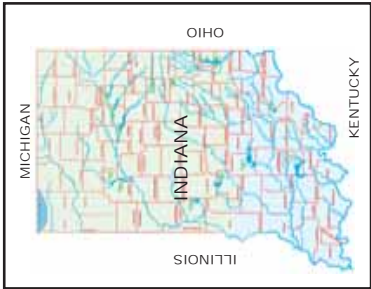


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RON BILBREY AND TOM HANKINS WIN CUSA TOURNAMENT ON SALAMONIE & MISSISSINAWA

SPECIAL WAYNE COUNTY 4-H FAIR SOUVENIR 4-PAGE PULL-OUT SECTION - PAGE 15-18



WAYNE COUNTY 4-H FAIR JUNE 18-25, 2016 SEE PAGES 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19 IN THIS ISSUE

READ ABOUT COVER PHOTOS ON PAGE 3



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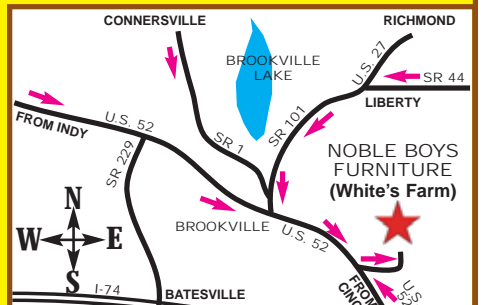
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Brookville Lake Fishing & Hunting Map	Page 31	Rate Sheet & Contract Form	Page 30

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Rich Creason goes Crappie fishing on Lake Monroe while attending Hoosier Outdoor Writer Association annual Conference. He took this photo of the turtle while fishing. See other wildlife he captured on his camera. See page 20 and also page 9 for article on Jerry Schilling who has hunted snapping turtles for 30 years. **(Photo by Rich Creason)**

Top Right: Tom Hankins (left) and Ron Bilbrey (right) won the Cabela's USA Crappie Pro Division on May 7, 2016 fishing on Mississinewa and Salamonie Reservoirs. See Pages 22-23 for more. **(Photo by Ron Bilbrey)**

Bottom Left: Brown County State Park, the Gad-a-bouts Ray and Sherry Dickerson spend April 22-24 at the Abe Martin Lodge for fun, relaxation and to attend the 47th Annual HOW Conference. We also visited Nashville, Indiana on Saturday (April 23rd) visiting the many unique shops including the Nut Shop, Lawrence Glass Blowing shop, Primitives and Pinecones shop and others. See Page 21 **(Photo by Ray Dickerson)**

Bottom Right: 2015 Wayne County Fair Queen at 2015 Wayne County Fair. The 2016 Wayne County Fair is June 18-25, 2016. See Pages 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, & 19. Special Souvenir Pull-out Pages 15-18. **(Photo by Sandy House)**

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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MILES MANNING'S ARMY NAVY STORE IN RICHMOND, IN HAS MOVED TO ITS NEW LOCATION AT 216 SOUTH 8TH STREET

Miles Manning, owner of the Army Navy Store that was located 612 North "A" Street has moved to their new location at 216 South 8th Street in Richmond. Their new location is directly across 8th Street from VFW Post 1108. I stopped by their new location and yes Gilly is with them too. A big plus too is they have more parking space. Stop in and see them real soon.

THE 165TH WAYNE COUNTY 4-H FAIR IS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE ON PAGES 15-18 WHICH IS A 4-PAGE SOUVENIR PULLOUT

Again this year in this issue is the Wayne County 4-H Fair including the complete list of daily activities, an aerial view of the fairgrounds with all the buildings and activity areas labeled for easy finding on page 16 & 17.. There are a lot more photos of fair activities on pages 15, 18 and 19 too.

I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME TO UPDATE MY COLUMN PHOTO TO REFLECT WHAT I SEE IN THE MIRROR

The above photo was taken by my wife Sherry Dickerson in the Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park. See page 21.

DUE TO LACK OF SPACE IN THIS ISSUE A COUPLE OF ARTICLES HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD UNTIL THE JULY ISSUE

Smokin' on the water BBQ Festival, Outdoors in The Whitewater Valley and Cartoon. Taking up additional space this month is Gad's Corner fish and game photos and the Wayne County 4-H Fair on pages 14 thru 19 and Special Souvenir Pull-out.

UPDATE ON MY GAD-A-BOUT DELIVERY VAN THAT WAS PUT OUT OF COMMISSION ON APRIL 15 BY PERSON FAILING TO STOP FOR A STOP LIGHT IN RICHMOND

I elected to keep my delivery van instead of letting it be totaled. For past several days I've been getting pieces and parts to a friend who is fixing the van. Hopefully I will be delivering in it again. I will be delivering this issue in my back up van.

5K RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER JUNE 4 UC OPIATE TREATMENT CENTER

I got a flyer from Sheriff Deputy Alvin Day, Fulltime U.C. Drug Free Coordinator/UC Public Health-Part-time announcing a 5K Run/Walk on June 4, 2016 a Fundraising for UC Opiate Treatment Center Drug Screen test kits, Prescription Meds,

Transportation Cost and etc..... The run starts at 4 p.m., Registration Forms are available at Liberty Bell Restaurant, UC Health Dept & UC Sheriff's Office. \$25.00 Runner/Walker, \$15 ages 6-12 and under 6 yrs old - free. Activities 3-6 pm Band: Edge of Addiction, 3 pm Kettler Motor Werks....Audi Cars & Show Cars, At 3:30 pm Bobby Hayden Jr who played on "MTV and The Grand Ole Opry" 700 Club and the Christian Broadcasting Network is a recovering Heroin Addict and has a great message of recovery from Cardboard Box Ministries. Please come to this event at the Union County Courthouse. For more information contact the Union County Health Dept. 765-458-5393 and Union County Sheriff Office 765-458-5195.

KOKOMO ISTA TRAPPERS EDUCATION CLASS AUGUST 13-14, 2016

Deric sent me a note asking that I announce the following: Kokomo ISTA Trappers Education Class August 13-14, 2016 9am-4pm both days

To be held at Indiana University of Kokomo Dry land trapping, water trapping, skinning, etc Bring knee or hip boots, bug spray, old towel Lunch provided both days

Thanks Ray!!

WHITWATER STATE PARK WILL BE HAVING A SPECIAL VETERANS EVENT SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2016

Hi Ray,

Whitewater Memorial State Park will be having a special event on Sunday, September 25th at the Popular Grove Shelter at 2:00. Part of the celebration will be connected to the 100 year anniversary for state parks. We are going to have the Mobile Vet Center in the parking lot at the Whitewater office near the veteran statue. This is an awesome motor home type vehicle. It is an outreach program for small, rural communities like ours. The program is reaching out to veterans that haven't been to a VA clinic or may have questions about the VA.

We are so proud to bring this to our area and offer help to all veterans. I want to promote this opportunity to the veterans in this area. I'm counting on you to help us by doing an article about it. I attached a picture and information for you.

There will be free admission at the front gate from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

A pitch in dinner will follow the 2:00 ceremony.

One of the guys with the Veteran's Mobile Unit will speak at the ceremony.

The Veteran's Mobile Unit will be parked at the Whitewater Memorial State Park office parking lot. It will be open from 10:00 to 4:00. There will also be a counselor along for this trip. The Mobile Vet Center is from Evansville, IN. But they can get veterans the help they need from any VA location.

The Mobile Vet Center is 38 feet long and handicapped accessible.

Thanks for all you do for the veterans.

Rhonda Alvey

I ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON THE RECENTLY GOVERNOR SIGNED INTO LAW H.B. 1231 ALLOWING THE USE OF HIGH POWERED GUNS FOR THE 2016 DEER SEASON IN INDIANA

I got a few replies.

The first one came from Joe McDill on April 26, 2016. "Thanks for asking opinion on deer and rifles. I love: Freedom, Hunting, Shooting. More freedom is good. I'd like to use my big bore lever actions. I say yes to Standard calibers and no Mag. I've been shot@ by trespasser slob w/12ga didn't feel any safer

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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**
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Match the Hatch

If you have ever spent much time talking to a trout fisherman along a river bank, he will eventually ask you if you know what insects are hatching out. Now I haven't every really thought much about this until we had a cicada hatch here a few years back. While fishing down the bank one day I saw a cicada fall off a tree limb and with in seconds a blue gill sucked the legs off of it. Then I saw a carp one bite the thing right off the surface. As I was looking up and down the shore I could see 5 or 6 carp swimming up and down the bank just under the surface. So being the rocket scientist that I am, I positioned my boat under a tree limb shook

it a bit and had 10 cicadas laying in the boat. On a small spinning pole I tied on a hook baited up with a cicada and caste it to the shore and bam carp on. I did this 9 more times and caught 9 more carp. So I thought would catch a bunch of cicadas freeze them in a zip lock bag, and do this again later in the summer when the fishing gets tough. Well guess what, not one carp was caught on a cicada. This is where that little like came on next to my head like in the cartoons. From then on I started pay more attention to the seasonal hatches and I have had a lot better success.

In the winter months all the summer time food sources are hibernating in the mud on the bottom of the lake or they are hibernating under ground at the edge of the lake. Things like bugs, flies, worms, crawl dads, and Larva. The fish are not targeting this stuff, because they are not there, so don't fish with this stuff. Stick with minnow looking bait like spoons, blade baits, crank baits, or live minnows like fat head minnows, chubs, or shiners. You will see these changes through out the year if you fish through out the year. The changes usually happen late April and September. When all the fish make this switch your gonna want to know this, or your gonna be that guys saying I guess they just aren't biting today.

I have caught walleye in January that will spit out crappie, blue gill, or shad. I have caught Striped bass that spit up walleye. I have caught large mouth bass that spit up white bass. The only thing that is consistent is they always spit up fish.



The walleye is always the first fish to spawn in the lake, this happens when the water temperature reached about 46 to 47 degrees. Its very hard to catch walleye at this time do to the spawning cycle. They have to get their priorities straight if you know what I mean. But I have found that if you cast a suspending bait and fish it very slow around their spawning areas at night you can catch a few dumb ones.

After about 2 weeks their spawning cycle comes to an end. At this stage of game the water temperature has risen closer to the 60 degree mark. This triggers bugs, worms,



Woody and Jack two retired School teachers. Woody from New Palestine and Jack from Indianapolis. Good fishing buddies for a long time, and now good friends of mine. (Author Photo)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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by Sergeant John D. Bowling
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

Pendleton District Trooper Honored as Indiana State Police "Trooper of the Year"

Indianapolis – In a ceremony held during the afternoon of April 15th, at the Government Center in Indianapolis, a Pendleton District Trooper was honored for his work and dedication in 2015. Trooper Thomas Ratliff, a four year member of the Indiana State Police, was honored as the Indiana State Police "Trooper of The Year" for 2015.

The "Trooper of the Year" award is presented each year to a trooper who has achieved outstanding enforcement efforts in the areas of traffic and criminal enforcement, case and crash investigation, public information programs and community service, and who has exemplified the professionalism and integrity of an Indiana State Trooper. Troopers are nominated by their supervisors at the district level.

In 2015 Trooper Ratliff led the Pendleton District in DUI (Driving Under the Influence) enforcement; is certified in Methamphetamine lab investigation, processing and cleanup; is a member of the Pendleton District Tactical Intervention Platoon and is a Field Training Officer, responsible for training new troopers to the district.

Pendleton District Sergeant Robert Cross, who nominated Ratliff, said "During Trooper Ratliff's career he has certainly made a positive impact on others within District 51 and his community, as he serves the Indiana State Police in an honorable and respectful capacity."

Trooper Ratliff was given an engraved plaque by Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter, recognizing him for his accomplishments in 2015. Those accomplishments also included Trooper of the Year for District 51, and top DUI enforcement in 2015 for the Pendleton District.

ISP Museum A Great Place to visit

This summer, if you're looking for an interest-



2015 "Trooper of The Year"
Trooper Thomas Ratliff

ing place to visit that's free, consider the Indiana State Police Museum located at 8660 East 21st St., right next to the Indianapolis Post. The Historical Center is part of the Youth Services Program which funds and facilitates the ISP youth summer camps each year around the state.

The museum offers free tours of displays that include items from the gangster era, including famous items from the Dillinger gang and others; ISP police cars from the 1930's through the 2000's; an Indian Motorcycle just like the ones ridden by the first troopers in 1933; a moonshine still; numerous guns and weapons with historical significance, as well as some interactive displays like the two headed police car that allows kids the chance to sit behind the wheel and turn on the lights.

The museum is chocked full of historical items donated and seized through the years dealing with law enforcement. The museum was built in 1993 with monies from private donations. A lot of the items in the museum were donated by retired troopers and their families, with a lot of personal items and stories that go with them.

While at the museum, make sure to check out the ISP logo items for sale there. You can buy items ranging from blankets to t-shirts, sweatshirts, pants, miniature ISP cars, Christmas ornaments and wall clocks, all with the ISP logo. They truly have a souvenir for everyone's budget and taste.

Sure, I'm biased; but I think our museum is the best kept secret in Indiana, and is truly one of the neatest places you can visit for free. The museum is open 9a.m-3p.m. Monday through Friday, and

every third Saturday from 12N-4 p.m.

You can just walk in and browse on your own, or schedule a guided tour. Contact Lauren Baker, Curator at ISPmuseum@isp.in.gov or call (317) 899-8293. Follow the Museum on Facebook at Indiana State Police Museum

Motorcycle Safety

The warm weather of spring and summer brings increased motorcycle traffic, with Hoosiers riding for recreation and transportation. Nationally, every year, motorcycle riders are involved in thousands of crashes that result in disabling injuries and death. The Indiana State Police offer these safe driving tips so that everyone can share Hoosier Highways safely.

