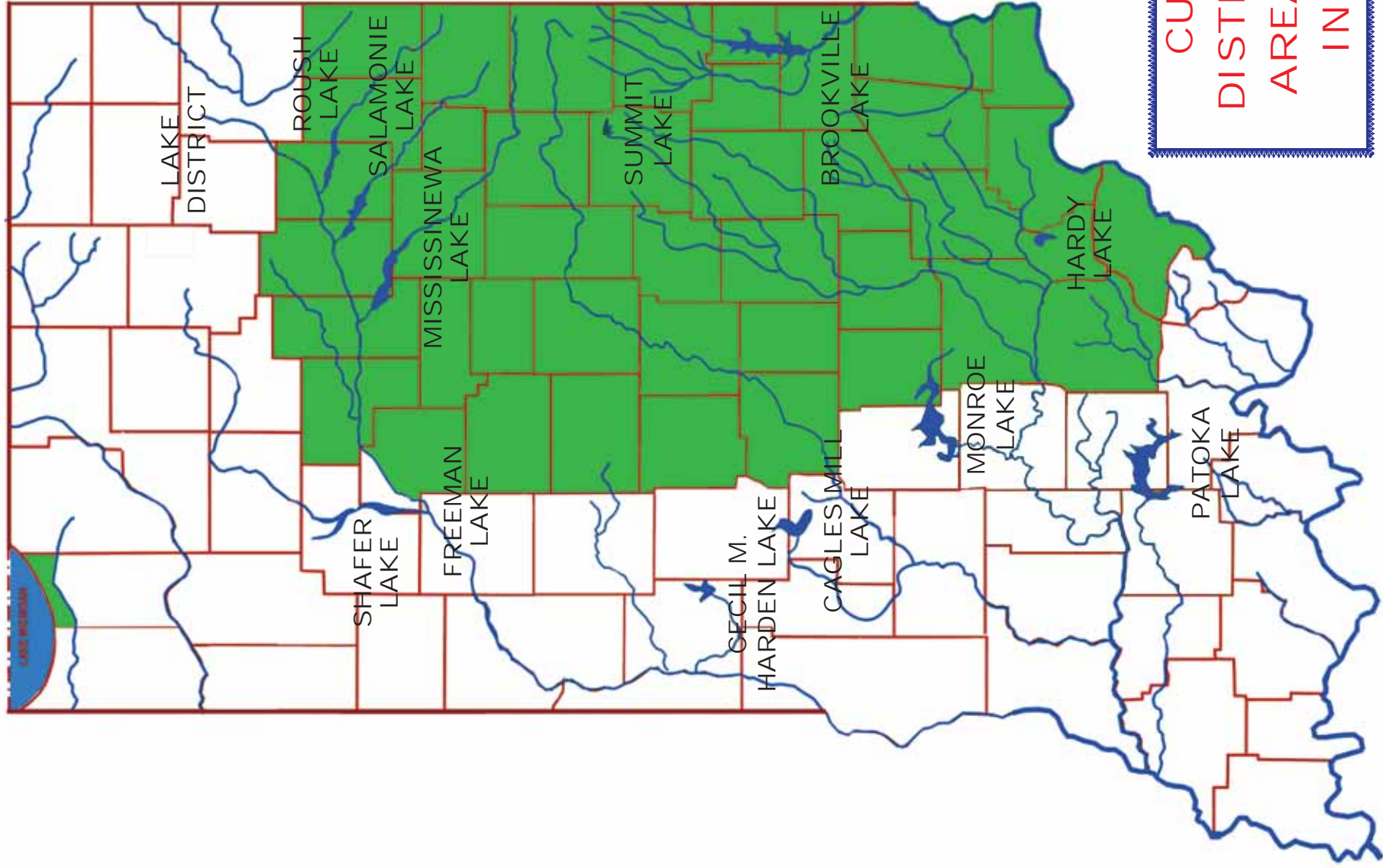


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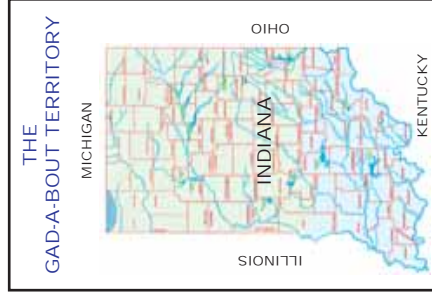
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**INDIANA SLAB MASTERS RYAN & DOUG WIN 1ST PLACE AT PATOKA - SEE PG 24**



**NEW ARCHERY PROGRAM BEING CONSIDERED FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS WITHIN A YEAR - PAGE 22-23**

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\$708.75	\$360.00	\$240.00	\$180.00	\$90.00	\$67.50	\$60.00	\$45.00
2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES	2-11 TIMES
\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI	\$6.50 PCI
\$614.25	\$312.00	\$208.00	\$156.00	\$78.00	\$58.50	\$52.00	\$39.00
12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES	12 TIMES
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# THE GAD-A-BOUT™



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MAY 2017 • Volume XXVII • NO. 326

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### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

**Top Left:** The black bear first reported in southern Indiana last July has been spotted near Butlerville in Jennings County after waking from hibernation. Please keep this bear wild by removing any potential food sources. Bears can smell food from more than a mile away, so it's important to secure food sources and discourage animals from associating humans and human dwellings with food. See Page 29 (IDNR Photo) **Top Right:** The Indiana Department of Natural Resources first stocked muskies into Lake Webster, in Kosciusko County, in 1981. 15 years later, Webster was a hot spot for musky fishing in the Hoosier state and the Midwest. By 2005, biologists estimated 5,000 adult muskies were present in the lake. Anglers caught 2,200 that year. In 2015, the catch was less than 600. See

Pages 20-21 (IDNR Photo) **Bottom Left:** Indiana Slab Masters members arrived at Patoka Lake to find good water conditions and chilly temperatures for the 2017 event on April 1st. The forecast partly-cloudy high of 59 never came as the cloud cover would not give way and the temperature was only able to rise into the upper 40's. See Page 24 (Photo by Jim Raymer) **Bottom Right:** Area 9 Special Olympics along with Wayne /Union County is investigating the possibility of introducing archery competition into our program. We are working with Frames Outdoors in Liberty, Indiana, Special Olympics Indiana, and Special Olympics International to develop an archery program that would be approved for our athletes to compete in. See page 22-23 (Photo by Lonnie Snow)

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"We are located across the road from Mounds S.R.A. Entrance at Brookville Lake"

# Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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John Durham, owner of Johns Guns and Tackle shop in Vernon, Indiana found this half inch black morel on March 16, 2017 in the woods. He got a dime and laid it next to the mushroom so you can see it more plainly. See John's advertisement on page 25. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

walk in the woods to check out my early spot and found a little one."

John added, "that's a monster isn't it?" We both laughed, it was about a half inch tall. I took the photo of him holding it and could barely see it between his fingers. That's when he got a dime and laid the mushroom next to it.

John said, "about three years ago I found one on March 13th in the same spot and one in 2012 too."

I asked him if he finds many of them when it's time for them to be more plentiful. But he's like me, I want to go to the woods, but when they are being found I can't get away, when I finally have the time it's too late. I have one dried up mushroom in our refrigerator I found a couple years ago. Sherry asked me if I wanted to throw it away the other day, but I put it back in the frig. The poor little thing looks so pitiful.

(Note: Since that day several guys I know in Franklin County told me they or they knew the black morel are being found as of April 1st, I've never found any prior to April 17th here in Wayne County.)

## I HAVE AN "ATTA BOY" THIS MONTH FOR DAVE'S COLLISION TECHNICIANS, INC IN CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA

I had to get an estimate for some vehicle damage and didn't know where I could get it done. Thanks to Sandy at State Farm in Liberty, she sent me to Connersville, Indiana to see Dave, owner of Dave's Collision Technicians, Inc located at 2340 Park Road, Phone number 765-825-0539 and he took good care of me. Dave was very professional and saw to my every need. He is a swell guy and I can whole heartedly recommend him if you find yourself in need of his services. His slogan is "Mender For Your Fender Bender."

## SALAMONIE LAKE SHELTER BUILDING AND SURVIVOR SKILLS

Second Saturday at Salamonie Lake, May 13 May's Second Saturday at Salamonie Lake will focus on "Shelter Building and Survivor Skills," on May 13.

The program runs from 1 to 3 p.m. at Salamonie Interpretive Center. Build a shelter and take a beginners class on surviving in the outdoors. Webelos Scouts may fulfill requirements for Castaway. There will be indoor and outdoor activities, please dress for the weather.

Advance registration is required by calling (260) 468-2127.

Second Saturday is a monthly educational series of programs at Salamonie Lake.

A \$3 fee per participant is payable day of the event.

Standard gate fees of \$5 per in-state vehicle and \$7 per out-of-state vehicle apply.

Campsite reservations can be made at [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov) or by calling 1-866-622-6746.

Upper Wabash Interpretive Services ([dnr.IN.gov/uwis](http://dnr.IN.gov/uwis)) is at 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews, 46702.

To view all DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov).

## SMOKIN' ON THE WATER BBQ FEST AT DUNLAPSVILLE, IN WILL BE HELD MAY 5 - 7, 2017 DON'T MISS IT!!

The 10th Annual Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival, May 5-7, 2017 is held annually in the Treaty Line Pioneer Village which is located across the Dunlapville Causeway Road from the Quakertown State Recreation Area on Brookville Lake. Take SR 101 south from Liberty, IN or north from Brookville, In to Roseburg, IN turn west on Dunlapville Causeway road, cross the Brookville Lake and turn right at the next road, the old Dunlapville road. The fenced in enclosed grounds on

your right is the Treaty Line Pioneer Village. On the left side of the road is a large free parking area. Park there and cross the road and enter free to the festival. If you are physically challenged there is parking near the entrance for you to park your car. The hours are Friday noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 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 Craft show, KCBS BBQ cook off of Chicken, Pork Ribs, Pork and Beef Brisket, Award winning Barbeque (Ribs, Chicken, etc) and other great eats, Craft fair, Home show, Music, Food and Fun, Antique tractor and Farm equipment exhibits, Handmade furniture and instruments, Mobility carts, Golf carts, Mowers and More, Home improvement products, Handmade jewelry, Healthcare products and services,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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# So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe

Professional Fishing Guide



Darell George from Louisville Ky caught this crappie in Brookville Lake. (Author Photo)

## Fishing Brookville Lake in May

If I had to pick one month to fish Brookville lake out of the entire year it would be the month May.

The water temperature in the lake is still cool and well oxygenated. There is no young of the year fish at all for any fish to feed on. What most of the fish target, is what's crawling around on the bottom. May is also the month that almost all the fish in the lake go through their spawning cycles. So, they are all concentrated in shallow water and hungry.

If you're a bluegill fisherman, look for them to

be spawning in water about 3 feet deep. Bluegill will build little round circles on the bottom of the lake. These circles or indents in the bottom will be side by side and usually about 15 to 20 in the clusters. After their built the female bluegill will deposit her eggs in the center of the circle and the male and female bluegill will take turns fanning the silt off the eggs. This is just one of their tasks, the other is to keep every other fish in the lake from eating them. To catch a mess of bluegill at this time of year is very easy. All you have to do is locate these little nest colonies. I prefer to you wax worms or red worms when fishing for bluegill. If the water clears up in the lake and you have a good pair of polarized sunglasses you can literally see the nests from the front of your boat. In the bass fishing world, this is called site fishing. Speaking of bass did you know that a small-mouth or a largemouth bass is not really a bass at all. They all belong to the sunfish family. A true bass is a white bass or a striped bass, also known as a temperate bass. Anyway, all you really need to catch these bluegill is a bobber a small split shot a hook and a box of wax worms or red worms. Pitch it in around these nest colonies and you can load the boat. Just remember you have to leave some for seed.

In the month of the May there are two species of fish in the lake that are not spawning, one is the walleye and the other is the catfish. The catfish

fish is also a nest building spawner but there spawning cycle is in July when the water is warmer. The walleye has already spawned and left their eggs to fend for themselves. They spawned at the end of March when the water temperature is in the mid-forties. What this means is that the only thing that the walleye and catfish have to do to occupy their time is eat, and what they're going to eat on is eggs. Bluegill eggs, shad eggs, crappie eggs, and the list goes on.

If you can figure out where a lot of these fish are spawning, then you can figure out where the walleye and catfish will be. This is just one food source at this time of year though. There are also bugs, worms, crawdad's, insect larvae and this list goes on as well.

This is why I think a jig and night crawler is such a good bait to catch fish, it looks the part. When you rig it right, and fish it right, it looks exactly like a crawdad. I have had people ask me why don't you just use a crawdad? The problem is it don't look the part when you put it on a hook. They will just ball up. They smell the part, but I guess looking the part is best.

Crappie is also one of those fish that are easily caught in May. Your prime-time water temperature is around 65 degrees. You will also want to use a jig when fishing for this fish. Switch the night crawler for a minnow or wax worm. Ad a tube or a curly tail to the set up and you have one of the best baits going. You can also use a hook bobber and a split shot, but if you like the feel of the tick of the fish bite the jig is where it's at. You can literally find these fish from the dam to the north end of the lake and all points in between. Let the water temperature lead you to them.

Good luck Tag

If you need more info go to my web site [www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com](http://www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com) . To schedule trips contact me at [tagnobbe@gmail.com](mailto:tagnobbe@gmail.com) or call my cell 765-265-3238.

I guide fish for walleye, and crappie starting in mid-April till the end of December 7 days a week on Brookville lake. We fish out of a 2017 pro V 2075 with a 250 Honda outboard engine.

