrat	25	\$215.00	\$ 8.60
Med /Lg Muskrats	145	\$1,014.50	\$ 7.00
LG+ Muskrats	665	\$8,121.50	\$ 12.21
XL Muskrats	96	\$1,166.25	\$ 12.15
XXL Muskrats	3	\$33.00	\$ 11.00
<b>Overall Muskrat Total</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>\$11,182.00</b>	<b>\$10.90 AVG</b>
Carcass Raccoon	31	\$271.00	\$ 8.74
Damaged Raccoon	35	\$256.75	\$ 7.34
Sm/Med Greased Raccoon	6	\$51.00	\$ 8.50
LG+ Greased Raccoon	82	\$1,118.25	\$ 13.64
Med/Lg. Raccoon	7	\$76.00	\$ 10.86
Lg Raccoon	51	\$273.50	\$ 5.36
XL Raccoon	164	\$1,826.50	\$ 11.14
XXL Raccoon	181	\$3,073.50	\$ 16.98
XXXL Raccoon	127	\$3,302.50	\$ 26.00
XXXXL Raccoon	12	\$285.00	\$ 23.75
<b>Overall Raccoon Total</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>\$10,534.00</b>	<b>\$15.14 AVG.</b>
Damaged Mink	2	\$22.50	\$ 11.25
Greased Mink	2	\$39.50	\$ 19.75
Med/Lg Mink	13	\$221.50	\$ 17.04
Lg Mink	10	\$260.00	\$ 26.00
XL Mink	11	\$281.00	\$ 25.55
<b>Overall Mink Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$824.50</b>	<b>\$21.70 AVG</b>
Damaged Beaver	10	\$178.00	\$ 17.80
Carcass Beaver	2	\$25.00	\$ 12.50
Med Beaver	3	\$39.00	\$ 13.00
Lg/XL Beaver	18	\$451.00	\$ 25.06
XXL Beaver	6	\$196.00	\$ 32.67
<b>Overall Beaver Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$889.00</b>	<b>\$22.79 AVG.</b>
All Coyote	20	\$361.00	\$18.05 AVG.
All Red Fox	3	\$138.00	\$46.00 AVG.
All Opossum	14	\$ 22.50	\$ 1.61 AVG.
All Skunk	1	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00 AVG.

Trapper Education classes are already beginning to be set up. **A new address for the ISTA has been established at PO Box 375, Centerville, IN. 47330.** A new Administrative Assistant, Tammra, has been engaged to take care of the membership roster, newsletter, and Trappers Post subscriptions. Our finances are on solid ground with the receipt of the settlement with the Bonding Company. Our first Board meeting of

the year was held after the Fur Sale. The next Board meeting is **March 16, 2013 at Tom Setser's Fur Shed in Danville, IN.** February, Paul Waldman will be leading the setup and manning of a booth at the **Tri-State Great Outdoorsman Expo in Auburn, IN.** IF you would be inclined to sit with him, please give him a call at **765.513.7368.** June is the **FTA Convention in Wisconsin,** and August is the **NTA Convention in Ohio.** Your ISTA will be represented at both. I am hoping to attend this year's Ohio State Trappers Convention in September as a learning exercise. The next weekend in September is our **52nd Convention and Rendezvous in Tipton, IN** again. The third weekend in September is the 4th Hoosier Outdoor Experience and we have to have this attended. This gives us the opportunity to expose 24,000 plus non-trappers to trapping and help explain what it is that we do. The last weekend in September is the **FTA Chapter 7B Rendezvous in Greenwood, IN.** Watch for the dates and places on the website. Keep checking out the website for news and pictures. Yes, your ISTA officers are busy.

The next Membership Meeting is set for **April 20, 2013** at the **Walker Township (Rush County) Conservation Club located at 5105 W. St. Rd. 44, Rushville, IN 46173.** If you get onto Hwy 44 from the Shelbyville exit off of Hwy 74, it is only 5 to 8 miles east, located on the south side of the road. Hopefully we will have more than the (2) two members who showed up at Greensburg last year. We will start the membership meeting at 10am and hopefully be over by noon when we will cook something. Bring a chair if you want to be more comfortable than the typical card table chair makes you.

