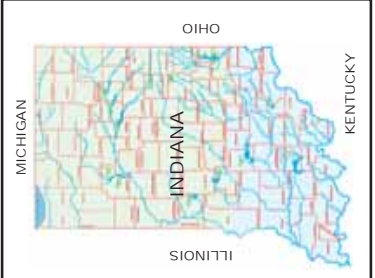


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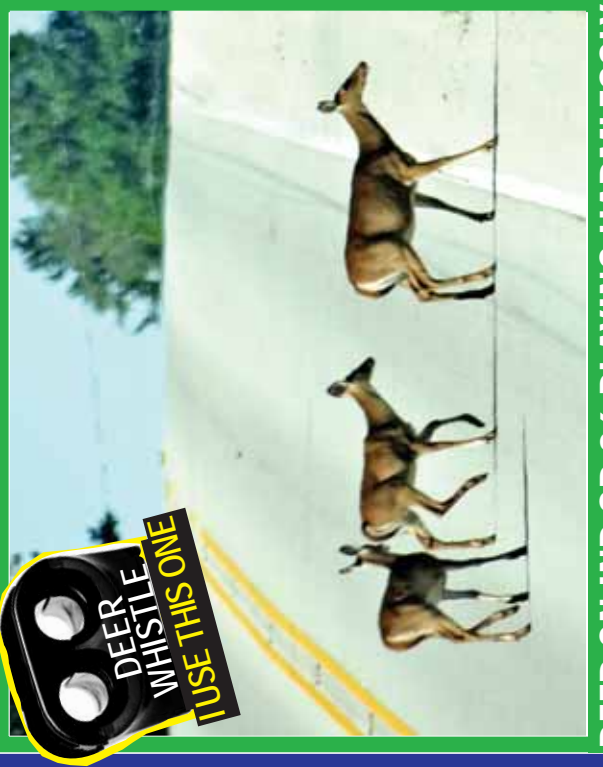
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THE GAD-A-BOUT™



IN THIS ISSUE

January 2014 • Volume XXIII • NO. 285

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Debuting in this issue is Rebecca Funk, Executive Director of Sunrise, Inc., writing a column entitled "Horses Are Heroes." See more on pages 18-19. (Photo by Rebecca Funk)

Top Right: The 60th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show will be at the Indiana State Fairgrounds February 14-23, 2014. Everything you need to know about the 2014 Show is in this issue. Visit their website also indysportshow.com. See Page 16-17. (Renfro Productions Photo)

Bottom Left: Tony Colgan - He caught this crappie November 7th on the Salamonie Reservoir. It weighed 1.78 pounds and was 15 inches long. He caught it on his second cast while fishing right next to his fishing buddies! (Photo by Ryan Pershing)

Bottom Right: 3 deer play harmlessly on Indiana SR26 between Portland and Hartford City Nov. 16, 2013, that is if an unsuspecting motorist doesn't hit them. Earlier they came from the south side and wandered around in the east bound lane, putting them directly in the path of any vehicle cresting that hill. I pulled off the road a long ways from them. After about 5 minutes they leisurely ambled off the road unscathed, to live another day. This is why I have a deer whistle on all our vehicle (s). I seldom see deer or any other wild animal in the roadway when I approach them. They run off the highway before I get to them. The down side, it's hard to get photos like this one, but it's easier on the animals and my vehicle.

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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BACK TO A FULLY PACKED GAD-A-BOUT

I go from feast to famine. Last issue I didn't have enough written material or deer photos. This month I have too much written material and I'm flooded with deer photos. In this issue I have some special information from several readers of The Gad-a-bout.

Stacia Guarisco, Media Specialist at the Blue River Valley Junior Senior High School entitled, "Reading Rut Harvests More than Expected is on page 5.

Carrie Jones from Brookville, IN, mother of Justin Robinson, age 9 (almost 10) has sent a poem he wrote about the first deer he shot. Justin is in a challenge class in school and his teacher had them write a poem. She asked if I would publish his poem. I told her of course, see it on this page.

Jill DeHoff from Centerville, IN, mother of a Troop 16 Boy Scout, wanted to know if I could publish a fundraiser project of theirs. Myself being a member of Troop 16 Explorer Scouts back in the 50's, how could I refuse her. See it on this page.

Bobby Speed from Winchester, IN called a little while ago and wanted to know if I could put an article he wrote in about The Old Turtle Hunter, Chum and Meat Boy. You can read this interesting, yet mysterious article on page 24-25.

Stan Thieman, owner of Thieman Safaris LLC called and wanted to know if I was interested in him writing about a unique new venture he has entered into, taking you on a hunting safari to the Dark Continent - South Africa. Read his article on page 15.

Rebecca Funk, Executive Director of Sunrise, Inc., called and left a message on my phone asking if I could visit their Therapeutic Riding Center and maybe do an article for them. They are trying to raise funds to build a larger arena so they have more room to help the challenged individuals who are not otherwise given a chance at independence. Their students have varied ailments including Cerebral Palsy, Autism, ADD, PTSD, etc. Rebecca has also agreed to write a monthly column for me about horses. Read her first column, "Horses Are Heroes" on pages 18-19.

And last but not least is my good ole' friend Dave Fields, who lives in Union County, he sent me a cartoon he drew of me with some deer chasing me down the road. It seems I inadvertently put my deer whistle on backwards. Hmhmhmhm. See more on page 3.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Justin Robinson on a hike with his family in the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness area. (Photo by Carrie Jones)

Justin's Poem

Justin's mom, Carrie Jones, sent me an inquiry and said her son loves reading the Gad-a-bout. That he had written a poem for school about the first deer he shot, would I publish it? He was 9 then.

Justin had a birthday on December 5th, he is now ten. Happy Birthday Justin from everyone here at The Gad-a-bout and all our readers. We wish you all the best. Enjoy being young and may all your years be happy ones.

His mother, Carrie, wrote that Justin goes to Brookville Elementary School and is in Mrs. Bennett's class. His challenge teacher is Mrs. Wade, who is also the head librarian. Challenge is a 3rd/4th grade language arts class for high ability students. Mrs. Wade says Justin is a humorous student who really has a knack for creative writing. She tries to get the students to write about what they are interested in; as a result, their natural talents can shine. She says that when Justin is a famous writer or naturalist, she looks forward to bragging that he was her student. Like Justin, she enjoys the outdoors & hiking.

The following is what Justin has to say:

I really like the outdoors because I enjoy being out in nature. I like camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, and beach combing. Really, anything that I can do outdoors that is also interesting. I wrote this poem as an assignment in Challenge class, and chose this particular subject because we were supposed to write the poems in a noun/verb format. There's a lot of action in hunting, so I thought it was the perfect subject to use.

My First Deer by Justin Robinson

Leaves crunch.
Foot moves.
I climb.
Branch shakes.
Deer looks.
Hammer back.
Trigger pulled.
Gun shoots.
Deer falls.
I celebrate.

Send comments about Justin's Poem to me, I will see he gets them. Send to my e-mail address ray@thegadabout.com or see address on page 3. ■



Help Centerville's Troop 16 Boy Scouts by buying a Bicentennial Calendar. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Centerville Bicentennial Calendars On Sale Now

Jill DeHoff, sent me an inquiry concerning her son's Boy Scout Troop 16 in Centerville, Indiana wanting to know if I could put an announcement in The Gad-a-bout that they are helping the Centerville Bicentennial Committee sell their calendars and will earn some of the proceeds.



Centerville Troop 16

Centerville Bicentennial Calendars

Boy Scout Troop 16 of Centerville is helping the Centerville Bicentennial Committee sell **Centerville Bicentennial Souvenir Calendars**. They include historical photos of Centerville as well as historic dates throughout the calendar and would make a unique gift! Each calendar is \$10 and a portion of the sales will go to help our Boy Scout Troop. They are available at the Centerville Library, the Centerville Clerks office or call **765-855-5804**. Thanks!

Editor's Note: This is a very worthwhile cause. Troop 16 is to be congratulated for having tripled in size. Some of you readers might remember when I wrote about our grandkids, Dylan and Breanna, who stayed with us here in Centerville in 2010. Dylan joined Troop 16 while he was here and I got re-acquainted with my former scout troop from many, many, many years ago. While Dylan was here we attended the meetings and he participated in most of the campouts, the active boy scouts numbered around six. Today they number sixteen. **Buy a Bicentennial Calendar its for a good cause.** ■



Ray's Troop 16 Explorer Scout uniform, 1957-59

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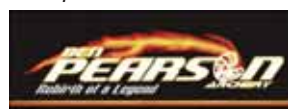
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Conservation Officer Matthew Garringer reviewing hunting and trapping laws with students. (Photo by Author)



Randy Riggs from Girls' Archery in Straughn presented students with best bow practices. (Photo by Author)

Reading Rut Harvests More than Expected

by **Stacia Guarisco**
Media Specialist, Blue River Valley
Junior Senior High School

According to a study published in the book, *Reading Don't Fix No Chevys*, researchers Michael W. Smith and Jeffrey D. Wilhem reported boys read less and are less enthusiastic about reading than girls. Some researchers point to differences in the way boys' brains are wired, which makes reading a bigger challenge. But a study conducted by the Young Adult Library Services Association highlights another issue-many boys just don't like to read.

At Blue River Valley Junior Senior High School male students in freshman through senior classes were polled concerning this issue. Most of them indicated a desire for reading materials that actually interested them. Out of those interests surveyed, 62% were bow hunters. "Maybe if there was a book about how to shoot a 5 point buck, I'd read it," said one student. With this rather large population of reluctant readers showing interest in hunting, something needed to be done. A quick assessment of the Media Center's book collection showed no book related to the subject.

Thus the Reading Rut was born. Media Specialist, Stacia Guarisco, attacked this issue through writing grants and asking for donations. The Indiana Retired Teachers Association awarded Mrs. Guarisco with a grant to purchase hunting related books for the High School Media Center. "I realized this would not be enough to entice my students. We needed something to get their attention," said Mrs. Guarisco.

In response to this need the Media Center dedicated an entire week to promoting the hunting collec-

tion. Tom James from Quality Deer Management focused on planting quality food plots. Conservation Officer Matthew Garringer from the Department of Natural Resources reviewed hunting and trapping laws with students. Randy Riggs from Girls' Archery in Straughn presented students with best bow practices. Students celebrated with dress-up days wearing hats on Wednesday of the week and camouflage on that Friday.

