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YOUR DEER PHOTOS
IN THIS ISSUE
SEE PAGES
15, 16, 18, 30 & 31

JOEL TAKES TROPHY ARIZONA COUES BUCK
600 YARD SHOT - SEE PAGES 22-23

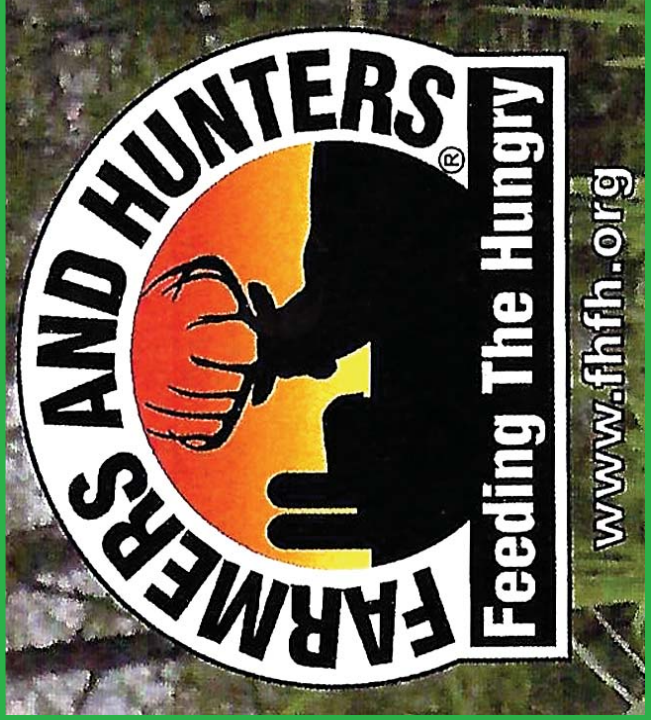


JIM CAUGHT THESE PATOKA LAKE WALLEYE
THIS FALL ON CRANKBAITS SEE PAGE 3 & 21



BOAT SHOW ISSUE
SEE SPORT SHOW SPECIAL ADVERTISING RATE - PAGE 2

VISIT THE GAD-A-BOUT BOOTH #268 DEER
EXPO FEB 26-MAR 1, 2015 - SEE PG 2,17 & 28



www.fhfh.org

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE DEER CAN FEED
200 HUNGRY PEOPLE - SEE PAGE 25 & 27

ADVERTISER INDEX PG 31 / ARTICLE INDEX PG 3

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THE GAD-A-BOUT™



IN THIS ISSUE

JANUARY 2015 • Volume XXIV • NO. 297

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SPECIAL FEATURES

31 Deer Photos sent from Gad-a-bout readers by Mail, E-mails and picked up at Advertiser locations See Pages 15, 16, 18, 30 & 31

REGULAR FEATURED WRITERS

ROAMING THE OUTDOORS by Ray Dickerson (<i>High Powered Rifle Part II, Otter Rule, IN, Sport Shows & Find Gad Booth, New Sales Person</i>) . . .	Editorial Comment & Opinion Page 4 & 28
ON THE CUTTING EDGE by Ray Dickerson (<i>Putting my 2¢ into the mix, You are an American First, Does the Power of one out weigh the majority</i>) . .	Editorial Comment & Opinion Page 29
BROOKVILLE LAKE by Tag Nobbe (<i>Fishing Brookville Lake in January</i>)	So You Wanna' Catch More Fish Page 5
INDIANA STATE POLICE by Sgt. John D. Bowling (<i>Pendleton First Sergeant Honored for 35 Yrs Service, Outdoor Hobbies "Required"</i>)	News from the Indiana State Police Page 6
INDIANA DNR by I.C.O. Gary Catron, Master Conservation Officer (<i>Help the Bat, Man, Are You a Social Sort?, Hard H2O</i>)	Indiana Department of Natural Resources News Page 7
CRAPPIE FISHING by Ron Bilbrey (2014 Classic)	Indiana Slab Masters Page 8-9
OUTDOOR HUMOR: by Dan Graves (<i>FROM A FISH PERSPECTIVE</i>)	Misfires & Snags Page 10
LAKE MICHIGAN by Capt. Mike Schoonveld (<i>OVER THE HILL FISH</i>)	Fishing Lake Michigan Page 11
GEMS & HORSES by Vivian Sanders-Himelick (<i>Cold Weather Blues, Some Recipes & About the authors</i>)	Shawneecreek Ramblings Page 12
CAMPING by John & El McCory (<i>Camping Clubs in North America (4)</i>)	Camping Here & Beyond Page 13
OUTDOORS by Joe Martino (<i>Push back on rifles striking a nerve with DNR</i>)	Indiana Outdoors Page 14
OUTDOORS & TRAVEL by Rich Creason (<i>Searching for History</i>)	Outdoors with Rich Creason Page 20
PATOKA LAKE by Jim Behrman (<i>End of another Season of Houseboating on Patoka Lake</i>)	Vacationing In Southwest Indiana Page 21
HUNTING by Joel Biltz (<i>Southern Arizona Coues Deer</i>)	Big Game Hunting Page 22-23
TRAPPING by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM (<i>2014-15 Trapping Season, ADC Licensed Trapper</i>)	Indiana State Trappers Association Page 24
MIDWEST OUTDOORS by Glenn Kelsey (<i>Farmers & Hunters Feeding The Hungry (FHFH and Connected Afield Team Up)</i>)	Connected Afield Page 25
GUN REPAIR by Marshall Smith (<i>Reflex Sights and Shotguns</i>)	Notes from Prairie Wolf Gun Repair Page 26-27

GAD-A-BOUT DEPARTMENTS

Advertiser Index Page 31
Gad's Corner Page 15, 16, 18, 30 & 31
Rate Sheet & Contract Form, (Sport Show Special Ad Rate for Jan/Feb/Mar issues) Page 2

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: The 58nd annual Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show®, Presented by RAM sails into downtown Cincinnati Jan. 16 - 18 and Jan. 21 - 25, 2015. The Ford 61st Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, February 20 - March 1, 2015 & The 18th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo Indiana State Fairgrounds, Expo Hall February 26 - March 1, 2015. The guy standing in my booth at the 2014 Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo is handing out Gad-a-bouts. He was my neighbor in the Fur Takers of America booth next to mine. He helped when I wasn't there. Nice guy, but I can't remember his name. I will be in **Booth #268** this year. See Expo layout on Page 28 to see my new booth location. Just follow the red brick line. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Bottom Left: Glenn Kelsey writes about Connected Afield and Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). See page 25 & 27. (FHFH Logo)

Top Right: After a long anticipated wait Joel was finally on a plane to Tucson Arizona. After two seemingly long flights he was picked up by his buddy Casey whom invited him on this hunt. See Pages 22-23 (Photo by Joel Biltz)

Bottom Right: This is a picture of Jim Behrman holding a 7 lb and 6 lb walleye he caught early this fall on Patoka Lake using crankbaits. See page 21. (Jim Behrman Photo)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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

SHOULD INDIANA DEER HUNTERS BE ALLOWED TO HUNT WITH HIGH POWERED RIFLES IN INDIANA, THAT IS THE QUESTION PART II

Everywhere I have been delivering the December Gad-a-bout and since, I've talked to Indiana businesses and residents alike, asking if they were in favor of the proposed DNR rule change allowing deer hunters to use .30-30 and .45-70 during the deer firearms season. No one I talked to was in favor of the change. I encouraged them to contact the NRC and voice or send their opinions in writing.

Here is the proposed change that will go in effect for 2015 if the DNR, NRC allows the change (s) to be adopted.

•Allows additional rifles to be used by reducing the bullet size required to .243 and eliminating the maximum rifle cartridge case length. This will allow high-powered rifles such as the .30-30 and .45-70 during the deer firearms seasons. Full metal jacketed bullets would be unlawful because since they do not expand when fired, and therefore, do not kill as humanely.

You can read the entire proposed change at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2362.htm>

I'm opposed to the new rule due to the increased chance of stray or ricocheted bullets entering nearby homes or out buildings, possibly wounding or killing innocent people or animals who happen to be in harms way due to the increased distance the bullet will travel.

I received the following DNR release December 3rd: **NRC accepting public comment on rules proposals.** This release tells you exactly how to contact the NRC if you want to comment on the rules up for changes.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748
For immediate release: Dec. 3, 2014

NRC accepting public comment on rules proposals

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is accepting public comment on proposed changes to a number of administrative rules related to the management of fish and wildlife in Indiana.

The Commission is an autonomous board that addresses issues pertaining to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The Commission includes the DNR director, heads of three other state agencies (Environmental Management, Tourism, and Transportation), six citizens appointed by the governor on a bipartisan basis, the chair of the Commission's advisory council, and the presi-

dent of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Currently open for comment are amendments to several rules governing deer hunting, including the use of **high-powered rifles during deer hunting season**, as well as **bag limits on panfish**, and a **suspension of the ruffed grouse hunting season**.

The proposals are collectively referred to as the **Biennial Rule Amendment Package**.

Also open for comment is a proposed rule to **establish a river otter trapping season**. The river otter proposal comment deadline is Dec. 11. A public hearing is set for 5:30 p.m. that day at the Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road in Plainfield.

The NRC Division of Hearings accepts public comments three ways:

- By regular mail, sent to NRC Division of Hearings, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Ave., Room N501, Indianapolis, IN, 46204.

- Through an online comment form at www.IN.gov/nrc/2377.htm. Find the chart at the bottom of the page to look for the proposed rule you want to comment on. The comment form link is in the right column.

- At a public hearing. Public hearing notices are posted in the fifth column of the chart at www.IN.gov/nrc/2377.htm.

Background on the proposed changes is available at wildlife.IN.gov/2362.htm.

Also available on that web page is information on proposed changes to rules governing size and bag limits for catfish and several permits/commercial licenses that received preliminary adoption by the NRC. The online comment form has not been posted yet for these proposals, but written comments can be sent to the NRC Division of Hearings at the address listed.

Public hearings and comment deadlines have not been scheduled yet for the catfish proposal, the biennial rule amendment package, or the permit/commercial license rule package. Sign up for Wild Bulletin to receive updates about these proposed rule changes that will include deadlines for comments and public hearing information at wildlife.IN.gov/5704.htm

For questions or more information email dfwinput@dnr.IN.gov.

(*Also see Article written by Dr. Fred Philips on need for river otter trapping season on Page 26)

If you want to comment on any of the above rule changes, now is the time to voice or send your reasons why you don't want the changes. Remember, if you wait for George to do it, as the ole' saying goes, he may be waiting on you - so don't wait, do it now!

The NRC wants your views so they can properly administer their responsibility, responsibly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
Professional Fishing Guide

Fishing Brookville Lake in January

Indiana fishing in the winter changes from year to year. The weather dictates 100 % of what you can and can't do. You may show up at the boat ramp in January to launch your boat and the lake is frozen solid. Other years its completely ice free from one end to the other. Whats good about coming to Brookville is you have options.

If you show up at Brookville lake and its frozen solid just simply drive below the dam and fish the stilling basin. The water in the stilling basin stays about 45 degrees all winter do to where it comes from. On the lake side of the dam there is a tower that has 3 gates located from the bottom of the lake to the top. The Army Corp. of engineers controls the water temperature in the river below the dam by adjusting the flow of water through these gates. In the summer they try to keep the water cool in the river below the lake for the trout and in the winter they try to keep the water warmer to keep it from freezing. They do this by taking more water off the bottom of the lake. The water at the bottom of Brookville lake lake stays between 45 and 65 degrees year round.

When fishing the river below the dam you have a few different fishing option. The first option is to fish in the stilling basin. The stilling basin is the fenced in concrete area right below the dam. The stilling basin is couple hundred feet long and 35 feet deep. As the water comes out of the tube under the dam it goes straight into a 30 foot wall at the other of the stilling basin that is hidden under water. When the water flow is high this makes the water try to come back on top of itself. This repeated action makes the water kind of ease out of the stilling basin area instead of just blasting out and doing damage down stream. When the water flow is low the stilling basin area is just a 35 foot deep concrete box full of water. This is the ideal fishing conditions your looking for in the winter time. All the fish that are in the river and in lake are in the stilling basin. The best way to fish this area is with live minnows or jigging spoons, just keep it on the bottom. I have found with the height you are from the water and the fence that keeps you from falling into the stilling basin is a bit of a problem. You will just have to figure that out on your own.

If you get to the stilling basin and the flow is pretty high, try fishing off the end of the walls. The ends of the walls will deflect the water enough to give predator fish an opportunity to use this area as an ambush point. If this don't produce walk on down the river looking for spots on the river banks that will divert water and make little wing dams to create calm spots. You will still want to use live minnows or some type of bait that looks like a minnow like floating stick baits or in line spinners.

If you find yourself hooking rainbow or brown trout remember you cannot keep either type between December 31st and the last Saturday in April of the following year when trout season opens. Catch and release is a common practice that I have seen many of tout fishermen do all winter. The trout is a cold water fish so this winter environment suits them just fine. When fishing for them try to get the hook set as quickly as possible so they don't swallow your bait. If you can, try to unhook them with a small pair of needle nose pliers while they are still in the water the less handling the better.

Good luck Tag

If you need more info E Mail me at tag@tagnobbe.com or go to the web site www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com or call my cell phone 765-265-3238 .

I guide fish for walleye, striped bass, and crappie starting mid April till the mid December 7 days a week on Brookville Lake. We fish out of a 2007 Lund Pro V 2025 with a 225 Honda motor. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 – 4 people. The price is according to how many



This is a picture of the tailwater (East Fork of Whitewater River) looking up towards the stilling basin from State Road 101 bridge. (Author Photo)



This picture shows how the stilling basin slows the flow of water down before leaving the stilling basin to continue on down the river. The water flow coming out of the lake in this picture is extremely high.. (Author Photo)



This is the stilling basin below the dam it is the 35 foot deep box I talk about in this article. (Author Photo)

people go \$450.00 for 4 people \$375.00 for 3 people \$325.00 for 2 people and \$275.00 for 1 person. We start at 7:00 am and fish till 1:00 To schedule trips call me on my cell phone 765-265-3238. (See my Guide Service ad on Page 12)

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News from the Indiana State Police



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



First Sergeant Tim Kaiser

Pendleton First Sergeant Honored for 35 Years of Service

Pendleton – Pendleton District First Sergeant Tim Kaiser was recently honored for achieving 35 years of service with the Indiana State Police. He was awarded a certificate and a longevity pin to be worn on his uniform.