Did you see the request by the Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab out of Ft. Wayne, IN for left over animal carcasses from your trapping line? They need food for the Birds that are their being rehabbed or otherwise living out a life in captivity. If you can help them out, give them a call at **260.241.0134** and ask to talk to Sandy Moore. Otherwise you can reach them on their website at [www.soarinhawk.org](http://www.soarinhawk.org).

That is all that I have for you at this time. So as you go, watch your top knot, keep your eyes along the skyline.

Fred Philips, DVM  
Pres. ISTA

Random Photos Taken by Dr. Fred Phillips



All tucked out!

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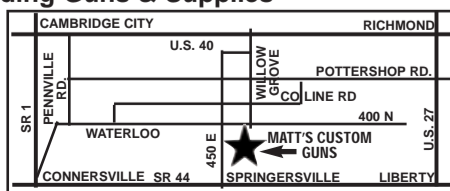
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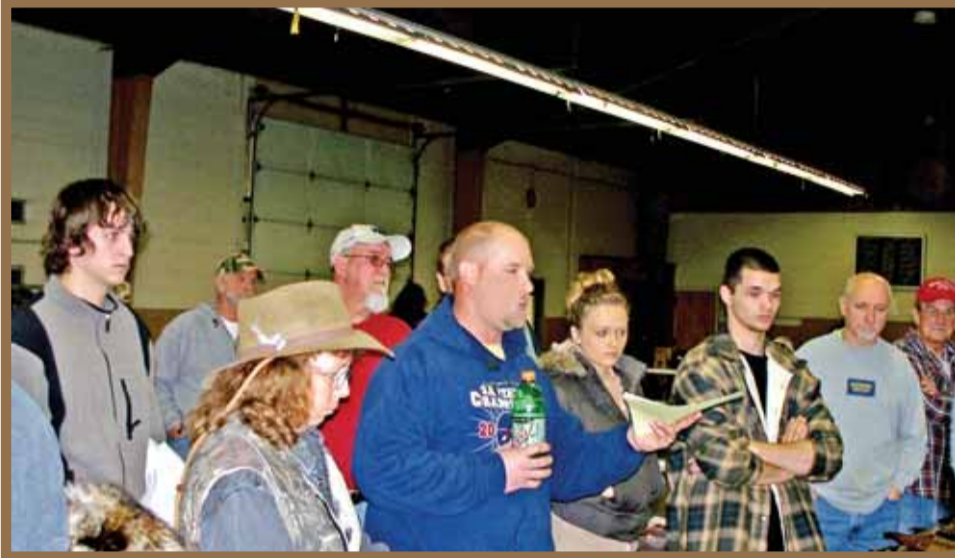




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# Looking Downstream



by Paul McCloud

## Early Season Panfish

March weather is the most unpredictable of the whole year. You may have stretches of mild sunny days, or a below freezing blast of Canadian air leading to a major snowstorm. By mid March the ice has cleared from the ponds, lakes and streams and the fish start to stir. Usually near the last week to ten days of March the milder weather becomes more established and springtime is here. Like most of you I get busy getting my boat put back together after sitting for months outside with it's equipment stored inside. Seats, trolling motor, electronics and batteries all have to be reinstalled before hitching up and heading out.

Being mostly a pan fisherman myself, I'm glad to be getting the boat ready for another season on the lakes. In my area of Indiana I can leave home and be on the water at Brookville Lake, Whitewater Lake, Middlefork Reservoir or Ohio's Hueston Woods State Park Acton Lake in less than 30 minutes. I mainly fish Whitewater and Acton due to the motor restrictions, I don't like getting tossed about in my small aluminum boat from the waves off the big-motored boats that over populate Brookville. Whitewater has a trolling motor only restriction and Acton has a 10 horsepower limit, plus both lakes provide the topographic features suited to my style of fishing.

Early season fishing is tough but can be quite productive. Since water temps are somewhere from the mid 40s to the mid 50s the fish are less active. I look for areas where the water is the warmest. Shorelines that get the most sunshine warm up quickest, and there will be pockets of warmer water within these areas. I use the temperature sensor on my trolling motor mounted sonar unit to look for the warm spots. Warm water, just like warm air rises and the water nearer the surface should be the warmest. The exception to this would be a consistently windy spell when the water in a shallow area can get mixed. During these times I leave the lake to the sail boaters, I'm there to enjoy the peace and hopefully catch a few fish. Wind, cold and rain are why I stay home and work on projects these days.

