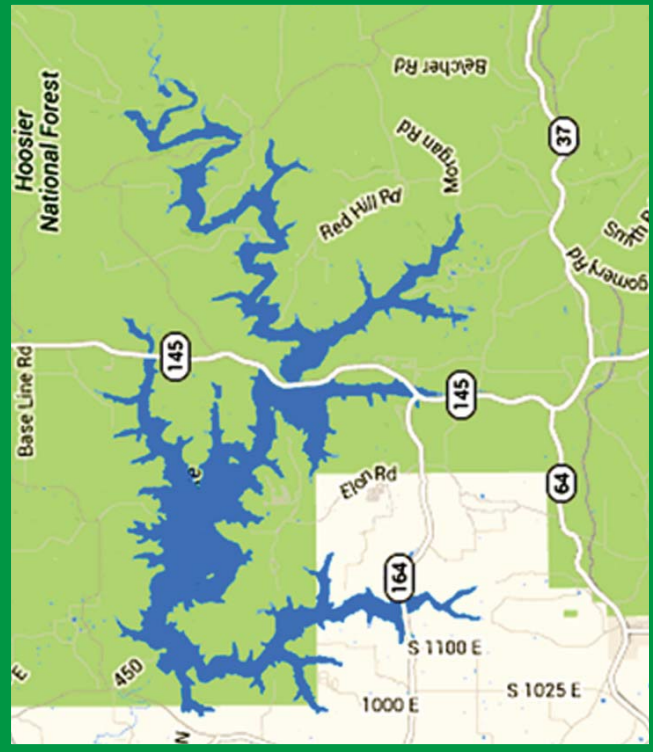




MUNCIE MAN CATCHES 8 1/2 LB LARGE MOUTH BASS THROUGH THE ICE - SEE PAGE 3 & 31



ENJOY PATOKA LAKES GOOD FISHING, HUNTING & RECREATION - SEE PG 4,9,26



BLACK MOREL MUSHROOMS ARE USUALLY FOUND IN MY NECK OF THE WOODS IN APRIL



IN MEMORY OF DICK SHANK HERE WITH NICE STRINGER OF BASS - SEE PAGE 16-17



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April 2014 • Volume XXIV • NO. 288

Created in 1990 & Published Monthly by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson or the name given to him by Golden Eagle in 1995 **LOKA'DWE ICHUTAKU YUSHEDON'** Translated "Man who gets things done!" at 105 East South Street, Centerville, IN 47330

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: This photo was taken quite a few years ago. The last few years have been mostly famine, not feast for my mushroom hunting days. Back when dad and I hunted them, he used to enjoy asking me if I was going to pick the mushrooms or stomp on them, from several feet away. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Top Right: Forest D. McGuire from Muncie, IN caught this bass on the 5th or 6th of December 2013 ice fishing in a pond south of Muncie, IN. (Photo Submitted by Nuce Tire & Auto, located in Anderson, IN)

Bottom Left: My first cousin Richard Morris Shank, better known as Dick Shank passed away on

February 2, 2014. Dick was an avid fisherman, shown here with some bass he caught in northern Michigan, according to what was written on the back of the photo, date unknown. I found this photo among some others in an envelope labeled "Aunt Kate's family." See more on pages 16-17. (Photo from Aunt Kate's Envelope)

Bottom Right: Area map of Patoka Lake in southern Indiana. The Gad-a-bout Salesperson, Ernest McCleery from Lexington, Indiana will be getting acquainted with the businesses and people in south central Indiana, including the Patoka Lake area. (Patoka Lake Area Map revised by Ray Dickerson)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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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



ERNEST McCLEERY

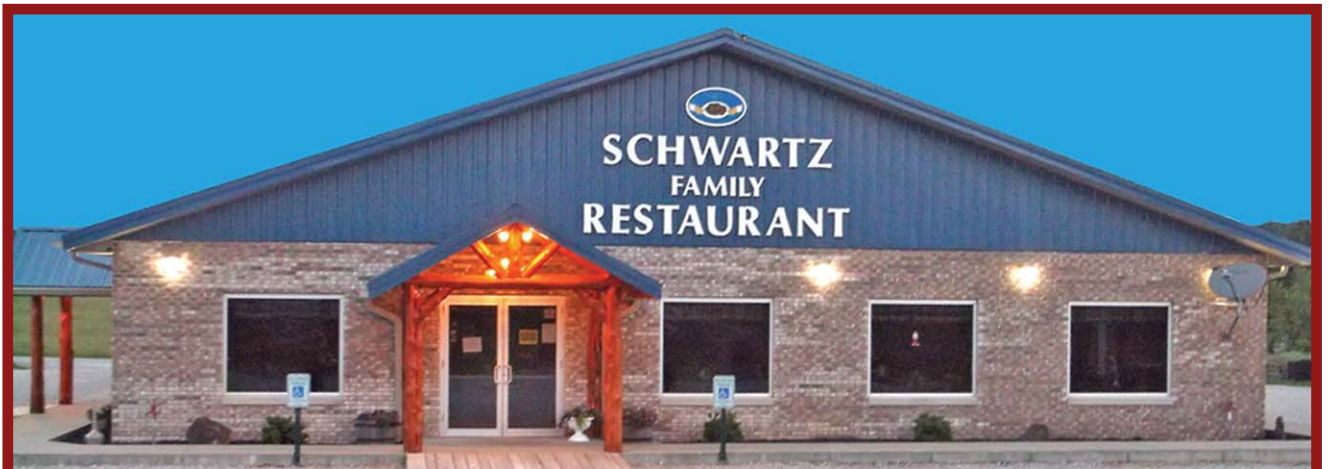
ERNEST McCLEERY, COON HUNTER AND SALES PERSON FOR THE GAD-A-BOUT IN SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA IS ADDING PATOKA LAKE TO HIS SALES AREA

I met the talented and always interesting fellow, Ernest "Ernie" McCleery, at a truck stop along I-65 in December of 2004 to talk to him about his selling advertising for The Gad-a-bout and writing articles about his favorite pass time "Coon Hunting."

Unlike previous fellas from southern Indiana who had tried their luck at selling advertising in that area, Ernest sold ads immediately for the January Gad-a-bout and has continued to be an excellent advertising salesman ever since.

On the other hand, his outdoor writing skills are yet to be determined. Ernie began his writing career debuting in the March 2005 Gad-a-bout with his column entitled, "Hunting Dog Bark" and the article entitled, "Heading North." That was his last article. One of the shortest outdoor writer careers I've ever had. But I'm not complaining, one of these days. I know he will get the itch as all outdoor writers do to take pen in hand and write again. It's just a matter of time.

Now to get to the real point of this announcement, Ernie has taken over selling advertising in the Patoka Lake area for The Gad-a-bout. We will be visiting the area on March 18th so I can introduce him to many of the folks I have met and delivered Gad-a-bouts to off and on since May 2001 when outdoor writer Buck Rawlins first took care of the Patoka Lake area.



Top Photo: Schwartz Family Restaurant located just south of Patoka Lake at 6738 W. Governors Trace off SR 37. Bottom Photo: The restaurant is family owned and mostly family operated, the owners are Joseph and Edna Schwartz. (Photos provided by Edna Schwartz)

Ernie has already delivered to Fisherman's Village shortly after one of the many snow storms we've had this winter and sold his first ad to Schwartz Family Restaurant located just off SR 37 south of Patoka Lake. See their ad at the bottom of this page, there is also a map on their ad showing their exact location too. See Page 26 for a larger map of the Patoka Lake and the surrounding area.

SCHWARTZ FAMILY RESTAURANT

The Schwartz Family Restaurant is family owned & mostly family operated. The owners, Joe and Edna Schwartz were married in 1983 and had 12 children (See above photo). Inspired by their Amish heritage, they decided they wanted to share their love of Amish cooking and baking with everyone. At their restaurant everything is made from scratch and served to you with a SMILE!

It is a Smoke Free facility.

They serve cafeteria style dining in a warm and homey atmosphere. The restaurant features amish style, country cooking. The cooking stands out because it is made from scratch daily. They also sell gift collectibles in their restaurant. Their goal is to satisfy their customers in every way possible. Be sure to try their Schwartz Family famous desserts and delicious homemade ice cream. They also sell whole pies to order. (See food photos on page 9)

Seasonal fresh fruits & vegetables are grown on their own Schwartz Family Farm, and their chicken is raised hormone, antibiotic, and steroid free on a traditional amish farm.

Breakfast is served Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. Serving Biscuits and Gravy (Plain or Sausage),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

BROOKVILLE LAKE GUIDE SERVICE



Tag Nobbe - Owner & Guide

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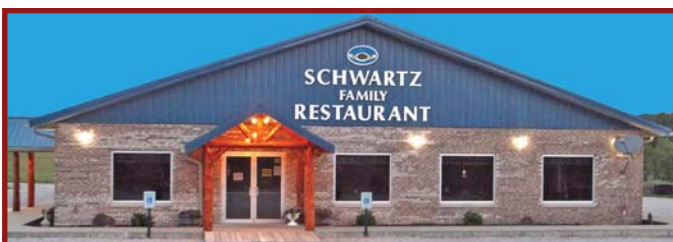
- April - December Walleye Charter Seasons
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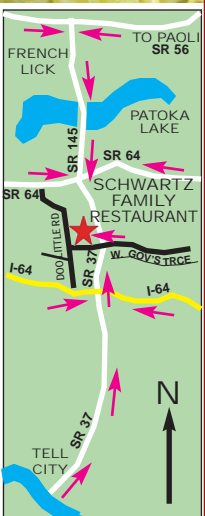
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The Brookville stilling basin is calm and fishable in this photo. (Author Photo)



East Fork of Whitewater River above Lake flowing south under SR44 Bridge. (Author Photo)

So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe

Professional Fishing Guide

April Showers Bring May Walleye

Thank God we can finally see a little light at the end of the tunnel. My older brother and I plow snow in the winter. We have 18 parking lots we plow in Brookville. We usually plow them all 2 or three times for the entire winter. This year we plowed them all 25 times. Can you say I'm old for this. I'm sure I speak for a lot of people when I say I'm glad summer is just around the corner.

April is a great time to be alive. Everything seems to be waking up from a long period of just waiting for it to be over. Well Brookville lake is no exception. Every year it's the same, as the water temperature moves through the mid 40's walleye get the urge to move to the rocks. If you can't find them there, check out the rivers. Walleye are also drawn up rivers. One good place to look is the stilling basin just right below the dam. Another good area is the river above the lake. In April the walleye are going to be shallow so don't be afraid to look for them in water as shallow as one foot. One thing to keep in mind, if you can see them, they can see you.

Spring is one of those times in the year that more than likely we are going to get a lot of rain. When this happens it will make the river above the lake unfishable due to the amount of current

and muddy water. But when the water recedes get back out there. A great bait to use is a 1/16 to an 1/8 ounce lead head jig tipped with a minnow or tipped with a three inch curly tail. If the water is muddy use a orange, chartreuse, brown or green curly tail. If the water is clear use white, silver or pearl curly tails.

When the river above the lake is too high and muddy, switch your attention to the stilling basin below the dam. Usually the Army Corps of engineers will have to hold the water back for a time to give the Ohio river a chance to recede. This is your window of opportunity but only until they start dumping the lake. When this happens it will make the stilling basin unfishable also.

To find out the outflow at the stilling basin go to my website brookvillelakeguideservice.com click on lake report, find Brookville, its about the 7th lake property from the top. Look to the right till you see the numbers in blue, this is the the exact lake level in real time. Winter pool is 740.00 and summer pool is 748.00. Keep looking to your right the 3rd column from the right is the outflow at the stilling basin. CFS means cubic feet per second. So if it reads 45 it means there releasing 45 cubic feet per second of water from the lake. This amount of water release to the stilling basin will not even create a current, but if you check it and its about 1500 cubic feet per second, the stilling basin will have so much current it will also be unfishable. The same baits you use in the river above the lake will work just as good in the river below the lake. The only difference is you will never have muddy water in the river below the lake it may be swift but it won't be muddy.

If you find yourself at this time of the year fishing in the lake look for rocky areas in the lake that the sun shines on most of the day. These places will be the warmest water in the lake. The walleye in Brookville lake will start to spawn when the surface temperature reaches about 46



Treaty Line Ramp easy access to East Fork below south of SR44 Bridge. (Author Photo)

degrees. The problem with trying to catch walleye in April is that they are up all night looking for romance and resting all day thinking about what they are going to be doing as soon as it gets dark again. All we can do is hope for a stupid one every once and awhile.

This will last for about two weeks. From this point I believe the walleye have to go through a little bit of a recuperation period for about a week or so. From there they switch from their spawning areas to their feeding areas. This is where you want to concentrate your efforts. Look for places where all the other fish in the lake will start their spawning cycles.

Good luck
Tag Nobbe

If you need more info E-mail me at tag@tagnobbe.com or go to the website www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com.

I guide fish for walleye, striped bass, and crappie starting mid April till 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 on my cell phone 765-265-3238

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News from the Indiana State Police



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

Seatbelts Work

One of my favorite things to do is speak to driver education classes. I have a standard one hour presentation, and it always starts the same way. We all have that relative that refuses to wear their seatbelt. The argument I hear a lot is, "I don't want to be trapped; I want to be thrown clear of the crash."

Now we've all seen NASCAR races on TV, and seen those in car camera shots showing the race car driver strapped into a wrap around seat by a huge harness, and a steel pipe cage all around him to protect him. I've never seen a driver interview where he says, "I don't wear my safety harness, cause' if I crash I want to be thrown out of my car clear of the crash."

They don't say that because they know the safest place to be in a crash is strapped inside that car with a steel cage around them. Your car has a steel cage built around you also, you just can't see it. There is a steel bar across the roof, one through the middle of the door and on each side of the door. When that door is closed and latched, you have a steel bar cage around that passenger compartment.

I can show you picture after picture of crashed vehicles where the vehicle is demolished, but the steering wheel and seats are still intact inside the passenger compartment. I just responded to a crash scene yesterday where a guy didn't have on a seatbelt and was ejected down the highway.

His wife and two small children, who were properly restrained, only received minor bumps and bruises. If you saw the picture of the car you would think no one could survive. But, if you looked closer, you would see that the passenger compartment was untouched, despite the rest of the car being destroyed.

I don't know about you, but I'll take my chances staying strapped in over skidding down the pavement at 70 M.P.H., or being shot through the windshield like a bullet. I've seen so much force at a crash that it not only threw an unrestrained driver out of his jacket and out the passenger window, it also knocked the keys out of the ignition onto the roadway right next to his body. So, "holding on" is not humanly possible.

Oh, and the argument of "I don't want to be

trapped in case of a fire or crash into water" doesn't hold water. (Pardon the pun.) Only 1/2 percent of all fatal crashes in America involve fire or water. Out of all the crashes I've worked and seen through the years, I can think of only two that have involved a fire. Thankfully, it's not like the movies or TV where the car runs off the cliff and immediately bursts into flames.

Time and again in these pages I've covered how to escape your car if crashed into water. Get out of your seatbelt and go out a window onto the roof of your car. Call 911 from the roof and ride the car like a boat until help arrives or it sinks. If the car sinks, swim to shore the direction your car entered the water.

Yep, I'll take my chances any day strapped inside my car's steel cage over my body skidding down the highway. If you've got that family member that doesn't like to wear their safety belt, try to convince them to wear it. NASCAR drivers stay strapped in so they can live to race another day. We should follow their lead and do the same.

Rough Winter?