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# News from the Indiana State Police



by Sergeant John D. Bowling  
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

## Indiana State Police Offer Summer Youth Camps

To date more than 45,000 Hoosier youth have been afforded the opportunity to spend face time with law enforcement officers in a positive environment. Countless camp graduates have gone on to careers with the ISP or in other related fields; many camp graduates go on to be adult camp counselors after they begin their law enforcement careers. Due to the longevity of the program, many have completed their careers and have retired.

The Indiana State Police have allowed their troopers and staff members to volunteer and participate in the camp program as camp directors, counselors and staff. The camp program was provided and completely funded by the Indiana State Police until 2008.

At that time, changes within the structure of our state government did not permit the ISP to continue providing the camp program. ISP felt the program was worth continuing and offered the sponsorship of the camp program to a support organization of the state police. The Indiana Troopers Association took over the administration of the camp program until 2010.

In 2010, the camp program's founder, Retired Connersville District Sgt. Ernie Alder (PIO,) applied and received the 501c3 tax exemption status and started the Indiana Troopers Youth Services, Inc., with the sole purpose of continuing the ISP Summer Youth Camp Program. The Indiana State Police continues to provide support of the camp program.

If you know a child that may be interested in attending a camp, or if you would like more information on the camps as well as camp schedules and locations, please visit the Indiana Troopers

Youth Services Web Site at <http://trooper.org/>

## Motorcycle SAFETY

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

### Tips for passenger vehicles:

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

### Tips for motorcycle riders:

- Wear protective equipment and clothing, especially a helmet with face shield.
- **Make yourself visible by wearing bright Hi-Viz clothing, using reflective tape and by using your motorcycle's headlight. Always use turn signals when changing lanes and turning.**
- Check your motorcycle before each ride, and do not ride if any equipment is not operating properly.
- Look for road hazards. Be especially cautious around intersections, alleys, driveways, and other areas where an animal, pedestrian, or vehicle might enter your path.
- Avoid riding in the blind spot of other vehicles.
- Ride defensively; always leave enough reaction time for unexpected movements from other vehicles.
- When operating a motorcycle during inclement weather, slow down and use extra caution. Avoid sudden changes in direction or speed.
- Never ride impaired.
- Never perform stunts like "wheelies" or other tricks.

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

## Bicycle Safety

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

Follow the rules of the road, meaning traffic laws that apply to vehicles, because they also apply to bicyclists. **ALWAYS RIDE WITH TRAFFIC, NOT AGAINST THE TRAFFIC FLOW!** Use hand signals to signal turns.

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

## Here is a funny little story

To help Ray out each month, I always drop a bundle of papers off early in the morning at Rural  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**

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**VICTIM**

# Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



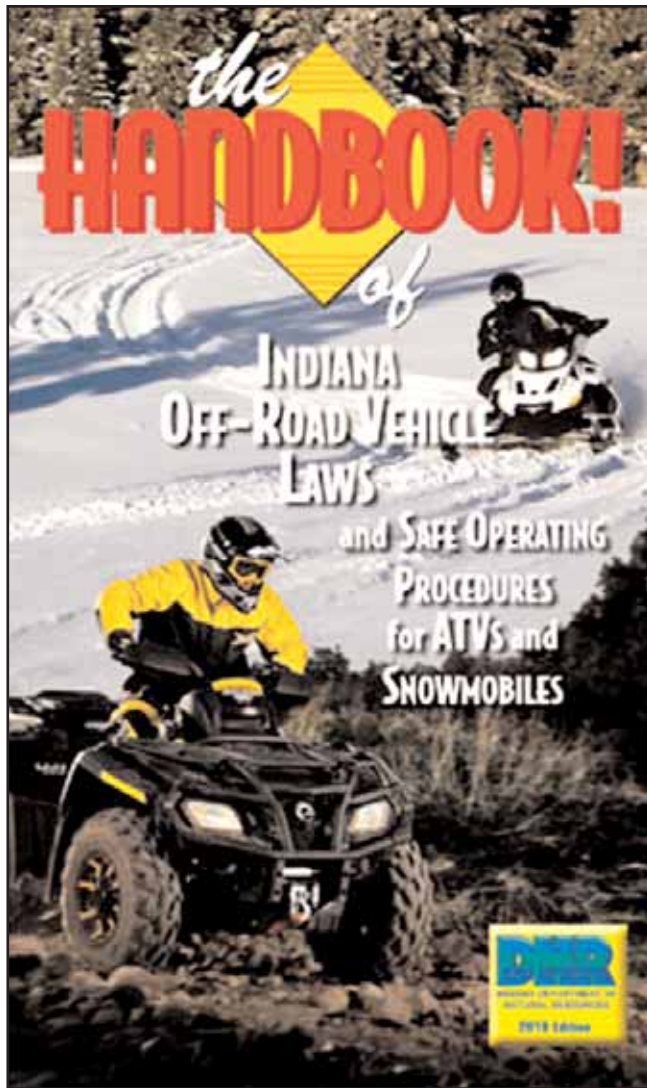
by PIO Travis Stewart

## Ride Safe Indiana ATV Safety and Preparedness

ATVs, or All-Terrain Vehicles, are becoming a popular choice for many individuals in Indiana for outdoor recreation. Ever since I have become a Conservation Officer, I have dealt with ATVs. I have seen these machines used for good reasons and seen them used safely. The down side to this, I have seen them used in an unsafe manner.

As an officer, we have to respond to ATV crashes, with severity ranging from mild to life threatening to death. I have dealt with crashes where the operator sustained mild cuts or bruises and walked away. Other crashes occurred where the operator or passenger died as a result.

This article is to bring to light the threat these machines can pose, and the issues we as officers have dealt with. This is to aid in lessening the chance of a crash and harm occurring. They can be an enjoyable activity, but only if used safely.



The photo is the front cover of "The Handbook of Indiana Off-Road Vehicle Laws and Safe Operating Procedures for ATVs".

In 2016, Indiana witnessed the most fatalities associated with ATVs. An alarming 23 fatalities occurred, with 3 of those under the age of 18. Since 2012 a total of 1252 crashes were reported, with 244 in 2016. Out of the 244 crashes, 256 riders were injured. The hope is to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities, and keep it shrinking.

Your typical "4-Wheeler" has no safety belt, air bags, doors, or roll cage to protect the operator or passengers. So if these are missing, how can you protect yourself, one may ask? Simple, wear your safety equipment. This could be a helmet, chest protector, shin guards, elbow and knee pads, boots, or variation of all mentioned or unmentioned.

Even though a helmet is not required, wearing one could have changed a serious injury crash to a minor crash, or prevented a death. With that said, this is the most vital piece of safety equipment, regardless of what type of ATV is being operated. Bringing this into perspective, officers have worked crashes where a "side-by-side" ATV was involved. The occupants had a roll cage for protection, but the ATV rolled over causing injuries to the head. A helmet should be DOT approved and in good condition. The choice for full face mask or not is the rider's choice.

Further safety equipment can only aid in protection for the riders. ATVs equipped with a safety belt, should be utilized every time the machine is operated.

I ask readers who operate or ride an ATV to ask themselves, do I wear a helmet every time I'm on a machine? If the answer is no, I ask you re-think this and put it on before your next outing.

ATVs are described as being rider active. Meaning the operator has to move with the machine. They have to lean into turns, shift their weight in relation to the terrain, and always be aware of their surroundings. If all this has to be taken into consideration while operating, there can be no room for misjudgment. A major issue seen, is the use of alcohol or drugs while operating these machines. Not only does this impair your senses and judgment, but it's illegal. Since 2012, 134 crashes have occurred as a result of alcohol or drugs. This potentially means 134 crashes could have been prevented.

Young riders fall victim to crashes and injuries. ATV manufacturers make recommendations for the age of operators and different sizes of machines. This is due to the fact that the larger the machine, the heavier it becomes. Where this becomes imperative is if the rider or operator becomes trapped or pinned underneath it, are they going to be able to lift it. Crashes have been investigated where a young operator was pinned underneath a machine and was unable to remove themselves from underneath it; dying either instantly or eventually from airway obstruction.

ATV manufacturers recommend ages 6 to 11 operate a machine less than 70 cc. Ages 12 to 15 are recommended operating a machine 70 to 90 cc. Operators over the age of 16 are recommended to operate a machine 90 cc and greater.

Trespassing with an ATV is an issue we as Officers see far too often. Operating an ATV on private property is the same as any activity, where permission must be gained before doing so. Not only is this a violation of the law, but it possess dangers to the operator and riders.

On private property a number of circumstances can create a crash. One scenario I stress being if a landowner had made changes to fence lines within the property. The landowner may have moved a fence row, or placed a new fence row across a heavily traveled path, that now creates an obstruction. A trespasser on the property, not knowing the addition of the fence, can collide with the fence row. ATV riders should always ask permission to operate on private property not owned by them.

ATVs are designed for use off road. Low tire pressure and the design of the tires are made for rough terrain, not for paved roads. With many counties now allowing these machines to operate on county roadways, the key is to know how the machine will operate on a paved road and use that knowledge to operate safely when traveling on roadways. If you are uncertain how it will handle a turn on pavement, or operate on the roadway then don't operate there until you have an understanding.

ATVs can be a useful and enjoyable machine for outdoor activities, but due regard and safety have to be taken into account.

For further information about ATVs contact a local Indiana DNR Law Enforcement District Headquarters or local Conservation Officer to obtain an ATV handbook for laws and safe operating procedures.

As always Ride Safe and Stay Safe Indiana. ■

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Aerial View of Barton's Bay Boat Storage & Service located at 10055 SR 101, Brookville, Indiana. Jesse Barton is now managing the business which includes an additional 1.5 acres of outside storage, available now. (Barton's Bay Boat Storage Photo)

## Jesse Barton Manager Barton's Bay Boat & Storage

by Ray Dickerson

Jesse Barton, son of Bob and Pam Barton is now managing Barton's Bay Boat Storage and Service. Owners Bob and Pam Barton have officially retired.

Jesse was one year old when Bob and Pam purchased the then 3 acre property on State Road 101 in 1986. He grew up in Franklin County. He graduated from Franklin County High School in 2003. After graduating from IUPUI in 2009 Jesse worked odd jobs for roughly the first year until he took a position with the Department of Child Services (DCS) in 2011. Jesse worked as a Case Manager with DCS for roughly 4 years investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect, managing ongoing cases, and working with children and families.

Jesse is looking forward to this opportunity to continue the family business and working with the many great customers that they have acquired over the 31 years, as well as the countless new customers that he will come in to contact with in the future.

Bob and Pam have been around Brookville Lake for many years. Bob's dad, Bueford was the project engineer when Brookville Lake was built. Pam was born and raised in Brookville and married Bob right out of high school. After they were married they moved around to various construction jobs in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. After they purchased the property on SR 101 they moved their mobile home to Indiana from Claremore, Oklahoma and began Barton's Bay.

The original property was 3 acres with a horse barn they converted to boat storage. Bob worked construction and then 10 years at Owen's Corning, in Brookville. Pam worked for a local attorney. Hoping that one day the business would be able to support them and their 1 year old son, Jesse.

Over the years they added additional storage buildings and purchased more acreage for a total of 9 acres. The additional storage consists of 10 units with doors attached to the original structure and 3 open face barns with 52 units. There are 14 mini storage style units 12x30 with roll up doors and cement floors and the newest building houses eight 12x36 units



Pam and Jesse Barton standing in the driveway with the storage units behind them. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

with roll up doors and cement floors. There is also ample room for outside storage on the property.

In 1991 they opened a retail location in the west end of the original building, but it has been closed. The rest of the building is divided into storage for boat parts, lawn equipment, tools, and a maintenance shop for repairing boats.

In 1993 they built their home on the property and said good bye to the mobile home they had lived in since 1976. Living in a house with an attached garage was a real luxury and the view is one of the best in the county over looking the town of Brookville.

Bob and Pam have selected a new site for a new home, which will be built later on this year and they will still have a view of Brookville.

Jesse will live in the house on SR 101 where he can manage the business just like his mom and dad did.

Bob and Pam recently made some major upgrades to get the place looking great for Jesse. The renovations included a new driveway entrance off of State Road 101, new barn siding on ends of some barns. New doors and trim on 10 units. The house has a new roof, fur-

nace, air conditioning, water heater and water softener.

They newly renovated 1.5 acres of outside space for 2017. The grass field that has been used for outside storage for the past 30 years always had a problem with drainage and became muddy with a big rain. To correct the problem all the top soil was removed, the field was coated with gravel, and the field was leveled to accommodate more storage. The field is now accessible to all types of boats, RV's and trailers for storage at very competitive prices. (See Photo at top of page for graphic view of new outside storage area.)

Bob and Pam have made many friends of the campers and boaters who have done business with them over the last 30 years. The occupancy rate is nearly always 100%. They have a loyal customer base and rarely have a vacancy.

To contact Barton's Bay Boat Storage call 765-647-5647. Check their website [www.bartonsbay.com](http://www.bartonsbay.com) E-mail: [bartonsbay@bartonsbay.com](mailto:bartonsbay@bartonsbay.com)

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# Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

## New Season, New Photos

There's nothing better than a good fishing photo. Sadly, most fishing photos are crummy. Add to this, there are more fishing photos now than ever which only means there are more crummy fishing photos.

The common complaint used to be, "Oh rats! I forgot to bring the camera." Almost as common a complaint was, "I'm out of film." Or maybe, "I'm



It's the fishing photo season. Don't take crummy ones! (Author Photo)

a few really neat fish photos. I've taken many, many more crummy fish photos. I'm proof anyone can occasionally snap-a-pic worthy of seeing or even allowing others to see by following a few tips.