I prefer live bait in almost all situations, and to my own surprise live crickets have proven to be a good, early season bait for Bluegills, Redear, Rockbass and even Crappie. It surprised me because I've always figured the bait should be in line with the time you'd expect to see them in nature. The presence of crickets isn't usually noticeable till mid summer in Southeastern Indiana. Along with the crickets I also use waxworms, at some point prior to spawning the Bluegills and Redears will turn their noses on crickets and attack waxworms viciously. Redworms and nightcrawlers will catch fish all year but work better for me from late June through



Author with big Redear taken on crickets at Whitewater Lake, April 2012. (Author Photo)



Author with a couple big Bluegills and Redear from East bank of Whitewater Lake, April 2012. (Author Photo)

October.

Acton Lake over in Ohio has a very healthy population of panfish. This 625-acre lake runs North and South with the deeper water South and the main channel following close to the East shoreline. Back in the 1960's big Rockbass were plentiful but something happened to them and I haven't caught one of any size in a long time. Bluegills are abundant and can be caught around stick-ups and downed trees, of which there are many. Early season Bluegill action is better along the West shoreline using crickets, waxworms and small minnows (around 2 inches). Small soft plastic grubs on spinner rigs can also get good action.

Acton also has other varieties of sunfish like Punkinseed, Warmouth, Redbreast, Redear and Green Sunfish. I've caught a few keeper sized Redear and Warmouth on Acton, but they were caught at depths closer to the bottom in areas near to the main channel on the West shoreline.

Acton is as good a Crappie lake as any I've ever fished and since Ohio put a 9 inch restriction on Acton Lake Crappies (just enacted in 2012) I expect to see more of the big slab sided 12 inch plus sized fish like I enjoyed catching last year. Early Crappies are tougher to catch but the challenge can be rewarding. As soon as shallow areas warm up a few more degrees than the rest of the lake the small baitfish and minnows become active there looking for the first plankton blooms that they feed on. Crappies will congregate around these areas to feed on the concentrated numbers of baitfish. Some anglers experiencing good action here mistake this for a pre-spawn run. This occurrence is just as applicable to any impoundment. My son and I enjoyed good catches of Crappie, Bluegill and Redear on Whitewater during this period last year. We were anchored in a cove normally out of the wind that got lots of afternoon sun heating it up a good five degrees above the lake average. Fishing live crickets and waxworms around a small downed tree we filled our live well with many 8 to 9 inch Bluegills, three Redears all over 10 inches and a dozen nice 9 plus inch Crappies all from the same spot over a three hour span.

The tactics for Acton Lake are just as applicable on Whitewater Lake with the exception of that if you're after the really big Redear that only Whitewater has, you need to fish a tad further from shore and deeper. They go after crickets early and also like small minnows. There was supposed to have been a fisherman from Fayette County who caught a 16-inch Redear from Whitewater in 2011 during the early season. I'd love to equal his catch, hopefully this spring I'll get my wish. Good fishing! As always your comments and suggestions are welcome. [passportss@vdiad.net](mailto:passportss@vdiad.net)

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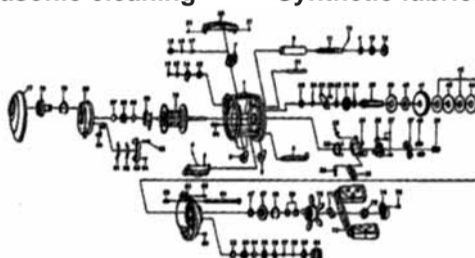
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## Brookville CanoeFest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

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

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

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

Give yourself a treat, bring the whole family and some friends too, come to the 2013 Brookville CanoeFest in Brookville, Indiana. Before you leave home visit [www.brookvillecanoeFest.com](http://www.brookvillecanoeFest.com) to learn what all is happening at the Festival. There is something for everyone.

### **BROOKVILLE CANOEFEEST FRYERS CLUB THE RULES FOR FRYING**

Each team will consist of one or two members only. Each team will be provided with two chickens. All other equipment including fryers and tables (etc) must be supplied by frying teams. Any equipment or behavior by team members deemed unsafe will immediately disqualify that team. Teams must be signed-up by 4 PM on the Friday one week prior to the competition. Teams must be signed-in by 3 PM on day of contest, Saturday June 29, 2013.