I know this winter wore on all of us. I'm sure that you, like I, was so sick of hearing, "Hey, how you like this snow," or "Is it cold enough for ya?" Just once I wanted to say, "No 15 below just isn't cold enough; I really wish it was about 30 below." But as a man much wiser than me once said, if making a remark is going to make you feel better, then it's probably something you shouldn't say. So with that in mind, I didn't ever use the above reply.

But with this record setting winter finally over, we can only hope we won't have to endure another winter like this one for a long time. Along with the record snowfall this winter also came a huge influx of crashes and traffic events like slide offs.

While a lot of folks think the snow is "pretty," I think policemen universally hate it. It doubles and triples our work load with folk's bad driving habits that cause injury and untold property damage. Because of the high volume of crashes we worked 12-16 hour days several times this winter.

First Sergeant Kaiser and Trooper Fisher of the Pendleton District came up with a great statistic for this past winter. From January 1st to February 13th, 2013, troopers at the Pendleton Post worked 63 crashes. From January 1st to February 13th, 2014 troopers took 203 crash reports. That's not counting

all the slide offs we worked that didn't require a report

Rough winter is an understatement, as I'd say that statistic says it all. Folks just refused to slow down and get over for our police cars, as we had a record number of our cars hit while sitting at crash scenes. The best advice I can give for driving in inclement weather is reduce your speed, increase your following distance by three to five times, and make sure to get over for emergency and service vehicles. Give us room to work.

Indiana State Police Captain & Master Trooper Honored for Twenty Years of Service

Pendleton – Indiana State Police Captain Robert Burke and Master Trooper Ron Huff recently passed a career milestone of 20 years of service to the citizens of Indiana. Burke and Huff both graduated from the Indiana State Police Academy 50th recruit class in December 1993.

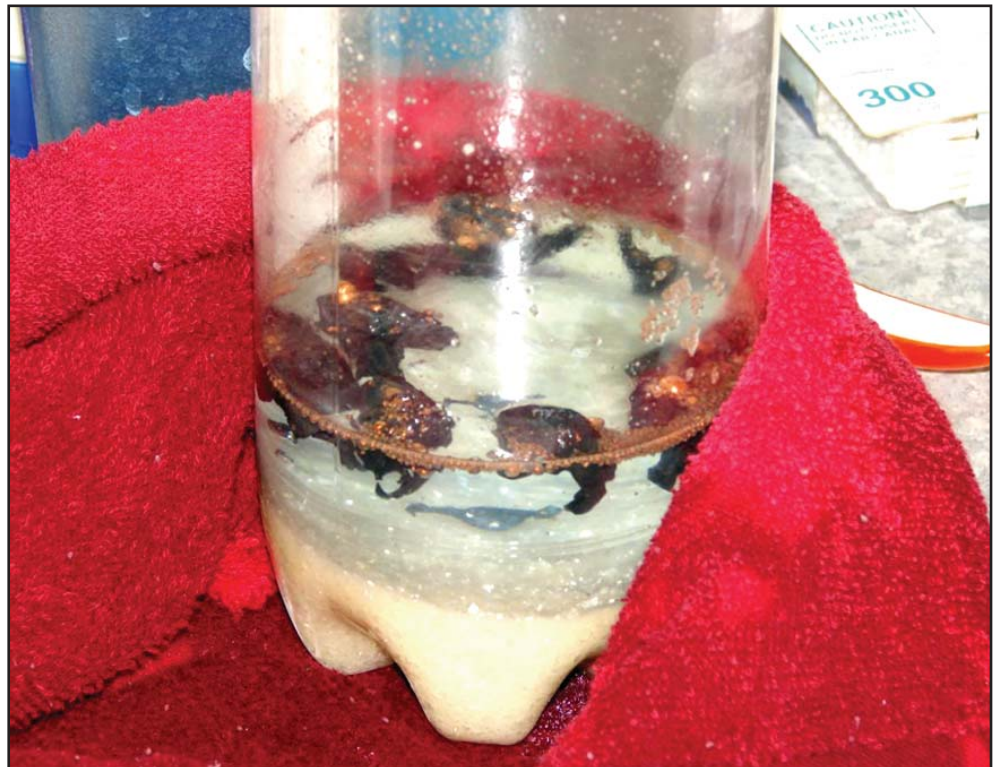


CAPTAIN ROBERT BURKE

Burke, a New Hampshire native, graduated from Hampton High School in 1985, then Norwich University, (America's oldest Military College,) in 1989. He did three years of active military duty before joining the Indiana State Police and Indiana National Guard in 1993.

Burke started his career as a road trooper in the Connersville District working Wayne and Henry

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Counties and serving as a member of the Indiana State Police Emergency Response Team. He was promoted to Squad Sergeant at Connersville in 2006, then to Lieutenant, Commander of the Pendleton District in 2009, then Area Captain in 2012.

In addition to his service with the Indiana State Police, Burke has served two tours overseas with the Indiana National Guard. He has served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and currently holds the rank of Colonel in the Indiana National Guard. Captain Burke resides in Henry County with his family.



MASTER TROOPER RON HUFF

Master Trooper Ron Huff, a Tipton native, graduated from Tipton High School in 1985 and from I.U. Kokomo in 1993 with a degree in Criminal Justice. After graduating from the Indiana State Police Academy in 1993, Huff was assigned to the Pendleton Post as a road trooper.

In 1995 Huff transferred to the Peru Post where he served as a road trooper until he transferred back to the Pendleton Post in 2000. Huff, who resides with his family in Tipton County, continues to serve as a trooper in the Pendleton District working Madison County.

Captain Burke and Master Trooper Huff were each awarded a framed certificate and a pin to be worn on their uniform signifying twenty years of service.

Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by I.C.O. Gary Catron
Master Conservation Officer

Rumors . . . !

It's an old enough rumor that it might qualify as an old wives tale. No disrespect to, well uh, old wives, of course. I remember hearing it decades ago and recently heard it said out loud, in an earnest believing fashion, that the DNR stocked rattlesnakes to control wild turkey populations. The man avowed that he knew it to be true, even said he had confirmed it personally with the DNR. It seems he was convinced that the fanged little serpents had been stocked by airplane across portions of the state in efforts to control turkey overpopulations. During our conversation, I don't think my tactful attempt to dissuade the rumor ever met any level of success.

Now, Indiana isn't the only state in which this rumor makes continued rounds. It's curious where and when it may have actually originated. For some reason, this one does seem to have traction.

Could a rattlesnake really survive being released from an airplane? A small ultra light aircraft (like a go cart with a parachute) will need to travel no slower than about 26 mph. Flying any slower and the aircraft will stall and gravity will dictate a not so friendly end to the flight. An ultra light aircraft can't hold much cargo, so something larger would be needed. A small traditional airplane may need to fly at a speed of over 100 mph to be above its stall speed. Add in variables of cargo and fuel weight and the required speed would increase. But the stall speed is only one factor. An airplane needs altitude. If it doesn't have altitude, it's just a car. The terminal speed of a falling object (skydiver) is about 124 mph. This speed is achieved in approximately 15 seconds of free fall requiring an altitude of approximately 2657 feet. This will vary with the amount of wind resistance. A rattlesnake, or pretty much any snake, will have less wind resistance than a parachutist and reach that speed more quickly, I think. An airplane could fly at an altitude lower than the 2657 feet prior to releasing the rattlesnakes to lower the rate of fall and lessen the eventual impact to the ground. So, could a rattlesnake survive a 100 mph plus impact with the ground, or rock, or tree limb, etc? I have doubts. Too many

injuries and mortalities would surely result. Rattlesnakes being stocked via airplane would not be an efficient or viable way to complete that task.

No sir, rattlesnakes have not been released or otherwise stocked by airplane across Indiana. To release snakes from the air you'd need a helicopter. A helicopter could hover close to the ground. Possibly a special-ops black helicopter could do the trick.

Some rumors are amusing, no doubt. Did the DNR really transplant American white pelicans to a southeastern Indiana reservoir to help control the gizzard shad population? Honestly, no. I don't know how these rumors get started!

Speaking of Hunter Education

Hunter education courses are sprouting up all over the state. Do you have a young family member or friend in need of a hunter education course prior to the spring turkey season? What are you waiting for? You can view the scheduled outdoor education courses with just a few clicks of your computer mouse. Visit www.inhea.com and click on the class schedule selection at the top portion of the page. You may also reach the same schedule through the law enforcement division's webpage on the Indiana DNR website: www.dnr.IN.gov. While there you'll find yourself clicking all around learning a great deal of thing you never knew about the Indiana DNR. Hunter education courses remain free, but seating is limited. Registration prior to the day of the class must be done to reserve your seat(s). This is done by clicking on the particular course you wish to attend. A minimal amount of information is needed to register online and no information provided is shared to any outside entity. Register early. Don't procrastinate; there'll be time for that later.

A news release from the DNR: Become an Outdoors Woman

Women can choose their own adventure at an outdoor sports workshop with courses ranging from shotgun shooting to canoeing. The 20th annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman is May 2-4 at Ross Camp in West Lafayette. The workshop is open to women ages 18 and older and limited to around 100 participants. Registration begins March 1 at IndianaBOW.com. The cost for the workshop is \$185 and includes all equipment, meals and lodging. The program is designed for women to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. Participants will choose four activities from more than two dozen offerings, including fishing, kayaking, archery, outdoor photography, wild edibles, wildlife tracking, shooting muzzleloader guns and outdoor cooking. The workshop is for women who have never tried these activities, but have hoped for an opportunity to learn; who have tried them but are beginners hoping to improve; or who know how to do some of the activities, but would like to try new ones. Women who enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded individuals and who seek time away to reconnect with nature are also prime candidates for BOW.

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Merchandise Vendors Open
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10:00 am
Garden Tractor Pulling Begins

12:00 pm (Noon)
KCBS Meat Inspections for KCBS & Open BBQ Contests Begin

4:00 pm
Flag Retirement Ceremony Begins

6:00 pm
KCBS Cooks' Meeting Begins - in Praise Auditorium

9:00 pm
Flag Lowering Ceremony Begins
Festival Closes for the Evening

Sunday

9:00 am
BBQ Festival Opens
Flag Raising Ceremony Begins
Antique Tractor Show Opens
Food Booths Open
Craft Fair Opens
Merchandise Vendors Open
Car/Truck Show Registration Opens

10:00 am
Church Services Begin - in the Yellow Meeting House
KCBS Judges Meeting Begins - in Praise Auditorium

12:00 pm (Noon)
KCBS BBQ Contest Judging Begins
Open BBQ Class Judging Begins

12:00 pm - Chicken
12:30 pm - Pork Ribs
01:00 pm - Pork
01:30 pm - Beef Brisket
02:00 pm - BBQ Sauce
02:30 pm - Anything But

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Smokin' On The Water
BBQ Festival by the
Brookville Lake**

by Ray Dickerson

May 3-4, 2014

(Saturday & Sunday)

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Saturday

9:00 am
BBQ Festival Opens
Flag Raising Ceremony Begins
Antique Tractor Show Opens
Food Booths Open
Craft Fair Opens

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04:00 pm - Awards Ceremony

12:30 pm
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Car Show Judging Begins

03:00 pm
Car Show Awards Ceremony Begins
BBQ Judging Concludes

04:00 pm
BBQ Contest A

5:00 pm
Festival Closes

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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



Just some of the food selections you can find at Schwartz Family Restaurant near Patoka Lake in Southern Indiana.

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Thursday - Fried and Baked Chicken, Lasagna, Meat Loaf and BBQ Ribs after 4 p.m.

Friday - Fried and Baked Chicken, Meat Loaf, Chicken Pot Pie, BBQ Pork, Catfish Fiddlers, Roast Beef, Honey Glazed Ham, Salisbury Steak and Pollock Fish after 4 p.m.

Saturday - Fried and Baked Chicken, Lasagna, Meatloaf, Pork Chops, BBQ Pork, Stuffed Peppers, Salisbury Steak and Roast Beef after 4 p.m.

Sunday - Fried and Baked Chicken, Lasagna, Roast Beef, Meat Loaf, BBQ Pork, Honey Glazed Ham, Stuffed Peppers, Chicken and Dumplings, Corn Bread and Navy Beans and Polish Sausage and Kraut.

Side choices are Mashed Potatoes, Beef Gravy, Green Beans, Sweet Corn, Sour Cream Potatoes, Creek Fried Potatoes, Twice Baked Potatoes, Chicken Dressing, Cream Peas, Macaroni and Cheese, Baked Beans, California Blend and Cheese Sauce, Homemade Noodles, Salads with a choice of dressing and Cole Slaw. (some side choices may vary daily)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

Spring is here

NEWS LETTER VOLUME SIX NUMBER 3

Spring is fully in the air. I love the sounds and smells of the season.

The birds are back in full force. The Killdeer fly over occasionally and I hear their shrill call.

Saw my first squirrels. There must be a tree around, big enough for them to nest in. Or maybe they were just passing through to the lake. The Canada Geese have new families, as do many other water fowl.

The Great Spirit has blessed us in abundance again this year. In my memory I see the camp circles all busy as the people move about. The men are back from the lake with fish for supper. The camp will soon smell of fish, cornbread, and corn soup. It was good to be alive. Today we still gather with the people of our camp..Triple Creek...We enjoy each others company, we play games, and we sit down to

share a meal together. There are more white headed members in todays life circle, now and then someone leaves to take their final journey to the spirit land. On the whole we are all at peace with the world and each other.

The other day I heard young voices singing. I went to join my friends to hear a group of children who had come to visit with us. They sang children's songs that were familiar to all of us, and then they sang songs from movies and musicals. They gave an excellent performance for young people their age. (Fourth & Fifth Grade) It was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon.

The Triple Creek Players are rehearsing two skits based on skits used in the Late Night Shows. One is built around the different names starting with Charles..”I’m Carlos.” The other is longer and involves a man looking for an argument. I run the room where arguments may be purchased, that is if the buyer can clearly define “argument” for me without getting into an argument. In addition I am singing a rather 'croaky' version of “Bicycle Built For Two.” We will be performing them at the “Family Nights”this month. See the old ham has some juice left.

Therapy is getting to me. Although the therapists here keep telling me that I am making

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Happenings in Metamora, Indiana



by Janice Hunsche

March/April Activities

Metamora, A Historical Canal Town

Metamora is usually a very sleepy village this time of year. So it was with some surprise that I discovered the last Saturday of March, March 29th, Metamora will be holding the Metamora Mandolin Gathering at the United Methodist Church. This workshop is designed for the beginning mandolin player to learn more about their instrument and how to use it. Check-in and registration is from 7:30-8:15am with classes from 8:30am-5pm. The evening finishes with a concert starting at 7pm and featuring The Sternwheelers of Cincinnati. The cost at this time is around \$60 for the day. More information and registration forms are available at The Music Shoppe in Harrison, Ohio or online at <http://metamoramusicalpbworks.com/w/page/74229233/Metamora%20Mandolin%20Gathering> or www.facebook.com/MetamoraMandolinGathering.

In conjunction with the Metamora Mandolin Gathering, Sunday March 30th from 12:00pm to 1pm there will be a class “Jammin 101- Playing Well with Others” presented by Larry Wayt. If you have ever wondered about jamming with other musicians, the rules and etiquette, then this class is for you. Immediately following the class there will be an open, acoustic slow jam on the porch of the Gristmill. Both the class and jam are free.

