

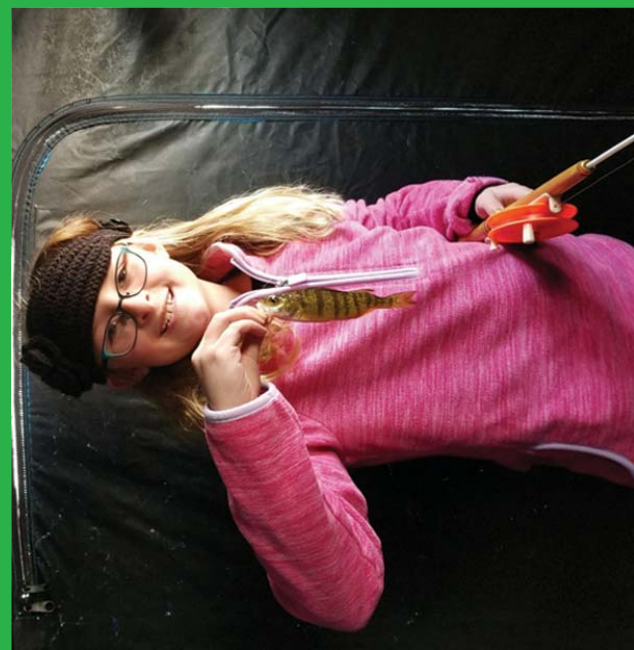
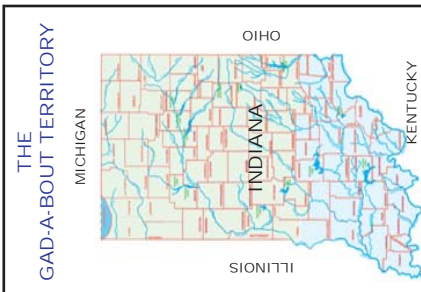
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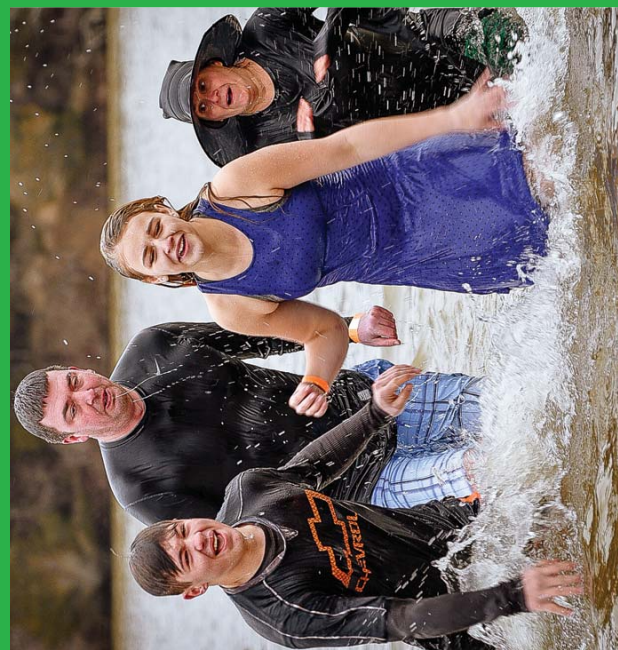
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DENVER TOOK HIS FIRST DEER - SEE PAGE 30 TO READ ABOUT HIS & MORE GAME PHOTOS

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Or by the name given to me by Golden Eagle in 1995 LOKA'DWE ICHUTAKU YUSHEDON' Translated "Man who gets things done!"

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THE GAD-A-ABOUT™

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: The thrill of ice fishing is being experienced the entire state of Indiana. Here Kylee is holding a fish she caught through the ice on Summit Lake. (Photo by Anita McFalls)

Top Right: Renfro's Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show Indiana State Fairgrounds. This photo illustrates a real important instruction session teaching future bow hunters how to safely shoot bows and arrows. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Bottom Left: Lonnie Snow's efforts to raise funds to pay for his Special Olympics program includes the Polar Plunge again this year on February 24th in Whitewater Memorial State Park Lake. It was very cold plunging into the lake, as this photo illustrates very well. (Photo by Lonnie Snow)

Bottom Right: I don't have a lot of game photos for this month, but the photos on Page 30 you will enjoy seeing, not only the deer, but the ages of the

hunters. (Photo by Dustin Hatzell)

Deer Whistle: I use the deer whistle that is shown on the cover of this issue. This whistle works, I am living proof of it. I have seen deer, raccoon, rabbits, squirrel, ground hog, fox, coyote, oposum and skunk leave the roadway or stop from entering the roadway in front of me. The only business I know in my area, other than the manufacturer that sell this whistle is Mendenhall's Hardware located at 125 S.W. 5th in Richmond, IN. You might want to call 765-962-4842 to make sure they aren't sold out before you go. This time of year they go quickly. I have a testimony on David Livingston's website. I talked to David last month, his deer whistle works. You can buy the "Save-A-Deer whistle at Living Products, LLC, P.O. Box 2357, Platte City, MO 64-79. Phone # 303-838-4083 or Online at their website: www.deerwhistle.com.

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

LAST MONTH I PROPOSED TO DISTRIBUTE A PETITION STATE WIDE ATTEMPTING TO REINSTATE DEER CHECK STATIONS TO HELP SOLVE A POSSIBLE DEER HEALTH CRISIS

I have put the idea on hold until I can get a better idea of some facts on this issue that I wasn't aware of. I've had good feedback from several hunters who agree with me. But I've had additional information from businesses I deliver to each month telling me they are still check stations. The only difference between back then, when all deer had to be checked in at an official check stations throughout Indiana, is that data gathering was replaced by computer data gathering, rather than Indiana Conservation Officers physically gathering the data from the check stations in person.

Which in my mind is not an accurate way of gathering data on the deer. Computers are great, but they are limited to the lack of verification that the hunter is accurately reporting his or her taking of deer. I've heard hunters talk about so and so who has taken far beyond their limit of deer. It could be heard say, but without a way of verifying actual deer taken who knows.

Another issue is health of the deer herd in Indiana. I was told by a hunter that two cases of CWD had been verified in southern Indiana, besides the TB case in Franklin County last year. If this is a factual report, then all the deer taken in Indiana must be checked. CWD is a very serious disease. As far as I knew Indiana has never had a case of CWD, but I've not kept up on the subject since the IDNR dropped their quest to ban all the deer farms and hunting behind the fence businesses many years ago.

To that end though I have to find out more on these subjects before going forth with a petition.

KEN AND MIKE BANNING HAVE A REAL UNIQUE BUSINESS ON U.S. 40 JUST EAST OF CAMBRIDGE CITY, IN

I got a call from Ken Banning a couple weeks ago he wanted to talk to me about possibly running an ad in The Gad-a-bout. Mike is his son who helps him at Fab-Tech Industries, Inc. Steel Shooting Targets. Mike also has his own business, National Road Auto Repair. (his dad helps him with it too) you can say it's a "you help me and I'll help you kind a thing. Ken started Fab-Tech Industries back in 1989. The steel shooting targets are made out of AR500 Steel Plate. It's really hard stuff. Ken showed me two pieces of steel, one was regular steel plate, maybe a half inch thick and the other was AR500 steel plate maybe 1/4 inch thick. The regular steel plate had three AR15 rounds hit it and left holes nearly thru the other side. Using the same rifle three AR15 rounds hitting the AR500 steel



At left is Ken Banning and at right is Mike Banning. Ken manufactures and repairs steel fabrication and machinery repair and farm equipment. Mike is a auto repair technician. Of course like I said below, father and son helps one another when its necessary. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

plate shooting targets. The rounds barely scratched the steel plate, I could see evidence of a lot more rounds had hit the AR500 steel plate..

I've visited ranges that use shooting targets like the ones Ken and Mike make being hit by hundreds of rounds and they last and last. I had no idea up until now who made that type of target. Now I know.

Ken and Mike work out of the same location, 14271 West U.S. 40, Cambridge City, IN 47327 (south side). Phone number is (765)478-4191.

I will be doing a more in depth article about them later on.



ROBERT L PENCE, SR., 80 OF LIBERTY, IN PASSED AWAY UNEXPECTEDLY TUESDAY, DEC. 26, 2017

My good friend Bob Pence left us unexpectedly, one of my fondest memory's dates back to 1974

when Bob and a friend of his took me ice fishing on Brookville Lake. We (he) cut holes in the ice. I asked him to take me, I needed a story for a paper in Richmond called the Sunday Graphic. Bob didn't hesitate, he said we will go. I told him I needed to catch some fish for a photo. We fished the better part of the day with 36" of ice in Eely's Creek. No one caught one fish. I looked at Bob and the other guy, I said looks like we are going home empty handed. Bob looked at me and as quick as a flash

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bob up-ended the bucket he had been sitting on and out plopped about ten blue gill. He said, will these help you? I laughed and told him they would fit the bill. I have so many fond memories of Bob and regrets of not living up to staying more in touch with him. But, alas I tend to forget what's more important for things that aren't.

ROBERT L PENCE, SR.

A Connersville native, Bob was born January 5, 1937 to Francis Darwin and Mary Faye Pence and graduated from Connersville High School in 1956. He retired from Mac Machine and Metal Works after a forty year career as a tool and die specialist. Bob owned and operated the Whitewater Valley Gun Club since 1972 in Liberty, Indiana. He was an avid sportsman, hunter and shooter. He was a member of the United States International Muzzle Loading Team since 1977--traveling the world and brought home the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals numerous times. He broke the World Record in Germany in 2014, becoming the current World Champion. He was a skilled gunsmith making shotguns for himself and others, including percussion and flint shotguns he used in his competitions. He recently won the National Championship in Friendship Indiana. Bob donated several of his trophies to be re-purposed for youth sports. He was a dedicated family man and loved his children and grand children. Bob was a member of First Baptist Church in Connersville and a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited and The Shotgun Squad of the United States International Muzzle Loading Team.

Bob is survived by his sisters: Darlene Nye of Nevada and Shirley Fling of California, and his daughters: Sherri Pence Rawson of California and her children Kyle Rawson and Sarah Rawson. Linda Darlene Pence of Liberty, Indiana, and her child Wyatt Pence. His wife's daughters: Kelly

Westerfeld of Metamora and her children Brooke Gronning, Joshua Burch, Jake Burch, Dylan Westerfeld, and Samuel Westerfeld. Rhonda Vickers of Connersville and her children, Ryan Hubbard, Courtney Hubbard, and Matthew Hubbard, and her grandchildren Lila Hubbard, Cameron Hubbard and Kaiden Wright.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Joyce E. Nutty Pence and his children: Yvonne Lee Pence and Robert Lee Pence, Jr.

Funeral services was conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at First Baptist Church, 1201 N. Grand Avenue, Connersville, Indiana with Pastor Mal Gibson officiating. Interment followed in Springersville Cemetery. Friends visited at the church from 10 a.m. until the time of service Wednesday.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church, Connersville. For additional information and to send condolences or memories, go to www.ShowalterBlackwellLong.com.

**FROM THE DESK OF PAUL RYAN
JANUARY 14, 2018 FYI**

"Crumbs." That's what Nancy Pelosi called the bonuses and wage increases that more than 2.6 million Americans have received in the three weeks since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law.

Let me tell you something: For the families who are living paycheck-to-paycheck, an increase in take-home-pay and a \$1,000 bonus to start out the new year—these are not crumbs.

Companies big and small, including Walmart—the largest private-sector employer in the United States—have also announced plans to expand employee benefits, like 401k matching and maternity leave. Some businesses have reversed previous plans to leave the United States. Even utility companies are passing on tax savings to consumers, and in the middle of a cold winter, that is good news.

America's economic optimism is rising. And the best is yet to come.

Starting next month, the IRS will adjust how much it takes out of your paycheck to account for the new law. 90 percent of wage earners will see an increase in their take-home pay. That's huge. And it is only going to get better from here.