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

### **THE RULES FOR JUDGING**

Judging will be conducted in a blind fashion. The \$40 judging fee includes T shirt, credentials, one vote and a whole lot of yummy fried chicken!!

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

## Prairie Wolf Gun Repair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

lem of the lack of mental illness programs and the people's frustration with uncontrollable circumstances. Violence in movies and computer games are being presented as possibly inflaming some or much of the violence. I agree with that position even though the entertainment industry vehemently denies that the violence in movies could possibly be blamed. Not everyone is effected by the violence but only a few. So instead of having this knee-jerk reaction that Feinstein and others in her camp are professing by restricting gun ownership rights, lets really look at the whole problem and not blame an inanimate object like the gun.

Whether or not it is outright bans on guns, bans on magazines, limits on ammunition, or restrictive taxes it is an infringement or your right to "bear arms". The politicians are only looking out for themselves and their interests. The political impact of their statements gets them noticed, gets them re-elected. The views expressed by the ultra leftist politicos don't really represent what the majority thinks, only what they want the majority or the masses to think. Whatever horrible calamity occurs to the populace they accuse the enemy of causing it. The

words begin to fly, accusations made, whether accurate or not does not matter. Only when exposed in the light of reason does responsible decisions become possible. By the way, who is the majority? I guess that the 50,000 respondents to Senator Feinstein's survey are the majority and you and I are not included.

If you have a question or comment on guns, gunsmithing, gun rights, or, would like to just make a comment send me an email at [PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com](mailto:PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com). I'll try and answer your questions as best I can and some answers may be included in this column.

Remember, B SAR (Be Safe, Be Aware, Be Responsible)

## W. Central Indiana News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

to look for a way to scratch the itch.

For the "shed and dead" hunter, there is a possibility of recognition for finding an intact deer skull and antlers. In the Hoosier Record Buck Program record book, there is a category for "Found", where in after an official measurement, this skull and antlers may find a place in the record book. True, if the mice and squirrels have nibbled too much away, inches will be lost. But don't pass up that partial skeleton and hair circle without giving the area a search for the skull and antlers.

Once found, how to use the antler is up to the searcher. Tines and full antlers may be used for gun racks, coat racks, drawer pulls and if really talented, the base for a lamp. My project is replacing the metal handles of a fireplace tool set with 6 inch pieces of antler base.

When a respectable, heavy 4 to 6 pint antler is found in March, that buck made it through the hunting seasons. That same buck will probably inhabit the same general area where the shed was found the next season. Finding that good antler, might also be considered as finding a trophy. And next October, November or December, the carrier of that antler might find a place in the pick-up bed.

## Whitewater River Rendezvous

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

for fishing related events, clubs, or services; selling equipment, flies, and gear.

Here are some of the experiences to participate in on April 6th.

- See and buy flies tied by Midwest tiers for species that include smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, crappie, trout, pike, muskie, whitebass, stripers, and hybrid bass.

- Tour the house one block from the event which is being remodeled as a B&B (bed and you fix your own breakfast) house for anglers or others enjoying the outdoors in Franklin County.

- The Brookville Tailwater will be open for catch and release fishing. Take some time to fish and perhaps introduce the area to a new angler.

- If you are a club or shop, use part of the day as an opportunity to do a clinic on the tailwater or introduce club members to the tailwater and other fishing opportunities in Franklin County.

- Stop by Rosenbergers Market, one block south of the rendezvous, for the best prices on New York Strips, Ribeyes, and Porterhouse steaks you have seen in a long time. They do custom cuts, call

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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# Whitewater River Rendezvous

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

ahead and order. [www.rosenbergersmarket.com](http://www.rosenbergersmarket.com)

•There will be other businesses from Brookville and Franklin County represented at the Rendezvous.

The cost for a table is \$5.00. We are limiting people to one table, we are hoping for a wide variety of participation. The \$5 will be refunded to you for purchase of food or beverages at the rendezvous.

It is gratifying to have a community and county that wants to welcome anglers to enjoy the various fishing opportunities. We will enjoy meeting these people who are rebuilding their community.

There is no cost for coming to visit the rendezvous! Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the show! See you Saturday, April 6, from 9-5 in Brookville!

Please send ideas etc. to [info@flymasters.com](mailto:info@flymasters.com).

