

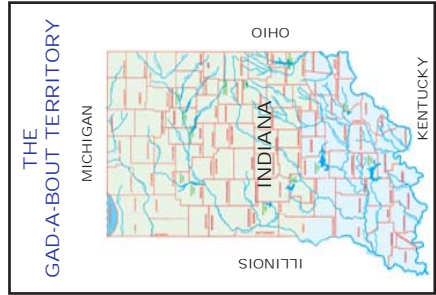
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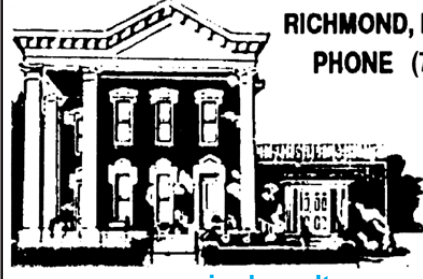


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### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

**Top Left:** The Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival By The Lake will be held on May 5,6,7, 2017. The barbecue contests are open to all who want to participate. Everything you need to know about participating can be found on the Liberty Lions Club website, whether you want to enter barbecue contests, set up a vendor booth, volunteer to help during the festival or just attend as a spectator. Parking is free and there is no admission to attend the event. There is handicapped parking near the front gate. The website is [www.libertyindianalions.com](http://www.libertyindianalions.com). See Pages 13-16 (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

**Top Right:** Farmers & Hunters Feeding The Hungry booth at Renfro's 20th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey &

Waterfowl Expo Feb 23-26, 2017. Stop by their booth to see how you can help. See Page 24 (Photo by Ray Dickerson) (You can pick up a Free Gad-a-bout at the FHFH and ISTA booths in the Exposition Hall)

**Bottom Left:** There are more than five billion video views on YouTube each day, watched by well over a billion people. With luck and skill, you could go viral! See page 7 (Photo by Capt. Mike Schoonveld)

**Bottom Right:** Start now to have a chance at Western and some Midwestern hunts for next fall especially if you plan on applying for an out of state or draw tag. Many deadlines are fast approaching. See page 8 & 9 for details. (Photo Courtesy of Rick Thomas)

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# Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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**JIM RAYMER, PRESIDENT AND  
FOUNDER OF THE INDIANA SLAB  
MASTERS BEGINS NEW COLUMN  
IN THE MARCH GAD-A-BOUT**

Jim Raymer is a happily married man with 8 children and 7 grand children. Jim has over 20 years of fishing competitively for crappie and has been crappie fishing for most of his life. He is the president of the Indiana Slab Masters and was also the founder of the club in 2010. Jim



JIM RAYMER

has been the president of the club since it was founded. He is passionate about teaching others the sport of crappie fishing and looks for ways to help improve the awareness of select harvesting of crappie. Jim works as an Account Manager for a mechanical contractor in central Indiana. Jig tying and other fishing crafts are a major past time and hobby. Jim is passionate about his family.

Jim's first regular column is on Page 10 in this issue. He is announcing this is the Slab Masters 7th Tournament Season beginning with the kick off tournament at Patoka Lake, April 1, 2017.

Ron Bilbrey wrote the previous Indiana Slab Master column, initiating it several years ago. Ron and his fishing partner Tom Hankins are now fishing the U.S.A. Crappie Circuit and doing quite well at it. I wish them good luck and want to thank Ron here for his dedication and making his column one of my most read fishing columns in The Gad-a-bout. Side note: Ron may appear occasionally writing a Crappie U.S.A. article now and then. Many of you readers may remember when Larry Crecelius kept me up to date on U.S.A. Crappie events. Larry is a Media Specialist for U.S.A. Crappie. Larry lives in Salem, IN.



Dennis Dabney caught this nice size bass in January using a blade lure Tag Nobbe showed him how to use at Brookville Lake a few years ago.

**MY GOOD FRIEND, VETERAN, NOW  
CIVILIAN DENNIS DABNEY SENT ME  
THE ABOVE PHOTO OF A BASS HE  
CAUGHT IN VIRGINIA**

Many of you readers may recall my writing about the then, Colonel Dennis Dabney, stationed at Wright Patterson AFB. He and his son, Derrick, appeared on the cover of my January 2012 Gad-a-bout. Dennis was holding a 4 pound Smallmouth Bass he caught in Brookville Lake November of 2011 fishing with Tag Nobbe. Dennis also caught a 10 pound Striped Bass that day.

The above photo of the bass caught in Virginia, Dennis said in his e-mail, he gave credit to Tag Nobbe for showing him how to use a blade lure at Brookville Lake back in 2011-2012.

Dennis retired from the U.S. Air Force September of last year, his last assignment was at the Pentagon. He and his family now live in Virginia. He also told



Tag returning to Garr Hill ramp on 06-02-2012 with Dennis, Derrick and their Uncle after a successful day of fishing on Brookville Lake. I met them there to take some photos.

me his kids bought him a fish finder so now he can at least see the fish, he isn't catching!

I have kept in touch with Dennis via the internet since they left this area. He invited us to attend his retirement celebration in Arlington, VA last September, but we couldn't get away due to my working on The Gad-a-bout at that time.

I send Dennis The Gad-a-bout, I think he will enjoy seeing the photo I took of them with Tag

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



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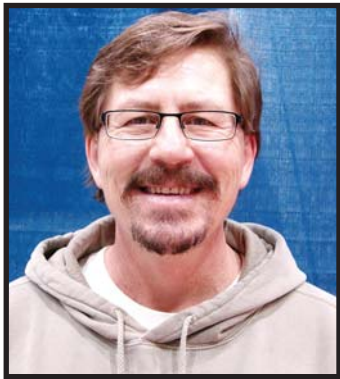
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Left Photo: The Brookville Lake stilling basin or Tailwater area. Right Photo: The East Fork of the Whitewater River looking north from the SR 44 Bridge north . (Author Photos)

## So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**

Professional Fishing Guide

### Fishing Brookville Lake and River above the lake in March

One of the first places to fish at Brookville lake is not the lake at all, but the tail water. Also called the stilling basin. This is where walleye will congregate in the spring due to their spawning cycle.

Prior to walleye spawning they have an urge to swim up stream or into the current. The reason for this is the female walleye will immediately leave her eggs after they are expelled. If she doesn't do this in current her eggs will die. In the natural world the male and female walleye will swim up stream and get spread out all over the entire river system. This is interrupted by the Brookville Lake dam. It appears that when they enter the stilling basin they are confused on what to do, so they just meander around. As you can see after a couple of weeks of this they will get pretty concentrated in just this one area. This is where you come into play. This is a timing thing though. If you time it right your eating walleye. If you time it wrong your eating what ever you can find in the bottom of the refrigerator. This good bite will last about 2 weeks, but its not an exact science. So you need to plan on fishing a couple times a week at least, tell your wife I said it was okay.

If you miss this bite don't fret, there is a good bite in the river that feeds the lake. The best way to get there from Brookville is to drive straight up state road 101 to liberty Indiana hang a left at the second

stop light. That will put you on state road 44 go out that road about 3 or 4 miles to treaty line boat ramp. There is a huge state owned parking lot there, park anywhere you like. This whole stretch of river has the potential to be good, so don't get stuck in one spot. Remember during the spawning cycle spawning fish will want to be in this river because of the current. Not only walleye, but white bass will be packed in here as well going through their spawning cycle. A simple cast and retrieve is all that is needed. Your fishing pole should be a 6 foot medium light spinning pole with 6 lb. test line. Your tackle should be a hand full of jigs, some 3 inch curly tails in various colors, and some inline spinners 1/16 to 1/8 ounce. When fishing for walleye think slow and close to the bottom. When fishing for white bass think fast and close to the surface.

If you have a boat, March is big walleye time on the lake. What your trying to do here is look for the warmest water on the lake. This is where you need a depth finder with a temperature gauge. As you move around the lake you will notice that the surface temperature will vary depending on what part of the lake you are on. Try to fish the banks where the warmer water is. The warmer water will come from the sun hitting a shore line all day, or running water coming into the lake from a creek. Points are also a good bet. I have found over the years this is not a numbers game at this time of year though, it's 1 big fish. Your fishing pole should be a 6 ft 6in. trigger stick, a good quality bait caster spooled with 15 lb test line. Your tackle should be something that resembles a bait fish that you can fish slow and suspends. When these big female walleye come out of the deep water of winter they are over weight with eggs and extremely sluggish. They can be caught, but the window of opportunity is pretty small.

Normally you time it by as soon as the ice melts off the lake, but this year there was no ice. As a matter of fact the water temperature never really got below 40 degrees on the surface all winter. You probably need to fish a couple times a week, so tell your wife I said its a must.

Before for you head this way check the air in your boat trailer tires, charge your trolling battery, charge your cranking battery, put the plug in the boat, and stop at 52 Pik-up to put some gas in the thing, and get your lake use permit.

Good luck, send me the pictures.  
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# News from the Indiana State Police



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

## ISP Website-Full of Helpful Information and Links

The Indiana State Police web site found at <http://www.in.gov/isp/> is a wealth of information, and can answer most of the questions that you might have about a variety of topics. Most people have no idea our web site is so extensive, as I get emails and calls every day at the post from folks with questions that would have been answered had they gone to our web site.

You can apply for a job, civilian or sworn, or even an internship, with the Indiana State Police or Capitol Police, by clicking on job opportunities and picking the agency that you want to apply for. By visiting our "News Room" link, you can get copies of recent news releases, as well as see ISP Twitter accounts and photo galleries.

Under the heading "Resources" there are links to information on and scheduling of Active Shooter Presentations and School Safety, as well as a link to Amber and Silver Alerts. Under the Crime Reporting link you can find information on crime statistics, and a link for reporting an internet crime, as well as a link for a cold case investigations list for each district around the state.

Folks come into the post regularly, thinking we can run a criminal history for them here for employment-we cannot. But you can go to the Criminal History link at <http://www.in.gov/isp/2726.htm> to get a criminal history report done and sent to you electronically, for employment.

We get a lot of questions locally about handgun permits. Go to our web site and click on the link for Firearms Licensing if you want to apply for a permit, renew a license or get a duplicate permit, change your address or check on the status of your current permit application. In addition dealers can apply for a dealer handgun license, and you can

also find handgun licensing statistics.

I get a lot of calls at the post from folks wanting copies of crash reports, which we no longer keep at each post; crash reports are kept at a central repository. For a crash report, or information about crash reports, under the heading "Resources" visit our crash report link at <http://www.in.gov/isp/3147.htm> or you can go to <http://www.buycrash.com/>

Under our link for driving safety, you can find a "Daily Crash Prediction Map," as well as links to Road and Weather Conditions from INDOT. You can find links to all kinds of driving safety tips, ranging from crash statistics to motorcycle safety and work zone safety.

Our Commercial Vehicle link <https://www.in.gov/isp/3183.htm> can take you to compliance resources for all kinds of links regarding federal and state commercial vehicle regulations. In addition they have links to inspection programs, including state-wide school bus inspections, as well as information for obtaining super load escorts and permits.

For over forty years the Indiana State Police has offered young people an exciting, up-close look at law enforcement and the criminal justice system through its youth camps. For information on the "when and where" of our summer time youth camps, or to fill out an application for your child to attend, go to <https://www.in.gov/isp/2329.htm>

Every summer I write an article about our ISP museum located at 8660 E. 21st in Indianapolis. As our web site says, "The Indiana State Police Museum's collection tells the story of the Indiana State Police from its inception in 1933 to present day." According to the web site "The museum's collection holds such things as the death mask of the infamous John Dillinger, a 1938 Chevrolet

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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# Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

## Keying on Fishing Videos

YouTube is the largest purveyor of "home movies" ever made. There are more than five billion video views on YouTube each day, watched by well over a billion people. More than a few YouTube videos have been watched over a billion times. Millions of posted videos have been watched a million times. Hundreds of millions of YouTube videos have been watched less than 50



With luck and skill, you could go viral! (Author Photo)

camera on as much as possible. Three hours of videoing for a five hour trip wouldn't be too much. Then use editing software to reduce the video to three minutes or so, give or take a minute - five minutes is tops. Even five minutes is approaching "epic saga" length on YouTube.

**Key #2:** Avoid "dead air." The days of silent movies ended in the 1920s and even then movie houses employed piano players to provide sound to accompany the on screen action. Either make sure someone is talking constantly for the entire three hours

times.

There were two points I hoped to make in the above paragraph. One, YouTube is huge and a good video can and will be viewed an unimaginable number of times. Two, most YouTube videos are like home movies. Few people besides the person making it will watch it and most of those that do won't much like it.

The problem is production - which includes gear, direction and editing. The better the gear, the better the product will be. A digital camera with video capability will be better than a cell phone. A digital video camera will be better than a camera designed primarily to take digital still photos. Having two cameras will be better than one. Having a remote microphone will produce better sound quality than relying on the in-camera mike.