Ray's comment: The America I was born into and the America I live in today are two different America's. I live in the America I was born into by not following the crowd. I refuse to follow the Americans who are bent on ruining the America I was born into. When a clerk says do you have a rewards card, I reply if I wake up in the morning that is reward enough!

**WHO BETTER TO DESIGN OUTDOOR
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Hi Ray,
I'm David Wood, a Marine veteran and cofounder of TacticalSix International - a veteran-owned apparel company that forges outdoor gear and outerwear to function in the most extreme environments in the world.

In our Marine training, we were pushed to do everything with excellence. That education carried into our initiative to design indestructible outerwear and gear - because as Marines, quality clothing makes the difference between success or failure, winning or losing, life or death. We've tested our winter clothing and outdoor gear for decades now across an elite team of special forces

operators, active duty personnel, outdoorsmen, professional riflemen, archers, and emergency responders, and the verdict stands: TacticalSix makes the highest quality apparel for outdoor enthusiasts who want top quality products.

Our Virtus Leaf 3-Jacket System is outerwear that doesn't restrict motion. With a helios base layer, an astraes mid layer, and a proteus outer layer, these jackets are created to withstand the harshest temperatures and most extreme climates without being bulky. Our 3-jacket systems are the jackets that military and service personnel depend on to keep them going in harsh climates, in addition to our durable outdoor equipment.

I think the outdoor and camping enthusiasts in your audience at Gad-A-Bout would be interested in learning about TacticalSix, and our products that keep them warm while participating in winter sports. Can I send you more info? **YES!**

Thanks,
David Wood
Cofounder, TacticalSix International
**STATE PARKS VISITORS BRAVED
ARTIC AIR ON FIRST DAY HIKES**

State Parks visitors braved Arctic air on First Day Hikes

Brutal temperatures couldn't deter the more than 1,000 people who participated in a guided First Day Hike at an Indiana State Park property on Jan. 1.

Combined, those 1,033 hikers trekked 1,158 miles.

The average high across Indiana that day was 1 degree Fahrenheit, according to Angie Manuel, chief of interpretation for DNR Division of State Parks.

"If I didn't already know that Indiana State Parks had some of the most dedicated visitors, I sure knew it when 50 hikers joined me for a minus 7 degree prairie walk at Prophetstown State Park," Manuel said.

First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start the year and a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and connect with friends. The hikes are hosted each year by staff and volunteers at Indiana's 32 state park properties and are part of a nationwide program promoted by America's State Parks.

Hikes ranged in length from a half-mile to 4 miles. The types of hikes varied, too. Charlestown State Park hosted a night hike for viewing the "supermoon," and hikers at O'Bannon Woods State Park walked with one of the property's resident oxen.

Monroe Lake welcomed the most participants, with 196 people attending an event offering 3.7- and 1.3-mile run/walks.

Across the country, almost 32,000 visitors to state parks hiked a combined 70,200 miles.

"The First Day Hikes are a way park rangers, naturalists and volunteers can get people outside to connect with nature and history while beginning new, healthy lifestyles," said Ellen Graham, First Day Hikes coordinator and chief naturalist, Georgia State Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites.

First Day Hikes originated more than 20 years ago at the Blue Hills Reservation state park in Milton, Mass.

America's State Parks is committed to promoting outdoor recreation in state parks as a way to address obesity, especially among children.

To view all DNR news releases, please see **CONTINUED ON PAGE 25**

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News from the Indiana State Police



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

Indiana State Police Seek Recruits for 78th Recruit Academy

The true backbone of the Indiana State Police remains the position of Trooper. It is where everyone begins and it is the position you see most. It can be exciting and fun, but can also be stressful and dangerous. It takes a special person to be a trooper. It is not a job, nor is it just a career; it is a way of life. You have to be ready to go 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Indiana State Police are now accepting applications for the 78th Recruit Academy. Individuals who are interested in beginning a rewarding career and way of life as an Indiana State Trooper may apply online at <http://www.in.gov/isp/2368.htm>. This website will provide a detailed synopsis of the application process as well as information on additional career opportunities with the Indiana State Police Department.

Applications must be received via e-mail by **11:59 pm (EST), on Sunday, February 25th, 2018**. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted for the 78th Recruit Academy.

Basic Eligibility Requirements and consideration factors for an Indiana State Trooper:

1. Must be a United States citizen.
2. Must be at least 21 and less than 40 years of age when appointed as a police employee. (Appointment date is **December 13, 2018**)
3. Must meet a minimum vision standard (corrected or uncorrected) of 20/50 acuity in each eye and 20/50 distant binocular acuity in both eyes.
4. Must possess a valid driver's license to operate an automobile.
5. Must be willing, if appointed, to reside and serve anywhere within the State of Indiana as designated by the Superintendent.
6. Must be a high school graduate as evidenced by a diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED).

The starting salary for an Indiana State Police Department Recruit is \$1,615.39 bi-weekly during the academy training. At the completion of academy training, the starting salary is \$48,000.00 a year, with raises each year thereafter. For the pay scale for trooper go to <http://www.in.gov/isp/files/Trooper%20Matrix%20effective%207-1-2018.pdf>. Graduates of the 78th Recruit Academy are offered an excellent health care plan, which includes medical, dental, vision and pharmacy coverage for both current and retired employees, along with their families, until reaching age 65.

The Indiana State Police pension program provides a lifetime pension after 25 years of service. Additionally, the Indiana State Police Department provides comprehensive disability coverage and a life insurance program. Student loan forgiveness programs are also being offered at this time through the following: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>.

Getting hired as an Indiana State Trooper isn't easy, but as I said many years ago on a radio commercial, "If you think you have what it takes," go to our web site and apply online from the comfort of your home - we will be in touch.

Interested applicants can obtain additional information about a career as an Indiana State Trooper and apply online by visiting <http://www.in.gov/isp/2368.htm>.

Cold Weather Travel Tips

With the frigid cold temperatures and high winds we've been experiencing already this winter, a disabled or stranded vehicle could make for a life or death situation for the driver and passengers.

Following the few tips listed below could save your life:

- Before leaving check the weather forecast and let someone know your route of travel.
- Always keep your gas tank full when driving in cold weather.
- Carry a winter survival kit in your car which is to include: blankets, extra warm clothes, flashlight, extra batteries, brightly colored cloth, sand or a bag of cat litter, shovel, candles and matches, non perishable high calorie foods, (nuts, raisins, and protein or energy bars), newspapers (for insulation), a first aid kit and jumper cables.
- Do not leave your car if stranded, it is your best protection. Do not panic, an idling car only uses an average of one gallon of gas per hour.
- Roll down a window a very small amount for fresh air.
- Make sure the car's exhaust pipe is not blocked to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- At night, leave your dome light on.
- Always have your cell phone and a charger so you can call and let us know where you're located.

These simple tips and items placed in your car could save your or a family member's. Motorists are also reminded that with the frigid temperatures, gusting winds and blowing snow also comes the possibility of intersections, bridge decks and overpasses icing over. Please keep this in mind and drive with caution. For up to date Indiana road and traffic conditions visit the INDOT TrafficWise web site at <https://indot.carsprogram.org/>.

Driving Tips for Snow & Ice Conditions

This time of year we are always guaranteed some snow and ice days with roadways that can get slippery quick. First Sergeant Tim Kaiser, the

Assistant Commander at the Pendleton District, notes that "The most common cause of crashes during snow or icy weather is speed too fast for the existing road conditions. Remember, slick roads don't cause crashes-it's your driving behavior on those roads that causes the crash. Please slow down and be patient. Plan your trip according to weather and traffic conditions."

The Indiana State Police offers the following driving tips for inclement weather;

- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Clear all windows of ice and snow and remove snow from hood, roof and head lights and tail lights.
- Beware of bridges, overpasses and inter-sections where ice tends to form first.
- Don't use cruise control on slick roads.
- Avoid abrupt stops and starts, slow down gradually and keep wheels turning to avoid losing traction.
- Use headlights even during daylight hours.
- Increase the following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- **DECREASE YOUR SPEED** according to the road conditions.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is properly restrained.
- **DON'T BE DISTRACTED**-Pull over and stop to use electronic devices.
- **MOVE OVER** and **SLOW DOWN** for emergency vehicles, snow plows and highway service vehicles.

Remember to slow down and get over for emergency vehicles, snow plows and service trucks. My car was hit (with me in it) at a crash scene a few years ago, and I can't tell you how many times over the years I've bailed out of my car and jumped over the guard rail because someone was driving too fast and lost control while coming up behind me.

The best advice I can give you is to slow down and increase your following distance. **ALWAYS** drive on the interstate expecting to run into slowed or stopped traffic, especially when the weather gets bad. With the volume of traffic we have nowadays, it takes very little to cause a backup with a slow down or stoppage.

For up to date Road and Weather Conditions, please call **1-800-261-7623**, or visit INDOT's web site at <https://indot.carsprogram.org/>. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL** your local City, County or State Police for road conditions. Please leave our phone lines open for emergency calls.

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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by PIO Travis Stewart

Hunter Development and Boat Education

Here we are, two months already into the New Year and I can truly say that time flies when you are having fun. I have no doubts if you ask any Conservation Officer he will argue that there is no other job like this one. Day in and day out the job is an enjoyment, granted there are “those days”, like doing paperwork for instance, but I hold true to that statement.

This article is going to cover two different topics. The first is going to talk about Hunter Development. I bring this to you now because the majority of hunting seasons have ended or are nearing an end. Now is the time that any hunter can look back and reflect on their season, regardless of if they were able to harvest or not. This time of reflection is meant to make the hunter better, and improve for the next season. The second article is placed as a wishful thinking article for warmer weather to come. That article is going to discuss boat operation and getting the younger generation involved.

The Five Stages of Hunter Development

The first stage any hunter goes through is the shooting stage. This stage is where the hunter’s priority is to get a shot off. They’re not concerned about making a good, clean shot but rather just shooting instead. This stage can quickly turn sideways for the hunter because of their interest in shooting, and not a good shot can lead to putting others in danger. This can also cause the hunter to make bad shots and just injure, not down the game. The hunter can correct this and overcome this by getting out and target practicing. A mentor helping coach the hunter is another tool to consider.

Limiting out is the second stage. During this, the hunter determines their success on whether or not they bag the limit of the game being hunted. In a worst case scenario, the need to limit out causes the hunter to take unsafe shots leading to placing others in danger. Having a mature hunter

around will help overcome and get out of this stage.

The third stage is where the hunter is selective on what they harvest. They gauge their success on quality rather than quantity. This is typical with big game, being turkey or deer in Indiana. The game being harvested has to measure up to what they have in mind, otherwise it’s looked over.

Being concerned about the process of the hunt, and focusing on how the game is harvested is the fourth stage. This is called the method stage. The hunter may still focus on limiting out, but they place a higher focus on how it’s accomplished. This may be the hunter that has used a compound bow in the past, but now wishes to use traditional archery equipment.

The final stage is the sportsman stage. The hunter placed their success on the totality of the experience. They have learned to appreciate the outdoors and the animal being hunted. They focus on the process of the hunt, and the companionship of others. These hunters are the ones that someone would look upon as a mentor or coach. They could be a parent or relative or friend that has experience in the hunt.

I would venture to say that all hunters have gone through these stages. They may not have gone through all at this point in their life, but at some point will hit each stage. My standing is not that one is better than the other, or not acceptable. The reason it’s brought up again is to reflect on where you are and consider if you are creating an atmosphere of danger for the hunter or others around. If that is the case, consideration is needed on how to correct the issue, keeping in mind lessons learned in hunter education.

Boater Education

The second topic I wish to discuss is Boater Education. I will not dive deep into the topic but describe how this can be beneficial to all.