Kaiser graduated from Yorktown High School in 1974, then from Ball State University with a Degree in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Psychology in 1978. He graduated from the Indiana State Police Academy in 1979 and was assigned to the Connersville Post. In 1984 he transferred to the Redkey Post where he worked the road as a trooper.

In 1991 Kaiser was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Pendleton Post. In 1996 he was promoted to Sergeant to serve in the Laboratory Division, and then in 2001, was promoted to the rank

of First Sergeant to serve as the Regional Laboratory Manager in Indianapolis.

In 2004 he was assigned as the Assistant District Commander at the Pendleton District. During his career he has served as an Accident Reconstructionist, as an Aircraft Accident Investigation Team member and has been an instructor in Firearms and First Responder training.

Kaiser was presented with a national award in 1991, the J. Stannard Baker Award for Highway Safety by the International Chiefs of Police, and was also awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash by then Governor Evan Bayh, for his investigation into a safety defect that led to the recall of over 600,000 vehicles.

First Sergeant Kaiser and his wife have two daughters and two grand children, and reside in Madison County.

Outdoor Hobbies "Required"

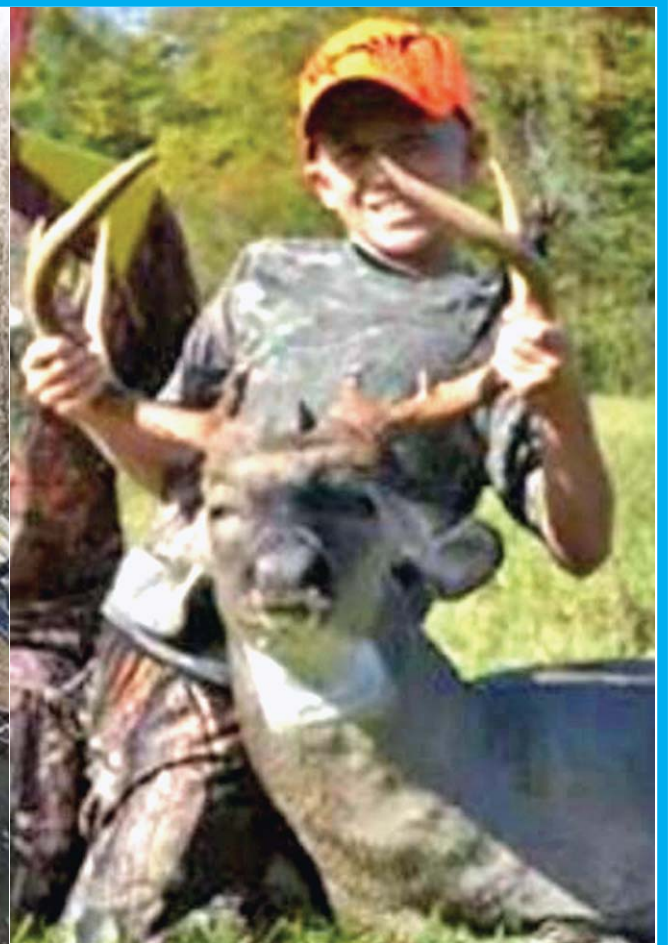
Often when speaking to high school kids, I get the question of "What's the most stressful part of your job?" My answer is that there is no one thing in par-

ticular for me, 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 of all kinds, and often 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, as well as ourselves and our 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; I've had my car hit twice over that last few years. Unfortunately I was in it both times.

Most people we deal with are just like you or I, but have chosen to make a bad decision or series of bad 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 often say, when in these dangerous situations, you must have faith. Faith that good will win out, that you will make the right split second decisions to keep yourself and those you serve safe and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Pendleton Trooper Tyler Painter on the left, and his son Austin on the right. Austin took his buck during Indiana's Youth Season with a .44 magnum rifle. Tyler, a diehard bow hunter, took his buck with his Mathews Bow on opening day of gun season. (Photo by Sergeant John Bowling)

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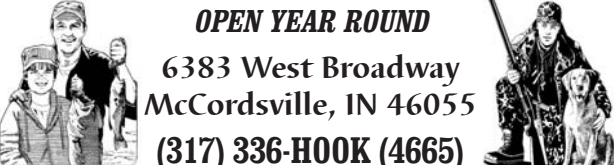
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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



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

Help the Bat, Man

In the recent Wild Bulletin (Outdoor news from IDNR) and item caught my attention regarding bats. Volunteers are being sought for the summer of 2015 that have bats roosting on their property. If you have bats roosting in a barn, tree, bat house, etc., biologists are in need of your help monitoring the summer populations by counting bats as they emerge from their roosts at dusk. I don't know the specifics regarding the bat roost monitoring project but if this seems of interest to you and you've got bats to count consider helping out. Email project biologist chudson@dnr.in.gov for details.

Are You a Social Sort?

Are you a facebooker? Or is it facebookie...facebookian? Well, whatever the proper term is, if you are a practitioner of facebook social media you can now follow what is going on in each of the 10 Indiana Conservation Officer districts. Just type in 'Indiana DNR Law Enforcement District 9' (or any district numbers 1-10) to search for us within your facebook account. You'll see we've been a bit busy these past weeks!

Hard H2O

Finally, those nasty and comfortable temperatures have disappeared, giving way to the preferred sharp biting frigid winter temperatures. Don't you agree? Yeah, I can't even agree with myself on that one, but

like it or not, like many, I will force my embrace with winter.

The seasonal icing cycle is in place and already plans are being made for some hard-water fishing. Whether you enjoy a bit of ice fishing as a form of solitude or your preference is joining the masses in festive celebration of the sport participating in ice fishing derbies, the ice rules. Certain safety issues must be kept in mind...and obeyed!

First, remember there is no such thing as safe ice, only safer ice.

*Avoid the temptation to venture onto ice too soon. The risk of breaking through is too great. Four inches of new, clear ice is the rule when on foot. Ice does not always form at a uniform thickness throughout a body of water. Check its thickness often to ensure safety.

*Forget about seeking solitude. Always fish with a buddy and let someone know where you are going to be fishing and when you plan to return. In this aspect, there is some safety in numbers, but walk in single file away from one another particularly during early ice.

*Wear a life jacket over your clothing or wear specially designed survival clothing which offers floatation and insulation to the wearer.

*Carry (actually wear) ice picks to help pull yourself out of the water and back onto the ice should you fall through. If you fall through, turn in the direction you came from while in the water, the reach out and force the ice picks solidly into the ice, kick your feet while pulling yourself onto the ice. Do not stand up immediately, but roll away from the hole. Rolling distributes body weight. Wait until back to solid ice before standing.

*Wear a whistle. Even during the comfortable temperatures of summer a whistle is always attached to my PFD, and can signal for help much easier than a cell phone. Yes, a cell phone can help but in reality it will help in the hands of somebody that is on safe ice. Once in ice water the manual dexterity needed to perform small tasks is lost.

*Once out of the ice water, change clothing immediately. The human body will continue to lose core temperature until the wet clothing is removed and proper warming treatment has taken place. Do not let another person talk you out of assisting them or calling assistance for them. Hypothermia is a real threat in the ice water submersion scenario.

*Remember ice forms differently on flowing water than it does on lakes and ponds. Also, the ice may be thinner near objects like rocks and trees that break the surface of the water. These objects absorb heat and for a time may resist the formation of ice around them. Pay attention to possible water level fluctuations.

*Keep an eye on the weather forecast. Even small amounts of rain or warmth can weaken ice quality. Honeycombed ice is a sign of deterioration. Greenish or dark colored ice is a danger sign. Don't go.

*A warming temperature trend may mean comfort while ice fishing; it also means ice will deteriorate rapidly near shorelines. It's not uncommon for ice anglers to become stranded on the ice with no safe passage back to shore during such times. Some may call them 'diehard', others may prefer the term 'foolish'.

The Indiana DNR Law Enforcement has produced an ice safety video which can be viewed on its YouTube channel. This video is an excellent tutorial or review regarding safety issues while on or around hard waters this winter. Reach this, and other Indiana DNR videos from: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/>. Stay dry, stay safe.

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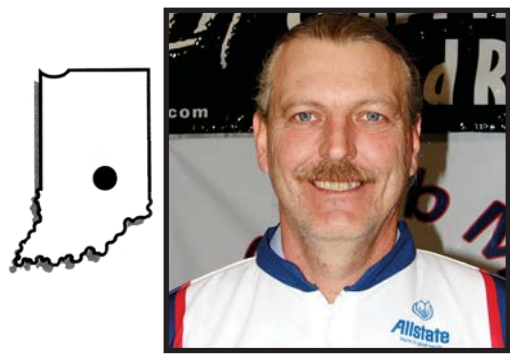


Classic winners Tom Hankins and Glen Gill with some of the 2nd day fish totaling 11.60 lbs. (Photo by Ron Bilbrey)



2nd place Mike Bledsoe and Allen Sutkowski 2nd day fish weighed 9.82 lbs. (Photo by Ron Bilbrey)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

2014 CLASSIC

The 2014 season came to an end on October 26th with the final day of the two day classic at Monroe Reservoir in Bloomington, IN. The weekend festivities started Friday evening with the year end awards banquet. Awards included BnM point's race, Sportsman of the year Award and the President's award.

The President's award is given to a club officer or member in recognition of outstanding service or in helping promote the club to make it a success, the award recipient is chosen by club president Jim Raymer. This year the award was given to Damon Phillips as Damon's partner I know firsthand how much time and effort he puts into making the club successful. Sportsman of the year award was voted on by club officials and awarded to Mike Bledsoe. Congratulations to both and both were well deserved.

Point's champions for 2014 were Larry Yates and Doug Allen these guys were tough this year their top six finishes included two wins three seconds and a seventh place. Larry and Doug finished in the top ten at all eight regular season tournaments. Second place in points went to Joe Long and Dave Wright followed by Eric Milsaps and Chester Riley in third, Damon and I finished in fourth and rounding out the top five in points for

2014 was the team of Jim Raymer and Doug Sikora.

Saturday morning all boats were launched in preparation for the first day of the Indiana Slab Masters classic, all boats were allowed to leave Cutright ramp at 7am and could start fishing at 8am. This year's classic was very competitive with good weather and a strong bite. Saturday's weigh in proved to be one of the best of the year. Tom Hankins and Glenn Gill were day one leaders with 10.29lbs and big fish of 2.15 lbs followed by Mike Bledsoe and Allen Sutkowski with 9.53 lbs Jim Raymer and Doug Sikora weighed in a close third with 9.12lbs. Damon and I struggled on day one and weighed in 5.17lbs to barely stay in the top ten.

Day two started off a little better for us, we had our seven fish limit within the first two hours and netted three of our weigh fish after 3:30pm. We had a second day weight of 8.29lbs and jumped to 5th place for the two days with a total weight of 13.46lbs. Charlie and Paul Hildreath moved from 6th up to 4th on day two with a total weight of 14.21lbs. Jim Raymer and Doug Sikora remained in 3rd place with a nice two day weight of 18.48lbs. Mike Bledsoe and Allen Sutkowski returned to the scales with a second day weight of 9.82lbs and two day weight of 19.35lbs. Tom and Glenn had this lake figured out and brought to the scales an impressive second day weight of 11.60lbs setting a new club record for both one and two day weights. Congratulations on their second classic win with a two day weight of 21.89lbs.

The 2014 classic went very well with nice weather and the crappie cooperating, 32 teams showed up to fish the event and 25 teams brought fish to the scales. There were a total of 65 teams that fished an Indiana Slab Masters event this year and half qualified to fish the classic. I would like to thank all the officers for the time and effort

they put forth to make this club a success, without these guys we would have only a few small crappie tournaments in Indiana.

Below are the 2014 BnM top 10 points results and the Classic top 10 results.

BnM points

1st Place	Yates & Allen	167 pts.
2nd Place	Long & Wright	154 pts
3rd Place	Milsaps & Riley	146 pts
4th Place	Bilbrey & Phillips	143 pts
5th Place	Raymer & Sikora	134 pts
6th Place	Snyder & Liles	126 pts
7th Place	Cunningham & Lucas	122 pts
8th Place	Etchison & Kiritsis	120 pts
9th Place	Bledsoe & Sutkowski	118 pts
10th Place	Schafer & Ault	118 pts



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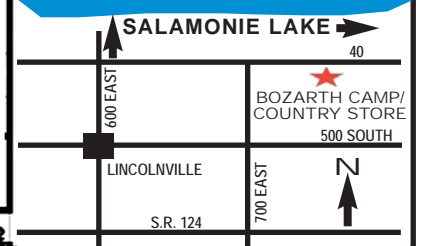
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Jim Raymer and Doug Sikora 3rd place finish and 2nd day weight of 9.36lbs. (Photo by Ron Bilbrey)



Charlie and Paul Hildreath finished in 4th place with 2nd day fish weighing 7.65lbs. (Photo by Ron Bilbrey)



The Indiana Slab Master Sportsman of the Year award was presented to Mike Bledsoe. (Photo by Ron Bilbrey)



The Indiana Slab Master Presidents Award was presented to Damon Phillips. (Photo by Ron Bilbrey)

Classic top 10

1st Place	Gill & Hankins	21.89 lbs
2nd Place	Bledsoe & Sutkowski	19.35 lbs
3rd Place	Raymer & Sikora	18.48 lbs
4th Place	Hildreath & Hildreath	14.21 lbs
5th Place	Bilbrey & Phillips	13.46 lbs

6th Place	Wells & Raymer	13.24 lbs
7th Place	Etchison & Kiritsis	12.41 lbs
8th Place	Cunningham & Lucas	11.67 lbs
9th Place	Yeakle & Brumley	10.73 lbs
10th Place	Snyder & Liles	8.29 lbs

site at www.indianaslabmasters.com also visit the links page on their website to see the club sponsors and visit their websites to see their products and show support for our sponsors.