Ever wonder why a Hollywood movie can cost 100s of millions of dollars? A lot of the money is for top quality gear, lots of it, plus paying people who know how to use it. Few people are going to spend millions or even thousands so they can make a video of their next fishing trip.

Few people spend that much on gear to make a YouTube video, either - even the ones that elicit 100s of thousands of views. A few of these high viewer count videos are the result of just plain luck. The videographer who happened to have a camera in hand when a meteor fell from the sky had far more luck than skill.

Many well-viewed videos are made by a videographer who is long on skills and short on expensive equipment. Both shooting the video and editing what's been shot is key.

Actually, a good video is a set of keys. Key number one I call the "long and short of it."

**Key #1:** The videographer should keep the

the camera is running, or do some "voice overs." A mix of both is ideal. Have the angler catching the big fish "ham" it up, describing how it feels, what kind of fish he suspects is on the line, anything is better than just a shot of a determined person cranking a reel.

Use video editing software that allows dubbing in sound. Use it to fill in gaps where there is great action on the screen, but no or sub-par audio. If nothing else, add some still-movie type piano music.

**Key #3:** Tell a story. Better, break the fishing trip into several stories. Since a fishing trip is unscripted, you'll have to spot the story as it occurs. It could be, "catching the biggest fish." It could be, a specific person catching a fish. It could be here's how you were fishing. Remember, stories have a beginning, middle and end. The ability to spot story lines are important.

The camera is rolling, a big fish is hooked, the angler reels it in and soon it's in the boat. There's the middle of the story. Now you need a beginning. Have the fisherman (or some other actor) tell the camera, "There are some big fish in this area. With a little luck, I'll catch a 20 pounder. Time will tell." Using editing software, tag this segment just ahead of when the big fish is hooked. Now shoot an ending, perhaps with the fish hanging on a scale or the fisherman holding the fish and saying, "Wow, this beauty is at least 20 pounds." Fade to black - the end.

Most video software will allow "fade to black" or other fancy features. Those are nice, but the basic three keys will make your videos something you, your friends and perhaps a million others will love to watch.

THE END

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# Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

## Start now to have a chance at Western (and some Midwestern) hunts

Man, the fall hunting seasons have just ended, and believe it or not, it's already time to start thinking about next fall's hunts, especially if you plan on applying for an out of state or draw tag. Many of the deadlines are fast-approaching, so forget spooling your ice fishing rods or practicing your turkey calls until you get your application(s) sent in.

For many western big game hunts are the stuff of dreams and are on most hunters' bucket lists, but besides the work that must be done before and during the hunt to make sure you are prepared physically, there are also things to get done prior to going to ensure that you even have the opportunity in the first place.

### Wyoming

Application Deadline	Draw Results
Species Elk January 31st	February 28th
Species Moose/Sheep/Goat February 28th	May 10th
Species Deer/Antelope May 31st	June 21st

Wyoming offers a species few can for hunters in the lower 48; moose. But drawing a tag can make you feel as if you are playing the lottery, with odds at little over 4% for non-residents and slightly lower for residents.  
<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/hunting>

### Arizona

Application Deadline	Draw Results
Species Deer/Elk February 14th	April 13th
Species Deer/Sheep/Bison June 13th	July 19th
Species Spring Bison/Javelina October 10th	November 21st

Arizona has monster elk, which are nearly impossible to draw a tag for, as well as desert bighorns and javelin, but it also has bison. Not the only state that does, but one of a very few. So, yeah, with that, I'd go bison hunting. It may take several years to get that tag, but it's a bison hunt!



Rick Thomas took this Alberta Moose in 2011. (Photo Courtesy of Rick Thomas)  
Dreams of western or remote big game hunts are on just about all hunter's minds, but procrastinating can lead to missing all-important deadlines for tag drawings. Be sure to have your ducks in a row and do your due diligence if a once-in-a-lifetime hunt is on your radar. This list should cut your homework way down.

In the meantime, go there to hunt some javelina. You can't do that just anywhere, and it would be a hoot. <https://draw.azgfd.gov/>

### Utah

Application Deadline	Draw Results
All Species February 28th	March 2nd

Elk, deer or antelope tags are your best bet in Utah. The odds are high for drawing a tag for any of these. Putting in bonus points for a mountain goat tag is also recommended for a chance at one of these unique hunts.

### Montana

Application Deadline	Draw Results
Species Deer/Elk March 15th	April 18th
Species Moose/Sheep/Goat May 1st	June 13th
Species Antelope June 1st	August 1st

For a big mule deer, Montana is hard to beat. At a better than 50% chance of drawing a tag, be ready to pack if you apply. Although, at good odds of drawing an elk tag too, and with the possible new archery world record having recently coming from the state, elk isn't a bad choice either.

### New Mexico

Application Deadline	Draw Results
All Species March 23rd	April 27th

New Mexico is a top destination for those seek-

ing a trophy-class bull elk. 16% of allotted tags are available to non-residents, but drawing one does not typically take too many years. The quality of the bulls makes it worth it.  
<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/>

### Colorado

Application Deadline	Draw Results
All Species April 4th	Sheep & Goat May 11th
	Deer, elk, moose & antelope - June 1st

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This Elk taken by me was on my bucket list, I planned ahead to be able to get it. (Author Photo)

pulling a tag around 60 to 1. Only a lucky couple get to hunt them each year, but with a 100% success rate, it's a draw to put in for. <http://www.ndow.org/>

**Idaho**

<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Draw Results</u>
<b>Species</b> Moose/Sheep/Goat	
April 30th	May 18th
<b>Species</b> Deer/Elk/Antelope	
June 4th	June 24th

Moose is your best bet in Idaho. With a 10 to 20% chance at a tag for non-residents, you will fare better than if you applied for elk, sheep or bear. <https://idfg.idaho.gov/>

**Oregon**

<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Draw Results</u>
<b>All Species</b>	
May 15th	June 16th

Spring bear would be my go-to here for a real shot at a hunt this year, and depending on which area you hunt determines your needing any preference points to draw a tag or not. The lure of Columbian white-tailed and black-tailed deer, along with Roosevelt elk would be strong for me, meaning I would also start accumulating my points now. <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/>

**Washington**

<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Draw Results</u>
<b>All Species</b>	
May 18th	June 10th

Okay, regardless of the odds, I'd be trying to get in on a Roosevelt elk hunt here. There is something about hunting a different species in the Pacific Northwest rain forest type of thing that interests me. Columbian white-tailed or black-tailed deer and bear are also good bets. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

**California**

<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Draw Results</u>
<b>All Species</b>	
June 2nd	June 14th

Think deer here for your best odds of going. The Golden State boasts six different species of them in fact; The California mule deer, Rocky Mountain mule deer, feral mule deer, southern mule deer, Columbian black-tailed deer and a cross between a black-tailed and a mule deer. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/>

**Kansas**

<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Draw Results</u>
<b>Species</b> N/R deer	
April 28th	May 13th

Duh, no brainer here. If you are going to Kansas, you are probably seeking to hunt white-tails. It is not all that difficult to draw a tag in the state that once didn't allow non-resident hunters. You have a 70% chance or so of scoring one.

If it were me though, I'd go for turkeys. First off, because I love turkey hunting, but secondly, because parts of Kansas have both the eastern and Rio-Grande sub-species, as well as the hybrid mix


CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Colorado boasts the largest elk population in the country. While not the place to go for the best odds at a world-class bull, if elk meat is on your mind, it can't be beat. Your odds of punching the easy to get tag is about 20%. Archery either-sex tags are also available over-the-counter. Another Colorado must-do that is almost a given to draw; pronghorn. <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/BigGame.aspx>

**Nevada**

<u>Application Deadline</u>	<u>Draw Results</u>
<b>All Species</b>	
April 17th	May 27th
<b>Bonus Point</b>	
April 25th	N/A
<b>Mule Deer/</b>	
March 10th	March 26th
<b>Guided Draw</b>	

With Nevada, I think of the desert bighorn sheep. A unique animal with limited availability due to the terrain in which it calls home. Odds of



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# Indiana Slab Masters



by **Jim Raymer**

President & Founder of the Indiana Slabmasters

## Indiana Slab Masters 7th Season Tournament Schedule for 2017

With spring right around the corner, the Indiana Slab Masters kicks off its 7th season in existence with a tournament at Patoka Lake on April 1st. Prior to kicking off the season's first tournament, the Slab Masters will have a series of seminars that is intended to teach and inform crappie anglers of all skill levels. On February 28th we will be at the Westside Bait and Tackle Shop, located at 1507 West Vermont Street, Indianapolis, IN 46222. Seminars will start at 10:00am and we will have 4 speakers and will be serving a chili lunch. Entry will be \$ 5.00 at the door or if you purchase your 2017 membership, the seminar series is free.

On March 4th we will be having seminars at Bozarth's Recreational Resort, located at 7309 E 400 S., Lagro, IN. 46941, the seminars will begin at 9:00am and we will have 2 speakers. We will be accepting memberships and will have a booth. On March 11th we will be having a seminar series at John's Gun and Tackle, located at 200 North State Street, Vernon, IN 47265. The seminars will start at 10:00am and there will be 3 speakers. We will be signing up memberships and talking crappie fishing! This seminar series is free! We hope you can make it to one or all of these teaching seminars.

As mentioned earlier, this is The Indiana Slab Masters 7th season and we're very excited about our upcoming tournament schedule. The schedule is as follows:

- Saturday April 1, 2017** – Patoka Lake
  - Saturday April 15, 2017** – Cagles Mill (Locally known as Cataract Lake)
  - Saturday May 13, 2017** – Lake Shafer / Lake Freeman (Choice of lake)
  - Saturday and Sunday June 3 & 4, 2017** – Mississinewa/Salamonie Super event
  - Saturday June 24, 2017** – Lake Monroe
  - Saturday September 9, 2017** – Brookville Lake
  - Saturday September 23, 2017** – Mississinewa/Salamonie (Choice of lake)
- Classic will be **Saturday and Sunday October 14 & 15, 2017** (Classic is for members who fish at least 4 events)

This year at all regular season events we will be

putting on a short seminar on a dedicated fishing topic after the conclusion of each of the regular season tournament and award ceremony. This will be a short free learning session and will have a different topic each event. Something new with our B'n'M Points Race this year is we are allowing to drop only a single worse finish if you fish all events. In the past we always allowed dropping the lowest points of two finishes for the point's total. This will allow the points champs to be the team that was the most consistent throughout the regular season. At the end of the regular season, at the year end banquet and classic pre-tournament meeting we will award the top 10 points teams with a plaque, and award the top 5 teams with a plaque and cash. At each of our regular season events we will be paying back 1 in every 5 teams. We will be awarding plaques and cash for the top 3 teams of each regular season event.

Our tournaments are very easy to join. All you have to do is show up at a tournament you want to fish. Look at the website, Facebook - Indiana Slab Masters page, or Crappie.com under the Indiana Slab Masters tab to see where we will have our trailer set up. At 5:30am the morning of the tournament we will sign up new and existing members, and sign you up for the tournament as well. It currently cost \$30.00 for an Indiana Slab Masters yearly membership and each of our tournaments is still only \$ 40.00! We had record participation for our club last year as we had over 40 boats in 3 of our 7 tournaments. Most of the others had over 30.

We truly hope you come out to see what the club and what it's like to compete on a friendly basis with many other folks from Indiana. Youth's are welcome at all of our events and they are welcome to fish with members at any time. We consider a youth as anyone who does not need a fishing license to fish. The current age is 18 for a fishing license, so all youth's under the age of 18 are welcome to fish with a member. The only restriction we have is that no matter how many youth's are in a members boat, we only allow fishing with a maximum of 6 poles per boat. You may have as many poles as you feel you need in the boat, but we cap the number of poles per boat at 6.