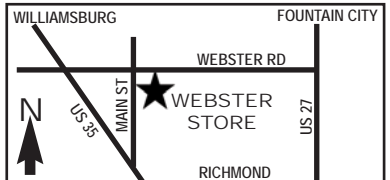
Boater education is not required by the State for boat operators to complete. Rather the course can only improve on the understanding of boat operating, trailering, navigations rules, and other topics. This course is a shortened one in comparison to hunter education, but informative none the less. If any readers wish to complete a course, they need only contact a Conservation Officer or contact their local DNR Law Enforcement district.

I do want to point out an interesting fact about boater education. In Indiana, law stipulates that anyone wishing to operate a boat with a motor of 10 horsepower or greater must have a valid Operator’s License. Where the course can help younger readers, or children of readers, is the following. Anyone that completes the course will receive their boater education certification, similar to that of hunter education. Having successfully completed the course, anyone 15 years or older with a valid Indiana Identification Card can legally operate a motorboat with a horsepower greater than 10.

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SIXTY FOURTH ANNUAL INDIANAPOLIS BOAT, SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW AT INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS February 16th thru 25th, 2018



Kevin Renfro with his late mom, Maxine Renfro in the show office in the East Pavilion. I snapped this photo while visiting their office some years back. Maxine was loved by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. She is greatly missed by her family and all who knew her. Referring to e-mail below, I had found the above photo in a box I was sorting at home, thinking Kevin would enjoy seeing it. So I attached it to an e-mail back in December. In early January I sent him another e-mail thanking him for agreeing to let me return to Tackle Town this year and attached the photo again, just in case he hadn't received it before. On January 8th I received his reply. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



Tackle Town, where you can find everything you need for fishing, watch and learn from Seminars and much more. *ers are our attendees!*

Look forward to seeing you in February. Thank you, Kevin Renfro

I have such fond memories of my association with the Renfro family which actually began after I joined the Hoosier Outdoor Writer Association (H.O.W.) in 1980. The H.O.W. meetings were held at the Howard Johnson Motel located at an I-70 exit on the first weekend of Renfro's Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show. After the meeting H.O.W. members traveled to the Indiana State Fairgrounds where we would get a Press Pass to attend the show and gather information for articles about the show.

A few years after I began publishing this paper in 1990 I worked out a deal with the Renfro's trading advertising for a booth in Tackle Town. This year my booth will be located on the north side a few booths east of the walkway between Tackle Town and the Travel and Tourism Pavilion. See Fairground layout of Renfro's Show buildings on Page ?

For this February 2018 64th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, Janine Lawton, Director of Marketing at Renfro Productions & Management, Inc. provided the following information written by Dan Forst. Renfro Productions Media Relations. Janine also sent me some of Dan's photos of previous shows to use in this issue. I had an unfortunate accident a year and a half ago when I lost 651 photo files stored in a rather new external hard drive with no back up. I learned a lesson the hard way. It was a painful lesson too. But thanks to Kevin, Janine and Dan Forst all is well, following is all the information



you need to enjoy their show this year.

Renfro's 64th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds February 16-25, 2018

by Dan Forst

(Article & Photos Courtesy of Renfro Productions Media Relations)

Find your adventure at the Ford 64th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show returning to the Indiana State Fairgrounds, February 16-25, 2018.

One of the oldest and largest outdoor shows to be found takes place each winter in Indianapolis, just a short drive from most towns in the Midwest. The

The Gad-a-bout Will Have A Booth In Tackle Town at Renfro's 64th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show February 16 - 25, 2018

For the past several years I have set up at Refro's Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Show which is in the Exposition Hall the last weekend of their show.

But this year I decided to ask Kevin Renfro if I could return to Tackle Town with my booth and he agreed. He sent me this e-mail:

"Hi Ray, No, I didn't get the picture. This is a great shot, thank you for sharing it. Yes, please feel free to use it."

It's great to have you back in Tackle Town, I know many of your readers and advertisers will be happy to see you there as well. As I have always said I am a huge fan of the Gad-a-bout, your read-

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Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show remains the biggest and most popular in the nation, largely, because it has been run by the same passionate family for over 60 years. Taking place February 16-25 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, the Ford 64th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show will consist of over 700,000 square feet of pure outdoor excitement in six super-sized buildings, providing plenty for sportsmen and outdoor adventure seekers.

Tackle Town USA– At 70,000 square feet with over aisles and aisles of all things fishing, Tackle Town has everything for the individual angler or fishing family.

Fishing Seminars – Between the interactive-style

Fishing Camp: Ask the Pros and the giant Hawk Trough seminars, visitors will find the best fishing seminars from anglers like KVD (bass), The G Man Gerald Swindle (bass), Ed Stachowski (walleye), Mark Brumbaugh (walleye), Jason Przekurat (walleye), Joe Thomas (bass), Mike Delvisco (bass), Jacob Wheeler (bass), Jeff Currier (fly fishing), Mark Martin (walleye), Matt Firestein (musky), Jim Vitaro (bass), Matt Morgan (crappie), Russ Bailey (crappie), Steve Coleman (crappie), Kent Watson (crappie), Ronnie Capps (crappie), Billy DeHaven (carp), Chae Dolsen (musky) and Dan Armitage (kids' fishing fun).

Travel and Tourism Pavilion – No matter what kind of travel experience you're looking for, you'll find it at a great price at the Travel and Tourism Pavilion, featuring exhibitors representing camps, lodges, outfitters, guides and other destinations in over 25 states plus various Canadian provinces. What makes this Pavilion truly unique is the fact that so many of the exhibitors are actual owners and operators of the lodges, resorts and camps or facilities they represent. When you plop down your hard-earned dollars for any kind of trip, it is extra nice to meet and chat with the actual folks in charge, the experts. And the fact that you're dealing direct means more of your money stays in your pocket. While in this Pavilion be sure to visit the Travel Café where you can sit in on exciting travel presentations given by industry professionals.

Boat Pavilion – More than 5 1/2 acres of boats, boating-lifestyle products and accessories. There's no better place to see a larger selection of makes and the latest models all under one roof. This one-stop shopping opportunity features the first look at this

year's models! On-the-spot financing is available.

RV Pavilion – See, touch, compare and experience the latest motor homes, travel trailers, fifth wheels and campers from Indiana's largest array of makes and models. Whether you are a seasoned RV traveler or just beginning to explore the RV lifestyle, the experts will be on-hand and ready share their knowledge. On-the-spot financing is available.

K-9 X Games Presented by Alpha K9 U – Thrilling exhibitions of canine athleticism, including X-treme Retrieve, X-treme Vertical, X-treme Air and Big Air! Fun for the entire family!

K-9 Crew Trick Dog Show – It wows audiences with high jumps, back flips, balancing acts and more! They are ordinary dogs doing the extraordinary: jaw-dropping air stunts, back flips, extreme high jumps, balancing acts, dog dancing and more. Some of the Crew had a rough start – unwanted or discarded – rescued from shelters. But under the direction of husband and wife trainers Tony and Sarah Hoard, not only do the dogs have a great new home, but they have gone on to perform with the Indianapolis & Baltimore Symphony's, Super Bowl XLVI Village & Fan Experience and as semifinalists on "America's Got Talent."

27th Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo (Feb. 16-18 only)

The Indiana Motorcycle Expo is a Mecca for all manner of bikes and motorcycle accessories, and takes place during the Ford 64rd Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show's Opening Weekend, February 16-18. The Expo brings together enthusiasts, manufacturers, major dealers and bike-related exhibitors from across the country showcasing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Top Left Photo: Unlike the eagles you can see in the wilds of Indiana, this eagle lives in Houston Woods State Park near Oxford, Ohio. (Photo by Ray Dickerson 10-23-2015) Top Right Photo: With the recent weather conditions ice fishing has become a very popular choice for the avid outdoorsman. This photo was taken looking East from the St Rd 105 bridge on January 5th of several fisherman enjoying their day trying to catch crappie. The bite has been on lately with several nice catches over the previous few weeks. (Author Photo) Bottom Right Photo: This is a photo of Steve Jeffers showing off his 1.9 lb crappie caught through the ice on the Salamonie Reservoir on December 9th. (Author Photo)

Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store
Come See The Eagles

The year 2018 came in with a bang...and when I say bang I mean a very cold bang as we have endured frigid cold temperatures that have dampened a majority of individuals desire to do much of all outside. Despite the cold temperatures outside the weather has allowed many the opportunity to take advantage of several activities we typically don't have much chance to do in this area...ice fishing and snowmobiling! That's right, being blessed with three lakes all within a twenty minute drive to fish as well as a property that contains over 40 miles of trails of beautiful scenery, makes for a golden opportunity for the avid outdoorsman. All three lake properties of the "Great Lakes of the Wabash", (Salamonie, Mississinewa, and Huntington) have been local attractions for crappie anglers and have been producing several nice catches over the previous few weeks and with the future weather outlook should continue over the coming weeks. So if you are looking for an excuse to get outside then maybe you should consider making the trip and visiting one of these properties to get out and "knock the dust off"!

Speaking of opportunities to get outside, the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center will be hosting their annual "Eagle Watch" on February 11th and 12th at

the Salamonie property. With the aid of a reintroduction plan to bring these birds to our area this is a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of observing and learning all you would ever want to know about the amazing bald eagle. This event will begin at 3 p.m. at the Salamonie Interpretive Center with a short program about eagles and then proceed to drive to areas well known to see eagles in action. The event will conclude with a drive to a roost site in Miami County to watch the eagles fly in for the night. The cost to attend is free and hot dogs and hot chocolate will be available with a free will donation that will help benefit the Raptor Center at Salamonie Lake. This is an excellent opportunity to gather family and friends and see first-hand the elegance of these birds. To register for this event call (260) 468-2127.

While on the topic of activities, there will also be a "Cowboy Gathering" taking place on the Salamonie property on Saturday, February 24th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You will enjoy a virtual tour of the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming and the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota on horseback. Preregistration is required and space will be limited. Sloppy joe sandwiches will be provided and you are encouraged to bring a side dish. For more information on this event or any other scheduled events you can contact the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center at (260) 468-2127.

Another event you will want to mark on your calendars will be Bozarth's Annual Fishing Tackle Sale which will take place from Saturday, March 3rd and run thru Sunday, March 11th. This is a great time to take advantage of the year's best prices and stock up on all your essential fishing needs. We will have a full line of fishing tackle, name brand rods and reels, bulk bags of bobbers, and many new and exciting products for the 2018 season. Door prizes will be available to the first 100 customers along with a raffle drawing. This year's event will also have a slate full of



seminars on Saturday, March 3rd as Crappie Pro Charlie Hildreth along with several other pro fishermen will be on hand to give you all the expertise one would need as well as a question and answer session to help aid in your fishing adventure. Come enjoy all the deals and while in the process you can enjoy one of our delicious hot sandwiches off our popular food menu. For more information or questions you can contact us at (765) 981-4522.