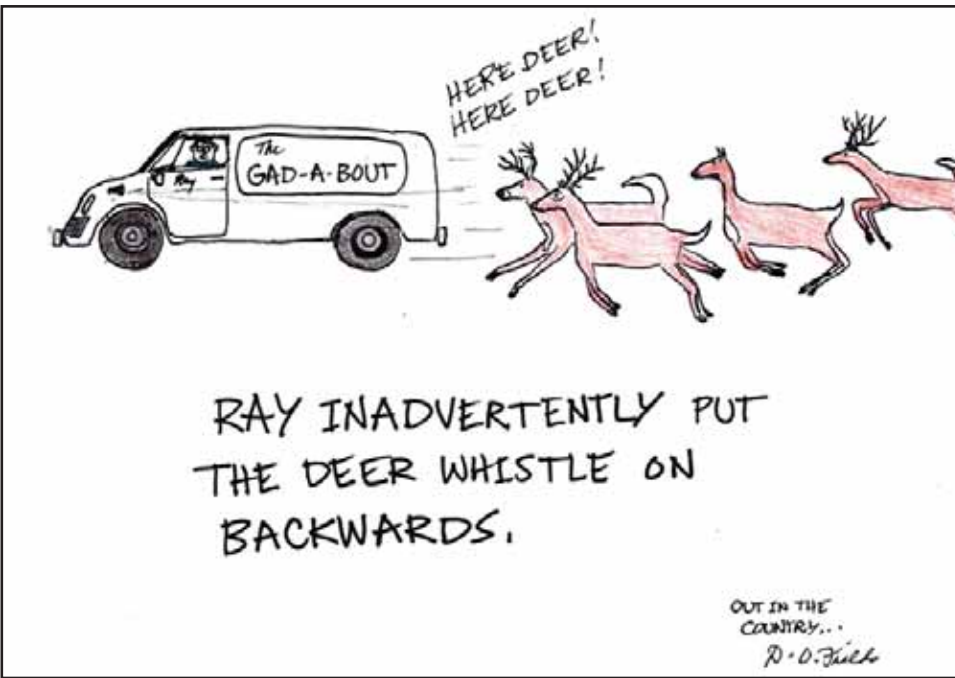
Most exciting for students was the overwhelming generosity of the hunting community. The Outdoor Channel donated a sticker to every student who participated. Mossy Oak, Matthews, and Hoyt donated hats for prizes. Midwest Whitetail has promised two copies of signed books. The Bone Collector donated 100 stickers to give away as students showed success in reading the collection and have promised an encouraging video clip after the season. Local stores, Gittin' Jiggy With It and Summit Bait and Tackle donated lures and fishing poles. Overall approximately 500 dollars worth of prizes were donated.

Thirty-five students signed up and participated in the program. Ninety-four percent of these thirty-five students responded to a survey saying they would check out one of the hunting books. Students are now challenged to read the Duck Dynasty books and take an AR test by the end of the semester. Additional prizes are available to students scoring a 90% or above. In the end Mrs. Guarisco was amazed at the results: "Overall the program was a success. If we can get one of our

reluctant readers to read, that's awesome! This, though! Having huge names in the hunting profession contribute and encourage our students, well that goes beyond anything I would have imagined!"

Editor's Note: I got an inquiry from Stacia Guarisco on September 25, 2013, she asked if I would consider putting something in *The Gad-a-bout* about their Hunting Book Collection Event to be held October 14-18, 2013. She even volunteered to send photos and write about it. I replied to her that I would be glad to put it in *The Gad-a-bout* if she could send the photos and article to me. She replied, Thank you so much! I will get you the article and the photos. I appreciate your willingness to feature our program in your paper. We love having the *Gad-a-bout* in our library.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Stacia for a well written article, plus photos and sending it all to me. She deserves a lot of credit for not only getting her students attention, but also following thru with a very successful event that provided an subject not normally included in our schools these days. It makes me very proud and thankful that we still have teachers like Stacia in America today. ■





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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sergeant John D. Bowling
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

The Great Outdoors - Great Stress Relief

Recently I was speaking to a class of high school students when a young lady asked if I thought just anyone could do this job. My answer of course was no, for many reasons. One being that we see a lot of death and carnage and other things you hope the average person never has to see. We also deal with high stress situations, and have to be people of action and not reaction at crash and crime scenes.

We are required to make decisions in a split second that can affect the lives of those we serve and their families forever. Then there is always the danger that goes with every traffic stop we do, whether it's someone trying to hurt us or the possibility of getting run over or hit as we sit on the side of the road. She then asked the poignant question of, "How do you not get discouraged dealing with so many bad people, and so many bad situations and scenes?"

Most people we deal with are just like you or I, but have chosen to make a bad decision or series of decisions that have led them down the wrong path. There have been those in the last 23 years that have been truly evil, but most have been average people. As I told her, most of all, when in these dangerous situations, you must have faith. Faith that good will win out, that you will make the right decisions to keep yourself and those you serve safe and that things will work out for the best.

As I explained to this young lady, the men and women that do this job will tell you it's important to have hobbies that get you away from it all. I think that is why most of the troops I know hunt and fish. I can think of no better way than to get out in the deer woods, put the phone on silent and get away from it all. One thing all of us in the job agree on is that you need quality family time and hobbies to keep things in perspective.

I personally love being in the woods. Like my job, every time I go out I see something different. While I didn't kill a deer here in Indiana this year, I still got to see a lot of young deer and see a lot of firsts for me in the woods.

I've heard old timers, including my dad, say that a rabbit will climb up into a hollow tree. Now I've never believed it, but one morning late in bow season, as I was sneaking to one of my stands, I rescued



A rabbit hanging from a hole in a hollow tree For more details see more below. (Photo by Author)

a rabbit that was hanging from a hole in a hollow tree about six feet up. He had attempted to jump out and hung up on his right hip.

I could hear him clawing and making a racket from a ways off. I had a hard time getting him out of the tree and back on all fours where he belonged. I did get a picture of him hanging there, as it's one of those things I wouldn't believe unless I could see it!

I was again able to hunt this year in northern Missouri with my childhood friend, Pastor Dan Hite. The area had experienced drought conditions this past summer, and unfortunately Blue Tongue Disease had hit the area where we hunt. We saw some young bucks and only one doe, which is hard to believe for an area usually over run with does and shooter bucks.

I did get to see another first for me while in Missouri, as I'd say I saw my first wolf in the wild. I was perched in a tree watching the edge of a tree line on the right, and a hay field in front that dumped into some rough hollows on my left. It had just gotten dark and I was about to climb down, when I saw something gray enter the field from the woods about 300 yards away, walking fast with its head down.

As I looked through my scope, I saw that it wasn't a small deer, but was a large K-9, as tall as a big German shepherd. It was much too big and muscular for the coyotes we see on a regular basis out there.

He was obviously tracking the two small bucks I'd seen about 30 minutes earlier, as I saw him dart into the thicket on the same trail they had taken. My friend Dan checked with the local Conservation Officer who told him that along with bobcats, it's not uncommon to see an occasional Mountain Lion and Red Wolf in the area. He confirmed that it was probably a Red Wolf that I had seen.

Now, back to the beginning of our story, in closing to that young lady, I told her I truly believe this is the greatest job in the world. With this job you know when you go home at the end of the day you've made a difference. It may have been someone you helped at a car crash, or maybe simply stopping and changing a tire for a senior citizen. Either way you have

influenced someone's life. It is a great honor for us to serve you and even now, starting into my 23rd year, it's something I look forward to everyday.

Meth Labs in Indiana - Numbers Continue to Rise

Meth Suppression Units have found and have assisted other agencies with a soaring number of trash labs, or labs left in coolers, back packs or out in the open along the side of the road, or in woods and vacant lots. After blowing up a house or vehicle, cooks have resorted to outside labs in some instances.

The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Section wants to remind citizens that these labs and trash may contain chemicals that are toxic, flammable, corrosive, and acidic. Signs to look for Meth manufacturing are a strong ammonia smell, or a solvent smell like an auto body shop. The fumes are toxic and can cause internal damage to organs. Below are more items to watch for that are used in the manufacturing of Methamphetamine:

- Look for air line type rubber tubing, ether or camp fuel cans, plastic or glass bottles, Pseudoephedrine packages and lithium battery casings. The chemicals when mixed together are highly explosive and fumes are toxic to breath.
- Other Items to be aware of include Ziploc style bags, empty blister packs, and plastic or glass containers (pop-bottles, jars, etc.) that contain a granular material. They may or may not have a tube extending out of the top depending on whether it is a hydrochloric gas generator (HCL) or a one pot reaction. Both of these are extremely hazardous.
- Be aware of any type of small tank (like a propane tank), found in an odd place (middle of a field, ditch line, wooded area) that has a modified valve. The valve will typically be modified in some way and will have a bright blue or green color to it. These cylinders are used to store or transport anhydrous ammonia, which is an extremely dangerous gas when direct contact or inhalation has occurred.

Often times Meth Labs are found as a result of an anonymous tip from a neighbor or friend. If you think you've found a meth lab or have information about illegal drug use call the Pendleton Post at 1-800-527-4752, or the Indiana State Police Drug Tip Line at 1-800-453-4756. Tips can be made and kept anonymous. The Indiana Meth Investigation System or IMIS, can also take tips on meth labs. Just go to www.meth.in.gov and click on the "Report Suspected Meth Activity" Link.

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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



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

HARD TIMES

There is a familiar saying: "When the going gets hard, the tough go ice fishing." Okay, a possibility exists that I may be confused and a bit off on this quote, but I hope you get the point. Winter is here and ice has been forming and awaiting anglers anxious to join the annual migration of ice fishermen.

Certain precautions are in order regarding ice fishing and all other activities one may enjoy on frozen lakes and ponds. Ice thickness must first be determined. Test holes should first be drilled near the safety of shore. At least 4 inches of clear ice is needed before venturing out to ice fish, skate, etc. The thickness of ice can vary greatly at different locations on the same body of water, even small ponds. Test the thickness often by drilling additional holes to insure there is still 4 inches of clear ice. Submerged objects such as tree stumps, rocks or logs may cause the ice to form more slowly over them. Be cautious when entering these areas. Areas where a stream enters the pond or lake should be avoided as ice often does not form well in areas with current.

Test the ice each time you go out. Weather changes can cause ice to deteriorate quickly, even overnight. Wind and rain are obvious signals extreme caution should be exercised. It is important that ice color and texture be monitored over the course of the winter. Even though the ice may remain thick, it may become bad ice: honey-combed, off-color green or slushy. Bad ice needs to be avoided. Even when refrozen bad ice does

not have the weight bearing qualities as clear ice. A snow covering will make it impossible to determine the characteristics of ice unless test holes are utilized.

Children should be warned, educated and supervised when playing on frozen lakes and streams. Even some drainage ditches have deep holes of water which can be just as perilous should a person break through a frozen surface.

Apart from determining if ice is 'less dangerous', additional safety steps should be taken. Wearing a life jacket will not only provide needed buoyancy when a person falls through the ice but provide extra warmth as well. United States Coast Guard approved float coats are becoming popular among ice anglers these days. Yes, I stated "when" and not "if" a person falls through the ice. For people who spend a lot of time on the ice it's not a question of **IF** they will fall through but **WHEN** they will fall through. Ice pick should be worn for this reason. For ice fishermen ice picks are a paired smaller version of a traditional ice pick connected by some type of cordage which is passed through the clothing and out each sleeve. Kind of like the mittens I painfully remember wearing an unspecified number of years ago. Ice picks will do no good unless they are worn. Upon entering ice water digital dexterity is immediately compromised. One will be unable to fumble through their pockets to locate and use ice picks after they find themselves in this emergency situation. Once you spike your way out or are pulled out, resist the urge to stand up. Roll across the ice away from the hole in the direction you came.

To view a full digest of rules and regulations regarding legal ice fishing equipment, ice fishing shanty requirements and equipment tagging requirements visit: www.in.gov/dnr.

"There's no such thing as safe ice" is a phrase that rings true. I'm pretty sure I've not messed this one up. Do not let your guard down when recreating on ice. When in doubt, don't go out.

Blogger Earns National Award for Promoting State Parks

An Indiana blogger was named "Ambassador of the Year" by America's State Parks for promoting the outdoors to other young adults. Lance Gideon was one of eight volunteer bloggers from Indiana who wrote for the America's State Parks Youth Ambassador program, documenting their experiences at Indiana's state parks for the ASP website, AmericasStateParks.org. In 2013, Gideon wrote 28 entries on the website about visits to Tippecanoe River, Spring Mill, Fort Harrison, Summit Lake, Whitewater Memorial, Mounds and Brown County state parks and Brookville Lake. America's State Parks said Gideon was a "true outdoorsman." Gideon, 22, is from Modoc and studied journalism at Indiana University. He has also worked as a gate attendant, laborer and security guard at Summit Lake State Park. He received an Old Town kayak, paddle and life jacket as a prize for the award. Americas State Parks is an alliance of public and private organizations established in 2009 to promote and enhance the country's system of state parks. The Ambassador Program targeting young adults is America's State Parks flagship program.