I will be contacting clubs and fly shops who use the tailwater to get the word out. Newspapers, newsletters, etc and contact for them would be very helpful. We are working on a simple flyer to put up on Facebook and other online media. Thanks for any help that you can offer, Derrick Filkins.

**Editor's Note:** The "Whitewater River Rendezvous" is a great idea for all fly anglers to come and use the fishing resources in the Whitewater Valley. Fly anglers will enjoy fishing in the East and West Forks of the Whitewater River, Brookville Lake, Whitewater Lake and the Brookville Lake Tailwater area.

I will be attending the "Whitewater River Rendezvous" on April 6, 2013 in Brookville and you can all read about it in my May Gad-a-bout.

We all know about the fly angler controversy back in 2009 concerning Central Indiana Trout Unlimited's (CITU) attempt to persuade the Natural Resource Advisory Council to change the \*\*Brookville Tailwater fishing regulations to allow only the use of artificial bait; to ban the use of all live bait; to allow only catch and release of all fish in the Tailwater area; all fish caught must be released unharmed; to allow only the use of barbless hooks and to allow the placing of tons of boulders in the tailwater to enhance the trout fishery. CITU members at the time, chatted on line, that Brookville area residents and visitors alike could go elsewhere to fish where they could keep their catch.

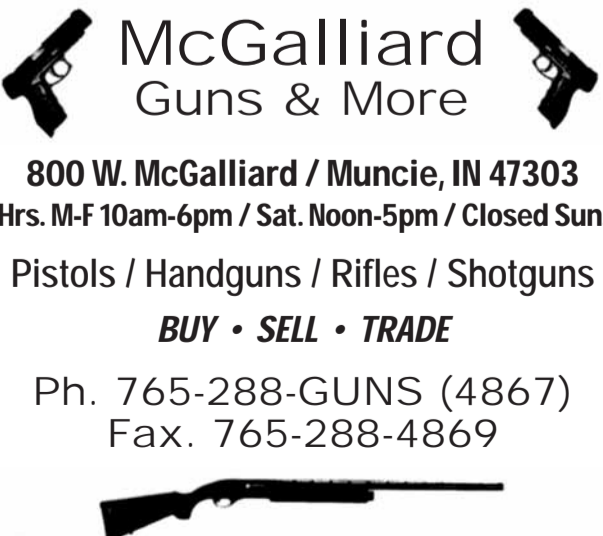
CITU's request was denied after lengthy public hearings were held around the state, the last being in Brookville on October 8, 2009. In April of 2010 the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) officially ruled in favor of the Franklin County residents and others to keep the Brookville Tailwater open and not make any changes as requested by CITU.

This most recent posting, 1-21-2013, though on CITU's website is most disturbing concerning the Brookville Lake Tailwater.

My view of fishing here in Indiana is that no public fishing area should be limited to any one group of fishermen. I believe that all residents and visitors alike should be able to fish the way they want to, as long as they are fishing legally.

However, if CITU wants to try again to change the Brookville Tailwater, \*\*as noted above, the same people will fight tooth and nail to preserve the Brookville Tailwater area like it is now, including the property owners who own the land it runs through and over.

For more info concerning the 2009 Brookville Lake Tailwater controversy, read my April 2010 Gad-a-bout at [www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com) click on archives, scroll down & click on Low or High Resolution. See Pages 8,9,27 & 28.



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# Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

write about having to do with camping contact us at: [jmacnut@yahoo.com](mailto:jmacnut@yahoo.com) or phone: 260-637-3524. The New Campground Directory from the Indiana Campground Owners' Association is now available at Rest Areas along the Interstate System in Indiana and may be in visitors' bureaus in your nearby town. Contact: [www.campindiana.com](http://www.campindiana.com). We helped pass out 1000s of these new guides at the big Tampa Super RV Show again this year and we know there will be many new and old camping families camping to and through Indiana. Remember HOOSIER HOSPITALITY!!!!!! Get your rigs and tents ready to camp the private, state and federal campgrounds. Spring is upon us. See you.

John and El McCory

# Indiana Slab Masters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

16th at Monroe.

I would also like to thank our sponsors: Driftmaster Rod Holders, Jiffy Jigs, Crazy Angler, and Sportsman's Shack.