For complete results visit the Slab Masters web-

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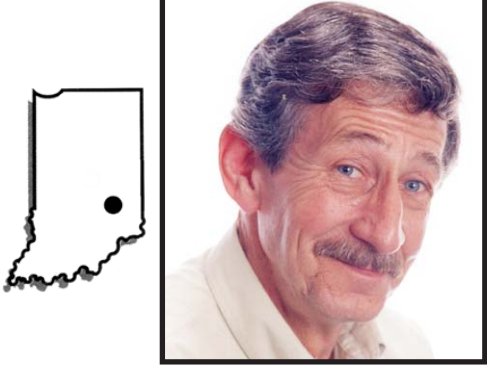
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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

FROM A FISH PERSPECTIVE

The average fisherman enjoys the sport because it offers a way to relax and put aside his or her often hectic lifestyle. A dedicated fisherman with a nice lunker on the line will ignore a mushroom shaped cloud and try to land his prize before the shock wave hits. But, what about the fish? What are its viewpoints on the sport? To answer that, it's necessary to look at the life of an average fish from birth until it can be considered a keeper.

Life isn't easy for a fish. Hatched from a single egg among a thousand others, life is perilous from the start. All fish are predators with one of their dietary staples being other fish eggs and newborns. So, the newborn may have to watch as hundreds of its brothers and sisters are gobbled up by something that looks like a whale, even though it may be nothing more than a three inch bluegill. Its only recourse is to seek shelter under a slime covered rock that it hopes is too big for the whale to move. And that is just the first day. If it survives by remaining under the rock for a week, it's then faced with a growling stomach and the need to find something smaller than it, to eat. Since the only thing smaller are micro-organisms, it has to filter water through its gills to siphon out what are probably lousy tasting micro-bugs that are too small to chew. Along with the organisms are pieces of dirt and other forms of detritus, that being coarse in nature must feel like passing peach seeds.

If it survives for a month on a micro-bug and dirt diet, it probably has grown to an inch in length and has now outgrown its rock hiding place. It's necessary to move out into the open and forage for solid foods. To avoid becoming a minnow soufflé it must develop tactics to avoid the whales. It becomes proficient at darting, dodging and weaving and finding shelter under bigger rocks. Its biggest problem is the instinct to hang around with numbers of its own kind which is more likely to attract predators. It has now evolved into something akin to a member of a Bronx street gang that is at a disadvantage because other gangs are larger and stronger.

Along with the miseries of trying to survive in this jungle, it was probably born (laid) at a time of the year when the water is colder than an Eskimo's nose and it must fight a constant current unless it was born in a pond. If pond born, there are proba-

bly no rocks for shelter and it must seek refuge by squirming into a muddy bottom. This will reflect in its later life when, as the predator, it will remember the experience and refuse to chase a meal into mud. From the earliest stages it learns that anything larger than it is not to be trusted. Unlike some species, it is literally dog eat dog and unless it hangs around with others like itself, the possibility of a final trip down a gullet is always present.

By the time it reaches two inches in length the problems of finding food becomes even more difficult. Too short to consume one of its brethren and too big to depend on micro-bugs, it has to develop a taste for such disgusting things as insects and small worms. Somehow, it manages to overcome its revulsion of eating a mosquito larva or sucking tiny worms out of rotting logs, but it realizes that protein is a necessity if it wants to make it to the next stage. This comes at the length of three to four inches when it develops an attitude somewhat like a teenager being told to mow the lawn. Even though it has moved up to the night crawler stage in food, it must still keep a wary eye out for the bigger predators. No doubt still a member of its original school, it now has to fight for whatever food is available. This can be a problem if it is born a piranha since all its buddies are armed with wicked switch blades. It's at this stage where it develops its eat or be eaten attitude that will help to assure its continuing survival.

The first year passes and it has now grown to a length of six or eight inches and has to worry only about the huge, muscle bound predators which it admires and hopes to become. It moves off on its own and begins to swagger and adopt an attitude of "That's right, I'm bad, I'm bad." However, it also develops a degree of caution when it comes to edibles. Instinct tells it that something with pink tail feathers and a purple body might not be very tasty. Then along comes a fisherman with a tackle box full of a variety of colors and shapes, one of which might trigger an instinctive memory in the fish. The only thought crossing what could be considered a mind is "FOOD". So, after surviving in an hostile environment and dodging all the bullets Mother Nature threw at it, our hero ends up in a live well along with a number of its brothers, soon to be served on a platter along with collard greens, mashed potatoes, green beans and pumpkin pie. Which all goes to prove: you can dodge the bull all your life and still end up being caught two steps short of the fence. ■



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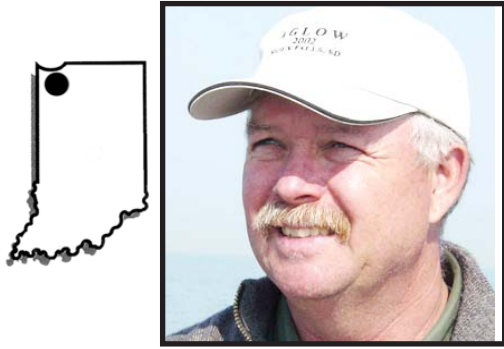


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Fishing Lake Michigan



by **Capt. Mike Schoonveld**
OVER THE HILL FISH

Few fish are better tasting than a fresh salmon or trout caught from the Great Lakes. I like them better than fresh salmon I've caught in Alaska and much better than "farm-raised" salmon available at the supermarket. I wish I could reliably head down to the water and catch a nice king, coho or steelhead for dinner any day, at any time of the year.

So what's second best? Frozen salmon from my deep freeze are nearly as good. At least for several months. After that, they begin to fade a little and after a few more months, some people call them inedible. Not me.

Freezer burn and enzyme action work against long term storage of frozen fish in general and frozen salmon or trout in particular. Fending off freezer burn is best done when preparing the fish for the freezer. The burn is actually freeze drying that occurs any place air contacts the flesh of the fish. So keep the air away.

I'm old school and have ample freezer space. A meal-sized portion of fish goes into an appropriately-sized zip-closure freezer bag. I use quarts. Then the bag is filled with water. I hold it at the top and pinch around the sides to make sure any bubbles inside float to the top. Then I start zipping the top closed, all the time putting pressure on the bag by pushing it down on the bottom of the sink so that while I'm closing it, water is flowing out. Done perfectly, there's zero air inside the bag, just fish and water.

Many fish-freezers swear by vacuum sealers. The only one I ever used was cheap and didn't seal very well. Newer, more expensive models are likely better. Whether you vacu-pak the fish or freeze them in water, their shelf life is drastically reduced if stored in a frost-free freezer as most refrigerator/freezer combinations feature. The frost-free feature works by frequent warm ups to allow any frost to melt. That means what's inside the freezer is going to fluctuate in temperature and may actually go through repeated freeze/thaw cycles.

Freezing stops all bacteria growth so frozen food will never spoil. However, fish contain natural enzymes that, over time, imparts a nasty flavor to the meat. Freezing slows enzyme action, it doesn't halt it. The fattiest part of the fish (such as the belly and



Captain Mike home-cans some of his salmon each year to use in a variety of recipes. (Author Photo)

rib meat) contains more enzymes than the tail and back meat. The dark red meat along the lateral line just under the skin contains a lot of enzymes, as well.

Fish that's only been frozen a month or two is usually fine. By this time of year, I make sure all the fatty meat and red, lateral line meat is trimmed away before it's cooked. I've had some great meals made from well-trimmed salmon that had been frozen for a year.

What if you dig deep and find a few packages dating back longer than that? Even much longer? As long as freezer burn isn't an issue, there are a couple of "harsh" cooking methods that will render that well-out-of-date fish usable, if not darned tasty.

If you are a smoked salmon lover, use that well trimmed, but ancient frozen fish to smoke up a batch. By the time the fish is brined then smoked, it will be hard to tell it from a fish you caught and smoked fresh. This might be the time to try that special Cajun brine recipe or the hard smoke technique you've been wondering about.

If you are set up for home canning and have a relatively large amount of out-dated fish, get out the rings, jars and pressure cooker. We always have some home-canned salmon at our house because that's my way of using up last year's catch. When I'm restocking the freezer with freshly frozen fillets, I remove all the packages from last year, add a few fresh fillets if needed to make a decent batch and can the whole bunch. By the time it's been in the cooker under pressure for 100 minutes, there's no difference in taste between the old and new.

The canned fish is great as a salad ingredient, sandwiches, "salmon-helper" or any way you would use canned tuna or salmon. You caught it, you stored it, this way you can always use it.

THE END

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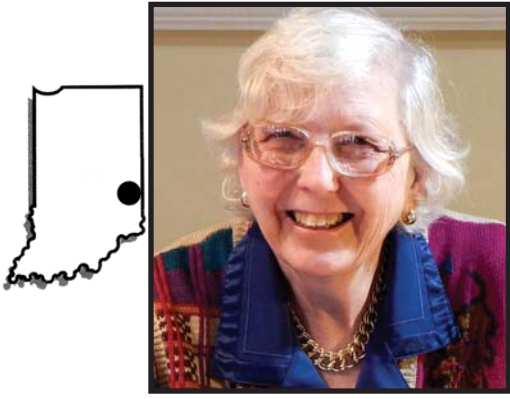
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Shawneecreek Ramblings



by Vivian Sanders-Himelick

Cold Weather Blues

Cold Weather.. Not fun for anyone, whether you trail ride in the winter months, or take the next few months off and look out the window... Here are a few helpful hints for those cold weather blues!

* Clean out that Tack Room!

Time to reorganize that cluttered mess. Clean and put away your blankets, pads and summer sheets.

Check your clippers and clean, replace the blades if worn.

Give your saddle, bridles, and leather leads a thorough cleaning with saddle soap and leather conditioner.

Flip your blanket over to examine it for rips and tears. I use a curry brush to clean out hair and dirt from those fuzzy pads. Takes a few minutes, but it works pretty good.

Examine your tack and clothes for wear and tear. Make a list of equipment, (including the fun part..show clothes!)that needs replaced, so you can find it in a winter or spring sale.

Got a cute picture or two? Why not frame it to hang in your barn.

* Winterize Your Barn!

If you have insulation, check it for damage. If not, think about purchasing insulation to keep it warmer. I have Thermax foam sheeting in my breeding barn. It's been there about 20 years and it's amazing how warm it stays when the horses are stalled without any extra heat.

Check your tank heaters before using, and again after it is immersed(sometimes I have had older ones fail during that first cold snap). We slide the heater cord into a long narrow PVC pipe and then drape it thru the fence, that way curious equines don't get shocked by messing with the cord!

Be very careful with barn heaters (like kerosene or jet heaters), they need to be in a ventilated area and away from anything flammable that could cause a fire.

I check for nails, and broken boards in the stalls and barn walls. Seems like any little thing can be the cause of a vet visit to stitch a nose!

Make sure your gate latches are working. If they appear rusty, give them a small dose of WD-40.(same goes for bull snaps).

* Clean your Trailer Out!

This is a really great time to pull the mats and sweep the interior out. Check for damage and corrosion. Pin holes in aluminum or steel is an indicator of dangerous thin floors (and yes, I have heard sto-



My daughter Heather Himelick taken at the New Castle Fairgrounds during the IOHA Indy Circuit show June 2013. (Author Photo)

ries of horses falling through thin metal floors and get dragged to their death). If it is warm enough, take a hose and wash out the interior, then clean glass windows if you have them. Aluminum polish will remove the black stains from tack swinging back and forth.

Next, check the tires, electrical connections and brakes. I have my husband repack the wheel bearings once a year. We had a friend pick up a horse that was in training several years ago, and as he rounded the first curve in the drive, off rolled his left trailer wheel. By that time the spindle was shot and had to be replaced, and he was stuck at my place. Think of what a disaster that would have been on a major highway.

*Treat Yourself and Your Horse!

Spend some time with your horse. They love to be groomed.

Enjoy a moonlight ride. Have a hot dog/ marshmallow roast over an open fire with your horsey friends.

Make bran mash treats or equine cookies for your best friend.

A perfect treat for New Years Eve!

Here is a couple of good recipes!

Bran Mash

(The Original Book of Horse Treats by June Evers)
4Cups Sweet Feed, 6 Cups Bran,
1 Cup Molasses, Hot Water

Mix sweet feed, bran in hot water, to the consistency of hamburger, then add molasses and let sit for 5-10 minutes then serve.

Sweet Balls

(AQHA Journal)

1 Cup Rolled Oats, 1 Carrot /diced
Pinch of Honey and Peanut Butter
1/4 Cup Sweet Feed, 1/4 Cup Water

Mix rolled oats and water in bowl, add honey and peanut butter then sweet feed. If it doesn't stick together add more honey. Now add the carrot pieces. Roll into balls and allow to set and harden in a refrig-

erator. Remove and serve.

Oat Cake

(AQHA Journal)

1 Cup Oat Bran or Oatmeal

1 1/2 Cups unsweetened Apple Sauce, 1/2 Cup Flour
Preheat Oven to 350 degrees. Lightly oil a 9inch square baking pan. Mix the ingredients and spread over the baking pan. Bake 20-30 min or until firm to the touch. Store unused portion in refrigerator .

Raisin Cookies

(AQHA Journal)

2 Sticks Butter, 1.1/4 Cup Brown Sugar
2 Eggs, 1 Cup Raisins

2 Cups Dry Oatmeal, 1 Cup Alfalfa Hay Cubes
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix butter, sugar and eggs till smooth, Add dry ingredients and drop by spoonfuls into a cookie sheet. Bake about 8 minutes

Most of all ,Enjoy the Beauty of The Season

Happy New Year!