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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe

Professional Fishing Guide

Brookville Lake

Brookville Lake is located in the southeast part of Indiana in Franklin county, about 1 hour and 15 minutes from Indianapolis or about 45 minutes from Cincinnati Ohio just north of the town of Brookville. The best way to get here from Indianapolis or Cincinnati is to take Interstate 74 to State Road 1 to U.S.52. Take U.S.52 north through Brookville and then turn right onto State Road 101 to the Lake. The first access to the lake is Bonwell Hill Ramp, it will be on your left.

The lake was developed in the late 60's and early 70's for flood control by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers damming up the East Fork of the Whitewater River.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) operates and maintains the recreation facilities at the lake, with the exception of the Dam, Tailwater and Overlook which the Corps operates and maintains. The IDNR also takes good care of the fishery with an aggressive restocking program.

The Dam impounds a minimum length of 10.5 miles, a seasonal length of 15 miles and a flood control length of 20.8 miles. The lake is 1 mile wide at its widest point. With the deepest part of the lake being 125 feet. Gravity or weight of earth keeps the dam in place. Because of the dam foundation being predominantly sand and gravel to depths of 130 feet, an impervious blanket was constructed varying in thickness from 10 feet at the dam to 5 feet at the upstream end 2500 feet from the dam centerline. The compacted impervious blanket ties into an existing clay area to form a continuous impervious blanket over the entire upstream area to impede the flow of impounded waters through the sand and gravel foundation.

To control the water flowing through the foundation under the dam a system of 32 relief wells emptying into an underground gallery was designed along the downstream toe of the dam. The gallery empties into the concrete portion of the retreat channel below the dam.

It's a unique lake for this part of the world. Within the lake you have all sorts of fish holding structure. If your a troller have at it, if your a drifter no problem, if your a caster this is your lake. What ever your into you can apply it on Brookville lake.

The stocking program consists of walleye,

striped bass and musky. The lake is also full of smallmouth and largemouth bass, along with white bass, crappie, bluegill, ring perch, and catfish. The walleye are stocked in the spring as fry at the rate of two thousand walleye fry per acre per year. The striped bass are stocked every year as fingerlings 52,000 annually. And the musky are stocked on a surplus stocking program.

To catch fish on Brookville lake you have to know where the fish are. This will depend on the time of year you are there. For example a musky is known as the fish of 10 thousand casts. But if you are fishing in the early spring or fall in the right places they could be called the fish of 2 thousand casts.

To really know fish you have to know their life cycle through out the seasons. You have to watch the food their feeding on through out the cycle of their life and how they co-exist with each other through out the entire year. Over the years I've kept diaries on daily fishing, trying to figure it all out. But mother nature is constantly throwing you curve balls. This consists of high and low pressures, wind, storms, cold fronts and the list goes on. The trick is to know what the fish will do to compensate for these curve balls.

Typically Fishing starts to pick up in the very early spring when the water warms up enough to melt the surface ice. What your looking for is the warmest water in the lake. Try to look for shallow places that the sun is exposed to all day or areas of the lake that are feeder creeks like Templeton creek Wolf creek or the East Fork of the Whitewater river at the north end of the lake.

All fish winter out in the deepest part of the lake, but as soon as the lake starts to warm up the cycle of life starts all over again. For some fish like the walleye the first thing they do when they come up out of the deep water of winter is to look for a place to spawn. All the fish are going to spawn in the lake only at different times in the spring and at different depths. But the walleye is probably the first.

So to catch a pre-spawn walleye you need to be fishing in March just as soon as the ice comes off the lake. Shallow rocky areas or places with current are two good places to start.

For the rest of the fish population May is the magic month for spawning. At this time of year all the fish in the lake will be spawning or trying to eat spawning fish eggs. Now it could be on muddy banks, rocky banks, around wood or rocky points. But one thing is for sure, in May fish will be on the banks. The trick is to find what banks. I suppose that is why its called fishing and not catching.

If your a trout fishermen the river that comes out from under the lake is full of rainbow and brown trout. The rainbow trout are considered a meat fish, catch 'em take them home and eat them. The brown trout on the other hand is considered a trophy fish, catch 'em take a quick picture and



Brookville Lake Dam area looking north. Lake is at winter pool. (Author Photo)

turn them loose. These fish can be caught using a fly rod or small spinning tackle, just fishing from the shore. Just remember opening day to keep trout is the last Saturday of April at 6:00 am. If trout fishing isn't your're game then try canoing. The river from Brookville to Cedar Grove is full of small mouth bass, white bass and sauger.

Good Luck Tag Nobbe

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

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

BIRD SAVERS

Bird lovers often cry outrage when man-made things such as windmills, oil wells, tall buildings, sewage lagoons and more cross paths with our feathered friends. Often, the birds come out on the losing end. The biggest "bird trap" in our area for many species isn't man-made. It's Lake Michigan. Bait the trap with fog and it becomes deadly.

Fog can happen anytime of the year, but sadly, it's especially prevalent when warm, moist spring air covers the cool waters of the lake. Those same spring warming trends are what trigger the northward migration for many birds such as warblers.

Imagine the scenario from a bird's point of view. A bubble of warm, humid air trigger's your mood to desert your winter home on the Gulf Coast. You've been flying most of the night, following the celestial star map that guides your path back to your northwoods breeding ground. As the sun starts to brighten the sky, your energy reserves are tapped. Time to descend, find an inviting tree branch for a nap, then maybe forage for a few bugs to refuel for the remaining journey.

So you fly ever lower, only to find out there are no trees below. Only water. You circle once, twice, still no trees, no sign of anything. What to do?

Continuing to circle makes no sense, but with the dense fog, picking a specific direction and staying on that course is tough. Even then, flying straight makes sense only if that direction is back toward land. What if luck takes you farther from shore? How much longer, how much farther can you fly?

The birds have one thing going for them. The foggiest days are often the days with the lightest winds. Light winds mean small waves and a calm weather forecast inevitably lures Great Lake fishermen to their boats and out into the fog. Many boats have radar to "see" in the fog and almost all boats are at least GPS equipped to allow navigating out and back as well as to stay on fish.

So when the bird life is most vulnerable, Great Lake fishermen are often their salvation.

I was reminded of this yesterday as a small bird



This warbler sat on my shoulder all the way back to shore. (Author Photo)

started circling the boat.

It's happened many times and the game usually plays out similarly. A bird appears out of the fog and flies directly towards the boat. Most don't just head straight in and come on board. As soon as they see people on the boat, they start to circle, warily. The redwing black bird that found my boat yesterday must have circled 10 times before it made the choice between increasing fatigue and fear, eventually landing on one of the downrigger rods positioned on the stern.

Often, especially with warblers that come on board, they almost instantly fall asleep. In 20 minutes or so, their bird nap is over and once they awaken, it's as though they realize if us fishermen haven't gobbled them up by now, we probably aren't hungry.

Their thoughts turn to food. Bugs on the deck or dashboard are easy targets and apparently tasty. No bugs? With some coaxing, pinches of bread or a bit of salami from a sandwich seems just as appetizing.

Once fed, the little guests often get as curious about us as we are of them. Caution aside, expect them to investigate your lap, shoulders or sit on your head. A pine warbler on board one day would perch on any extended finger offered.

At the end of a trip one foggy morning I had 5 of the little refugees on board. Still out of sight of land, I was worried the birds would abandon ship once we powered up so I made sure another boat was near enough to see before advancing the throttle.

Two of our guests left, one found a spot out of the wind near the bow. A second climbed inside the open glove box at my helm station. The last one perched on the collar of my sweatshirt for the 20 minute ride to the harbor.

One can only guess how many thousands of birds don't find a friendly fisherman when lost over the lakes. If you are a bird lover, it makes a good excuse to go fishing.

THE END

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Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

JANUS

Janus, for whom January is named, was a Roman Deity who had two faces. One face looked toward the future, the other looked toward the past. Like Janus, I find myself, as I begin another year, looking back on the past year, while I try to project what lay ahead in 2014. Since I have no crystal ball, and I can't read Taro Cards or tea leaves, I must depend on the past to help me predict the future.

Many years ago, at mass on a New Year's Day, the priest made a startling comment. He said that one out of every five of the people sitting there would be dead by next New Year. There were five of us attending mass together that morning. I remember it had a very strong effect on me at the moment. However as the year progressed and none of our group passed over, I lost interest in the concept.

I doubt that concerns about death worried the native people, prior to the coming of the European. Death was part of the natural cycle of life and it would happen when the Great Spirit called the individual home. It was therefore not something to waste time thinking about.

The old ones knew when their time had come, when they heard the owl call their name. They put their affairs in order, said goodbye to their loved

ones, and went off alone to sing their "death song." If the camp was in the process of moving they were left behind. Sometimes grandmother and grandfather would choose to go together.

If a child died early in life or a woman died in childbirth or a short time after delivering the child, the family accepted this as the will of the Creator, although it did not stop them from mourning the departed one. Some believed that when an old person took the spirit trail, a baby was born to replace them in the family.

It is important to our welfare to set aside as much of the past as we can, before we face the future. Keep the good memories, the ones that passed easily through the strands of the Dream Catcher. Put away, forever, the bad things that got caught in the web of the Dream Catcher. Keeping the bad memories will only cause you to start the New Year with unnecessary baggage.

I accept each new day as a gift of the Great Spirit. I ask, only, that he help me to know what he would like me to do with this new day. Then, I plunge ahead into the cold unknown, hoping to use my time wisely, offending no one, and finish that day on a high note having had a warm experience. If I let my lesser instincts rule the day or any part of it, I ask forgiveness for my failure and try to put it right as soon as possible.

As each year passes, a chapter in my life closes. Some wise person once told me that for each door that closes a new one opens. Therefore, for each chapter that ends a new one begins. Three hundred and sixty five new clean pages for me to write upon. That means I will write twelve new articles for the Gad-A-Bout. I will also have many opportunities to communicate with my friends by E-Mail or regular post. The Great Spirit, who knows all, and can see the future, has in His wisdom provided us with more time to serve Him by serving our fellow man in the year ahead.

I wish all of my friends the very best in the days to come and trust that they will do all they can to move us towards "O'Dakota", the great "Peace Through Brotherhood."

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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

FIGHTING THE WINTER DOLDRUMS

For the umpteenth time I stood looking out the front door, hoping for anything to break up the boredom of a typical cold day. Maybe a pack of timber wolves chasing a neighbor or a UFO landing in the yard would give me reason to avoid sitting in a corner in the fetal position with my thumb in my mouth. Just my luck. The only thing moving outside was a scrawny looking squirrel trying to remember where it had buried a hickory nut two months ago. I remember watching it scramble across the yard with the nut, and finding what it must have considered an ideal spot, digging and tamping the thing into the middle of two acres of nothing special. No shrubs or trees to mark the spot, nothing significant to refer to when it returned for it later. I remember thinking at the time that the little rodent and I were a lot alike. I had written down the phone number of a company I intended to ask for information on a firearm they were going to offer on special. When my wife would ask what I wanted for Christmas I would whip out the number, give it to her and charm her with my fluttering eyelashes. You guessed it. I have no idea where I put the number. That squirrel will go without a nut and I'll have to settle for a pair of slacks and matching socks.