After all that excitement it’s hard to believe that April is a quiet month in Metamora. On nice weekends, some of the shops will be open. The Gristmill opens officially for the season on April 2. It will be open Wednesday-Sunday from 9-5 through December. Jammin on the Mill Porch starts the season on April 6. It’s held the first Sunday of the month from April through September 1-4pm on the porch of the Gristmill. You’re invited to join in or just stop by and listen and it’s free. Finally on April 26 is Acoustical Final Friday at the Cat and the Fiddle. Signup is at 6:30pm with music from 7-10pm and best of all it’s free.



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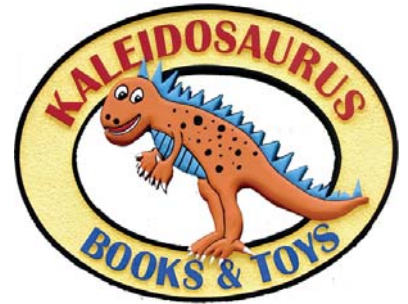
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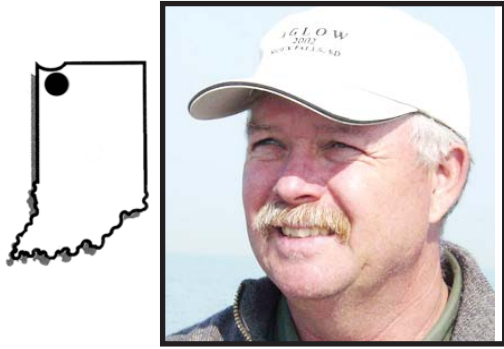
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by **Capt. Mike Schoonveld**

Catch and Release Salmon

Ninety nine point nine nine, nine.... percent of the time salmon caught in the Great Lakes end up on someone's barby. (Or like my dinner last night, in the oven.) It's wonderful when fishermen can take home fish and feel guiltless about it.

That's not the case, in many cases. Hen's the last time you heard of someone saying, "I caught a limit of largemouth bass last week and invited the neighbors over for a fish fry." How many people even know if a musky is edible? I know lots of fishermen. I don't know anyone who has ever eaten a musky.

I fish for bass, pike, muskies and other species on occasion on a catch and release basis. I've released three ounce bluegills and three hundred pound marlin. Plus a lot of fish in between, size-wise. I've also eaten three ounce bluegills and three hundred pound marlin.

I don't regret the bluegill, I don't much regret the marlin. But I like the fact the salmon and trout in the Great Lakes can be harvested with little damage to

my personal sense of morality.

There are several reasons to release fish you've caught. Perhaps you don't like to eat fish. I tried to eat a coot once. It was horrible. I don't shoot coots, anymore. Some fish (like carp) just aren't that good to eat. I've tried them. They taste like catfish mixed with toothpicks. Though the flavor of catfish is okay, I don't like spitting out dozens of toothpicks in every bite - or carp bones, either. Turn 'em loose.

Some fish, like muskies are somewhat rare. They say it's a fish that takes 1000 casts to catch. If people willing to make a 1000 casts took 'em home and fried 'em up it would soon be a fish that takes 10,000 casts to catch or eventually a million. Turn 'em loose.

Some fish are very slow growing. Head for Great Slave lake, or God's Lake or any of the huge lakes on the Canadian Shield where lake trout are the top predator. Your chances of catching a 30-pounder are good. But if you do, figure that fish is probably as old or older than you! Turn 'em loose.

Everyone likes to catch a big fish. If you catch a three-pound bass, that's nice. But you'd rather catch a five-pound bass, wouldn't you? Turn the three-pounder loose and maybe it will be someone's five-pounder some day.

Great Lakes salmon, however, aren't rare. The daily limit is five. In Alaska, for resident anglers, the season limit is five. In Michigan, catch five today, five tomorrow, invite some friends over, fire up the barby and go fishing again the next day.

Great Lakes salmon don't take a lifetime to grow to trophy size. Cohos live three years and then they die. Chinook salmon live an extra year, get to a bigger size and then they die. There will be another crop next year. Don't feel bad about putting a salmon on the barby.

Still, occasionally, I run into people who want to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

CAPTAIN MIKE SCHOONVELD



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When we plan to release a salmon, we don't even take it out of the net.. (Author Photo)

STEVE'S MARINE



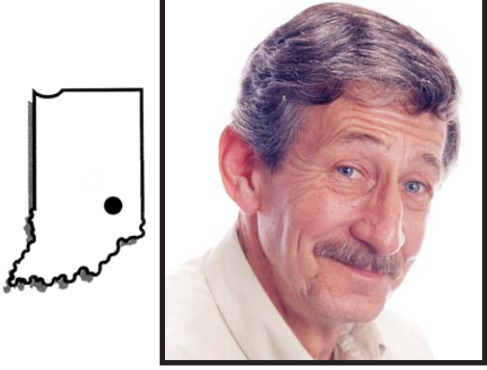
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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

MY PELICAN BRIEF

Fishing in what may as well be a foreign land can leave the poor fisherman wondering what it was that lured them there. Is it the possibility of catching something more exotic than a puny bluegill or the same old run of the mill bass? Maybe it's the thought that whatever they catch will look good mounted on the wall. After all, who bothers to have a big channel cat or a carp staring at you from a board hanging in the den? And, if it comes from salt water it tells the same story as a Midwesterner with the head of an elephant looming over his pool table. The big game fisherman's version of Ramar Of The Jungle.

The equipment of a salt water fisherman is a good indicator of what must be hanging around out there. I stopped at a tackle store to buy snap swivels and watched as the customer ahead of me asked to look at reels on display. The clerk handed him an open faced reel about the size of a soccer ball. I said, "If you need a reel that size, I would guess you also keep a shotgun handy to serve as a calming effect on whatever you haul aboard."

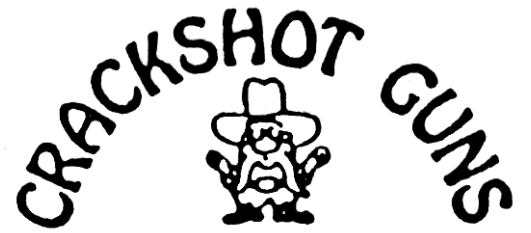
I got "the look". The clerk said, "You're fresh water, right?" I dropped the package of small swivels, the same size I use on crappy at our lake on the counter, paid fifty cents and slunk out. I'd show these uppity snobs you don't need a sledge hammer to fish in salt water. All it takes is skill. I would soon learn what real fishing skill is when I met the best in the business.

Since I'm too tight to pay for a berth on one of the party boats or sell my car to finance a seat on one of the four man boats that go into deep water, I tried surf casting with no luck and finally stuck to pier fishing. Baited with shrimp I cast and let it settle to the bottom. Almost immediately, I felt the strike. I set the butt of the rod under my belt, grasped the rod in both hands and heaved back to set the hook into what was probably a tarpon or blue finned tuna. A magnificent eight inch long example of fighting fury ripped out of the water and sailed over my head. Dangling from the hook was a colorful little thing that croaked as I unhooked it. I felt pity for the poor little thing and since I practice catch and release, I apologized to it and threw it back. Four more followed, all too small to make a sandwich, each croaking in their sorrowful little way and were released. By that time I figured I had wasted at least two dollars worth of

shrimp. Suddenly, I noticed a movement behind me and turned to see a two foot tall white bird with a scrawny neck, standing on long skinny, knobby legs watching me intently. Casting out I hooked another fine seven inch specimen, unhooked it and threw it to the bird. A pick pocket in a bus station wouldn't be any faster as the bird snatched up the fish and ran off. But not for long. Within five minutes it was back, followed by the king of Bower Bums, a pelican. Both stood and watched as I pulled in six more trophies. Afraid I'd attract a whole herd of these beggars I stopped feeding them, packed my gear, excused myself and left. At least they weren't like stray dogs that would have followed me home, begging for more handouts.

Figuring the fish off that pier weren't trophy size I decided to give beach fishing another try. Honeymoon Island, a state park, has nice beaches, calm water and is a favorite local spot for surf casting. Previously, I had tried my favorite crappy and bass artificial with no luck. Apparently, these fish are uneducated and lazy and won't bother to chase an artificial, so I was back to using shrimp. On my first cast a large bird swooped down and landed on the sand five feet to my left. Yep, 'ol SatchMo the pelican had shown up to cheer me on. It stood like a stone statue and watched unblinking. A bite, I flipped the rod to set the hook and Satch immediately waddled directly in front of me as I reeled the monster shoreward. "Gittoudda here you trash can lid banging bum" I shouted as the bird made a lunge toward the fish. I wondered how I would be able to handle a pelican if it got the fish before I could avoid it. I managed to get the croaker off the hook and threw it back. The bird immediately dove into the water and snatched the fish. Then, two more of his pals showed up and I was flanked on both sides by flat footed bums carrying suitcases under their bills. Five more croakers followed and each was swallowed as I threw them back. I was beginning to look like a worker at feeding time at the zoo. All attempts at chasing them away resulted in them circling like buzzards and then returning to stand and stare like zombies. I finally gave up. And to add insult to injury I found out that the fish I was catching are called pig fish. I think I'll stick to ogling bikini's on the beach. But, I don't know which is worse: being ganged up on by pelicans or being whapped in the head by my wife.

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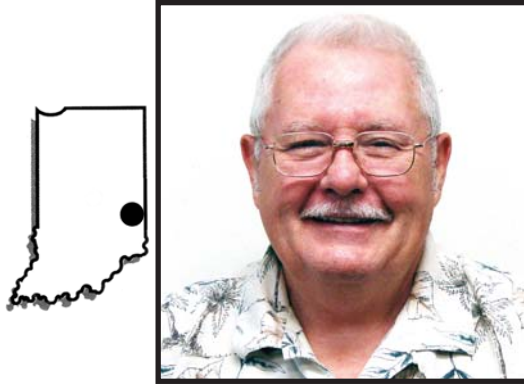
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by **Marshall Smith**
 Owner/Gunsmith

Relining a barrel on that old rifle

The main reason to reline a barrel of the older guns is to preserve the original lines of the rifle. Rebarreling the older guns requires the most of the same tools as relining but will change the overall look or lines of the gun. The major reason for replacing the old shot out of rusted and pitted bore barrel with a new barrel is to change the caliber of the gun to a more modern cartridge. Case in point, the German Mauser was made in many different calibers. The German military used the 8x57mm round while the Mauser produced for the Argentine military was a 7.65x53 round. The Spanish Mauser was a 7x57mm round and adopted by many other countries. Although there is surplus ammo available for these calibers, it is not the most accurate. The bolt action of the Mauser is such a good design that re-barreling these old surplus military arms makes an excellent large game hunting rifle. I see many Mauser's rebarreled and chambered for the .308 round. Even Mauser re-chambered its civilian sporting models to .30-06 to satisfy sales here in the United States. Whether relining or re-barreling that old rifle it is going to be more expensive than buying a new plastic stocked gun but worth it if you love that old gun.

Many of the antique rimfire rifles and the .25-20, .38-40, and .44-40 black powder cartridge rifles from the turn of the twentieth century have bores that are either shot out or rusted and pitted beyond saving. Relining the barrel can bring those old guns back to life making them useful, accurate hunting or target shooting guns. Of course some readers will find it unacceptable to do anything to an antique gun that may possibly reduce its market value. That's up to the owner and whether or not the owner wants a gun that is not just a "Wall Hanger" and for looks only. Here's what you can look forward to if you decide to tackle this barrel reliner project yourself.

Brownell's and MidWay USA and both have equipment and tools for sale for the home gunsmith to purchase to reline a rifle barrel. Tools

needed to reline a rifle barrel include a good barrel vise (\$70 - \$149), an action wrench to remove the receiver from the barrel (\$80 to \$180 and most are made for a specific receiver), a finish chamber reamer of the correct caliber (\$45), go gauge of the right caliber a brass shims to protect the rifles finish from scratches and nicks from the action wrench (\$4 a set), and a crowning tool for finishing the muzzle. You'll also need a piloted barrel liner drill (\$109). A piloted liner drill is the best way to go or the drill will tend to drift to one side. The liners are not that expensive, any where from \$35 to \$159 depending on caliber and manufacturer. The liners need to be soldered or bonded into the barrel. The trend is to use Acraglas from Brownell's, Green Locktite, or some other High Strength Heat resistant epoxy bonding agent. Soldering the liner in with high tensile strength solder which contains silver is difficult and subject to mistakes. The epoxy method seems to work well in all instances and it has been reported that relined rifles have been hot tank blued without damage to the epoxy. Of course you'll also need to include hand tools such as a good 3/8 inch variable speed drill, or a lathe with a 1" or larger spindle through hole, tool holders, and the usual screwdrivers, punches, cleaning supplies, etc., and a large measure of experience if you decide to tackle relining or rebarreling your gun. Once the liner is installed, the chamber must be cut and the extractor cutout must be cut. Some gunsmiths cut the extractor space before bonding the liner, others do it after. That's a call to be made depending on the type of extractor.

The home gunsmith may not want to invest that kind of money in tooling for just one rifle. Many gunsmiths reline barrels and have their costs posted on the internet. I checked some of those costs and most were about 75% or so of the cost for the tooling listed above. So to get a barrel relined without the worry of screwing it up and having a bunch of useless tooling lying around, you may want to contact a gunsmith.

That's all for this month. These notes are mine alone and do not represent the opinion or position of anyone, just me. If you have a question or a comment on guns, gunsmithing, gun rights, or, would like to just make a comment email me with your comments at Marshall@MarshallJSmith.com. I'll try and answer your questions as best I can and some answers may be included in this column. Protect your Constitutional rights, exercise your voice to be heard, contact your Congressional Representative and Senator and express your opinion. Be Informed, Be Heard. Be the squeaky wheel, demand your rights.

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Coyotes not an urban legend

As I was pulling out of a parking lot last week, well within Kokomo's city limits and in the middle of the day, As I looked both ways for oncoming traffic, I saw it. As I looked to my left, I saw a coyote crossing the road. Now I know some of you may be thinking, "Oh, it could have been a dog," Nope, I know what I saw and it was definitely a coyote.

I realize, and always have, that coyotes are a very common part of our natural landscape, even within the confines of town. We hear reports of them from time to time being spotted in city parks and the like, but still, you just don't expect to see them in town, especially in the middle of the day.

Also interesting is that even as prolific as the coyote population is, there are scores of people that do not even realize that we have coyotes here in North-Central Indiana. I hear it all the time, "you mean we have coyotes around here?" Yep, we sure do, and lots of them.

As my run-in last week proved, they are not confined to just the more remote parts of the county either. They can easily adapt in neighborhoods and towns as well. This ability to adapt is exactly why coyotes are thriving and their numbers are increasing.

A big reason that most people don't ever see coyotes is largely due to the coyote's desire to fly under the radar. They prefer to stay out of human sight and are quite good at doing so. They are a naturally reclusive species, which has also helped them flourish.

My sighting the other day, and ones like it, can happen for a variety of reasons. A less likely but plausible one is because last spring's coyote pups are now reaching maturity which can force the subordinate males to relocate to find their own territory.

Another factor can be attributed to the severe winter that we have been experiencing this year. It is possible that the deep snow and ice could be forcing predators such as coyotes to expand their search efforts in order to find food.

But the most likely reason is because the mating season for coyotes happens in late January and February so they are apt to be out and about more in search of potential mates.