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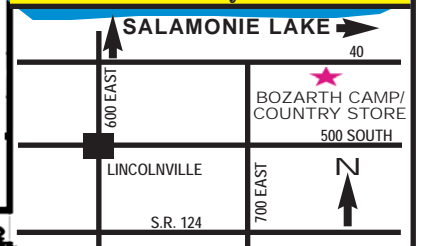
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by **Capt. Mike Schoonveld**

CATCHING AN ANGRY PIRATE

I wouldn't want to go out with a guide and charter captains who didn't show up happy and enthusiastic about the day ahead. But enthusiasm doesn't mean excitement. Sure, these guys enjoy their job and love watching their clients' excitement, but they probably don't have their own "special moments" on

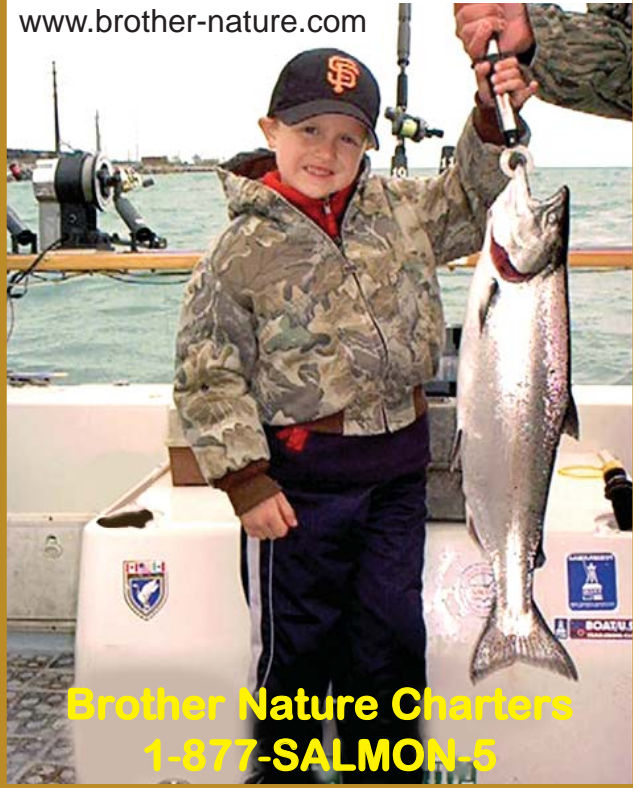


Pirate or Pompano, this was a memorable catch for both myself and the captain. (Author Photo)

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That's how I first knew I was hooked up to something special on a recent trip to Ft. Myers, Florida. Captain Ryan Kane (Southern Instinct Charters) was hopping around and whooping like a kid who just got his best-ever Christmas wish from Santa. It wasn't just enthusiasm, it was unabashed excitement.

We were fishing over a sunken ship miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Anything from a panfish to sharks lurked in the depths. It was always a guess at what was bending the rod. We'd already proved that with the first two snappers we hooked, not much bigger than a nice white bass one could catch in the Tippecanoe River. One went into the ice chest, the next, or what was left of it, went back into the Gulf having been chomped by something leaving the distinctive bite radius of a shark.

The watery grave of the wreck lay just over 100 feet below the boat. We didn't have to fish that deep, however. The sonar showed a fantastic array of fish hovering above the sunken cargo carrier. To bring them even nearer the surface, Captain Ryan put a ten pound block of frozen chum in a mesh bag and dangled it over the side of the boat. The chum block was made of ground-up, frozen fish "parts," mostly left over heads, tails and entrails from fish being cleaned to eat.

As the chum-chunk thawed out, the scent of the ground up fish along with pea to peanut sized morsels descended through the water column enticing many of the fish to come closer to the surface.

Basically, the food chain under the boat moved in range of our bait, with little fish eating the chunks of fish and bigger fish eating the smaller fish.

Our attack was simple. Cast out a light weight jig with a finger-sized shrimp on it. The jig would fall through the water column and when it stopped, it was because the baited jig was in the mouth of a hungry something. Then reel as fast as possible to keep what was hooked away from the sharks and barracudas higher on the food chain. Out reeling a hungry 'cuda is nearly impossible, proven time and again that morning. We fed far more fish that morning than people with the fish we hooked.

The sea water is clear enough to catch glimpses of the fish being pulled to the surface when it's still 15 feet or more under the boat. When you see that, you yell, "color."

In Capt. Ryan's case it was "Color...Oh my golly, it's an AP."

"A.P," I asked through gritted teeth. All I knew was it was one tough fish that didn't want to be where I was trying to pull it. "Angry Pirate?" I guessed. It pulled as though a Capt. Jack Sparrow or some other pirate was on the line.

The captain was clearing stuff out of the way and digging frantically for the landing gaff. "African pompano," he said. He was visibly excited.

By now, I'd looked over the side and caught glimpses of the wide bodied, silver sided fish slowly I was hooked to with a thin thread of 20 pound line.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

STEVE'S MARINE



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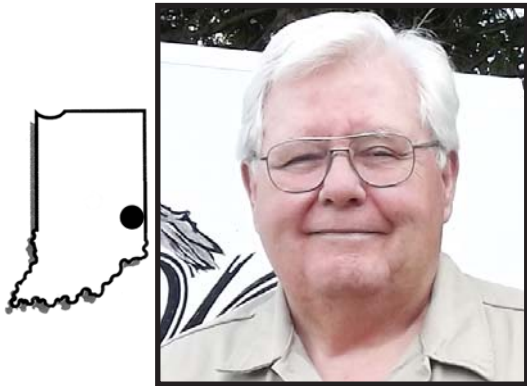
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Left: This screw holds the right firing pin (missing) and is of soft iron, and, rusted into place, the screwdriver forced edges of the screw out and over the edges of the screw hole. After a lot of soaking in penetrating oil, and peening with a hammer it still refused to budge and had to be drilled out. I'll have more on that next month. Right: This screw holds the right firing pin (missing) and is of soft iron, and, rusted into place, the screwdriver forced edges of the screw out and over the edges of the screw hole. After a lot of soaking in penetrating oil, and peening with a hammer it still refused to budge and had to be drilled out. I'll have more on that next month. (Author Photos)

Random Notes on Guns



by **Marshall Smith**

Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO

Random Notes From Prairie Wolf Gun Repair

Gunsmithing

Have you decided to work on your old gun and maybe take it apart to clean and lube it inside and have one little screw slot get wallowed out and now you can't get it to break free. You've tried all the quality penetrating oils and sprays and still that little screw won't budge and the screw driver you've been using has messed the screw slot out and now it won't stay in the slot. There's a couple of ways to handle this problem. You can drill the screw out or you can try to repair the screw slot so that the screwdriver blade will hold.

Let's look at repairing the screw slot first. The screw head on all older guns and many newer guns are of a soft non-hardening iron. The slots are created with a chisel blade or grinder shaped in a steep V shape with a flat or round bottom. That is the top of the slot is larger than the bottom which encourages the standard screwdriver blade to slip out if not held in the slot with great force. When the edges of the slot opening gets rounded out one method of correcting it is to peen the edges back into place using a small (8 ounce or lighter) hammer to peen the rolled

edges of the slot back into place. This takes patience and a good eye to strike the top of the screw and not the parts of the gun that you don't want to damage. You probably won't get good results the first few times but with practice you'll get better.

If you can't get the slot edges back into place to sufficiently hold the screwdriver blade another means is to try and move the screw using a small drift pin punch inserted into the screw slot and tap the screw in a counter-clockwise direction trying to move the screw enough to loosen it so that a screwdriver can be used to easily remove the stubborn screw.

The last option is to drill the screw out. I'll discuss that option in next month's article as it will involve some calculations and research on the type of screw you are dealing with and what its purpose is in the gun. It also involves determining if it is really a screw, right hand standard screw or left hand threads. It's an article all to itself.

SWATting

The "false reporting an emergency to public safety by a person for the intent of getting a ("SWAT team") response to a location where no emergency exists." From the National 911 Program Public Safety Information on SWATting Published in 2015 on the 911.gov website.

It has happened, again. For the November 2015 edition of the Gad-A-Bout I wrote an article on SWATting after a man was shot by police in the Beavercreek, Ohio Walmart. "Remember in 2014, the news report of the man shot and killed in the Beavercreek, Ohio, WalMart? He was carrying a BB gun around the store. Only one (1) person called 911 and exaggerated the situation to the extent that the officers responding thought an armed man was waving and pointing a gun at people in the store." The caller was never identified that I know of and as far as I'm concerned, got away with murder.

Now, a Wichita, Kansas man has been shot and killed because another man in Los Angeles, CA called in a fake call to Wichita Police saying he had killed his father and was holding his mother and another family member hostage. He also claimed to

have poured gasoline throughout the house and said he might set it afire. Sadly, and regrettably when officers arrived the innocent resident of the house made a move to reach toward his waist which the officer thought was to draw a gun, the officer fired one shot killing the unarmed man. The caller in this case was identified, and was arrested on an outstanding warrant. As I am writing this article it is reported that he is being held without bond but no charges have been filed for the false reporting of a crime in which an innocent person has been killed. Since the perpetrator was in another state did he commit a crime in Kansas? When he called 9-1-1 did he talk to a Wichita, Kansas operator or just one in LA? There are a lot of questions to be answered and decisions made as to where the crime was initiated and where it occurred.

In 2015 a bill was brought before congress to criminalize SWATting but it never made it to the floor of the house of representatives. I am just as frustrated as everyone else with the failures of government to pass needed legislation. I think that it is really a state's responsibility to address this SWATting problem. Most states have laws regarding the false reporting to 911. However, those laws only apply to that state. The states need to address this with laws that make activities like swatting a felony occurring in that state no matter from where it was initiated. A felony which if a death or injury occurs as a result of the false report that the person(s) making the false report be liable both civilly and criminally. We will have to wait and see if any charges are able to be brought by Kansas against the perpetrator. There is reciprocity between all states for your driver's license, why can't there be the same reciprocity for the transmission of information causing a

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Even during the coldest months, there is still plenty of outdoor fun to be had

As I pen this column on the first day of 2018, it is cold. The coldest day we have had yet this winter, I believe. It is -12 degrees with a wind-chill of -30. I am staying in today, but yesterday afternoon was still brutally cold, yet found me out goose hunting as a farewell to 2017.

My Sitkga gear clothing definitely made withstanding the elements yesterday much more bearable. Without it I may have opted to stay home. But the moral to this story is that even when things outside are the coldest, there are still plenty of activities for outdoorsy folks like us to do; either while it is frigid, or when the temps warm up a bit like they might this weekend.

Goose hunting:

The Canada goose hunting season runs through February, so there is plenty of time to wait for warmer days to get in on some last-minute action. You don't have to go out in negative temps if you don't want to. When it's this cold, you better hunt



Pigeon River hunters returning from a successful day of hunting rabbits. (Photo courtesy of John Maxwell IDNR/Outdoor Indiana)

where they are feeding, unless you have a water source that is kept open through the use of pumps, aerators, etc.

Ice fishing:

Duh. When it is this cold, ice fishing becomes an obvious choice if you enjoy hard water angling. I'll wait for a warmer day, but hey, knock yourself out if you want. Just remember this; just because we have had horribly cold temperatures outside, this does not mean safe ice is a given. Snow on top of ice not only acts as an insulator, it adds tons (literally) of weight to the ice, meaning the ice is already under a constant strain of holding much more than your body weight.

Current, schools of fish, aerators, etc. can all mean weak ice in spots too, so always follow ice fishing safety regardless of how safe you think it is.

Rabbit hunting:

Rabbit hunting is one of my very favorite winter activities. Now that the deer seasons are pretty much over, I will turn my attention towards rabbits, but again, not today. I'll wait for warmer temperatures. Not only for personal comfort, but warmer temps will also make it much easier for my dogs to sniff out a rabbit, compared to the dry, powdery snow we have now.

Coyote hunting:

Hunting coyotes is also something I love to do after deer hunting has come to an end. To me, calling in such a wary and cagey predator ranks among the proudest of accomplishments.

Outdoor shows:

Lastly, one of the greatest ways to take in the outdoors, without even being outdoors, is by attending many outdoor shows that can be found throughout Indiana and the Midwest in January and February, including the grand Daddy of them all – the Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show.

Literally dozens of shows will be going on throughout our area in the coming weeks, several within easy driving distance for simple day outings. Such shows are a great way to spend some time – and money – being around the things and types of people you enjoy.

These shows also give you a chance to see several outdoor related products under one roof, and to talk to the folks who manufacture them.

Organize:

If you are like me, the fall's hunting seasons have found your garage, shed, and office a wreck! Coming in tired after a day of hunting often finds me just throwing my gear in a pile. After months of this, things get pretty nasty around my place. On days that I don't find myself outside, I really need to spend time cleaning, organizing and preparing my gear so that it is always ready – and easily located – the next time I need it.

So, see, yes, the weather is currently frightful, but if you are daring, dedicated, or just wait a week or two until it warms up a little, there are plenty of things to do to keep you occupied until the spring bite – some of which don't even require being outside!

Happy New Year and be safe!