\*Tip 1: A phone can take a really nice photo. But phones are multi-taskers and don't do things as quickly, easily, reliably or as well as a camera. Maybe phones are every bit as capable as a digital camera but when someone is holding a flopping fish in front of me it's hard to quickly remember what sequence of spots to touch on the screen to

almost out of film." At least with fewer fishing photos there were fewer crummy fishing photos.

That has changed in our modern, cyber-society. Who doesn't have a phone in pocket capable of snapping a photo? Anytime, anywhere, with or without a cell-signal, pull out the 'droid or I-product and click away. Click twice, three or four times or a thousand. How many photos will fit on one of those devices, anyway? I don't know.

Who will see them? Potentially, everyone in the world except.... Okay, just leave it at everyone in the world, thanks to Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter and probably a couple dozen other e-venues about which I'm clueless.

But in the long run one thing remains consistent. Most of the fish pictures are still crummy!

Catch a fish, grip it, hold it towards the camera so it looks bigger than it is, smile and click. You've become the subject of a crummy fish picture. At best (or worst - depending on the point of view) you'll be able to identify the fish and the fisherman.

It's a mug shot. It's like a crime scene photo. "See here, judge, the photo proves the accused fisherman caught the alleged fish." It's not a good fish photo.

They are only better than the fish photos so poorly lit neither the fish, fishermen or either can be positively identified. "Case dismissed for lack of evidence."

Want a fish photo worse than the "grip and grin?" How about two, three or more anglers holding two, three or even a dozen, obviously dead victims. "It was mass-murder, your honor!"

By now you see the problem. Here are some solutions.

I'm not a professional photographer. I've taken

change the camera settings. I just touch the "click" spot and hope for the best.

\*Tip 2: Since film and processing costs are non-existent and cameras and phones can take uncountable numbers of photos, take uncountable numbers of photos, not just one.

\*Tip 2A: Hit delete on 90 to 99 percent of the photos snapped because of Tip #2.

\*Tip 3: Sometimes natural lighting is perfect and a really good photo can be obtained using only the light from the sun. Professional photographers rarely rely on natural lighting. The least you can do is learn to make your camera or phone flash for every photo. Go back to Tip #2 and take some pictures with, some without the flash.

\*Tip 4: Learn the zoom features on cameras and crop feature on a phone. Most cameras have optical (mechanical) zooms. This means the lens actually moves in or out. Use it to pull the subject matter in close. Phones have purely digital zooms. As long as you know how to crop a phone-picture, there's no increase in picture quality garnered by zooming. Almost every photo I put in this paper, on Facebook or otherwise save for posterity is cropped to some extent.

\*Tip 5: Good fish photos show action. Live action is great; posed action is easier and often produces better results. Show the fish being netted, landed by hand, lifted from the net, being unhooked, being kissed, being photographed, being released, being put into the cooler or on the stringer, being cooked.... Each of these things are active and tells a story.

Each can be a great fish picture you'll love to see, want to save and be proud to post.

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# Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

## Know a bird to kill one

We have all been there; you are all amped up as the hens talk and the gobblers fire off from the roost and you seem to be in the perfect position right in the middle of the action, feeling fairly certain that in a matter of minutes you will be draping a pair of ankles over your shoulder. But, instead of the scene that played out in your head, the turkeys all flew down and wasted no time spreading the distance between you and them while the toms simultaneously fall silent. Or the situation could play out another way; there is absolutely no gobbling from the roost or after they pitch down, which leaves you feeling as if there isn't a turkey within the same section of the county as you.

### Scout for your bird:

Too many turkey hunters simply think that being in the roost area is enough to kill a gobbler. While once in a while this can be true, to be consistent on punching your turkey tag, it usually takes a lot more than that. Scouting is just as important for turkey hunting as it is for deer hunting. There is no substitute for understanding your quarry and using that information to up your odds.

When scouting for turkeys before opening day, I like to keep it fairly simple. Actually getting in and covering a lot of ground looking for sign is not how I go about it prior to the opener. I do not want to spook any birds in their daily routine which may cause them to change their habits. Instead, your first step is to just be in a place in the mornings and/or evenings where you expect to be able to hear the toms gobbling from the roost and listen. Once you have found roost sites, try to keep an eye or ear on the birds after they fly down in the mornings if you can. Sometimes we tend to think that finding the roost area is good enough and leave it at that, but by knowing where the turkeys tend to go after they fly down, you will significantly increase your chances of killing one. So either stay put and keep listening for gobbling and hen talk as they move off or move in the general direction as they are and try to keep tabs on them. Try to do so without being detected.

By knowing their favorite haunts, you will not have to rely on that fleeting thirty minutes of activity at first daylight to hope to fill your tag. You will know where to go and be in a position to intercept the birds later on in the morning, and that is a good



Left Photo: Scouting for turkeys will certainly up your odds of bagging one. Just be sure to do so unobtrusively and never, ever use your calls while on a scouting mission. Save them for when you have a gun in your hands. Right Photo: To consistently lug longbeards out of the woods, you have to get to know your birds. Sure, you can kill a turkey now and again without knowing your flock's habits, but not with any consistence. (Author Photos)



thing. Or, if there is no gobbling on a given day, you will know which areas to go to so you can just sit and wait them out if you have to. If you have scouted properly, sooner or later, they will show up.

### Keep your turkey calls at home:

Practicing your calling is important (and, yes, it is fun) so that you can masterfully replicate the sounds of the wild turkey as best you can when it becomes game time. There is a time and a place for everything though, and practicing your calling on live birds beforehand is never a good idea. Travel down any back road a couple of weeks before turkey season and you are sure to run into people pulling over on the side of the road and blowing on a turkey call in hopes of getting a gobbler to fire off. They do this to locate the tom and learn his whereabouts or roosting area prior to the opener. Little do they know that by doing so, they are making the hunting considerably tougher, not only for themselves, but for others as well.

Under no circumstance should you ever use a turkey call in the wild call unless you are actually hunting and intent on killing a turkey. Every time you do, you run the risk of educating the birds in your area. Let's say you are out scouting and just cannot resist giving a few yelps to see if anything responds. Whether a gobbler does or does not fire back, if he heard it and comes in to investigate, or worse yet, notices you, then you have pretty much just eliminated that bird from your hit list because the odds are long that he will readily come into a call again this season, or if he does, he will likely come in silent.

If you just have to try to make a tom gobble, only do so with the use of calls designed to "shock" him into gobbling, rather than ones designed to draw him in. A crow call, for example, is a commonly used locator call which is designed to pierce the air and make a gobbler gobble. It is used to locate the bird but will not entice him to come investigate, and therefore is fairly harmless when used in this manner. Be advised though, that eventually turkeys can get used to such calls and respond less to them over

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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# Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

## Just Droning & Choppin' Around

Lately, there is a lot of news about the explosion in the popularity of drones. UAV's (unmanned aerial vehicles) were initially developed as a cost effective means by the military for use in recon as well as covertly spying on enemy positions. Then, of course, they were armed to conduct missile attacks as a cost effective alternative to expensive and sometimes risky manned flights. But, as usual, when the military develops something to blow a camel to smithereens, civilians will come up with the same principle to spy on their neighbors swimming pool in bikini season.

Radio controlled flying machines have been around for a long time. Fixed wing aircraft as well as helicopters of every conceivable type have been flying for years and in the hands of a skilled operator can perform some amazing stunts. However, with the exception of helicopters, fixed wing aircraft fly in one direction - forward. Unfortunately, there are a lot of unmoving objects such as trees and buildings and of course, this mud ball we happen to be living on. Radio controlled helicopters are more versatile but more difficult to master. Enter the drone.

A few years ago my wife gave me a large r/c helicopter with a main rotor span of 22 inches. It didn't take me long to develop a healthy respect for the pilots of the real thing in trying to manipulate the throttle, direction, and pitch and yaw controls. The thing will shoot up to about fifty feet in the blink of an eye and then wander off toward the nearest tree or bush. I chop the throttle and it drops like a shot-gunned goose and flops on its side. After a few sessions I finally managed to convince it to stay in our yard and away from our neighbors dog who would sit eyeing it warily like a rabbit watching a hawk. I finally had to admit that flying an r/c chopper was going to take more patience than I have, I began whining about needing one of the simpler to fly drones. Judy, after a few gentle reminders of my age, relented and I found one under the tree at Christmas.

Drones come in all shapes and sizes and varying degrees of complexity from the very simplest to sophisticated units costing thousands of dollars. After observing my chopper skills, Judy figured I'd better start with something toward the bottom of the list. It has the customary four rotors and carries a small camera for feeding streaming videos or still shots to a smart phone mounted on the controller. The phone can then be installed in a virtual reality head set that allows

the viewer to see what the drone sees. In other words, the viewer can sit and make ooh and aah sounds while waving his arms around and weaving in the chair while spittle drools out of the corners of his mouth. A friend had also requested and received a drone and since he and his wife would be spending the winter in the same Florida complex as Judy and I, we decided to wait until we got there to fly for the first time. We would be joined by another mutual friend who was also drone armed. There are rules at our housing complex, such as no skeet shooting sea gulls off the patio decks, but we felt confident that there were no regulations against flying drones in the parking areas as long as we didn't crash into any Mercedes' or BMW's.

The range on more sophisticated drones can reach out-of-sight horizontally to time in federal prison for violating height restrictions set by the FAA. For our lowly outfits the maximum height is 150 feet and 450 feet horizontally. In other words, half a football field high and a football field and a half horizontally. I feel this is more than adequate for checking for schools of crappie or big bass in our lake or chasing geese out of the yard. A week after we arrived and settled into our apartments, Buddy called to report no wind conditions present in the back part of the parking lot of his complex. Ideal conditions for first time flights. Following instructions for "pairing" the drone to the controller. Finally, throttles were advanced and the Three Amigos were aloft. For a little while. Buddy's craft shot up to about thirty feet while Larry's casually drifted off toward a fenced in waste collection area. My rose a few feet and began following Larry's. We all chopped throttles with Buddy's ending up hanging in the lower branches of a small tree and Larry and mine bouncing off the black top. Cautiously using a little more throttle control we finally had the little demons hovering a few feet off the ground. While Larry again began chasing his toward the dump, Buddy accidentally flew his into my derriere. Momentarily distracted, I jiggled my flight controller and the thing took off toward the fairway of an adjoining golf course. It wouldn't respond to either the throttle or the direction control stick and merrily flogged out onto the fairway while holding a steady seven or eight feet off the ground. I finally took off after it in a dead run, shouting "Hold Your Shots" to anyone preparing to tee off on that fairway. After a forty yard dash I caught up with it, reached up and snatched it out of the air.

After a little practice we managed to keep the things fairly in control and enjoyed them thoroughly. Some time later I sat on our sixth floor patio deck and watched a gent on the beach flying his sophisticated and expensive drone. Obviously very experienced, he tracked its flight by watching the screen on his controller. Occasionally, he would park it hovering next to him while he fiddled with his controller and video screen. Suddenly, it shot up to about seventy or eighty feet, leveled off, shot toward our building and crashed noisily into a patio deck on the eighth floor. Its operator began looking around to see where it had gone. Finally, a gentleman tapped him on the shoulder and pointed at our building. Kinda made my having to chase mine down across a golf course tame by comparison. Now if I can avoid losing control of the thing over the lake, I'm going to have some fun this summer.

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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

Things are beginning to pick up here at the Great Lakes of the Wabash as all three properties are ironing out all their kinks in anticipation of the start of the 2017 recreation season. Whether you enjoy camping, boating, fishing, horseback riding, hiking or any of the other several opportunities the outdoors presents we hope you all find time to come enjoy what the Salamonie, Mississinewa and Huntington state properties have to offer. After talking to several of the DNR representatives that work for the Salamonie Reservoir property as well as Randy Yarger, owner of Pirates Cove Marina, I can assure you that everyone is picking things up a notch knowing visitors will be flocking to our area over the next coming weeks. Working here at Bozarth's Recreational Resort and Country Store I can attest to the readiness as we have begun stocking up our inventory and cleaning up from winter months as we have already been approached by several of our campers chomping at the bit to jump start the 2017 season.

As we embark on what we hope will turn out to be another great season full of outdoor activities I would like to take a moment and highlight several of the experiences one can have either by themselves or in a family group setting. For starters, with three lakes (Salamonie, Mississinewa, and Roush) all within 20 to 25 minutes of each other it is obvious that if you relish being on the lake then you are at the right place. If you enjoy fishing then be mindful that we sit on some of the best lakes around for crappie, bluegill, catfish, and bass. If you enjoy the water then take advantage of the vast amounts available for boating, water sports, or swimming. The Salamonie Reservoir property also has one of the nicest horse camps and trails in the state for horseback riding. Add in the fact the Salamonie and Mississinewa properties have several hundred sites available for camping then that should be more than enough to entice an outdoor enthusiast to want to make the trip and visit these great properties.

I have been fortunate to grow up in this area and was able to take advantage of what all was available to me as an avid outdoorsman. As life saw me graduate high school and continue my education at Ball State University, I am right back where I started only this time I am a married man with kids to share my experiences with. As a



This is my son Cade Pershing showing off one of the several crappies we caught while taking a fishing trip after he finished his long day at school. He was anxiously awaiting the day where he could get back on the water and start fishing! (Author Photo)

father of three children, my wife and I are always looking for things to entertain our kids outdoors and I would like to share a few of those opportunities you can embark on with your family when you make the trip.