Heather & Vivian

ShawneeCreek Stables

About the authors:

Vivian, and daughter Heather Himelick are owners of Shawneecreek Stables and H&H Performance Horses in Connersville Indiana.

The farm breeds 3 to 6 pleasure mares per year. Heather has raised & trained several World and Congress Champions, and is a open / 4H Judge.

Shawneecreek Stables is located on 28 rolling wooded acres in north/western Fayette County near US 40. It has a 100X80 ft indoor and outdoor arena, a 20 unit stall / show barn and a 10 stall / mare barn.

For more information contact: Heather @ 765-969-6499 or Vivian 765-969-6221.

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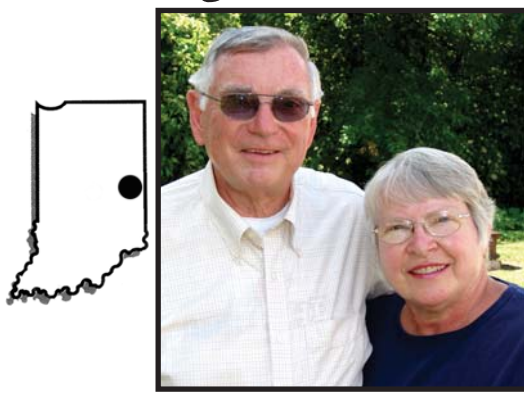
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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

Camping Clubs in North America (4)

What started out as the New England Campers Association in 1957 at the Otter River State Park campground near Baldwinville, Massachusetts, NAFCA, the North American Family Campers Association is now expanding and starting chapters to the west and south. The club may soon expand to Indiana so you will have another camping club to look into for membership.

NAFCA has a complete "full board" of officers and each of the chapters has its own officers and they conduct business and activities in their respective areas. By contacting the president, Dennis Richardson at NAFCA, P.O. Box 345, Billerica, MA, 01821 or **781-581-2045**, he can give directions on how to start up one or more chapters in Indiana (and or other local states).

The general rules to live by are these 7 C's (Care, Caution, Courtesy, Conservation, Cleanliness, Cooperation and Common Sense). The magazine published by NAFCA is called Campfire Chatter and includes members telling one another what is going on in NAFCA and what events are planned. There are recipes, an event calendar, features written by various members, including the president, updates on the sick, bereavements, birthdays and anniversaries, and births. The National Club is also on Facebook.

By going to NAFCA Wikipedia on line and click on External Links, one can find information about what NAFCA offers your family, and a copy of the annual show issue of the NAFCA newsletter is available. The show issue (2014) Volume 59, #00 of Campfire Chatter gives you state information, pictures of previous annual meetings and information about membership.

The International Brotherhood of Motorcycle Campers is a non-brand specific club and camp in anything from expensive motorcycle trailers to tents and tour on big highway bikes and scooters and everything in between. The IBMC was founded in 1973 and was a result of several bikers reading "Road Rider", a motorcycle magazine and decided they needed a club. To become a member is \$15 and annual dues are \$1. Their great positive attitude about not traveling in enclosed vehicles helps get them ready for up close and personal with wind, bugs, grass and trees. Information can be had by writing IBMC, P.O. Box 24, South Fork, CO 81154.

The IBMC news, pictures, campouts (several in Indiana) and also various pages of information can be had by going on line to the International Brotherhood of Motorcycle Campers. In fact, if you're a biker with any kind of bike, you might be able to go from one state campout to another and crisscross the country. What a suggestion for your "to do" bucket list upon retirement!!!

The National African-American RVers Association is purportedly the fastest growing RV organization in the country. No other camping organization offers:

- Annual National Rallies with ethnic flavor,
- 8 days of camping together,
- 4 annual spring regional rallies,
- Educational tours and seminars,
- Social activities where their ethnicity is celebrated or
- Opportunities to buy or trade recreational vehicles.

The 2015 NAARVA's annual rally is July 19-26 in Mesa, Arizona. This camping club started when a small group of campers in 52 rigs got together in 1993 in Winton Woods campground near Cincinnati, Ohio and has now grown to a national organization of over 1400 active RVers. The national headquarters can be contacted by writing Brenda Dorsett, National Public Relations Officer, 614 Chipley Ave., Charlotte, North Carolina 28205 or by calling **727-934-1870**.

The club has a voice on line called Fall NAARVA Voice 2014. There are 18 very interesting pages of information about the chapters and rallies on the Voice. I know of only two Indiana chapters, the LaPorte Steel City Cruisers and the Indiana Soul Journers RV club. Information about these clubs and other Indiana NAARVA clubs can be found by contacting Ellis Grace, **219-879-8264** or **219-873-4109**. There are a lot of RVers here in Indiana who could join one of these clubs or start your own club closer to home.

The last of our information on Camping Clubs of North America will be in the February issue of The Gad-a-Bout. Clubs discussed there will be the Outdoors Club, Thousand Trails, and Trek America. We're sure there are more clubs out there but we failed to find information on them.

If you have anything about camping you'd like us to research and relate to the readers of The Gad-a-Bout, just e-mail us at: jmacnut@yahoo.com or call **260-637-3524**. We hope all of you remember our warnings a couple of months ago about the consensus of our research and our findings about the 2014-15 winter, and our really unqualified prognostication on the weather conditions for the upper two-thirds of the U.S.A. It's hitting the east as we write.

Keep warm, enjoy the winter and hope for an early spring.

John and El McCory

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino



If passed, the proposal on making high-powered rifles legal for deer hunting in Indiana stands to pose serious safety concerns for Hoosiers. (Author Photo)

Push back on rifles striking a nerve with DNR

Funny story. Well, it is a sad story really, but I found a little humor in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) childish ways I guess. If you read my column last month regarding the possible rule change that would make the use of high-powered rifles legal for deer hunting beginning in 2015, then you will remember how I discussed my past interactions with Deer Biologist Chad Stewart. Once catching wind of the proposed rule change, several other writers saw it fit to write columns on the subject as well, each describing a pretty similar scenario as I did.

So, now for the funny part. After my column ran, I received an email from IDNR Communications Director Phil Bloom. In it he expressed that he feels that I owe Mr. Stewart a public apology for what Bloom referred to as a "lengthy personal attack" on Stewart. See, that is the funny part right there. And sadly, the only thing funny about this whole darn mess. I responded back to Bloom reminding him that, he too, used to be a newspaper columnist and that he knows how the free press works and that asking for an apology was a bit ridiculous, especially given the fact that I was simply using my past interactions with Stewart as a base line.

I understand Bloom believes he is just doing his job, but he certainly went a bit far in his request for sure. Now here is where things get even more interesting. In his email, Bloom also stated, "Your assumption that Chad is behind the high-powered rifle proposal is 100 percent wrong. Chad had nothing to do with it. To tell your readers he did was not only false but also suggests the need for a public apology to him. The proposal came from a private citizen who used available procedures established by the Natural Resources Commission to request a rule change. The Commission forwards such citizen-generated rule requests to the DNR director, who assigns it to a review committee. Chad was not part of that committee and had no influence in the decision to return the proposal to the Commission for its consideration. The review committee sent the proposal back to the Commission for consideration so that with preliminary passage it would be subject to public scrutiny as to whether or not high-powered

rifles should be allowed for hunting of deer in Indiana. That's where it stands at the moment. Some people approve, some do not. We'll see where it goes."

Wow. Excuse me Mr. Bloom for assuming that our state's Deer Biologist would actually be involved in this situation. Really? What the...? So let me get this straight, Stewart had absolutely no involvement in this hugely important topic? My only question is why not? Perhaps to help the IDNR and Natural Resources Commission (NRC) remain moving targets and unaccountable for their actions? But it all makes sense now I guess. I mean, they want me to give Stewart a public apology, yet he did not even involve himself with that request either did he?

And let me get this straight, just because a citizen requests it, means that it gets consideration – regardless of how ignorant or ridiculous the idea is? IDNR and NRC leadership do not have the goats to stand up and nix such nonsense, but would rather take the low road and place the blame on a citizen? When a high-powered rifle round goes through someone's house, are they going to try to dodge responsibility and blame it on this same citizen request? What do you think?

Make no mistake, I am sorry. I am sorry that those who are supposed to look out for our natural resources and the people who enjoy them lack integrity. I am sorry for all Hoosiers – hunters and non-hunters alike – that the IDNR and NRC leadership does not have our safety in mind. I am sorry that they do not care enough to immerse themselves in the truly important topics because they are afraid of accountability. I am sorry that they cannot be trusted and that we have no other recourse.

Yes, Indiana, I am sorry. I am sorry for all of us. I am sorry for our broken system - not to it.

Editor's Note: See page 4 for my comments. ■

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William Hertel took this 7 point 195 pound buck in Union County on 11-5-14. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Dwayne Jackson took this 175 pound 13 point buck in Fayette County on 11-16-14. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



John Lakes took this 182 pound 10 point buck in Wayne County on 11-11-14 during archery season. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

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Jonathan Jennings took this buck on 11-1-14 (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Craig Fulk of Parker City, Indiana took this 8 point, 175 pound buck with a bow that green scored 145 inches. (Photo submitted by Craig Fulk by E-mail)



Sixteen year old Ashley Phillips took this her first deer on 11-28-14 in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Dylan Sparks, an employee at Bozarth's Recreational Resort, took this 8 pointer that weighed 145 pounds in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



David Moore took this 12 point, 237 pound buck in Wayne County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Todd Crago took this 9 point buck that weighed 160 pounds in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Ethan Doan took this 8 point, 175 pound buck in Wayne County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Two coyotes trapped October 2014 in Union County by David Woeste. (Photo submitted by David Woeste from Liberty, IN)

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Jeremy Heath took this 180 pound, 8 point buck on 10-31-14. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Gary Stephens from Liberty, IN took this 8 pt, 192 lb. field dressed buck on opening weekend with a muzzleloader in Union Co. (Jay's Midlake Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



McKenna Dishmond took her first deer, this 9 point, 160 pound buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Stan Eviston took this 9 point buck that weighed 155 pounds in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Sierra Pickering took this 3 point, 97 pound buck in Franklin County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Chad Meadows took this 10 point buck that weighed 170 pounds in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Fayette County's Sheriff Billy Wayson watched patiently as this 14 point buck bedded in front of him on 11-28-14. Over 2 hours later the buck stood up, allowing for the shot from Billy's muzzleloader. (Sent from Michael by e-mail)



Rusty Hughes took this 6 point, 190 pound buck in Union County. His son is standing beside him. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Noah Hancock took this 11 point, 185 pound field dressed buck on 11-15-14 in Wayne Co. with a .44 magnum hand rifle at almost 200 yds. (Noah sent this photo by e-mail)

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These items were found at an old home site in a bean field. Bell, clapper, piece of bell, identified as Civil War era wedding band (bent), heart shaped metal button. (Author Photo)

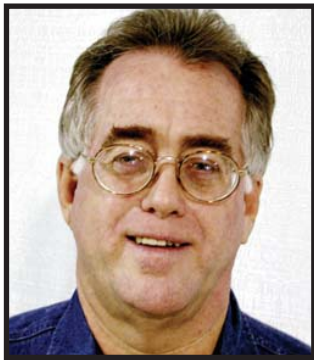


Civil war era relics found in Virginia hunt. Shaker lid, ring, Indian head penny, bale tag, spoon handle, broken shoe buckle (Revolutionary War era), sword scabbard belt buckle, saddle ornament. (Author Photo)



Top Photo: Row 1--Various size round musket and pistol balls. Rows 2-4 Assorted size and shape Minnie balls. Bottom Photo: Row 1 & 2--Domed buttons. Smaller ones are cuff buttons. Different designs indicate various military units. Rows 3 & 4--Some are backs off of domed buttons. The rest are just flat buttons. All have attachment hooks on back. (Author Photos)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Searching for History

The sound of the battle was deafening. Distant cannon roared over the hillsides. Closer in to the fighting, muzzleloaders of many calibers sounded their booms while leaving the smoke and smell of gunpowder in the air. Yells of the soldiers and screams of the wounded could be heard everywhere. This was a common scene played out almost daily in the southeastern quarter of our country 150 years ago. This was the Civil War.

Imagine if you will, after the soldiers were gone, and the dead and injured carried away, what was left behind on the battlefield. The remnants of those great battles still could tell the story of each conflict. Broken pieces of swords and sword scabbards, bayonets, pieces of saddles, stirrups, and spurs, buttons torn from uniforms and shattered guns littered the ground. And bullets. Thousands of bullets. All shapes and sizes. Some in perfect condition from being dropped in the haste to reload the weapon. Some slightly damaged from hitting a tree, or maybe even a soldier. And many, flattened into lumps of just lead after hitting a rock or other hard object.

To begin with, the lead bullets were round musket and pistol balls, formed in a mold to fit the barrel of the soldier's weapon. Later came the Minnie ball, a conical shape hunk of lead named for the man who designed this piece to be more accurate and fly fur-

ther. And then, there were other bullets which began as instruments of death, only to end up with other uses. Lead being soft, some were carved into chess pieces to give the young soldier something to do when he wasn't on the battleground. Some were shaped into charms or other items which were carried by the owner for whatever reason. And then, there were some which are covered with teeth marks left when a soldier would hold it between his teeth to help contain the pain of a wound or battlefield surgery. Hence the term, "bite the bullet".

Susie and I traveled to the state of Virginia, a few miles north of Richmond recently to try to locate some of these items. We were actually at a "seeded" or "paid" hunt where an entry fee is paid, and the participants get a chance to use a metal detector to find these historical items which are buried in a field by members of the club who put on this hunt.

This was our third trip to enjoy this hunt. The bullets, buttons, buckles, and other objects were buried in two large bean fields. The participants lined up around the area and began the hunt when the gun sounded. We had 150 minutes to find everything we could in the first field.

When the time was up, we slowly walked off the field and headed towards our truck to examine our finds. I had 17 lead bullets in various conditions, from "drops" to severely damaged. All could still be identified as Civil War era pieces. I also had three complete buttons with an eagle design on the front and two button "backs", which is just the back half of a uniform button. As I looked at these items, I wondered the history behind what the piece had seen a century and a half ago.