Sometimes, I envy bears and their ability to hibernate during the winter months. Just find a nice warm cave, curl up in a pile of leaves and snore away until April. Since the only way that can be done is convincing my wife to whap me with a ball peen hammer and occasionally re-apply the anesthetic when I start to wake up, I'm having to find ways to entertain myself during the blah months. With a three hundred acre lake full of bass and crappie just across the road from my house, you'd think my problems would be about the same as digging for water and striking oil. Thanksgiving offered a little entertainment with the house full of hungry relatives and a flock of grand kids making it rough to resist looking for a child slave trader. But the day after was quiet; too quiet, so I decided to try my luck using crappie jigs off a dock across the road. I know the fish move into deeper waters in cold weather, but maybe one of the little retards might still be hanging around the dock. In higher spirits, I

loaded my gear, walked to the dock and saw a thin layer of ice stretching all the way to the main body of the lake. By my calculations, it would take at least eight ounces of lead to knock a hole through the stuff, and as for the retrieve, it would only come back up through the ice hole. That meant I would have to get lucky and conk a fish on the noggin with the weight. Fat chance.

Mumbling to myself, I trudged back home and decided to mulch the leaves in the yard one last time, even though I could have walked around and gathered them by hand and put them in a Dixie cup. Any old port in a storm is my philosophy. I climbed on the mower, set the throttle and pulled on the choke knob. No movement. Face wrinkled, eyes bulging, I gave a hard yank and pulled the choke knob with a short steel pin attached right out of the panel. YESSS, YEEHAW, something broken that needed to be fixed. My wife, hearing the commotion, came into the garage to see if it was time to call the white coats. Grinning, I explained the problem and my joy at finally having something to do. She slowly backed out of the garage, and remembering my threats at the grand kids on Thanksgiving, reached for her cell phone. An hour later with various mysterious parts lying on the floor and no spare choke cable, I was once again mumbling to myself.

With no way to mulch the one leaf lying in the yard I decided to walk our vast estate in an inspection tour. Five years ago my wife had planted a Norwegian spruce that had adapted well and was now up to about five feet in height. What I found was a scruffy looking thing with only a foot of it left above ground. All the bark was gone and the main trunk had been broken cleanly off. I recalled our nearest neighbor telling about being faced down by a horny buck in his yard and decided that I knew who the vandal was. Here was something I could really get my teeth into. Patience would be required, but hopefully I could catch this outlaw in the yard and pull my favorite Clint Eastwood routine on it.

"Do you feel lucky, punk? Did I use all six or not? Go ahead, make my day."

Since I don't make a habit of sitting in the yard all night I don't know if the horny assassin has returned. Why should he? He's already trashed the spruce, a young curly willow and four peach tree saplings. If I replant this coming spring there will be a .50 cal. Barrett mounted on the roof for rodent control.

Thank heavens for small favors. My wife decided to put out her yard Christmas decorations which include a number of those dinky Asiatic made wire framed things covered with lights that don't work. When she decided that one of them could be salvaged she gave the okay. to ditch it. That wasn't good enough for me. I spent a few enjoyable hours in the garage using side cuts, pliers and screw drivers dismantling the thing. I ended up with the floor covered with cut wire ties, bits of plastic, strings of useless lights and wire frames that can be used to, maybe, make a choke cable from. Who says winter has to be a time of dull inactivity? I think I'll go to the garage and see if I can break something else. ■



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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

More Camping Problems & Suggestions

El and I hope your winter is going well and you are keeping in good health. Let us know by phone or by e-mail about new and exciting experiences you've had this last summer and fall that others reading the Gad-a-Bout might also enjoy. We would like to tell about families and what others have found exciting to do in around the camping areas of Indiana. We won't mention your name and it might help to give those "secretive" places needed advertising. New and different camping ground activities would be welcomed as well as out-of-the-way places to visit within a short distance of camping areas.

Another situation, somewhat unrelated to the above, we've noticed over the years, is that parts for camping units are not universal and don't fit all brands of units. We've alluded to this before but we don't believe we've given many suggestions as to where to find needed parts to replace older or broken ones. A suggestion would be to get on the mailing list, hard copy or internet, or find out the website from which you bought your unit. If they have mailers out or specials over the internet for something that you need, and it fits your unit, you may have a better chance of getting the right part more often than having gone to a camping supply store. There are some manufacturers and retail or wholesale supply houses that let the public in to purchase items. They're becoming fewer and farther between as they usually sell to campgrounds, RV dealers and camp supply stores wholesale for resale at those stores.

In your travels you may have found local out-of-the-way stores that handle over-run or out of date items for camping units. They may have new or even slightly used items. Let us know about any that you've run across throughout Indiana or nearby states and we'd be glad to tell our readers. These stores may have a large supply or possibly nothing to match something you may need for whatever type of camping unit you have. Many times the part is identified by an engraved or printed number on the broken item or in the schematics of the camping unit parts and may be identified in the descriptions.

We've found a good place in Indiana at **Ickes RV Surplus Supply** at 701 West Huntington St. in Montpelier, Indiana, 47359, just on the west side of Montpelier on State Road 18. Probably you'll see camping units and vehicles from several states in the parking lot. They have rooms and buildings full of camping supplies. A long way from Indiana but close to where many snowbirds go is **Tom's RV Parts and Clearance** on a small strip mall east of Tampa, Florida at 1005 West U.S. 92 at Seffner, Florida. They were brought to mind when I thought of my brother who winters in Melbourne, FL and

who had to find a camper sized toilet. Tom's, with several rooms of stuff, had one to fit the bill. We've talked with several people who have been to Tom's and who had found camper parts they could find nowhere else. Give us a call or e-mail about places we might suggest campers try (inside Indiana or elsewhere) to find elusive camper parts. It's good to find something that fits exactly.

An interesting different type of camping is taking place throughout various parts of the U.S. You might investigate the possibility of a change from big RV's, Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, fold downs truck campers and tent. **How about working up a rally of vintage trailers?** You may have an oldie but camtable one or might think about finding an old almost throwaway and, just like rebuilding vintage automobiles, refurbish an old camper. It could get expensive but what hobby isn't, but you'll have something you can be proud of for years and you can use it to meet other people with the same hobby. You may find a private or state campground to that might like to host a rally. This last summer in the South Bend area was the **sixth annual** campout of the **Northern Indiana Vintage Trailer Rally**. They had over two hundred people in seventy seven vintage trailers; all but seven were pre-1970. People from as far away as Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Minnesota took part in the rally. Activities included Dutch oven cooking and there was an open house where the public was invited to walk through the camping units. Four hundred fifty showed up. This article is in the Passport America e-newspaper and in the Chicago Daily Herald. The article stated that this was rally of a "family" of campers who enjoy the campers of the past.

As most of you know there are camper rallies of all different types, including people who like different types of campers, i.e., class A's, C's, D's, etc. Also people from the same occupation, same church group, same interests (like nature photography), etc., camp together at rallies. I think the number of vintage camping fanatics is probably on the way up. If you think your old camper is throwaway, advertise it on the internet on such places as **Craig's list** or **E-Bay**. Someone may want a new hobby.

If you can't or don't want to go clear up to the Elkhart area to tour an RV plant, there has been one mentioned on **WISH-TV** in Indianapolis, just east of Indy in Mt. Comfort, the **Mt. Comfort RV Plant**. It has been listed as one of the top fifty dealers in the United States the last three years.

There are those campers who just don't like to be "out in the boonies" but prefer some-thing in or near little towns or near big cities with a lot of activities in which to participate. Just look up the county in the state such as "campgrounds near Lafayette in Tippecanoe County, Indiana." Private, state, federal, county and city parks will be listed. No, you don't have to go out in to the middle of the forest away from humanity but more and more people seem to desire more privacy.

There is a good article on beginning camping in the November 4, 2013 Huffington Post 50 entitled "RV Travel Tips for Beginners" by Jim Miller. Many times this news-paper is political but one can find other articles like this in the strangest places. No, we don't read the Huff Post.

Now, I've given you a little assignment so you can help others get in to and to enjoy the camping world as much as you, your friends and family. We'll be glad to publish your ideas and finds and not mention your name if you don't want to be contacted.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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by **Marshall Smith**
Owner/Gunsmith

Racking the Slide

Here's a helpful tip for those who avoid semi-auto pistols because of difficulty in loading the first round by moving the slide to the rear against the rebound spring pressure (more commonly referred to as "racking the slide"). Men and women alike have difficulty with many of the semi-auto pistols on the market with the strong spring tension of the rebound or main spring which returns the slide to battery after firing and loads the next round from the magazine simultaneously. Often the inability to rack the slide causes many new gun owners to purchase guns that have weak main springs such as a .22lr or .25 auto when what they really wanted was a larger caliber gun.

As always, I strongly encourage the gun owner to practice racking the slide on their pistol as it is a basic procedure to clear the pistol after a gun or cartridge malfunction, and, after a range session to clear the gun before transport. Before practicing make sure the gun is unloaded and that the chamber is empty.

Follow all manufacturer's safety procedures for your pistol. Always keep the gun pointing downrange or in a safe direction and away from other people.

First grasp the gun with your strong hand as you would when preparing to shoot, Figure 1. Next, with the gun pointed in a safe direction bring the gun across your body turning your body if necessary to keep the gun pointing in a safe direction. With your off hand place the palm against the slide, see Figure 2. Now roll your fingers over the top of the slide and grasp the top of the slide at the rear, see Figure 3. Be sure to keep your fingers behind and clear of the ejection port. Getting a finger pinched between the port and barrel will hurt. Take my word for it. See Figure 4 for how not to grasp the slide with your fingers covering the ejection port. While holding the slide tightly with the off hand push the gun forward with the strong hand while holding the off hand in place. Release the slide when it is fully to the rear. It may take some practice but you will find that you can rack the slide on any gun.

Gun Rights

I received an email the other day claiming that a primary lead smelting plant, The Doe Run Lead Smelter in Herculaneum, Missouri, is being forced to shut down at the end of this year by the EPA. I sure many of you have received the same email which claimed that the shutdown would increase the cost of ammunition to such an exaggerated cost that no one would be able to afford to shoot. The email went on to say that this was another attempt by the current administration and anti-gun activists to restrict our rights to keep and bear arms. The email, like so many others was crying "Wolf" where one doesn't exist. The Doe Run Lead Smelter manufactured lead from iron ore but did not sell any of its lead to ammunition manufacturers. Ammunition companies have stated that the closing will not affect their ability to obtain lead for bullets and the don't anticipate the cost of ammo to increase significantly. Ammunition manufacturers generally use recycled lead from sources like old batteries. They don't expect any shortages in the foreseeable future.

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.

Remember, B SAR (Be Safe, Be Aware, Be Responsible)
Marshall Smith
Prairie Wolf Gun Repair

"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."- Winston Churchill ■



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Bowhunting takes a certain kind of attitude

Bowhunting is certainly not for the faint of heart. And it is certainly not for those who can't take humiliation or disappointment very well. It is, however, probably one of the coolest activities on this planet! Okay, it sounds like I may be overstating it a bit, so let me revise it a little. Taking an animal with archery equipment is an accomplishment almost beyond words. Whether it is with a longbow, recurve, or compound bow, that euphoric sensation that comes with it, whether from success or failure, simply cannot be duplicated while hunting with any other weapon. In a lot of ways, bowhunting is a lot like life.

Case in point: my son Nicholas has been bowhunting quite seriously this year. He is twelve and this is his first year of making a serious attempt at it. He has actually had some close encounters. He has been to full draw a couple of times but just couldn't get things to gel. Either the deer turned, stopped, or simply just busted Nick drawing his bow, you name it.