First, I would like to start with some ideas while visiting the Salamonie Reservoir. Within the Salamonie Reservoir property it would be a clever idea to stop at the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center and give your kids the chance to see the several animals on hand as well the map layout detailing the entire property. Next, you can stop down at the Pirates Cove Marina and enjoy a refreshing drink and let you kids feed the large amounts of carp that hover around their dock. If you have time you could also plan a cruise on the Pirates Cove Tour Boat where they take you on a guided trip up and down the reservoir which gives you a different view of the property if you have never been on the water. As you exit there you can take your kids to the beach area and let them swim while relaxing on the beach.

Now that you have visited the state park and begin to venture around the lake property you will want to make a stop and visit us here at Bozarth's Country Store! You will not be disappointed as you will find a 10,000 square foot building that houses almost everything you could ever want. We have a store packed full

of sporting goods, groceries, and a huge display of all the cast iron one could ever use. While shopping you can enjoy one of our several menu items from our grill and then finish off your meal with some ice cream from our soft serve machine. After satisfying your appetite there are a few other places you can plan to take the family. We like to visit the dam and let the kids walk down the steps at the tail water and see the water gushing out all along with the hopes of seeing the newly reintroduced bald eagles flying overhead. Lastly, a few other hot spots include visiting Hanging Rock and learning the Indian history along the Wabash River in Lagro and visiting the Salamonie State Forest and having a picnic at the Hominy Ridge Lake.

The Mississinewa Reservoir property has a lot of the same options available within their park as you can visit the beach for rest and relaxation or if you are looking for a place to camp you can take advantage of one of their family cabins and enjoy a night telling stories and camping around a campfire. A disc golf course is also available within the property. A few other activities include visiting Frances Slocum Cemetery and learning the history of her story. There is also a trail in her memory called the Frances Slocum Trail. Another exciting thing to see with your family while at the Mississinewa is the Seven Pillars. The Pillars or simply called "the cliffs" provides a picturesque view where wind and water eroded the limestone and makes for a very neat setting. These are just a few of the things you can plan for your family and along with these ideas you can always simply plan a fishing, camping or even a picnic trip and allow your family to enjoy what the outdoors provides us all while enjoying time as a family away from the hustle and bustle in our everyday life's.

I hope by sharing some of these ideas with you it will help you have a better understanding of what opportunities await if you come visit the Great Lakes of the Wabash. If making the trip always be sure to check with the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center to see if they have any scheduled events while visiting. For more information you can contact them at (260) 468-2127 or visit their website for a detailed listing of their planned activities. We also have several crappie tournaments scheduled over the coming weeks. On Saturday, May 6th the Crappie USA circuit will have their tournament on the Salamonie and Mississinewa Reservoirs. The Bozarth Crappie Tournaments begin on Saturday, May 20th on the Salamonie Reservoir. We hope to see you all soon!

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Left Photo: Whoops! How do you get yourself out of a Conibear style trap? Indiana Conservation Officer Scott Johnson shows us the way. Right Photo: DP trap connects. This one gets released. (Photos by Author)

# Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

## Seasons, they are a changing

If you are picking this Gad-A-Bout up in early April, BE AWARE that on April 29th, the Indiana State Trapper Association (ISTA) will be holding a Membership & Board meeting at the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy Home Camp located at 8577 E. 300 S. (Hancock County), Carthage, IN 46115, beginning at 10 am EST. BE AWARE that Carthage is in Rush County, so if you get to Carthage, go west into Hancock county and not

east to that address. We are planning on doing some kids stuff, have some demos, and in general have a good time. The Gate will be open Friday evening for those who might like to camp out for the night. A field is available for tents, and a Dorm is available with beds. You bring your sleeping bag or covers and a pillow. I hope to see you there.

The woods are still an interesting place this time of year. Everything is starting to green up, but is still short enough to see shed antlers and morel mushrooms. Shed antlers are great for all sorts of projects and also tell you who survived the past deer seasons. The new thing out there are dogs that retrieve those shed antlers for you. Wow, who ever thought of putting their dog to work doing that really had a great idea. My dog, Sid, just looks at me like "You want me to work for my food? I already do that greeting people and getting petted on all day." Yeah, rough job.

Now morels pop up anytime now since the weather has been so warm. Morels are very easy to identify with their sponge top. Be sure to carry them in a net bag, you know, like one that held onions or potatoes. That way the spores, a mushroom's seeds, may fall out and scatter through the woods as you hunt the morels. Most people split the morels in half length wise, and then soak in some water overnight to be sure no creepy crawlies are hiding out in those spongy crevices. (But to a true trapper, what really is a little more protein?) There are as many recipes for cooking them, as there are stars in the sky. Simple ones involve a little butter in a frying pan, sautéing them to your liking. Other folks bread them, and still other chop them up to add to soups or breads. I bought a morel chip dip preparation last year at one of the outdoor shows.

Of course, while you are hunting these antlers and morels, you should be looking for sign. That is where all good trappers start their hobby at, looking for sign. A small notebook is always handy. Record where you saw it, what you think it is, and what kind of set you will need to catch it. Be on the lookout for feral hog sign also. I am told that southern Indiana is seeing some problems. Badly torn up ground with pig tracks is a dead give-away. Watch yourself if you see that sign. Momma hogs can be very aggressive espe-



Success on Raccoon in Carthage. Indiana Conservation Officer Scott Johnson and student. (Photo by Author)

cially if there are little ones about. The big boars can also take exception to you invading their territory. Both grow tusks that may get quite long, and deadly if they get to you.

The first Trappers Education that the ISTA is involved with is May 20 & 21, 2017 at the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy Home Camp located at 8577 E. 300 S. (Hancock County), Carthage, IN 46115. You need to get signed up through the [www.PassItOnIndiana.com](http://www.PassItOnIndiana.com) website that redirects you to the INDNR website. Space is limited, so get signed up today. Lunches are provided and once again you may camp out over night if you wish.

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

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM  
Pres. ISTA

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Left Photo: Ricci is working on his tool lathe machine. He has many uses for it in gunsmithing. Right Photo: Here he is working on a .22 rifle. He works on all types of guns.

## Gunsmith Ricci Willis Self Taught & AGI Certified Article & Photos by Ray Dickerson

Ricci Willis learned gunsmithing on his own mostly because he wanted to be a gunsmith. He was working at Arrow Gas in Rushville, Indiana when he opened his gun shop part time in 2006.

He and his wife, Jody live on Greensboro Pike about 1.1 mile north of CR 750 S (see directions below with map). His shop is in the pole barn which is a short distance north of the house. It's the first place north of Kennard road on the west side of Greensboro Pike.

He has seventeen years experience working with propane. The last place he worked was Arrow Gas in Rushville, Indiana. They started down sizing in 2012, since he was one of the last to hire on, he was one of the first to be laid off.

Ricci learned to be a gunsmith from the American Gunsmithing Institute (AGI). Armed with fifty to 60 AGI DVD's he studied gunsmithing at his own pace, at the end of each section on the video he took a test. When he passed the test he got a certificate from AGI. He became a self taught AGI certified Gunsmith.

Above his work bench are lots of gun and gunsmithing books, reference material and manuals.

He doesn't sell any guns, he's strictly a well trained gunsmith who is able to fix guns of all shapes, sizes, calibers and origin.

I asked him why he wanted to become a gunsmith.

He told me he was just looking for a hobby that he could make some extra money doing. He knew that there was six or seven gun shops within fifteen minutes from his shop and as far as he knew no one was working on guns in his area. With that many gun shops he figured some of their customers was going to have to have the guns worked on so he began learning how to work on them.

I asked him how far away did he expect to accept customers. He told me he'd had customers visit him from Greenwood, Hagerstown and nearby. I told him where I delivered The Gad-a-bout, with him centrally located geographically in the middle of my area and his being rather close to U.S. 40 and I-70 he should reach some gun owners with this article.



Ricci has gun books, manuals, reference booklets and statistics at his finger tips above his work bench.

I asked Ricci if he did all aspects of gun repair. He told me to be a good gunsmith you have to be a "Jack of all trades"

However he said he doesn't do any bluing. He tried to do some in the beginning, but had some problems when the company he was buying his bluing from sold out to another company and the chemical make up of their fluid caused the four barrels to look to be more purple than blue.

He added to do the bluing he needed a separate room for it because of the toxic fumes given off by the process. And he doesn't have a separate room.

I asked him about what he charges his customers.

He told me that there is a catalog called Brownells Catalog called "The Big Book" of gunsmithing supplies, tools, gun parts, and firearm accessories. He checks the big book to see what is the high and low cost and his cost usually falls right in the middle.

Ricci's minimum rate is \$45 up to one hour of labor if it takes longer then that, he will adjust the price accordingly and then if there are parts or supplies that costs extra and that's just kind of a guideline. If he fixes the problem in just a few minutes, he tends to adjust the minimum down.

I asked him what if they bring their gun in pieces in a box or plastic bag for you to fix it.

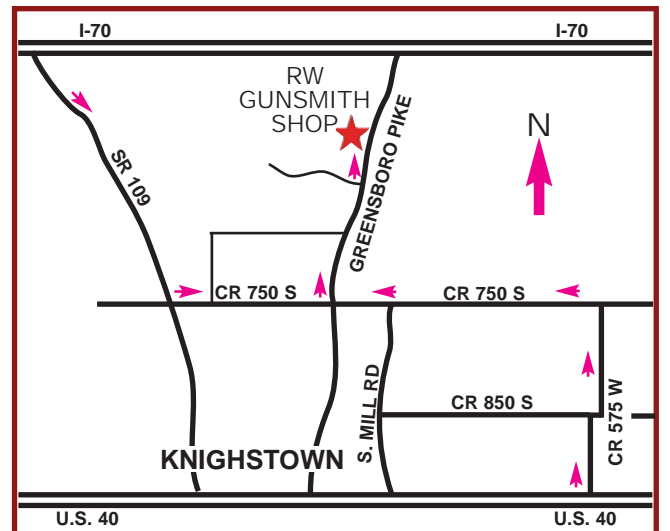
He replied, "I do charge extra for that!"

His hours are Monday 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. to



Ricci's gunsmith shop is north of Knightstown at 6491 S. Greensboro Pike, just north of Kennard Rd.

6 p.m.  
To contact Ricci call **765-345-7935**; Email [RWgunsmithshop@hotmail.com](mailto:RWgunsmithshop@hotmail.com). Visit his shop located at 6491 S. Greensboro Pike, Knightstown, IN 46148. See map below for directions to his shop.



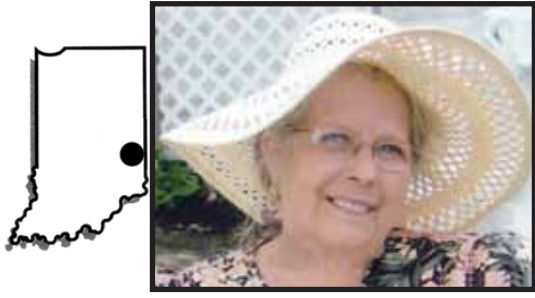
Directions to RW Gunsmith Shop: From U.S. 40 turn right onto CR 575 W turn right onto CR 850 S, then left onto CR 575 W, go north to T intersection, turn left onto CR 750 S go west to 4-way stop at Greensboro Pike. Turn right, go north 1.1 miles to RW Gunsmith Shop on your left just past Kennard Road. From I-70 Exit 115 south on SR 109, turn left onto CR 750 S go east to 4-way stop at Greensboro Pike. Turn left going north 1.1 miles to RW Gunsmith Shop on your left just past Kennard Road.

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



by Donna Schroeder

President of Fayette County Tourism Bureau

## Good News for an Old Town!

It's official! Downtown Connersville is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is great news on several levels. It protects the area from any encroachment by the government, meaning that none of the buildings can be torn down, for instance, to build a wider highway. More importantly, it offers the possibility of grants and tax incentives for restoration and rehabilitation of the structures, particularly the ones that are income producing.

Two of the buildings in the district were already on the National Register. The Fayette County Courthouse and the Canal House have been listed for quite some time. Canal House was built in 1842, and the original part of the courthouse was built in 1849. They're the oldest buildings in the district. Many of the buildings in the 400 block were constructed in the 1850's and 1860's. The building at 426 Central that now houses the Democrat Party headquarters began its life as a grocery. In Civil War times, the third floor was the meeting place of the Knights of the Golden Circle, a group of Southern sympathizers. Later, like many of the other buildings downtown, the first floor housed a family business, and the family lived upstairs.

Up the street, in the 600 block, the Republican party's headquarters is located in the building that began life as the Vaudette Theater. A few doors to the north, some folks will remember the Times



The Canal House. (Author Photo)

Theater. The Times building was constructed by Mr. Crismer. It began as a restaurant, but was soon converted to a vaudeville theater – the Lyric – complete with an orchestra pit. The Crismer family lived on the second floor and were the proprietors of the European Hotel which occupied the third floor.