As usual, Susie beat me on the field. She had 22 assorted bullets, nine buttons, and several buckles from knapsacks, harness, or something else. She also found a 1904 Indian head penny which was not buried for the hunt, but was an actual remnant in the ground from a century ago.

After a barbecue lunch and a short rest, we lined up for the second hunt of the day. Two hours later, shoulders, back, knees, and hands hurting, we sorted our finds. Not as good as the first hunt, but almost. I had 16 bullets, three buttons, an old spoon, and a jawbone from a deer skeleton I found in the field.

Susie was way down on bullets, only finding eight, but dug 11 buttons, a couple more buckles, and a cap with holes in the top which resembled a salt or pepper shaker lid. It looked old and wasn't threaded, so it has probably been around a while. She also found a large chunk of rusted looking metal which was identified as a shell fragment from a 12 pound cannonball.

Why do we enjoy these hunts? One reason is the thrill of the hunt, looking for something buried like young kids digging pirate treasure or something. Another is the fun of competing with friends, comparing equipment, and teaching newcomers the fun of the hobby.

What do we do with the finds? We bring them home, arrange them in display cases, try to identify each item (different bullets can be identified by shape, size, markings, etc.), and see if we can determine anything else about where the item was found or used. Then, we take the displays to nursing homes, schools and club meetings, and explain about the Civil War and how our artifacts played a part in the conflict. At the nursing homes, we often have someone who tells us stories about their distant relatives who were in the war. Kids in the schools will sit mesmerized when they can actually see and hold pieces of history instead of just looking at pictures in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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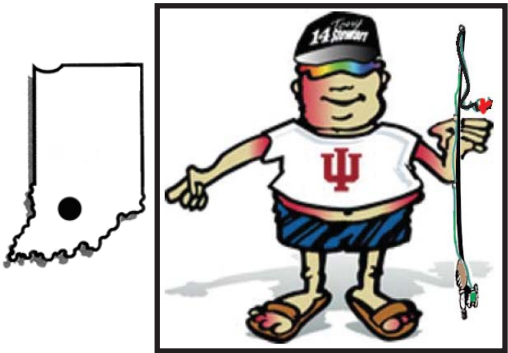


A scenic picture of Patoka lake where we were all tied up. (Author Photo)



Fourteen crock pots plus more to make this full pot of soup. (Author Photo)

Vacationing In Southwest Indiana



by Jim Behrman

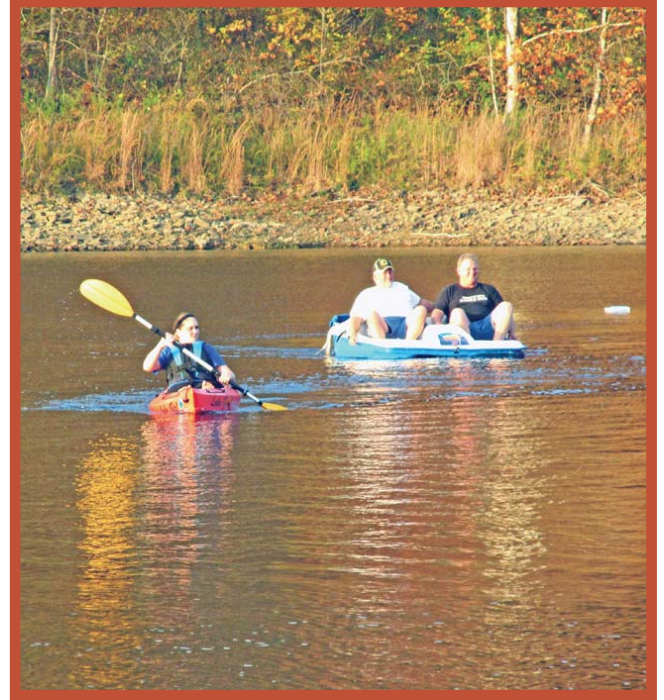
End of another Season of Houseboating on Patoka Lake

The end of the season was approaching fast and Hoosier Hills Marina hosted their annual Customer appreciation hog roast (party). This party is a gathering of all the boaters in the marina and includes all different types of boats from

the smallest sail boat to the biggest houseboat all sharing their love for being on the water. There is a big warm fire, pumpkin carving for the kids, hayride behind a team of horses along the haunted trail, a large tent with live band or DJ and food for an army. Jeff, Shellie and staff provide the meat, this year a roasted hog, and the rest of us bring a covered dish and or a dessert. With two hundred plus people showing up and participating in the fun it is a great time for all. There were many "fish fibs" told around the fire and a few stories of the past summer that were exaggerated past the fibs line.

The house boaters from Hoosier Hills Marina also had an end of the year party. We planned a soup party and everyone brought a crockpot of vegetable soup and another owner brought a bunch of stew meat. We selected a place on the bank where multiple boats could tie up for the weekend and provide us with room to cook the soup and set up chairs to circle the fire and swap lies while enjoying the view of the lake and fall foliage. (see picture 1) A couple of us retired old people took our boats out on Thursday and tied up to start prepping the spot. We built a fire couple of fire pits, gathered a bunch of driftwood, unloaded some locally purchased firewood, and finished off the evening with some burgers cooked over the open fire. Friday was a lazy day gathering more driftwood, and enjoying our view of the lake. We had a glorious pair of eagles soaring into and out of the cove we were in. We really enjoyed their soaring in the warm, sunny wind currents and majestic posing in the trees around us. Friday evening more boaters came out and after helping everyone get tied up we brought out the hotdogs and brats and roasted them over the fire. The rest of the evening was spent listening to stories around the fire with the occasional coyote howl, owl hoot, turkey gobble and beaver slap interrupting.

Saturday was the big day and after having some bacon and eggs we got started on the pot for the soup. We had a 30 gallon cast iron pot with stand moved over the fire pit and boiled some water in it to clean it up and then dumped in the 10 lb. of beef stew meat we had cut up while cleaning the pot. The stew meat was dumped in with a little broth and seared good. Then we started dumping in everyones stew/vegetable that was already cooked. Each boat was supposed to bring a crockpot of soup so we had at least 14 crockpots of everyones different recipes plus some groups



Out for our last paddle boat and kayak fun on Patoka Lake, note the beautiful fall colors (Author Photo)

brought extra so when all was dumped in we had a pot full. (see picture 2) After cooking for a couple of hours with a couple of handful of different people stirring it was time to eat up. A nearby table held bowls, spoons, crackers, cornbread and a generous sized ladle for dipping. Everyone joined in the line and we ladled out soup to all with a big welcome back for 2nds and 3rds extended to all. For a couple of hours there was little conversations except discussions of how great the soup taste and who was in line for more. After the delicious soup some people felt the need to work off a bit of dinner and used the paddle boat and kayak to enjoy the lake. (see picture 3)

Sunday was the day to pack up and head back to the marina. We divided up the remaining soup and desserts, cleaned the pot, and walked the shore to be sure we left it as pristine as we found it. Engines fired up and ropes untied as we each backed out of the cove and headed for the marina. People already on the dock helped us back into our slips and in a matter of a couple hours everyone was back in the dock and tied up. The cleanup and put away process started and everyone chattered about how great a time we had and the awesome soup we had. Each person started saying good bye and shaking their heads as we knew this was the last time we would see each other as a group until springtime, a long five months away.



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Here we are glassing up my big buck. (Author Photo)



The buck was beaded where the barrel of the rifle was pointed. (Author Photo)

Big Game Hunting



by Joel Biltz

SOUTHERN ARIZONA COUES DEER

After a long anticipated wait I was finally on a plane to Tucson Arizona. It was Friday November 28th. After two seemingly long flights I was picked up by my buddy Casey whom invited me on this hunt. I had met Casey on a internet hunting forum and we became really good friends. We threw my gear in the back of Casey's truck and started our hour drive south towards Mexico. We stopped about halfway to camp to check the zeros on our rifles, after checking our zeros on a big Arizona barrel cactus we got back in the truck for the rest of the drive to camp. Once at camp we arranged all of our gear and then headed out to glass for the last hour and a half before dark. That evening we spotted five deer with one being a very solid 90 inch buck at 1400 yards. On the way out Casey met up with his hunting buddy and good friend Jim, and Jim informed us that he had glassed up a nice 80 inch 3x3 buck and thought we should start there in the morning.

Saturday morning found Casey, Jim, and I glass-

ing the base of a mountain with a series of flats and big canyons. We had glassed a few does when all of a sudden we found a group of eight bucks including two 80 inch plus deer feed out onto a flat at 1100 yards. These bucks eventually fed down into a big canyon and not being able to pinpoint were they bedded we decided to leave them be until the evenings hunt and see if they would feed back out. After glassing an hour or two more Casey and Jim decided to take a drive to check one of Casey's honey holes, but upon driving into the area he wanted to check there ended up being hunters in almost every nook and cranny. That's the joys of public land hunting!! Casey had one more spot in mind he wanted to glass so we headed about halfway back out of the canyon. We parked the truck and hiked about 100 yards up the hillside and started glassing with our 15X56 bino's. We started picking the distant hillside apart when Casey spotted three deer in a distant saddle. Casey was trying to help me find those deer when all of a sudden I spotted a deer's rump sticking out of a mesquite tree. The deer had his head buried and just raised his head enough to catch the sunlight shimmering off his antlers, letting us know he was a decent buck. I pulled out my Gunwerks G7 BR2 rangefinder and ranged the deer at 741 yards. I knew I could make that shot but we decided to close the gap to as close as we could possibly get. We hiked to the absolute last rock pile on the side of the canyon we were on and I pulled out my rangefinder and this time it read 610 yards with a corrected distance of 596. I dialed the turret on my G7 Nightforce

scope to 600 yards and took the time to build a good shooting platform out of rocks and a jacket.

The next two hours were spent in the hot Arizona sun trying to decide if this was a buck I wanted to kill or not. This being my first coues deer rifle hunt I told Casey and Jim I would be happy with any 80 inch plus buck. We all watched as the deer bedded and stood up numerous times, and finally after about a hour and a half Casey was able to tell it was a shooter buck but we still didn't know how big he really was. The deer finally bedded down for what we thought was the rest of the day and since it was 85 degrees I was starting to get hot and thirsty, so Jim offered to go back to the truck to get my pack and some water. I decided to break down my shooting platform to build a better more stable one when I heard Casey say he is up get ready. We whistled at Jim to get back ASAP to be able to watch the shot. They both told me they had the buck in their bino's to take the shot as soon as I could. The buck's vitals were in a small opening about the size of a beach ball but I was 100% confident I could make the shot. I got settled in behind my Gunwerks LR 1000 7MM LRM shooting 180 grain Berger




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Working For An American Tradition





My trophy coues deer buck killed at 600 yards, Happy hunter. (Author Photo)



Packing the deer out whole. (Author Photo)



Glad to be back at the truck even though it was a short 600 yd downhill pack out. (Author Photo)

Hybrid bullets, I steadied the crosshairs and one last check of my anti cant level I slowly started to squeeze the trigger. The next thing I hear is Casey and Jim yelling he is down you dumped him. I ran the bolt on my rifle and told them to keep watching in case he got up but they informed me he was done and not moving. After a little celebrating we got back to Casey's truck to drive over to the bottom of the canyon where the buck was. We parked the truck, grabbed our packs and headed up towards the buck. We found the mesquite tree he was under and as soon as I looked down at the base of the tree I could not believe my eyes. There lay one of the prettiest deer I have ever seen, and for only the second time in my hunting career I experienced ground

growage. Casey, Jim, and I could not believe our eyes. We all looked the buck over and all agreed that this was fine buck and would probably score around 90 inches. After getting all the great pictures Casey and I field dressed the buck and we loaded him whole in my pack. Casey and Jim helped get the 100 pound pack on my back and we headed down the mountain. It was a short 700 yard downhill pack out back to the bottom of the canyon where we left Casey's truck.

That night back at camp we celebrated with a bottle of Crown Royal and Mountain Dew and took care of cleaning and capping the deer's head out. We then decided to score my buck and to our surprise the buck grossed 103 4/8 green Boone and Crockett with less than a inch and three quarters of deductions. For those of you eastern deer hunters that is the equivalent of killing a 160-165 inch buck. Casey was dumbfounded as he has been hunting this area for twenty years and had never killed a buck this big. He had told me he has seen numerous deer that big but was never able to kill one.

I would like to give a big thanks To Casey for inviting me out to hunt Southern Arizona. Without him none of this could have ever happened. I also want to thank Gunwerks, for making the best long range shooting systems built. Although I put in my time and practice a lot their shooting system gives me the confidence I need to be able to make kill shots all the way out to 1000 yards.

Also if any of you guys or gals would like to go take the challenge, of hunting the elusive Southern Arizona coues deer AKA "Grey Ghost" Casey and I

discussed while I was out there him starting his own outfitting business and he informed me he was going to start one next year. So if anybody would like to hunt coues deer in Southern Arizona with a easy to get tag and have a very quality hunt at a affordable price shoot me a email at joelbiltz@etc-zone.com and I will get you in touch with Casey.

Until next time Hunt Safe and Hunt Hard!!!

Outdoors with Rich Creason

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

a book.

These items are all found on private property or bought from the owner. Some people (read "the Federal Government") think the history of these conflicts should remain buried forever rather than be recovered and learned about. That's why metal detectors are forbidden on most government land. Even most states follow this same idea.

Would you rather see and hold a piece of the past, or look at it in a picture?