The Indiana Slab Masters have decided to have a special open tournament at a "to be determined" date in 2017. This tournament will be our clubs first of its kind. It will be a single pole challenge with artificial bait only format. This event won't require membership to enter the tournament. This open tournament will not be a classic qualifier nor will it count towards the B'n'M Points race. We have tentative sponsorship for this event, and with the single pole, artificial only format, we are hoping to up the competition to a whole new level. This tournament was talked about being during our normal summer break of our regular season or after the classic. Keep an eye on our website and other outlets for the details of this special event. One of the goals of the Indiana Slab Masters is to teach anyone who wants to become a better crappie fisherman/lady in the knowledge we have all learned! Until next issue, tight lines everyone! ■

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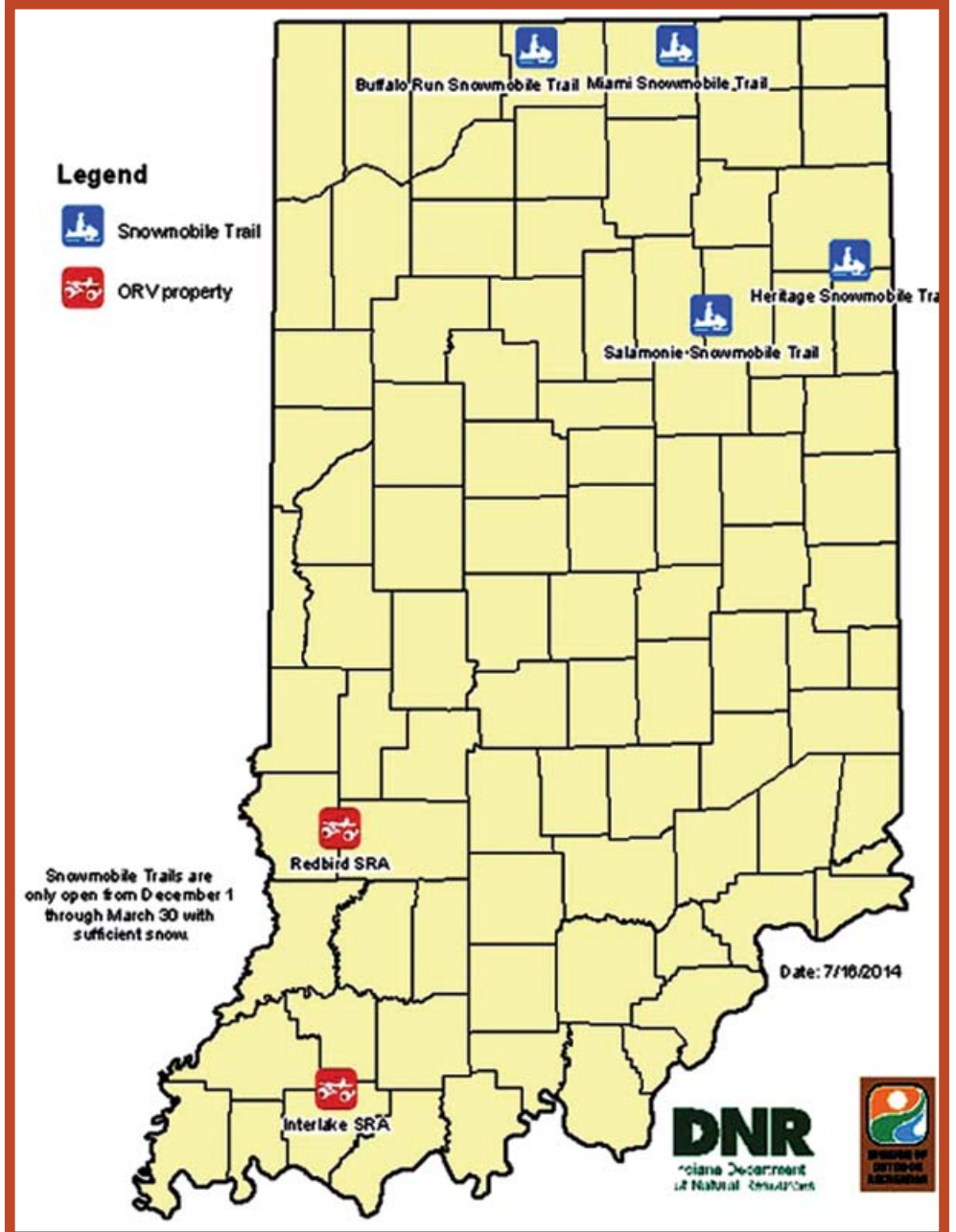


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A wonderful example of a Minnesota ORV trail. (Photo courtesy Minnesota DNR)



A DNR Motorized Properties map of all current state funded ORV properties. (Photo courtesy Indiana DNR)

## Adventures in Indiana



With Cole King

### Development of an ORV Trail System

Two years ago in the summer of 2015, I was talking with my father Jeff King and our neighbor Jay Bousman about riding our four wheelers. All three of us loved riding, so this topic was not very unusual. But as the conversation developed, we began to discuss the areas in which we rode, and how the hobby would develop. We discussed how inconvenient it was, having to trailer our machines to off road parks several hours away, such as the Badlands, Haspin Acres, Interlake SRA, etc. My father brought up the off-road vehicle (ORV) trails he had seen in Minnesota, and how they criss-cross the state for hundreds of miles. Although we love the beautiful parks the Hoosier state has to offer, we soon all concluded that a wonderful enhancement to the hobby would be a trail system. You would be able to get from point A to point B, not just stay on one property for a whole day or weekend. The idea seemed simple. Our first thoughts were to contact the DNR, and we would be on our way. But as we thought more and more about the vastness of the endeavor, it quickly became a pipe dream. The three of us soon gave up on the idea. It stayed alive through jokes and the occasional mention between the three of us, but for the most part, it was hopeless.

I was thinking of a topic for my article in the March issue of this paper, and I kept coming up empty handed. It was not until a truck ride with my father in mid- January that I had the idea. We had mentioned the trail system again in a sort of joking

manner, bringing up all of the same ideas over and over again. As I kept thinking of the project, my drive for the trail system came back. I was determined to take this pipe dream and turn it into a reality. I jokingly turned to my father and said, "Wouldn't it be great if we knew someone with access to a state-wide hunting and fishing newspaper who could spark up some public interest in this?" Of course I meant myself. A couple of weeks went by, and it was nearing the end of January, so I decided to get to work on writing my article. I started doing research for it so I could put some valuable facts in, when I stumbled upon a certain page inside the INDNR website. The page was for the "Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Program." I read the few paragraphs listed, and decided this was the perfect first step in developing my dream trail system. At the bottom of the page, I found the contact information for the manager of the program, Bob Bronson. I e-mailed him, and asked if I could set up a phone call with him. Four days later, I held an almost hour long conference call with Bob and the Indiana Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) Properties Manager, Dale Brier. They both answered my questions with honesty and respect, and I am very thankful to the both of them for taking time out of their busy schedules and talking to me. Through the conversation, we discussed a few different topics, and most of my questions were answered. One of the biggest topics discussed was the Cardinal Greenway. The Cardinal Greenway is a 62 mile bike and pedestrian trail which began in 1993. The trail was formed from abandoned CSX rail lines, and was then paved to allow a path for bicyclists, walkers, hikers, runners, etc. The project was part of the rails to trails program, which is dedicated to turning unused railroad track into trails for bike and pedestrian uses. I brought this trail up because I thought that if the state would fund a project as big as that, why wouldn't they fund a project like mine? I don't need a paved path, restrooms, pic-

nic tables, mile markers and fencing; all I need is a dirt path. Bob and Dale explained to me however that the money coming in from ORV registration is barely enough to maintain existing ORV projects such as Interlake SRA and Redbird SRA, let alone fund another. We discussed a few other topics, such as how a trail would be maintained, where the land would come from, who would pay for it, etc. As I told them what I was hoping for, I realized that I would have to look other places besides the DNR. In my conversation with Bob and Dale, I explained my goal of a ten foot easement on the side of highways, and how I thought that this linkage between communities would encourage local commerce. In my mind, ORV's are managed by the DNR. But, the two pointed me in the direction of the INDOT for any sanctioned area on the side of a road. So in the end of our chat, I realized that the DNR would most likely not be my best resource in my search for a trail system. Between a lack of funding and the massive involvement of INDOT, I would not be able to use the DNR to my advantage at this time. I did not feel discouraged at the end of our meeting, however. Only a half hour after getting off of the phone with them, I called the Markleville town council. I am from Madison County, Indiana, and I am aware of an abandoned rail line which runs from Emporia to Rushville. I am hoping to get the ball rolling on my trail system by developing a short two mile trail from Emporia to Markleville. That next day, I got a call back from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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# Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by **Ryan Pershing**  
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

## Great Lakes of the Wabash Spring is in our thoughts

We are now entering the home stretch towards the spring season and you can feel the excitement from people as they begin to light up talking about getting the opportunity to get back outside and enjoy all those fun activities we all look forward to through the winter months. Luckily, our winter here in the central part of the state has been kind to us and has provided us with a mild and snow free season which in effect has gotten people anxious to get jump started towards the upcoming spring and summer seasons. Along with that excitement amongst the thousands of visitors that frequent these three properties, (Salamonie, Mississinewa, and Huntington), we are all working very diligently to prepare these properties for the onslaught of visitors chomping at the bit to visit. While planning a visit to any of these three properties be sure to check ahead with the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center and see what activities are planned during your stay.

Along with planning for a future trip to the Great Lakes of the Wabash all you crappie anglers need to sharpen your pencil and mark these dates on your schedule. The fishing tournament season gets started with the **Crappie USA** circuit making their annual visit to the Salamonie and Mississinewa Lakes on **Saturday, May 6th**. To be eligible to fish in this tournament you would need to pay a membership fee to become a member and then sign up and pay the tournament fee. There will be a seminar held on **Friday, May 5th** here at Bozarth's Country Store at 7 p.m. with the late sign up time being 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information concerning the tournament you can visit their website at [www.crappieusa.com](http://www.crappieusa.com)

Secondly, the **Indiana Slab Masters** are anxiously awaiting the 2017 fishing tournament season and they will be fishing the Salamonie and Mississinewa Reservoir on multiple dates. Their first visit will take place on the weekend of **June**

**3rd and 4th**. This Super Event will have one day fishing on the Salamonie Lake and then the other day on the Mississinewa Lake. These two tournament dates will be worth 2 classic qualifications as it takes fishing in 4 tournaments to become eligible to fish the season ending classic. They will also return to this area on **Saturday, September 23rd** and will allow tournament teams to choose either lake to fish. This will be a great opportunity for any angler looking to get involved in a friendly club environment to take advantage of having 3 of the 4 potential qualifying tournaments held so close to our area. Anyone interested in fishing or have more questions considering the Indiana Slab Masters can visit their website at [www.indianaslabmasters.com](http://www.indianaslabmasters.com).

Lastly, we are excited to announce our very own tournament dates for the **2017 Bozarth Crappie Tournaments** held here on the Salamonie and Mississinewa Lakes. Our season will kick off on **Saturday, May 20th** and this will be followed up with a tournament set for **Saturday, June 10th**. After taking a break for the summer season we will continue with a date set for **Saturday, August 26th** and wrap our season up with our Bozarth Classic held on **September 30th**. The first three tournaments will be held on the Salamonie Lake and then the final date will allow for fishing on either the Salamonie or Mississinewa. If you are looking to find a tournament to fish that has a laid back and friendly atmosphere then this is the type of tournament for you. Everyone gets along great with each other and also allows the opportunity to share and gain valuable information amongst your fellow fishermen. For more information contact Ryan at (765) 981-4522.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that the **2017 Annual Bozarth Spring Tackle Sale** begins on **Saturday, March 4th** and runs through Sunday, March 12th. This is a great time to take advantage of the best deals of the year along with stocking up on all your essential fishing needs for the upcoming season. We stock our banquet room full of all your favorite fishing items at discounted prices and also provide door prizes and a drawing for additional savings. We are also excited to provide free fishing seminars throughout the day on Saturday, March 4th. This is another reason to attend and hear some of the fishing tips and techniques right from the guys that do it on the tournament trail. From rods, reels, tackle, and bulk sized bobbers we will have a little something for everyone. While making the trek don't be afraid to bring the whole family because not only do we offer fishing tackle we also have a store full of just about everything and a kitchen that will satisfy. For more information you can contact us at (765) 981-4522. ■

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Left Photo: A BBQ competitor working up some meat to barbecue for one of the Smokin' on the Water BBQ contests. Right Photo: Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival Trophies to be awarded in the Praise Auditorium Saturday and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Accept the challenge to cook your BBQ at Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival this year and take a trophy home!

## Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival By The Lake May 5,6,7, 2017

Article & Photos by Ray Dickerson

The Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival By The Lake will be held on May 5,6,7, 2017. The barbecue contests are open to all who want to participate. Everything you need to know about participating can be found on the Liberty Lions Club website, whether you want to enter barbecue contests, set up a vendor booth, volunteer to help during the festival or just attend as a spectator. Parking is free and there is no admission to attend the event. There is handicapped parking near the front gate.

The website is [www.libertyindianalions.com](http://www.libertyindianalions.com). You can link onto their website by clicking on the above website with your computer mouse. Their website is up to date and ready for you to log on. The 2016 data is up to date also. When the website opens there you can view the Schedule of Events on the

opening page.

### DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS MAY 5-7, 2017

#### Thursday May 4, 2017

10:00 am Set up of BBQ and Vendor booths Begin, Set up of Tractor Show Begins

8:00 pm Set up of booths Ends for the Day

**Attention:** Set up of booths will resume at 7:00 am on Friday & at 7:00 am on Saturday. Set up of booths will close at Noon on Friday and at 9:00 am Saturday. All set up activities should be completed prior to the opening of the festival each day.