Whatever the reason, coyotes certainly do live among us and generally pose little to no threat. We all hear the stories of children being attacked and pets being eaten by these elusive canines, and I am not saying that, at least in some part, that some of them don't hold some truth. Heck, a neighbor of mine did actually have her small dog killed by a coyote in the field behind her house, so it does occasionally happen. And, like with most animals, I am sure they act more aggressively when cornered or hungry. So, take necessary precautions to protect your small pets if you have any.

The fact is though, that coyotes typically prefer

to stay out of sight, out of mind most of the time, and they are generally pretty small in stature themselves. Adult coyotes stand about two-feet high at the shoulder and range in weight from about 20 to 50 pounds, with 25 to 40 pounds being more common.

So, rest assured that we do have plenty of coyotes living among us, and although they do potentially pose a risk to small pets, you can also feel pretty safe that you are not going to get drug out of bed and taken off by one either.



Typically when one thinks of coyote images, vast rural areas come to mind. That is simply not always the case with these adaptable predators however, as they have learned to live right alongside humans in suburban - and even urban - areas as well. (Photo courtesy of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources)



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Sunrise horse, Bailey and a volunteer's dog, Tiki. (Author Photo)



Myself as a back rider for a Sunrise student who has recently started riding by himself with two side walkers. (Author Photo)

Horses Are Heroes



by **Rebecca L. Funk**
Executive Director of Sunrise, Inc.

Disability Awareness Month

In the past two articles I discussed a few of the horses that Sunrise Inc. houses for the program including two Quarter Horses and three Appaloosas. These five horses are some out of eleven horses that Sunrise is able to use in its program. You, the readers of this article, have learned about these breeds of horses and just a little bit about the horses as individuals. As this year goes on I will inform you about some of the other breeds and horses that we utilize at

Sunrise but, for this article, I would like to discuss disability awareness and what the horses and the program here at Sunrise do to support it.

Disability awareness is celebrated in the month of March and is sometimes forgotten when everyone gets caught up in the hustle and bustle of every day life. Disability awareness is exactly what it sounds to be. The awareness of those who live with a debilitating illness, in any form, that disables their mind, body, and/or soul and emotions. This does not mean that we, as a society, need to put our full focus on the disabled or handicapped. To me, and to many people in the Sunrise Inc. program, it means that we, as a society, focus on being more kind to each person that we pass daily and that we, as a not-for-profit organization, push for this type of compassion. The reason that we should be kind to everyone is obviously that it's just a kind thing to do and a good way to live but also because no one can ever know what any individual is living with. Among those who are obviously effected with diseases or illnesses such as Cerebral Palsy, paralyzation from birth or injury or any other physically debilitating ailment their are people who walk our streets and work in our offices who live every day with hidden illnesses. Some people that we see daily could very well be living with these hidden ailments such as Fibromyalgia, Autism spectrum, Post Traumatic Stress, Depression, etc.

The horses at Sunrise Inc. therapeutic horseback riding center seem to have a way of understanding each and every individual that comes through the doors of our old barn whether the person be a volunteer, mother, father, friend, intern, or rider. The love that the horses give to each and every person is truly a virtue that everyone can take from. From my personal experiences, I have learned that



Myself at age 13 with Bailey a Sunrise horse. (Author Photo)



Sunrise volunteers, Kimberlee and Brooklyn, with Bailey. (Author Photo)

horses know what myself and other people are feeling. On numerous occasions the therapy horses of Sunrise have rested their heads on my shoulder when I am feeling down, allowed a crying student to hug them tight, and given a lesson on horse care to a student who just longs to make another being feel good.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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Richard Morris Shank of New Palestine, IN passed away peacefully Sunday, February 2, 2014 at the age of 84.



Richard "Dick" Shank and a few of the bass he caught in Northern Michigan. Dick was an avid fisherman.



Dick served in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict until his honorable discharge in 1954. He was awarded the National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal with 1 Star, Naval Occupation of Asia Medal, Good Conduct Medal and The United Nations Korean Service Medal. (Photos Reproduced by Ray Dickerson)_

Dick Shank Made a Difference!

by Ray Dickerson

My first cousin, Richard Morris Shank, made a difference because he looked at life as a challenge and met it with a sense of responsibility for all.

My memories of Dick go a long way back in my early childhood when Aunt Kate (Dick's mom) lived on South Morton Avenue between the Friends Church and Goldey Smoker's house on the NW corner of West School and Morton Ave. At that time living there was Dick, his brother Duane, "Doc" as he was better known and Aunt Kate. Uncle Morris, Dick and Doc's dad, was in the Marines and my dad was in the Navy. Both were serving their country in time of war, like most Americans of their age.

After the war was over when Dad came home, we moved into our own house at 105 East South Street here in Centerville in 1946, where I am right now.

Dick graduated from Centerville High School in 1948, working at Miller Brothers Hardware. Then he joined the Navy, I don't remember seeing him again until he came home.

He and his wife, Carmen, moved into a small house located behind Allen's home next door to Uncle George and Aunt Elizabeth's house on East School Street. Roger Allen was a good friend of mine so I saw a lot of Dick that year. Dick had always been an avid fisherman. I remember him showing me the bass he

caught night fishing on Whitewater Lake in the Whitewater State Park, just south of Liberty, IN.

One day and I can't tell you exactly when it was Dick gave me my first ever closed face spinning reel, it was the greatest. I fished with that reel until I wore it out. He had bought it for me at Miller Brothers Hardware where he worked. I still have it in a box out in the barn with my other fishing equipment.

When Dick and Carmen moved to New Palestine in 1958 the only time we saw them was at family gatherings of one kind or another.

When Dick worked at Picket's Hardware shop in Greenfield I stopped each month and dropped some Gad-a-bouts off to him. We would visit until he got busy. Then Picket's closed.

The last time I visited with Dick was a few years ago when I was setting up for the Indianapolis Sport Show. I stopped in New Palestine to see if I could find him. I didn't know exactly where he lived, but I knew he had been on the town council, so I stopped at the Town Hall. I went inside, a lady came out of her office, Becky Hilligoss the Clerk Treasurer, she asked me if she could help me. I told her who I was and asked if she could tell me where Dick Shank lived. She gave me his address and directions to get there, then hesitated. She said she thought Dick

might be at the post office at that time and told me to wait a minute. She then called the post office. She hung up the phone and told me to stay there, Dick would be along shortly, he had been at the post office. I just scratched my head, thinking now that's pretty good. She told me that Dick had spent so much time with the Town Council they pretty well knew his daily schedule.

As we waited I told her how Dick had amazed me a few years ago when we were at a family reunion. We were just talking, at the time I worked for UCDC in Liberty, I mentioned something about the importance of Development Corporations and Dick started telling me about his work with the Hancock County Development Corporation. I had no idea he did that!

About that time I walked Dick, he greeted me enthusiastically. We had a nice long talk, it was so good seeing him again. When I left I told him I would see him soon.

I waited too long. I got a Facebook message from Dick's daughter Sharon that Dick was going to the hospital for surgery in January. Before I could visit him at St. Vincents hospital, I got the message he had died.

I was able to attend the calling on Feb 8th, but due to complications I couldn't attend the service.

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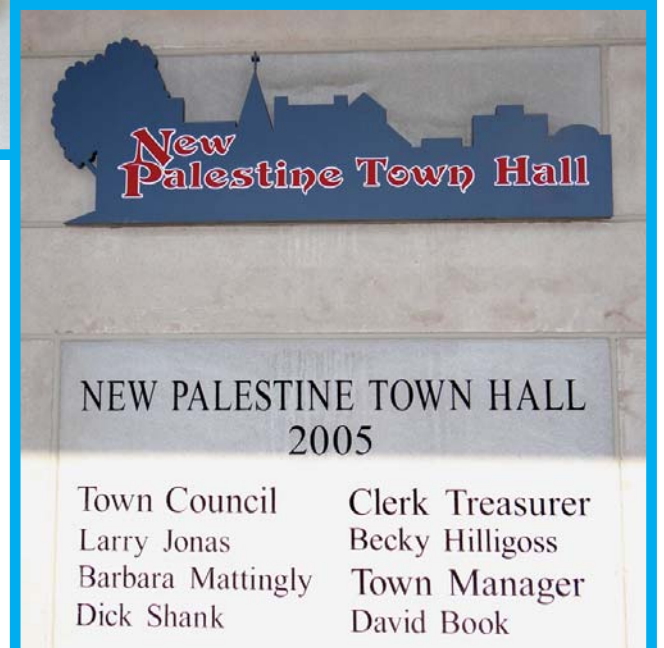
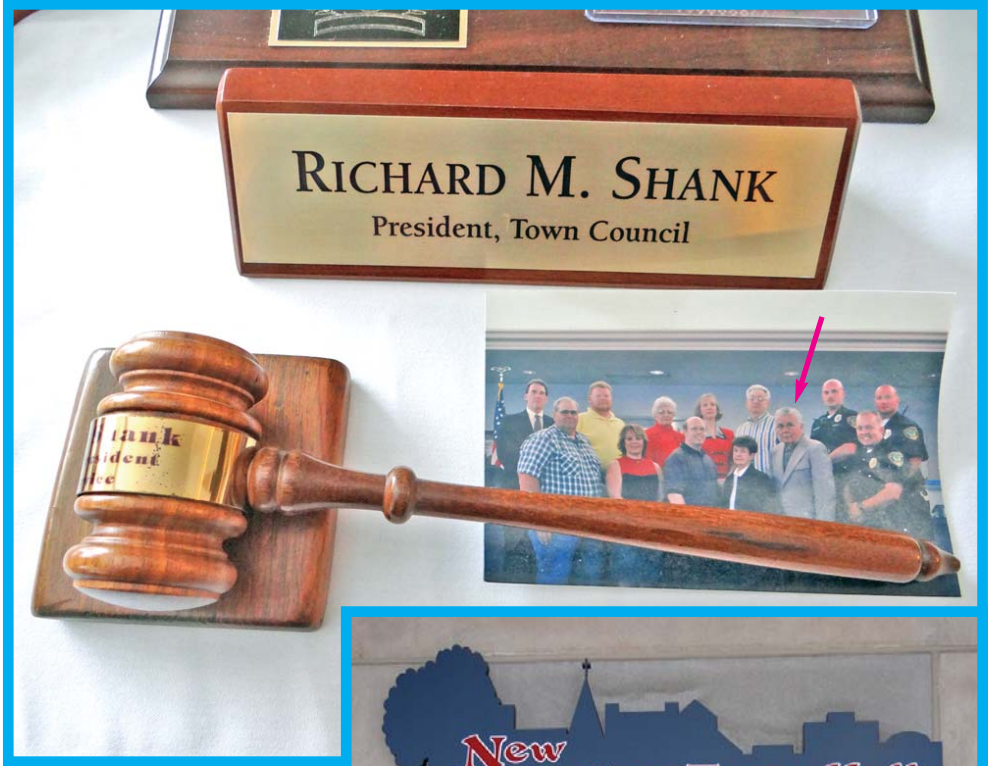
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New Palestine Clerk Treasurer, Becky Hilligoss showing me the Dick Shank display in the Town Hall on February 19, 2014 in New Palestine, IN. I stopped by there on my way back from setting up my booth at the Indianapolis Sport Show.



Top Photo: Dick Shank was on the New Palestine Town Council for 35 years. This was his gavel and name plate. The photo is of the Council, arrow is pointing to Dick. Middle Photo: When the new Town Hall was built in 2005 those responsible for its construction got their names engraved in the wall including Dick Shank. Bottom Photo: Golden Hammer awarded to Dick Shank

Richard Morris Shank

December 28, 1929 - February 2, 2014

Richard Morris Shank, Sr., 84, of New Palestine, IN passed away peacefully Sunday, February 2, 2014.

He was born on December 28, 1929 to Morris and Catherine Shank (Dickerson). He married Carmen A. Thomas on September 23, 1954 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Richard was a 1948 graduate of Centerville High School where he was proudly lettered in baseball, basketball and track.

After graduation he worked at Miller Brothers Hardware in Richmond, IN until he took a leave of absence and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict until his honorable discharge in 1954. Richard was awarded the National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal with 1 Star, Naval Occupation of Asia Medal, Good Conduct Medal and The United Nations Korean Service Medal.

He then continued work for Miller Brothers Hardware until its closing, Kiefabers Plumbing Supply, New Palestine Hardware and Pickets Hardware until its closing in 2002.

Not only did Richard serve 35 years on the New Palestine Town Council where he helped establish the New Palestine Planning and Zoning Commission, he also had the opportunity to have a helping hand in The Economic Development, Hancock County Transportation Advisory Board,

New Palestine Cemetery Board and the Redevelopment Commission.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, his loving wife Carmen and his daughter Debra. Left to cherish his memory is his son, Richard M. Shank, Jr. (Tonta); and his daughter, Sharon (Larry Joe) Fox; four grandsons, Richard III of Greenwood, Craig of New York, Jacob of Speedway, Samuel of Knightstown; and one brother, Duane (Evelyn) Shank of Centerville.

He was a member of The National Rifle Association, a lifetime member of the New Palestine Lions Club where he held several offices and a 59 year member of the American Legion Post# 182.

Dick lived by Milton Berle's motto: "Leave em Laughing".

Visitation was held from 10 a.m. until service time at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2014. Hendryx Mortuary located at 19 E. Main St. New Palestine, IN.

My Visit to New Palestine Town Hall February 19, 2014

On my way back from setting up my booth at the Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo at the Indianapolis Sport, Boat & Travel Show I decided to go home through New Palestine and stop by the Town Hall. I wondered how they felt about the passing of Dick
CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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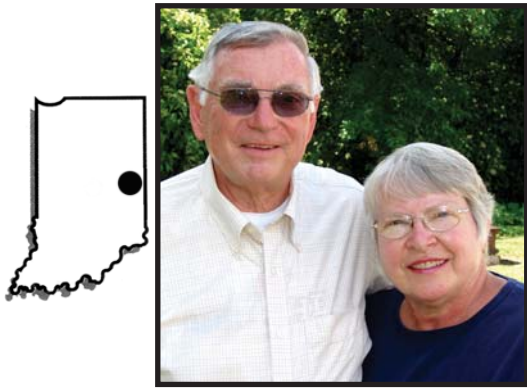
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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

Signs of the End of winter

A lot of the campgrounds and RV Resorts here in the Midwest and Northeast are opening shortly and the snowbirds are grudgingly packing up and heading north. Canadian friends have a few more days or weeks until their six months visa is used up or they'll be taxed if they're over the time limit in the U.S. Some snow birds are headed directly to their seasonal sites in the north that they had vacated in the fall. Others head back home to pick up where they left off, probably to spoil the grand and great-grand kids.

Probably one of the first things they'll check on is if their homes have withstood the horrendous winter weather we've had. But, all in all, it will be good to be back to wherever, to catch up on family news, maybe to meet new neighbors and to brag everyone about how good the weather was where they were. Now they can start going to activities involving youngsters in their family-----in other words, no time to rest, with flag football, tennis, track meets, soccer, tee ball and baseball games.

There will be those who'll tell them about the numerous boating and RV shows they missed up north, but keep in mind these shows are becoming more popular in the territory to which the snowbirds migrate. Some states have two, three or more of these shows to facilitate all the people who want to visit and not have to travel so far. These new units have all the trimmings and "bells and whistles" one needs for a "complete camping experience."

When we're out and about in the winter we see new trailers and fifth wheels being towed and coaches being driven to the south and southwest from our own manufacturing plants in northern Indiana, especially from the Elkhart area. Some are taken from one show to another if not purchased at the previous show and then to the next show in another state. Most of these dealers don't want to be overstocked and have to move units back to their home sales lot, so late in each show much lower can be had.