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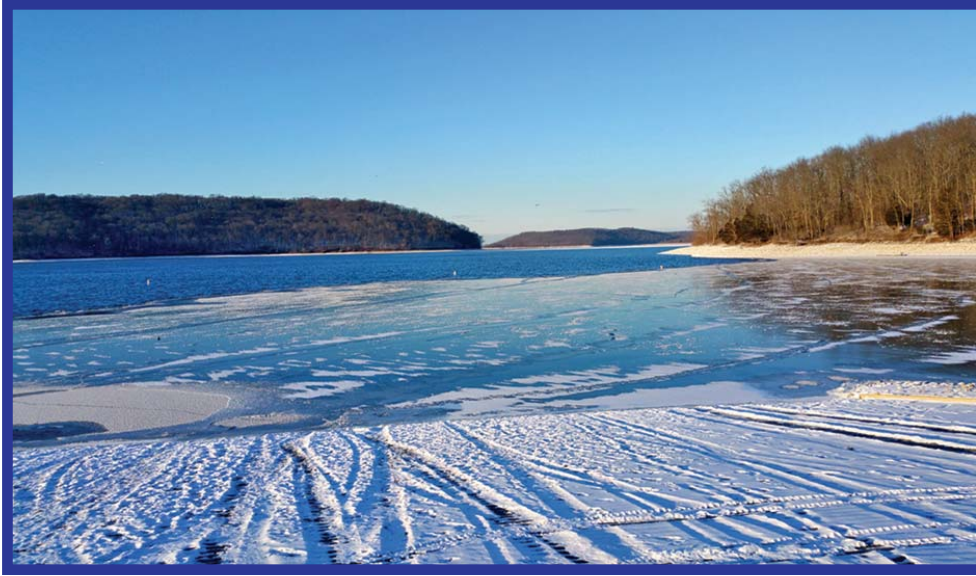
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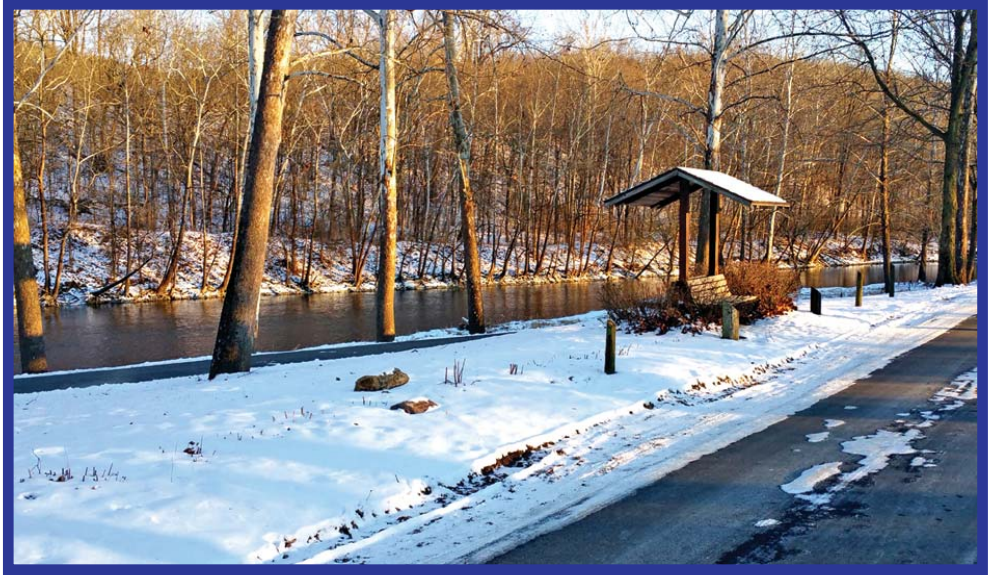
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January 2018 Partially frozen Brookville Lake. (Author Photo)



Brookville Town Park tailwater trout stream. (Author Photo)

So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**

Professional Fishing Guide

FEBRUARY FISHING IN BROOKVILLE LAKE

In this area you have options. You have Brookville lake, the river above and below the lake, you have farm ponds and you have the Ohio river. One thing you have going against you is ice and snow. One thing you have going for you is the cold and ice. You can catch fish out of Brookville lake all winter if you can get your boat in and out of it. Bonwell Hill, and Fairfield boat ramps are two main lake boat ramps that can be used in the winter. When fishing on the lake look for fish deep. Idle around with your eyes on your depth finder looking for fish holding close to the bottom. When you find a good-looking spot stop and fish it with a simple straight up and down method.

In February the lake is down to winter pool so the odds of them pulling water off the lake at this time of year is low. So, if you have the itch to fish look to the stilling basin below the dam. This is a spot where fish will congregate in the winter. The stilling basin is just a big deep concrete box. The box is tampered at the leading edge and is just a straight up wall at the lower end. With the box being about 30 feet deep it's a great place to fish with spoons and blade baits. Just a simple straight up and down method will also work here. What your trying to look like is a dying bait fish.

If you're a trout guy look down the river from the

stilling basin towards the 101 bridge and beyond. This entire stretch of river can be fished all winter with a pair of neoprene waders. Brookville also has a beautiful town park that this stretch of the East Fork of the Whitewater river tailwater runs through. It has plenty of parking and access to the river. You can fish it with a fly rod or spinning tackle. You can use live bait or dry flies, its strictly up to you. Just a few notes though to trout fish you must have a trout stamp along with a fishing licenses and you can't keep any trout from December 31st till the last Saturday in April of the following year.

Farm ponds are another great place to fish especially when they are frozen.

The first thing you are going to need is permission from the person that owns the pond.

Now this pond could be in a farmer's field, somebody's yard, or perhaps a golf course. Either way they are privately owned, so permission is a must. Most all these ponds are stocked with Blue gill, bass, crappie and catfish that can all be caught through the ice. What you'll need is an ice auger, ice fishing poles and some bait. Most generally people will use small crappie minnows or wax worms. For me I like the thickness of the ice to be at least 4 inches thick minimum, but thicker is better. I always drill a few test holes close to shore in shallow water. I have also tied a 20-foot rope to one of my buddies or to a tree close to the pond just in case. Ice fishing can be some of the best fishing you will do, just be prepared. Always tell somebody where your going, and when you will be back.

Last, but not least is the Ohio river. What you look for on the Ohio river is rivers and creeks dumping into the Ohio river. Hot water discharges, wing dams, and below the major dams like Markland or Meldahl Dam. When fishing from a boat you can sit out at the mouths of this creeks and rivers in the Ohio river and catch sauger fishing straight up and down using spoons and blade bait. In the hot water discharges you can cast swim baits. Below the major dams you can cast from the shore around the dam.

Look for turbulent water and cast swim baits or casting spoons. From a boat you can vertical fish using spoons blade baits or minnows. The key to fishing below major dams on the Ohio river is knowing all the rules, regulation, and what you're doing. I would suggest going with somebody that has done this before, because there are fish here, but there are also barges carrying, coal, gasoline, corn and who knows what else.

The best way to get to the major dams is to put in below them and come up to them.

This will keep you from having to lock through the dam.

Good Luck,
Tag

If you need more info go to my website www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com

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Bottom Right: Dam Stilling basin. (Author Photo)



A good day fishing for walleye on Brookville Lake on a charter trip. (Author Photo)



Here is another nice walleye caught in Brookville Lake. (Author Photo)



This was one of our more toothy Brookville Lake walleye. (Author Photo)

everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 – 5 people.

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Editor's Note: Craig "Tag" Nobbe and his two brothers Brian and Phil Nobbe recently changed the kind of gas they sell at 52 PIK-UP from Marathon to Shell.

I had driven past their Convenience Store (52 Pik-Up) a few days earlier and had to take a second look when I saw the Shell Logo on the canopy above the pumps. It caught me by surprise, I was so used to seeing their former brand of gas. I've filled my tank there for quite a long time. I've been buying Shell gas for almost as long as I've been buying automobile gas.

If you are unfamiliar with their Convenience Store they are located just south of Brookville, IN on US 52; they sell Gas, Bait and Tackle, hot food, groceries, snacks and more. You can even find out what kinds of fish are biting at Brookville Lake and also keep up with the fishing on Brookville Lake by reading Tag's column each month in The Gad-a-bout. See this month's article at left. Tag has been appearing in my Gad-a-bout since the 1990's. He is very knowledgeable and countless of his readers have told me they have learned and are still learning how to and where to fish on Brookville Lake. One fellow told me he cuts Tag's article out, laminates it and keeps them in notebooks. Tag also guides charters on Brookville Lake, see his ad on page 14.



I took this photo January 9, 2018 of Tag standing in front of 52 Pik-Up with their new Shell station logo on the canopy. They recently changed from Marathon to Shell. I had to look a second time when I first glanced at their gas station a few days earlier when I was heading out of town towards Cedar Grove. I thought, "Shell!" (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Outdoor Scenes & Verse



by Anita McFalls

The Thrill of the ICE On Summit Lake

You know that old saying, be careful what you wish for? We, as a fishing community have been

"chomping at the bit" for sustained, freezing temperatures to create ice thick enough to fish Summit Lake for more than a day here and there. Boy did we get what we wished for!

Summit Lake is one of the highest elevations in the state, with center being 1096 feet. Hoosier Hill in nearby Lynn sits at

the top at 1257 feet. The elevation of the approximately 800 acre lake affords it to be one of the first lakes in the state to freeze. It's protection by state land surrounding it keeps it from agricultural run-off and pollutants. The vegetation within the lake makes a perfect habitat for reproduction, cover, and food for all fish species. This makes Summit Lake one of the most productive ice fishing lakes in Indiana. Further proof of this is the number of fishermen who visit from all over the state, and the bordering states, just to ice fish.

The past two years have disappointed us with spotty, inconsistent ice, and empty freezers! The new year has presented us

with record freezing temperatures, and below record wind chills. This has allowed the lake to

"lock-up," meaning to entirely freeze over. At the time this article was written, the ice measurements were 10-11 inches in the coves, and 7-8 inches outside the coves and at the dam. The catch has been primarily bluegill, perch, and crappie, with some "daily limits" of walleye, a few bass, white bass, and some catfish.

What makes a person endure these frigid temperatures and conditions just to catch fish? The overwhelming response is, "fresh fish out of the cold water is the best I've ever tasted." The idea of being able to walk across a frozen lake in the stillness of winter is a sort of defiance, something that one should not be able to do.

The true draw for men, women, and children alike, is the exhilaration and excitement of trying to bring a fighting fish through a six inch hole on a frozen lake!