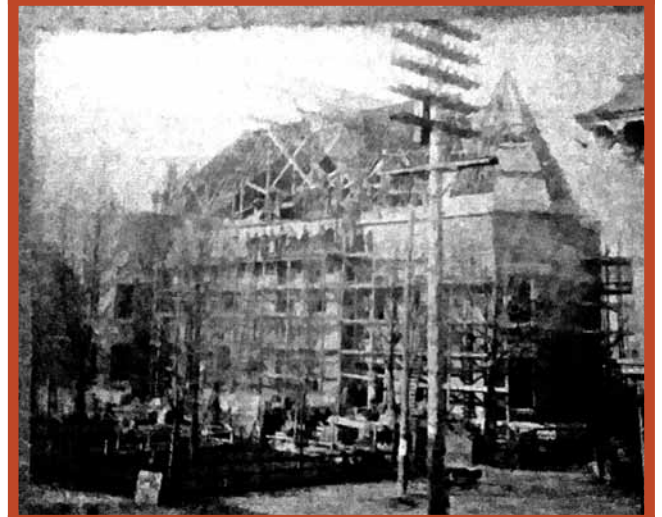
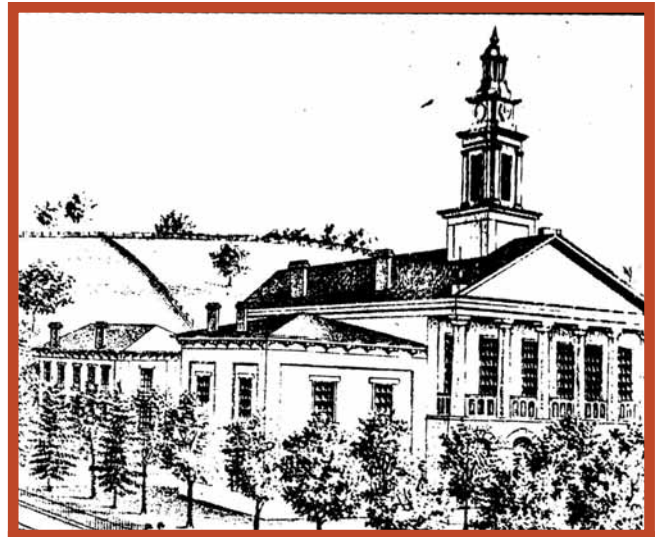
In addition to the buildings in the district, Elmhurst and Roberts Park are listed on the National Register. The Longwood covered bridge in the park was formerly on the register, but lost the designation when it was moved from its original location. Out in the county, one home and a round barn have the designation.

The original (center part) of Elmhurst was built in 1831. Over the years, wings were added on the north and south. In addition to being a family home, it was used as a school for young ladies, a military school for boys, and as a sanitarium. It's less than a mile from the city limits on 121 South.

Over time, we have lost many historic buildings. The Town Hall became City Hall when Connersville advanced from town status to that of a city in 1869. City Hall was constructed in 1849. It was a three story brick building, located west of the courthouse, that housed the city offices, as well as the fire and police departments. Originally, the cost of the building was split between the town, the Sons of Temperance, and the Masonic Lodge. It was constructed by local builder Sherman Scofield at a cost of \$4800.00.

The Sons of Temperance was a brotherhood of men who promoted the temperance movement and mutual support. The group was founded in 1842 in New York City. It spread rapidly during the 1840s throughout the United States and parts of Canada. Membership dues were two dollars as an initiation fee and 6 cents weekly dues. In the 1840s, the initiation fee was roughly a week's wage. This organization also served as a sort of insurance company for its members. The organization pledged to pay thirty dollars toward the burial costs of a brother and fifteen towards the burial of a member's wife.

The Sons of Temperance occupied the second floor and the Masonic Lodge occupied the third



Top Photo: This is a sketch of the Fayette County Courthouse as it looked in 1849.

Middle Photo: This one is a group of men standing on scaffolding during the 1890s renovation of the original 1849 Fayette County Courthouse.

Bottom Photo: This is the Fayette County Courthouse today.

floor. When the Sons disbanded, the Masons took over the second floor. They continued to meet at City Hall until moving to Elmhurst in 1941. The upper floors were then occupied by the Odd Fellows Lodge. City Hall was demolished to make way for the addition to the courthouse.

Many other historic buildings have been lost, many of them as a result of disastrous fires. Hopefully, the new district will result in the preservation of those that remain.

We invite you to visit us. Spring is a great time to visit the Farmers' Market in the courthouse parking  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 26**

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Parkside Marine & More family from left to right Lauren, Jeff, Caroline and Dianna Koester.



Crestliners and Harris Flotebotes on display at Parkside's "In House Boat Show."

## PARKSIDE MARINE & MORE IN HOUSE BOAT SHOW

Article & Photos by Ray Dickerson

Parkside Marine and More had an "In House Boat Show on March 4, 2017 with lots of conversation and some very good food. It was held one week after they returned from a successful Renfro's Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

This was the first time in a long time I was able to attend this annual boat show of theirs. Jeff and Dianna "Dobbs" Koester have owned and operated Parkside Marine and More since 2000 when Paul and Delores Dobbs retired from the business. Though retired, Paul and Delores continue to work side by side with Jeff and Dianna.

Parkside Marine and More are located at 7191 Fox Run Road or the northeast corner of SR 101 and Fox Run Road. They are straight across SR 101 from the Mounds DNR office at Brookville Lake.

When I arrived their show room was a bee-hive of activity with people looking at boats, friends and family joining in on the festivities. See photos above that I took while I was there. I didn't get to stay as long as I normally would have, but I was preparing the April Gad-a-bout and had to get back to my office to work on it.

Once inside I began taking some photos, Darrin Miller greeted me saying, "What's up Ray, how you doing today?"

I replied, "I got a frog in my throat for some reason."

He replied, "That will teach you not to eat those frog legs!"

I laughed as he continued toward the door to the work area, and also where the food was located. Darrin is one of the service technicians. (He also finds lots of black morel mushrooms and I'm told he has already found some this year.)

I was walking past one of the new Grand Mariner pontoon boats they had on display and saw Lauren and Dianne Koester, and Delores Dobbs sitting at a table. I took a quick photo of them.

Turning to my right I saw Paul Dobbs sitting at the sales desk, we talked for a little bit. I have been friends with Paul and Delores for a very long time. In the 1980's I had a silk screen printing business and printed t-shirts and sport caps for them. They also bought Brookville Lake depth maps I began publishing back in 1976.

One of their new young service technicians, Trevor Hughes, was standing next to the desk. I looked up at him, asking how tall he was. He replied, "Six foot five." I just said, "Okay."

I walked over to where Jeff Koester was working with a customer and snapped a photo of him working with his lap top.

I then took a couple more photos when I saw Dianna holding a wee baby standing next to the tall guy. It was his very young son, Levi Hughes.

I continued walking looking back toward where Paul was and saw him standing with his granddaughter, Caroline Koester. I stopped to say hi to her and we talked a bit. I had been used to seeing her quite often at Parkside, but since she has been at college I've saw her fewer times. For some time she worked at the pharmacy at Reid Health in Richmond during her summer break. She will be a Pharmacist after graduation.

I checked my watch, when I saw Phil Hoff standing near Paul. I told him to stand next to Paul for a photo op. See photo above, it was a real good one, with Paul and Phil both smiling. Phil has been a service technician at Parkside for 16 years.

I asked Phil if he could stand at the food table so I could get a photo of him and the table. He said he would and I think he sampled some of the food while he was at it. I thanked him and went back into the show room.

I then climbed up the steps to take some photos from the decks of the four pontoon boats on display. I took several photos, then carefully climbed

back down to the floor.

I checked my watch again, it was a little after 3 p.m. and I knew I had to leave shortly. So I asked Dianna if I could get a photo of she, Jeff, Lauren and Caroline all together. See photo above. I thanked everyone telling them I would have liked to stay longer, but I was working on the next issue. I told them the article for this event would be in the May Gad-a-bout.

For me, visiting Parkside Marine and More and all of my advertisers in the Brookville Lake area is like visiting family. My relationship with Brookville Lake dates back to 1965 when news arrived in my neck of the woods about the Corps of Engineers damming the East Fork of The Whitewater River. It took a while for the dam to be completed, like all government projects seem to, where money is concerned. Between 1967 and



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In House Boat Show Visitors mingle with Delores, Dianna, Phil, Paul and Jeff.



Paul Dobbs and Phil Hoff, a photo moment of a true and lasting friendship.



A photo of Lauren and Dianna Koester, and Delores Dobbs looking at photos on iPhone.



Dianna holding Baby Levi Hughes with his father Trevor Hughes.

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1970 about the only work that got done was a new SR 101, being built.  
 Work resumed on the dam on March 31, 1970.  
 The dam construction began initially in May 1970 and was leveled off in September 1973.  
 In the morning on January 24, 1974 resident engineer C.J. Walters closed the gates in the Brookville Dam tower and Brookville Lake began

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to fill. That same day, January 24, 1974 I arrived in the afternoon for a tour of the dam and tower at 1 p.m. with C.J. Walters, as prearranged with him. That was one very exciting tour, the likes of which I will remember forever. It was very muddy that day everywhere C.J. took me, some places I wouldn't believe we could go. The most exciting ride was his driving up the water side of the dam, after we exited the tower. Unfortunately for me I left a roll of film in the tower. By the time C.J. had one of his men retrieve it for me they had to take a boat to the scaffolding ladder on the outside of the tower to get my film. The access road wasn't complete to the tower and Brookville Lake had risen that much in a couple days.  
 The whole story appeared in my March-April 1974 Whitewater Valley Gad-a-bout. One day I will publish that again. C. J.'s gone now, but my memory of him lives on and in print.  
 See Parkside Marine and More advertisement on Page 3. To contact them call 765-647-4619, E-mail [boats@parksidemarineandmore.com](mailto:boats@parksidemarineandmore.com) or check out their website [www.parksidemarineandmore.com](http://www.parksidemarineandmore.com). Visit them at 7191 Fox Run Road, Brookville, IN 47012.

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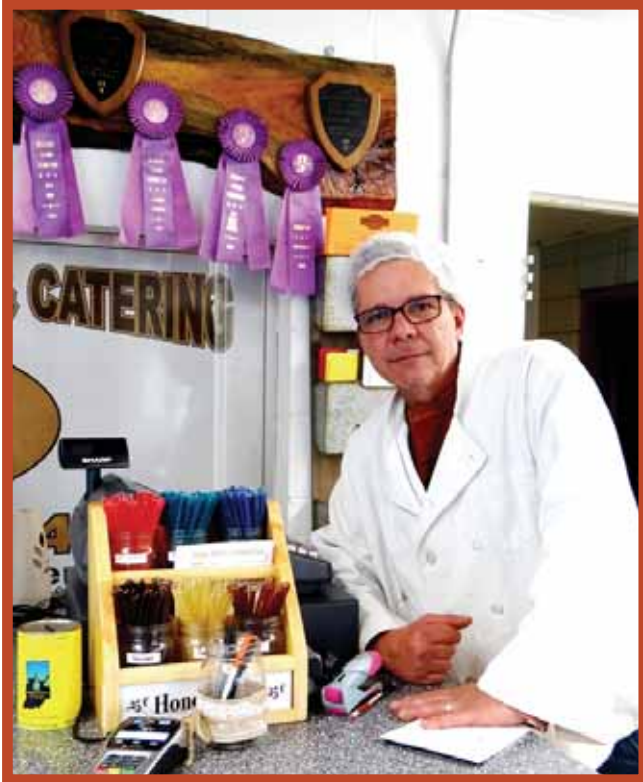
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Dan Titus, Owner of Knightstown Locker, Inc.



Knightstown Locker, Inc located at 8037 South 575 West, Knightstown, IN.

# Knightstown Locker, Inc Meat Processing

Article & Photos by Ray Dickerson

Dan Titus, owner and operator of Knightstown Locker, Inc. is a career butcher. He began in his profession as a butcher in 1982 near Muncie in the town of Gaston. Knightstown Locker opened in 1971, Dan bought Knightstown Locker in 1988.

Since 1971, Knightstown Locker Meats and Catering has grown from a small custom processing plant to a successful retail market and catering business. They take pride in providing their customers with high quality in the following: Retail Meat Sales, Custom Ordering, Custom Butchering, Deer Processing, Wild Game Processing, Summer Sausages, Catering Special Events, Michigan Fruit Sales, Smoked Products, Hog Roasts, Marinade Products, Jerky, Snack Stix, Turkey, Bacon, and their Turkey Breast have



This retail meat case gives you a glimpse of the quality meats that Knightstown Locker has to offer its customers.

won several awards in quality and taste from the Indiana Meat Packers Association.

During deer season Dan and his crew process 1200 deer.

Dan hails from Fairmount, Indiana. He and his wife, Denise have two sons, Travis and Walker.

I spent some time with him on March 30, 2017 at Knightstown Locker. He's been advertising in The Gad-a-bout for a long time, but one of my former salesmen took care of them for many years. My visit that day was to become more acquainted with Dan, his employees and his business.

One thing I found out right away was everyone was very busy.

March 23, 2017

Dan, Travis and Walker Titus and Kyle



This is a photo of the Knightstown Locker booth at Renfro's Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds February 24, 2017. I was helping the Indiana State Trapper Association at their booth which was across the aisle from Dan's booth. From left to right: Tucker, Melisa, Jeff, Dan, Walker and Kale.

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From left to right: Kyle, Travis and Dan standing behind meat case. Above the three are awards and ribbons that the Knightstown Meat Locker has won from the Indiana Meat Packers Association.

Underwood, Knightstown Locker, recently attended the annual convention of Indiana Meat Packers & Processors Association held in West Lafayette. IMPPA represents small and mid-sized independent meat industry businesses throughout Indiana, as well as state and nationally known industry suppliers. They participated in a pre-convention workshop, attended educational seminars and met with suppliers who represent the latest equipment and services to the meat industry.

Knightstown Locker entered product in the Hoosier Cured Meat Show which consisted of over 180 products in 18 categories and brought a total of six awards. Their beef snack sticks was named grand champion and their smoked bratwurst, non-traditional bacon and boneless ham each received the reserve champion awards. Judged to be champion was their BBQ ribs and BBQ pork.