Tips for passenger vehicles:

- Watch attentively for motorcycles. Check blind spots before changing lanes and look twice at intersections before you turn or pull out into traffic. Use your turn signals when changing lanes.
- Anticipate hazards that may confront a motorcyclist like large pot holes, debris, or other hazardous road conditions. Allow at least two seconds of following distance between your vehicle and a motorcycle.
- Be cautious and observant when turning left. This is a primary cause of crashes between vehicles and motorcycles.
- Remember, motorcycles are entitled to operate in a full lane.
- Obey all traffic laws.

Tips for motorcycle riders:

- Wear protective equipment and clothing, espe-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

First of the Season Fishing Folly

Every spring the average fisherman faces the dauntless task of readying his gear after it has been sitting idle for months. Nests constructed by vermin out of wiring insulation and seat pad foam removed, bare wires wrapped with electrical tape, early mud dobber nests scraped off, and fishing gear that somehow wound itself into unrecognizable gobs during the winter. And, an engine that purred like a kitten last year now refuses to make any noise other than a pathetic "phht, phht". Removing the engine cowling reveals the remnants of what looks like a condominium for an entire block of four legged welfare recipients. As for the trailer you feel lucky if there's only one flat tire and both tail lights work.

Finally, the first warm day arrives and the angler heads for the lake after airing up both tires and cleaning the wasp nest out of the trailer wiring plug-in connector. I got a call from a fishing buddy telling me to meet him at the marina. Admittedly, I'm not the neatest person when it comes to storing my gear for the winter. I simply stack the rods in a corner of the garage and leave the tackle box sitting on a work cabinet. It amazes me how rods that haven't been touched for four months can get so tangled and lures in a stationary box end up looking like a Christmas decoration made in a kindergarten class. In this case, a half hour of cussing got two rods released from the mess and a few crappie jigs freed up for action. By the time I got to the marina things didn't look like the day was going to shape up into a "catch the limit" outing, at least until I could figure out how the knot that was tying one rod to the other could be untied.

By the time my partner showed up I had them separated and things were looking up. That is until we discovered that the bow and stern swivel seats on the boat were missing. With that as far as I was concerned, this trip just ended. The idea of the two of us sitting in the cockpit seats whipping rods tipped with treble hooks had about as much appeal as standing before a firing squad. Checking with the marina manager, he gave us permission to take two seats off a scruffy old boat sitting by the maintenance building. With well worn and torn vinyl covers they didn't match the decor but they would

keep us from sitting cross-legged on the bow and stern like a couple of Apache warriors sitting around a council fire.

With the gear stowed my partner backed the boat part way into the water and as usual, he climbed aboard and I released the bow tie strap. The plan is always for me to back the boat until it floats and then pull the trailer out. I eased it in but the boat didn't float. In fact, it decided to stay on the trailer and the weight was causing back wash over the stern. He yelled for me to pull out and once on top of the ramp we discovered that the stern straps were still secured. After mutterings about old age and forgetfulness, no amount of force would release the take-ups on the straps to free them from the rings on the hull. Finally, a muscular bystander who had been listening to our four letter description of the situation lent a hand and finally got one of the mechanisms to release and the other followed. Back into the water and this time the boat floated off the trailer and the trolling motor was lowered. Then contrary to his normal procedure, he trolled up to a dock while I parked the rig. After I boarded he trolled away from the dock and headed out to sea. Puzzled, I wondered why he didn't fire up the huge beast of a motor like he normally does, but I figured he had another plan in mind. Fifty yards from the loading ramp we tied on lures. He extended his rod to show me a new bait he had just purchased and hooked my shirt at the right shoulder. After explaining that I couldn't see it and that I didn't want a hole in that shirt he used long nosed pliers to flatten the barb and pull it out. Meanwhile, we were still going around in circles behind the trolling motor. Fifteen minutes later he came back to the cockpit and hit the starter button. All he got was whirring from the starter motor. Back to the trolling motor.

An hour later he tried the starter again with the same results. Finally, after four hours and a few scrawny crappie it was time to call it a day. That's when I asked how he planned to put the boat back on the trailer with a trolling motor. He assured me it would be no problem. I couldn't see any other solution than to back the trailer far enough into the water to allow at least four feet of water between it and the bow of the boat. By my calculations this would put the back half of the tow truck in the lake. If that was okay with him, I was game. Drat the luck! A gentleman who was watching the approach of the boat to the trailer saw that, if we didn't want to submerge the truck or shear off the trolling motor he would have to wade out and hopefully grab the bow and pull it up to the nest roller on the trailer for a hookup. I really wanted to see how far the truck could be submerged before it would need a tow truck to pull it out.

Finally with the boat back on the trailer and secured, our perfect fishing day came to an end. Later my partner called to say he had found the kill switch for the engine flipped to off. A kill switch? I thought kill switches only worked if the driver fell overboard. All that proved to be an odd way to start the season. It can only get better from here on.

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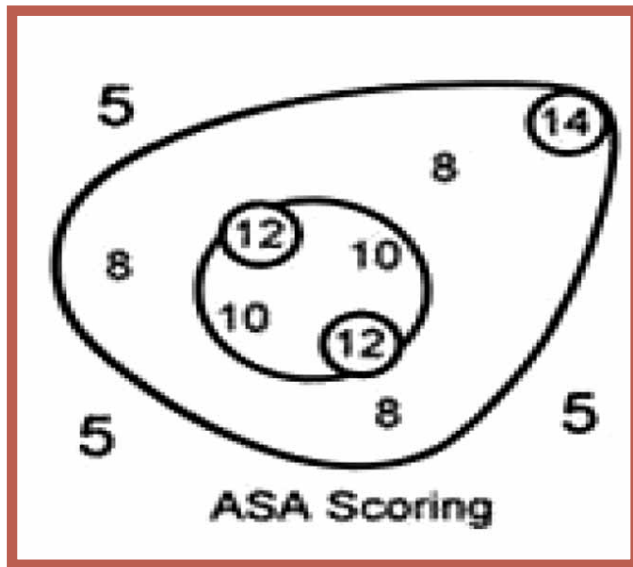

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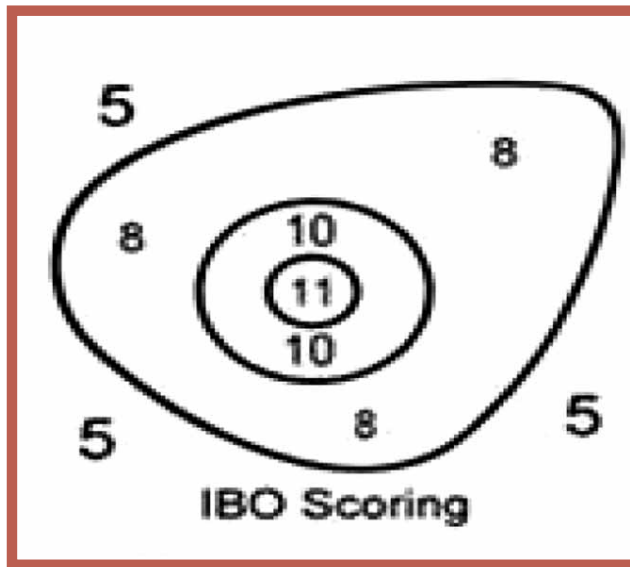
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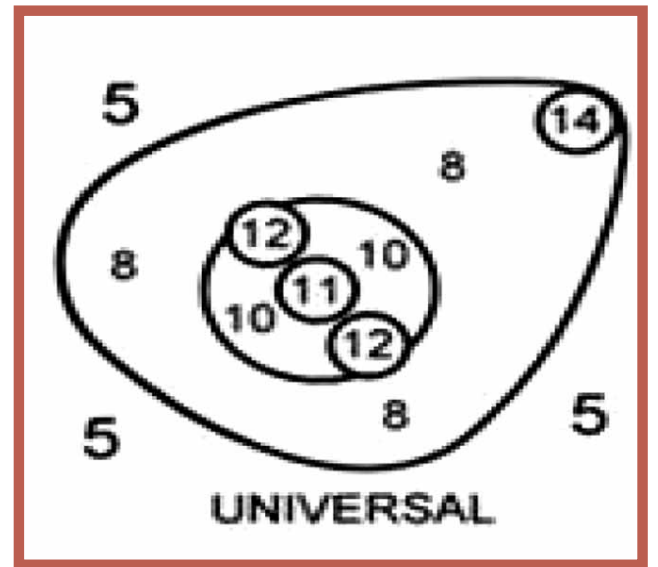


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You need to know how to score the targets at the shoots. The universal scoring rings will be on most of the 3D targets. IBO is the standard around most shoots.

Archery Know How



by Tom Stricker

Benefits and More of 3D Archery

Most die-hard bow hunters have shot an occasional 3D course, however we often hear questions about what it takes to get better than the average Joe. 3D archery can be shot for many reasons by different people, from preparing for the woods all the way to the extreme of attempting to compete successfully at the state, regional, and national level. There are different organizations that are holding 3D shoots. Most of you have heard or seen some of them like IBO, ASA, and Regions. Some of the differences in the organizations are but not limited to arrow speed, scoring ring differences, marked yardages, and location region.

If you're interested in shooting 3D archery there are many courses in your local area at conservation clubs, archery shops, and even your neighbor. There are websites and Facebook pages that will have the schedules and check with your local pro shop and they should have them as well.

For a lot of archers, 3D target shooting is purely recreational. Its benefits are many and varied, offering the opportunity for exercise, fresh air and hands-on archery practice. If you want to become a better bow hunter but aren't interested in competition, do yourself a favor and practice on 3D targets. If you're looking for a fun, challenging, and healthy outdoor activity suitable for the entire family consider 3D. Heather and I spend countless days every year shoot-

ing the outdoor 3D range.

How serious do you want to get? Most hunters will use their hunting equipment to get better for season. Some will get a secondary bow that will only be used for 3D shooting to build up form. There are different classes at the shoots to fit your style from hunter, traditional, open, and youth (some have a hunters' challenge). Most of the shoots are not marked yardages. The purpose of shooting 3D archery is to get better at judging distances and being able to size the animal before the shot., not just grabbing the range finder and checking the yardage since nature doesn't always give us the luxury.

Bow hunter class – will shoot from 35-40 yards and closer and generally have a few rules, stabilizer length, non-moveable sight pins, no magnification and screw in field points. Typical hunting setup.

Youth is just a closer stake

Traditional is exactly that.

Open class allows magnification lens in the sight, movable pin sight, longer stabilizer, and also shoot up to 50-55 yards.

The benefits of 3D archery are numerous. Normally course setters consider situations bow hunters face in the field. Often shot opportunities will be limited to small windows, requiring the archer to feed an arrow through a narrow opening between trees (This is the bowhunter challenge). Sometimes game is encountered in a bedded position, and yes, there are 3D targets like this as well. On occasion, game is seen at close range but most often we get our shot opportunities at distances greater than 20-yards. Judging longer ranges can be tricky. These targets force bow hunters to learn to estimate ranges, often in increments, e.g.: 10 yards at a time, using the ground or natural features like trees and rocks as markers.

Most shooters that are serious about the 3D shoots and their scores will try to take every advantage they can get. There are many options for arrows, sights, bows, etc. For Bowhunter class 3D, speed really becomes much less critical than Open classes that shoot out past 40 yards. Bowhunter classes, you will see that the best shooters will rarely shoot any 8's on a course at all, usually hitting all 10's and roughly half of the X rings available. Mistakes and dropped points in this class usually occur due to poor shot execution, not because of distance judging

errors. At 40 yards and less, your margin for error on most targets will be +/- three to four yards.

All the bow companies make a speed bow that will make judging yardage not as critical in the bow hunter class. I personally have used speed bows that have hit speeds up to 347fps. Just because the bow is faster doesn't mean that is as accurate, some say the faster the bow the faster the miss. Top shooters in this class will typically shoot longer axle to axle bows in the 37" to 40" range, with forgiving brace heights of 7.5" +, and arrows going 280-290fps.

Arrows are a critical part of your 3D experience. The better the quality the tighter your groups will be when practicing longer ranges. Make sure that the arrow has the correct spine for the poundage you are pulling on the bow.

For example:

70lb 29" draw length – 28" arrow you need a 340, 350 spine arrow

60lb 29" draw length – 28" arrow you need a 400, 250 spine arrow

50lb 29" draw length – 28" arrow you need a 500, 150 spine arrow

The main reason for knowing your spine is correct is to protect yourself from damaging the bow or the arrows or even worse yourself. Using too light a spine could result in injury to yourself and others not to mention your equipment.

"Please use an archery pro shop to make sure that your setup is correct."

Now that we have covered a few things about what to shoot with and what class your shooting now we need to make sure you know how to score the targets at the shoot.

The universal scoring rings will be on most of the 3D targets. IBO is the standard around most shoots. I could go on about each styles of 3D shoots but the key is to get out and go to the shoots to get better at knowing your equipment and getting better form for fall hunting season for the hunters and improving your score as the target archer.