There is an unparalleled camaraderie on the ice. After all, one slip, or a bad place in the ice, and your life may depend on the fast actions of another fisherman! Ice fishing is always more fun with a friend or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Kylee got this nice Blue Gill at Summit Lake. (Author Photo)



Kollin caught his Blue Gill thru the ice too. (Author Photo)



Summit Lake Blue Gill caught thru the ice. (Author Photo)



The number of Ice fishermen increased on Summit Lake as the ice thickened to 9 inches. Abundant Ice has been scarce the last few years in this part of Indiana. (Author Photo)



Another view of ice fisherman on Summit Lake as the sun sets in the west. The use of shanty is quite popular among these folks. (Author Photo)



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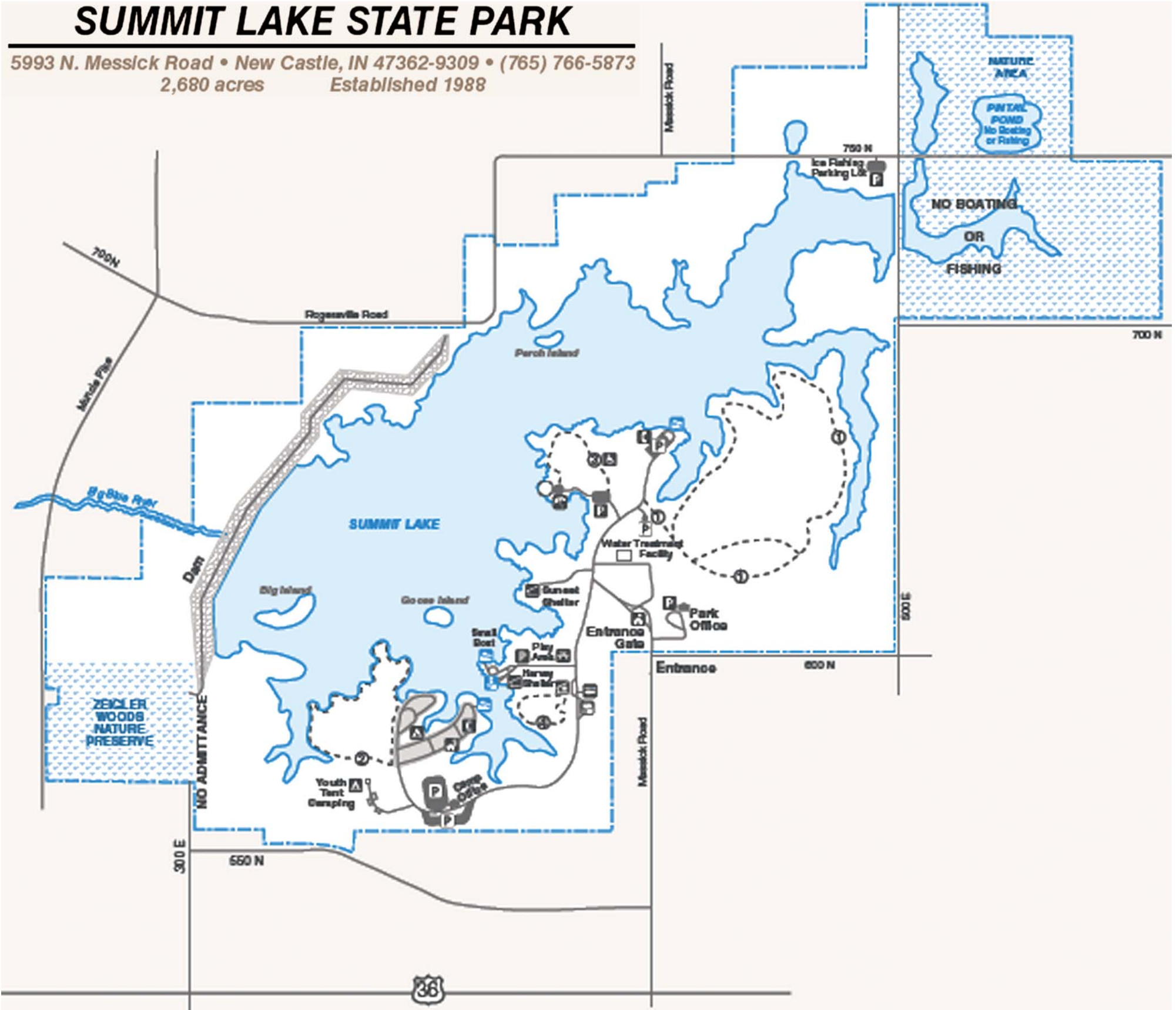
Ice fishermen braving the winter cold on Summit Lake. (Author Photo)



Ice fishermen take advantage of the 9 inches of ice on Summit Lake. (Author Photo)

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One of the many rock display cases arranged along the north wall of the Kuhlman Center. Be sure to take a look at these while at this Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show & Sale.



Ed Mosler demonstrating Flint Knapping the art of making stone age tools out of stone. Here Ed has dozens of arrow heads, spears and knives using a antler.



Sherry Dickerson, the late Charlene Reidenbach and John Lamont in John's booth at the EIGGS Spring show March 3, 2017. Charlene passed away in April, 2017, she is missed.

45th Annual Spring Show Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show & Sale Wayne Co. Fairgrounds March 2-4, 2018

Article and Photos by Ray Dickerson

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

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

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

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

The Gem Club has been putting on the rock and gem show since 1973, this is their 45th annual show.

The purpose of the Gem Show is to promote knowledge and interest in the earth sciences and the Lapidary arts. The show is also a fund raiser for club expenses and provides money for a college scholarship awarded each year.

I was saddened recently learning that Charlene Reidenbach passed away in April last year. She was a long time friend who along with John Lamont kept me informed of the EIGGS activities.

I took the bottom right photo above of my wife Sherry, Charlene Reidenbach and John Lamont in their booth at last Spring's event. Sherry and I love to collect interesting pretty rocks. Attending this rock show is a must for the two of us.

The Gem club was founded as a nonprofit group in April 1966. Of the some odd 80 members, 30 to 35 members are active. The Gem club is for anyone who is interested (not necessarily experienced) in earth sciences, collecting minerals, crystals and fossils; polishing stones, silversmithing and related activities.

The Gem club sponsors rock- and fossil-hunting

outings, offers classes and does educational demonstrations at local schools.

Lapidary classes for members can be arranged for those who wish to use the equipment at the workshop in their clubhouse. They have equipment for sawing, shaping and polishing stones into finished pieces ready for mounting as jewelry. The workshop is open most Tuesday and Thursday evenings by 6:30 pm (weather permitting) for use by members who have completed the training.

Dues are \$20 per year for a family membership (1 household) or \$15 for a single membership (age 16 and over). Dues are paid at the start of membership and at the beginning of each year to continue membership in good standing.

The clubhouse is located at 5199 US 40 East, Centerville, Indiana.

For information on booths or other for the 45th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show contact John Lamont at 756-647-4894. For information call 937-339-1966.

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Heather Barrett at left owns All My Relatives 12,000 Sq Ft of Antiques & Collectibles.



I failed to get the names at this Geode display. But that's a real cute side kick with him.



Van Wimmer talking to visitors at the Bones and Artifacts booth, I was trailing behind.



Bones and Artifact owners at left Jim McClarnon and at right Chris Strough. That's a big foot!

Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Show at Indiana State Fairgrounds April 6-8, 2018 19th Annual Show

Article & Photos by Ray Dickerson

The 20th Annual Spring Bead, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show will be held at the Indianapolis State Fairgrounds in the Agriculture/Horticulture Building at 1202 East 38th Street in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 6 - 8, 2018. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Hourly Door Prizes.

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

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

There are a lot of interesting things like this at the show that you won't see at a jewelry store. That's why they get a lot of repeat customers.

You will find Jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the United States who can construct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals. Gem trees, wire wrap, wire sculpture, pearls, stone beads, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers.

Sherry and I have been attending Van and Rose Wimmer's Treasures of the Earth Gem and Jewelry Show for many years. Van always puts out a table near his for me to lay out some Gad-a-bouts for visitors and dealers to pick up.

Van personally takes us around and introduces us to his dealers. He makes a point of telling us about each and everyone of them prior to our visit. We have learned a lot more about Gem shows since attend-

ing and meeting some very interesting people who make up his show.

We will be at this show too, normally we are there on Saturday.

2018 Show Schedule

Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Bead Shows (All shows open to the General Public)

May 25-27 Salem, VA -- 27th Annual Roanoke Valley Spring Gem & Mineral Show

Salem Civic Center - 1001 Boulevard. 10am-6pm; 10am-6pm; 11am-5pm - 11am-5pm

Sept. 28-30 Indianapolis, IN --20th Annual Fall Show. Indiana State Fairgrounds

Agriculture/Horticulture Bldg. 1202 East 38th Street. 10am-6pm; 10am-6pm; 11am-5pm

Oct. 26-28 Harrisonburg, VA -- 16th Annual Show. Rockingham County Fairgrounds

Commercial Exhibits Building - 4808 S. Valley Pike. On US Rt.11, 1/2 mile S. of Harrisonburg off I-81 between exit 240 & 243

10am-6pm; 10am-6pm; 11am-5pm

For information contact Van Wimmer, Show Director - Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, 5273 Bradshaw Road Salem, VA 24153 Telephone: (540) 384-6047.

Website: www.toteshows.com/ E-Mail: van@toteshows.com



**Treasures of the Earth
Gem & Jewelry Shows**
www.toteshows.com

**20th Annual Indianapolis Spring
Bead, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show**
Indiana State Fairgrounds - Ag/Hort. Building
1202 East 38th Street - Indianapolis, Indiana
April 6 - 8, 2018

Friday & Sat 10am-6pm Sunday 11am-5pm

Admission \$5 Ticket good all 3 days
Children under age 16 Free - Hourly Door Prizes
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Sept. 28 - 30, 2018 = 20th Annual Indianapolis Fall Show



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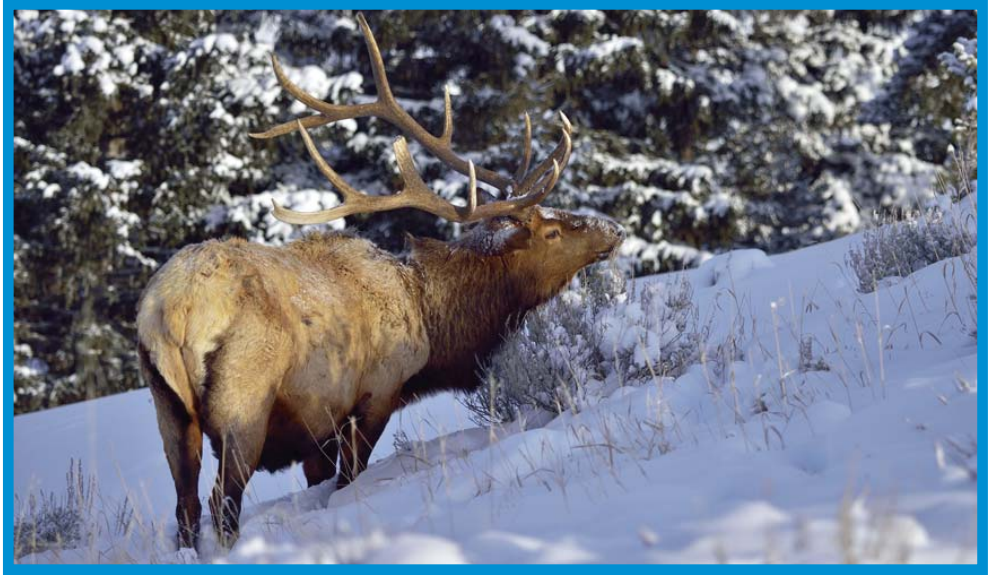
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Left: Five bulls hanging together. Right: This bull has had to survive bad winters and predators to become this big. (Photos Courtesy of RMEF)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Nineteen Years as an RMEF Volunteer

Back in the late 1900's, I received a call from a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation regional director. He invited me to join a small group at a hotel in Muncie to help start a local chapter of the RMEF. My job was to get some publicity to expand this collection of like-minded outdoorsman in their endeavor. Of course, being naive, I thought I would write a newspaper article or two about the new chapter and be finished with it. It just goes to show how little I knew.

It's been almost two decades, and I can seldom remember a lot before yesterday, but I think there were only about six or eight people at that original meeting. This was the core group who began the East Central Indiana Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. I think, just to expand the roster, they added my name to the list.

About four years later, I was still on the list. Somehow I had been elected, appointed, drafted, or something as the Chapter Chairman of the local chapter. Over the last 15 years, I have maintained that title, either as Chairman or Co-Chairman. I have also been Merchandise Chairman, Publicity Chairman, and every other chairman on the committee except Finance Chairman. (My wife doesn't even let me close to our checkbook.) Usually, I have filled several of those positions at the same time. By the end of the first year, I signed up as a Life Member in the organization.