These are the units RV show visitors psych out early in the show week, compare prices, and pick up brochures. Then, on the last show day they reappear and work to get the best deals and prices. We've witnessed people being able to trade out their present unit or purchase their first camper and save thousands of dollars. It costs the dealers quite a lot to take these units back to their lots. Think it over the next time you are selling your trade in or getting your first unit with the basic equipment, or to get all the "bells and whistles". Most probably you're not going to use these "things" many times and they're expensive to replace. We actually are good examples of this last statement. We bought

our new 2012 fifth wheel that had recessed lighting overhead in over a dozen places. Eventually people found out these lights were not easy to change and this idea was abandoned in the 2013 models. Now, where do we get the replacement bulbs? Several companies that supply the camping industry are going to LED bulbs. We even went to the plant in Elkhart that manufactured our unit about another issue and, asking about where to get these tiny bulbs, actually received no satisfaction.

Our next step is to go to or write the company which manufactured the bulbs and find where we can get replacements. We're not in total darkness yet but that's one of the hazards of being talked in to new-fangled gizmos, let alone the lights you'll always need. We'll probably need to keep a good supply of batteries for our flash-lights. Ha. If these bulbs are available I might purchase several cases and hawk them at RV shows and flea markets. We do like our fireplace and thought we'd never use one. It quickly heats up the camper and we usually close off the rest of the camper except where we spend most of our time when indoors. Then we wonder, is this really camping?

The most recent Escapees RV publication reports that there are over one million RV's and campers on the road today. Whether weekend, vacation, snowbird or full timer, take things with you that you'll actually use. Probably the items that get the most usage for and by us are tour books. You'll never run out of places to see and things to do with tour books, many of which can be obtained free at rest stops or tourist bureaus, and may be included when you pay annual fees to travel associations or camping clubs. Even though a lot is included in these guides to areas throughout the states, local people can tell you about parks and other natural beauty spots and other areas not mentioned in tour guides. Just ask the locals. Be careful, the good ol' boys around the breakfast table in a local restaurant can have you believing about a place that doesn't exist and you'll have a heck of a time getting your rig turned around to go back to civilization. Get second and third opinions.

If you find something interesting in an area you'd like to visit but your schedule (or your reservation the next night) doesn't allow the time, jot it down in a journal (that you keep in your rig) for the next trip out that way.

A writer in a Tampa paper a few weeks ago wrote about his first round trip out west camping with his wife and "rug rats". He must have experienced problems at every turn and on every hill and strange road. He sounded like he really felt every

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Kyle Schoenherr answering a question from the audience at the Indy Boat Sport and Travel show. (Photo by Michelle Bilbrey)



Pictured left to right Ronnie Capps, Phil Rambo, Kyle Schoenherr and Russ Bailey. (Photo by Michelle Bilbrey)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

Here we Snow again

Another month has passed and still I'm sitting here watching it snow. I should be on my way back to Indiana from pre fishing Lake Of Egypt for the upcoming Crappie USA Super Event, yet again this trip had to be postponed due to inclement weather. I have spent the month of February going to seminars, sporting goods stores and Boat shows. It has helped some but I really want to get on the water.

As I've said in past articles, crappie fishing is growing at a rapid pace and could be the fastest growing freshwater sport in the country; with Crappie clubs being promoted in most states the Indiana Slab Masters are doing a great job promoting it here in Indiana. Several members have given seminars over the past couple of months. Doug Sikora, of Bobby Garland baits, gave seminars at the annual Indiana Slab Masters seminar as well as promoted his sponsors and crappie fishing in general at the Bass Pro shop in Cincinnati Ohio. If you missed Doug's seminar on dock shooting, I highly recommend you catch it next year; it is informative and very energetic. BnM Pro Staffer Jim Raymer, gave a seminar the following weekend at the Bass Pro shop in Clarksville, Indiana. The Slab Masters also had a booth set-up at this event to sign up new members as well as promote club sponsors.

The Indianapolis Boat Sport and Travel show came and went, and as always was a huge event here in Indiana. In case you missed the final weekend, BnM poles sponsored an Ask the Pros discussion on techniques in crappie fishing. The cast included 8 time National Champion, Ronnie Capps, Russ Bailey from the Midwest Crappie video series, 2012

Alabama State champion from southern Illinois, Kyle Schoenherr and Indiana's own, Phil Rambo, the 2008 Crappie Masters, Sportsman of the Year. I made the first of three discussions and was surprised by the number of spectators involved in this event. I also caught a couple other seminars during the day and none of them compared to the Crappie segment of Ask the Pros. During the segment, several topics were discussed from jig and float to dock shooting techniques, and beginning fishing to top tournament techniques. I'm sure after seeing the turn out for the crappie segment it will continue to be included at the boat show for years. I can't wait to see who will be ask to participate next year, also thanks to BnM for sponsoring this event they do a great job promoting crappie fishing.

Congratulations to the Indiana Team of Matt Morgan and Kent Watson for their win at the Crappie Masters, Lake Monroe and St Johns River Tournament this was the second leg of the Florida State Championship. The team slow trolled 16 feet of water with BnM poles catching their fish off the bottom with Rockport Rattlers and Midsouth jigs. The weekend prior the team fished the first leg of the championship on The Harris chain of lakes. Morgan and Watson finished the first leg in 7th place with a weight of 13.50, and finished the Florida State Championship in second place.

With only days till our tournament season starts, things are still a little cool and all the Central and Northern Indiana lakes are still iced over. I did talk with friends down south and the ice is finally giving way to open water a little at a time. The first ISM event will take place March 22nd on Patoka Lake, as of now, most of the lake is still iced over, with the

only open water around Osborne and Walls ramp. For complete details of the upcoming tournament season for the Indiana Slab masters series, visit their website @ www.indianaslabmasters.com they have a couple new tournaments this season including an open tournament and a kids tournament on Prairie Creek reservoir in Muncie, IN. Details of upcoming tournaments and host are posted along with tournament results on the website and updated throughout the season.

It has been a long cold winter and I am really looking forward to getting back to posting some tournament results and winning techniques here in the Gad-a-bout. I hope everyone has stayed warm and enjoyed the ice fishing this year; I heard it was a very good season.

Tight Lines Everyone
Ron Bilbrey

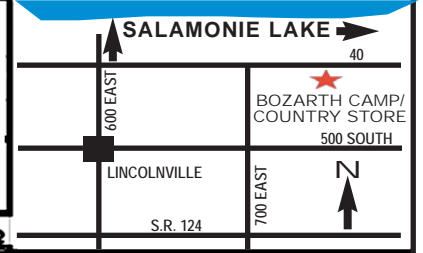


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Left Photo: Bill Hohman group from Marietta, OH with part of their 132 lb. catch. Right Photo: Jim Fox and Jim Siebold group from Columbus, OH. Cheryl Siebold and Judy Fox with their "Fish Ohio" Walleye. (Author Photos)

A Note from the Captain

by Bob Boytim
Owner of Boytim Charter Service

We had a nice 2013 season. The highlight of our walleye fishing was the size of the fish. We had a number of limit catches of 100 pounds or more and three times we topped 200 pounds. That does not happen very often. One of our boats also had 47 Fish Ohio Walleye (28 inches or more) which are more than usual. These large fish are the result of the 2003 hatch and we should be catching them again this summer.

The late summer perch fishing was excellent. We caught limits most of the time and were able to stay in Ohio in the western and central basins. The size of the perch was also very good. As in the past, whenever possible, we finished off the perch trips by walleye fishing. A couple of times we caught 20 plus walleye.

Bass fishing was good, especially on the Canadian side around Pelee Island in August and September. We fished the reefs with soft craws. We also caught some walleye on those trips.

As was the case last year, we can buy fishing licenses on the Internet. For customers who would like to purchase their Canadian fishing license ahead of time, go to www.ontario.ca/outdoorscard. Seasonal and 8-day licenses also require an outdoors card. One day licenses do not require the outdoors card.

Our three boats will again be docked at Shrock's Marina, Marblehead, Ohio. If you are interested in a trip you can reach us at toll free 877-798-5445 or 419-798-5445.

Editor's Note: I recommend Boytim Charter Service to all my readers who enjoy catching fish. I've known Bob Boytim for many years. Give Bob a call. Tell him you read about him in The Gad-about. Send me a photo of your catch.



Left Photo: Dean Howard group from Catawba Island, OH, with their 200 lb. Walleye limit, including 5 "Fish Ohio" Walleye. Right Photo: Frank Hill group from Powell, OH, with their 206 lb. Walleye limit, including 4 "Fish Ohio" Walleye. (Author Photos)



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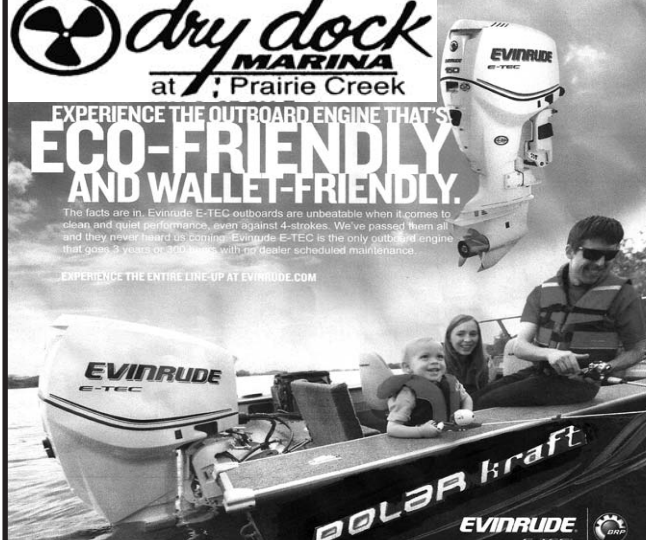
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Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Indiana—Snowy Owl Tundra?

Apparently Hoosiers aren't the only ones who think Indiana looks like frozen Arctic tundra this winter. Snowy owls are visiting us from their far northern homelands in record numbers. Our state has large flat areas covered with snow, a huge lake shoreline with sand dunes (also covered with snow) and numerous small rodents to make a tasty meal for these birds. All of these features are attractive to this Arctic owl.

The snowy owl is the largest species of owl. It can be over two feet tall and weigh six pounds. That doesn't sound very heavy, but when you consider it's mostly feathers, it makes a pretty big package. The Snowy sometimes has a wingspan of almost five and a half feet. It has a stocky body and a large, round head. Its beak is heavy and black, with a pronounced hook which is mostly hidden in its feathers.

The male snowy owl is almost pure white except for his eyes, beak, and black talons which are mostly covered with long, hairlike, white plumage. The owl has bright yellow eyes which can spot prey from great distances. It has night vision as good as most other owls while much better eyesight during the daylight



This outstanding photo of a flying snowy owl, probably a female, was captured in LaPorte County, IN south of Westville, near SR 421. Photo was taken by Josh Grube.

hours. The female is larger than the male, but both female and juvenile birds have a lot of dark marking (barring) on most of the body and wings. Overall, this is one beautiful bird and is a highly desired species to be marked off any birdwatchers list.

That is why Indiana birders have been so happy the last several years. Many reasons have been given for why the snowy owl has extended its winter grounds to include the Midwest. A few of them have even been seen as far south as the Carolinas and Texas. The Great Lakes and the eastern coast of the U.S. have experienced a sudden, unexpected population increase (irruption) the last three or four winters.

Lack of their favorite food, the lemming, is one reason some think this change in wintering area has moved southward. Another reason could be a large population increase of the owl which will tend to cause an expansion (and also causes a decrease in food.)

Either way, when the snowy owl visits our area, he sees an extensive flat area of snow which resembles his regular hunting grounds. Our airports are so attractive because of the snow covered runways, that many birds are encountering problems with aircraft. (One owl was recently trapped at an airport in southern Indiana and relocated.)

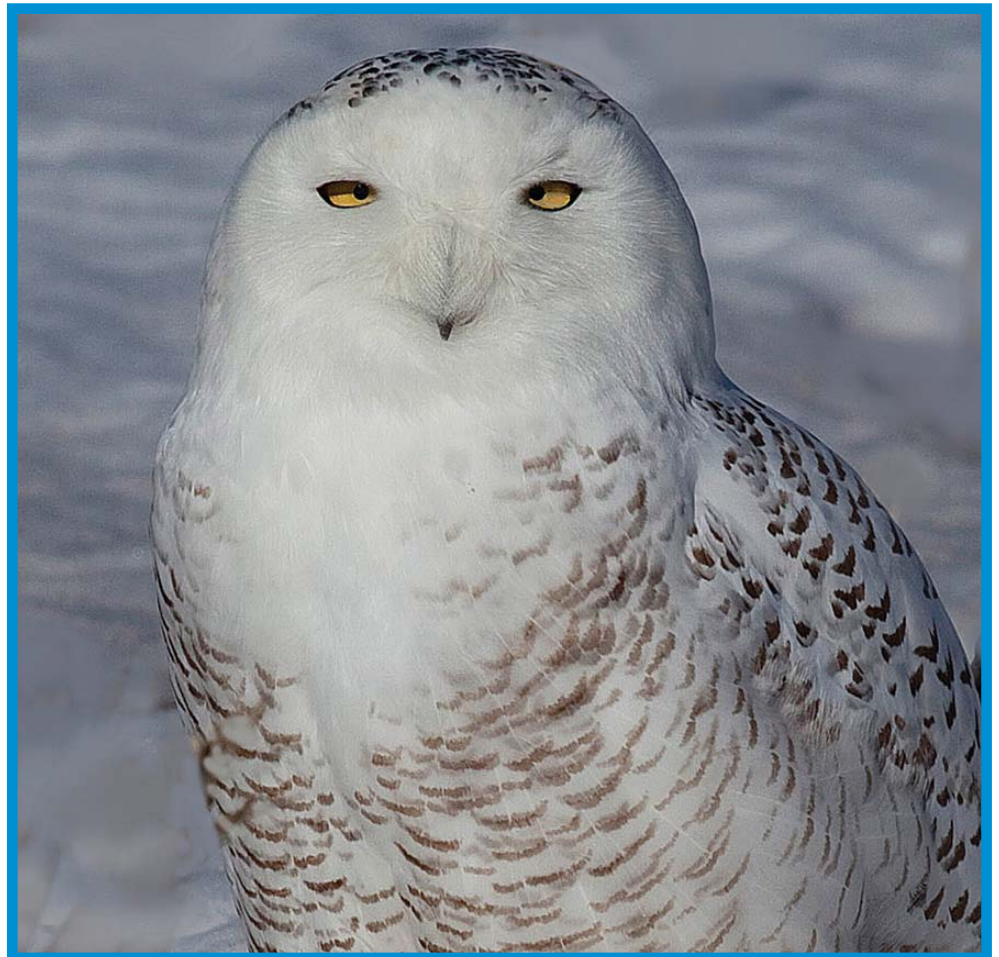
While we don't have lemmings here, we do offer mice, voles, rabbits, and other small critters for the dining pleasure of the snowy owl. (I even read one report which indicated the owl ate moles here in winter. In my many decades as an outdoorsman, I have never seen a mole running around here in the winter.)

Sightings have increased in Indiana from a high of 40 reported sightings in the winter of 1996-97, to 46 in 2011-12. In early December, 2013, one was reported at the Port of Indiana, then three near the Michigan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Posing for this picture while sitting on a post was this beautiful snowy owl. This bird was photographed in Laporte County IN. Due to the markings, this was either a female or juvenile bird. The photographer was Pete Grube.