Always when shooting make sure of what is beyond the target and your surroundings. If you are on the course and there is something that makes you uncomfortable about the shot, please let the host of the event know so they can fix the issue to make it safe for you and others.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



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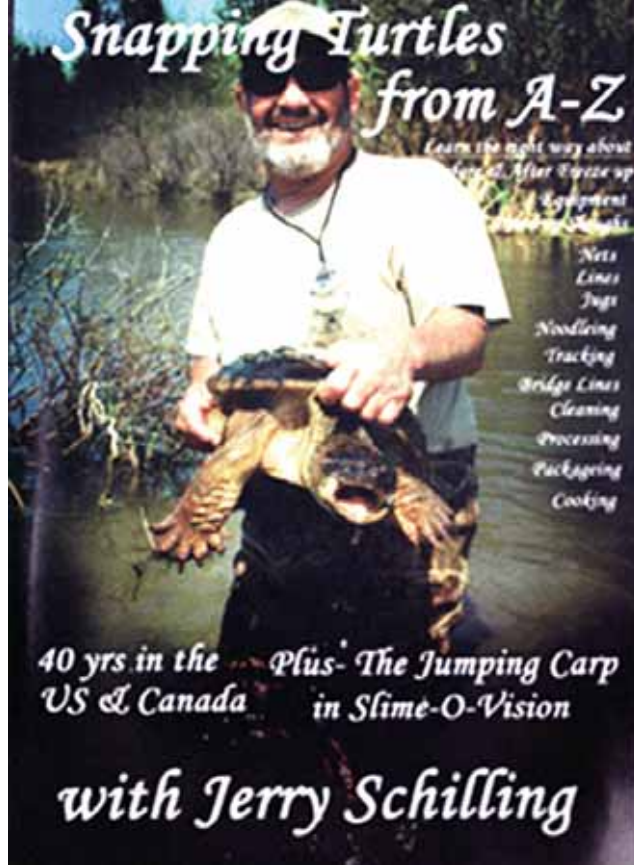

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Top Left Photo: 36 lb Snapper with a Hotchling Snapper on his back. Shows how small they are when born! Top Center: Jerry Schilling "Snapping Turtles from A-Z Dvd sells for \$30.00 plus \$5.00 for S & H. Top Right Photo: Jerry Schilling with some nice turtles in a pond. Bottom Left Photo: Jerry Schilling's son Kenny picking up a net. Bottom Right Photo: Nice load of Turtles with the pen he keeps them in. He backs it in his pond till he's ready to clean them. (Jerry Schilling Photos)

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Snapping Turtles From A to Z With Jerry Schilling

by Ray Dickerson

I got a call from Jerry Schilling who lives in New Harmony, Indiana and evidently has been hunting snapping turtles for a very long time and knows the ins and outs of the critters.

Jerry sent me the photos you see above and a copy of his 3 hour long DVD "Snapping Turtles From A to Z."

It's a fascinating DVD and has on it the answer to all your questions about hunting, finding and capturing snapping turtles.

Here's some more information about Jerry I found on line.

"Snapping Turtles from A to Z with Jerry Schilling. Jerry has been capturing turtles for over 40 years in the US and Canada. He shows you all the

different methods for harvesting turtles under varying conditions. This includes Before and After Freeze-Up and everything you need to know about turtle equipment. Even contains sections on Processing, packaging, and Cooking turtles.

Snapping Turtles from A to Z contains the following educational sections:

- Learn the right way
- Before & After Freeze-Up
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 - Lines
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See the advertisement Jerry Schilling sent me last month. We talked to great lengths about his life long search for snapping turtles.

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Brian Justice and Allen Reed with some of their winning crappie from our first Bozarth's Crappie Tournament. Their total weight of 7.93 pounds for seven crappie was enough to take home first place for overall weight. (Author Photo)



This is Jeff Yeakle and John Brumley pictured with their second place winning crappie. Their total weight of 7.87 pounds missed out by .06 pounds of coming in first place. (Author Photo)

Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

Bozarth Crappie Tourney

The 2016 Bozarth Crappie Tournaments kicked off this year with our opening tournament held on Saturday, April 30th. Having a tournament this time of year can sometimes present several obstacles for fishermen such as lake levels, temperatures, rain, and wind. And for our fishermen on this day, all of these obstacles were showing their ugly side as we dealt with a day full of steady rain, mid 40 temperatures, heavy winds, and the lake level being approximately 4 feet shy of summer pool. Despite dealing with these bad conditions several teams were still able to haul in some really nice crappie that made for an entertaining weigh in event.

We had a total of 18 teams registered to compete and test their luck for our first tournament of the year. As several of the teams started coming to the weigh in line an hour or two prior to the official finish time because of the poor weather conditions, we could tell from the early weight amounts that it would take seven really nice fish to win the tournament. A majority of the early team's big fish were weighing in over a pound so we knew

despite the poor conditions big fish were still being caught. It took the final team that weighed in for the day to determine who the winner would be of our first tournament of the 2016 season and that team was Brian Justice and Allen Reed. With their top seven fish weighing in at 7.93 pounds, it was .06 pounds more than the second place team of Jeff Yeakle and John Brumley which had a total weight on 7.87 pounds.

Brian and Allen utilized their signature stinger baits designed from their very own start-up company, Big Diddy Baits, to capture first place. They were fishing in 8-10 feet of water and caught a majority of their fish in the late morning / early afternoon time frame. Following the second place team of Yeakle and Brumley was the team of Dave Bowser and Mike Bowser which had a very good day of their own to capture third place with a total weight of 7.65 pounds. They were followed up by the father/son duo of Dan Paul and Jim Paul with a total weight of 6.86 pounds. The Paul family also took home big fish honors by catching a 14.5" crappie that weighed 1.88 pounds. Catching the second place big fish was the team of Gary Reed along with his grandson Blake Morris. Their second place big fish weighed in at 1.66 pounds and was 14" in length.



This is Gary Reed pictured with his grandson, Blake Morris. They caught the second place big fish of the day with a crappie weighing 1.66 pounds and 14" in length. (Author Photo)

We would like to thank each of the fishermen who braved the elements to fish the first tournament of the 2016 season. If you are looking for a friendly- fun competitive tournament to fish and enjoy catching crappie then we would like to invite you to fish in some of our future tournaments. All of the teams competing in these tournaments tend to have a really good time and enjoy getting to know other fellow fishermen and share different stories and techniques amongst each

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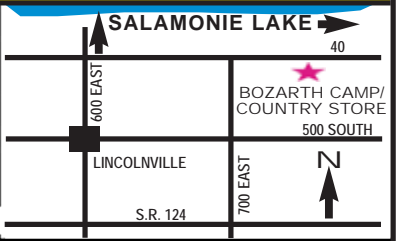
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Brothers, Mike and Dave Bowser, had a total weight of 7.65 pounds of crappie which was good enough to place third in overall weight. (Author Photo)



The father/son duo of Dan and Jim Paul pictured with the big fish of the day. Their winning big fish weighed 1.88 pounds and was 14.5" in length. (Author Photo)

other. Our next tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th and will conclude with dates on the 10th and 24th of September. For more information contact us at (765) 981-4522 or visit us at Bozarth's Country Store located at 7309 E 400 S, Lagro, IN 46941.

In closing, I would like to pass on some other dates to remember concerning activities planned here at the "Great Lakes of the Wabash". The Salamonie Preschool Program will host an event on Wednesday, May 25th titled "Plants". This event is scheduled from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. and again from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Advanced registration is required and this event is designed for children ages 2-6 along with their adults and the cost is \$2 per child. Also, Second Saturday's at Salamonie continues with an event titled "Where the Wild Turkey's Roam" scheduled for Saturday, June 11th. This event takes place at the Salamonie Interpretive Center from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and is \$3.00 per person. Lastly, the 2016 Fishing Derbies return to the Salamonie and Mississinewa properties on Saturday, June 4th. There will be three different age groups and the sign up begins at 8:30 a.m. and fishing derby times set for 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. This family friendly event is free to the public and for more information on any of these events you can contact the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at (260) 468-2127.

maging around looking for food and places to hide live and feed. There are bugs hatching out in the mud on the bottom of the lake along with other worms and such. With all this activity going on in the shallows you would think you could just throw anything in the water and your going to catch a fish. Sorry but its just doesn't work that way. You still have to hit on what they are feeding on.

To help you cut down on your learning curve I will tell you I have a lot of success fishing something that looks like a shad or something that looks like a crawl dad. A shad is a bait fish in the lake that everything feeds on and a crawl dad is a crustacean in the lake that everything feeds on. So if all else fails tie on something in your tackle box that resembles one of these and fish it close to the bottom. It doesn't have to be a real crawl dad or a real shad it just has to look like one.

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 and crappie starting mid April till the mid December 7 days a week on Brookville Lake. We fish out of a 2015 Lund Pro V 2075 with a 250 Honda outboard engine. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 - 4 people. The price is according to how many people go \$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

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- Look for road hazards. Be especially cautious around intersections, alleys, driveways, and other areas where an animal, pedestrian, or vehicle might enter your path.
- Avoid riding in the blind spot of other vehicles. Ride defensively; always leave enough reaction time for unexpected movements from other vehicles.
- When operating a motorcycle during inclement weather, slow down and use extra caution. Avoid sudden changes in direction or speed.
- Never ride impaired.
- Never perform stunts like "wheelies" or other tricks.

Motorcycles are harder to see then other vehicles; consequently, many crashes occur because other motorists don't see the motorcycle. All motorists should take the time for a second look before pulling into an intersection or making a left turn. It only takes a second to save a life.

Bicycle Safety

Every year, usually in the spring, we get calls about folks riding bicycles in a reckless manner. More and more folks are riding, but few are observing the rules of the road. First and foremost you should wear a helmet when riding. They save lives, and I've seen the results of folks surviving a catastrophic event because of their helmet.

Follow the rules of the road, meaning traffic laws that apply to vehicles, because they also apply to bicyclists. I recently stopped a gentlemen 'old enough to know better' for running a stop sign in front of me. **ALWAYS RIDE WITH TRAFFIC, NOT AGAINST THE TRAFFIC FLOW!** Use hand signals to signal turns.

Most importantly, be visible, always wearing a Hi-Viz orange or yellow outer garments, just like the ones highway workers wear. Make sure your clothing and bicycle has reflective strips or triangles, and use a headlight and tail light that's visible from at least 500 feet. In closing, remember pedestrians have the right of way, and never assume drivers see you. Always be ready to take evasive action.

So You Wanna' Catch More Fish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

crawl dads, and other little critters to abandon their winter hybridization and start their own reproduction cycles. From here the water temperature rises to 65. This triggers bass, crappie, blue gill, carp and shad to start their spawning cycles. The walleye know this, and this is where you need to make a change.

The walleye will be looking to take advantage of the vulnerability of the unprotected eggs and the concentration of all these fish in shallow water. Most spawning fish are too big for the walleye to feed on, but the fish eggs are a perfect food source and the walleye will take full advantage of it. This is one of the reasons fish have so many eggs.

In these same shallow areas crawl dads are rum-

News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

cially a helmet with face shield.

- Make yourself visible by wearing bright clothing, using reflective tape and by using your motorcycle's headlight. Always use turn signals when changing lanes and turning.
- Check your motorcycle before each ride, and do not ride if any equipment is not operating properly.

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Left Photo: "I have one of these Outers Gun wood gun cleaning chests and use it a lot. It was a little expensive but contained everything I needed to take care of my guns at home or at the range. It's not little, but I like it. I carry my ear plugs in it. Any cleaning kit will do, your preference and the size of your range bag will determine what you carry." Picture is from Outers catalog and costs \$38.99 on Amazon. Right Photo: "The picture is a Daniel Defense Bolt Carrier group for an M16 from Brownell's online Catalog. Oiling the bolt carrier group with a light and not "wet" coating of oil will greatly enhance your chances of no malfunctions at the range."



Orin Thorsness took this 195 pound 8 point buck on 11-21-2015. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)

Random Notes from: Prairie Wolf Gun Repair



by Marshall Smith

Owner/Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO

GUNSMITHING

Your at the range, you've just shot 200 rounds downrange and WHAM your gun seizes up and jams. What's going on here? It's very possible that the gun ran dry. We talk about how much or how little oil to use when cleaning your gun. There is a group of shooters who claim and report that they have shot thousands of round through their gun without ever cleaning them. I think they are really lucky, have a very loose fitted gun, or just stretching their story a little. A gun, is a mechanical device and needs oil to function well and dependably. Take the AR15 platform of carbines. The gas which propels the bolt action to eject a round and load the next is full of unburnt powder and soot. It blows right through the bolt and into the action. The M16 was built to allow for this and to continue shooting when more than 5,000 rounds have been put through it. But, the new AR15s are tighter, have less clearances than the M16 and are achieving accuracy much greater that the military grade M16 was designed for. The bolts in the newer guns need to be oiled, lightly, not wet, only so that you can see and feel the oil on the bolt.

Of course many will say that the oil will become contaminated by the gas blow back and cause the jam. Although that sounds correct and reasonable, it misses the fact that the oil will help disperse the sludge from the gas blow back keep-

ing the bolt cleaner and operating longer than if it were to be dry of oil.

So back to our problem at the range. Should we quit and go home to disassemble and clean the gun? You should have in your range back a handy gun cleaning kit and some light oil. Tools if you need them. Whether your shooting a bolt action, an AK47, AR15, or just a .22lr semi-automatic rifle, you should carry a small cleaning and tool kit with your to the range. It can turn a seemingly disastrous couple of hours at the range into a pleasant day of shooting. There are many small cleaning kits on the market. Their cost is small compared to the frustration you'll have when it quits shooting and you find that it was just in need of a little oil.

That's all for this month. These notes are mine alone and do not represent the opinion or position of anyone, just me. If you have a question or a comment on guns, gunsmithing, gun rights, or, would like to just make a comment email me with your comments at PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com. I'll try and answer your questions as best I can and some answers may be included in this column.

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

Marshall Smith
Owner/Gunsmith
Prairie Wolf Gun Repair

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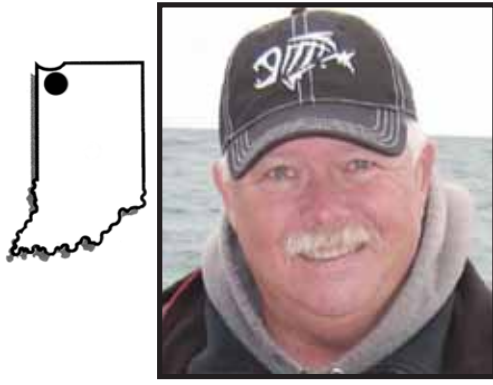
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Will This Be The Year?

It's not every year in Indiana someone catches a state record fish. If they do it's likely to be some off the wall specimen like the Lake Whitefish record put on the scorecard last year. I know what a lake whitefish is - do you? The state record bluegill was pulled from a pond in 1973. The largemouth bass record is almost 25 years old.

It's not that fish in Indiana don't grow as big as they used to grow, it's that the state record sized fish are unusually sized specimens, perhaps one could call them freaks of nature. How freakish?