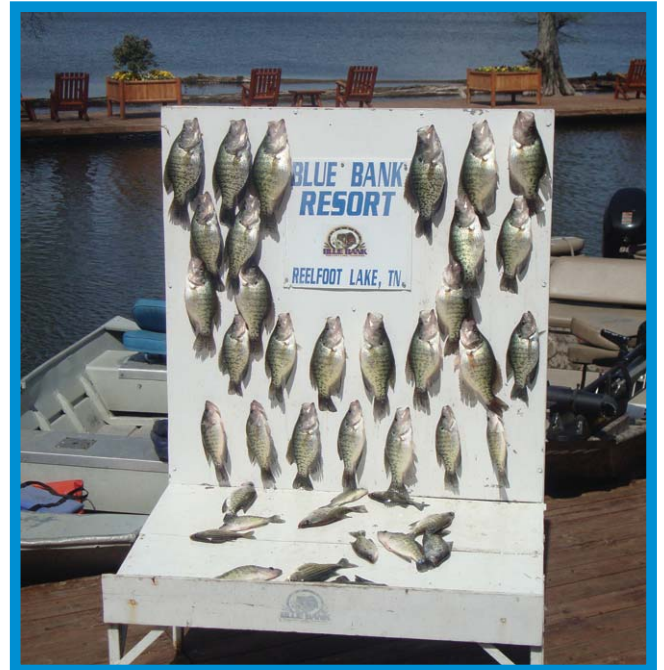
So, you might be asking yourself why I bother doing all of this. (I ask myself that every year near our banquet date.) Is it because I am a big elk hunter? No. I have only hunted elk once in my life, with a bow, and never had a shot. I would like to go again, but due to old age and financial considerations, that will probably never happen.

One reason might be the mission statement of the RMEF: To ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. I think that statement covers a lot of great ideas. Another reason is because while the organization began in 1984 with just four hunters from Montana, it now encompasses over 500 chapters across North America with over 220,000 members. That means a lot of people think like I do about the group.

If I needed another reason for supporting the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, it might be because the group and its partners have completed over 10,000 conservation and hunting heritage projects with a total value of over one billion dollars. (Yes, that was one billion with a "B".) These projects included land protection and access, habitat enhancement, wildlife management, research, and much more. Some of the more notable projects the RMEF was prominent in were bringing wild elk back to Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Ontario.

Probably the biggest reason I have for helping this organization is Benjamin. He is our 12 year old grandson. He is interested in hunting and fishing, learning to shoot both gun and bow, going to hunter education, and learning about the outdoors from his grandpa. In a few years, when he is ready, I want there to be wild places left for him to be able to visit. I want him to hear an elk bugle and catch a trout from a clear mountain stream. I want him to see the Rockies with trees on the sides and not malls. I want him to watch pronghorn racing across the foothills without dodging housing additions. And the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation wants the same thing. And they are doing something about it.

How can you help ensure this organization continues to work for all of us? There are two easy



Fine crappie display caught from Blue Bank Resort on Reelfoot Lake. 2 day, 2 person trip on our live auction. (Author Photo)

ways. One is with your financial support. For just \$35, you can sign up as an RMEF member with all the benefits which come with it. (Go to www.rmef.org.) Your money will be used so efficiently that Charity Navigator gives the RMEF a four star, its top rating. This means over 90% of your money is used for the mission, not to pay a bunch of top executives.

Another way to support the organization is to attend one of their chapter fundraisers.

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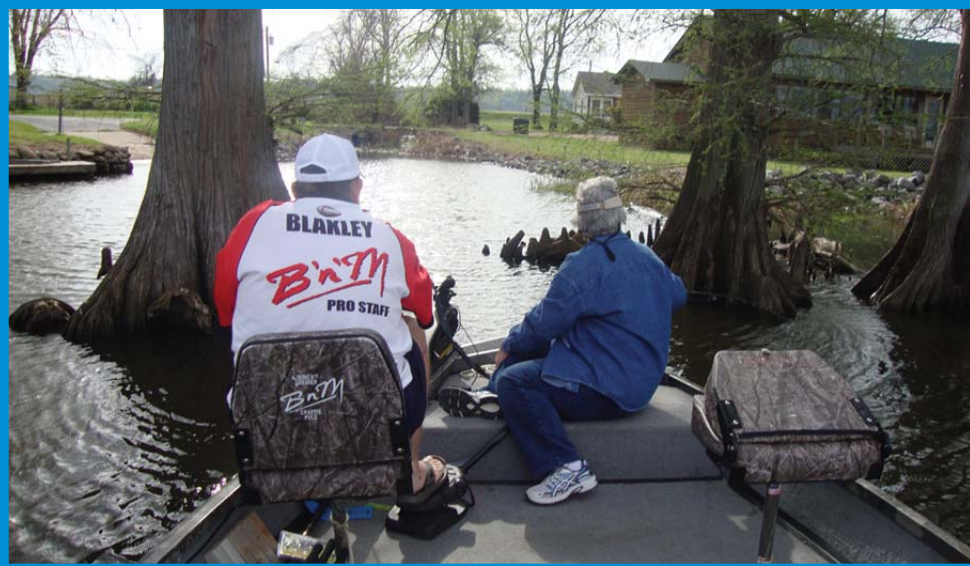
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One of many waterfalls near The Timbers Resort, a fishing trip donor. (Author Photo)



This is what a bugling elk with cows looks like. (Photo Courtesy of RMEF)



Guide Billy and Susie fishing for huge bluegill on Reelfoot Lake. This could be you if you are the high bidder on this package. (Author Photo)



Susie and guide Travis with sturgeon caught while at Sportsman's Lodge, our Minnesota fishing trip donor. (Author Photo)



This is one of my Work Shop Knife Sharpeners. We have two Work Sharp products donated for our fundraiser this year. (Author Photo)

Fortunately, the East Central Indiana chapter is having their 19th annual Big Game Banquet on

February 3, 2018, in Anderson, IN. Besides the great meal, we will be having a live auction, silent

auction, lots of raffles, and much more. Fishing and hunting trips, all kinds of outdoor gear, guns, knives, lures, and camping gear will be offered. Jewelry, Vera Bradley, and a Kitchen Aid mixer will be a few of the ladies items. Even a 7 cubic foot freezer with a gift certificate for \$500 of meat of the winner's choice will go home with someone that night.

Often people ask me

why they should support the Elk Foundation when Indiana has no wild elk. Good question. While we don't have any wild elk, the RMEF returns monies to the Hoosier state in the form of grants to Women in the Outdoors, Archery in the Schools, Hunter Education, Conservation Officers Kid's Camp, Hunters Feeding the Hungry, and many other worthwhile programs. And also because we are not the only parents or grandparents out there with a Benjamin or other child who would like wild places in their future.

Tickets are limited, so if you are interested, contact me, Rich Creason at 765-215-3478 or at the below email. \$35 will get your meal and entrance to the festivities. Bring your wife or girlfriend (not both, please) for a great evening supporting the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

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

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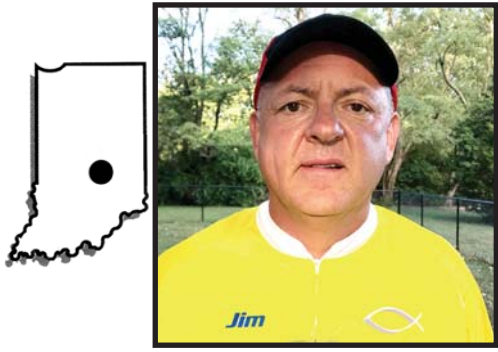
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Indiana Slab Masters



by **Jim Raymer**

President & Founder of the Indiana Slabmasters

Indiana Slab Masters Winter Update

The 2018 Season starts early for the officers of the Indiana Slab Masters. Right after the classic is over the officers attend the yearly tournament draw through the DNR. Before this can be done we have to have a workable schedule that doesn't conflict with most of the national tournament trails nearby tournaments. At the year-end banquet just prior to the classic the officers put together a questionnaire asking many important questions. The club officers take this information and have a winter meeting and decide if any of the items on the questionnaire needs addressed. The questionnaire is also how we determine which lakes the members would like to fish in the upcoming season. This past year end questionnaire we had 12 lakes to choose from, and all but 1 of the final schedule lakes were the top vote getters. The reason for the one that wasn't in the top 7 lakes or sites on the schedule is for location. Raccoon Lake is the only site we are fishing in the 2018 season that is located in the western part of the state. The club averaged 43 boats last year, and the officers and many members decided that the club had outgrown Cataract Lake. At the 2017 Cataract Lake tournament the club overwhelmed the parking lot and created a lot of competitors to almost fish on top of each other! We selected Raccoon Lake because it generally fishes much larger than the acreage that it is. This year when the Raccoon Lake tournament is scheduled, barring any flooding, the lake should be a little over half full. This will make a completely new experience since most of us have never fished Raccoon at this average yearly pool. It will also be pre-spawn and a better gauge to consider future tournaments at this location.

This year the Indiana Slab Masters schedule starts off on March 31st at Patoka Lake. We have heard complaints about choosing Patoka as a competition site this year. The reason why it was included in the schedule is it received the 5th highest vote total of the lakes voted on at the 2017 year-end questionnaire. Patoka is definitely a lake that is hard to overlook on our schedule. Every year we have either the highest attendance or very close! It is not just due to it being the first tournament either! Two years ago at Patoka (2016) at the 3rd tournament of the year on April 23rd it took 11.01 lbs. to win! Last year it took 8.63 lbs. to win! As a matter of fact, look in the archives on the club website, there has never been a winning weight at a reg-

ular season event that was below 7 lbs. That is a respectable stringer in just about any Indiana lake we fish. The second tournament of the year will be at Raccoon Lake on April 21st. As stated earlier, we have never fished this location at this time of the year. According to the historic curve, the lake should be just a little over half full. This will make a very interesting set of conditions and totally changes the way the lake will fish for everyone. It will be very interesting to see what happens at this year's tournament!

The third tournament is a Super Event at Mississinewa / Salamonie May the 5th and 6th. The fishing should be red hot for this tournament! These are the most popular lakes in the state. This year we are including Roush Lake as one of the choice lakes later in the year when you can choose between 3 lakes this year. The fourth tournament will be on Lake Monroe on June 2nd. The 5th tournament will be located at Tanners Creek on the Ohio River on June 23rd. This was the location of our 2017 classic. When all the fish from last year's classic were tallied and averaged, this area averaged a very healthy average crappie weight of .62 lbs. per fish. This is one of the best fisheries we have in Indiana! If you ever get time, I highly recommend fishing the Indiana creeks, most of them have excellent populations of crappie! After this tournament we take a break to allow our members to spend more time with their families and help keep from adding to the summer congestion on the lakes. We will pick up our tournaments in the fall starting on September 22nd which will be the sixth tournament of the year and it will be your choice of 3 lakes. Salamonie, Mississinewa, or Roush. We were told that we will have a permit for this lake, and the only thing that may change that is if we cannot acquire the proper permit. This tournament from the trend of larger and larger stringers has the potential to have very good weights on this date. The final regular season tournament this year will be at Brookville Lake in the eastern part of the state. During the 2017 season at Brookville, most competitors found the fish to be very close in weight. Taking good care of every fish to keep top weight and targeting structure that holds the larger fish will be key in this tournament. The season will wrap up on October 20-21 at the 2018 classic. This year's classic will be located at Lake Shafer on day 1 and wrapping up the club championship on day 2 at Lake Freeman. This past season Lake Shafer dominated the leader board at the 2017 choice tournament. We are anticipating some very large weights coming in on day 2!

This season is shaping up to be a very exciting season. If you've never experienced an Indiana Slab Masters tournament, there are very friendly fisherman and ladies and great comradely. We freely share and teach at the weigh ins. If you have ever thought about joining the Indiana Slab Masters, just show up to any tournament sign-up the morning of the tournament (usually at 5:30am). You can sign up there and fish the same day. It cost \$ 30.00 to join the Indiana Slab Masters. This is a one-time cost and only applies if you are old enough that you need a fishing license (currently 18). Each tournament you sign up for is \$ 40.00, this includes big fish. All kids that don't need a fishing license are welcome at any event at any time. Let's hope with the brutal cold we have had lately that Patoka is ready by March 31st! I wish you all luck and success in your adventures!