**NOTE:** No in and out traffic of trucks and other automobiles during the open hours of the show. Also, no early departures / booth closings without the express approval of the organizer. (These would only occur for emergencies, or for special circumstances that have been cleared prior to the event.)

#### Friday May 5, 2017

9:00 am KCBS Meat Inspections for Saturday's BBQ Contest Begins

Noon BBQ Festival Opens; Flag Raising Ceremony Begins; Antique Tractor Show Opens; Food Booths Open; Craft Fair Opens; Merchandise Vendors Open, Carnival Opens

5:00 pm KCBS Cooks' Meeting for Day 1 (Saturday) Contest Begins-in Praise Auditorium

6:00 pm Live Music - John Kogge and the Lonesome Strangers-On Stage (Outdoors)

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

#### Saturday May 6, 2017

9:00 am BBQ Festival Opens; Flag Raising Ceremony Begins; Antique Tractor Show Opens; Food Booths Open; Craft Fair Opens; Merchandise Vendors Open; Carnival Opens; Garden Tractor Weigh Ins Begin; KCBS Meat Inspections for Sunday's BBQ Contest Begins

10:00 am Garden Tractor Pulling Begins; KCBS Cooks' Meeting for Day 2 (Sunday) Contest Begins - in Praise Auditorium (If needed)

10:30 am KCBS Judges Registration Begins- in Praise Auditorium

12:00 pm (Noon) Day 2 KCBS BBQ Contest Judging Begins

12:00 pm - Chicken

12:30 pm - Pork Ribs

01:00 pm - Pork

01:30 pm - Beef Brisket

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



### 10th Annual

# Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival By The Lake

May 5,6,7, 2017

3801 W. Old Dunlapville Rd. Liberty, IN 47353

(Free Parking and Admission)



Hours:

Friday Noon - 9 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Indiana Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival by the Lake is sponsored by the Liberty Lions Club, all proceeds go to Community Service projects of the Liberty Lions Club. Activities include a Craft Show, a KCBS BBQ cook off of Chicken, Pork Ribs, Pork and Beef Brisket, Award winning Barbeque (Ribs, Chicken, etc) & other great eats, Craft Fair, Home Show, Music, Food, & Fun, Antique Tractor & Farm Equipment Exhibits, Handmade Furniture and Instruments, Mobility Carts, Golf Carts, Mowers, and More, Home Improvement Products, Handmade Jewelry, Healthcare Products & Services, Live Music, Antique and Classic Car & Truck Show (Sunday), BBQ Contest (Saturday and Sunday afternoon) and all happening in the Treaty Line Museum.

FOR DETAILS LOG ONTO WEBSITE: [www.libertyindianalions.com](http://www.libertyindianalions.com)

2 Indiana BBQ Cup Events

These two contests (Saturday & Sunday) are 2 of the first stops on the points trail for the 2017 Indiana BBQ Cup!



Saturday's BBQ Contest is a KCBS Sanctioned Event - \$5,000\* in prize money!

Sunday's BBQ Contest is a KCBS Sanctioned Event - \$5,000\* in prize money!

Both Contests are State Championship Events!

\*(The Prize Money is subject to increase for each day's BBQ contest, based on participation.)

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Here is just a sampling, 4 of the different types of BBQ setups that participated at the 2016 Smokin' on The Water BBQ Festival last year on page 14 & 15.



2016 Smokin' on the Water BBQ Contest winners on Sunday, May 1st.



Music all weekend. Country Singer David Wayne performing on stage in 2016.



Amherst Artillery Kirkpatrick's Battery Army of Northern Virginia demonstrate Cannon.



The farming tractor display overlooks the Treaty Line Pioneer Village log cabins.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

**02:00 pm** - Anything Butt  
**02:30 pm** - OBR Mystery Meat; Live Music - Edge of Addiction (Southern Rock) - On Stage (Outdoors)  
**04:00 pm** - Awards Ceremony; BBQ Contest Awards for the Day 1 (Saturday) Contest are Presented (In Praise Auditorium)  
**7:00 pm** Flag Retirement Ceremony Begins - Troop 40 - in the area between the cabins and the school  
**9:00 pm** Flag Lowering Ceremony Begins  
 Festival Closes for the Evening  
**Sunday May 7, 2017**  
**9:00 am** BBQ Festival Opens; Flag Raising Ceremony Begins; Antique Tractor Show Opens; Food Booths Open; Craft Fair Opens; Merchandise Vendors Open; Car/Truck/Bike

Show Registration Opens  
**9:30 am** Church Services Begin in the Yellow Meeting House  
**10:30 am** KCBS Judges Registration Begins - in Praise Auditorium  
**11:00 am** Live Music Begins - David Wayne (Nashville Recording Artist) - In front of the Store, and near the Outdoor Stage  
**12:00 pm (Noon)** Day 2 KCBS BBQ Contest Judging Begins  
**12:00 pm** - Chicken  
**12:30 pm** - Pork Ribs  
**01:00 pm** - Pork  
**01:30 pm** - Beef Brisket  
**02:00 pm** - BBQ Sauce  
**02:30 pm** - Anything Butt  
**03:00 pm** - Showmanship  
**04:00 pm** - Awards Ceremony

**12:30 pm** Car Show Registration Ends; Car Show Judging Begins  
**03:00 pm** Car Show Awards Ceremony Begins; BBQ Judging Concludes  
**04:00 pm** BBQ Contest Awards for the Day 2 (Sunday) Contest are Presented (In Praise Auditorium)  
**5:00 pm** Festival Closes  
*(All times and events subject to change.)*  
 Above the Schedule of Events is a list of the Lions Club activities, click on "Smoke on the water" and the following items appear: *Event Photos, Barbecue Cooker Reg. Form, BBQ Judge Application Form, KCBS BBQ Rules, BBQ Prize Money & Trophies, KCBS BBQ Contest Results, BBQ Festival General Info, BBQ Judges Expected, BBQ Teams Expected, Vendor*  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**

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The BBQ setups expected for the 2017 Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival for Saturday and Sunday contests are well over 50. Sign up today. See details, on page 13, 14 and 16.



Liberty Lions Club members Merle Gause and Landen Coyle selling some good food.



Lots of good BBQ available at Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival. Bring your appetite!!



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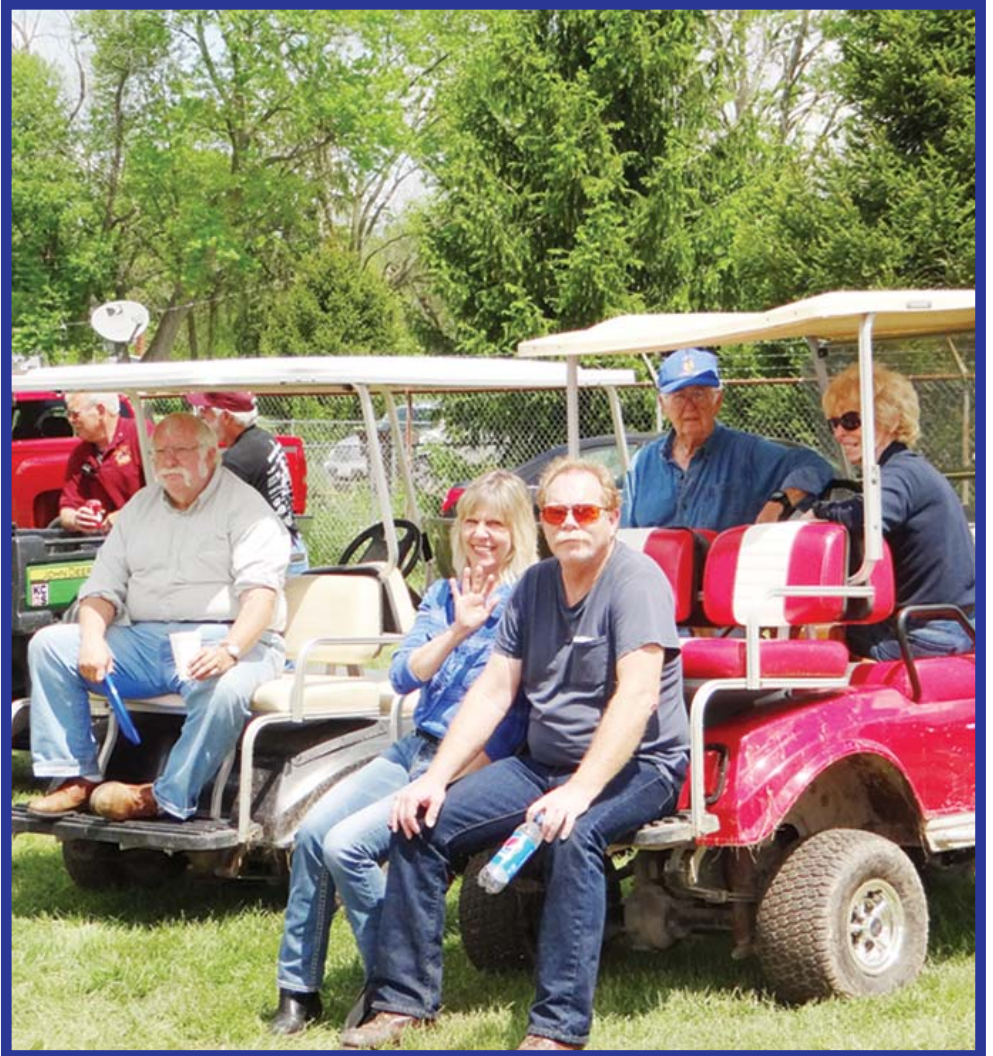
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Sitting in front: Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival committee members Judy Sharp Painter and Carl Sharp, Sr. Standing in back: Co-organizers Lowell Rathburn and Carl Sharp, Jr.



Volunteers who shuttled physically challenged visitors in the golf carts at Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival, rest while they wait for their next run.

Registration Form, Antique Tractor Show Reg. Form, Car Show Registration Form, Garden Tractor Pulling, Crafts, Vendors, Etc., Live Music, Sponsorship Opportunities, Sponsors, Civil War Re-enactment Unit. Click on any of the above items that pertain to the information you are needing to know about.

To date for the 2017 Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival fifty BBQ Judges are expected to participate in the Saturday and Sunday cooking contest with three on the waiting list as of 8-24-2016.

The following information was given to me by Carl Sharp who keeps me informed of the activities of the Liberty Lions Club and many other projects he is involved with. Carl owns the State Farm Agency in Liberty, is a volunteer fireman and in his spare time volunteers for other town and county projects as they come along.

Something new for Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival this year is a mystery meat challenge for BBQ Teams who want to participate. The Liberty Lions Club is trying to raise a little bit of money for "Operation Barbecue Relief." Which is a nonprofit organization that goes around where disasters around the country have happened. The Joplin tornadoes is what triggered the people to initiate "Operation Barbecue Relief." It started out with the tornadoes out in Missouri and has included other disasters such as floods, fires or what ever the emergency is that food is needed there. Volunteer Barbecue Teams are going around to these events cooking food and providing it, not just for the victims, but also for rescue workers, the police, firefighters, first responders, etc. Their goal is so that everyone has at least one good meal that day. Operation Barbecue Relief has given out over a million meals for free. Carl Sharp himself has so far only been involved with moving equipment for the relief group. He's there for them when he has the time to do so. Our "Mystery Meat Challenge" will help raise some money for Operation Barbecue Relief.

All those involved with going to the disaster areas do so by donating their time, they also pay for every expense they incur out of their own pocket. Donated money is what pays for the food they prepare for the victims. It is a very worthwhile cause.

Many of the barbecue teams that attend Smoke on the Water participate in donating money to Operation Barbecue Relief.

Last year Carl told me they had BBQ Teams registered from around the nation here in Union County. They came from Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Georgia, South Carolina, Maryland, Kentucky and of course Indiana. They

have a judge that hails from California.