You may purchase these award winning prod-

ucts, as well as other fresh and smoked meat, at Knightstown Locker, 8037 S 575 West, Knightstown.



# Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Carnival, Live music, Antique and Classic cars and truck show. BBQ Contest (Saturday and Sunday afternoon) and all happening in the Treaty Line Pioneer Village area.

For more details log onto website [www.libertyindianalions.com](http://www.libertyindianalions.com). Everything you want or need to know about the festival is on this website. 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).

## FINALLY AT PEACE

I traveled back to Dunlapville Cemetery last week to view Corporal Gerald Ivan "Bud" Shepler who was buried here. Those who read my article about him last month know he was MIA from November 29, 1950 till recently when they found his remains in Korea. His remains was escorted from Korea to Liberty and was buried in he Dunlapville Cemetery March 11, 2017. You can read the article I wrote by logging onto my website [www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com). Click on the right High Res version for the best copy of the April Gad-a-bout, if the May issue is there, click on archives, the April issue will be the first one at he top.

The only noise in the cemetery was the wind blowing past the several American Flags still standing near his resting place. I took a couple photos while I was there, you can see them on page 28.

I noticed something and I still wonder about it today, the military plaque that is placed at Veteran graves in most cemeterys, the one at Corporal Shepler's grave looked as if it may have been at the grave site for a long time. If you look at the photos above you'll see what I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

To contact Knightstown Locker, Inc. call 765-345-2410 or 1-800-718-6010. See their ad on page 18. Click on website or e-mail below to access them.

Website: [www.ktownmeatsandcatering.com](http://www.ktownmeatsandcatering.com).

E-mail: [ktownlocker@embarqmail.com](mailto:ktownlocker@embarqmail.com).

Below is a map and driving directions to drive to Knightstown Locker, Inc.

Directions to Knightstown Locker: Traveling west on U.S. 40 from the east, after passing thru Dunreith and SR 3 watch for CR 575 W on your right and turn right at large Knightstown Locker sign. Stay on CR 575 W traveling north, there is a slight jog onto CR 850 S, turn left back onto CR 575 W. Knightstown Locker is a short distance on your left. From I-70 traveling from east or west Take exit 115 (Knightstown) south, watch for CR 750 S, turn left onto it and travel east until you come to CR 575 W (T's with CR 750 S) turn right onto CR 575 W (Watch for Knightstown Locker sign on your right). Travel south a short distance, Knightstown Locker will be on your right.

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Picture of the DNR musky trap set on Lake Webster. (IDNR PHOTO)



Biologists capturing large musky from trap on Webster. (IDNR PHOTO)

## Outdoors



With Rich Creason

### DNR Working to Increase Musky Population

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources first stocked muskies into Lake Webster, in Kosciusko County, in 1981. Fifteen years later, Webster was a hot spot for musky fishing in the Hoosier state and the Midwest. By 2005, biologists estimated 5,000 adult muskies were present in the lake. Anglers caught 2,200 that year. In 2015, the catch was less than 600. Part of the reason was less fish available, and part was 50% less fishermen trying for this species. Additionally, weed control in the lake altered the muskie habitat and reduced the amount of cover where fingerlings could hide reducing the population.

DNR has been working to increase the musky population by a variety of methods. On May 19, 2016, biologists released 1,500 fish, 12-14 inches long, into Webster. Normally, these fish would have been part of a group stocked in the fall of '15 when they were 8-10 inches. Instead, these fish were held at the Fawn River State Hatchery in Orland over the winter and fed minnows. The minnows were purchased from a commercial source and paid for by the Hoosier Muskie Hunters group.

By releasing larger fish in the spring, it's hoped to reverse the decline in this popular fish. Not only will the larger released fish be more able to avoid predation by big muskies and other species, but spring offers more weed cover and food than

offered in the fall and winter. Another 1,500 of the smaller fingerlings were released in the fall of 2016. Both groups were tagged with transponders. The tags will allow biologists to test which group survives better. If these changes increase the survival rate of the fingerlings, Lake Webster may again return to a big musky hotspot.

But first, the biologists have to get eggs from adult females to raise the new stock to be released. Unfortunately, the decline in adults in Webster has the DNR worried about a potential shortage of eggs to use in the muskie stocking program. Traditionally, Lake Webster is where biologists have caught adult females to harvest eggs for the Fawn River State Fish Hatchery. They need 15 to 20 ripe females each spring to get enough eggs for hatching. These eggs produce about 15,000 fingerlings to stock 13 waters throughout Indiana. In 2016, only 11 females with eggs were caught in Webster. To supplement that number, six more females were caught in nearby James Lake.

Male muskies are trapped by the DNR at the same time the females are caught. The male catch rate is higher since they are more active and aggressive during the spawning period. Biologists try to use a minimum of two or three males per female. Unlike the similar species of northern and walleye which produce a lot of "milt", male muskies aren't as prolific. Fortunately, it only takes a couple drops to fertilize a pan of eggs.

How long will it take

those fingerlings to mature into a keeper size (44" on Lake Webster)? This is not an accurate science, but biologists generally think they grow from about 10 inches to about 20 inches by age two, then 26 inches by three and possibly at age four, they may be around 30 inches long. After that, growth rate changes. A male musky may only grow one to two inches longer each year after age four, then maxing out around 36-38 inches. Rarely is a male musky over 40 inches. These figures are determined from tagged fish. Females will add two to three inches for a few years, then slow down. But a normal female musky can grow to well over 50 inches.

Muskies were first tagged in the Lake Webster population back in 2005 and are still being caught. Most of them were around four or five years old

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One of the large female muskies ready to be stripped of eggs. (IDNR PHOTO)



Gary Enos of Gary's Muskie Experience trying for an elusive musky. (Susie Creason Photo)



The musky I caught on one of our trips to Lake Webster. (Photo by Susie Creason)



A nice musky I caught on a trip with Gary's Muskie Experience. (Photo by Susie Creason)

then, so there are some out there around 17-18 years old or even older. There were 1,000 fish tagged that year, so DNR has accumulated a lot of information from these tagged fish since that time.

With the new practice of tagging fingerlings, a lot more data will be coming in soon, including aging of these fish.

The DNR biologists started trapping the adults to procure eggs and milt on March 27 of this year. They set six traps in Webster. Based on the water temperature of 50-54 degrees Fahrenheit, they expect to find ripe females by the end of March. They will then take the muskies to their egg-taking station along the shore where the females are stripped of eggs and milt from the males is added to fertilize them. Length and gender of each fish is recorded and the muskies are returned to the lake.

The traps are around four to five feet high, six to eight feet long with wings from around 100-250 feet long. These wings help drive the fish into the trap. They start at the shore and extend into deeper water. As the muskies patrol the area searching for food, the wings guide them into the trap. The biologists simply open up the top netting and scoop the fish out with large nets. I have not seen this operation done in Indiana before, but Susie and I did get to watch the process on Chautauqua Lake in western New York several years ago. (I also caught a 41

inch musky in that lake on light tackle on another trip.)

Hopefully, with the new practices in place, Lake Webster will return to its glory years of huge muskies and a lot of them. We have fished there four times in recent years and have caught three keepers, which of course went back in the water after a couple pictures. We are scheduled to return to Webster this spring, taking our 11 year old grandson, Benjamin, with us on his first musky outing. Several other lakes in northern Indiana also produce a lot of nice fish, including James Lake. (I want to thank DNR biologist Jed Pearson for much of the information contained in this article and also several photos he sent me.)

All of our musky outings in the Hoosier state have been with Gary Enos of Gary's Muskie Experience. If you are interested in scheduling a musky trip with him, his website is [www.garys-muskieexp.com](http://www.garys-muskieexp.com) and you can phone him at 574-275-1885. He is very knowledgeable in this area and has fine equipment.

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

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We have just finished with our basketball season. Our men's 3 on 3 basketball team (Hoosiers) placed 1st in the sectionals held at Monroe High School in Parker City, Indiana. (Author Photos)

## Outdoors With Lonnie



by **Lonnie Snow**

Wayne Co. Special Olympics Co. Coordinator

## Ray - Exciting News For Special Olympics

We have just finished with our basketball season. Our men's 3 on 3 basketball team (Hoosiers) placed 1st in the sectionals held at Monroe High School in Parker City, Indiana. They went to the State Special Olympics finals but lost to the Shelby County Racers Basketball Team. The Hoosier team was just formed two years ago and it was exciting to see them win their first sectional. Congratulations to their coaches, Tommy Day, Becky Miller, Kenny Miller and Jessica Day. Our athletes were Tim Norris, Jacob Miller, Jimmy Miller, David Hinshaw, David Parsons, and Greg Mahoney.

Thank you so much for your great coverage of our Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Now that it is behind us, we are gearing up for our track season. Wayne County Special Olympics will be hosting the Area 9 track and field meet at Union County High School on May, 6, 2017. This will be the first time

Union County High School has hosted such an event. We will bring around 150 athletes, their care givers, and coaches to this event. Our athletes will be competing with other Special Olympics athletes' from Union, Fayette, Rush, Decatur, Franklin, Shelby, Ohio, and Dearborn Counties.

Our thanks go to the Athletic Director for Union County High School, Ryan Overholtz, for taking the lead to make this possible. We are very thankful to the Union County School administrators for allowing us to host this event at their facilities. The Union County Athletic Boosters will have their concession stand open. There will be a torch lighting ceremony followed by a parade of our athletes and community officials around the track field. The Opening ceremony will begin around 12:30 pm followed by the track and field completions. Awards will be handed out after the competition followed by a closing ceremony. We will be asking Union County high school students to assist in this event. They can earn community service credits and receive a free t-shirt for assisting. This event is open to the community to watch and no fees are charged. Area 9 Special Olympics Athletes' are very excited to be competing at Union County High School.

## Unified Field and Track Day May 11, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.

On May 11, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. there will be a unified field and track day with students that have just joined a new Special Olympics program called Young Champions. This event will involve 62 students from elementary to middle school in the East Central Special Education Services. Students with and without disabilities will join together at the Union County Track to compete in a day of fun sports activities. This will be the first of its kind in our area. This came about by several Special



Jimmy Miller has just let go of the string releasing the arrow which is hurtling toward the target. Oscar assisted him.

Education teachers and administrators coming together with Special Olympics Indiana and Wayne County Special Olympics to become part of this new program. This is an 8 week course for the schools. It will cover developmental skills for sports, walking, running, balancing, throwing, kicking, striking, trapping and catching. The goal of this new program is to provide a beginning foundation and develop awareness of Special Olympics sports as they age. A child must be at least 8 years of age and have a classified intellectual disability to qualify to become a Special Olympics Athlete. This will bring Special Olympics

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Josh Houck being instructed by Oscar Abner on how to shoot the compound bow.



Joey Puhalski and Oscar Abner after Joey finished shooting his arrows at the target.



Alicia Dausch standing in front of her target. Oscar Abner enjoys teaching archery.



Brandon Suttles hit the bulls eye with his compound bow, he did real good.

back into our community and schools. This event will also have an opening ceremony, fun games and awards. Please come and join us for this event. It will be something different, exciting, and fun to watch as these students compete in their sports.

### New Archery Program Being Considered

Area 9 Special Olympics along with Wayne /Union County is investigating the possibility of introducing archery competition into our program. We are working with Frames Outdoors in Liberty, Indiana, Special Olympics Indiana, and Special Olympics International to develop an archery program that would be approved for our athletes to compete in. It may look similar to the National Archery In Schools Program (NASP). We are looking for

individuals who qualify for Special Olympics or who would be interested in coaching archery. If you would be interested in sponsoring an athlete or donating funds to purchase archery equipment to help get this program started, please give us a call. Each bow with accessories will run around \$300.00-\$400.00. Stop in and talk to Oscar Abner at Frames if you need some encouragement to help with this program. This archery program will be different from the long bow shoots already hosted in Special Olympics. The distance and type of bow (compound) along with bow accessories will be modified to meet our athlete's needs. The little town of Liberty, Indiana, will have hosted a Polar Plunge, Area 9 Track and Field Meet, A new Young Champions event, and working on introducing archery to Special Olympics within a year. I would say that is very impressive for a small town, wouldn't you? Thank you all for your support!!!!

For any questions to become a Special Olympics volunteer, coach, or athlete please give me a call.

**Lonnie Snow**  
Wayne County Coordinator  
Special Olympics 765-732-3636 or e-mail  
[lsnow1952@yahoo.com](mailto:lsnow1952@yahoo.com)

### News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

King in New Castle. This particular morning, it was still dark as I parked and got out with the bundle.

A guy who was just getting out of his pickup next to my Charger looked at me and said "You know I saw on the news last night where you guys were due a raise, but I had no idea it was so bad you all were taking on "paper routes." I explained to the man, as we both had a good laugh, that I wasn't on a "paper route." Sir, if you're out there reading this, I just want you to know that your witty remark has given myself and my co-workers many good laughs.

This ends another month's installment. Thanks for reading and for allowing all of us to serve all of you. Make sure to watch for bicycles and motorcycles on our roadways this spring. Give them extra room, and always look twice before pulling out or turning.