This picture of a snowy owl sitting is a young male taken in Lake County, IN between Hebron and Lowell near SR 2. Photo taken by Josh Grube.

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These two photos are from previous Franklin County Antique Machinery Club Swap meets. (Author Photos)

Franklin County Antique Machinery Club Swap Meet April 5, 2014

by Deborah Andrews

Spring will arrive with the **2014 Franklin County Antique Machinery Club Swap Meet**. This is their 16th year for the swap meet located in Brookville, Indiana at the Franklin County Fair grounds on **April 5, 2014**. It will open at **7:00 AM to 3:00 PM** and admission is **\$5.00 per person, children under 12 free. Parking is free.** There are outdoor spaces only and food will be available on the grounds. There will be many vendors and a person can buy, sell, or trade. Farm related items only. (No Firearms)

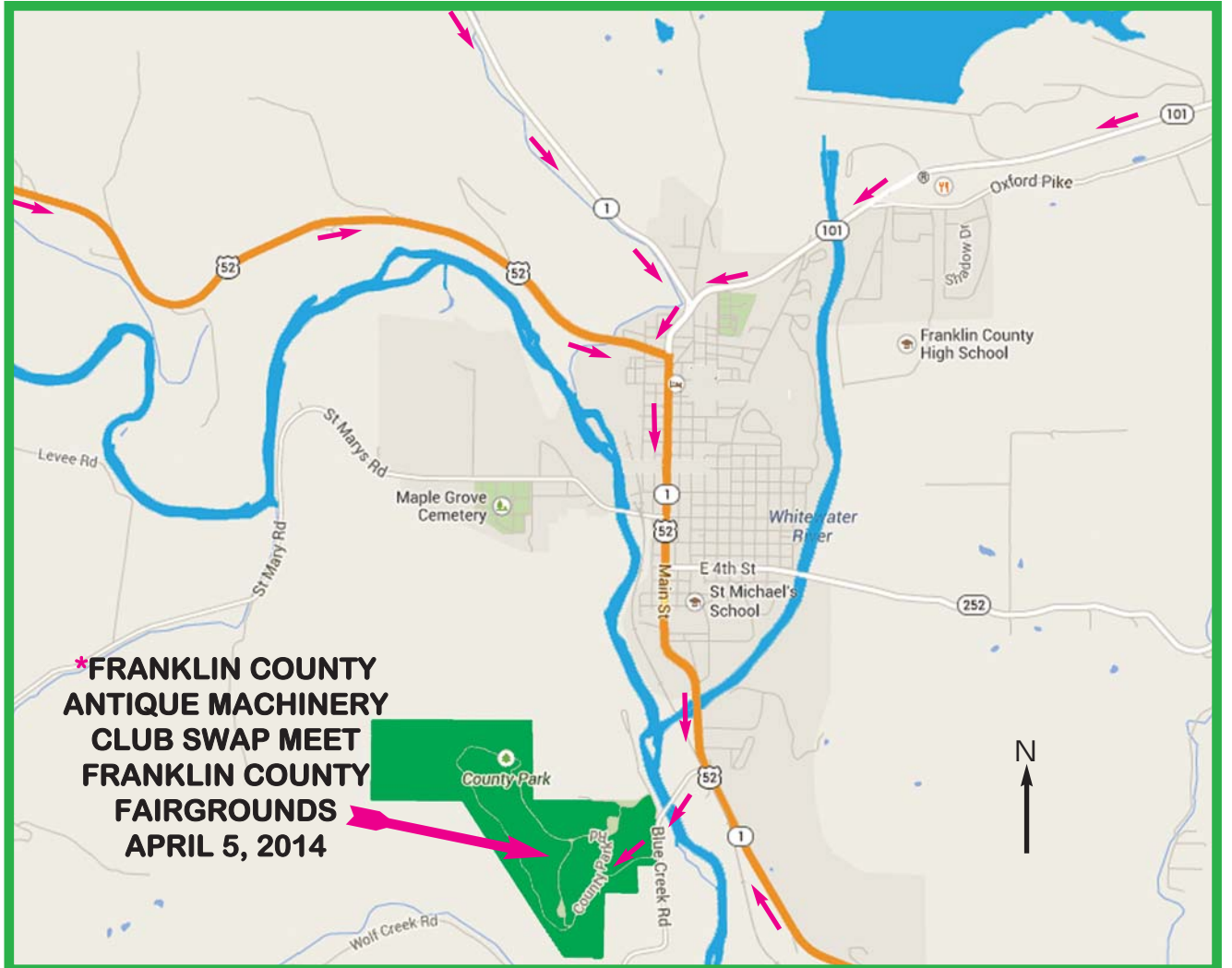
The swap meet came about at one of our early 1998 monthly meetings. One of our members recommended we have a swap meet in the spring. This was voted on and our first swap meet was on its way. It was decided the club have the swap meet on the first Saturday of April, admission would be \$2.00 per person, children under 14 free. Since then the admission has risen to \$5.00 a person and children under 12 free.

The ladies of the club prepared coffee and donuts to take the chill off. Over the years the food menu went to hot breakfast and of course homemade sweets which always goes first. Now the ladies serve a hot lunch, also.

Over the 14 years we display the coming fall show feature tractor with a pedal tractor and sell club memorabilia. We have a 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 attendance of 1000+ people. It is a good time for everyone to get together catch upon the latest deals or just see a familiar face. The vendors swap or sell all types of agricultural equipment, horse drawn

MAP AND DIRECTIONS TO FRANKLIN COUNTY ANTIQUE MACHINERY SWAP MEET



Directions to 2014 Franklin County Antique Machinery Club Swap Meet held in the *Franklin County Fairgrounds located just south of Brookville, IN. Just follow the red arrows. **From Fort Wayne, IN** take US 27 south to Liberty, IN, take SR101 south to Brookville at 2nd stoplight take US 52 south, continue thru town, at 4th stoplight, turn right onto Blue Creek Rd and turn right into Franklin County Fairgrounds. **From Cincinnati, OH** take I-74 to US 52 exit, turn left onto US 52 (north) at stop sign, go north thru New Trenton and Cedar Grove, at 1st stoplight, turn left onto Blue Creek Rd and right into Franklin County Fairgrounds. **From Indianapolis, IN** (Alternate from Indianapolis is to take US 52 directly to Brookville) or take I-70 east to Cambridge City SR 1 Exit south thru Milton and Connersville to 1st stoplight in Brookville, turn right onto SR101 at next stoplight take US 52 south, continue thru town, at 4th stoplight, turn right onto Blue Creek Rd and turn right into Franklin County Fairgrounds.

equipment, mowers, bikes or what ever attracts the eye. We have vendors from Indiana as well as the 3 surrounding states. Our club has heavy equipment to load the larger and heavy items you may buy.

Everyone is welcomed the come whether you are selling, buying, or just coming for a fun good friendly day with or without the family.

Be sure to mark your calendar for September 25th the 28th this year 2014 for our fall Antique Tractor show. Hope to see everyone there!!!

See us at www.fcamc.org.

For more information on vendor space call: Roger Pettit at **513-385-7128** or Dale Hertel at **765-220-1615**.

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WATCH FOR SIGN

Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

Is it spring time yet?

Well, the seasons are done, almost. Spring is looking like it is going to come in as a Lion. I cannot get anywhere near my barn without hip boots. I have a couple of rats, couple of coon, and a couple of baby beaver awaiting skinning demonstrations at the coming Trapper Education (TE) classes. Then I hope to get them into the last North American Fur Auction sale and see if I cannot recover some gas money. April 5 & 6, 2014 is the Bloomington TE class and the beginner's class is already full with a couple of people on a waiting list. Specialist Rex Watters was going to try to open up an Advanced TE Class. To be in the Advanced TE class you have to hold a TE card. No, being a trapper for 30 years does not count, you need to have the TE card. Sorry.

To check on this TE class, or to register for others, you need to pre-register on the IDNR website. Go to www.passitonindiana.com and choose the trapping education site. If you forget this, go to the ISTA website, www.indianatrappers.org, and look in the Calendar section. The first item lists how to get signed up. Further information on all of the coming TE classes may also be found at either website or in last month's Gad-A-Bout, or the Spring 2014 ISTA Newsletter that just went out to members, or any other of a number of publications that support the State Associations by printing their Calendar information for free. Sorry, I do not do ESP and cannot turn back the clock when you miss the date.

Did you have a good year? Kim Fulford did. See his picture in last month's Gad-A-Bout picture gallery. Kim will be one of the instructors at the Bloomington TE Class. For those of you who wish to share with everyone else, let's see those pictures. Send them to me at fpp@juno.com or send them to the Gad-A-Bout, Ray loves to print those kinds of things. Include a brief description, names and a contact number for Ray if he has any questions. It is really good for the general public to not just think Hunting and Fishing, but to add in Trapping for outdoor sports. It should be "Hunting, Fishing AND Trapping" as the National Trappers Association's Dave and Karen Linkhart are preaching to groups that they talk to. So show us your trapping pictures, and send us your trapping stories.

So what comes next? The traps need to be cleaned up, repaired, re-dyed, re-waxed and hung up out of the way, waiting for next year. I have half a barrel of Walnut hulls just waiting for the boiler. The 50 cal. Ammo can of wax is ready to melt. For safety, I have a 1/2" thick piece of cedar attached to a piece of flattened out metal stove pipe with a handle on it. The wood fits

inside the ammo can while the metal holds it up and seals off the air. I have never needed it for a wax fire, but I cover it up when I am done to keep the rain and dew out till I can get the top back on a cooled can. To wax the traps, that wax is melted and made smoking hot, just hot as I can get it without setting it on fire. A "dry" trap, with a small nail between the jaws, is lowered into the wax and it "fries" till it is done. When the trap is as hot as the wax and done frying, I lift it out and let it drain a moment before setting it off on an old screen set on the ground. I have an old metal hook, about four (4) foot long, that my Uncle made me years ago, for handling these hot traps. At this temp, the wax is very flammable, BE CAREFULL. Do not just drop a wet trap into the wax as the wax may "explode" when the water turns to steam deep in the can. Did I tell you to BE CAREFULL? When cooled, they are stored in the barn, till they are needed for the next season.

In the meantime, don't forget, the next ISTA Membership meeting will be April 12, 2014 at the Mill Pond Park in Union Mills, IN. The Membership/Board meeting will begin at 10am CST. There will be a member's luncheon at noon, and then hopefully an afternoon of fun. Ron Elliott is heading this up for us, so it should be a good time. Primitive camping is available, with a few electrical hookups around. Hotels are in LaPorte or Valparaiso. Tailgating will be available and we may even have a vendor or two. This will be a first, so come on to Union Mills and help us make it a hoot.

I am looking for a site to have a mid-summer fling south of HWY 70, the further south the better. I am not sure that we can get it in this year, but I would sure like to plan for it next year. All I need is a little help in getting it organized and out there. Any volunteers?

Well that is it for now, so as you go, watch your top knot, keep your eyes along the skyline.

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM
Pres. ISTA

Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

release the salmon or trout they catch from the Great Lakes. If that's your choice, do it and do it responsibly.

Several things will increase the odds of survival. Play the fish as quickly as possible. During the struggle, lactic acid builds up the fish's muscles. Too much lactic acid can cause delayed mortality. Tighten down the drag and get the fish to the boat.

Release a caught fish quickly. The rule of thumb is don't keep it out of the water any longer than you can hold your breath.

Burp lakers caught deep in the water column. When hauled up 80 or 90 feet or more, the air bladder in lakers expand more quickly than it can vent. Wet your hand, gently rub the trout's abdomen and you'll hear the gurgle of air. Once deflated, they can easily swim back to the depths. Salmon, with smaller air sacks, usually have enough energy to dive when released without venting their air bladder.

Handle the fish as little as possible. When I have people who want to release their catch, the fish is never taken out of the net. Gill flaps, tails and necks are great places to grasp a salmon, but they weren't built on the fish as handles.

THE END

Horses Are Heroes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Horses can teach us a thing or two about disability awareness but, more importantly, about kindness and compassion.

Even though disability awareness month is March, the goal is to bring awareness all year 'round. I have the joy and privilege of working with horses and disabled people on a daily basis through Sunrise Inc. and am working to give that privilege to so many others through volunteer work which I have participated and still continue to participate in. If any of our readers wish to become involved in Sunrise Inc. in any way we welcome you with open arms and compassionate hearts. You may find us on Facebook, on our website (sunriseinc.org), or contact us by phone (765-935-4291).

Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

day would be a one hundred percent smooth sailing day. A more recent commenter on the editorial page related his first trip and suggested it shouldn't be about the trip but about the experiences for him and his family, especially the kids. We concur with the follow up article in that if you visit so many wonderful places across the country and meet lots of interesting and friendly people along the way so many of the not-so-good experiences will disappear from your memory. Dwell on the positive.

We're not against flying, taking a ship or a train and/or staying in motels or bed and breakfast places; we've done that, but it's according if you want to see as many things from place A to place Z as possible. A plane provides a cramped, smelly, long aluminum tube and you eat stale pretzels (if even provided), the snacks you now need to purchase, except in business or first class, and you become x-rayed and/or lucky enough to get a free body cavity search. Staying in a hotel or motel provides an unfamiliar bed where (you don't know who) slept in it last night.

By camping we sleep in our own bed in our house on wheels, or in our own sleeping bag in a tent or fold down where we can hear the night sounds, step outside and see a wondrous starry sky and have great outdoor adventures in the good old U.S.A. Yes, we know many people who don't like to camp or experience the RV lifestyle and don't want the experience of searching for new or more modern equipment. Our kids never did want to be cramped for hours either. It's according to where you're going and for what reason, how much time you have to spend and what plans you have along the way.

If you have anything about camping you'd like us to research and write about call us at 260-637-3524 or e-mail: jmacnut@yahoo.com. Have a great start to the spring season of camping in the Midwest and beyond. Remember, volunteering and helping someone in a camping experience makes more friends and camping more enjoyable.

John and El McCory

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Left Photo: Fishing Guide John Petruska fishing for Muskies with his faithful partner "DOCO." Right Photo: Tammy, John and Jack Petruska when John was at the Mayo Clinic in October, 2013, receiving radiation treatments for his cancer. This was taken the third week he was there. He had 6 weeks at the Mayo Clinic. We took a ride down to visit with him and his wife. She was down there the entire 6 weeks he was there. (Photos provided by Jack Petruska)



Left Photo: John also liked to go up to the Rainy River that borders Minnesota and Canada in the spring and fish for sturgeons. They would always release the fish after catching them. Here is John and his wife Tammy with a sturgeon Tammy caught. The river was only 100 miles or less from their home here in northern Minnesota. Right Photo: John was an ardent fisherman. He was on the lake every chance he got. He fished in the winter too, ice fishing. He was a fishing guide on Lake Vermilion here in Northern Minnesota. He was especially partial to fishing Muskies all though, he did guide for walleyes and pan fish. (Photos provided by Jack Petruska)

This is not the message you want to get from an Air Force Buddy

by Ray Dickerson

Hi All

I just wanted to let you all know, that my son John, passed away last night around midnight. He lasted around a month since they sent him home. To see, first hand, how cancer kills is just one horrible experience to go through.

Thanks again to all who helped him in his final days.
Jack

I replied to Jack's message asking if I could put his son's obituary in The Gad-a-bout. He replied, Hi Ray

Yes put my son John's obit in The Gadabout, that would be nice. I don't know what to say only that he was an ardent fisherman. He was on the lake every chance he got. He fished in the winter too, Ice fishing.