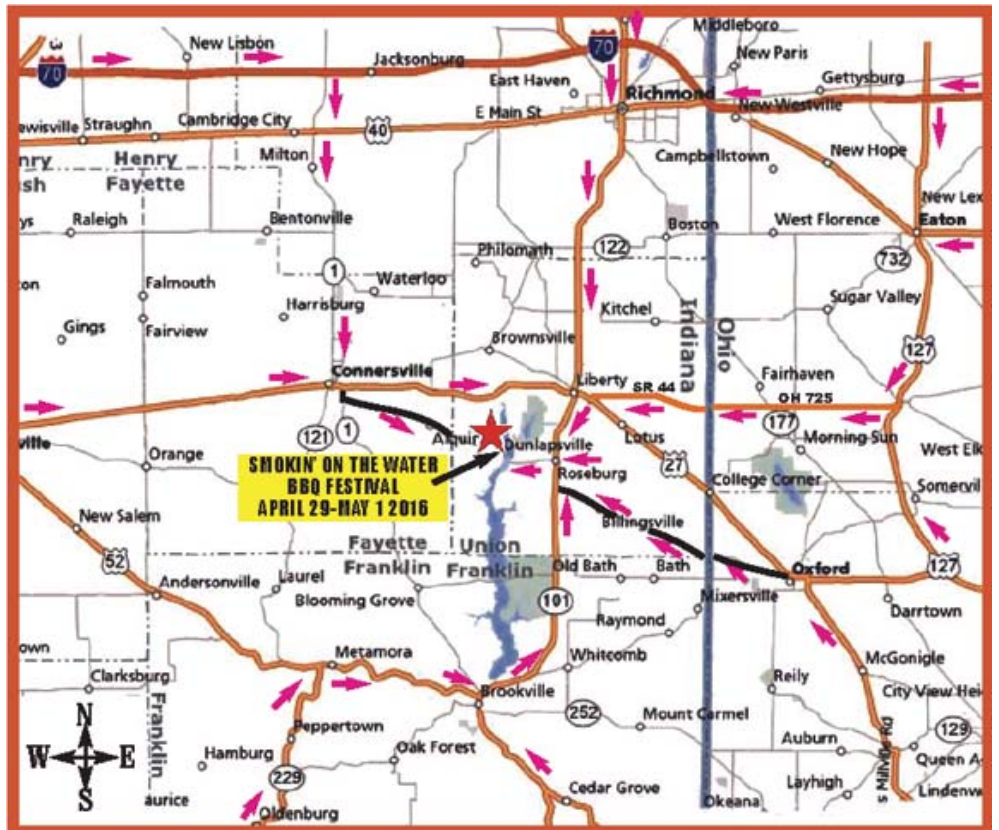
The KCBS style of barbecued meat is recognized around the world.

So if you have an inkling to try your luck at barbecuing meat at Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival, why wait. Sign up, you don't need any fancy equipment to begin with. As you work your way into the winning category, you will naturally learn better ways to cook and compete.

Everything you need to know can be found at [www.libertyindianalions.com](http://www.libertyindianalions.com) . If not, you can also call Carl Sharps Cell: 765-580-0215 or e-mail him at [carl.sharp.c9mm@statefarm.com](mailto:carl.sharp.c9mm@statefarm.com) .

Good Luck! I hope to see you through the lens of my camera when I'm photographing the winners of this years event.

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**Misfires & Snags**




by **Dan Graves**

**A SPORTSMAN'S VEHICLE**

Centuries ago, man tamed the horse and gone were the days when the hunter had to chase his game down on foot. With the odds evened, the hunter was able to cover greater distances, bringing home more buffalo steaks and wild hog pork chops. Even today the horse still serves in some hunting work as a pack animal, but for the most part its role is in racing, rodeos, and such events as English horse shows and Olympic events. As a result, it became necessary to find a replacement for the hunter who had to cover rugged terrain in his search for big game. Fortunately, the automobile manufacturers stepped up to save the day.

I have a friend whom I've known since a time well before pegged pants and duck tail haircuts. In fact, our mothers used to keep up on neighborhood gossip while changing his and my diapers. Telephones were on party lines and the dimmer switch for automobiles were big foot operated buttons on the floorboard. Separated by families and professions we managed to maintain some contact through the years. He finally retired as a teacher and took part time work for an auto dealership in Indianapolis driving cars to such exotic, faraway places as Cincinnati and Bugsmear, Kentucky. So, when he called to ask if I would accompany him on a delivery, I readily accepted. We would have the opportunity to catch up on the past years and I might get the chance to get even with him for breaking my BB gun when we were six.

After greetings and salutations and lying to each other about how well we were aging, we entered the freeway in heavy rain for the sixty mile trip to deliver the thing he was driving. For a small overpriced, four wheel drive model with knobby tires and a removable top, "thing" was an appropriate description. Universally recognized as the sportsman's perfect off-road vehicle for pursuing game in rugged terrain, the combination of stiff suspension, rumbling tires and a top that sounded like a tent flapping in a stiff breeze made any conversation difficult below a shout.

"How old is this thing?" I yelled.  
 "It's brand new" he yelled back.  
 "Where are you taking it? To an army base?" I screamed.  
 "It's meant primarily as an off-road vehicle" he yelled.

"Maybe we should drive it on the grass between the lanes so we can talk" I croaked.

With conversation impossible, I envisioned hunters in hot pursuit of a herd of antelope, their rifle scabbards attached to the window pillars as the herd scattered frantically just ahead. Dust rose from flying hooves as we tried to get within shooting range. I



snapped back to reality as we came up on a gaggle of cars, their tires kicking up a cloud of water spray as a semi in the middle of the jam blew black smoke out its twin exhausts. What were we doing on a crowded interstate in a vehicle intended to chase antelope across an African plain?

We made the best of the situation and arrived at our destination only slightly hoarse. A glance at the fuel gage showed the thing was about as economical as an F-16 fighter aircraft, having sucked enough fuel to make the middle eastern potentates happy for a week. I figured it was about equivalent to twenty bales of hay for a pack horse. To add insult to injury, my buddy couldn't figure out how to get the key out of the ignition. It resisted every attempt to remove it. After five minutes searching for secret buttons, reciting colorful incantations and making various hex signs, he gave up. A salesman for the dealership finally braved the weather and came to our rescue. Anyone other than a hunter who buys that thing had better have three things – a loud voice, deep pockets and a real sense of humor. However, it did fit one purpose. It reminded us of our early years when we drove vehicles that fit the one – two profile. Drive it one day and cuss at it for two days.

After the necessary paperwork was complete we settled into the exchange vehicle (the same type but with a different color paint) for the return trip. Hanging from the rear view mirror was a tag that read "\$483.07".

"Is that all their asking for this tub?" I asked.  
 "I doubt it. It's brand new."  
 "Do you suppose they would haggle a little bit and take seven cents off? I'll talk to your dealer when we get back, but in the meantime you better take it down. A policeman might think we're advertising for a mobile house of ill repute.

On the interstate, he began fiddling with switches on the panel. Pushing the dash light switch turned on the interior lights. The interior switch turned them off and the panel lights on. Stopping for lunch, he left it running because the dealer had warned him about shutting it off until we reached our destination. "It might not start again" he warned. So, we took a window seat, ate our sub sandwiches and watched for car thieves. We had an enjoyable time catching up on old times while he played nurse maid to a couple of examples of the off-road hunters dream of suitable transportation over rugged terrain. In the end I wondered how much time the hunter would have to enjoy his sport. Most of the time he or she would be nursing a sore back and trying to hear a bull moose bellowing in his or her ear. But, I guess it would beat saddle sores.

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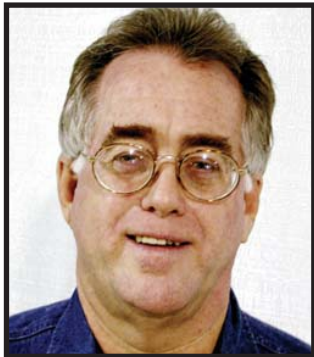
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Battle scenes from the 2016 Spring Mill State Park Civil War Battle (Photos provided by Coletta Prewitt, Program Coordinator at Spring Mill State Park)

## Outdoors



With Rich Creason

### A Look at Indiana for Fun Activities

Starting as soon as you read this issue of The Gad-A-Bout, there are lots of exciting things to do in the Hoosier State. Winter is almost over (hopefully), and it's time to get outside and enjoy some of them.

Although most of the Civil War was fought further south than the Hoosier State, it still gets cold there in the winter, especially when you're sleeping outside every night in rain or snow. To give you an example of what it might have been like to handle the hardships of winter while fighting, not only against the weather, but hundreds of other guys trying to kill you, Spring Mill is staging a re-enactment of a Civil War skirmish.

Indiana had some military encampments during the Civil War, but few battles. Both sides passed through here on occasion. Some of these movements were documented, not only in books and other publications, but even on roadside monuments. When I was young, many decades ago, we used to drive past one such marker. It was on SR 7 going south between North Vernon and Dupont. The cemetery type headstone had engraving on it. I still remember what it said.

"General John Morgan's troops passed here going south, Saturday, July 11, 1863. Jefferson County Historical Society."

Changing topics slightly, I belong to a metal detector club based in Hartford City. Most of the members spend their time searching the internet for old plat maps showing house sites from the



1800's. At these locations, they often find old buttons which can be identified as coming from soldiers uniforms. They seldom find old musket or Minie balls which were used in that war. Reason? Not a lot of bullets were fired in Indiana compared to other states, but the uniforms were worn home from the War and were continued to be worn by the soldier in his daily life. Like modern day garments, they lost buttons. Now, those items fallen from an old uniform lay in corn and bean fields where houses used to stand and are found with our detectors.

But back to Spring Mill State Park. The re-enactment will be held on February 18-19. The site will be at the Pioneer Village in the Park from 11:30 AM to 3 PM with a winter tactical battle at 2 PM on both days. Ten minutes prior to the event, visitors will be directed to viewing areas where they can safely watch the fight for possession of the village. Before and after the battle, visitors can tour the village, visit with the soldiers and take pictures, and then, warm up by a roaring fire.

The spectacle will have around 50-60 participants. They will be practicing drills before and after the skirmish. Some of the groups in attendance will be the 5th KY, 18th Indiana Light Artillery, the 14th TN, the Breckenridge Grays, and the 49th IN. There may also be other groups in attendance.

The battle photos on these two pages are really more of a skirmish with about 50 to 60 soldiers staying in the Spring Mill State Park pioneer village. The battle begins at 2:00 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday in the village proper. There will be volunteers in most of the buildings and the village mercantile will be open. The soldiers will be practicing drills before the skirmish and both before the fight and after. They will be available for visitors to talk to and they will be available for pictures.

Some of the groups that attend are the 5th Kentucky, 18th Indiana Light Artillery, the 44th Tennessee, the Breckenridge Grays, and the 49th Indiana. We are not depicting any particular battle.

This event used to be held at Billy Creek before they closed and some of the soldiers came to us with a proposal of holding it here. We said yes and I must say it was a good decision, last year we had over 1000 people come to see the battle on Saturday.

In June on the 10th and 11th we will be having Civil War Weekend. During this event we will be having a large battle with cannons and over 100 soldiers encamped (actually it looks like there will be a lot more as interest is growing). (Photos provided by Coletta Prewitt, Program Coordinator at Spring Mill State Park)

IF you miss the February event, Spring Mill State Park will also be having a Civil War Weekend on June 10-11. This will be a larger battle with cannons and over 100 soldiers encamped. For more information on either of these or other Spring Mill events, contact Coletta Prewitt at (812) 849-3534 or [springmillstatepark@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:springmillstatepark@dnr.IN.gov). The park is located at 3333 State Road 60 East, Mitchell, IN, 47446.

On a humorous side note, (except it shows the state of our school systems), Susie and I were having dinner with a friend at a local restaurant. I had brought with me a small display case of Civil War items we had found with our metal detectors. A young waitress came by our table and pointed to the display.

"What are those", she asked.

I replied, "Those are Civil War bullets".

Her eyes got big and she looked at me and asked, "Did you fight in that war?"

Of course I said, "Yes, I did".

Another Indiana "Can't Miss" event is the Ford 63rd Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport, & Travel

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Battle scenes from the 2016 Spring Mill State Park Civil War Battle (Photos provided by Coletta Prewitt, Program Coordinator at Spring Mill State Park)



Battle scenes from the 2016 Spring Mill State Park Civil War Battle

Show beginning on February 17 and running through the 26th. Over 700,000 square feet of exhibits and features filling six giant buildings will offer something for everyone. The opening weekend features the 26th Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo, including the Biker's Showcase and the Pioneers of Hoosier Motorcycling.

The closing four days of the Show will offer

Archers can try before they buy at the Manufacturer's Archery Demo Lanes.

But don't forget the rest of the 10-day event. Boats, RV's, Travel and Tourism, and the 70,000 square foot Tackle Town will give you plenty to look at. Seven acres of boats and RV's to buy or just drool over should be of interest for any outdoor enthusiast. Outdoor Travel is my second

the 20th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Expo. My favorite part of the show, you can talk with guides and outfitters from 19 states, nine Canadian provinces and eight other countries. You can book a hunt here to Africa, Canada, or Alaska—or just dream about one!

Duck and turkey hunters can get tips on calling, deer hunters can view the Hoosier Record Book Buck Display and get their own deer head scored by official measurer's.

most popular area. Located in the Travel and Tourism Pavilion, it boasts events such as the Alaska Timbermen Lumberjack Show and the K9 X Games in the Sportsmen's Arena. Also in this area will be an Axe Throwing Competition where show visitors can compete.