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



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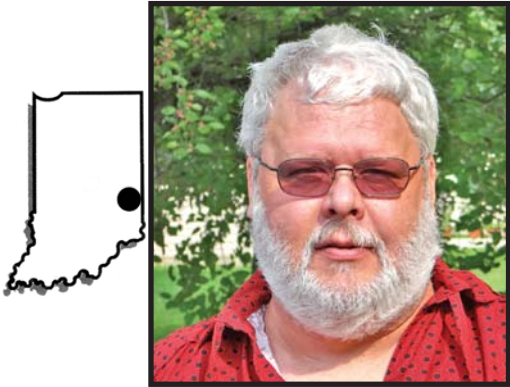


Raccoon hides caught, skinned, stretched and dried from last year's fur sale. (Author Photo)



Stu Grell an Animal Damage Control (ADC) licensed trapper caught this nuisance otter for customer who obtained the proper ADC permit to trap it in his pond. (Author Photo)

Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

2014-15 Trapping Season

The trapping season is in full gear. Animal are being caught, skinned, stretched, and dried. I hope that you were able to attend one of the many Trappers Education Classes that were put on by the IDNR and ISTA or one of the other groups out there. If you need some place to sell your furs, the next big event for the ISTA will be the **2015 Fur Sale on January 10, 2015 at the Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, Peru, IN.** The doors open at 8am and we accept THAWED animals in the round, THAWED green skinned pelts, (I.E. pelts that have not yet been fleshed, stretched, and dried) and of course fully prepared pelts (I.E. completely fleshed, stretched, and dried). The more input you put in, generally means that you will receive more for your pelts. But remember, it is easy to turn a \$30 pelt into \$5.00, and impossible to turn a \$5.00 pelt into \$50.00. So early sales that have been listed in the magazines show promise for the year, but one never knows. The first NAFA sale is Dec. 5th I believe. Two (2) days away as I write this. Search NAFA Fur Sale and see what you find. Last year we had 12 Fur Buyers bidding on 45 trappers furs. The results may still be found on the web site www.indianatrappers.org.

I hope you will join us next year at the **Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds in Danville, IN on September 18 & 19, 2015.** Please, if you trap, or if you believe that keeping the trapping tradition alive is important, join the ISTA today. There were 5500 trapping licenses issued in Indiana for the 2013 -

2014 season, yet we have only @275 members actively working to keep the privilege of trapping alive in Indiana. You will find the forms on our website at www.indianatrappers.org. We cannot take payment online yet, but it is coming soon. If you need to, contact any officer and they will make sure that a form is sent to you.

Watch your top knot, keep your eyes upon the skyline.

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM
Pres. ISTA

ADC Licensed Trapper

Stu Grell, the ISTA NTA Representative, and an Animal Damage Control (ADC) licensed trapper, sent me a little note about doing an ADC job that resulted in his first otter. He wrote: My ADC customer has a nice fishing pond that is located about 1/4 mile from the Tippecanoe River. Last year otter came in and killed several of his big bass and catfish so he was very upset. When he called me I gave him the proper information for contacting the IDNR about an ADC permit to trap them. It only took one day for the local wildlife biologist to check out his complaint and only one more day to get the permit from Indianapolis. Last week I set up snares to try to catch them. He has two Labrador Retrievers and a pair of swans that go around the pond all the time so other traps were out of the question. Then the weather turned cold. No action. Then the weather warmed up, success. This female otter is 43 inches long and weighs 17 pounds. She will get picked up this week by the biologist, have samples taken, and then be "salvaged" for educational programs. The ADC trapper is not permitted to keep the animal or the fur in cases where there is no season for that specie. The snares are still set in case others come by for an easy fish dinner in this very nice pond.

This is a perfect example of the need for a season on river otters. Indiana is on track for just such a season for the 2015 - 2016 Trapping season.

Public Hearing on Proposed River Otter Trapping Season December 11, 2014

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN
46204-2748

For immediate release:
Public hearing scheduled for proposed river

otter trapping season

The public can comment on a proposal that would open a trapping season for river otters in Indiana at a Dec. 11 public hearing in the Hendricks County town of Plainfield. The hearing, conducted by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission, is at 5:30 p.m. at Plainfield Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road. The Natural Resources Commission will conduct the public hearing on proposed rule changes that include the following:

- Opening a trapping season for river otters that includes strict limits on the number of otters that could be taken; when, where, and how otters can be trapped; and mandatory registration of harvested otters. A temporary rule would be implemented annually by the director that would specify the counties that would be open to trapping and the statewide quota.

- Allowing the sale of river otters, including their hides and parts, as well as squirrel hides.

- Making changes to fur buyer license requirements, including changing the reporting date and specifying requirements for the proper disposal of carcasses. You can view the proposed new rule language at www.in.gov/nrc/2377.htm. Public comments also can be submitted to the NRC through that web page. Look for the rule package titled, "FW: River Otters."


A third way to submit comments is by mailing them to: Natural Resources Commission Indiana Government Center North 100 North Senate Ave., Room N501 Indianapolis, IN 46204

The deadline for submitting comments is Thursday, Dec. 11.

All comments sent to the NRC regarding these rule changes will be provided to Commission members and Department of Natural Resources staff, and will be publicly disclosed and searchable on the Internet and in a paper docket as part of the final report.

The final report is expected to be presented to the NRC to request final adoption of the rule changes at the NRC meeting in January 2015. After final adoption, the rule changes must be approved by the Attorney General's Office and Governor's Office before they take effect.


Media contact: Linnea Petercheff, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, (317) 233-6527, lpetercheff@dnr.IN.gov.



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CONNECTED AFIELD



by Glenn Kelsey

Farmers & Hunters Feeding The Hungry (FHFH) and Connected Afield Team Up

Great opportunities come and pass as we go on in life's journey. When we have a chance to catch one of those good things, that make an event or help someone in need it's indeed a blessing or privilege.

This time of year we are moving thru our State Deer Hunting Season and the Holidays will come and pass. I think of the needy and less fortunate people during this time. I try to think of ways to help them.

I'm always thankful for what I have.

This was my start.

Spring of 2013 I worked on a joint venture with my son Keith Kelsey and his best friend Mike Westerbeck with their idea. They had a vision of a mobile app that would connect any outdoor sportsperson involved with the woods and water with each other to share their outdoor experiences via their smart phone device.

Now, we have 18 months of planning, designing and construction of this product along with the assistance of The University of Cincinnati students, they created a wonderful tool. Truly, a must have for every hunter and fisherman. C.A. users are able to retrieve valuable information using their phone devices from the field and lakes.

This one of a kind mobile app contains the only All Inclusive Bundle Package. That's 8 key features all in one app. It is the only mobile app of this technical capability. Features: weather/solunar/mapping/journal/social media/classifieds/nearby events/regulations 50 states

Getting back to my original thoughts.

As we set up a marketing plan and strategy to promote the C A app we had opportunity to meet a lot of important people along the way. We were working at the Indy Deer & Turkey show last February and we came in touch with the Indiana Chapter of FHFH. Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. Ian Munnoch of Bloomington and John Mollet of Noblesville, IN.

In the challenge to help overcome Food Insecurity in the state of Indiana, the states 92 counties have starving communities throughout. FHFH are continuing to provide meals for many of those



Left to Right: Keith Kelsey of CA, Indiana Senator Mike Crider, Rick Wilson and Josh Wilson CEO of FHFH, photographed here attending the Bloomington FHFH Board meeting. (Author Photo)

areas in need. Since 1977 meat distribution totals of 29 states on the chart, Indiana Hoosiers rate among the top with 579,804 pounds of meat and 2,319,214 servings.

We welcomed, Indiana State Senator: Mike Crider to the FHFH Board Meeting in Bloomington, IN. He spoke with support and expressed his positive views in regards to the efforts of the FHFH Team. FHFH participates in the combined Federal and State Charity Campaigns. As a member of the Independent Charities of America, FHFH meets the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness and cost effectiveness.

FACT: Did you know that one deer can feed up to 200 hungry people?

The FHFH Mission: To transform legally harvested deer, elk and livestock - Gods Given Renewable Resources - into food for the hungry among us nationwide.

Donate a deer today and help make a difference.

The meat donated from hunters and landowners is sent to inspected meat FHFH Team sponsors in the program.

FHFH raises financial support to pay the team processors an average of \$50.00 per deer for the processing, packing and freezing. Local distribution thru Ministries and other organizations that serve the needy.

You can find out more about FHFH by the following:

- See their listing banner nationwide on: "Connected Afield" hunting I fishing mobile app
- Call: 1-866-438-3434 toll free
- Email: staff@fhfh.org
- Web: www.fhfh.org

We at Connected Afield (CA) support this cause and organization, and display their banner in all 50 states.

Thanks for your support in advance and God Bless.

Go to page 27 to see FHFH information sheet, 15.9 Million Meals and Counting by Josh Wilson.

News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

that things will work out for the best.

That's why 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 life and the things that are important in perspective.

Speaking of hunting I've included a picture of Pendleton Trooper Tyler Painter on the left, and his son Austin on the right. Austin killed his impressive buck during Indiana's Youth Season weekend hunt with a .44 magnum rifle. Tyler, a die hard bow hunter, killed his buck with his Mathews Bow on opening day of gun season.

I was able to harvest a doe in bow season here in Indiana, (unfortunately the only one I saw) and was also able to hunt again this year in northeast Missouri the week after opening weekend with my childhood friend, Pastor Dan Hite. The area had experienced blue tongue disease last year, but the deer numbers had rebounded. We got out just after daylight the first morning due to the frigid 14 degree temperature with 20 M.P.H. winds.

It seemed like there were deer in every field headed out to the farm, a welcome sight after last year's blue tongue ravaged season. With temperatures that cold, I felt blessed to see and shoot a nice chocolate-rack eight pointer just minutes into our hunt.

He was crossing a hay field from woods on the left to a thicket on the right and paused long enough for me to make the shot. Dan had shot a nice ten point on opening Saturday, and his seventeen year old son Joseph had harvested a nice nine point, proof that the deer had rebounded well from the year before.

The county where we hunt has antler restrictions of at least four points on one side, which seems clear cut but continues to present problems for hunters. With rifles being used, hunters take and make longer shots, which leads to immature deer with small spikes being shot for does, then left in the woods when the hunter discovers it's a spike.

I talked with several hunters out there who said it had happened to them, and they would rather leave the deer than report their mistake and take a chance on a ticket and fine giving them a criminal record. It seems like such a waste, and there really should be an easier solution offered to hunters.

But all in all Missouri has deer management down to a science, and even with seeing so many deer, I have never seen or heard anyone complaining about too many car deer crashes like the DNR talks about here in Indiana. Deer hunting brings in a lot of commerce in Missouri, and they cater to it. Hopefully next season will be better here in Indiana.

Thanks for reading this month's installment. Stay safe and warm and we'll talk again next month.



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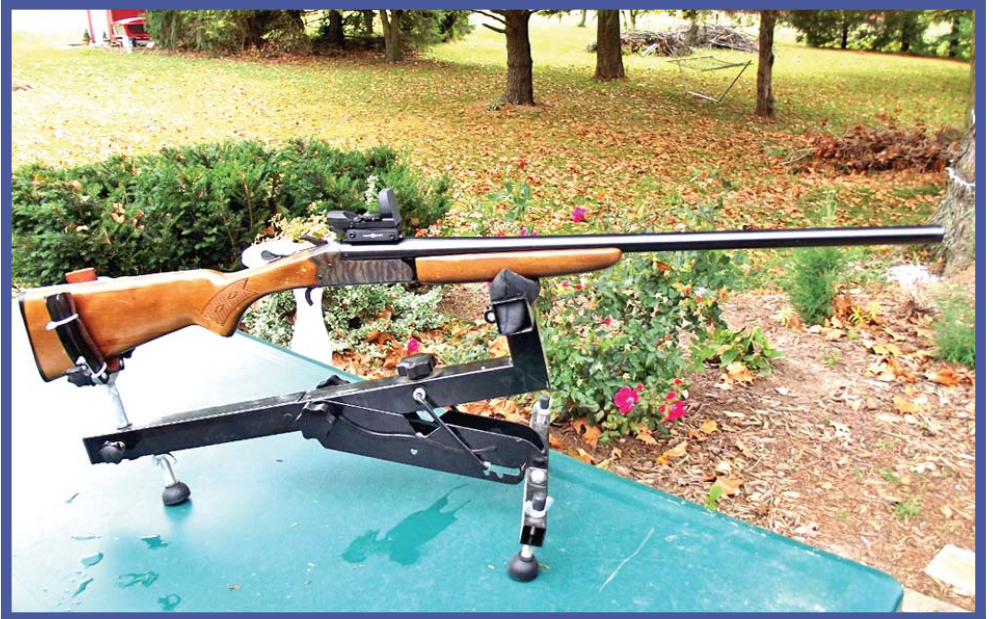








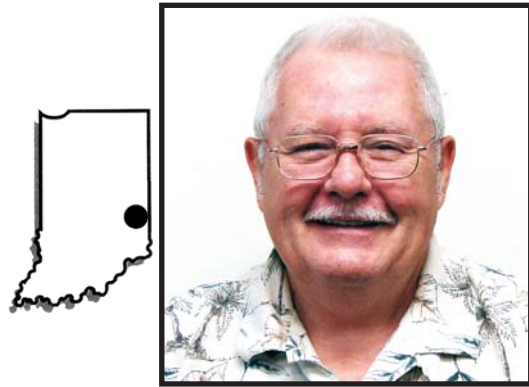

Close up of shortened barrel crown. The choke was opened up from full to an improved cylinder to better handle a rifled slug. (Author Photo)



Top Photo: Springfield .410 single shot shotgun with Sight Mark Holo Sight installed on a Wilson Scope mount.

Bottom Photo: Here is a Closeup view of the holo sight. You can see the shortened scope mount extending from the front of the sight. (Author Photos)

Random Notes from:
Prairie Wolf Gun Repair



by Marshall Smith
Owner/Gunsmith

in hunting quail, pigeons, rabbits, and other fast moving targets. The reflex sight installed on home defense pistols, rifles, and shotguns can give the home owner an immense advantage when confronted by an intruder in the middle of the night. Unlike the laser pointers attached to your weapon, the reflex sight doesn't give away your location and.