The state record flathead catfish was pulled from the White River in 1966 - fifty years ago. Why hasn't that 79 and a half pound beast been bested in a half century? The most likely answer is because there are no 80 pound catfish swimming in the White River or any other river in Indiana. Chances are there are no walleye in any lake or stream in the Hoosier state larger than the 14.4 pound walleyes (it's a tie) caught back in the 1970s. Drain every lake, reservoir, pond or other type of water body and gather up all the big largemouth bass. Chances are you won't find even one of them larger than the current state record weighing 14 pounds, 12 ounces.

The point is, if you want to catch a state record sized fish, your quest could be impossible. If there's not even one largemouth, catfish, bluegill or other species bigger than the current record living in Hoosier waters, obviously breaking the existing record is not going to happen.

There is one species of fish in Indiana that doesn't fit this mold. Brown trout are found in a few areas around the state but probably more are caught from Lake Michigan than any other body of water. So let's examine just what it would take to usurp the current Indiana state record brown trout caught in 2006 weighing 29.03 pounds.

Is there such a spectacular specimen swimming in Lake Michigan waters? Almost certainly.

Brown trout are imports from Europe. But all brown trout are not created equal. Browns from Germany, though having identical DNA, look a bit different and even behave a bit different than brown trout that evolved over millennia in Ireland or England. Browns that inhabit streams are different than trout living in lakes. These differences are called strains - akin to poodles being different than beagles. Both are dogs, but they are different.

Years ago a strain of brown trout called the Seeforellen from western Europe was brought to the Great Lakes to see if what makes them special overseas would translate into something special here in the Midwest. Oh my goodness, did this work!

What made Seeforellens different was they developed the ability to become anadromous. Instead of staying in the lake or stream in which they were born, they swam downstream and actually adapted to living in saltwater like salmon do. Once in the ocean, their food supply was nearly endless and they grew to monster proportions compared to other strains.

Unlike salmon which die after spawning, brown trout can spawn and then keep living, feeding and growing larger. Before Seeforellen strain browns were stocked in the Great Lakes, most state records hovered in the low 20 pound range. Those records fell quickly through the late 90s and in the the 2000s as huge Seeforellens from early stockings ended up

on the hooks of lucky anglers.

The current state record for Illinois is over 36 pounds. The state record for Wisconsin was established a few years ago (and declared a new world record) at 41.5 pounds. Then two weeks later an angler in Michigan wrestled a 41.7 pound Seeforellen out of the Manistee River as it was making it's fall spawning run. Another world record was set.

The point is, for every

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Will this record fish be bested this year? (Author Photo)

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Saturday, June 18
 Wayne County Idol 5 PM @ Free Stage
 Karaoke Time Following Idol @ Free Stage
 Hot Air Balloon Launch - 7 PM
 ATV/Truck Drags - 7 PM
 Movie "Minions" @ 8:30 PM
 Night-Glow Hot Air Balloons - 9 -10PM

Sunday, June 19
 "the church" service - 11 AM - Free Stage
 Little Miss & Mister Contest - 2 PM @ Free Stage
 Special Music - 4 PM - 8 PM @ Free Stage
 Moto Cross Racing - 5 PM
 Horse Pull - 7 PM - FREE Admission

Monday, June 20
 Kicks 96 Live Broadcast with Poor Jack Amusements - 4 PM
 Car Show - 5 PM - Kuhlman Center Parking Lot
 Mud Race - 7 PM
 String Party Band - 7:30 pm @ Free Stage

Tuesday, June 21
 Hoosier State Tractor Pull - 7 PM
 Corey Cox - 7:30 PM @ Free Stage
 Silly Safaris - 5:30 & 7:30 PM @ First Bank Tent

Wednesday, June 22
 Wayne County Idol Finals - 6 PM @ Free Stage
 Truck / Tractor Pull - 7 PM

Thursday, June 23
 Kids Day - 12 Noon to 4:30 - Armband Special - \$12
 3 Bar J - 7 Event Rodeo - 7 PM
 Dixon Dancers - 6:00 PM @ Free Stage
 Silly Safaris - 5:30 & 7:30 PM @ First Bank
 Tent Colt Douglas - 7:30 @ Free Stage

Friday, June 24
 4-H Livestock Sale of Champions Auction - 11 AM
 Phillip Fox Band - 7:30 PM @ Free Stage
 Mud Bog - 7 PM
 Fireworks @ Dark

Saturday, June 25
 Free Health Screenings - Sheep Barn - 12-5 PM
 Hamm Radio starting at 1 PM @ First Bank Tent
 Back Draft Band 5 pm @ Free Stage
 Demolition Derby - 7 PM

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Saturday, June 11
 7 PM Wayne County Teen / Preteen / Junior & Queen Contest, Location: Centerville High School

Friday, June 17
 6 PM Color Guard Grand Entry - Mini (K-2) Horse & Pony Show
 6:30 PM 4-H Public Fashion Revue, 4-H Graduation & 4-H Awards - Kuhlman Center

Saturday, June 18
FAMILY FUN NIGHT SPONSORED BY REID HEALTH
 9 AM 4-H Horse & Pony - Western Show
 4 - 9 PM 4-H Open Class Exhibits Open - Kuhlman Center
 5 PM Wayne County Idol - Free Stage - Sponsored by Kicks 96
 5 - 9 PM FREE Laser Tag and 28 ft Slide - Heartbreakers Entertainment

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 Mechanical Bull June 23 - 25 • Fireworks - June 24
 FFA Fun Barn events - June 18 - 24
 Mark Abbati "Living Statue" - June 20-24

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 6 PM Meet the Queen and her Court - First Bank Tent
 6 PM Open Sheep Show - (IJCLC website)
 7 PM Launch of Hot Air Balloons - Salisbury Road Parking Lot across from the Fair Grounds
 7:30 PM Karaoke Time - Free Stage
 9 -10 PM Night Glow of Hot Air Balloons - Salisbury Road Parking Lot across from Fair Grounds
 8:30 PM FREE Outdoor Movie Night "Minions" Partnered with Richmond Parks Department @ Raper Center

Sunday, June 19
FREE PARKING ALL DAY - VETERAN'S DAY - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
 9 AM 4-H Dog Show - Raper Center
 10 AM Color Guard Grand Entry - 4-H Horse & Pony - English Show
 11 AM - 12:30 PM "the church" service from Hagerstown - Anton Payne - www.thechurchmovement.com
 12 PM Moto Cross Registration and Practice (Matt Baker 765-541-9170)
 1 - 9 PM 4-H Open Class Exhibits - Kuhlman Center
 1 PM Registration starts for Little Miss & Mister ages 6 months - 6 years - Free Stage see website for forms or email kafouche@frontier.com or call/text at 765-914-6771
 2 PM 4-H Rabbit Ambassadors, Showmanship, Doe Litter & Fur Class -
 2 PM Little Miss & Mister Contest - Free Stage
 2 - 4 PM FREE Ice Cream Social - First Bank Tent - Sponsored by Stegall-Berheide-Orr Funeral Home
 4 PM FamJam - a character ed. family show - Free Stage
 4:30-5 PM Registration Frog Jumping Contest, Jump-Off at 5 PM at the First Bank Tent (Sandy House 765-886-5400)
 5 PM Moto Cross Racing Track (Matt Baker 765-541-9170)
 5 PM & 7 PM Special Music - Free Stage
 5:30 PM Open Swine Show (Ryan Drake 765-541-2366)
 6 PM FamJam - a character ed. family show - Free Stage
 7 PM Billy Bales Memorial Horse Pull (Patty Bales 765-993-1240)

Monday, June 20
OPENING NIGHT FOR POOR JACK AMUSEMENTS - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!
 8 AM 4-H Poultry Show - Raper Center
 9 AM 4-H Horse & Pony - Dressage & Jumping
 9 AM - 9 PM 4-H Open Class Exhibits - Kuhlman Center
 2 PM 4-H Swine Show
 4 - 6 PM Kicks 96 Live Broadcast Celebrating Poor Jack's 50th Anniversary
 5 - 8 PM Car Show - Cruz in the County Fair - Kuhlman Center Parking Lot (Enter West Gate-Show Cars Only)
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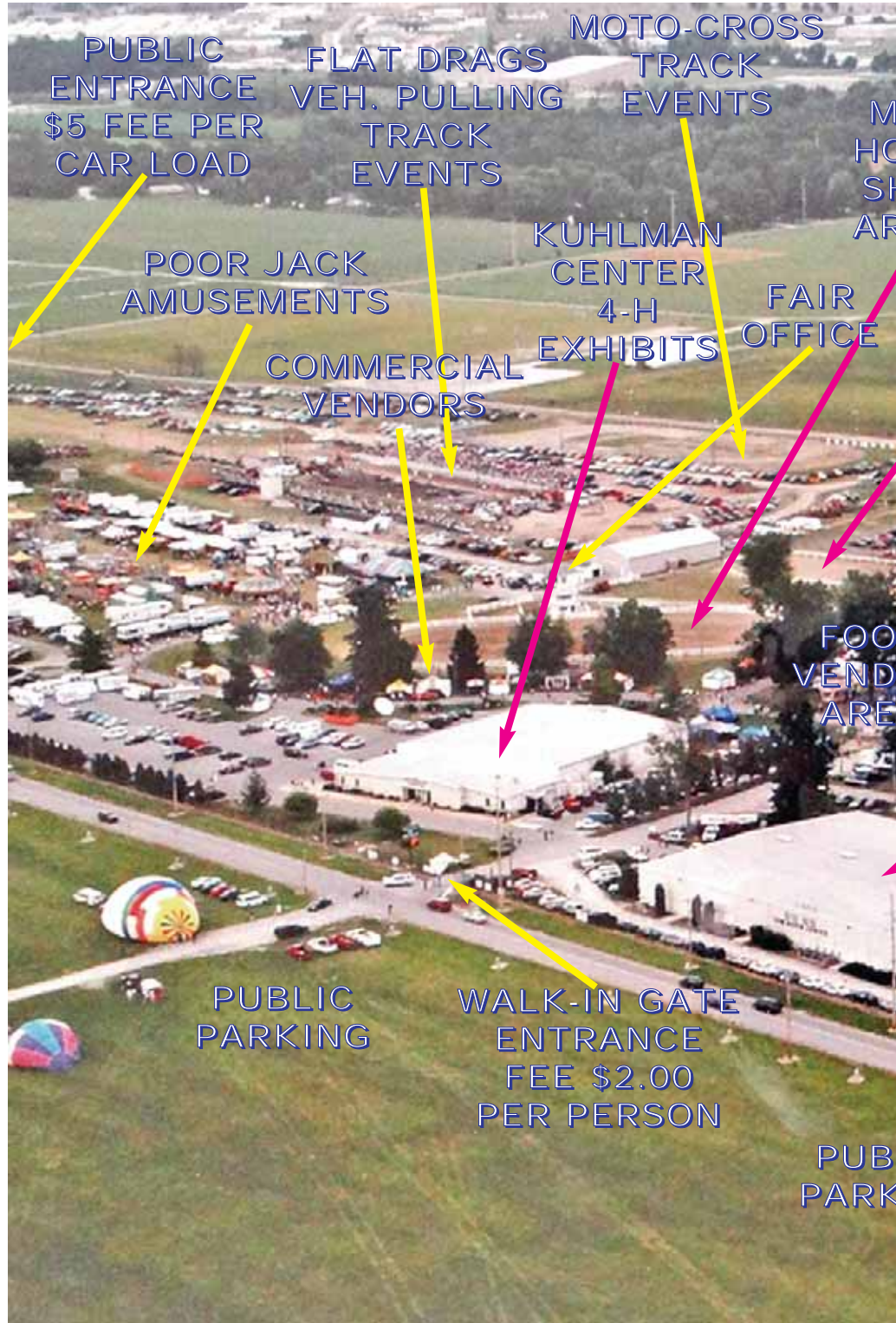


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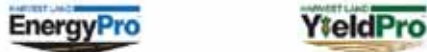
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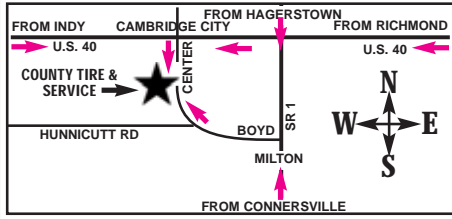
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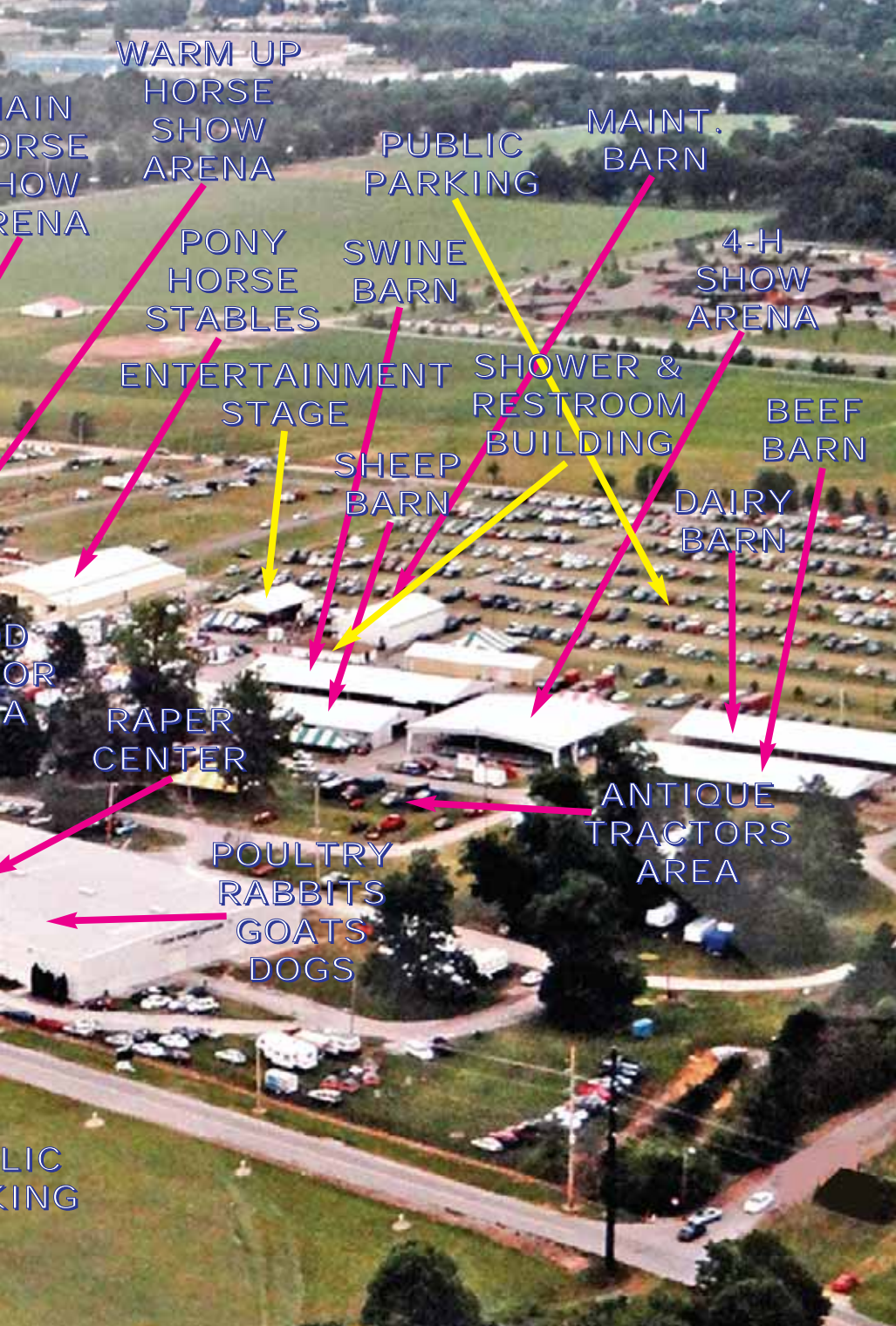
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