The really cool thing is, after his latest close encounter, he turned to me and said, "Man, this bowhunting sure is hard. These deer are tough! This is way harder than gun hunting, but I love it way more than gun hunting! This bowhunting is the best!"

Nicholas hasn't taken a deer with archery equipment yet, although he has taken several with a gun, including some nice bucks. The fact that he has this attitude without yet even taking a deer with stick and string is reassuring to me. It tells me that when he finally is fortunate enough to take a deer with his bow that he will know what I already do; that the reward of taking a deer with archery equipment is surreal. I have explained to him that the reward of success with archery equipment is greater because of the difficulty associated with bowhunting, and I think Nick is starting to understand this.

As a bowhunter, you are intentionally placing limitations on yourself. You are purposely stacking the odds against yourself. That in and of itself hints at what kind of personality it takes to do this. To possibly have the deer of your dreams just out of range, or worse yet, in range but not have a shot opportunity for various reasons such as obstructions, etc., can be painfully frustrating experience. The first thing that goes through your mind when this happens is, "Man if it was gun season right now I'd have the perfect shot." Well, other than the fact that a gun and a bow are each effective weapons, that is where the similarities stop. Possessing the resolve to know when it is not ethical to make a shot, even though you want to, and sticking to that resolve is just a part of the emotional roller coaster that is bowhunting. The act of getting your bow drawn while not being detected by the ultra-keen senses of a white-tailed deer is another part of what makes bowhunting an extreme challenge.

This column is not meant to demean gun or cross-bow hunting in any way. I usually hunt with a gun also when it is firearms season. However when it comes to the level of commitment that is required to become a responsible bowhunter, there is no comparison. And, to be able to deal with the flood of emotions, or the heartache of having to watch the buck you've been dreaming of wrapping a tag around all year depart unscathed because you simply did not have a clear shot or he was just a little too far, well you better have some pretty thick skin if you are a bowhunter. And the fact that Nicholas is embracing all of this, no, flourishing in it, well that makes me flood with just as much emotion. It hopefully speaks to his character and gives me encouragement that he will tackle all of life's challenges in this manner.



When bowhunting, you are intentionally placing restrictions on yourself. The frustrations can be high, but so then are the rewards. (Author Photo)



Nicholas Martino is a bowhunter. He realizes the challenges that come with it, yet eagerly accepts them and appreciates what it takes to be a bowhunter.

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Picture yourself here with all these magnificent African wild game animals. (Photos by Author)

Are You Ready For An African Hunting Adventure

by Stan Thieman
(Owner of Thieman Safaris LLC)

Your African safari awaits. The Dark Continent. The animals, the people, the vast country. The challenge that leads you to life long memories. I can help you plan this trip of a lifetime and answer your myriad of questions along the way. It's time to make this dream a reality.

Yes, it's a big moment in your hunting journey. The Dark Continent... you've read about it, talked about it and probably dreamed about it for a long time. Having "been there and done that" I can help lessen the burden and stress of planning such an important trip. You'll have lots of questions and I know how important it is to receive accurate, succinct and well-thought-out answers to your multitude of questions. Knowledge truly is power. The more

you know the more you can relax, enjoy and appreciate just how special hunting in South Africa can be. I am only a phone call or email away from discussing what you need to know about your safari with my cohorts awaiting you in South Africa.

Having hunted in South Africa multiple times on various concessions in fair chase pursuit of plains game, as well as South-east Zimbabwe for dangerous game, I have great admiration and respect for what Southern Africa's people, land and game have to offer. It gives me no greater pleasure than to vicariously relive these memorable moments through the eyes of "first timers" as well as seasoned veterans for South African hunting safaris.

By entrusting me as the liaison for your safari to South Africa, I will do my very best to ensure your trip is well planned, safe, smooth sailing, and culminates in a lifetime of fantastic memories.

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Ford 60th Annual Indy Boat, Sport & Travel Show February 14-23, 2014

Photographs Provided by Renfro Shows

The Ford 60th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show has been serving up heaping helpings of quality, family recreation and entertainment for the past 60 years. "Our company started as a family business and it still is today," says show organizer Kevin Renfro of Renfro Productions and Management, whose staple Indiana outdoor show is designed to help other families enjoy positive, meaningful experiences together in the great outdoors. "It's what we do," continues Renfro, "and we carry that same theme of making the outdoors fun indoors into our show each year."

The largest outdoor show of its kind, the Ford 60th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show returns to the Indiana State Fairgrounds February 14-23, 2014, and includes the 23rd Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo during its opening weekend (Feb. 14-16) and an expanded 17th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo the second weekend (Feb. 20-23). Attending families are invited to "Find Their Adventures" through fun and exciting fea-



SHARK ENCOUNTER

Sharks are fascinating creatures that play a critical role in the health of our oceans. And while they probably hope to never run into one, kids are extremely interested in them. The thrilling Shark Encounter exhibit, open daily at this year's show, will captivate the entire family as they watch human divers come face to face with live sharks in a 5,000 gallon saltwater tank. Entertainment and education intersect at this can't-miss exhibit, which also includes a life-size great white shark jaw replica and extensive and interesting information on our planet's top aquatic predators.

VISIT THE GAD-A-BOUT BOOTH #254 AT THE DEER & TURKEY EXPO FEBRUARY 20-23, 2014



SCOUT DAY

Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA have helped to shape and strengthen the character of millions of America's youth over these organizations' combined 216-year history. In recognition and celebration of scouting's contributions to our society, Monday, Feb. 17 will provide a full day of special programs and hands-on activities especially for Scouts, including tent pitching, canoe packing, kayak paddling and casting. Scouts will receive a special patch for their participation. In addition, a variety of informational seminars of special interest to Scouts will also be offered. These entertaining and informative seminars on fishing, camping, back packing and more are geared for scouts, but are sure to be appreciated by all who attend. "Scouting is a great American tradition," says Ford 60th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show organizer, Kevin Renfro. "And we're thrilled to be able to offer these opportunities to our state and local scouting communities," he continues. In addition to special discounted admission available in advance online, each scout who attends Scout Day in uniform will receive a free climb on the show's Peak Adventure Rock Wall and free fishing at the trout pond.

YOUTH ARCHERY RANGE

The Youth Archery Range, located in Expo Hall at the 17th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo, is a fantastic and safe opportunity to introduce young ones to the great sport of archery. Kids will be instructed on bow safety and proper shooting techniques by the professional staff of the Indiana Bow Hunters Association. The Youth Archery Range will be open each day of the 17th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo, February 20-23.

TACKLE TOWN KIDS' TROUT FISHING

Fishing is America's most popular recreational pastime, and the 70,000-square-foot Tackle Town is the place to be for all things fishing while visiting the Ford 60th Annual Ford Indianapolis Boat,

Sport and Travel Show. In addition to great deals on lures, equipment and tackle that simply can't be found anywhere else, Tackle Town has its very own Kids' Trout Fishing Pond, open daily, where youngsters can wet a line and catch live trout!

TINY TOTS TEST TRACK

Let the little ones ride at the Tiny Tots Test Track, set up in Expo Hall, February 14-16 at the 23rd Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo. The Tiny Tot Test Track provides the test track, motorcycle and safety apparel for your future bikers. It's a real riding experience that's sure to please any youngster. The only problem will be getting your kids to leave. In conjunction with the Tiny Tots Test Track, ABATE of Indiana will have the "ABATE Children's Motorcycle Adventure" with several additional hands on activities geared toward kids.

HONEY CREEK TACKLE KID'S DAY

Kids love coming to the show. And on Saturday, February 22 they love it even more when the first 500 kids through the door receive a rod and reel combo courtesy of Honey Creek Tackle.

KIDS FISHING FUN SEMINAR

Outdoor writer and radio show host Dan Armitage will be back in Indianapolis to conduct his entertaining seminars on the Hawg Trough at this year's show. In addition to his outdoor communications and fishing work, Armitage works with the national Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs program to conduct educational fishing seminars for youths across North America. Dan's popular Kids Fishing Fun seminar will be given each Saturday and Sunday of the show, and is an entertaining and educational show that actively engages kids and gets them excited about and interested in the sport of fishing.



ALL NEW PEAK ADVENTURE ROCK WALL

Kids love climbing, but are they ready for the Rock? This custom-designed mobile rock wall stands 24-feet tall and adds a dash of extreme sports to the show. Open daily in the Champions Pavilion, the Peak Adventure Rock Wall is open to anyone who wants to give rock climbing a try -- including adults -- in a safe environment. The Wall is a kid favorite, and is consistently one of the most popular exhibits at the Ford 60th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show.

For the latest information on show features and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 26**

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Sundays, Feb. 16 & 23: 10am-5pm • Monday, Feb. 17: 11am-8pm **SCOUT DAY!**

Tues & Wed, Feb. 18 & 19: 2-8pm • Thurs & Fri, Feb. 20 & 21: 11am-8pm

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Rebecca Funk, Executive Director and Instructor of Sunrise, Inc., standing in front of the office and arena buildings. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



From left to right, Zena a Percheron Friesian horse, Executive Directors Rebecca Funk and Sarah Miller and Vice President of the Board Buffy Sewell. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Horses Are Heroes



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

Sunrise Inc. ANOTHER New Beginning

Since 1980, Sunrise Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center has been offering "A New Beginning" through horseback riding to those mentally, physically, or emotionally challenged individuals, many of whom are not otherwise given a chance at independence.

The students have varied from ailments such as Cerebral Palsy, Autism, ADD, PTSD, etc. Throughout the years, the walls of the small barn

Sunrise operates in currently, have seen so many students come and go, but all of them leaving new and changed. Some have come in unable or unwilling to speak and throughout the course of their therapy they begin to speak to the horses they ride or work with. Others have come in with physical ailments that make it hard to keep their balance or even ride by themselves, but by the end of their therapy they have successfully ridden by themselves or with the assistance of only a leader.

So many students are success stories, for myself and all the others, both past and present, they have been an extreme joy to meet and be inspired by. For thirty-three, going on thirty-four years, Sunrise has harbored joy, independence, and light for those who need it most and we hope to become our own full and exciting success story. With the help of our loving community, Sunrise Inc., hopes to expand onto 104 acres of beautiful land and build "ANOTHER New Beginning," if you will. A new barn would allow Sunrise to give back to the community, volunteers, and students who have given and will give so much faith and love to this organization. To become a part of this new journey Sunrise is embarking on:



Student with a previous Sunrise horse, Kimmy. (Author Photo)

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Looking out across the fields from the Arena. The white buildings in the upper left corner are in the expansion area, 104 acres they purchased a while back. (Author Photo)



The Co-Executive Directors, Sarah and Rebecca, enjoying themselves at a volunteer day and pitch-in. (Author Photo)



Rebecca Funk as a back rider for one of her students. (Author Photo)

Facebook: Sunrise Therapeutic Riding Center
Rebecca L. Funk, Sunrise Inc., Exec. Dir.
rebeccafunk@yahoo.com
765-960-0503

Visit our website:
<http://sunriseinc.org/>

Editor's Note: Rebecca L. Funk will be writing a monthly column in The Gad-a-bout about horses. I asked her to pick a name for her Column, she chose "Horses Are Heroes" They truly are for her and so many others. I had been looking for a monthly columnist to write about horses for a long time. I know you will enjoy her Column.

Here in her own words is how she got to where she is today.