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# Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



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Their 1st Annual Civil War Days was held April of 2012 at Elmhurst. The nucleus of the present structure was built in 1831 by the Hon. Oliver H. Smith, a member of Congress. Elmhurst's early history it was known as "The Old Elm Farm." It sat on the west bank of the Whiteater Canal and adjoined the south edge of Connersville. Senator James N. Huston became a owner in 1881, he remodeled it extensively along the lines of the White House in Washington. It was often referred to as "The White House of Indiana." The Old Elm Farm was changed to Elmhurst in 1902. Learn more about this historic event in the April issue of The Gad-a-bout.

Civil War Volunteers wanted for re-enactment. Anyone interested please contact David Hornung.

For Information or to purchase tickets contact David Hornung at 765-825-2295 or e-mail [charlenehornung@yahoo.com](mailto:charlenehornung@yahoo.com).

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**RICHARD T. GASTON MEMORIAL FISHING TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 21, 2013**

The 15th Annual Richard T. Gaston Memorial Tournament will be held on September 21, 2013.

The Gaston Memorial Tournament is an annual fishing tournament held at Brookville Lake located in southeastern Indiana. It is a non-profit event to help raise money for the Richard T. Gaston Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The details for this years event are still being prepared, but should be similar to the 2012 event.

This years tournament will include the Walleye Tournament and the Catfish Contest

For more information contact Parkside Marine and More, **765-647-4619**.

Watch for more details on the Tournament in the upcoming issues of The Gad-a-bout.



**NEW ADDITION TO PERSHING FAMILY**

Ryan Pershing who writes "Great Lakes of the Wabash River" has a new addition to his family. His wife, Ashli gave birth to a 7 pound baby girl on January 21, 2013. Pictured above is all three of Ryan and Ashli's children. From left to right: Hali (4), Cade (2) and their newest addition, Rayli (born January 21st). Congratulations Ryan and Ashli on the birth of your new daughter!

Ryan's article is on page 7 in this issue.



**LAUREL HOTEL RESTAURANT FOR SALE**

The owners of the Laurel Hotel Restaurant and Lounge in Laurel, Indiana are ready to retire after 20+ years in business and want to sell their restaurant. See their ad on page 8 for a detailed description of the business, equipment, seating capacity, etc.

The original part of the building was built in the 1850's, it is an historical building. At that time the train would stop at the railroad track (a short distance away) next to the Hotel, people spent the night and then continued traveling. This is how it got the name, "The Laurel Hotel." The owners no longer offer Hotel rooms, but the name was never changed for historical reasons.

Spring, summer and fall the Whitewater Valley Railroad in Connersville has a "Train to Dinner" twice a month and on Holidays. The train brings

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guests to the Laurel Hotel Restaurant to dine and then takes them back to Connersville's railroad station after the meal. This is a very popular train ride and dinner event, its advertised in the local media and The Gad-a-bout.

Here are some of the high lights of the business. They have a transferable beer, wine, and liquor license; they have a seating capacity of 200 people; a large fully equipped working kitchen; a wood burning stove heats the entire building; Central air conditioning; City water and sewer; upstairs residential area; They are located in the most scenic area of the Whitewater Valley, just 10 minutes for Historic Metamora, 20 minutes from the Brookville Lake, a half mile from Haspin Acres and halfway between Indianapolis and Cincinnati in rural Franklin County. **For Information Call Mildred at 765-698-2912.**

**DANI THE DEER-TOO MUCH PUBLICITY**

In cases like the recent, "Dani the deer" situation, this could have been avoided by the Connersville couple, if they had followed the advice from the Indiana Conservation Officer in 2010. The couple should have taken the injured fawn to a **licensed wildlife rehabilitator**.

In Indiana you can only keep a wild animal if you have the proper permit from the IDNR. If you find a injured wild animal and want to help it, you need to contact your county or local **licensed wildlife rehabilitator**. Here in Wayne County we have one in Cambridge City that I contacted a few years ago.

I.C.O. Gary Catron, a Law Enforcement Division Spokesperson for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has a **column on page 6 of this Gad-a-bout**, he explains about **"Critters, Conflict and the Web"** in this issue. I suggest you read his column to avoid a "Dani the deer" situation.

At the outset when the Connersville couple found the injured fawn it looked like the photo I saw on the many internet websites. By the time the charges were filed, two years had passed, the deer had matured and they still had the deer, without ever successfully getting a permit for it.