- 5 PM till Closing Poor Jack Amusements - Armbands \$17.00
- 5:30 PM Color Guard Grand Entry - 4-H Horse & Pony - Special Skills
- 5 - 8 PM Indiana Bicentennial Event - First Bank Tent
- 6 PM Goat and Poultry Dress up Parade - Raper Center
- 6 PM Corn Hole (Just come and play, no tourney) - FFA Building
- 6 PM Antique Tractor Parade
- 7 PM Mud Race - Track Side - (www.koidragracing.com Lewis 859-576-7380)
- 7:30 PM Entertainment - Free Stage
- Evening Mark Abbati Living Statue - roaming the fairgrounds (www.joyunspeakable.net)

Tuesday, June 21

EMERGENCY PUBLIC SERVICE DAY Free Parking - EMT, Fireman & Law Officials(I.D. REQUIRED)

- 8 AM 4-H Rabbit Show - Raper Center
- 9 AM - 9 PM 4-H Open Class Exhibits - Kuhlman Center
- 1 PM All 4-H Goat Showmanship - Dairy Wether, Jr. & Sr. Dairy Doe, and Jr. & Sr. Pygmy Goat Show
- 3 PM ATV Safety Program Indiana DNR Officer - First Bank Tent
- 4 - 8:30 PM Blood Drive in the Kuhlman Center (Sandy House 765-886-5400) www.indianablood.org
- 4 PM 4 - H Sheep Show
- 5 PM Wayne County Sheriff Dept. & Emergency Vehicles, Police Departments, DNR, Demos by Fire Departments, all on display - Kuhlman Center Parking Lot
- 5 PM till Closing Poor Jack Amusements - Armbands \$17.00
- 5:30 PM Silly Safari (Animal Show) - First Bank Tent
- 5:30 PM 4-H Horse & Pony Show - Contesting
- 6 PM Free Kiddie Tractor Pull - FFA Building
- 6 PM Antique Tractor Parade
- 7 PM Hoosier State Tractor Pull (John Lackey 765-993-5775)
- 7:30 PM Corey Cox - Free Stage - (www.coreycoxmusic.com)
- 7:30 PM Silly Safari (Animal Show) - First Bank Tent
- Evening Mark Abbati Living Statue - roaming the fairgrounds (www.joyunspeakable.net)

Wednesday, June 22

"SR. CITIZEN DAY" Free Parking For Seniors Only (55 & Over)

- 7 AM Jr. Leaders Breakfast - Kuhlman Center Kitchen
- 9 AM 4-H Pet Show - TBA
- 9 AM 4-H Cat Show - TBA
- 9 AM - 9 PM 4-H Open Class Exhibits - Kuhlman Center
- 10 AM 4-H Goat Show - Meat Wether's & Meat Goats - Raper Center
- 12 PM 4-H Beef Show - Grooming, Showmanship, Minis, and Heifers (Show Order)
- 4 - 8 PM Bicentennial Event - First Bank Tent
- 5 PM till Closing Poor Jack Amusements - Armbands \$17.00
- 5:30 PM Color Guard Grand Entry - 4-H Horse & Pony Show - Versatility
- 6 PM FamJam - a character ed. family show - First Bank Tent
- 6 PM Wayne County Idol FINALS - Free Stage - Sponsored by Kicks 96
- 6 PM 4-H Steer Show - Dairy Feeder, Dairy Steer, Dairy Rate of Gain, Beef Rate of Gain, Beef Feeder, Beef Steer (Show Order)
- 6 PM Antique Tractor Parade & Games Following at the Antique Tractor Area
- 7 PM Truck & Tractor Pull (Kyle Schlechty 937-459-0229 Darke Co. Puller Rules or John Lackey 765-993-5775) Hoosier Homestead Families Honored for Bicentennial
- Evening Mark Abbati Living Statue - roaming the fairgrounds (www.joyunspeakable.net)

Thursday, June 23

COLLEGE DAY - FREE PARKING WITH COLLEGE ID

KIDS DAY - ARMBAND SPECIAL STARTS AT 12 NOON! DAILY SPONSOR: IU EAST

- 9 AM 4-H Dairy Show
- 9 AM - 9 PM 4-H Open Class Exhibits - Kuhlman Center
- 12 NOON - 4:30 PM Kids Day - Poor Jack Amusements - Armbands Special \$12.00
- 2 - 4 PM Free Craft (while supplies last!) by Paint the Town - First Bank Tent
- 2 - 5 PM Free Fossil Dig & Nature Fun by Joseph Moore Museum - First Bank Tent
- 3 PM 4-H Horse & Pony - Fun & Games
- 5 PM till Closing Poor Jack Amusements - Armbands \$17.00
- 5:30 PM Silly Safari (Animal Show) - First Bank Tent
- 6 PM Supreme Showman - Horse Arena Opening Ceremony, Then completed in Livestock Show Arena
- 6 PM Antique Tractor Parade & Games Following at the Antique Tractor Area
- 6 PM Free Kiddie Tractor Pull - FFA Fun Barn
- 6 - 7 PM Dixon Dancers - Free Stage
- 7 PM 3 Bar J - Seven Event rodeo - IPRA-Rodeo.com (Mike Johnson 937-459-7352)
- 7 PM Adult Pedal Tractor Pull - In front of antique tractor display
- 7:30 PM Silly Safari (Animal Show) - First Bank Tent
- 7:30 PM Colt Douglas Acoustic Show - Free Stage
- Evening Mark Abbati Living Statue - roaming the fairgrounds (www.joyunspeakable.net) Battle of the Barns Following Supreme Showman in Livestock Show Arena

Friday, June 24

LIVESTOCK SALE DAY - DAILY SPONSOR: FIRST BANK RICHMOND

- 9 AM - 9 PM 4-H Open Class Exhibits - Kuhlman Center
- 11 AM 4-H Livestock Sale of Champions Auction
- 1 PM Mark Abbati living statue - @ Livestock Auction www.joyunspeakable.net
- 5 PM till Closing Poor Jack Amusements - Armbands \$17.00 - 2016 Wayne County 4-H Members With Card \$7.00
- 5 PM Mark Abbati living statue - @ Daily Sponsor Tent www.joyunspeakable.net
- 5 - 8 PM Special Event - First Bank Tent
- 6 PM Antique Tractor Parade
- 7 PM Mud Bog (John Lackey 765-993-5775)
- 7:30 PM Phillip Fox Band - Country Fried Rock n' Roll - Free Stage - www.phillipfoxband.com
- 8 PM Mark Abbati living statue - roaming the fairgrounds www.joyunspeakable.net
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Saturday, June 25

LAST DAY OF FUN!!! FREE HEALTH CHECK!

- 9:30 AM 4-H Tractor Operator's Contest - at north end of fairgrounds
- 9 AM Open Dairy Show (Daune Hill 765-847-2987)
- 12 - 5 PM Lifestyle Expo with FREE Health Screenings. Sponsored by the Richmond Seventh Day Adventist Church Learn your health age and lifestyle changes leading to longer life - Sheep Barn
- 1 PM - Sunday AM Wayne County Amateur Radio display & communicating by Hamm Radio - Public Welcome to come learn and talk with other Hamm Radios around the world!
- 4 PM Bubble Fun Run - Free Stage - Free Entry with non-perishable item
- 5 PM Back Draft Band - Free Stage
- 5 PM till Closing Poor Jack Amusements - Armbands \$17.00
- 7 PM Demolition Derby - Cars, Lawnmowers & Kids Power Wheels (John Lackey 765-993-5775 or Billy Rose 765-730-3676)



4-H horse and pony color guard.



Mini poultry judging of poster.

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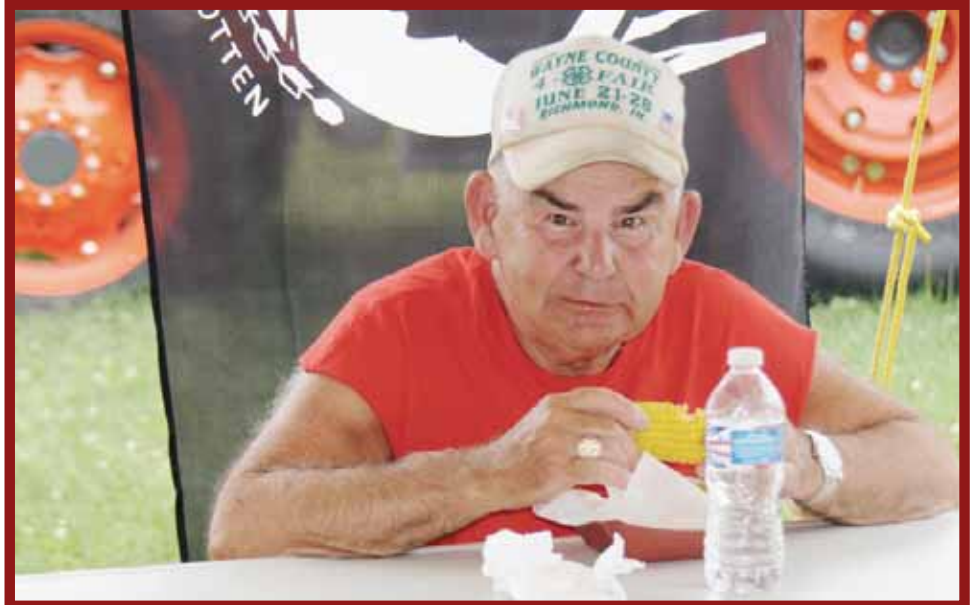
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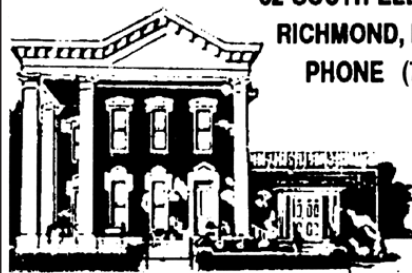
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WATCH FOR SIGN



Left Photo: A great blue heron sitting on the bank watching for lunch. Middle Photo: A bald eagle watched us fish for about 30 minutes. We left, he stayed. Right Photo: A great day for sunning yourself on a log-if you're a turtle. Lower Right Photo: Notice the left side of this tree has been gnawed by a beaver. The back is also chewed. A strong wind would topple this tree. (Author Photos)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Activities at the Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference at Brown County State Park April 22-24, 2016

Part 1 by Rich Creason

April 22-24 were the dates for the 47th Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference. There were three different parts to this conference. It was held at Edinburgh, Brown County State Park, and Lake Monroe. Friday was a fun shoot for the members, Saturday was the main meeting with speakers, business, lunch and the great HOW raffle. Sunday was a fishing outing or a hike in the forest.

Since the HOW conference changes locations every year, we get to see a variety of neat places in Indiana. This year's shooting event was held at the Atterbury Shooting Complex near Edinburgh. The participants bring their favorite gun and the manufacturers supply the proper ammunition free. I never enter this event because I don't want to show my proficiency (or lack thereof) in public.

After the shooting day, members and their spouses were invited back to Brown County State Park for an evening barbecue dinner in one of the shelter houses. This allows the group to get together and meet with some of the other writers who they may only see once a year.

Day two started in the Abe Martin Lodge with registration and a continental breakfast. I, along

with many others, were walking around looking at the many tables full of great outdoor gear to be won at the afternoon raffle. But, more on that later. At nine o'clock, Aubrey Sitzman from the Brown County Convention and Visitors Bureau greeted us and talked about the activities available in the park and surrounding area.

Our next speaker was John Seifert, Director of DNR Forestry talking on Management of Indiana State Forests. After two and a half decades as the Extension Research Forester with Purdue, he joined the IDNR in 2005. His job entails managing State Forests for multiple activities, including recreation, wildlife habitat, timber, and other uses.

DNR naturalist and educator, Jarrett Manck, was listed as our next speaker. Jarrett has been doing Calls of the Wild shows for 20 years. He had a table of widely assorted calls, both commercial and hand made. He demonstrated duck, geese, turkey, squirrel, deer sounds and explained how and when to use them. He had everyone thinking they were out in the nearby woods instead of a crowded room. He also made many animal sounds just with his mouth. Jarrett also brought several different critters with him. He carried salamanders, snakes, and a heavy alligator snapping turtle around the room for pictures and viewing.