I began riding and working with horses at the age of seven with Joan and Sheldon Clark. At age nine we all went to Sunrise and I began riding there. After being a rider for a year or so due to having Scoliosis, Kyphosis, and ADD, I began volunteering in lessons as a leader and side-walker. I was asked to be a junior board member and obliged. I grew from there to be

elected as a member of the board at age eighteen and decided that I wanted to make a difference so I became the Vice-President. After our President, unfortunately, stepped down, I stepped up to fill the roll of President with Buffy Sewell as the new Vice-President. After our instructor and director left, I, along with my co-worker, Sarah Miller, got hired as the Co-Director and Instructor of Sunrise Inc. I am no longer the President due to the fact that I am now an employee of Sunrise. However, I am living my life long dream of making a difference to people through horseback riding and I wouldn't have it any other way. I am a horseback rider myself and I share my passion with others on a daily basis.



DIRECTIONS TO SUNRISE, INC. - RICHMOND, INDIANA 47374

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- Turn Right onto Henley Road to Wernle Road (About 4 Min.)
- Turn Left onto Wernle Road to Minneman Road (About 2 Min.)
- Slight Right onto Minneman Road to 2670 Minneman Road (About 2 Min.)
- Sunrise, INC. will be on the right side of road.
- From Ohio Take I-70 West to Richmond, IN Exit I-70 onto US 40 West to Henley Road, turn left**
- From Illinois Take I-70 East to Richmond, IN, Exit I-70 onto US 27 South, turn left onto East Main Street to Henley Road, turn right**
- From Kentucky Take I-65 North to Indianapolis, IN, Exit I-65 onto I-70 East to Richmond, Exit I-70 onto US 27 South, turn left onto East Main Street to Henley Road, turn right**
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Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

ISTA News

Trapping seasons are all open and the weather has been tolerable. If you are trapping, I hope that you are doing well. This year I have had several calls from the IDNR trying to help people with animal damage issues get together with trappers who can help. We call that "Mutual Benefit". One of my own places has had an invasion of Beaver. I have just gotten set up on them so there is nothing to report on that front yet. Muskrat are still a little hard to come by unless you have gotten into one of the marshes or have a secret honey hole that you guard. Ponds seem to be the most likely spot you will find them and there they can really do some damage. Raccoon are still everywhere. It will be very interesting to see what and how many of the species come into the ISTA Fur sale on Jan. 11th, 2014 at the Miami County 4-H Fair grounds, located at 1079 W. 200 N., Peru, IN 46970. The doors will open at 8am EST, with the sale starting at 10 am EST (EASTERN STANDARD TIME). You may bring your fur in, in the round (the whole animal, unfrozen, completely thawed), green skinned (that is skinned but not otherwise scraped or dried, but also completely thawed), or stretched and dried. Obviously, the more work you put into the skin, the more you will get back, in general. However, it is very easy to turn a \$20 pelt into a \$5 pelt with the slip of a knife, so be careful out there. Also, watch out for those nicks and cuts that you may receive while working with your skins. One case of cellulitis (infection), and your Doctor, medical, and hospital bills will negate everything that you have earned, and then some. The year does promise to be a good one for prices, so take care, and be respectful of other trappers. Oh, I will have a brief "State of the ISTA" after the fur sale for anyone who wishes to stay around for a bit of a Member's meeting. Lastly, anyone who wishes to volunteer to help out at the sale will be welcomed with open arms. Just give me a call at 765.938.1806 and leave me your name and number to get back to you. PLEASE, speak slowly and clearly and repeat your number at least two times.

Send me pictures of your catch at the end of the year, and I will do my best to get them posted. Or even send them to The Gad-a-bout, Ray loves to print those kind of things. If you trap as I do, sporadically and mostly on weekends, you may only have a few rats and a beaver or two. That is fine. I also want to hear about the bottom line for people.

It is really cool to say that you caught 500 raccoon last year, but I want to know what you put into catching those 500 raccoon. Too many people think that they are going to get rich trapping, and do not really pay attention to the logistics. It is a great sport. You have to really understand your target to get them to step on that two square inches (sometimes less) of trigger / trap pan. The things that can go wrong in the meantime seem endless. I vividly remember a few winters back finding a red fox foot print dead center on my trap pan and the bait from the dirt whole completely gone. Yep, the trap was frozen in. I cannot begin to tell you how hard I tried to keep that from happening, but it still does, occasionally.

As we await word of our Not-For-Profit status, we, the Board of the ISTA, have decided to try a **Spring Fling in April, April 12, 2014** at Mill Pond Park, Union Mills, IN., to be exact. That is a Saturday, and Turkey season isn't open yet. There will be a Board Meeting / Members Meeting from 10 am (CST) to noon, followed by a cookout, and then an afternoon of demonstrations and maybe some games. **NOTE**, Union Mills is on **CENTRAL STANDARD TIME**. Ron Elliott is heading this up for us, so it should be a good time. Primitive camping is available. Hotels are in LaPorte or Valparaiso. Tailgating will be available and we may even have a vendor or two. Everything is still in the planning stage. More information will be available in the Calendar of our Website.

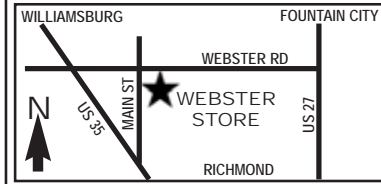
The week before this, we will be having our first **Trappers Education class for 2014** in Bloomington, IN. at the North Fork Service Area, 5300 N. McGowen Rd., Bloomington, IN. 47401. You will need to be pre-registered on the IDNR website. Go to www.passitonindiana.com and choose the trapping education 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. We may have an advanced class there this year, so be sure to check it out.

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

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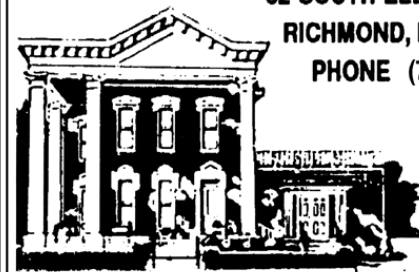
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Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Third Try for Indiana Musky

I like muskies! I don't know why. Maybe it's because they are big and mean looking. Perhaps it's because they fight so hard or are so hard to catch. Possibly it's because I like to throw fishing lures which are bigger than most fish. Or maybe it's just because I'm different than most people.

I have been chasing this critter which resembles a northern pike on steroids since 1970. The muskelunge is heavier and wider than a northern of the same length. Its mouthful of razor sharp teeth looks like something out of a science fiction channel movie. A

musky often hits a lure as soon as it touches the water and I have actually seen this monster fish come up out of the lake and grab a bait while it's still on its way down. It will follow a lure to the boat and slam it just as you are lifting the lure from the water. Or, it will show itself six inches deep next to the boat, then slowly slide down into deeper water.

Since 1972, (we were married in 1971), Susie and I have gone fishing in Canada probably 30-35 times, all in the province of Ontario, mostly in the north-west corner. Over this period, we have caught many hundreds of walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and probably less than 10 muskies. Several years ago, we traveled through Manitoba to get to the far northwest angle of Ontario for the express purpose of catching a big musky in Lake of the Woods. After three days of hard fishing, we were skunked. My last musky was caught sometime in the 1990's. That is, until a couple years ago.

Susie and I attended the Outdoor Sports, Lake & Cabin Show in Ft. Wayne, as we do most years. We were walking around visiting many of the vendors at the booths. Some we had known for several years, but I always checked out any new ones which interested me. We stopped at an exhibit which had a sign promoting Gary's Indiana Muskie Experience. There were many pictures of big muskies (40# to 50#) hanging on the wall. I had to stop.

For several years, I had been talking to conservation officers, outdoor writers, and area fisherman about musky fishing in Indiana. I learned successful

stocking of this species had been occurring in northern IN for some time. Fish over 50 inches while not common, were being taken every year in some lakes. But musky are called the "fish of 10,000 casts". Sometimes this is true. Especially if you are fishing in the wrong area, using the wrong bait, the weather is wrong, or any of a hundred other reasons a musky just isn't interested in your offering. To have a decent chance to catch a keeper musky (usually 36" or bigger depending on the area), you must go where they live, and know what they are interested in eat-

ing. This means you must spend probably hundreds of hours learning their habits. If you don't have the years to put in figuring all of this out, you can take a shortcut and find someone else who already knows.

I introduced myself to the man standing in the booth. His name was Gary Enos. He is a full time guide with over 30 years musky fishing experience. He is fully licensed, insured, and DNR inspected. I asked him a barrage of question about musky fishing. It was a trick. I already knew most of the answers from my years fishing in Canada. Gary got all the answers right and I booked a fishing trip with him right then.

He supplies all the equipment including rod and reel, baits and live suckers when available. You bring you own polarized sunglasses, rain gear, sunscreen, drinks and snacks, fishing license, and of course, a camera for your catch and release trophy.

We met Gary on our scheduled date at Ye Olde Tackle Box in North Webster, IN. He fishes on numerous lakes in the area including Webster, Backwaters Lake, the Barbee Chain, Lake Tippecanoe, James Lake, Oswego Lake, Upper Long Lake, and others. Our first trip was to Upper Long Lake and we came away with a lot of action and one musky which measured 36" long. We took pictures and released the fish to grow bigger.

Last spring, we scheduled another trip with Gary. Once again, we cast heavy lures for several hours which is common when fishing for this large cousin of the northern pike. We trolled large (12") suckers which are one of their favorite foods, had many follows, and finally a strike. I boated another three foot muskie which is a big fish, but not a big musky. More pictures, then back in the water. Gary told me if we came back in the fall, the fish would be bigger. We scheduled for late October.

Once again, I took my own rod and reels. Not necessary, but we're comfortable with our own equipment. We were using seven foot, heavy, C2, Carbon X rods, my favorite in both the heavy and light weight rods www.carbonrods.com. I was using an Abu Ambassador 6000 reel, about 40 years old. I recently took all of my reels to Kevin Davis at Hoosier Reel In Lapel for an overhaul, cleaning, lubrication, and new line hoosierreel@gmail.com. He does an excellent job and supplies a photo of your reel completely broken down with your finished product. (I didn't know a reel had that many parts!)

Late October found us at Ye Olde Tackle Box www.yeoldtacklebox.com again. This time Gary took us to Loon Lake east of North Webster. We loaded his boat, hopped in, and were once again on the hunt for a large musky. While we didn't see any

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



This is one of the two muskies I've caught fishing with Gary. Still hoping for a bigger one. (Author Photo)

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Bilbrey and Phillips with fish from Morse. (Photo by Tom Hankin)



Bledsoe and Sutkowski with fish from Geist (Photo by Tom Hankins)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

2013 ISM CLASSIC

October 12th and 13th the Indiana Slab masters held their annual two day classic, fishing Morse Reservoir on day one and Geist Reservoir on day two. This marks the third annual classic for the club. The first was held on Mississinewa and Salamonie and the second was held on Patoka Lake. Preceding the tournament was the awards banquet, held at the Osprey pavilion on Morse Lake, where year-end awards were awarded. Hankins and Gill were crowned points champions. Myron Etchison was awarded the Sportsmanship award and Tom Hankins was awarded the president's award for his service to the club over the past three years. Tournament morning started much the same as other tournaments with sign ups and live well checks at the ramp prior to launching on Morse.

We chose to start along a north bank and fish submerged stumps in 8-12 feet of water. We landed an 11 inch fish off the first stump and struggled for the next two hours to catch quality fish. We made our first move around 10am switching to a brush pile in 12' of water where we added another to the live well but quickly realized it was not holding the size fish we needed. We moved to our third spot around 11am, a large flat with submerged stumps in 6-8 feet of water. By this time the wind picked up and strong gusts were making it hard to hold on the stumps. As we were trying to reposition the boat after one of these strong gusts, we were between stumps when my outside rod bowed like it was hung up. I quickly set the hook and landed a 1.54 lb crappie. As we circled and came back to the spot, Damon landed another nice fish and within ten minutes we landed our third fish over one pound. We had several smaller fish in the live well which we were culling by this time only keeping a couple extra crappies.