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Ryan Rohl and Doug Laake winning weight 8.63. (Author Photo)



Don and Royce Glick with 2nd place - 5.39 lbs. (Author Photo)

## Indiana Slab Masters



by Jim Raymer

President & Founder of the Indiana Slabmasters



Left Photo: Rob Raymer with Big Fish a 1.94 lb slab. Right Photo: Rob and Jim Raymer with 3rd place - 4.30 lbs. (Author Photos)



## Patoka Lake Tournament

Indiana Slab Masters members arrived at Patoka Lake to find good water conditions and chilly temperatures for the 2017 event on April 1st. The forecast partly-cloudy high of 59 never came as the cloud cover would not give way and the temperature was only able to rise into the upper 40's. With water temperature ranging in the mid to upper 50's the water cooled down for the second straight day and negatively affected the fishing. There was excellent participation as 48 boats signed up for the first event of the year. The only problem was the crappie would not cooperate and in the end only half of the field weighed fish. The top 3 teams receive prize money and plaques, along with the big fish winner. Prize money is paid back one payout for each 5 teams that attend the Slab Masters tournaments. The Patoka event had 48 boats with 9 places being paid back.

When fishing gets tough, the tough get going and finishing in 1st place with an impressive 7-fish limit weighing 8.63lbs. was the team of Doug Laake and Ryan Rohl. Ryan and Doug were using hand tied jigs that Ryan ties and they fished old tried and true spots. Finishing in second place was the team of Royce and Don Glick with a total weight of 5.39lbs. Royce and Don were fishing with minnows under a float around timber. Finishing 3rd and the Big Fish winners was the team of Jim and Rob Raymer with a total weight of 4.30lbs. Rob Raymer caught the big fish of the tournament, a 1.94lb Slab on a Nothead spinmore jig head. Jim and Rob were vertical jigging shal-


low water structure. Finishing in 4th place was the team of Durel and Greg Nichols. Durel and Greg were also vertical jigging shallow water structure. Rounding out the top 5 was the classic champions from last season Bret Cunningham and Keith Lucas with a total weight of 3.85lbs. Bret and Keith were vertical jigging shallow water structure as well. Finishing in 6th place was the team of Noel Thompson fishing alone with a total weight of 3.81lbs. Finishing in 7th place was the team of Tim and Joe Dunigan with a total weight of 3.62lbs. Finishing in 8th place was the team of Jim Long and Robert Williams with a total weight of 2.71lbs. The 9th place and final spot in the money was the team of Luke Fishero and Jake Walter with a total weight of 2.60lbs. The Indiana Slab Masters next tournament is at Cataract Lake on April 15th followed by Lake Shafer and Freeman choice of lake on May 13th.

This is the 7th year for the Indiana Slab Masters, and there will be 7 events this season and an open tournament. The open tournament will not require that you have to be an Indiana Slab Master member to fish the event nor will it be a classic qualifier or points event. On June 3rd & 4th the tournament at Mississinewa / Salamonie will be a super event. This tournament is a Saturday and Sunday 2-day event in which every team will be fishing both lakes. The heaviest 7 crappie in total weight each day (14-total) will be the tournament winner. This tournament is worth two classic qualifications and one entry for the B'n'M Points Race (team of the year). Last year was the 1st attempt at having a super tournament and it turned out to be

a very popular event, so it is continuing again this year. Prior to 2015, the Slab Masters fished 8 events per year and then the classic (if the teams have at least 4 classic qualifications). Club officials counted the top points of 6 of the 8 events of each team. This would allow a team to miss two tournaments and still compete for the points championship. This year, the Slab Master's officials will count all but 1 tournament no matter how many tournaments. This will reward the teams that participate in all the club events. This was a permanent alteration to the points rules as well.

The Indiana Slab Masters open tournament will be a special format. This tournament will be the Slab Masters 1st single pole, no live bait / artificial bait only tournament. The location or the date of this event has not been set at the time of this article. The officials have already secured a commitment from Nothead tackle to be the title company of the open event. The Slab Master officials have high hopes for a successful event so the single pole tournament can continue again in the future. Since this tournament requires no membership to the club, all anglers will be welcome to this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



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Saturday May 13

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# Adventures in Indiana



With Cole King

## Progress Developing an ORV Trail

In March, I wrote about my hopes and plans to develop an off-road vehicle (ORV) trail system in the state of Indiana. In short- it is for daily use and travel. For a short trip into town to get groceries, or just a pleasant cruise on a weekend. Not to do hard-core rock climbing or mudding, but for those of us within the hobby that like to go on a drive. In case you missed that article, you can find it in the archives at [www.thegadabout.com](http://www.thegadabout.com). Before I begin with the update on my March article, I would like to remind and encourage all off-road enthusiasts to sign our online petition at [www.ipe-titions.com/petition/orv](http://www.ipe-titions.com/petition/orv). This petition is a tool which shows that there is a public interest in developing ORV trails.

Since I last sat down to write that article, I have made a good amount of progress. As I stated in March, there is an abandoned railway near my home, running from Markleville all the way into Rushville. As we have seen with bike paths, these dilapidated tracks can be converted into trails. This would be a perfect start to a trail system for ORV's. I called the president of the Markleville town council, and learned about a meeting at town hall that was quickly approaching. On February 14th, I proposed the trail to the council. I stated many of the same points made in my last article, such as the fact that this trail would be much safer for ORV riders, and that any increase in ORV travel could benefit local commerce. Much to my sur-



The Forestry Service patrols a ORV trail in Maryland. (Photo courtesy Maryland DNR)

prise, my case was well-received. Many questions were raised by the council, and I gladly answered them to the best of my ability. After they brought these issues to my attention, I realized that many of the Gad-A-Bout readers may have the same concerns. So, I will share my response to these problems with all of you, just as I did with the men of the council.

I was asked how I planned to maintain and build the trails. I have hopes of forming a state association for ORV riders. This club will be dedicated to forming and maintaining trails for ORV uses, and gaining more rights for ORV riders in the state.

**Speed limits and enforcement of safety:** When a state association would be formed, certain members would be chosen to be "Trail Rangers." These patrolmen ensure safety of riders by enforcing speed limits and stopping reckless or impaired riders. Also, other states such as Minnesota and Maine have both state and local law enforcement officers patrol sections of their trail systems. If any serious problems were to arise, Conservation Officers and local police departments could be called in to assist. This is done on bike paths such as the Cardinal Greenway and the Monon Trail here in Indiana.

Many of the members were concerned about loud noise along the trail. I referred to other states, in which they enforce certain decibel levels on mufflers and exhaust systems used with participating OHV's (Off-Highway Vehicles.)

At the end of the town council meeting, I learned that my next step would be to contact property owners of the former rail line, and discuss gaining permission to use the land for a trail. A few days after proposing the trail, I learned that my statement made headline news in my local

newspaper, The Times Post. Hopefully this stirs up some interest in more people. (This news story can be found online at <https://goo.gl/SkPQYe>)

Later that week, I received an email from a man named Richard Squiers. He had gotten my e-mail from the article, and I soon learned he was the perfect man to help me develop these trails. As he explained in his e-mail, he was once a right-of-way specialist in the state of Indiana, he is the past president of the Indiana Snowmobilers Association, and the current president of the Indiana Vintage Snowmobile Association. His experiences seemed to be made for what I was wanting to do. I immediately e-mailed him back. We talked via e-mail about the trail, and realized we were on the same page. I planned to meet him for dinner later that week, and we fortunately got to sit down together and get to know each other, as well as establish a game plan. The biggest thing to come out of our conversation was this. A state association must be formed to have any sort of influence. This way, we are able to drum up funds and an organized basis of people striving for the same goals we are. Fortunately, Richard knows individuals that are willing and able to help us incorporate any club formed. Before I speak with anyone about all of this, however, I must first form a list of committee members. This includes a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and a board of decision makers. I have a few people in mind to fill out these spots, so hopefully my next article can bring you news of a state ORV association. If anyone has comments or questions about the trail system I hope to build, or anything else listed in this article, please feel free to e-mail me at [cole\\_king@icloud.com](mailto:cole_king@icloud.com).

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Bill Keaton

# WOW! THIS IS A GREAT APP

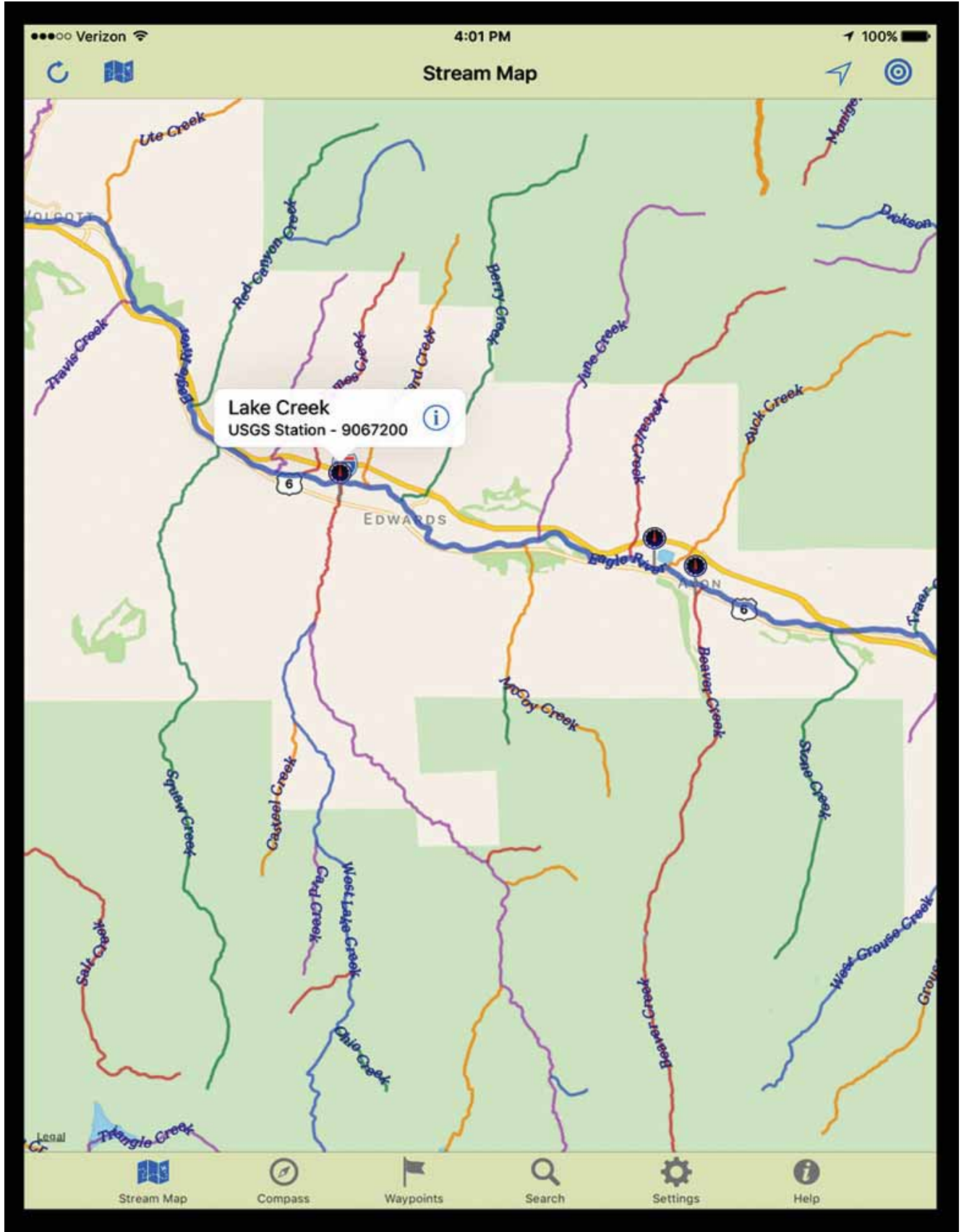
by Bill Keaton

For more than 20 years I have been writing outdoor articles. I haven't produced a lot of articles because I have had another full time occupation. However, I get inspired from time to time to write an article about something that is important to me or that I think will be important or helpful to other outdoorsmen or outdoor women.

I recently installed Stream Map USA, Great Lakes Region, on my phone; and when I started the app, I was so impressed and astonished at the detail and capabilities of the program that I felt it was important to do an article about the features and benefits of this inexpensive program.

Little Blue River is located Southeast of Indianapolis, and my home sits high above this beautiful little stream. When I started Stream USA, the detail of the map showing the waterways by my home immediately got my attention. Using the search menu of the app, I searched for Blue River. The map showed both Big Blue River and Little Blue River. The larger river was shown in blue color and the smaller Little Blue River was shown in yellow. There was an icon identifying the two rivers from the other waterways shown on the map. I zoomed in using the same two-finger method used to zoom in or out on any photograph, and quickly located my home. I was really surprised to see on the map an intermittent ditch that runs from the front of my house to the river and another that only flows when the river is flooded. For me, this is incredible detail. Near my home, I found every ditch and grassy waterway shown on the map. These waterways were shown in light blue. Rivers are shown in blue, yellow, purple, and green. The use of different colors allows one to easily follow a river from its headwaters to its mouth, and to see all of the tributaries of the river very quickly.

The app provides the option to view the map as a USGS map showing contours and stream gauges. In this mode by tapping a stream gauge icon you are taken to the USGS water information system where you can obtain instantaneous technical data from the stream gauge including water flow, water



temperature and gauge height (water depth). This information is very useful, and it is available on surprisingly small rivers. However, not all information is available from every USGS water gauge. A small river having a gauge in our county seat only gives river depth, but that is very useful information in determining whether the river is suitable to fish or canoe.

Other map display options are Open Street Map, Road Map, Satellite Map, Terrain Map and plain white. Plain white and terrain show the most detail. In these modes you can quickly see every waterway including very small intermittent ones.