After this show, we had the annual HOW business meeting and election of new officers. An outstanding buffet lunch was served and allowed us to leave our chairs for a while.

"Hunting Small Woodlots for Deer" by Scott Parker followed lunch. Scott was raised in the mountains of North Carolina. He came to Indiana as a teenager and began hunting whitetail. About 15 years ago, he started filming all his hunts. This makes hunting even harder because Scott and his photographer both had to get close to the animal. (Scott bowhunts!) This seminar was full of information on scouting, set-up, and hunting tips.

The HOW Awards-in-Craft was next. The writers pick their best offerings in writing, photography, and broadcast from the previous year and submit them for the contest. I received a second place in the Conservation category for my story "Alien Species Invade the Great Lakes", and a first for my article in the Fishing category on "Fishing with Wolf Pack Adventures". Both of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



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Top Left Photo: Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park location of our 47th Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference. Top Right Photo: Sherry Dickerson at the back of the Lodge on a porch overlooking the beautiful hills of Brown County. Bottom Left Photo: Seminar #2 featuring DNR Naturalist Jarrett Manek who demonstrated a variety of wildlife calls, here he is holding a very much alive snapping turtle. Bottom Right Photo: Long time friends, John Davis and his wife Carolyn (at left) invited Sherry (at right) and I to sit with them at the Conference, which was held in Melodeon Hall in the Abe Martin Lodge. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

Just Gadding About



by Ray Dickerson

Activities at the Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference at Brown County State Park April 22-24, 2016

Part 2 by Ray Dickerson

Sherry and I both attended the 47th Annual Hoosier Outdoor Writer Conference. The Hoosier Outdoor Writer Association held their 1st Annual Hoosier Outdoor Writer meeting near Lewis, Indiana in the Fall of 1969 at Dale Griffith's pond.

I hadn't planned on being at the Conference this year, but when I found out that I would have the time and the fact that it fell on my birthday

weekend, was the deciding factor. I talked it over with Sherry telling her it would get us away for 3 days, she accepted the invitation. We hadn't been to Brown County State Park for a long time, our last stay there was many, many years ago. I must say Abe Martin Lodge was completely different, much better than I remembered it.

We arrived in the early afternoon on April 22 (Earth Day) and my birthday, 75 years old (3/4 of a century) boy I felt old. I had reserved a room for us early on, just in time to get the special conference rate. There was lots of parking close to the entrance (it was sprinkling when we arrived). The front desk was swamped with arrivals of guests all wanting to get registered and into their rooms. I thought, uh-oh, this will take a while. I was wrong. The two ladies manning the front desk handled everyone efficiently and expediently showing respect and being very courteous and polite in the process. I was impressed.

Our room was spacious and had all the luxuries of home. The large window looked out over a fountain and a beautiful landscaped grass and flower area.

Sherry and I wandered around visiting the lounge area on our second floor, one at the top of the stairs and another one towards the back of the hall. The exit on that end opened out onto a porch, at ground level. Hmmmm, our room was on the second floor and the back door opened at ground level, exiting without using stairs or the elevator!

Inside again we took photos of the each other with the large stuffed bears and a squirrel. We tried our hand at playing checkers with very large

game pieces and a cloth checker board the size of the round table. It had been many years since we remembered playing checkers and it took a while for me to remember how to play the game. We ended up with a stalemate game. We both moved to the same spots and neither of us had taken any pieces.

Outside guests were preparing for a wedding out on the back porch area.

Next year on July 1, 2017 Sherry and I will hit the big 50th Anniversary. How time flies.

It was time for supper (dinner to some people). We meandered down the hall, the dining area was on the second floor too. They have a buffet, I love buffets, they make it easier to make up your mind on what to eat. The food was too good, as usual I ate too much, but hey, I was on vacation - I will diet tomorrow!

The next day, Saturday, first day of the writers conference. Registration and a continental breakfast at 8-9 a.m and time to meet and talk to old friends, acquaintances and meet new ones. We looked around the room and was deciding on where to sit when John Davis came over to us and asked if we would like to sit at their table. We agreed and joined them. They had a good spot near the speaker's box. (Side note: John will be appearing in The Gad-a-bout occasionally in the future.)

Shortly we were told breakfast was served and we all headed for the feed bag.

After breakfast the meeting was opened by the current president, Alan Garbers followed by 4

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Left Photo: Tom Hankins and I with our winning fish. These fish weighed from left to right 2.02 lbs, 1.58 lbs, 1.74 lbs and 1.78lbs (Author Photo)



Left Photo: Tom and I with our Cabela's First place Pro Division plaques (Author Photo)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

Indiana Crappie Fishing CUSA Mississinewa & Salamonie Reservoirs May 7, 2016

On Saturday May 7th the Crappie USA National trail returned to the lakes of the Wabash. Crappie USA offers a chance for both amateurs and pro's to compete at a national level with the top placing teams from each division qualifying for the opportunity to fish the National Championship. This year the two day classic will be held in Paris TN. on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes October 27th-29th. The Mississinewa-Salamonie tournament had 80 competitors show up to compete for over \$5,500.00 in Cash and Prizes.

My Partner Tom Hankins and I started the weekend off by first pre-fishing Mississinewa, electing to search main lake flats for structure holding big Crappie. Tom made the call to look at the lower end of the lake first if nothing was to be found we would move to the upper end and then to Salamonie. One thing we have learned in the past few years is that both lakes fish the same, typically if you find fish on one lake you can transfer this information to the other lake finding fish in the

same type of areas. We launched at 6:30 am and began scanning a flat looking for structure. We already knew a lot about this flat as we had both fished it in years prior. We did locate a couple ditches created by runoff when the lake is at winter pool and decided to fish some structure between the ditches. Our first fish was a one pound female only minutes after starting, we quickly added a couple more females in the 11" range than a 1 1/2 lb. female came just off the structure. This was the quality of fish we were looking for and told us what stage of the spawn these fish were in. We started trolling out of the area looking for other clues to find the big crappie, within only a few minutes we landed another big female and decided to move towards the upper end to check the size of fish on that end. Finding only small fish on the upper end we quickly made our way back to the ramp and loaded up to head to Salamonie.

We launched at Dora ramp and fished the same type of areas as we had at Mississinewa we found quality fish here as well just not as many or as big as at Mississinewa. We headed to the upper end and made our way to the river just to see what water conditions looked like. The upper end was extremely muddy and after only a few minutes of fishing we made the long slow ride back down to the lake. We never found the quality or numbers of fish at Salamonie as we had at Mississinewa which made the decision easy for us as to where to start on tournament day.

Tournament day saw us back on the main lake flat with lines in the water at 6:30am. We had also discovered the day before that the bite was definitely jigs not live bait. We started with Crazy Angler Baby shad in black and chartreuse and a new bait Crappie Town Dandee Shad. We slow trolled about 4' deep in 9'-11' of water, we pushed our baits about .6 mph and looked for fish relating to structure but not tight to structure, these fish seemed to be on a feeding pattern and engulfed the baits when they found them. Weather conditions at the start were very mild with cloudy skies and low winds.

Our first couple fish were in the one pound class and went in the live-well to be culled later. By 8am we had two-one pound fish as well as a 1.58 lb. and 1.26 lb. fish although we were not catching large numbers of fish we were catching good quality fish. The bite slowed as the winds picked up and we strayed from the area slightly which turned into a good thing as Tom landed a 1.77 lb. female giving us over 8.5lbs by 9am a

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good weight on any Indiana Lake. It took less than an hour and Tom had put another big slab in the boat this time a 2.02 lb. female caught minutes after changing baits to a

Lake Fork Baby Shad in Copper Green giving us close to 10lbs by 10am. Throughout the day the weather changed bringing rain than winds with 25mph gust. These changes seemed to slow our bite and caused us to switch colors numerous times looking for a color that would keep them biting. About 2pm Tom went back to the Copper Green Lake Fork Baby Shad and landed another slab giving us our winning weight of 10.61 lbs. and 2nd in big fish with a 2.02lb crappie.

Congratulations to Eric Millsaps and Rick Hancock on their second place finish in the pro division. Eric and Rick also fished Mississinewa they were spider rigging 10'-14' of water using yellow and green Arkie jigs to catch 8.83 pounds. Third place went to the team of David Bowser and Mike Morrison who fished Salamonie to catch 8.68 pounds.

Winning the amateur division was the Knox Indiana team of Terry Pucel and Gary Singleton they fished Mississinewa Lake vertical jigging 8' of water to catch their first place weight of 8.23 pounds. Trisha and Justin Moore of Kokomo, IN. caught 8.20 pounds from Mississinewa to finish second.

The pro team of Doug Sikora and Mike Bledsoe caught big fish of the tournament a 2.17 pound crappie caught on a Bobby Garland yellow jig tight lining in 7'-11' of water.

For complete weigh in results visit the Crappie USA website.

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ARCHERY KNOW HOW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

state or world record fish there are dozens of "nearly" record sized fish. Lake Michigan gives up a dozen or more thirty-something brown trout each year.

Indiana's state record brown was a Seeforellen strain fish, but weighed a shade over 29 pounds. The potential record sized fish, probably several of them are out there. Will this be the year one of them swims to Indiana's corner of the lake and get's caught?

THE END

Outdoors with Rich Creason

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

these articles appeared in the Gad-A-Bout.

Tony Gregory would be presenting "Defensive Firearms" next. We were looking forward to this talk since Susie just received her very first firearm recently. It is an M&P 9 Shield recommended by her Smith & Wesson instructor. Tony has been a police and civilian firearms instructor for three decades. He passed out a nine page instruction sheet on everything from who is interested in acquiring a firearm and where to find training to which gun to pick and why, how to use it, and legal ramifications of its use. It was a very informative talk and we have gone over the paperwork at home. Tony instructs at Indy Arms Company near 55th and Keystone. Go to www.indyarms.com.

The famous HOW raffle was on now! Tables full of outdoor gear lined the room. Fishing tackle, outdoor books, knives, scopes, ammunition, camping equipment, and more were included in the \$2 ticket drawings. A compound bow, a pistol, shotgun, and rifle were included in the \$10 draw-

ing. As the raffle began, sounds of "here", "me", and "bingo" resounded around the room as the writers (and others) began piling their winnings on their table. I won several books, five caps full of fishing lures, a Camp Chef griddle, a collectible duck call set, a seven piece Dardevle lure set, and more. Late in the raffle, I won gift certificates for Red Wing boots, Frogg Togg rain gear, and Hoosier Trapper Supply. Then, on the \$10 raffle, my number was picked first and I won the compound bow.

After the raffle, the trading begins. I didn't want the bow, but one of the other writers did, so he gave me his Bushnell Digital Camera Spotting Scope and some lures for the bow. I traded some of my lures for a \$40 Peterson's guide to Woodpeckers. I am going to try to exchange my boot certificate for a musky trip one of the other writers had won.

Sunday morning found us at Cutright ramp on Lake Monroe to meet with James Lasswell for a few hours of fishing. James and several other pro crappie fisherman had been at a tournament on Saturday on Patoka Lake and volunteered to take some of us writers out. We were casting several small baits into sunken trees and stumps. Almost every cast produced a fish. We caught bluegill, rock bass, yellow bass, and white and black crappie. Most were small or average size, but the action was continuous.

James told us the woods around the lake were full of deer and turkey, but we didn't hear any gobbling. We fished beneath a bald eagle for about 30 minutes. We moved on, he didn't. Great blue herons sat on the shoreline watching for lunch, and large turtles sunned themselves on exposed logs. We fished around a beaver lodge and noticed the hillside above it was dotted with trees the animals had gnawed on. Bird calls sounded from all around us. It was a great day to be out.

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

Just Gadding About

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Seminars - #1 Management of Indiana State Forests given by John Seifert, Director of the Division of Forestry. Seminar #2 "Calls of the Wild" DNR Naturalist Jarrett Manek showing his skill of making the sounds of a wide variety of wildlife calls and sounds. He also showed us a variety of wild animals. (Two years ago he gave

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Stay put to land fish in a current

About seven or eight years ago I learned a very important lesson for landing fish in rivers and streams. I learned this "secret" from an elder fisherman while plying the waters of southern Michigan's St. Joseph River.

A couple of buddies and I had been spending the day on the river fishing for salmon. We were using light spinning tackle to drift flies through the holes. We had several hook-ups with nice fish, but were having difficulty in landing them with our chosen light tackle. The powerful fish would either break the line or make long runs down stream, with us chasing after them down the river banks. The fish would eventually bury themselves into brush piles, wrapping the light line around snags and causing it to break.

Discouraged, we would try our luck again, only to succumb to the same fate on nearly every hook-up. In the midst of all of this, one of my buddies and I noticed one particular angler, an elderly gentleman, who managed to land several fish while we were all striking out. My buddy and I decided to lay down his rod for a spell and just sit and watch the man. He asked the man how he managed to land the fish. The angler replied "There is no need to chase them, let them swim to you!"

"Fish, especially salmon" the old man explained, "have a natural tendency to swim upriver. The key is

not to pressure or horse them all the time." "It is best to hammer down on them until they make a run, then simply keep the line tight and let them make their run. Eventually, once they feel that there is no pressure on the other end, they will follow their natural instincts and turn upriver. Once the fish swims back upriver (say to a point about even with you), you crank on him again to wear him down some. You do this until he makes another run. This process is repeated until the fish is successfully landed," replied the elder.

The more experienced gentleman must have known what he was talking about because as we soon learned, not only did he land more fish, his feet literally never moved. He stood in the same spot where he hooked the fish. "That sure beats chasing after them," I thought.