After Day one we had the lead with a seven fish limit of 6.74 lbs with Jim Raymer and Doug Sikora in second with 5.68 lbs and Tom Hankins and Glen Gill a close third with 5.62 lbs. We had big fish for day one as well with a 1.54 lb crappie. Even with the lead after day one we still had to put together a good second day on Geist, which can be tough with the possibility of an equally strong stringer coming from any number of teams on this lake.

Day two started with a live well check at the ramp and everyone leaving the ramp at about the same time to head to their chosen spots. We chose to fish one of Damon's spots, an old road bed with rock piles or stumps just off one side of it. This spot produced a lot of fish, my hands were sore from handling fish all day. We didn't keep track of how many we caught but it had to be over 150 fish for the day. We sometimes had three fish at a time waiting to be weighed and at one point I was content to let my partner catch fish while I was taking them off the rods and culling them to keep our live well in order. We finally made the decision to move and fish a main lake ledge to look for a good kicker fish which we never found but did cull a couple times to keep upgrading our catch.

Day two ended as abruptly as it started as we were still hoping for one good fish to lock things up. Going into day two we knew we would need about 5 lbs to stay in contention for the win. Things changed up a little at the weigh in with day one, fourth place team of Mike Bledsoe and Allan Sutkowski weighing in a second day weight of 5.69 lbs to lead day two. Jim Raymer and Doug Sikora had a second day weight of 5.02 and Tom Hankins and Glen Gill weighed 4.69 lbs. Damon and I weighed in seven fish for 4.87lbs enough to maintain the lead and win our first Classic. We caught all our fish using BnM Capps and Coleman rigs with crappie minnows on BnM Rods and Driftmaster rod holders. This is a deadly combination when it comes to catching crappie. For the two day event I think it would be safe to say we caught 250 crappie in two days for a fourteen fish weight of 11.61lbs.

Below are the top ten finishers in the 2013 Indiana Slab masters Classic:

Team	Day 1	Day 2	Total Wt
Bilbrey/Phillips	6.74	4.87	11.61
Bledsoe/Sutkowski	5.32	5.69	11.01
Raymer/Sikora	5.68	5.02	10.70
Hankins/Gill	5.62	4.69	10.31
Jones/Walker	4.15	5.18	9.33
Snyder/Riley	4.20	5.09	9.29
Etchison/Kiritsis	3.79	5.38	9.17
Millsaps/Monroe	4.72	4.41	9.13



Raymer and Sikora with fish from Morse. (Photo by Tom Hankins)

Cunningham/Kleber	3.77	5.28	9.05
Licht/Williams	4.42	4.46	8.88

As always I would like to thank all the club sponsors for 2013 please go to indianaslabmasters.com to visit their websites. I would also like to thank my sponsors for a great year, without them I would not be able to fish the number of tournaments I do each year, so please visit their websites as well.

Tight Lines Everyone
Ron Bilbrey



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This is a photo taken from the Salamonie Dam overlooking the lake. The water is actually 4 feet below winter pool to allow for work at the Dora Boat Ramp being done to remove silt that had built up at the bottom of the ramp and allow it to continue to be accessible year round. (Photo by Author)

Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

Winter Welcome

It's that time of year again when days become shorter and the temperature outside drops to frigid conditions that tend to keep many people locked up inside yearning for the warmer spring days ahead. Although many people dread the future months ahead there are several outdoor enthusiasts

that look forward to these conditions such as ice fishermen, snowmobilers, and hunters. For the type of individual that would rather see the winter season wiped off the calendar this is a great time of the year to organize and clean your summer equipment be it camper, fishing gear, or camping supplies as well as start planning for your 2014 getaway. In either instance, the Salamonie and Mississinewa Reservoirs here at the "Great Lakes of the Wabash" should be a place of consideration for you and your family or friends.

Although things tend to slow down this time of year around here compared to the hustle and bustle of the summer season there are still multiple opportunities available to the avid outdoorsmen. When the ice and snow arrive you will find many fishermen gathered on either lake taking advantage of the fish as they are already confined to a smaller area due to the lakes being at winter pool levels. This time of the year has always been a favorite for ice fishermen, as evidenced by sometimes up to 40 and 50 cars parked alongside the St Rd 105 bridge, to catch a nice mess of crappie. Fishermen use such baits as a Rapala jiggling rap, Southern Pro crappie stingers, or just an ice fishing jig tipped with a bee moth or spike to land these big slabs. When the bite is on it is always a blast and allows for a great way to get away from the house and

enjoy a day outside on the lake. As always when ice fishing safety is the number one concern so be sure to check the ice conditions, have safety equipment, and let someone know where you will be fishing.

Another exciting winter activity is snowmobiling. And yes, there are trails available here at the Salamonie Reservoir to ride your snow mobile. There are over 40 miles of trails that roam the southern edge of the Salamonie Reservoir and deliver some wonderful views of the lake as well as opportunities to see wildlife in action. You must have your snowmobile registered and the trails have to be posted as "open" to ride. These trails are available December through March and you will need to visit www.indianasnowmobilers.com to check availability as they provide 24 hour updates and conditions of the trails.

Another exciting event through the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services is the 2014 Eagle Watch. The recent venture to bring the Bald Eagles to this area has had great results thus allowing for the opportunity to observe these beautiful soaring birds in action. This program will take place on January 18th and February 14 & 15. There will be a short program given about the eagles and then the group will travel to known roosting spots to observe. You must pre-register to attend this Eagle Watch. To sign up or for more information call the Wabash Interpretive Center at (260) 468-2127.

As for other happenings, the lake level here at the Salamonie Reservoir has been dropped an additional four feet below winter pool to allow work to be done at the Dora Boat Ramp. The work is being done to clean the bottom of the ramp due to years of eroding soil and debris filling in at the bottom of the ramp and thus allowing it to be "year round" status. If you have never seen the lake at this level it is definitely worth taking a look at as it will give you a whole new understanding of the layout. It also allows one to see the ruins left behind from the towns such as Dora and Monument City (which drew national attention last summer) that were affected by the implementation of the lake.

I hope while reading this that I have given you some ways to enjoy these bitter cold days ahead of us. When visiting don't forget to stop by and visit us here at Bozarth's Country Store. Come get your Christmas shopping done and grab one of our delicious options on our lunch menu. We have everything from fishing and hunting to camping supplies with a massive inventor of cast iron. You will not be disappointed. For more information call us at (765) 981-4522. Thanks and Happy Holidays!

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Sixteen-year-old Dillon Williams retrieving jug with a frog gig at Grandma Green's gravel pit. Elliott Waber, also 16, driving boat. (Photo by Author)



Williams, right, and Waber tying lines to a fallen tree to catch snapping turtles near the bank of Cabin Creek. (Photo by Author)



Bobby Speed

The Legendary Turtle Hunter A Tale by Bobby Speed Chapter 1

Many, many moons ago in a land riddled with creeks and swamps, there lived an old turtle hunter—a tall skinny feller with a long blond ponytail and a very bushy mustache resembling that of a walrus. He was known far and wide for his vast knowledge of the outdoors and the ways of the critters that lived in those lands.

He would show up every year in midsummer (after the female turtles had laid their eggs) to begin the task of hunting turtle. The techniques used to harvest these reptiles were somewhat of an art and not many folks possessed the skills or knowledge to hunt down those beasts of the waterways.

One day the old turtle hunter came across two young fellas who expressed an interest in hunting for the big mossy back turtles. Reluctant at first to oblige, the old turtle hunter agreed to take these two young men under his wing and show them the in's and outs of catching snappers.

The trio would meet up every July and go from bridge to bridge, pond to pond and over the years, the old turtle hunter had groomed the two young apprentices until they had mastered the art of catching turtles. The old turtle hunter, who had really taken a liking to these two boys, had given

them nicknames. One boy he called Chum because he would carry the liver, bloodiest of all meats. Everywhere they stopped, Chum would throw out small pieces of bait for a blood scent that would attract the snappers. The other boy he named Meat Boy because he carried the bag of old shot-up deer meat from the past hunting season that would be put on the hooks for bait.

One year while out running lines, the turtle hunters were doing very well catching many snappers on their morning runs, and one or two here and there on their afternoon runs. Chum and Meat Boy were really gaining some confidence about all they had learned from the old turtle hunter. One afternoon they proposed a bet to their friend. The deal was that if by late afternoon they were able to catch another turtle, the old turtle hunter would have to cut off his ponytail. And if they couldn't catch another turtle, they would have to skin all the turtles that had been caught for the season. He was not a man of chance or a gambler, but he decided to take the two young apprentices up on the wager. With only a couple more bridges left to run, the old turtle hunter felt pretty confident that no more snappers would be pulled from the water. But, as they pulled up to the very last bridge, the old turtle hunter couldn't help but notice the one and only line set there was pulled tight. The boys jumped up and down in the water, very excited that they were about to pull a very large turtle from the creek and that they were one up on the old turtle hunter.

Back at the cabin that evening, Chum and Meat Boy broke out the shears and told the old turtle hunter it was time to ante up. Being a man of this word, he removed his skull cap and the boys proceeded to cut off his ponytail of 30 years' growth. Braided and banded at both ends, the ponytail was hung on the wall as a trophy for Chum and meat Boy. The next morning when the boys woke up, the old turtle hunter was gone—along with his gear, hooks, and knives. He was nowhere to be found. The boys were kind of surprised to see that their old friend had disappeared in such a fashion, but they just thought they would see the old turtle hunter next year.

Time passed, and the next thing you know, it was turtle season again. Chum and Meat Boy showed up out on the old gravel road where they had always congregated in the past. But the old turtle hunter did not show up. So the boys thought—we'll just have to hunt without our old friend. They went from bridge to bridge, pond to

pond, exercised all that they had learned from the old turtle hunter, but every morning they would get up to run their lines, there were no turtles. Scratching their heads in disbelief, Chum and Meat Boy thought that maybe they had caught all the turtles in that area, so they expanded their territory, but still no snappers. This went on for several years. Chum and Meat Boy were beside themselves not knowing what they were doing wrong, and without the old turtle hunter to ask, they were just lost.

The ponytail of the old turtle hunter still hangs on the wall of that cabin. Chum and Meat boy still tell their stories of adventures with the mossy back slayer, but to this day they've not caught a turtle since that last bridge that cost the old turtle hunter his ponytail.

Legend has it that the old turtle hunter just disappeared into the swamps and was never seen again. But for those of us who really know, he is just one bridge, one pond in front of Chum and Meat Boy.

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Waber (right) holding one of the many turtles he and Williams caught on their weekend hunt. (Photo by Author)



Williams (left) and Waber shown here with some of their 23-turtle catch. (Photo by Author)

Chapter II

"Grandpa, Grandpa, will you tell us another story about Chum, Meat Boy and the old turtle hunter? Please Grandpa!"

As the boys' Grandfather reached for his cup of coffee and took a sip he started his story, "Well, let me tell you guys about the big fall festival that Chum, Meat Boy, and the old turtle hunter would put on each year at the end of turtle-hunting season. Every year, sometime in August or early September, Chum, Meat Boy and the old turtle hunter would gather with their friends for a celebration of the past hunting season. They would play games, target practice with their guns, and ride their buggies through the swamps and creeks. Why, they even had competition squirrel hunting. They would draw names from a hat and each team would hunt squirrels for a couple of hours and whoever showed up back at the cabin with the least number of bushy tails would have to skin all the critters that had been taken that morning. Meat Boy and the old turtle hunter had a reputation for always bringing back more squirrels than the rest of the hunters. So, everyone really had to put their best stalking ability forward to beat that pair."