Reflex Sights and Shotguns

Recently I've installed holo or reflex (red dot) sights on single shot shotguns. The owners wanted the single barrel single shot shotguns modified to better utilize slug rounds for deer hunting. They originally thought to install open iron sights. I suggested the holo sight to one and the other had already decided to go with the holo sight. The pictures I'm including are of the first job. On that job the owner felt the full choke of the barrel might cause some problems and I agreed with him. I shortened the barrel by 1.750 inches which opened the full choke up to an improved cylinder choke. To be sure the muzzle and crown was square with the bore I centered the barrel in my lathe's 4 jaw chuck and parted the piece off. Then cut the crown. That makes for a good looking and accurate job (see picture 3). Making the crown square to the bore centerline will make the slug more accurate. All smooth bore guns would need to use the rifled slugs. Sabot slugs tend to tumble when fired from a smooth bore and cannot maintain accuracy plus in many instances the plastic sabot and slug don't part.

The pictures, 1 and 2 show the sight and shotgun set up. I installed a short rail on the guns to attach the sight. I bore sighted the sight out to 50 yards. Pictures 4 and 5 are looking through the sight. It's hard to tell from this few pictures but the dot in the sight remains on the same spot while the camera moved. The ability to quickly sight the target just by placing the red dot on the target can be a great help

I would suggest though that if you're going to set up your home defense weapon be sure to include a really bright light attached to the weapon. Several models of high intensity lights are available. Prices range from \$75 for a plain white light high intensity model to \$835 for a infrared/white light model. The idea of the high intensity light is to surprise an intruder with such high intensity light that they can't react quickly and gives you a couple of moments to identify your target and make a decision to relax or give commands to the intruder. Did I not mention before to always announce your intentions to the intruder before you do anything drastic. Of course you don't want to stand in the middle of the house yelling "I've got a gun". That just let's the intruder know where you are. You can tell the intruder when you have him in your light and sights that you have a gun, and for the intruder to go spread eagle on the floor and don't move while you wait on the local law enforcement officers to arrive. You or someone did call the police, right? The training and practice you've done gives you the ability to control the situations and results in successful endings to the home invasion or any other dangerous situations you may encounter.

On the subject of home defense, what do you consider as the best home defense weapon? A handgun, Revolver or Auto? Rifle? Shotgun? Ball Bat? Some may laugh but all of these weapons are good home defense weapons. Everyone

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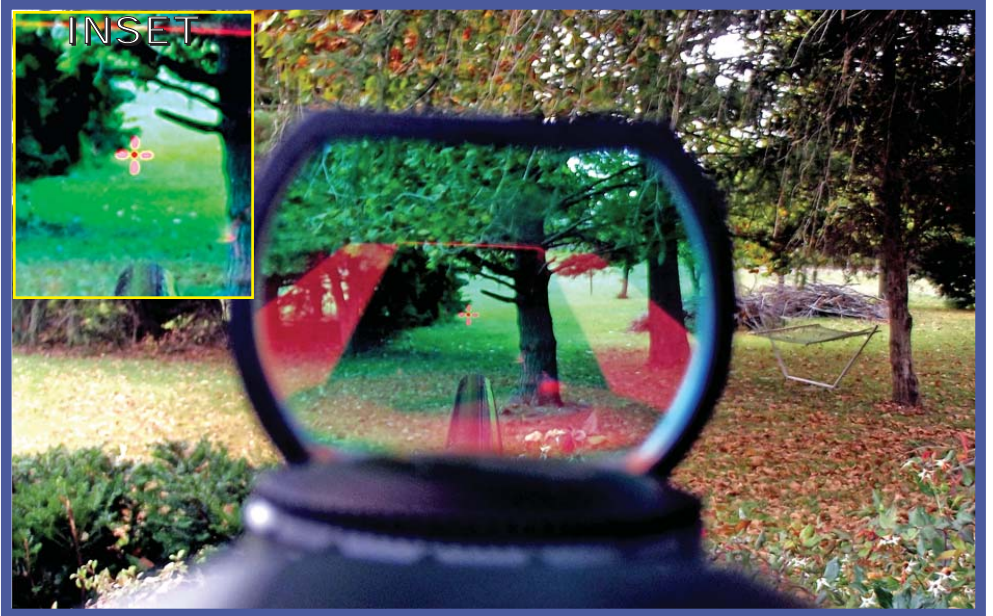
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Left Photo: View through the Holo Sight from right of center. Note the position of the red dot in relation to the branches of the pine tree. Right Photo: This view is as it would be seen by a right hand shooter in a standard shooting position. Note that the red dot is still at the same point as in picture 4. See Inset, upper left corner, enlarged and enhanced so you can see red dot. (Author Photos)

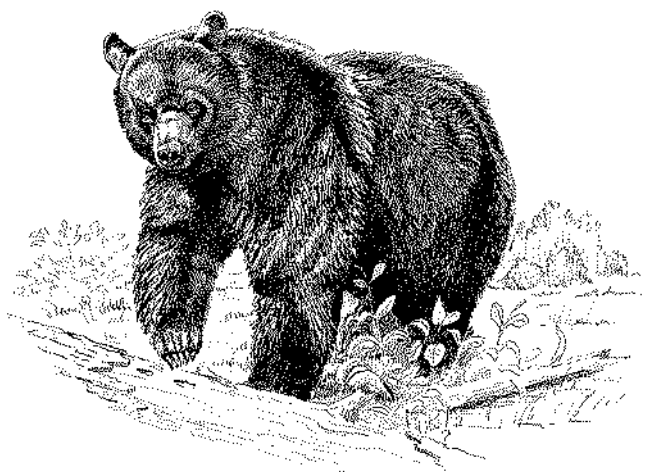
should have one of each. The most important point is that whatever you decide is your preferred home defense weapon "Can You Handle It with skill?" Have you practiced with it until it has become second nature when you pick it up. Does it feel natural, a part of you? Good training and practice produces self-confidence in your ability to handle a weapon in dangerous situations and reduces the chances for mistakes that could result in disastrous results. Confidence overcomes the panic that fear and stress in an unusual or highly stressful situation cause. The old saying "shoot first, ask questions later" has gotten many a man, woman, or child killed or injured when that hunter or homeowner thought he heard a deer in the bushes or a burglar in the room and out of fear of losing the deer or fear of who was there, shot first. Always, Always.... identify your target before placing your finger on the trigger.

That's all for this month. These notes are mine alone and do not represent the opinion or position of the Gad-A-Bout or any of its staff, 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 PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com. I'll answer your questions as best I can and some answers may be included in this column.

~ Quote Of the month ~

"Abe Lincoln may have freed all men, but Sam Colt made them equal."

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



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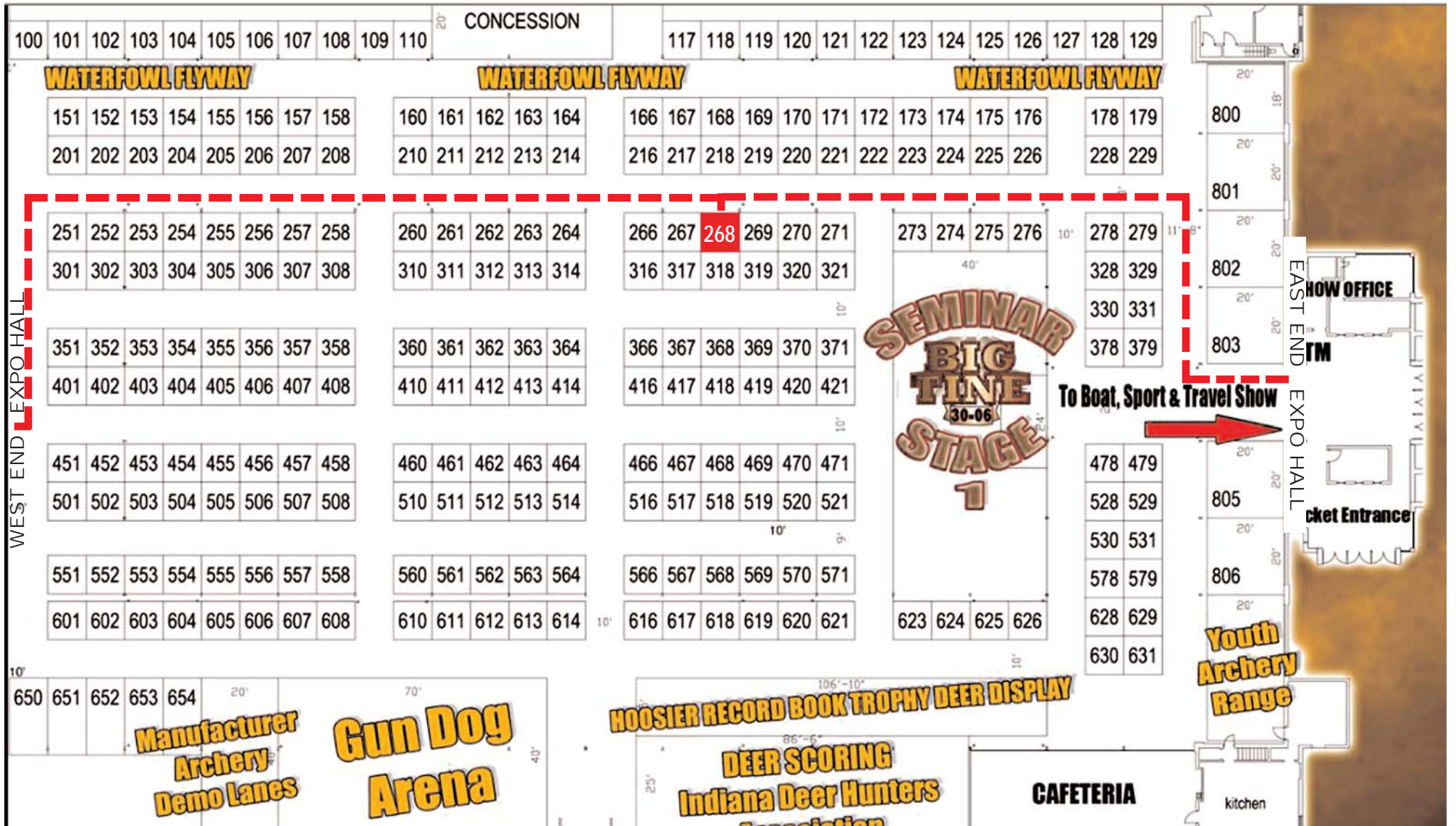
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See page 17 for Renfro's full page of show

details and photos.

Log onto IndySportShow.com to find out all the details to show times, tickets and more. Link directly by reading The Gad-a-bout online: www.thegad-about.com to IndySportShow.com.

Renfro Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo

18th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo, The Midwest's Premier Hunting Expo, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Expo Hall February 26 - March 1, 2015. Over 70,000 square feet of the latest Hunting Gear & Apparel, Outfitters from across the globe and much more!! Plus the Big Tine Hunting Seminar Series, featuring 35+ seminars from the pros on: Whitetail, Waterfowl, Wild Turkey, Wild Hog, Trapping, Food Plots and more!

Gregg Ritz - Host of "Hunt Masters." Joe Thomas, New host of "Knight & Hale's Ultimate Hunting." Eddie Salter host of "The Turkey Man Show." and Field Hudnall - host of "Bucks Unlimited TV."

The Gad-a-bout, Ray Dickerson will be set up at Booth 268 at the Renfro Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo in the Exposition Hall, see map at left on page 28 of the Expo Hall and follow the red dotted line to my booth, #268.

See page 17 for Renfro's full page of show details and photos.

Log onto IndySportShow.com to find out all the details to show times, tickets and more. Link directly by reading The Gad-a-bout online: www.thegad-about.com to IndySportShow.com.

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Vivian Sanders-Himelick

VIVIAN HIMELICK WHO RECENTLY BEGAN WRITING A COLUMN IN THE GAD-A-BOUT WILL BE SELLING ADVERTISING IN 2015

As many of you already know I have tried to provide my readers with articles on several subjects. But like everything else it hasn't been easy keeping writers about some subjects for very long. The reason is simple, most of the people who are interested in the various subjects are very busy enjoying their pastime, to find time to write about it. I've been more fortunate than most having several writers who appear in The Gad-a-bout that have been doing so for double digit years.

As you read in this column last month Vivian Sanders-Himelick, who she and her husband own Sanders Jewelry shop located at 831 East Main Street in Richmond, Indiana has began writing about Gems and Horses. Gems last month and horses this month, see her column on page 12.

To make a long story short, she has accepted a new sales position beginning with the January 2015 Gad-a-bout.

Vivian will be selling advertising in Richmond and eventually in several nearby counties in Indiana and Ohio. She is very knowledgeable with business and marketing, having graduated from Indiana University with a degree in print advertising/ marketing. ■

On The Cutting Edge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT SOME THINGS THAT I HAVE WANTED TO PUT MY 2¢ WORTH INTO, BUT HAVE KEPT QUIET

"IF YOU LIVE IN AMERICA YOU ARE AN AMERICAN FIRST AND FOREMOST!"

Something that irritates me to no end, I am an American Dutch German, not a Dutch German American. I am an American first and foremost, my immigrant family was Dutch German. When and how they arrived here I have no clue, but one thing is for sure after landing on this American soil, they did so to become Americans. Thus, we should be recognized by all, as Americans first. If you want to add your ancestors home country as part of your nationality than add the word Dutch, German, Italian, African, French, Japanese, Chinese, etc after the word American. If you want to be recognized by your ancestors country first, then by all means you should return to that country.

The only nationality that has the right to be called otherwise is Native American Indians, they earned that right by being here first.

I want to add something here too, I may be speaking out of line, but this weighs heavily on my mind and others. I know Golden Eagle and I talked about many things in the 19 years I knew him. He passed away in June 2014 as many of you know who read his "Falling Leaves" column in The Gad-a-bout from 1995 to 2014.

You all are aware of the many major league sports teams, school names, business etc., that bear the names of

Indian tribes or likeness's and their wanting the names changed. I think, I'm right, but I could be wrong - Native American Indians object to the use of their names and likeness's mostly due to the fact that the people using the name or object have not earned the right to do so. American Indians' value the worth of themselves, by earning every degree of their life and custom.

We should do the same.

That's all I have to say about this, I hope I have stated this correctly. If not please send me your thoughts. See page 3 for all the ways to contact me.