The uses of the app seem to be limited only by one's imagination. Waypoints and targets can quickly be set. There is a compass function that will provide a heading to a target and the distance to the target, so the app may also be used for navigation. It turns your mobile device into a GPS receiver. The waypoint function can use the app to mark fishing holes, game cameras, tree stand loca-

tions, camp sites, scenic spots, or any other location to which you might need to return. Each waypoint gives the latitude and longitude; the date it was created and last modified; and allows for making notes regarding the waypoint. The app will immediately display a blue dot showing your location on the map simply by touching the location icon at the top of the map.

I have never written a product review before, and I don't intend this to be an advertisement for Stream Map USA. I am receiving nothing from Map USA for this article. However, I have found it to be so useful for such a small price (\$9.99 for one region) that I felt compelled to share my experience with others active in the outdoors. There are a total of eight regions covering the continental United States. I downloaded my copy from Google Play Store. It is also available from App Store. Give it a try. I don't think you will be disappointed.

Bill Keaton ■

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Lincoln senior Kylei Klein accepted a STEM scholarship from the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society at the annual Richmond Gem and Mineral Show, March 6. Once she accepted the award, Klein was congratulated by EIGGS president Mark Lisota, scholarship chairperson Charlene Reidenbach, and parents Rodney and Kelly Klein. (EIGGS Photo)

## Lincoln Senior earns local STEM Scholarship

Submitted by Lisa Morris  
EIGGS Newsletter Editor & Educational Outreach

Lincoln High School senior Kylei Klein is the recipient of the 2017 STEM scholarship presented by the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society of Richmond, IN. The award was presented at the annual Richmond Gem and Mineral Show, Sunday, March 6.

Klein plans to use the \$500 scholarship to pay for expenses at Purdue University where she will study animal science and agriculture education. "My love for agriculture, animal science and education has molded me into the person I am today, and my dream includes being able to educate others on just a fraction of all the amazing aspects that the science field has to offer," Klein said.

The annual award is open to seniors at all Wayne County high schools, as well as National Trail High School, who plan to pursue careers in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering or math. Students have to have GPAs of 3.0 or higher and a strong record of extracurricular involvement and community service.

In May Kyle will graduate at the top of her class with an Indiana Academic Honors diploma and a Technical Honors diploma.

Klein balanced her academic performance with a full set of extracurricular activities, including 4-H, FFA, National Honor Society, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Business Professionals of America, Key Club, Jazz Band, Choir, and the Math Academic team.

Through these activities and others, she has had the chance to perform numerous hours of community service and has also had the chance to compete at the regional, state and national levels. As a BPA member she was a national finalist. She was also a national finalist for her proposal for world hunger at the Global Youth Institute sponsored by the World Food Prize. As a 4-H member she has been a county and state exhibitor in dairy, dairy steers, sheep, swine, goats and rabbits. She was also chosen to attend the Indiana Dairy Academy to increase her knowledge of the dairy industry.

In addition to academic and extracurricular activities, Klein participates in multiple sports. She was named a Top Scholar Athlete in four varsity sports: volleyball, basketball, tennis and track. Her Spanish teacher, Rachel Hall, noted, "Kylei has been an invaluable member of many clubs and sports teams in and out of school. Her peers, coaches, and teachers know with certainty the Kylei will plan, prepare, and execute any task with vigor, creativity, and quality. In winning or losing, she is gracious, humble, polite and encouraging to others."

Part of the excitement of the spring turkey season is getting ready for it. The anticipation and locating birds gets your blood pumping and fills your head full of dreams that keep you from sleeping at night for several days before the season arrives. Do not let this excitement spoil your chances at a longbeard this year by getting antsy and blowing your cover and educating the birds in your hunting area.

Put some time in and scout smart this year. You will be surprised at how much you learn. ■

## Visit Fayette County, Indiana

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

lot, beginning May 20th. The market is open from 9 a.m. until noon and will offer handmade crafts and locally grown produce and flowers.

May also marks the beginning of the season for the Whitewater Valley Railroad. Thomas the Tank Engine will be here in June.

Don't forget to take advantage of the beauty of the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary and Shrader-Weaver Nature Preserve. Rafting, camping, and canoe rentals are available at Robinson's Whitewater Campground. Roberts Park is a great place for family outings. The pool is second to none.

The Community Wide Yard Sale will return this June with bargains offered all over the county.

Come visit the Fayette County Historical Museum, too.

For a list of things to see and do, visit us on the web at [www.tourconnersville.com](http://www.tourconnersville.com) or like us on Facebook. If you're in town, stop at the railroad depot and get all our visitor information!

You're always welcome in Fabulous Fayette County! ■

## Indiana Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

time.

Honestly though, especially during early mornings and evenings as the birds are in the roost, gobblers will tend to gobble often enough on their own for you to be able to figure out their roosting areas. And they will typically continue to gobble for a while after they fly down in the mornings and slightly prior to flying up to roost the evenings, enabling you to figure out their habits without the use of calls.

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## INDIANA CHAPTER OF THE NWTF

by Alan Garbers

NWTF Indiana – Turkey Tips: Wild turkey hens need good habitat to nest and raise their poults. Turkeys, like ruffed grouse and other ground nesting birds, rely upon good cover to hide them from predators. Hens often nest near downed logs mixed with young vegetation and grasses. Some of the best habitat is the forest edge and recently logged areas that are starting to grow back. The sunlight causes new growth which provides nesting cover, seeds, berries, insects, and other foods. Young poults need grassy clearings to



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hunt for high-protein insects. When managing your wooded areas, be sure to leave plenty of cover and open areas.

**Here's another tip:** Join the NWTF and support your local chapter. Many chapters are active in improving turkey habitat on public lands. The

best part? If the habitat is perfect for wild turkeys, it's perfect for deer and other wildlife, such as ruffed grouse and quail. Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt, for all of us.

Go to [facebook.com/IndianaNWTF](https://facebook.com/IndianaNWTF)

## It happened again

by Ray Dickerson

On Friday March 17, 2017, I had a long trip ahead of me, I was delivering the April Gad-a-bout for the first time in south central and south east Indiana. I delivered the paper in Butlerville, Vernon, Seymour, Vallonia, Salem to Campbell-sburg then back to Salem. I decided to take SR 160 to Henryville to drop some papers at Budroe's Bus Stop Restaurant. He was closed so I left some papers and started north on US 31 toward Underwood. I couldn't remember the side road Underwood Auto Parts was on. I decided to pull off the road to check the next cross road. I saw a parked State Trooper car on my right, I pulled off just past him, but still couldn't see if the auto parts lot was nearby.

I checked my side mirror, I saw a couple vehicles coming behind me, I thought they had all passed, but pulled out too soon and was hit by a pickup truck. I got out of my van as soon as I was safely off the other side of the road. I checked the other driver, he was okay too.

The State Trooper came at a fast pace asking if we were okay.

State Trooper Cain handled the situation in a very professional manner, he was kind and courteous too. After he had processed all our information and the other driver had left. I asked him if I could take this photo. Then I asked him if it was okay for me to drive my van home. I had a few more deliveries to



Indiana State Trooper Cain (above) was in the right place at the right time, though he didn't know it until I came along. I was delivering the May Gad-a-bout just north of Henryville, IN looking for the Underwood Auto Parts. I pulled off US 31 to let traffic backed up behind me, go past. Thinking they all had passed I pulled out and was hit by a pickup truck. After the impact, State Trooper Cain came walking at a fast pace asking us if anyone was hurt. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

make on the way. He checked out the van. It was running okay and nothing was leaking out anywhere. I told him I would travel the back roads

wherever possible. He told me to drive safely. I thanked him, finished my deliveries and arrived home safe and sound.

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"Finally at peace" these words seem to me to be very appropriate for Corporal Gerald I Shepler who was MIA November 29, 1950 in Korea, and his remains was buried here March 11, 2017.

## Indiana Slab Masters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

event! Keep an eye on the website for the selected time and date of the open tournament.

If you have never been to an Indiana Slab Masters weigh-in, you've really been missing out! The website states where the weigh in will be held and the Slab Masters welcome everyone to watch the events. Just look for the Indiana Slab Masters Trailer. The weigh ins have a live MC to keep you informed, tables set up so that everyone can witness the weigh in process and awards ceremony at the end. After the weigh in is over and great information is shared, we are going to have a short seminar at one of the competitors boats. This will happen after each tournament. The Indiana Slab Masters are dedicated to teaching the sport of crappie fishing, and the single reason the club was formed. I hope you all can make it out to one of the Slab Master events in the near future. You will see how diverse a group the club members are, not to mention some of the nicest and finest people in the state! Tight lines and I hope to see you out on the water soon!

## Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

mean. If the plaque was brand new it would be shiny and bright, but the one in the photo is dull and worn.

If anyone is in need of information on any MIA relative, friend or acquaintance missing, here is the website Corporal Shepler was listed on when his remains were found, <http://www.dpaa.mil/>.



### BLACK BEAR SPOTTED NEAR BUTLERVILLE IN JENNINGS CO. DNR Report

*Southern Indiana black bear wakes.*

The black bear first reported in southern Indiana last July has been spotted near Butleville in Jennings County after waking from hibernation. Please keep this bear wild by removing any poten-

tial food sources.

### BLACK BEARS IN INDIANA

Donate to help endangered wildlife

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) were historically abundant across Indiana, excluding the northwest portions of the state dominated by prairie. Unregulated hunting and habitat loss caused black bears to be extirpated from Indiana and much of the Midwest by 1850. Black bear tracks Before 2015, when a black bear entered the state at the Michigan border, the last confirmed report of a black bear in Indiana was in 1871.

In June 2015, wildlife biologists with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources verified the presence of a black bear in St. Joseph County. The bear was believed to be a young male. It spent most of the next five months in Indiana and was last reported in the state on Oct. 13, 2015.

In March 2016, the bear emerged from its winter den in Michigan and, unfortunately, exhibited habituated behaviors, including a loss of fear of humans. Based on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (MI DNR) "Problem Bear Management Guidelines," such behaviors are considered a threat to public safety. Consequently, the MI DNR trapped and humanely euthanized the bear on April 9, 2016.

In July 2016, a black bear was confirmed in southern Indiana in Harrison, Washington and Clark counties.

### How to report a large Mammal sighting in Indiana

If you would like to report a sighting, use our online large mammal report form. The Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife occasionally receives reports of large mammals such as mountain lions, gray wolves and black bears. There are no breeding populations of these species in Indiana. However, individuals may pass through Indiana from established populations in other states.

#### Black Bear Facts

They are stocky animal with short legs.

Typically, males weigh 150-400 pounds and females weigh 100-250 pounds.

In the Eastern United States, black bears typically have a thick black coat with a tan muzzle.

They are omnivorous, feeding on grass, seeds, berries, insects, rodents and deer carcasses.

Black bears are intelligent with a keen sense of smell and hearing.

Young bears, particularly males, may travel long distances, up to 20 miles per day, into new areas, before retreating to establish a territory closer to the primary range.

Black bears are generally very timid and not aggressive towards people.

They are crepuscular, meaning they are usually active at dawn and dusk.

### Living with Bears

Residents in many states co-exist peacefully with black bears. They do this by not harassing bears and keeping attractants (food sources) away from them. Once a bear associates humans with a reliable food source, they will almost always seek those again, regardless of where they are released.

Bears can smell food from more than a mile away, so it's important to secure food sources and discourage animals from associating humans and human dwellings with food. To reduce or eliminate bear-human conflicts please observe the following tips:

**DO** remove bird feeders and bird food from late March through November.

**DO** clean and store grills away after use.

**DO** eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed.

**DO** pick ripe fruits and vegetable ASAP, or place an electric fence around them, to ensure bear cannot reach them.

**DON'T** intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.

**DON'T** leave pet food outside overnight.

**DON'T** add meat or sweets to a compost pile.

**DON'T** climb a tree, but wait in a vehicle or building for the bear to leave the area.

**REMEMBER:** Black bears are rarely aggressive toward humans. Most problems arise when bears associate food with humans. Do not feed bears; doing so increases the likelihood of negative bear-human interactions. Unfortunately, a fed bear often becomes a dead bear due to increased aggressiveness associated with the loss of fear of humans. Thank you for your help keeping our wildlife wild.

#### If You See a Black Bear

Enjoy it from a distance.

Do not climb a tree.

Advertise your presence by shouting and waving your arms and backing slowly away.

Never attempt to feed or attract bears.

Report bear sightings to the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife at (812) 334-1137, through email at [dfw@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:dfw@dnr.IN.gov) or online.

#### Laws Regarding Black Bears

Black bears, once a native species in Indiana, are now listed as an exotic mammal and protected under **Indiana Administrative Code 312 9-3-18.5 (b-1)**, which prohibits the killing of a black bear except by a resident landowner or tenant while the animal is "destroying or causing substantial damage to property owned or leased by the landowner or tenant."

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# Gad's Corner

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



Alejandro Salazar & Jeremy Moberg from Connersville 4-2-17 caught these crappie in Brookville Lake. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Roosevelt Nicholson found this Black Snake on January 17, 2017 (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Justin Murphy took this 8 point buck on November 12, 2016. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Jim Fox Group from Columbus, OH Limit catch of walleye caught while casting aboard "Emily K" with Boytim Charter Service. (For info on Boytim Charter Service see Page 21)



Zeppelin Perry Took this 8 point buck on November 12, 2016. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Kyle Murr from Oxford, OH caught this 16 lb. Striper in Brookville Lake during the warm spell in February 2017. (Jay's Midlake Bait & Tackle Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Belinda Arthur from New Palistine, IN and her 16 lb. snapper. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Tom Paul Owens caught this 8 lb. Largemouth Bass on a blue and black jig at a farm pond in Franklin County. (Photo submitted by Tom Paul Owens via e-mail from iPhone.)

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