In fairness to the IDNR after the charges were filed and the story began circulating first in a local newspaper, I heard (hearsay) that someone put it on Facebook. Then Dani, the injured wild deer, was publicized around the world via the internet and it went, as they say, viral. The instant messaging system we have now in the form of twitter, facebook, blogs, e-mails, cell phones, ipads and probably more, soon had the incident blown way out of proportion. The IDNR came out of it looking like the bad guys and the couple as the good guys. in the eyes of the world stage, for helping a poor injured animal in distress.

Due to the public out cry to pardon the couple from Connersville, the case has been officially dismissed, all charges have been dropped.

Every spring people find what they think are abandoned young animals, when in reality the mother is close by. Too many times the young animal's mother loses its offspring due to humans trying to help, "the poor little thing". The motion picture industry, cartoons, videos, websites, books and other forms of entertainment paint a picture of a cute little wild animal coming up unafraid of you and letting you pet it. The only time you will come in close contact with Indiana wildlife is when you interact with it by crossing each others paths, unexpectedly.

I have been putting out bird seed and corn for the birds, rabbits and squirrels for some time, especially in the winter. I don't interact with them. For as long as I have been doing this, every time I take the bird seed and corn to their feeding area they fly or run away.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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This is Allie Enyeart first buck. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



This is Allie Enyeart first buck. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Eight year old Tyler Quimby holding 1 of 2 squirrels taken by his father on his first year of squirrel hunting. Jason was accompanied by his Grandpa Fred Quimby and Dad Jason Quimby on January 13, 2013.....read more on page 31. (Continued at right)

CONTINUED FROM BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO ON PAGE 30  
The squirrel was 1 of 2 treed by his grandpa's squirrel dogs. Squirrels were taken out with a.22 by Jason. His father told me in an additional e-mail that Tyler has a lot more safety to learn before his first attempt shooting a squirrel out. The Squirrels were taken on Salamonie state property by Bozarth Campground. (Photo by Jason Quimby, A.S., EMT-P)

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Dawson Phillips took his first buck, an 8 pointer that weighed 147 pounds. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Twelve year old Destiny Jackson took this her first deer on November 17, 2012 near Brookville, IN. (Photo submitted by Pamela Jackson)

## Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

They are wild, not pets, but I talk to them anyway.

### READERS HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT QUAKERTOWNS NO WAKE ZONE

**Comments questions:** We have boated Brookville Lake for 25 years. We are currently starting our 4th summer as the owners of a houseboat which is on a buoy at Quakertown.

We are hoping that you may have connections that will get our concern to the right people within the DNR. Our concern is boaters of all types who do not follow the "No Wake" rule. It is getting tremendously out of hand and dangerous.

Last fall, while on our houseboat alone, a large cuddy passed us very close throwing a wake big enough that it picked up our houseboat and buoy and moved it 50 ft to the south - right up against the buoy to our south. Had there been another boat tied up to the houseboat as our small boat usually is it would have been destroyed.

We will ask boaters to slow down and they laugh, flip us off or just ignore us. We have talked to the CO's

and they are aware of the problem, but we realize they can't be out there all the time. You can tell when they are on patrol as boaters slow down tremendously.

We would like to know if there can be a blitz on those making a wake. No warnings issued, actual citations to pay.

One problem is some boats don't realize they are in a no wake zone. There is a small buoy at the southwest corner of the buoy field that says "No Wake". We realize this is for the marina. 90% of boaters will open it up when they pass this buoy headed south. We would like to see signage on the lake shore - if I understand correctly, the idle zone is actually to control lake shore erosion. It would also be great if the signs could read "Responsible for damage caused by your wake". I've always been told this is the law. We have talked to a lot of the other boat owners on buoys and they are tired of

it also. Someone is going to get seriously hurt.

Another idea to get the word out is a large article in your paper. With it being such a widely circulated paper hopefully the information would help. The DNR definition of No Wake would be very helpful. Thank you for your time reading this.

Sheri and Gary Lay

**Editor's Note:** I will see what I can do to get your concerns to the right people in the DNR. I will also investigate the problem and write an article on it in the near future. I have been aware of boaters running at full throttle from the Dunlapville Causeway bridge north towards Treaty Line ramp, don't know how they keep from bottoming out! I have photos of them and others also going full throttle from Dunlapville Causeway south past Quakertown and probably all the way to Fairfield Causeway.

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