Of course, Tackle Town is one of the most popular areas of the entire show. This entire building is dedicated to all things fishing. All types of fishing gear, tackle, and accessories, guided fishing trips or charters on big water can be found here. Watch the seminars at the Hawg Trough, a 4,000 gallon tank full of large fish where top pro anglers demonstrate proper gear and technique. For more information on any or all aspects of this great show, go to [indysportshow.com](http://indysportshow.com).

If that's not enough things for you to do in February, go to [StateParks.IN.gov/3282.htm](http://StateParks.IN.gov/3282.htm). That site will give you a few more choices for this month. Keep looking, and in March, just a few of the options available are a 5K run at IN Dunes State Park, Fly a Kite Workshop at Patoka, a Map & Compass Workshop at Paynetown, or go on an Amphibian Outing at Prophetstown. For more information on Indiana State properties activities, you can also go to [calendar.dnr.IN.gov](http://calendar.dnr.IN.gov).

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

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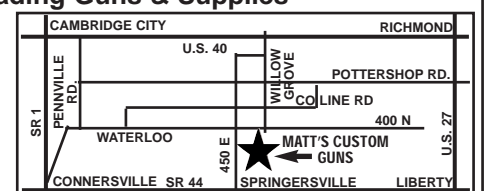
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# Random Notes on Guns



by **Marshall Smith**

Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO

## Customizing your Mosin Nagant rifle

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

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

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

The same goes for restoring that old gun in the closet. Maybe it's one your Dad or Grandfather handed down to you when you were a young boy or girl. It's broke, or rusted, or just in poor condi-



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

tion. Is it worth restoring? That question is only good if you are planning on selling the gun. Are you planning on handing it down to a son or daughter? Do you want to take it to the shooting range and plink away like in your youth? Then I'd say, Yes, it's worth whatever joy you found in it before, and the joy it may provide to others.

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

Of course there are a few old, rare, firearms that are worth considerable sums of money to collectors. Those firearms are pieces of history and should be considered as museum pieces. Protected and maintained in as close to original as possible. Ours and future generations need to know how our ancestors lived and hunted in earlier times. If you have a gun that you have customized or restored and would like me to present it in a future article contact me at [marshall@marshallsmith.com](mailto:marshall@marshallsmith.com).

Remember, Be Safe, Be Aware, Be Responsible

Marshall

**Editor's Note:** This is a reprint of one of Marshall's earlier articles back in 2013. Due to an unforeseen health issue he wasn't able to send his regular article this month.

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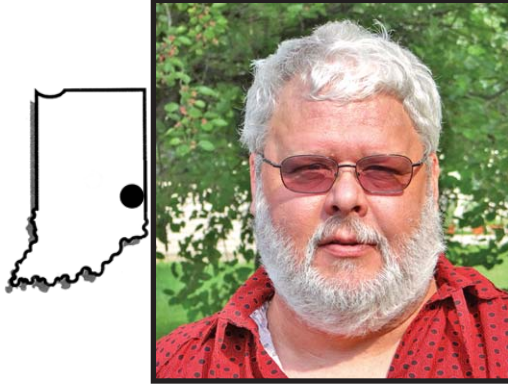
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## Indiana State Trappers Association



by **Dr. Fred Philips, DVM**

### Time to think of Rendezvous

As it stands, only beaver and otter are open in Indiana for trapping. You may hunt fox and coyote still, but you may no longer trap them. As of Feb. 1st, 370 otter have been taken and registered of the possible 600 for the season. This is a good time to tan an otter skin for yourself if you catch one. They are a long way from their high price of several years ago.

Trapper education (TE) classes will be starting up soon. The TE classes in Indiana may be found at [www.PassItOnIndiana.com/](http://www.PassItOnIndiana.com/). That web address will re-direct you to <http://www.indianahuntereducation.com/>. On the right side you will find a link to the TE Classes that are available and how many seats are left. If you do not find what you are looking for, check with Deric Bershok on the [www.indianatrappers.org](http://www.indianatrappers.org) web site. He is the Indiana State Trappers Association's (ISTA) Trapper Education Coordinator, and may know more about a particular class or at least who to contact

The first TE classes that I am aware of are #1: the Fur Takers of America (FTA) 7b's TE class on

April 29th at Hoosier Trappers Supply, 1155 N. Matthew Rd., Greenwood, IN 46143. Their phone is 317.881.3075. Ask for Justin Jett to get answers to your questions. #2: CO Scott Johnson has a TE class on May 20 – 21, and relies on the FTA and the ISTA to help put on a TE Class at the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy (HYCA) camp located at 8577 E. 300 S. (Hancock County), Carthage, IN 46115. You can find registration online for these TE Classes. There are other TE classes planned for, but not yet listed.

The first Rendezvous of the year is the FTA Convention, June 22 – 24th at the Delaware County 4-H Fairgrounds, 200 E. Acers St., Manchester, IOWA. 52057. Find more information at [www.fur-takersofamerica.com/convention.html](http://www.fur-takersofamerica.com/convention.html). Next up is the National Trappers Association, July 27 – 29th, at the Winnebago County 4-H Fairgrounds, 500 W. 1st St., Pecatonica, ILLINOIS. 61063. Find more information at [www.nationaltrappers.com/convention.html](http://www.nationaltrappers.com/convention.html). Last, but not least is the ISTA 56th Convention and Rendezvous, September 15 – 16th, at the Decatur County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1645 W. Park Rd., Greensburg, IN 47240. We are working on getting some Top Trappers there to share their information with us. Bring your membership card as some of these seminars may be for members only.

Of course, all of these conventions have loads of tables and tail-gater's just dying to trade with you. If you want to get great deals on good experienced traps, these are the places to go. I bet Wilbur Cook will even be at a couple of them and his tent is a delight in and of itself. He often gets to cooking too, and he has never steered anyone wrong about trapping or eating. Another character is Byron Reichart. He has a truck full of treasure that he puts out on his tailgate, literally. Oh, and the stories that he can tell. These two make going to Rendezvous worth it all by themselves. I hope to see you there.

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

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM  
 Pres. ISTA

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## Indiana Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

between the two.

<http://ksoutdoors.com/Hunting>

### Iowa

Application Deadline	Draw Results
Species Whitetail	
June 4th	June 24th

Okay, here is the state that I should have said duh on – more so than Kansas. Everyone knows that truly giant whitetails = Iowa. It can take a few years to draw a tag here, but when you do, you know you'll be hunting the greatest whitetail state there is. <http://www.iowadnr.gov/>

### Bonus point only deadlines:

State	Species	State Deadline
Iowa	Whitetail	June 4th
Kansas	Whitetail	April 28th
Wyoming	Antelope, deer, elk	October 31st
	Rocky mtn. bighorn, moose	

Drawing a western big game tag is not always easy, and sometimes it is depending on what species

you are going after or in what units, but keeping track of the dates and deadlines – especially during a time when our

minds are focused towards spring-time activities – can sometimes be the most difficult part. If you put in for multiple draws, it compounds.

Mark your calendars and obtain all the necessary information to make sure you dot all the I's and cross all the T's to make sure you have the best chance possible of drawing your dream tag.

## Adventures in Indiana with Cole King

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

president of the Markleville town council. We had a short conversation about my ideas for a trail running from Emporia to Markleville, and eventually from Emporia to Rushville. He seemed very receptive. I am excited to attend the Town Board meeting on February the 13th. I plan on conducting much more research to back my arguments. I am expecting my next article to be over the progress of the trail. Already, I have made an online petition, which can be reached at [www.ipetitions.com/petition/orv](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/orv). I also hope to form a non-profit organization, talk with the DOT about a side of road easement, and talk to some other departments of the DNR. If you have any comments or questions about the trail system, please email me at [cole\\_king@icloud.com](mailto:cole_king@icloud.com). I encourage all Off-Road enthusiasts to sign the petition mentioned above. It is free and easy, all you need is internet access and an email address.

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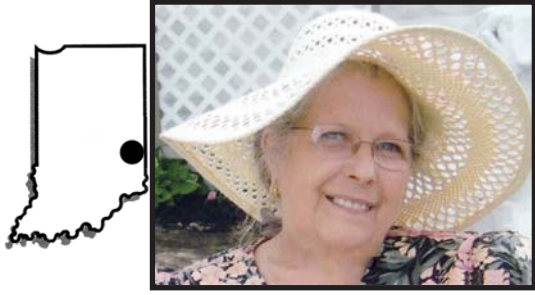
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## Visit Fayette County, IN For The Fun Of It!



by **Donna Schroeder**

President of Fayette County Tourism Bureau

### Building a public building

The following is an excerpt from "The Valley", a newspaper published in Connersville on October 4, 1849. It's rather difficult reading, but it reflects what happens practically every time a government entity decides to build a public building. It also shows that name calling and outright insults are nothing new. The article is titled "Our New Courthouse".

*This splendid edifice is now about completed, and presents decidedly the best appearance of any building of the kind we have ever seen - except, perhaps, the Courthouse at Louisville, Ky and at Dayton in Ohio. It is our purpose to give, for the information of our distant readers, a slight description of this building, and, in doing so, we hope to be able to correct any erroneous impressions which may have obtained, either from published falsehoods, or the reports of busy-bodies and meddlers in reference to this work. And to those of our country friends whose prejudices have been excited against our County Commissioners for their action in regard to the building, by a few blundering, unprincipled demagogues and political gamblers and factionists, we would say, visit the building, examine it carefully for yourselves, from foundation to dome, and our word for it, you will be more than convinced that certain gas-bags have only exploded, without damage to any other than their own olfactory organs, which, from habit, have acquired a familiar acquaintance with the noxious vapors which arise from every little puddle-hole of discontent, jargon or bickering.*

*Our opinion has frequently been challenged with regard to the "New Court House", and we have been tauntingly asked, even upon the street, whether our lucid imagination could not conjure up a classic description of this conglomerated mass of brick, mortar, stone and boards, denominated the seal of Justice! Well, we want it distinctly understood by these very ass-tute interrogators and eight-by-ten "embodiments", that it is not at all in answer to their inquiries that this article is published - no-sir-ee, but, as before stated, for the information of those of our country friends who have not yet seen the superstructure.*

The article continues to describe the courtroom, the jail cells, the vaults, and other amenities within the building. Today's newspapers might print this kind of article in the editorial page, hopefully, without the insults.

I'm always amazed at these old newspapers. Divorces were often filled with every detail of the marital dispute. Murders, suicides, and accidental deaths were treated with the enthusiasm we now see in tabloids at the grocery store checkout. If there was a dispute within a family regarding an estate, every



Indiana room at the Fayette County Public Library (Author Photo)

wish of the dear departed was revealed, including names of the family members who were arguing among themselves and who was asking for what part of the spoils.

Obituaries looked nothing like the ones of today. Many described the misery of a bereaved family. The account of the death of my grandmother's sister includes the statement that her sister (my grandmother) stood weeping at the grave. Unfortunately, it doesn't give the name or age of the deceased. I had heard from older family members that the child lived and died. From the date of the newspaper, I know that my grandmother was a little girl, but all the other details have been lost.

The obit of my grandfather's great aunt describes her in a couple of sentences. It tells when and where she was born and the name of her husband. She lived to be almost one hundred years old, and the writer uses the rest of the account to name all the events that she saw unfold - including rail travel, the Civil War, and the telegraph, as well as happenings around the world. I knew quite a bit about the lady, so it was somewhat disappointing to see a long history lesson instead of the interesting story of her life. I had to smile to myself. Aunt Betsy's family was appalled because she ran off one morning to marry her second cousin. They lived a long and productive life together, and the family accepted the marriage, but I'm sure the author would have included that juicy tidbit, had he known it.

I've discovered other interesting items lately. Ancestry.com has recently added birth and death certificates for the state of Indiana. My parents were born in the early 1900's. Both depended on family records to apply for social security without realizing the state had birth certificates for them.

You might be wondering why I've put all this in a tourism article. History is a big part of what Fayette County offers. We have a wonderful history department at our library. It has Fayette County and Indiana resources. If you're looking for family history or general information, it's a great place to start. The computer lab offers newspapers from all over the country. You need a library card for the computers, but the printed materials are available to all.

The courthouse mentioned in the beginning of the article is a treasure trove of records, too. Once our new museum location is in place, we will have a family history section. If you're reading this, you probably live in Indiana. Most of our state's libraries have a genealogy/history section at your disposal.

My other point is this: Write down what's happening! Put names on the backs of photos. Leave a family history. I enjoy the research, but many people find it too time consuming or confusing. You can do your grandchildren a big favor by leaving them a

record of their heritage. AND - include the bad with the good. With all the resources available today, they will find out about it eventually!

Plan to visit us soon! For a list of all the activities in Fabulous Fayette County, visit the [www.tourconnersville.com](http://www.tourconnersville.com)!