He was a fishing guide on Lake Vermilion here in Northern Minnesota.

He was especially partial to fishing Muskies all though, he did guide for walleyes and pan fish.

He just loved to fish. Here are a few pics.

We just had the funeral on Friday and his benefit yesterday. The benefit was a huge success.

Jack

If you have been reading The Gad-a-bout for a long time you might remember my writing about finding some Air Force buddies (in the June 2007 paper) via the internet. Some I was stationed with at RAF Chelveston in England and some that was there before or after I was there. We all found one another on a website dedicated to RAF Chelveston, www.rushden.org. One of them was John (Jack) Petruska from Hazelton, PA. After leaving England he was reassigned to Duluth AFB, Minnesota where he was honorably discharged, returning to Hazelton, PA for 2-3 months. He then returned to the Iron Range of Minnesota and got married in 1965. They had two children, John born in 1967 and Mary Beth in 1969. Since then we have been communicating by e-mail. Jack and I worked in Base Supply together

at RAF Chelveston and RAF Alconbury. The last time I saw him in person was in England in 1963.

Sherry and I had planned on visiting Jack and his family this year, but when I contacted him it was around the time they found out that his son was diagnosed with cancer. So we had to cancel our plans. We hope to see him and Patty in 2015.

Obituary for,
John Joseph Petruska

Britt, MN - John Petruska, 46, died Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014.

Funeral Service was held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 7, 2014, in the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Midway.

Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

He went to be with his heavenly father, passing away peacefully at his home with his family by his side after a courageous battle with cancer.

John was born June 4, 1967, in Virginia to John (Jack) Petruska and Mary Ann Leathers. He grew up in Eveleth, graduating from Eveleth High School in 1985.

On Sept. 3, 1988, John was joined in holy marriage to Tammy Van Soest at the Emmanuel Baptist

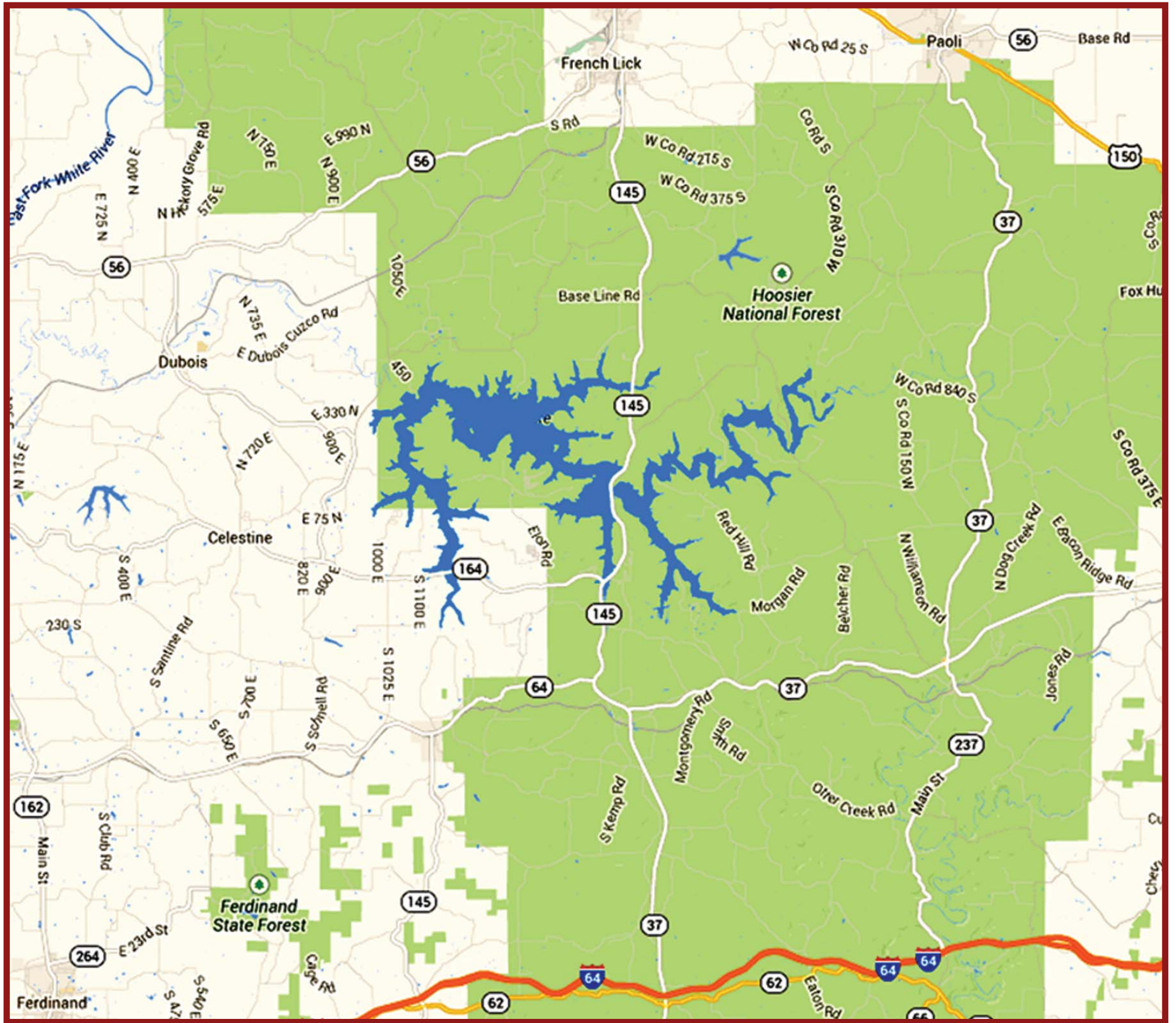
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

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DICK SHANK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Shank. That sounds like an odd thing, but Dick enjoyed his work in New Palestine, the county and the state for that matter. I hoped he mattered to them.

My question was answered when I walked in the door of the New Palestine Town Hall, the same lady who greeted me, two years earlier, Becky Hillgoss the Clerk Treasurer, came out of her office and greeted me. I asked her about Dick Shank. She didn't have to tell me a thing, she showed me a table (see photo on page 17) that had pictures and mementos of Dick on it, on display for everyone to see and remember him. Anyone coming in the front door can't help but see the table it is right in front **CONTINUED ON PAGE 28**

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2010 Spring Turkey Season

by Frank Wyant

The 2010 turkey season started as usual with me and my longtime hunting buddy, Bud Dennemann in the rolling hills of the Hoosier National Forest, just north of Monroe Reservoir. We always hunt the first three days of the spring season there just to prove to ourselves we can still get birds on public land plus the fact it is fairly flat and there are always a lot of birds there. Although I've found out as we get older the flat terrain is a lot more important to us than the amount of turkeys. The day started out perfect, it was clear, quiet, and surprising not a lot of other hunters in the area. We did walk past a couple kids sleeping in their car in the woods, but figured they were either on a date or drunk. I later ran into them in the woods about 9:00 am, they were in a pop up blind and were turkey hunting. I talked to them and found out just because they were young and inexperienced they still liked to hunt and were trying turkey hunting for the first time. Maybe there's hope for the future generation after all. Anyway as I said the woods was quiet, real quiet, so much for opening day activities.

Thursday was looking to be the same, clear quiet and sunny. I was on a finger ridge by myself and saw a torn walk across the trail about 9:00 am, so I eased into the woods in his direction about 10 or 15 yards and set up. I waited a couple minutes and started calling just in case he saw me and was on alert, I used real soft calls, but it didn't make any difference. He was gone. So since there was no response from him I waited a little bit and called some more and waited and called and waited and called, nothing. Around 11:00 I heard a gobbler from across the valley and to my right, I made a couple yelps and a cackle and he gobbled at them, now I'm ready to do business with him. I called him across the valley and up on my side of the ridge, but to my right, well since I'm right handed the gun is pointing to the left, so I cup my hand and throw my call to the left and he gobbles and goes back down a ways and comes backup to my left and starts to circle, he can't be more than a hundred yards or so but just out of sight. He kept moving left and circling till I was in a real twist and bind because my gun was all the way around to the left and I was in such a position I couldn't move or see that well. I just kept my shotgun pointed at the sound and waited, and waited, He finally stepped out at about 80 yards and started to strut inching slowly closer, back and forth and a little closer till I was about to lose control of my functions (mental and bodily). I couldn't hold my position any longer, he really looked like he was pretty close and the woods were really open, there was no underbrush so I shot. He turned and flew off like I had set off a firecracker, but not a deadly head shot. Not even fazed by my practically perfect shot, I got up and went over to look for all the blood, feathers and to step off the distance. Not a sign of blood, not even one feather and it was a long 65 yards. What a rookie mistake, here I am in my 30th year of turkey hunting and still get buck fever.

I don't know how many times I've told guys be patient, wait for the best shot, if the bird is moving toward you let him come, don't get anxious just wait for the right moment. But nooo not me I can shoot a 2 % load at 65 yards and never have to worry about it. What a dummy, he was a big bird too, at least 20 pounds and a 10 or 11 inch beard. It's hard to kick yourself in the butt with a turkey vest on but you can do if you try hard enough.

Friday morning we went back to the same spot and



In the distance a turkey carefully makes its way towards the treeline. (USFWS Photo)

tried again, Bud had been hearing birds over on the ridge he had been working, but not able to call any in to his calls. He had heard a couple but none would work. He figured they still had hens with them. I went back to my spot and put out a decoy thinking this would make the difference. As it got light he gobbled off to my left and down in the bottom on the west side on the ridge, I called a couple times and he responded and the game was on, We chatted back and forth for a few minutes and he came to within a hundred yards and just as I got my gun up and cackled to him it started to rain, he shut up and disappeared. I'm assuming he had a nice dry place to go because I sat there calling to him for another hour and he didn't make a peep the rest of the day. I on the other hand looked like a drowned rat, luckily I had my rain suit in the truck and it was nice and dry.

We went back the next day and sat in the rain for 5 or 6 hours, not only didn't we hear anything, but I had my rain suit on and still got almost as wet from the inside as if I didn't have it on in the first place. I think I would rather be wet from the rain than the sweat, at least the rain doesn't smell so bad.

We decided to take off the opening weekend because it usually is pretty crowded on public property and we were in a good spot so we knew there would be a lot of hunters in there besides we needed the break. Getting up at 3:30 for three days in a row is taking its toll on old Bud, He usually has a couple power naps every day whether he's in the woods or not.

By Wednesday we had decided to try a new spot over at Yellowwood State Forest, where we had grouse hunted in years past, but there was no action over there either.

Thursday found us in a place in Yellowwood that is surrounded by private property and the only access is to know someone. We do. So in we go and just as the woods start to get gray a bird gobbles right in front of me, not 75 or 80 yards out. Oh the joy. I'm thinking this is going to be textbook, just like in the magazines. I call to him and he gobbles, he flies down and I can hear him hit the ground and I call, he gobbles, tee hee this is it. I call again and he gobbles, but it sounds like he might be moving off to my right a little. I'm thinking, he's going to circle me, I'll just be patient and he'll come

around. So I call again and he gobbles again a little further right. I give him an excited cackle and he gobbles out another 50 or 75 yards to the right. Now he double gobbles and its farther away and then triple gobbles, then BOOM. I can almost hear Bud giggling and doing his little victory dance. So I wait about 10 minutes just in case there were two birds and the other one is coming to me, but to no avail, not me. I gather up my stuff and head down the trail to find Bud and MY bird, I could see his teeth at about 75 yards. Even with his face mask on smiling and looking like the cat who ate the canary. It turned out we had set up a couple hundred yards apart and could not hear each other, but had the old gobbler right between us. He could hear us both. The problem was he liked what Bud was saying a whole lot better than what I was saying to him. We checked him and found he only weighed 17 pounds and was 4 years old; which means he was very busy the last few weeks fighting and proving dominance and romancing the girls in his spare time.

I made Bud go with me the next day telling him that whatever he said to that bird he better repeat it today for me. I figured he could call in the birds and maybe carry my gun for me if it got to heavy. I always wanted a gun bearer. But Friday turned out to be a strange day, it was nice weather, clear, sunny, but real windy. We didn't hear any owls or crows after daylight and definitely no turkeys. Everything seemed good but not a sound in the woods, except the wind. Oh well there's always next week I guess.

Sunday it rained off and on all day and during the night it thundered so loud it woke me up twice, but since it was going to be the last week of the spring season I figured we better get at it. I had a doctors appointment on Monday but it wasn't till 11:30 so I told Bud we could go for a couple hours as long as we left the woods by 9:00 I could still make the doctors appointment. We knew it was going to be a short day but sometimes those are the best ones.

I woke up at 4:00 am and looked out, no rain but the fog was unbelievable, it was warm and so I figured why not. I picked up my gun bearer and we headed for Yellowwood. It took a little extra time to get there because of the fog, but we made it with about 20 min-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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DICK SHANK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

of you.

Becky told me Dick was one the first one's in the building on most mornings, he would say to her, "A top of the morning to you!" She said he was constantly joking around. I thought to myself what it said about Dick in the obituary, Dick lived by Milton Berle's motto: "Leave em Laughing," and I chuckled to myself.

She told me Dick was so genuinely interested in helping New Palestine and had a keen interest in Economic Development for them and Hancock county.

She gave me a copy of the New Palestine Press that had a very moving article, "Dick Shank 1929 - 2014 Town mourns loss of former town leader, Man remembered for service, love of family and good sense of humor," written by Kristy Deer....

Here are some of her random quotes:

"Dick Shank was blessed with a great sense of humor, quick wit and sharp mind, and no one was quite like him."

"...he cared a great deal for the town of New Palestine.....since moving there in 1958."

"A life-long public servant. Shank was an active part of the foundation of New Palestine. He served a total of 35 years on the town's governing entities.....governing board from 1969 to 1971....Town Council from 1976 to 2007."

"He was a salesman, so he had that salesman demeanor."

"He was a very astute man and could recite poetry and other things that he had learned through the years."

"He was on the council....town decided to acquire the sewer plant....helped establish the New Palestine planning and zoning commissions.....an active member of the Economic Development Committee....."

"He was always a proponent for cautious progressiveness."

"He knew who his congressmen.....and Senators were....."

"He was very patriotic....."

Well that about sums up a life well lived on this earth. Bye Dick, wish I could think of a joke to leave them laughing with, like you always did.....! ■

Talking Leaves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

progress, I can't tell it by my daily challenges.

Had a visit from my sister, Anna. We are nineteen month a part in age, she being the younger will turn 87 this October (2014). Although we never say it aloud each time we part we are both thinking..'Will this be the last time'. Fortunately for me, I am in better shape than she is physically.

I received a 'late' Christmas card from a lady who saw the "News Latter", Ray published in place of my column a couple of months ago. I will respond, of course, since this is something of a mystery, and you know I love mystery's.

May Brother Sun warm you each day and Sister moon light your nights.

Until next time.

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Outdoors with Rich Creason

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

City harbor, and several in New Buffalo, and Berrien County in lower Michigan, then five more along the Indiana/Illinois border, all along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

By mid-December, 54 sightings of snowy owls were reported in the Hoosier state, mostly in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties, all along the shoreline and dunes. As of February 5th, the number had increased to 106, almost two and a half times the previous record. Now, according to Brad Bumgardner, an interpretive naturalist at the Indiana Dunes State Park, that number has increased to 110 sightings.