"THE POWER OF ONE OUT WEIGHS THE MAJORITY, IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO GOD"

I was born 7 months and 14 days prior to World War II. What does that have to do with anything?

Well that was a time when the world seemed bigger, in the sense that most of us didn't know what was happening across the country, let alone around the world. Life was easier, slower, we all knew our neighbors, most of the business owners in town and we attended church regularly.

I think World War II was a major turning point for the United States and the World.

One thing that was ushered into our world after WWII, was faster communication.

Back then the fastest communication in civilian life was radio, telegraph and in the early 50's television arrived. In the beginning radio, movies and television seemed to be simple harmless entertainment.

I saw my first television show on a small 10-inch round screen that was part of a console radio device in Bradford, Ohio, at the home of a relative. We were watching Hop-a-long Cassidy in black and white.

Fast forward to today, Tuesday, December 9, 2014, we as a Nation have moved swiftly from an independent freedom loving population to a population wandering amidst chaos brought on by a government bent on removing our freedoms one by one.

I have a document entitled "Coincidence?" I've had it for years, but don't know it's origin nor where I came by it. It's been in a folder in my filing cabinet for many many years. I think it is fitting to put it here, considering the way our country is going these days.

It reads, "In may of 1919 at Duseldorf, Germany, the Allied Forces obtained a copy of some of the 'Communists Rules for Revolution.' Nearly 50 years later, the Reds are still following the rules. As you read the first, stop after each item and think about the present day situation where you live — and all around the nation. A. Corrupt the young; get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial; destroy their ruggedness. B. Get control of all means of publicity, thereby; 1. Get people's minds off their government by focusing their attention on athletics, sexy books and plays, and other trivialities. 2. Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance. 3. Destroy the people's faith in their natural leaders by holding the latter of to contempt, ridicule and disgrace. 4. Always preach true democracy, but seize power as fast and ruthless as possible. 5. By encouraging government extravagance, destroy its credit, produce fear of inflation with rising prices and general discontent. 6. Form unnecessary strikes vital industries, encourage civil disorders and foster a lenient and soft attitude on the part of government toward such disorders. 7. By spacious argument cause the breakdown of the moral virtues, honesty, sobriety, continence, faith in the pledged word, ruggedness. 8. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext with a view to confiscating them and leaving the population helpless. How many of these rules are being carried out in this nation today? Or is it just a coincidence?"

For as long as I can remember I have been warned about the communist party wanting to dominate the

world. Of course now though, we also have other countries, government powers and religious groups who want to dominate the world. We used to just read it in the newspapers, now we have 24 hour a day news broadcasts, some inventive to fill time and some factual.

We use to be a world power, our creed gained the respect of the world following WWII, but liberal politics and the liberal press have taken a terrible toll on America.

The only thing that will save America, in my opinion, is if we get a hawk to replace the lamb in the White House in 2016.

I have been told by many people that the best in America is past, the worst is still coming.

I refuse to believe that! I still believe the majority should rule and the one guy who wants the Ten Commandments removed from government land should be sent packing. Our country was built by strong, dedicated patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence, then kicked King George's troops out of the 13 Colonies and we became the America worth dying for. If you have any doubts, go visit the thousands of cemeteries worldwide containing the bodies of American military veterans, who paid the ultimate price to pay for OUR FREEDOM.

In my opinion, one of our largest threats and greater problem is we have too much instant communication at the touch of a button. One person can communicate an idea no matter how sound it is, at the touch of a button. This is a powerful tool, maybe too powerful, especially if common sense isn't used along with that power.

I am using that power right now through The Gad-a-bout. It's my idea and my purpose to try to get as many people I can to read my views of enlightenment, maybe? I have tried to live my life using common sense, but have failed many times, making some costly mistakes along the way. But hey, I'm only human, I'm still trying, someone once said, if you fall, pick yourself up, dust off your pants and try again.

Remember, the absence of common sense can outweigh the majority. Ask those who have already made fools of themselves, by not thinking too clearly how they used this power, before sending their message for the world to see.

In my opinion mankind has exhausted life's guarantees and traded them for faster communication so they can spend their days and nights constantly on social media.

Myself I don't use the new electronic social media. I still have a flip phone that I don't text on. I guess you could say I am old fashioned. But hey, I like the slower paced life. I use a computer with Microsoft XP to publish this newspaper on. I watch old westerns and history programs on TV.

I loved listening to the radio, it conveyed only sound and you had to imagine what you were hearing. We lived in a world of imagination and creative thinking.

Do you wonder why young people are easy targets for everything that is bad about the world today? From birth to adolescence our youth are introduced to television, theater and video movies, computers and electronic media conveying the right of one over the right of the majority, the liberal life style, the liberal media, replacing school book content from what made America great to 3rd world domination, the end of Christianity by violent hordes, hatred, race relations, sexual orientation and visual reproduction of violence, mayhem and harmful drug usage.

I don't know if I am saying this right, but it seems young people today want everything right now, without earning it.

Instead of earning life through living it and enjoying the fruits of learning at a pace equal to our existence, they are rushing to where?

"ANYBODY STILL AWAKE OUT THERE?"

I'm done. There, I got a lot off my chest as we use to say. The truth of the matter, is in my mind, progress was tough enough the old way, it's even tougher now today, who knows what tomorrow will bring. But, hey, bring it on, we have survived for quite a long time. Some say let tomorrow take care of itself, just live for today, hmmm... ■

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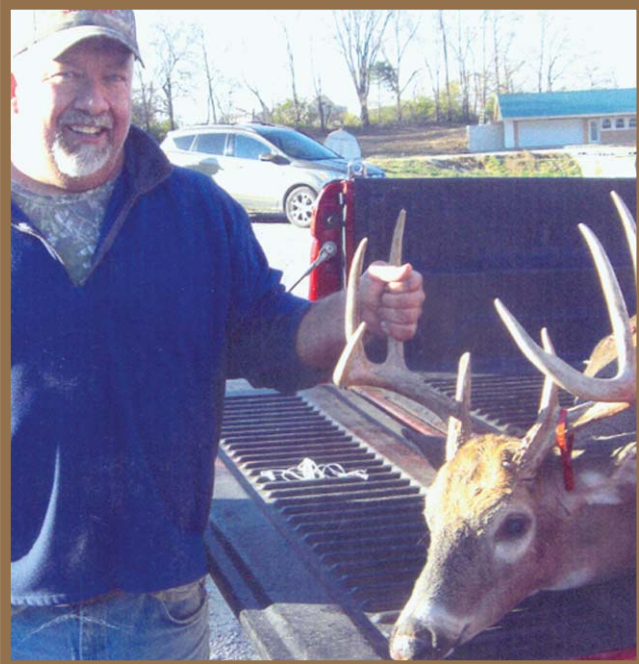
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Timothy Brough took this 8 point buck on 11-10-14. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)



Ryan Metcalf from Brookville, IN took this 10 point buck on 11-7-14 at 3:54 pm. It green scored 175 4/8", with a inside spread of 21 1/8", 26" Main Beams, and 9 brow tines. He was using a Hoyt Katera bow. He had watched him for a few years on his trail camera. (Ryan sent photo by Email)



Drake Walton took this 9 point, 212 pound buck in Union County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Matt Badger took this 10 point, 211 pound buck in Franklin County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

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IN TODAY!!
SEE INSTRUCTION TOP OF PG 15**



Richard Eckman took this 13 point buck that weighed 155 pounds in Miami County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Jeff Parks took this nice 161 3/8" 12 point buck on opening day of gun season 11-15-14. (This photo sent in by e-mail)



Megan Parks took this 8 point buck with a 44 lever action from 35 yds on 11-22-14. Her father, Jeff Parks was with her. (This photo sent in by e-mail)



Austin Schmitt took his first deer on 11-24-14, a 120 pound Spike. (Red Barn Bait, Guns & Deli Photo, Salem, IN)

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Jim Combs from Linden, Michigan took this 10 point buck in Union County Indiana using a crossbow. (Jim Combs submitted this photo by e-mail)



Kate Benjamin's first deer hunt with her Daddy, Jerry Benjamin Jr. Kate is 8 years old, from Richmond, IN and already loves to hunt. (Pam Benjamin submitted this photo by mail) Kate didn't get a deer, but she certainly was dressed for the hunt and one of the cutest hunters I've seen in a long time. Ray



11 year old Dominic DeSantis took this great buck while hunting on private land with his dad, David and big sister, Lindsay on 11-23-14. It was an 8 pointer with extras that field dressed at 200 lbs. It was Dominic's first buck and he can't wait to hang it on the wall in his room. (David DeSantis submitted this photo by e-mail)

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<p>INDIANA ANDERSON 9 Guns Pg 23 Crackshot Guns Pg 7 Gunslingers Pg 13</p> <p>AUSTIN Austin Westside Sunoco Pg 12 Burriss Electric & Plumbing Pg 6</p> <p>BATESVILLE French's Locker LLC Pg 7</p> <p>BROOKVILLE 52 Pik-up Convenience Store Pg 5 Dairy Cottage Pg 9 Noble Boys Furniture Pg 9</p> <p>BROOKVILLE LAKE AREA Barton Bay Pg 9 Frames Outdoor Pg 23 Parkside Marine & More Pg 3 Steve's Marine Pg 11</p> <p>CAMPBELLSBURG Worley Farm Salvage Pg 20</p> <p>CAMBRIDGE CITY A - T & I Service Pg 15 Lakeview Restaurant Pg 13</p> <p>CANAAN McCleery's Dog Carriers Pg 27</p> <p>CENTERVILLE Animal Hospital of Centerville Pg 24 Mills Funeral Home Pg 21</p> <p>CONNERSVILLE Matt's Custom Guns Pg 26</p> <p>DEPUTY Marion's Greenhouse Pg 7</p> <p>DUBLIN Rihm's Meat Processing Pg 30</p> <p>GREENFIELD</p>	<p>Highsmith Guns Pg 10 J & M Sporting Goods Pg 10 Jensen's Pawn & Guns Pg 15</p> <p>GREENSBURG Country Mart/Prem1ier Ag Pg 26 Cutting Edge Sporting Goods Pg 7 Guns & Tackle, Inc. Pg 10 Tree City Metal Sales Pg 23 Wagner's Barber Shop Pg 31</p> <p>HAGERSTOWN Big Daddy's Guns & More Pg 22</p> <p>HANOVER Pate Meat Processing Pg 28</p> <p>HARDY LAKE Pioneer Village Pg 20</p> <p>HENRYVILLE Budroe's Bus Stop Pg 4</p> <p>INDIANAPOLIS IN Deer, Turkey, Waterfowl Expo Pg 17 Indiana State Police Pg 6 Van Wimmer 17th Spring Gem Show Pg 16 www.IndianaOutfitters.com Pg 19</p> <p>KNIGHTSTOWN Knightstown Meats & Catering Pg 15 McDonald's Bait & Tackle Pg 27</p> <p>KOKOMO Joe's Beef Jerky Pg 14 Martino's Italian Villa Pg 14</p> <p>LAKE MICHIGAN AREA Brother Nature Charters Pg 11</p> <p>LAUREL Laurel Hotel Restaurant Pg 10</p> <p>LEXINGTON Ernie's Traps & More Pg 24</p> <p>LIBERTY Carl Sharp State Farm Ins Pg 7</p>	<p>J's Restaurant Pg 10 Berch Hardware Pg 4 Liberty Restaurant Pg 10 P.R.S. Insurance Pg 29 Protect Our Liberty Firearms Pg 29 Woodruff's Supermarket Pg 13</p> <p>LOGANSPOUR Dale Hardy Supplies Pg 13</p> <p>MADISON Andersons' Sales & Svc Pg 1 Burriss Elect & Plumbing Pg 6 Madison Outdoors Pg 27</p> <p>MARION Riverside Sporting Gds Pg 30</p> <p>MCCORDSVILLE Cap'n Hooks Bait & Tackle Pg 7</p> <p>MILROY Milroy Shoes Pg 23 Troyers Country Store & Bakery Pg 13</p> <p>NEW TRENTON Connected Afield APP Pg 25</p> <p>NOBLESVILLE Log Home Center Pg 18</p> <p>NORTH VERNON Ebbing Auto Parts Pg 7 John's Gun & Tackle Pg 13</p> <p>OSGOOD Comer Buildings Pg 7</p> <p>PATOKA LAKE Hoosier Hills Marina, Inc Pg 21</p> <p>PORTLAND 1 Shot Sports Pg 4</p> <p>RICHMOND Army Navy Store Pg 4 Best Stop Auto Care Pg 8 42nd Eastern IN Spring Gem Show Pg 16 JoAnn's Cafe Pg 10</p>	<p>Mendenhall Hardware Pg 10 Merkamp Sales & Service Pg 3 Middleton Car Clinic Tool Sharpening Pg 2 Prairie Wolf Gun Repair Pg 26 Riggle-Waltermann Mortuary Pg 29 Sander's Jewelry Pg 12 Tri County Awards Pg 31 Westside Storage Pg 4</p> <p>RIDGEVILLE Heritage Goodhew Metal Roofing Pg 14</p> <p>RUSHVILLE Fields' Outdoor Adventures Pg 32</p> <p>SALEM Red Barn Bait Shop Pg 20</p> <p>SALAMONIES LAKE AREA Bozarth Country Store Pg 8 S & S Bait & Tackle Pg 9</p> <p>SCOTTSBURG C & T Cycles Pg 11 Rick & Jeff's Floor Coverings Pg 28 Scotts Ace Hardware Pg 4</p> <p>SEYMOUR Burriss Elect & Plumbing Pg 6</p> <p>SHELBYVILLE Blue River Arms, LLC Pg 4 The Gun Den Pg 30</p> <p>SUMMIT LAKE AREA Gittin Jiggy With It B&T Pg 18</p> <p>SUMMITVILLE Pipe Creek Retrievers Page 28</p> <p>VALLONIA Tollivers Hunting & Fishing Supls Pg 31</p> <p>WEBSTER C & C Webster General Store Pg 4 Glick's Butcher Shop Pg 14</p>
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