"But most importantly, they would prepare a rather large meal that consisted of all the different wild game they had harvested from the previous hunting season. They would cook venison, fish, wild boar, duck, and even a squirrel or two. But the most important thing they cooked was the snapping turtles they'd caught over the summer. Now let me tell you, not only did the

old turtle hunter know how to catch and dress out turtles and all the other critters, he also knew the best ways to prepare all the different animals that had been harvested. Chum and Meat Boy had an interest in learning all of these particulars too, so they would pay close attention to all the little tricks and secrets the old turtle hunter would use to make the wild game taste as good as possible for all their guests and friends."

The boy's grandfather continued, "Even though the old turtle hunter had been absent for several years after losing the bet with Chum and Meat Boy, the boys kept the annual festival going on. Only they had no turtle meat to serve to their friends—still unable to land one single snapper after that unforgettable day the old turtle hunter lost his ponytail. It was in the fall of the year, Chum and Meat Boy had requested that all their friends meet out on the old gravel road for their annual get together. The boys were just about to start preparing the wild game when all of a sudden they could see an old pick-up truck coming down the gravel road. Some of the younger people and newer friends didn't know who it was, but Chum and Meat Boy recognized the truck right off the bat! It was the old turtle hunter! The boys couldn't believe their eyes. Their old friend had come back to join them for the big fall festival. Still in a bit of disbelief, Chum and Meat Boy greeted their old friend with the traditional hand shake the old turtle hunter had taught them years ago. The old turtle hunter had not only returned to see the two young apprentices, but he had brought with him a rather large amount of turtle meat he had caught over the summer."

"After telling several stories and introducing the

mossy back slayer to their new friends, Chum, Meat Boy, and the old turtle hunter wasted no time starting to prepare all the food for the festival. Soon all bellies were full and the games of the annual event were taking place. Chum, Meat Boy, and the old turtle hunter were relaxing under a shade tree when the boys started telling their old friend how they had not caught any snappers since that one at the bridge where the old turtle hunter had lost his bet to the boys. Looking for an explanation from their friend, he simply smiled real big and said, 'Just one bridge, just one pond.' They all started laughing. Chum and Meat Boy knew then that the old turtle hunter had not shown them every trick in the book. And they were good with that because they had just realized that some things have to be learned from experience and not from being taught. The old turtle hunter had given out his last test to the two boys, and they had passed. Loyalty, friendship, and passing on the ways of the outdoors—they were now masters of these great virtues, and the old turtle hunter was very proud of them."

For all the years to come, the trio would meet up out on that gravel road going from bridge to bridge, pond to pond, continuing to hunt turtles together."

This story is in dedication to Elliott Waber and Dillon Williams, two fine young men. It has been an honor hunting turtles with you guys! Thank you.

Your friend,
Bob Speed (the Old Turtle Hunter)

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John and El McCory

60th Indy Sport Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

attractions, general show information, or to purchase tickets online, go to IndySportShow.com.

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Outdoors with Rich Creason

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

loons on this lake, we did see great blue herons, swans, ducks, geese, an eagle, and either a muskrat or beaver swimming along the shoreline.

Gary took us over a sunken reef, along the edge of seedbeds, by piers, and rocky points. We continued casting our huge lures, then retrieving them, all the while waiting for that savage strike which indicates a hungry musky. When the lure is close to the boat, we stuck the rod tip into the water and made the familiar figure "8" with the lure, hoping to entice a fish following close behind into attacking. We saw a couple "follows" but no hits. We spotted one large musky near the top of the water, following the trailing sucker, but he slowly sank without grabbing the bait.

As the sun was setting, Gary pointed the boat back toward the landing. Three trips with Gary and this was the first time we had failed to boat a keeper. Spring will find us out with Gary and his brand new boat arriving in March. Perhaps that trip will be the one where we land a 50 incher.

To book a trip with Gary's Indiana Muskie Experience, contact him at 574-275-1885 or e-mail him at garymuskienut@aol.com. You can also check out the website at www.yeoldtacklebox.com. If you've never caught a musky, you definitely need to try it. If you've already caught one, I don't need to explain it to you.

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





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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

2014 GEM & JEWELRY SHOWS COMING RICHMOND & INDIANAPOLIS, IN

See page 5 for information on the upcoming **41st Annual Eastern Indiana Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show and Sale** at the Wayne County Fairgrounds March 7-9, 2014. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Admission is still \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for Seniors (60+), \$1.00 for students (7-18) and under 7 Free.

For more information contact: 765-966-4249 or 727-389-2900 or 937-962-2524.

See page 5 also for information on the upcoming **Treasures of the Earth 16th Annual Indianapolis Spring Bead, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Ag/Hort Building March 21-23, 2014. Open Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Admission is \$5.00 and ticket is good for all 3 days.

For more information log onto their website: www.toteshow.com.

HAWK PHOTO LOWER LEFT HAND CORNER POUNCED ON SOMETHING

When I was dropping off some December Gad-a-bouts at Atterbury IDNR office I noticed a red tail hawk dropping down from above onto something. Couldn't see what it was so I got my camera and zoomed in on the hawk. I probably took 15 photos of that hawk in all, without ever seeing what he was holding to the ground with his talons. After holding his prey onto the ground for quite a while, he up and flew to a nearby sign, then left the area. In all my years of traveling around the state, that is the closest I've ever been to a red tail hawk. They are beautiful birds. My last photo of it may have been the reason he abruptly left, he was looking directly at me and my camera.

DNR WELCOMES 7 NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS

INDIANAPOLIS - Seven new Indiana Conservation Officers officially joined the DNR Division of Law Enforcement during graduation ceremonies today at the Indiana Government Center South.

Dale Clark, recipient of the Division's James D. Pitzer Outstanding Officer of the Year Award earlier this year, administered the oath of office to the recruits.

The new officers represent the 33rd recruit class of Indiana Conservation Officers, the oldest law enforcement agency in the state. The officers, their hometowns, and assignment locations (by county and district in parentheses) are:

Jarred E. Coffing, Monticello (Delaware, District 4)

Eli J. Hendricks, West Terre Haute (Parke, District 5)

Kurt S. Kinser, Bloomington (Steuben, District 2)

Matthew G. Maher, Greentown (Kosciusko, District 1)

Jeffrey T. Reed, Washington (Elkhart, District 1)

Joshua C. Thomas, Madison (Fayette, District 9)

Aaron M. Todd, Heltonville (Owen, District 5)

"The training and resultant graduation of these officers is the culmination of a lot of hard work," said Law Enforcement division director Danny East. "We are proud of their accomplishments thus far as they move to their next training phase at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy."

The new officers underwent five weeks of basic training followed by 12 weeks of on-the-job training with a veteran Conservation Officer. Their training continues with a 15-week course at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, after which they will report to their assignments to complete a one-year probationary period.

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The DNR employs 214 Conservation Officers who in addition to enforcing state laws are often called upon to help during emergencies and natural disasters. They also engage in non-law enforcement activities such as outdoor instructional programs, including boater, hunter, snowmobile, and trapper education. River rescue, cave rescue, underwater search and recovery, and K-9 teams are specialty response units available statewide whenever needed.

TURKEY RUN SP SUSPENSION BRIDGE TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY

The suspension bridge over Sugar Creek at Turkey Run State Park will close Dec. 12 through Dec. 20 for the replacement of a staircase on the north end.

All hiking trails will remain open.

Visitors can access trails in Rocky Hollow Nature Preserve by following Trail 1 along the south bank of Sugar Creek to the Narrows Covered Bridge. After crossing the covered bridge, trails 4 and 8 take hikers to the nature preserve.

Turkey Run State Park stateparks.IN.gov/2964.htm is at 8121 East Park Rd. Marshall, 47859.

CHARLESTOWN STATE PARK'S ROSE ISLAND CLOSED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Rose Island, the site of an early 20th century amusement park and picnic grounds that is now a part of Charlestown State Park, is closed effective immediately for historic preservation work and the installation of interpretive exhibits.

The site will re-open in early August 2014.

Regularly scheduled Rose Island hikes are postponed until the site is reopened.

The protection of Rose Island and its restoration began with its inclusion in the Fourteenmile Creek Nature Preserve. Access to the site was provided in 2011 with the installation of the restored Portersville bridge across Fourteenmile Creek. Rose Island was a popular getaway for Louisville and southern Indiana vacationers, who would arrive by steamboat or car, stay in the hotel or cabins, relax at the pool and socialize at the dance hall.

The interpretive exhibits will feature personal memories of Rose Island, old photographs, and information about the natural features that make the site significant after forest reclaimed the island.

A grand opening celebration will be in fall 2014.

Funding for this project is through a federal Transportation Enhancement Grant, sponsored by the Clark's Grant Historical Society, and the State's Charlestown State Park Development Fund.

Charlestown State Park stateparks.IN.gov/2986.htm is at 12500 State Road 62 in Charlestown, 47111

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Dylan "Dip" Baker, age 13, took his first 5 pt., Field Dressed 160 lb. Buck at G-Pa's farm in Wayne Co. on opening morning with a M/L. (Photo by Steve Baker)



William Carter took this 20 point, 210 pound Buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Hunter Holliday took this 9 point Buck on 11-9-13. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Garrett Jackson took this 10 point, 188 pound Buck on 11-17-13 in Fayette County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Jacob Green shot his first buck while hunting on the Salamonie Reservoir. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Jerry Claypoole took this 8 point, 175 pound Buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Daniel Stines took this 17 1/2 pound Tom on 10-18-13. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Ashley Hill took this 7 point, Buck on 11-16-13 in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



David Lakes, Sr, biggest 10 pt. 185 lb. Buck he had ever gotten. Taken on 11-19-13 at around 5 p.m. It had a 21" spread and scored 156. He was hunting in Fayette Co. with his Dad, Dennie. (Photo by Melissa Lakes)

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Ricky "Bubba" Callahan, Jr., age 16, took his first buck on 11-16-13 at around 8 a.m. with a 12 Ga. shotgun. It field dressed at 160 lbs and was a 9 pointer. (Calahan Photo)



Dale Brandt took this 10 point, 220 pound Buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Lloyd Davis took this 8 point, 215 pound Buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Cody Frame took this 8 point, 172 pound Buck in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Marjorie Brookshear took this 8 point, 180 pound Buck in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Josh and Sarah Gaylourd with their bucks they shot while hunting together. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Jordan Lycan took this 8 point, 175 pound Buck in Wayne County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Ashley Newby took this 8 point, 160 pound Buck on 11-2-13. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Richard Freedom took this 10 point, 170 pound Buck on 11-15-13 in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

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Josiah Jackson took his first buck in Switzerland Co. at 3:30 p.m. with a 870 20 Ga. shotgun. It weighed 207 lb and had 10 pts. He chased him twice. (Josiah Jackson Photo)



Rick Crane took this 8 point, 188 pound Buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Phil Bradley took this 11 point, 175 pound Buck on 11-14-13. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Ryan Jones took this 8 point, 158 pound Buck on 11-18-13 in Franklin County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Brandon Gates took this 8 point, 200 pound Buck on 11-7-2013. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Kirby Brown took this 10 point, 178 pound Buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)





Andrea Hughes took this 10 point, 180 pound Buck on 11-20-13 in Union County. This was Andrea's first buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Mike Eviston shot this 9 pointer buck while hunting in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)




James Halcomb took this 11 point, 190 pound Buck in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

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Three deer playing chicken on SR 26 between Portland and Hartford City November 16, 2013. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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