After returning home to north-central Indiana, I soon realized that this tactic worked on more than just salmon. While plying the waters of a local creek, I hooked into a dandy smallmouth in swift current. With 4 pound test line and a light action spinning rod, I quickly remembered the lesson from the old man. When the feisty bronzeback made his first run, charging downstream like a runaway freight train, I eased off the pressure, only keeping the line tight. After about a twenty yard run, I noticed my line slowing and eventually turning back towards me. A smile stretched across my face as I cherished this lesson from the old man. The three-pound plus smallmouth swam right back upstream to a point just even with me, and when he did, I once again put some pressure on him until he made another line-burning run downstream. This sequence of events went on for about three cycles before the fish finally was wore down enough for me to bring him and lip him in order to remove the crankbaits treble hooks from his upper lip.

I believe that most fish inhabiting our local rivers and streams, not just salmon and trout, have a natural tendency to swim upstream. By employing this simple technique, you should increase your odds of landing fish in strong currents, and avoid chasing them a half-mile downstream. This trick is especially effective when using light line and light tackle.



Fighting strong fish in moving water, like rivers and streams, presents its own challenges. Strong currents mixed with powerful fish can leave spell break-offs and lost fish. Try giving the fish some lee-way in in swift currents and you will find your landing rates may increase. (Author Photo)

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Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

THINK ABOUT IT!

THE COMMENT PERIOD, FOR THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES' (IDNR) PROPOSED RULES, IS OPEN!!!

The IDNR webpage is available for comment NOW. The link to the GotINput webpage is: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/7373.htm>. I believe that they will take written comments / letters, but the MODERN way to leave your "two cents worth" is to get online via a computer. If you do not have a computer, or know how to find a "link", go to your local Library and have someone help you get online to make your comment. Taking your young children, or grandchildren, guarantees that you will have someone to help you, with the computer, in a timely manner. The Librarians, and other volunteers, will also help you, but you may have to get in line. If you are interested in reading, or printing out, a listing of the items being discussed, go to this website address: https://secure.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fw-Got-INput_2016_issue_background.pdf. It very concisely lists the title of the comment, exactly what the comment / rule change is about, and then gives some background information as to why it is felt that the rule change is necessary. Of special interest for trappers is the rule that establishes a hunting and trapping season, in certain counties, for BOBCATS. There will be a bag limit and a state wide quota just as there is for otters. I do not know what those numbers would be just yet, but if you are in favor of the establishment of a season for Bobcats, let the IDNR know about it. Time is of the essence! The comment period is only open for a short time, so get it done today.

Did you know that your purchase of a hunting license and / or fishing license helps to support the IDNR and its programs in the State? This was mentioned at the last Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee meeting that I attended on behalf of the ISTA. I then had an exchange of emails with Julie Kempf, a conservation partner of the IDNR about how this support is funded. Julie explained to me that the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (sometimes referred to as Pittman - Robertson (PR) Act funds), collects excise taxes on various hunting and fishing equipment. Those funds are distributed from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to each state based on a formula that

includes the state's land / water area and the number of certified hunters and anglers. (Note: this doesn't include trappers. That is a Federal rule.) To be certified as a hunter or an angler (fisher person), you need to purchase that hunting and / or fishing license. IF you purchase both, you count twice. If you do not purchase one, like a landowner hunting deer on their own land, then you do not count at all. The funds that are then apportioned to the states, are then matched 25% by the State through the income from the licenses and / or volunteer's time and money spent helping at various education programs. That is why the volunteers who help out at Trapper Education classes, or Hunter education classes for that matter, fill out volunteer data sheets that collect the information needed to file for the credit for those hours. These forms indicate how much time the volunteer spent preparing for the class, teaching or helping out at the class, and the miles traveled to the class. This funding is why we have an IDNR. Indiana's 2015 apportionment resulted in approximately \$10 for every angler and \$42 for every hunter certified. If the Anti's had their way, all of this would be gone. ALL OF IT! Not just the hunting, fishing and trapping, but without those funds, there would be no recreation areas / state woodlands or lakes because there would be no money to support the IDNR staff to maintain and monitor the areas. THINK ABOUT THAT.

If you want to help the IDNR, and thereby help yourself with improved recreation areas and personnel, be sure that you buy BOTH a fishing and a hunting license, AND their stamps for Upland game, migratory birds, and trout. It doesn't matter if you do not fish, or you do not hunt. Buying those licenses helps to fund Indiana's Department of Natural Resources. What would really be great is that if everyone interested in the outdoors, landowners who hunt their own land included, purchased at least a hunting license. The increased sales of hunting licenses would return that much more PR funds to the state. We are talking millions. As a landowner, you may feel like you are being "taxed" to hunt or fish your own land. But in reality, you are getting a TAX REFUND that is applied to helping the State maintain, improve, and expand the recreation areas and recreational opportunities that exist within Indiana. This benefits not only us, but our children. It draws outsiders in who purchase products and services from the local economy. It is like a win-win-win-win situation. All it requires is that every landowner in Indiana be sure to buy at least one license, two is better of course. THINK ABOUT IT.

Lastly, the ISTA 55th CONVENTION AND RENDEZVOUS will be held **September 16 & 17, 2016**, at Mill Pond Park, 100 Mill Pond Rd., Union Mills, IN. 46382. Set up will begin Thursday, **September 15th**, at noon. On site primitive and electric hookup camping is available as is a small pond for fishing and demo's. There is a nice paved path for tailgaters to set up off of and a nice pond to watch the ducks and demos on. Ron Elliott has once again "volunteered" to be the Booshway of this event. I cannot thank him enough for his help. Just a final FYI: The 2017 ISTA 56th Convention and Rendezvous will be at the Decatur County 4-H Fairgrounds in

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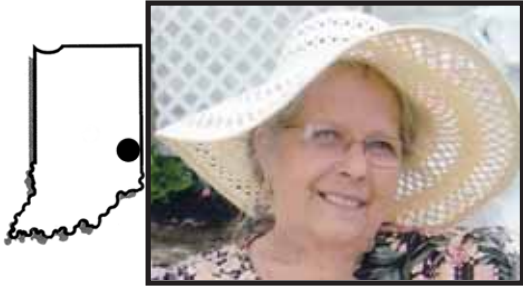


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by Donna Schroeder

President of Fayette County Tourism Bureau

Much To Do To Get Ready

First of all, I'd like to thank those of you who read and enjoy this publication. It's gratifying to know that you find it interesting. I would especially like to thank the lady (Ms. Heuer) who wrote a note telling me that she especially enjoyed the article about Connersville's City Cemetery. An update on that is that the tours we do there have been designated by the state as a Bicentennial Legacy Project - a fancy way of saying that the state recognizes the historical and cultural importance of remembering the pioneers of our community. As the weather improves, we will be doing tours this summer. I will post updates here, and we invite you to attend!

And, as always, thanks to Ray for putting it together. It's a big job.

That said, I suppose I should get busy with the job at hand.

Like a lot of communities, Fayette County is making plans for the torch relay. It will come through Rush, Fayette, and Union Counties on **September 24th**. On that weekend, we will be offering tours of City Cemetery, as well as Canal House, and our historic courthouse.

For some of you who are comfortable with modern technology (I'm not. I still have a flip phone.), there are plans to set up a geocache trail along the path of the old Indian Trail through Connersville. If you aren't familiar with geocaching, it will be a series of coordinates that mark historic places and can be located through a GPS. There's a website that tells where the sites are, and folks locate them and note that they have been there. Each station has a story on the internet site that tells the significance of the spot. At the actual spot, there's a treasure chest or cache that contains souvenirs for the seekers to take along. It's a high tech treasure hunt of sorts, and I've heard that it's a hobby for many people. The trail will remain in place with hopes that it will entice the hobbyists to continue to visit Fayette County. It might convince me that I need a smarter phone so I can try it!

We'll be having a festival, too, and our reinvented Farmers Market will be in full swing. Don't wait until September to visit this event! Our farmers have some of the freshest, most delicious veggies in the state. The market has been expanded to include local crafters, so it should be a great little getaway!

When I began to think about vegetables and 1816, I remembered that I had read somewhere about the summer that never was. 1816 was a real-



We'll be having a festival and our Farmers Market will be in full swing. Don't wait until September to visit this event! Our farmers have some of the freshest, most delicious veggies in the state. (Author Provided Photo)

ly rough year, more for those in the eastern United States, but it impacted Indiana, too. There are stories about snow in June in Indiana and crops that never had enough warmth and light to produce much. There was ice all summer in places like New York and Vermont. The next year, corn prices skyrocketed, partly due to the need for seed. Eighteen hundred people are said to have died from the cold. Wolves, for lack of deer and other wildlife, became extremely bold and attacked farm animals, leading to a high bounty on wolves.

Scientists believe that the reason for the inclement weather was the eruption of volcanoes in other parts of the world and lack of solar activity. Ash from the volcanoes drifted above the earth and hid the sun. Interestingly enough, some people blamed Ben Franklin who had just invented the lightning rod. Their theory was that directing lightning to the rods kept the heat from being released into the atmosphere, causing the air to be much cooler. Oddly enough, thirty two years earlier, Franklin had speculated that ash from volcanoes had the potential to block the sun and cause cooling. Poor Ben! He took the blame for something beyond his control that he had predicted might happen.

Being a pioneer in this neck of the woods had proven to be anything but pleasant, even before the cold spell. Earthquakes had wracked the area during 1810 and 1811. The Whitewater River splashed out of its banks, and the path of the river changed. One legend says that the Little Cedar Baptist Church south of Brookville was built because the members thought they could make something of a deal with the Lord. That is, build a church, and God would make the quakes stop. That legend probably isn't true, but it makes a good story.

So, be happy that it probably won't snow in June this year and hope that the New Madrid Fault doesn't decide to act up.

And, while you're out and about, make plans to enjoy that lovely June weather in Fayette County. We have many enjoyable activities coming your way.

The Whitewater Valley Railroad will be active each week, but June will be their exciting visit from **Thomas the Tank Engine**. A **Day Out With Thomas** is great fun for the kids! It happens on two weekends, but **June 17 - 19** is the week to be here for a variety of activities. You can learn more at www.whitewatervalleyrr.org

The Lions Club Downhill Derby happens that

weekend. Homemade cars will race down the hill on Ziegler Road. There's no admission charge. Food and drink will be available. Youngsters from 8 to 18 will compete. There's also an event for adults! **June 17 -19**. For more information visit www.connersvillecommunity.com/Community/Lions_Downhill_Derby.

If you're looking for bargains and treasures, these are also the dates for the Community Wide Yard and Garage Sale. This is the second year

for this event, and it's gaining momentum! You can visit them on their Facebook page, connersville community garage yard sale. There will be sales throughout the city and county.

Come early on Saturday and visit the Fayette County Farmers Market, 8 til 11 a.m. in downtown Connersville. The market begins on **May 21st** and continues **every Saturday thru October** on the parking lot at the Courthouse, but this particular Saturday they will probably be in the parking lot at Canal House at 4th and Central due to the Thomas activities. Area growers will be offering farm fresh produce, and crafters will bring their handmade wares. There will be a kids' area with games, crafts, and educational activities, all meant to encourage kids to learn about growing food and leading a healthy lifestyle. Admission is free. They, too, have a Facebook page, [fayette county farmers market](http://fayettecountymarket.com).

The Fayette County Historical Museum is open Thursdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. til 4 p.m. There's a great selection of Connersville built horse drawn and motor vehicles on display, as well as many other items. Visit the Facebook page [Historic Connersville](http://HistoricConnersville.com) or call **825-0946**. Tours at other times can be scheduled with advance notice. No admission charge, but donations are gratefully accepted.

As always, you can visit the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, Manlove Park, and Shrader-Weaver Nature Preserve, too! The Aquatic Center at Roberts Park will be open. While at the park, visit the Longwood Covered Bridge and take a look at all the stonework done by the WPA in years past.

I hope I've given you enough suggestions on things to see and do in Fabulous Fayette County. There's always something happening around here, and we would love to have you come and be part of it!

For more information, visit www.tourconnersville.com or call (765) 825-1523. www.connersvillecommunity.com is another site that offers information about happenings. ■

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Fayette County Welcomes YOU!

June is a great time to Visit Fabulous Fayette County Activities at the WRRR including Day Out With Thomas Farmers Market, Lions Club Downhill Derby and Fayette County Historical Museum. See Page 26

YARD SALE

For information on more to see and do, visit:
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Fayette County Tourism Bureau

Just Gadding About

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

us all a close up and personal look at venomous and non-venomous snakes - very entertaining). Seminar #3 Hunting Small Woodlots for Deer by Hunting Pro Staffer Scott Parker. Seminar #4 Defensive Firearms by Police and civilian firearms instructor Tony Gregory from south-suburban Indianapolis talked about instructing people on defensive firearms.

At around 1 p.m. the HOW Awards-In-Craft presentations for Writing, Photography and Broadcast was awarded to the winners.

At 3 p.m. it was time for the HOW Outdoor Writer's Raffle.

Sherry and I not being a raffle fan said our goodbyes and went into Nashville, which we visit at least one time every year. We visited our regular shops, bought some hot cashews and a small bit of fudge at the Nut Shop. Stopped and said hello to the Lawrence Glass Blower shop owners then returned to the Abe Martin Lodge and supper.

For supper, you guessed it we dined on another buffet. An added attraction for Saturday night, Dave Miller sang and played his guitar while we ate. Talk about a talented performer, he sang songs from our era, a lot of John Denver and melodious singers of that time period. I don't have room here for the interview I did with him, but will next month. He said he was booked up until the end of the year, but if you want a talented and great voice to sing at a gathering or an occasion call 812-988-2502 (Home) or 812-603-5998 (Cell) or E-mail KDDJMI@att.net. Tell Dave you found out about him from The Gad-a-bout.

After supper we went back to the room to relax. I decided to meander a bit more, so I grabbed the camera and tape recorder, out of habit, and walked around the lodge again. On the way back to the room I was passing the lounge area at the top of the second floor landing when I saw the same two guys sitting and talking I had seen earlier. I stopped and asked them if they were members of HOW. They said they were so I joined in on there conversation. As the conversation went from one subject to another I sat down and we carried on our talk for several hours. At about midnight (can't remember the time exactly) Sherry appeared. She was wondering what happened to me, then turned and went back to our room.