The snowy owls will return to their arctic breeding and nesting grounds sometime in March with a few holdovers remaining until April. There, the female will scrape out a depression in the ground to build her nest. Both adults will incubate the 3-10 white eggs for around a month. The eggs are laid on different days so the young birds will hatch at different times. They will stay in the nest for two to three weeks before venturing out, and then begin flying around six weeks of age.

For your best chance to see a snowy owl in Indiana, go north. The Indiana Dunes and the Lake Michigan shoreline are best, but you may see them anywhere except in the woods. They will hunt during the daytime, unlike other owls. They usually sit on the ground or a low stump or post. Watch in large open fields covered with snow. They will be hunting in these areas and sometimes will sit on an elevated mound in the field to watch for food.

Will these beautiful creatures return again next year? Who knows? But a lot of birdwatchers will be looking to the northern skies early next winter.

Special thanks go out to Josh and Pete Grube for graciously allowing me to use their outstanding photos with this article.

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

JOHN PETRUSKA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Church in Midway. They were blessed with two wonderful boys, Joshua and Robert.

John worked at Hillwood Products in Cook for 10 years and later was a bartender where he was known for his quick wit and contagious smile. He was currently employed as a paraprofessional at the Northland Learning Center where his life experiences helped him guide many of the students there. He was also a PCP of NHS of Chisholm working at a home in Virginia.

John was an avid fisherman — he enjoyed fishing on Lake Vermilion and spending time at Lake 14 with his family. He was a fishing guide on Lake Vermilion where he loved teaching people the thrill of the muskie hunt. He also volunteered yearly for the Youth for Christ Muskie Challenge on Lake Vermilion. John also took the time to enjoy the simple and most beautiful things in life. He will be forever remembered and greatly missed by his family and friends.

John is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Tammy; sons, Joshua and Robert, of Britt and his

special companion, Doco; mother, Mary Ann Leathers of Virginia; father, John (Jack) (Patty) of Iron; sister, Mary Beth Petruska of Mountain Iron; stepbrother, Paul (Shelly) Brunner of Virginia; mother- and father-in-law, Tim and Kathy Van Soest of Britt; and many nieces and nephews, brothers- and sisters-in-law.

John was preceded in death by his grandparents.

A celebration service of John's life was held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 7, 2014, at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Midway with visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor John Cowan officiated. Services were provided by Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia. ■

2010 Turkey Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

utes to spare. So we sat in the truck and contemplated the day ahead of us. No rain so we didn't have to carry our rain suits, warm weather, so we didn't need the extra jacket, and with my Doctors appointment it would be a short day, so let's hit it. Off we go to our favorite spot where we had killed two birds in the last two years and were certain there would be some in the area this year. We got all set up and started calling, silence, no owls, no crows no gobblers, nothing.

Oh boy another one of those days. As it got lighter the mosquitoes started forming small squadrons and zeroing in on my neck and ears. Only me, I don't know about Bud because he usually puts some kind of hex on me so I get all the ticks and mosquitoes in the woods and a few gnats just for good measure. He says he has on a special camo clothing called Buzz-Off. But I know he put a hex on me. So I get out my Thermocell bug repellent device and turn it on, it works great for about 10 minutes. Then it runs out of butane and the critters gather up to come at me again. By this time it's about 7:30 and I'm about ready to call it quits because of no gobbling and the only sounds we hear are the whiz of gnats and the sorties of mosquitoes diving on my face and ears.

All of a sudden Bud whispers "HERE HE COMES RIGHT THERE, HERE HE COMES" I look up and here comes a turkey straight up from the bottom right at us, and I mean right at us. Oh sure we've been calling for an hour or so, but who knew anyone was listening. At first we thought it might be a hen but then we both saw the 4 inch beard. He came straight in and stopped at 10 yards staring right at us for a couple seconds, then turned to his right and started walking across to our left. Since I had been messing with the Thermocell I had my gun in my lap and he was so close and looking right at us I couldn't raise it. He walked off about 40 yards, stopped and looked around. By then I had my gun up, but he was behind some brush and saplings so I didn't have a clear shot. He stood there for a minute or two moving off to where I couldn't see him anymore. I leaned over to Bud and said he might be trying to circle us so watch behind us and the trail up above us. So we both sat for what seemed like an eternity stretching to see in our peripheral vision for movement. The woods got real quiet now. Finally after about 10 minutes I caught movement off to my left and there he was peeking out around a wad of multiflora-rose. I tapped Bud on his arm to let him know I saw something. I had my gun over a log so holding on him wasn't an issue. I just waited till he came out in the open and Bud started purring and clucking real soft. Pretty soon he came out at 30 yards and I pulled the trigger. He flipped over backwards and started rolling downhill. We both jumped up, let me rephrase that

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statement, we as best we could got up, at our age and physical restrictions. Bud Got up and I actually rolled over on my hands and knees crawling up the side of the log I was next to and we were off after the bird. Catching it before it rolled all the way down to the bottom of the ravine. It was a Jake weighing 16 pounds and most of the feathers on its back and shoulders were on the forest floor from all the flipping and rolling he had done. He didn't have hardly any blue or red on his head, almost 90% white...weird huh. I thought so.

We went to the check station and he was a full 16 pounds and would have been 17 if he had all his feathers. Here Bud's bird was 4 years old and weighed 17 pounds and mine was 1 year old and weighed 16 pounds, I told Bud if I had known how close they were I would have filled him up with small rocks before we went to check him in. What a great turkey season, wet, windy, long and expensive in gas, but I'd do it all over again next year and I know Bud will be there too because he says there's no power naps like a good woody power nap.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

2014 CRAPPIE TOURNAMENTS AT BOZARTH COUNTRY STORE

The Great Lakes of the Wabash River Salamones and Mississinewa will be where the Crappie action is for four exciting Crappie Tournaments sponsored by Bozarth Country Store located a stone throw from the Salamonie Reservoir in 2014. The dates for the Crappie Tournaments are May 10th, June 7th, September 13th and October 4th.

For more information contact Ryan Pershing by calling 765-981-4522 or by reading his column in The Gad-a-bout.

WHITEWATER VALLEY FNRA BANQUET TO BE HELD SATURDAY MAY 17, 2014 AT THE KUHLMAN CENTER

Steve Foster, Chairman of the Whitewater Valley FNRA chapter here. 2013 was a record year for the NRA Foundation fundraising, here in Indiana we netted just over \$900,000. Half that amount goes to the NRA Foundation to cover the NRA nation outreach programs, half stays in Indiana to be distributed as grants voted on by the Indiana FNRA chapter chairmen. The Friends of NRA are 100% volunteer members commented to the future of shooting sports in America. I have attached a jpeg file with this years Indiana grants listed. BTW the Whitewater Valley chapter netted \$45,000.

The Whitewater Valley FNRA Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 17th 2014 at the Kuhlman Center in the Wayne Co. fairgrounds. I have attached a pdf file on the dinner.

Thank you for your time, please contact me if you have any questions, Steve Foster 765-935-4524

NEW ALSACE CONSERVATION CLUB HOSTING SAUSAGE & PANCAKE BKFST APRIL 6TH AT AMERICAN LEGION POST

I'm writing to tell you about our Sausage and Pancake Breakfast the New Alsace Conservation Club will be holding on Sunday, April 6, 2014. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 am until noon at the New Alsace American Legion Post. The menu will consist of biscuits & gravy, sausage & pancakes, home fries, eggs to order, fruit, coffee & juice. Cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for Children under 10, and Children under 3 eat free.

The Legion Home is located north west of New Alsace off N. Dearborn Rd. on Legion Rd. Watch for signs. For more information call 812-623-2431. E-mail: backdale@gmail.com

Our club is a non-profit organization and would very much appreciate, if you can announce this with your other current events.

Directions: Take I-74 west to St. Leon Exit, S. on St. Rd.1, right on N. Dearborn Rd. 3mi. to New Alsace, right on Legion Rd. 1/4 mi. Or, east of Sunman on Eastern Ave., thru "S" turns, 4 mi. on N. Dearborn Rd., left on Legion Rd.

YOUTH HUNTERS APPLY FOR TURKEY HUNT ONE OF 21 DNR PROPERTIES

Youth hunters can apply for a reservation to hunt one of 21 DNR properties during the special youth wild turkey hunting season, April 19 and 20.

The hunters must be younger than 18 on the day of the hunt.

The reserved hunts are at the following fish & wildlife areas (FWAs): Atterbury, Crosley, Deer Creek, Glendale, Hovey Lake, Jasper-Pulaski, Sugar Ridge, Kankakee, Kingsbury, LaSalle, Pigeon River, Roush, Tri-County, Minnehaha, Fairbanks Landing, Hillenbrand, Chinook, Winamac and Willow Slough.

Hunts will also take place at Salamonie and Mississinewa lakes.

The number of hunters allowed on each property will be limited. Interested hunters or an adult representing them must register in person or by phone with the property they wish to hunt. Hunters should register between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. local time between March 17-21 or March 24-28. Hunters can register for only one property.

Those wanting to sign up for Fairbanks Landing and Chinook hunts may do so at Deer Creek FWA. Those wanting to sign up for Hillenbrand or Minnehaha hunts may do so at Goose Pond FWA. Those wanting to sign up for LaSalle may do so at Willow Slough.

At properties where the number of registered hunters exceeds the spots available, a drawing will be held on March 31. A youth hunter may be drawn for either one or both hunt days, depending on the number of applicants. All applicants will be notified of drawing results by mail.

Applicants must possess a 2014 Youth Consolidated Hunting & Trapping License, a 2014 Non-Resident Youth Spring Turkey License with a game bird habitat stamp privilege, or Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License. Apprentice hunting licenses of the types named above also may be used. When registering a youth for one of the hunts, make sure to have the type of license being used for the hunt and the license number.

Hunts will run one-half hour before sunrise until noon at properties in the Central Time Zone, and one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m. on properties in the Eastern Time Zone.

Youth hunters who are selected for the hunt may check in at any time each

day until the end of legal hunting hours for that property. Properties will not have a daily "no-show" drawing. Hunters interested in possible unfilled quotas at a property should phone that property for more information before showing up.

During youth wild turkey season, hunters younger than age 18 on the day of the hunt can take a bearded or male wild turkey. The youth must be accompanied by someone 18 or older.

The youth hunter may use any legal shotgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow. The adult accompanying the youth hunter must not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field. The adult does not need to possess a turkey hunting license unless the youth is using an apprentice license, or unless the adult is calling turkeys.

Phone numbers for information or to register at a specific property: Atterbury (812) 526-2051, Pigeon River (260) 367-2164, Crosley (812) 346-5596, Roush (260) 468-2165, Deer Creek (765) 653-0453, Sugar Ridge (812) 789-2724, Glendale (812) 644-7711, Tri-County (574) 834-4461, Goose Pond (812) 659-9901, Winamac (574) 946-4422, Hovey Lake (812) 838-2927, Willow Slough (219) 285-2704, Jasper-Pulaski (219) 843-4841, Salamonie (260) 468-2125, Kankakee (574) 896-3522, Mississinewa (765) 473-6528, Kingsbury (219) 393-3612.

To purchase a Youth Consolidated or Turkey license go to IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov.

For wild turkey hunting regulations go to dnr.IN.gov/fishwild/huntguide1/hunting1.htm.

For turkey hunting safety tips go to dnr.IN.gov/fishwild/hunt/turkey/turkeysafe.html.

Contact Information:

Name: Bill Bean

Phone: (765) 473-9324

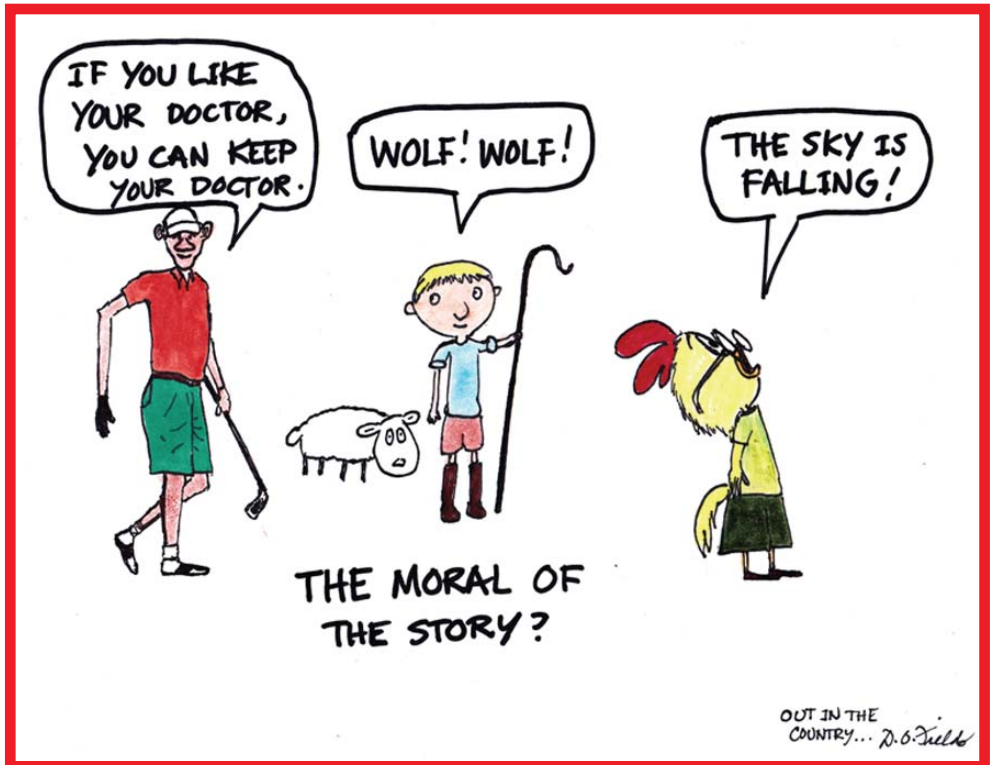
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CLIMATE CHANGE WHAT IS IT REALLY?

I don't believe the words Global Warming and Climate Change has a thing to do with Mother Earth.

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Amber Napier took this 156 pound Buck on November 23, 2013. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Stephen Baugh took this 180 pound 8 Point Buck on November 19, 2013. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Lani Coffey took her first Tom turkey in Bartholomew County during the youth hunt in 2013. She was 7 at the time, she took it with a semi-auto 20 gauge. (James Coffey spoke to me at the Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo at State Fairgrounds about sending her photo to me on the internet)



Jenna Gray took this 14 point Buck on November 13, 2013 with a Bear Attack bow in Jackson County. (Photo submitted by Jenna' dad, Chad Gray by E-mail)

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Ron Wilcox took this 170 pound 11 point buck on November 15, 2013. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Forest D. McGuire from Muncie, IN caught this bass on the 5th or 6th of December 2013 ice fishing in a pond south of Muncie, IN. The pond is 5 or 6 feet deep. In his words, I went after bluegill and crappie, but only caught 1 bluegill and 3 bass. One of the bass weighed 8 1/2 pounds. It took me about 25 minutes to land it. It hardly came through the six-inch hole in the ice. I caught it on a 1/64 oz. jig chartreuse and red with silver flake tipped with two spikes. The rod was a Pro Sportsman made in Wisconsin. The reel was a Daiwa Sweepfire 1,000. (Submitted at Nuce Tire & Auto Photo, Anderson, IN)

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12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES
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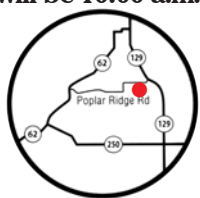
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