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## News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

police vehicle, and uniforms from different eras.” The museum does have a lot of interesting artifacts, including motorcycles, cars and guns from different eras of the state police. The museum is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and every third Saturday each month 12-4 p.m. Admission is still free, and you can just walk in. For more information or to schedule a visit for you and your group, visit our web site at <https://www.in.gov/isp/museum.htm#>

Our ISP web site has under Additional Resources a link to protect yourself from scams; information on traffic tickets; information on shoulder patches, as well as road and weather conditions. There is also a link to printable safety brochures ranging from fireworks laws and safety, to child seat safety and talking with your kids about drugs at <http://www.in.gov/isp/2375.htm>

Under the heading of Related Sites we’ve also got links to the ISP Lab, the Meth Suppression Section, the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and even ISP CrossFit workouts, among others.

We even have a link to the answers of the most frequently asked questions of ISP, including “Which states honor my Indiana Handgun Permit?” [http://iot.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2191](http://iot.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2191). So before emailing, calling or visiting your local post to ask a question, check out our web site. As you can see chances are very good you can find the information there that you’ve been seeking! ■

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## Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Nobbe at Brookville Lake on June 2, 2012. Thanks to Tag I was able to meet Dennis, his wife Teresa, son Derrick and daughter Maya when they all spent a day with Sherry and I at Renfro’s Sport Show in Indianapolis, Indiana, February of 2013. We really enjoyed that day. I took lots of photos. One in particular was Derrick trying his hand at kayaking in a shallow pool in the Quiet Sports in the East Pavilion.

One day in the not to distant future, we hope to be able to visit with them again.  
**44TH ANNUAL SPRING GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY, FOSSIL SHOW & SALE WAYNE CO. FAIRGROUNDS RICHMOND, IN MARCH 3-5, 2017**

The Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society’s (EIGGS) 44th Annual Spring Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show will be held at the Kuhlman Center located on the Wayne County Fairgrounds on **March 6-8, 2015**.

The show opens at 10 a.m. Friday & Saturday and closes at 6 p.m. On Sunday it opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m.

A Donation is collected at the door, Adults \$5.00, Seniors 60 and older \$3.00, Youth ages 7 to 18 \$1.00, Under 7 FREE. Scouts & Leaders in uniform, Free.

This year they will be holding raffles and will be giving door prizes out every hour

See their advertisement on Page 4 of this issue. For information on booths or other for the 44th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show contact John Lamont at **756-647-4894**. For information call **937-339-1966**.

**TREASURES OF THE EARTH GEM & JEWELRY SHOW AT THE INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS MARCH 31 - APRIL 2, 2017**

The 19th Annual Spring Bead, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show will be held at the Indianapolis State Fairgrounds in the Agriculture/Horticulture Building at 1202 East 38th Street in Indianapolis, Indiana on March 31, Friday 10 am to 6 pm, April 1, Saturday 10 am to 6 pm and April 2, Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Adult admission is \$5.00. Tickets are good all three days. Children under the age of 16 are admitted FREE.

Hourly Door Prizes. Custom work and repairs while you visit, food is available. This show has a larger building with more dealers, more choices and more to see and do.

Collectors and jewelry enthusiasts will be able to find some of the most unique gems and beads from around the world at this show.

See their advertisement on Page 4 of this issue. For information contact Van Wimmer, Show Director - Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, 5273 Bradshaw Road Salem, VA 24153 Telephone: **(540) 384-6047**.

Website: [www.toteshows.com/](http://www.toteshows.com/)  
 E-Mail: [van@toteshows.com](mailto:van@toteshows.com)  
**I HAVE SOME MORE “ATTA BOYS” TO THANK THOSE WHO HELPED ME OUT OF A TIGHT CORNER, OF SORTS “JOE O’BRIEN - O’BRIEN COMPUTERS”**

On December 20, 2016 I was working on my subscriber mailing on my XP computer when all of a sudden my mouse stopped working. I double checked it being hooked up to the computer which it was. I thought, no problem I have a spare. I got the spare

and replaced the bad mouse with the new one. It didn’t work either, then I noticed my keyboard light was out too. Then I called **Joe O’Brien who owns O’Brien Computers located at 1623 E. Main St. in Richmond, IN. I called his number 765-962-0995**. Joe has been fixing my computers for as long as I have had them, beginning in 1995 I think. I asked him if he had time to take a look at my computer, told him what didn’t work. Explained I needed it to get my mailers out. I told him I could bring it to his shop. He said, No he was going to be out this way. He would look at it at my office in Centerville.

A short time later he arrived checked the computer over and said he would need to take it to his shop. I thanked him and he left for his shop.

A couple hours later Joe called and said he would be over shortly, he fixed the computer by replacing the Mother Board, that same day. He arrived, hooked everything up and I was back in business. He told me he had found and got rid of 453 malware viruses in my computer too.

If you need your computer repaired, **I highly recommend Joe**. He is the best computer repair person I know. He had a mother board for an XP computer which is considered a dinosaur these days. He has built two computers for me, the latest is a Windows 7 Professional with 16 Gig of Ram in it. **If you have a computer problem call Joe O’Brien at 765-962-0995, tell him Ray Dickerson recommended him**. If you get a recording leave a message. He will call you.

### BEST STOP AUTO CARE

I dropped off my Gad-a-bout Van at **Best Stop Auto Care located at 2 Salisbury Road in Richmond, IN. 765-935-3849** Monday for a pre-arranged tune-up with Cody Legear, Mike’s son, to have it serviced on Tuesday and I wanted to pick it up Tuesday afternoon. Mike Legear has been keeping my delivery vehicles running and on the road since the early 90’s including repair work and towing. **I highly recommend Mike and Cody, give them a call 765-935-3849**.

Cody called me Tuesday afternoon and said I could pick my van up, so Sherry accompanied me there in her car. Arriving Cody told me I had a problem. When they were rotating the tires that I requested, Mike found a nail in the front left tire’s side wall. It couldn’t be fixed. I thanked them and headed home.

### GREENS FORK ALIGNMENT & SERVICE

After I left Mike’s I knew I needed that tire fixed. My problem was Thursday I had to go to Brookville, Connersville and Liberty. I had an appointment in Liberty at 1 p.m. I looked at my watch it was 3:30 p.m. Then I remembered **Greens Fork Alignment & Service, owned by Joe Nocton**, was where I bought my last set of Michelin tires, located at **2441 Centerville Road North, Centerville, IN. 765-855-2772**. I figured I could just make it there before they closed. I pulled into their shop and talked to Sales Person **GW**, I told him about the nail in my front left tire sidewall. He went outside to look at the tire. I asked if he had one like it. He said, “not in stock.” Then he added he could have one by 9:30 Thursday morning. I told him of my 1 p.m. appointment in Liberty Thursday. He told me if the tire got there earlier he would call me. As he said, he called me a little before 9 a.m., Thursday, the tire was there. I immediately headed his way. They had me drive my van into their building and as quickly and safely as possible they had me back on the road in time for me to make it to all my destinations including Liberty on time. **I highly recommend Greens Fork Alignment & Service for all your tire needs, give them a call 765-855-2772**. ■

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# Connected Afield



by Glenn Kelsey

## Farmers & Hunters Feeding The Hungry

A Noblesville family wanted to make a difference. So when John and Beth Mollet attended a deer and turkey expo in Indianapolis, they saw their prime opportunity.

"There was a booth looking for coordinators for the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program," Beth said. "They didn't have coordinators in the Marion, Hamilton or Madison counties, so we picked it up and ran with it since."

FHFH has been in Indiana since 2001, and the Mollets have been coordinators for Hamilton, Marion, Hancock, Henry and Madison counties since 2005. The program provides high-protein, low-fat meats - mostly venison - to local food kitchens and organizations to help feed those who are hungry in Hamilton and surrounding counties.

Some of the organizations the Mollets work with include Wheeler Mission, the Salvation Army and Grace Community Church.

"We are the go-between with the hunter and the butchers and the butcher and the food pantry, food bank and soup kitchens," John said. "(As coordinators), we raise the funds and awareness to the media, and we try to approach the hunters. If the hunters and farmers don't know to donate, they don't donate."

Although the organization mainly focuses on venison, they accept livestock from farmers as well. The hunters and farmers are able to donate without a cost to them.

"The hunter and farmer pay nothing. We cover the processing fee," John said. "It usually costs about \$70 to process, package and freeze the meat for about 50 pounds of meat. Every deer serves about 200 high-protein, low-fat servings."

During the Eagle Creek Deer Reduction, FHFH used 200 deer to serve 40,000 meals in central Indiana.

The Mollets use Archer's Meats in Fishers, but there are a variety of butchers that take part in FHFH in Hamilton County. For hunters looking to donate their meat, they can visit fhhf.org and find Hamilton County to search for a list of places to donate to.

Also, the meat stays in the county it is donated to.

"Mildly undernourished children suffer emotional and physical damage and the impact of hungry children can be lifelong," Beth said. "We work with other organizations to do this. We are faith-based and a nonprofit, so we work with Catholic charities and Christian charities and pantries to help stamp out hunger in this county. Hamilton County is one of the wealthiest counties, and people think there are no hungry people here, but there are."

"This (organization) knows no limits," John said. "It's a very rewarding ministry."

Beth and John are both strictly volunteers. John owns Mollet Garage Doors and Beth is a retired nurse. They do their work with FHFH not for a paycheck, but to help the community.





"Knowing that we've provided for hungry people is the most rewarding, children in particular. We both have a heart for the child and the elderly, and there are a lot of people out there that don't have food," John said. "Stats say one in five children go to bed hungry, and feeding hungry people is the most rewarding thing."




I took this photo of the Farmers and Hunters Feeding The Hungry booth at Renfro's Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Hunting Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. They will be set up at the 2017 Hunting Exp again, stop by and talk with them. See how you can help feed the hungry. The need is far greater than the supply. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)


## FARMERS & HUNTERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY

ISSUE NUMBER 4




*Encouraging young people to get outdoors, hunt, and feed the hungry!*




**STORIES FROM  
THE FIELD**

**TRACK  
'EM DOWN**

### "First Deer Donated"

Wyatt and Sara received certificates of appreciation at the Isaac Walton from FHFH coordinator Ken Worman. Jason Mitchell, Emmaus Center, thanked Wyatt and Sara for their donations.

In bow season, 12-year-old Wyatt had harvested his first deer ever and donated it to FHFH in Cass County. Then opening day of gun season, 13-year-old Sara donated her first deer ever harvested to FHFH at Simpson's Deer Processing in Young America. Thank you Wyatt and Sara!

**Find these words**

ARROW	FOOD
BUCK	GIVE
CAMO	HUNGRY
DNR	

G	B	J	P	H	K	I	F	D	K
X	Y	O	V	K	Y	O	G	C	T
L	B	E	F	N	R	A	B	D	O
O	O	H	V	G	P	C	K	U	T
T	N	U	D	I	I	A	E	U	D
Z	T	N	U	O	G	M	A	N	E
K	Y	G	U	D	O	O	R	K	S
C	U	R	C	G	L	F	R	Y	Z
U	J	Y	I	K	I	S	O	O	C
B	K	Y	O	H	Q	X	W	X	B

### Tell us your tale!

With your parent or guardian send us your "Story from the Field"! Maybe about a deer you donated or perhaps something unique that happened while you were hunting! Mail your story to FHFH, P.O. Box 323, Williamsport, MD 21795 or email to [staff@fhhf.org](mailto:staff@fhhf.org).

The Mollets receive some funding, but are always looking for donations and sponsors. To learn more about getting involved or to donate, contact Beth at 765-650-3616.

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Rochester, Indiana, courthouse has Trail of Death marker on the west side which faces Main Street. The four boulders are from each of the four states that the Potawatomi crossed on their way from Indiana to Kansas in 1838. (Photo provided by Shirley Willard)

## The Potawatomi Trail of Death is a Regional Historic Trail

### Part 3

By Shirley Willard

#### Trail of Death Commemorative Caravans

The first Trail of Death Commemorative Caravan was organized in 1988 to travel the original route in cars and campers. All 24 counties from Indiana to Kansas were contacted and many county historical societies chose to participate with ceremonies, hosting meals, erecting new markers, or planting evergreen trees. The caravan members experienced spiritual blessings and decided to travel again every five years. They learned about Rose Philippine Duchesne, an elderly nun who went to be a missionary to the Potawatomi in 1841 and became known as "She Who Prays Always." She was canonized as the first female saint west of the Mississippi in 1988. The farm land that was St. Mary's Mission at Sugar Creek, Kansas, was purchased by local Catholics and dedicated as St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park in 1988.