Yep, I should have called her telling her where I was, but my conversation with the two writers was so entertaining, educational and down to earth, I totally forgot the time. A short time later I told them I had better head to the room. I thanked them for the conversation and headed for my room.

The next morning we got up early enough to go

down for breakfast. Guess what, they had a buffet breakfast too. And as an added attraction Dave Miller sang more of our favorite songs while we ate breakfast.

We packed up and checked out of the Abe Martin Lodge. Thanking the ladies at the front desk for a most pleasant 3-day stay there.

On the way home Sherry asked if we could stop at the Outlet Shops located on U.S. 31 in Taylorsville, just south of Edinburgh. We stopped, got some needed walking exercise, then drove home.

It had been a great weekend. ■

Indiana State Trappers Association

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Greensburg, IN.

Summer is almost upon us. Everything out-of-doors is beginning to awaken and get busy. Trappers are no different, just often a little busier than most. See you out there.

Watch your top knot. Keep your eyes along the skyline.

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM
Pres. ISTA ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

that it was a slug gun! Joe Martino's story is paranoid. In a paper fueled by shooters/gun shops, you need to print pro-rifle side also. I'd be glad to write it! Also, laws can't fix stupid (too bad)."

I sent a reply to Joe McDill:

"Joe:

Please send me your views supporting the new gun law. Send no later than Monday, May 9th to appear in my June Gad-a-bout. I'm looking forward to hearing them and I know the readers will too. So far I've only gotten one opposed to House Bill 1231.

Ray
P.S.

I don't tell my writers what to write about, on page 3 I have the following Disclaimer: The ideas and opinions expressed by the writers appearing in The Gad-a-bout are not necessarily the same as the publishers."

On April 28, 2016 I got the following response from Joe McDill, it is quite lengthy.

Joe McDill

To: Ray Dickerson

First some backtracks. I have hunted deer on family land in Washington Co. In. about 30 years. I got into handgun hunting when it became legal and bagged some two dozen deer with iron sight revolvers, .357 and .44 mags. and 45 colt. Never with slug shotguns I didn't want to lose a tooth filling from recoil and at close range the six guns never

failed. I only remember two that got away, one left no hide nor hair I'm sure I got big buck fever, jerked the trigger and missed clean. One got away wounded. I tracked it but the brush hillside had so much deer sign I couldn't tell one track from another. The point being I have proven to myself that I can wait on a sure shot and place it. Age forced me to go to pistol caliber carbines with scopes. They work fine too.

I have never sprayed lead carelessly at long range hoping to score, and I never will.

I welcome House Bill 1231 that allows Hoosiers more options in rifles to hunt Indiana deer. I think the average Hoosier can be trusted with a true "high power" rifle. There are safety considerations built in the law. Shooters must elevate 10 feet which means they shoot downward. It must be private property so the numbers and spacing of shooters can be limited. Many, myself included, already shoot all kinds of rifles at target, varmints, etc. accidents have happened I suppose but it is probably more dangerous driving highways to hunt than actually being afield. That's with the "average" hunter. I admit there are others, some below average ...

Years ago I was enjoying a hunt on the back of my farm. The sunrise felt good after the morning cold. The frost gleamed on the trees. Four or five does stopped below my tree stand, looking over their shoulder. I watched them hoping Grand Dad Buck was after them.

Shot after shot boomed out of nowhere. I saw the slugs, 12 ga. It turned out, ripping through brush and fallen leaves, some fool was shooting at ME! One doe was knocked down but limped away after her kin. Directly our trespasser showed up looking for blood. Instead he got a colorful, animated, lesson on property rights and hunting safety from me. He would not surrender his pump 12 ga. I intended to beat it against a tree and destroy it. This was before cell phones or I would have pressed charges. Both of us armed, I let him go, bad as I hated to. Moral: in the hands of a idiot, a shotgun is not any safer than a 30-06. Any law can't prevent carelessness, or cause it.

I know others are not in favor of the "rifle law". I hope we can agree to disagree and stand united against those who would take our rights away. Remember them when you vote! God bless our state and protect all our hunters.

Ray thanks again for printing my opinion. I know this got long winded and I respect your paper and know as editor you may have to cut some due to space, I understand. Respectfully, Joe McDill.

Thank you Joe for sending me your opinion, yes we can agree to disagree.

On May 12, 2016 I got another comment about H.B. 1231 from Ron Stegman.

To: raythegadabout@gmail.com

Read your article by Joe Martino. I did not know that this Bill 1231 allowing high-powered rifles for deer hunting had been passed. I am outraged how this Bill was passed and signed by the governor. We

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

were ignored and blind sighted.

Last year many of us said no to the dangerous use of high-powered rifles and a few managed to quietly pass this foolish Bill. I will not walk near my woods and will most likely hear of damage from this situation.

Thanks for writing about this terrible bill.

Ron Stegman

Before sending this issue to the printer I followed up on a suggestion given to me about checking to see if anything had changed with H.B. 1231. I checked and there have been no changes to H.B. 1231, at least up to printing this issue of The Gad-a-bout.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR FIELD TRIPS TO STATE PARKS, LAKES

Educators interested in taking students, grades K-12, on field trips to an Indiana state park or state-managed lake in the 2016-2017 school year can receive financial help through the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (INRF).

The Discovering the Outdoors Field Trip Grant Program is for public, private, parochial or home-school educators, according to INRF director Jody Kress.

“Part of our mission at the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation is to encourage educational programs of DNR,” Kress said. “The field trip grant program helps future generations understand the importance of preserving and protecting our natural heritage and resources.”

Since the grant program’s inception in 2013, 67 grants have been awarded, providing the opportunity for more than 4,500 students to visit state parks at less cost to the schools and students.

Indiana has 24 state parks and eight state-managed lakes eligible for field trip funding that will engage students in learning about Indiana’s fish, forest, wildlife, natural habitats and conservation.

“These trips help children understand how previous generations viewed the significance of Indiana’s natural and cultural resources, and at the same time let them make great memories that they will carry into adulthood,” said Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship for DNR State Parks.

The maximum grant award is \$250 per application.

Applications are accepted from May 1-June 30 prior to the school year for which the grant is requested. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 30.

Applicants will be notified by Aug. 1 regarding potential grant awards.

The grant application is at IN.gov/inrf/educate.html.

The INRF is accepting donations to the fund from individuals, businesses or anyone who supports the idea of getting kids outdoors.

The fund was established in memory of Tom Huck, a longtime DNR employee who was an ardent supporter of outdoor experiences for children.

For further information, including how to donate, email DiscoverOutdoorsGrants@dnr.IN.gov.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

2015 DEER HARVEST UP 3 PERCENT FROM PRIOR YEAR

Indiana hunters harvested 123,664 deer during the 2015 season, according to data released today by the Department of Natural Resources.

This is a 3 percent increase from the 120,073 deer taken during the 2014 season.

The antlered deer harvest was 10 percent higher than the 2014 harvest, while the antlerless harvest was 1 percent lower than in 2014.

The overall 2015 deer harvest ranks as the 10th highest in Indiana history. The 2015 antlerless deer harvest ranks 11th highest.

To view the full report, go to wildlife.IN.gov and locate “2015 Deer Report” in the “Hunting and Trapping” panel.

The 2015 season was composed of four statewide segments: youth (Sept. 26 -27); archery (Oct. 1 to Jan. 3); firearms (Nov. 14-29); and muzzleloader (Dec. 5-20).

A late antlerless season was available from Dec. 26 to Jan. 3 in 60 counties, with additional date restrictions for counties with “A” designated quotas. Also, hunters could harvest additional deer beyond the statewide bag limits in designated deer reduction zones during the deer reduction zone season which opened Sept. 15 and continued through Jan. 31.

Firearms season was the most productive, accounting for 72,555 deer, or 59 percent of the total harvest.

Archery season accounted for 32,753 deer, or 26 percent, followed by the muzzleloader season with 10,784 (9 percent), special antlerless firearms season with 5,105 (4 percent) and youth season with 2,467 (2 percent).

The total number of deer taken with a firearm during the deer reduction zone season was incorporated with the firearms season total, while the total taken with archery equipment was included in the archery season total.

Harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 58 counties, 2,000 in 17 counties and 3,000 in one county.

Harrison County was the top producer for the third season, with 3,227 deer taken. Benton County had the fewest deer taken (90), followed by Tipton County (114).

The nine counties after Harrison with the greatest harvest in descending order were: Washington (2,891), Franklin (2,890), Switzerland (2,653), Noble (2,624), Dearborn (2,559), Steuben (2,523), Lawrence (2,502), Parke (2,390) and Crawford (2,370).

Three counties set unofficial record harvests in 2015. They were Dubois (2,040), Henry (601) and Lawrence (2,502).

For the first time, all harvested deer were checked in electronically.

Hunters have harvested approximately 3.5 million deer during 64 hunting seasons in Indiana.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

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Send Photos to: The Gad-a-bout, 105 E. South St., Centerville, IN 47330 or E-mail .jpg photos to: raythegadabout@gmail.com Questions Call Cell Phone: 765-960-5767



This is Dalton Hoch showing his turkey after completing his first successful turkey hunt. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



Kiara Bishop from Cedar Grove, IN holding a Tilapia she caught in the Caloosahatchee River behind her grand parents house while on vacation in Fort Meyers, FL. (Submitted by Kimberly Lewis)



Steve Goodson, of Rush co. Harvested A.K.A. "POOL BOY" on May 2nd 2016. 20 lbs., 9 in. Beard, 1 in. Spurs.



Troy Clem caught this nice 12.5," 1.23 lb. crappie while fishing off the bank in the Salamonie Reservoir. This was just one of many fish they caught on April 23rd. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



Richard Eckman took a 20 lb turkey and Tracy Morrisett took a 22.5 lb turkey on 4-27-16. It was Tracy's first turkey. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)

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2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES
\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI
\$614.25	\$312.00	\$208.00	\$156.00	\$78.00	\$58.50	\$52.00	\$39.00
12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES
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Allen Towell took his first turkey in Jay County on 05/14/2016. It weighed 22 pounds. (Submitted by Allen Towell)



My grandson Kadon Schlechty, harvested his first turkey, a jake, on 4-23-16, in Jay Co. on private property during the youth season with help from our close friend Tim Reff. It had a 4 inch beard. (Submitted by Allen Towell)



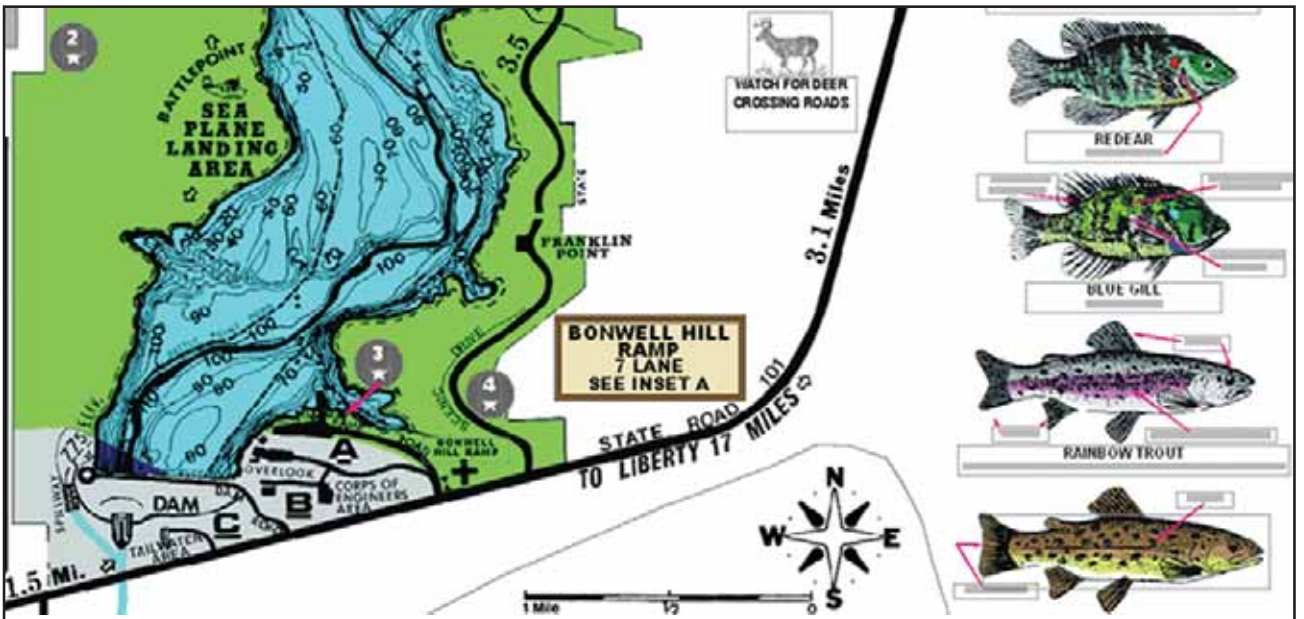
My grandson Kolton Guntle harvested his first turkey, a tom with a 10 3/4 inch beard & 3/4 inch spurs. It was harvested on 4/24/2016 on a state wildlife area in Randolph Co. again with help from our close friend Tim Reff, this is only our 3rd year at turkey hunting, and these are the first turkeys that we have taken. (Submitted by Allen Towell)



Hunter Sturgeon and his grandpa Richard Sturgeon. Hunter landed a nice 6 lbs. 4 oz. largemouth bass and his grandpa's weighed 5 lbs. They caught them on 4-23-16. (Photo submitted by High Roller)



Chase Enyeart and Trevor Rebholtz showing off their first time turkey's they shot within seconds of each other. Chase's turkey weighed 25 lbs with an 11 inch beard and Trevor's weighed 21.5 lbs and had an 11.25 inch beard. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



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Barry Hattabaugh took this 195 pound, 15 point buck on 11-15-2015. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)

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