In 1993 the caravan was organized again to travel the Trail of Death. That was the year of the terrible floods, the worst in over 100 years. The caravan had to detour to cross the Mississippi River at Hannibal instead of Quincy, where the bridge was inaccessible. They had to detour again to cross the Missouri River on I-70 instead of at Lexington, Mo. A miracle occurred at the end of the trail as the caravan wound its way on its last rainy night on country roads to the St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park. Finding themselves on a flooded gravel road, they rescued a 77-year-old Potawatomi man, Paxico Wabaunsee, from the flooded Sugar Creek. Wabaunsee was sitting on top of his pick-up truck in the middle of the flooded creek and road, praying to be rescued. The miracle was two-fold. I received word that my mother had died that day, and one Potawatomi said it

was her first miracle when she got to heaven. I found out years later that the miracle rescue of Paxico Wabaunsee was more likely from him praying to Father Petit.

The local Kansas newspapers carried a story about it the next day, emphasizing the fact that Wabaunsee's cousin, Bill Wamego, was in the caravan and they had not seen each other since 1929 when they were children.

In 1998 the Trail of Death Commemorative Caravan organized and traveled again. They gave programs at 12 schools, dedicated eight new Trail of Death historical markers, planted a tree at the end of the trail at Osawatomie, Kansas, and traveled on to Haskell Indian Nations University at Lawrence, Kansas, where Dr George Godfrey was teaching. We concluded our trip at St. Marys, Kansas, where a special celebration and parade marked the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Jesuits and the 160th anniversary of the Trail of Death.

The 2003 caravan began September 22, as always the day after the annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival by meeting for a special ceremony at Chief Menominee's statue at 9 a.m. George Schricker sang the song he wrote about Chief Menominee while his wife Michele taught the words in sign language. The group read over CB radio about the history and from the 1838 diary and what happened at each point as they traveled. Dagmar Thorpe, granddaughter of Jim Thorpe, world's greatest athlete, met the caravan at Paola, Kansas. Thorpe's great grandmother was Mas-saw, a Potawatomi chieftess from Fulton County, who went west on the Trail of Death. At the end of the 2003 caravan we dedicated a new historical marker consisting of five boulders, one from each state and one from St. Louis where Father Petit died. Tom Hamilton presented me and Bill (Shirley and Bill Willard) with special adoption certificates making us honorary Potawatomi, for our many years of work to preserve Potawatomi history. I was so thrilled and happy I was speechless and started to cry. Then everyone hugged and kissed us. It was a marvelous and spiritual ending for the fourth caravan.

The 2008 caravan resulted in dedications of historical highway signs and meeting Eddie Joe Mitchell, descendant of Chief We-wis-saw. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation sent a photographer with us to record the trip. Sangamon County Historical Society in Springfield, Illinois, gave us a plaque. Quincy, Illinois, gave us a key to the City. Steve Tieken arranged for caravan members to stay overnight in historic homes in Quincy – it was fantastic - like Antique Road Show. Another surprise was the ride on a covered wagon drawn by mules in Independence, Missouri. The mule driver was Cherokee and told marvelous stories about Wild Bill Hickok and others who were there in the old days. We toured Jackson County (Mo.) Museum which is the old jail where outlaw Frank James was held after his surrender. The trip ended with a traditional feast at Jamison and Raelene Bear's home at Lawrence, Kansas.

The 2013 caravan had two firsts – an honor song at the Rochester courthouse Trail of Death marker by Navajo and an Indian baby on the caravan, Lila Lowery. The group stopped at Tippecanoe County Museum to see George Winter's sketches and Indian paintings. The

National Council of Great Lakes Native American Culture prepared a feast of native foods at Lafayette. Caravan members gave programs at two schools: Madison and Dewitt, Missouri. Ceremonies were held at two new historical markers: Heritage Park at Olathe and highway rest area at Trading Post, Kansas. As always the journey concluded at St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park, in rural Linn County, marking the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Death. Kansas Governor Sam Brownback presented a Declaration apologizing to the Potawatomi for the Trail of Death.

#### Trail of Death Regional Historic Trail

Members of the 1988 caravan decided to get the Trail of Death declared a National Historic Trail, but when I applied to the National Park Service, I was told that the Potawatomi removal was more of regional interest and that it would cost \$200,000 for research. We thought that would be a waste of tax dollars, since we had already done the research. So we decided to make it a Regional Historic Trail. The Indian Awareness Center, a branch of the Fulton County Historical Society, took this as a project. I asked the Indiana Historical Society for their backing. They agreed and sent John Harris to help. We wrote a resolution and asked the county historical societies on the Trail of Death to have their Boards approve it. We presented these to Senator Tom Weatherwax, Logansport. He succeeded in getting the Trail of Death resolution passed by the Indiana legislature in 1994, assisted by Gary Cook, State Representative, Plymouth, Indiana.

We enlisted the help of the state historical societies of Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, and all the county historical societies on the Trail of Death route, and asked them to introduce it to the state legislatures. The first one to pass it was Missouri but because they had only one Trail of Death historical marker in Missouri in 1993, they wrote a resolution encouraging groups to participate in marking the route. We learned from that how to word a resolution and that we should write it ourselves, so for the other states, we did.

The Society of Indian Lore, Danville, Illinois, asked their State Representative, Duane Noland, to introduce the Trail of Death resolution to the Illinois legislature.

The Miami County Historical Society at Paola, Kansas, got their Senator, Doug Walker, Osawatomie, Kansas, and Representative George Teegarden, LaCygne, Kansas, to sponsor the resolution in the Kansas legislature. Both were passed in 1994.

The Missouri legislature passed the declaration in 1996, having four historical markers by that time. Thanks to Peggy Kinder, a descendant of Daniel Bourassa, whose name was the first one on the roll of the Trail of Death in 1838. Peggy asked Scott Lakin, State Representative, to sponsor the bill. So now the Trail of Death is a Regional Historic Trail, as declared by the four state legislatures.

Our goal was to get a historical marker at each campsite every 15 to 20 miles. There are now 80 markers on the Trail of Death. This was accomplished by 2013.

#### TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE

**Editor's Note:** Due to the length of Shirley's story it will take several issues of The Gad-a-bout to publish the entire story. ■

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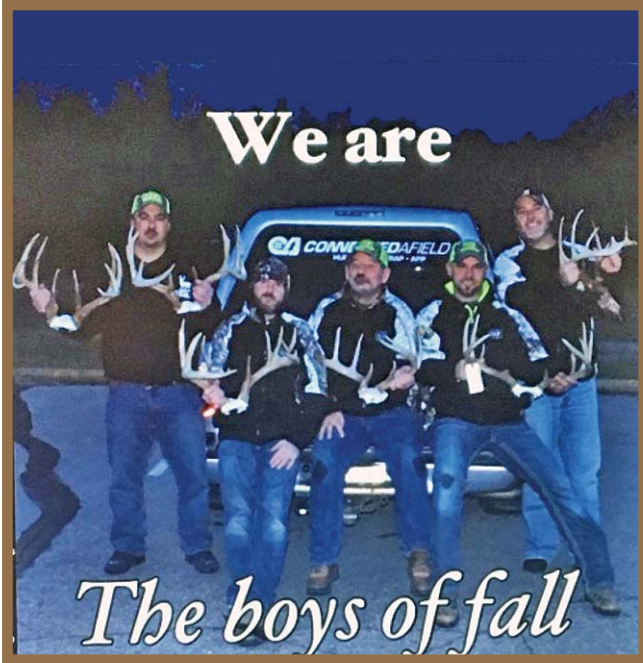
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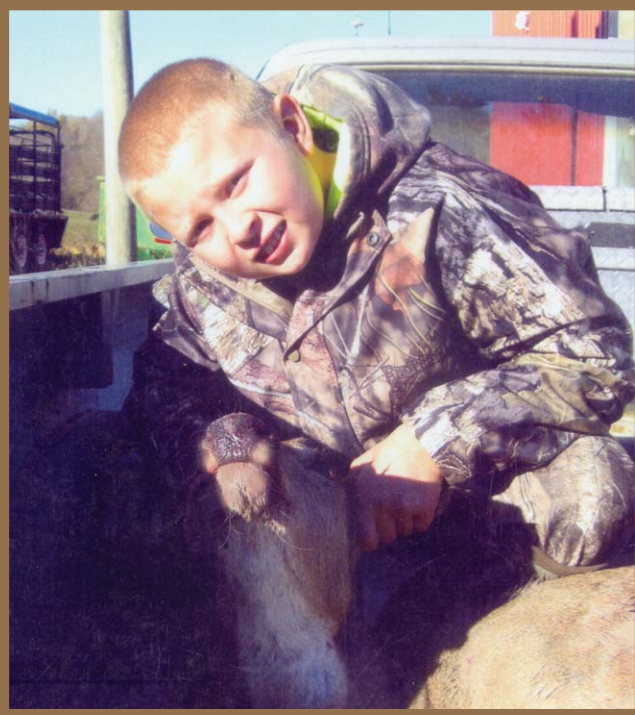
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# Gad's Corner

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The Field Staff at "ConnectedAfield.com" had a fantastic whitetail harvest this past fall. All the guys in this pic were blessed to score during the 2016 Indiana / Ohio / Kentucky Deer Season. From: Left to right: Mike Westerbeck Mike Garabey Glenn "Papa Kels" . Guido Kelsey "Duba" Roberts.



James Shoults II, took this Doe on 11-12-16. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Opening weekend of Indiana gun Keith took this 10 pt. whitetail buck. His .44 mag lever-action Marlin did him right. This Franklin Co. deer weight was 220 field dressed. Green score in the 150's (Glenn Kelsey Photo)



John Mollet took this 185 pound, 15 point buck the last day of the rifle season in 2016 with a 30-06 in Hamilton County in Indiana. John and his wife Beth are area coordinators for Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). FHFH has been in Indiana since 2001, and the Mollets have been coordinators for Hamilton, Marion, Hancock, Henry and Madison counties since 2005. The program provides high-protein, low-fat meats - mostly venison - to local food kitchens and organizations to help feed those who are hungry in Hamilton and surrounding counties. The Mollets work with the hunter and the butchers, the butcher and the food pantry, the food bank and the soup kitchens. They raise the funds and awareness to the media, and they try to approach the hunters. If the hunters and farmers don't know how to donate, they don't donate. It's John and Beth responsibility to reach out to the farmers and hunters. (Photo submitted by Glenn Kelsey)



Joe Mitchell harvested this huge whitetail beast in Dearborn Co. Indiana. He put the smack down on his deer with a 450 Bushmaster. This will score in the 160" range. (Glenn Kelsey Photo)



Kayden Schultz took his first deer, a four point buck on 11-13-2016. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)

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Kinsey Spears took this 160 pound, 8 point buck on 11-16-2016. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



My son took a nice 10 pt. earlier this day from his ladder stand in Franklin Co. He offered the stand to me, his dad Glenn Kelsey, and within 1 hour I saw this 9 pt. buck. I nailed him with my Remington 870 at 38 paces. (Glenn Kelsey Photo)

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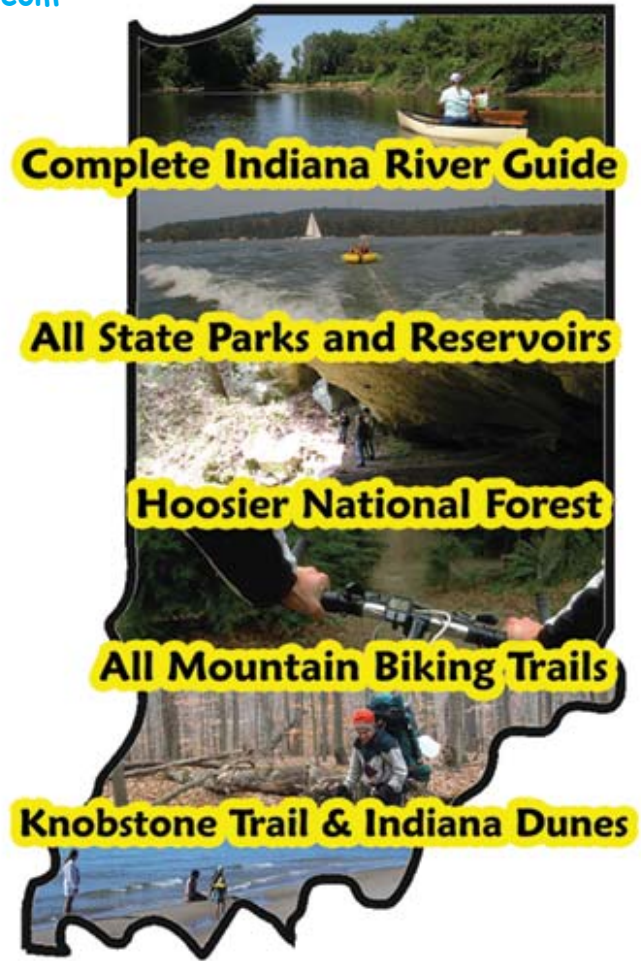
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Remington	870 Tactical	12 GA	\$349.99
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