Renfro's Boat, Sport & Travel Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

very latest motorcycles and a full complement of related motorcycle lifestyle products and services. This amazing array of unique exhibitors featuring the latest in motorcycle accessories, biker apparel, custom paint and fabrication, lifestyle services, new and used motorcycles and more, this year's expo will feature a variety of cruising bike categories in the Biker's Showcase, sponsored by Ride Safe Indiana; Abate of Indiana's Tiny Tots Riding Experience; and a return of the Pioneers of Hoosier Motorcycling, a historical exhibit and interactive panel discussion featuring the bikes and personalities from Indiana's significant motorcycling past. New this year is "Barn Finds to Forgotten Treasures," an interactive exhibit of rare and unique motorcycles found in old barns and warehouses throughout the Midwest. The Indiana Motorcycle Expo is the annual, late-winter event that is sure to heat up the passions of any biker and get them fully prepared for the coming season on the open roads.

21st Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo (Feb. 22-25 only) – The Midwest's Premier Hunting Expo, the Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo has everything the hunter or hunting family could hope to find in one place – no matter what kind of camo they wear. Special features include a new Archery Alley, Outfitters from Around the World, Deer Scoring and Hoosier Record Book Trophy Deer Display and great hunting seminars from the Holder Family (Raised Hunting TV), Greg Abbas (A-Way Outdoors TV), Bill Epeards (white-tail and turkey hunting, Hunting Camp Ask The Pro moderator), Tom Nauman (mushroom hunting), Byron Ferguson (archery), Field Hudnall (waterfowl hunting), Jeff Foiles (waterfowl hunting) and more. You won't believe your eyes when you see the Hoosier Record Book Trophy Deer Display, the most amazing display of record bucks you've ever seen. Have you been dreaming of booking a once in a lifetime hunt? You're not going to find a larger or better selection anywhere in the Midwest. Each year, the "Ask the Pros" panel at the Expo is among the most popular events. And this year, it's taken on an international flavor. This is the place to meet one on one with outfitters from around the globe including the U.S., Canada and countries from around the world. World-renowned big-game safari hunter Bill Epeards will lead an "Ask the Pros" seminar titled "Hunt Africa." And if you're thinking of hunting anywhere in the world, a group of outfitters from the

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four corners of the globe will present another "Ask the Pros" seminar titled "Hunt the World."

Kids' Day is Saturday, February 24 – Kids love coming to the show. From the Hawg Trough, Kids' Fishing Fun seminar by Dan Armitage and Kids' Trout Fishing Pond in Tackle Town USA, to the K-9 X Games, Peak Adventure Rock Wall, DNR wildlife and hunter education programs, Tree Stand Safety demonstrations and the Youth Archery Range, the Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show offers plenty to engage and excite kids – no matter when they attend. But on Saturday, February 24th they'll love it even more. The first 500 kids through the door will receive their own fishing pole!

TEN FULL DAYS OF FUN!

Friday, Feb. 16: 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 17: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 18: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday – Thursday, Feb. 19-22: Noon – 8:00 PM
Friday, Feb. 23: Noon – 9:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 24: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Sunday, Feb. 25: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tickets are \$14 at the box office and advance sale discount tickets are available for \$12.00 at IndySportShow.com as well as hotel specials for our out of town attendees. There is even an on-site campground available to show visitors.

If attending on February 16th – 18 your ticket also includes admission to the Indiana Motorcycle Expo and if attending February 22 – 25 admission to the Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo is included at no extra cost.

I hope everyone reading the above article gets to visit the Ford 64th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show. There is something for everyone and be sure to stop and pick up the latest Gad-a-bout while you are there in Tackle Town. ■

Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

I could also see a couple of barracuda's lurking below it, looking for a chance to get in the game.

Excited or not, the experienced captain handily snagged the pompano out of reach of the predators below the boat to where us predator's inside could get to it. High fives for me, the mate, my brother who was along on the trip and then another round of woohoos.

"We don't get many African pompanos this far north," Captain Ryan explained with a grin and then pointed at the fish. "And that's a big one! Really, big! I don't know for sure, but it's right up there with the biggest I've ever seen caught on my boat."

He was excited, not just enthused. No wonder he photo-bombed my hero shot!

For more information contact: www.southerninstinct.com and www.fortmyers-sanibel.com.

THE END ■

Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

MOONLIGHT WHACKINESS

(Old timers say to plant your corn on the dark of the moon and hunt raccoons on the full moon. I got it turned around and now, what little corn I have is being eaten by the raccoons.)

His breath came in ragged gasps as he ran across fields bathed in a soft glow from the moon overhead. He knew he had to make it to the forest, as far from people and livestock as possible before it happened. Already his vision was beginning to sharpen. Shadows faded, allowing him to see his surroundings in stark relief while open patches of fields stood out, their fence rows and ditches easily avoided. The hair on his arms began to thicken and his heavy breathing changed to guttural growls. Ahead loomed the wall of trees, no longer dark and forbidding, but a haven for the massive thing that was now running on all fours, a dark form that plunged into the trees and disappeared. From within the forest came a satanic howl that echoed and reverberated off the hills surrounding the valley, a warning to any who dared venture there.

The legend of those inflicted with the sign of the pentastar, one who transforms into a beast under the influence of a full moon, has persisted for centuries. Personally, I used to believe the story because mom turned into a werewolf every month at about the same time. She didn't necessarily grow fangs, but her claws definitely got longer and her attitude became downright antagonistic. Not until a later age did I learn that the real reason was PLS (post lunar syndrome), but for years I tried to get close enough to her during those periods to see if she had a five-pointed star on her forehead.

Creating werewolves is only one of the influences on mankind credited to the moon, although the evidence of this phenomenon is apparent in taverns on Friday and Saturday nights. It is also known to stir feelings of amour between couples as they sit in its silvery light on a warm summer evening. Scientifically, its gravitational pull on our planet for the rise and fall of the ocean tides and an increase in the birth rate at certain times of the month. The sound of baying hounds on the trail of raccoons is a common sound in many rural areas under its light. But for some like me, the moon has been a source of frustration, trouble and lost sleep.

There are a few theories about the reason this little rock ball is circling our planet. Some say it was wandering through the solar system and was captured by the gravitational pull of our planet. Others think it spun off our planet at a time when

the earth was very hot and in a molten state. Whatever the reason for its presence, I have wished for a number of times that God, in his infinite wisdom, had used a cosmic nine iron and chipped the thing into another galaxy. Because he didn't, I'm unable to resist a moonlit night, and I truly believe that I inherited certain character traits from mom. I don't run naked through herds of sheep, but a moonlit night draws me like a rusty nail to a magnet.

On one especially brilliant evening I walked a couple of miles into bottom lands bordering White River. Accompanied by my trusty old dog, I wandered through a long stretch of woods and finally into fields of shoulder high weeds and grass. The dog had disappeared long before and in the deathly quiet the only sound was the swishing of my movement through the undergrowth. As I walked, I thought I heard the soft crackle of weeds behind me. Stopping and turning, I peered hard into the feeble light but saw nothing. Thinking it was probably the dog I continued. Again came the soft thrashing from behind. By now my imagination was on overtime, so I drew my handgun from the holster, stopped, and begun talking like a gun-fighter trying to coax a sluggard out of a saloon.

"Alright you ornery critter. Step up here where I can see ya', or I'm a'gonna start spraying lead".

Of course there was nothing there, but panic won out and I covered ground back home leaving a vapor trail behind me. Laying on the back steps asleep, not even bothering to welcome me back, was that worthless dog, who I thought was supposed to protect me from such night creatures as werewolves. After that, I knew I couldn't depend on him to pull me out of a burning outhouse if I had a steak in my back pocket.

As time has passed I thought the power of moonlight over me would diminish. That has not been the case when recently, cloudless nights and a full moon have made serious inroads into my getting any sleep. One evening, as the trees in the yard glowed and long shadows were cast across the yard, I pleaded with Judy to chain me to the refrigerator and ignore my howls.

"Why don't I just make an appointment with a psychiatrist tomorrow and save you all that trouble" she said.

"I didn't tell you to buy me that telescope" I replied. "If my eyeballs dry out and I don't get any sleep tonight, it will be your fault". She gently pried my arms from around her legs, said good night, and left me sobbing on the floor.

By 2 a.m my eyes felt like two bullet holes in a snow bank from being glued to the telescope, and every cell in my brain had gone to sleep three hours before. When I began to hallucinate and see little people crawling about in the craters of the accursed rock, I staggered to bed, thinking of ways to develop a missile with a warhead powerful enough to blast the thing to smithereens.

The next evening saw the same scene as the orange orb rose over the eastern horizon. Locking the doors and shuttering the windows, I held out for what seemed an eternity. Finally, I could stand it no more and ran screaming onto the patio, telescope in hand. Later I roused from a catatonic state and crawled to bed while finalizing my plans for the guidance system for my moon busting missile. Then I knew why werewolves have such nasty dispositions. They never get any sleep. Maybe coon hunters are actually werewolves. ■

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Plungers coming out of the frigid waters of Whitewater Memorial State Park during the Liberty Polar Plunge in 2017. (Author Photo)

Freezin' For A Reason

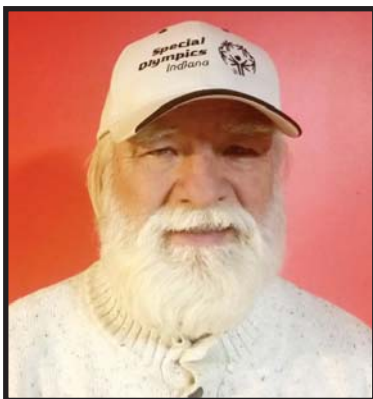
2018
POLAR PLUNGE

to benefit

Special Olympics
Indiana

Plungers coming out of the frigid waters of Whitewater Memorial State Park during the Liberty Polar Plunge in 2017.. (Author Photo)

Outdoors With Lonnie



by Lonnie Snow

Indiana Special Olympics Liberty Polar Plunge February 24, 2018

- Location: Whitewater Memorial State Park
- Parade from Liberty Courthouse: 11:00 am



Connersville Kroger's Manager, Chris Gibbs, athletes Devin Reese and Tony Muse ready to plunge. The Union County EMA Director, James Franklin is giving last minute instructions before the Liberty plunge in 2017. (Author Photo)

- Plunge time: 1:00 pm:
Registration at park from 10:30am—12:15pm
- *Please take the plunge to support Indiana Special Olympics Athletes in your communities.*
- Opening Ceremonies 12:30 pm
- After Bash Splash at Frames Outdoors following plunge: Silent Auction, free meal for plungers, prizes awarded, and sponsors recognized. Meal is \$5.00 for non-plungers

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Wayne County athlete Jessica Day spent some time with our Special Indiana Polar Plunge Mascot, Paw Bear, during the Liberty Plunge 2017. (Author Photo)

- Go to soindiana.org/polar-plunge to register/information
- Go to Liberty plunge site/join my team "Snow Bandits" or create your own.
- \$75.00 for adults – includes long sleeve Polar Plunge Shirt
- \$50.00 for students with ID- Includes a knit cap with polar bear/choice of school colors available.
- * **The first 20 students to sign up and pay their registration will have \$25 added to their registration to receive the official plunge t-shirt***
- Call Lonnie Snow, Wayne/Union County Coordinator: 765-732-3636 or email lsnow1952@yahoo.com for details
- You can donate any amount and not plunge. **Make check out to Special Olympics Indiana-Liberty Polar Plunge. Send your donation to Wayne County Special Olympics, Box42, Webster, Indiana 47392**

Hello Special Olympics Fans

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed your family time. Special Olympics athletes celebrated Christmas with a dance at the Lamplight Inn at the Leland. We had over 180 athletes and caretakers attend this year's event. Santa and Frosty the Snowman stopped in for a visit and we found them performing a dance off during the night's festivities.

I would like to thank The Leland for allowing the use of their ballroom and a special thanks to our volunteers and our DJ, Chuck Fox, for making this dance a very fun filled evening for our athletes.

We are now into our basketball season. We have teams competing at several different levels and they are excited to be playing. On February 13th, our girls' basketball team will be playing an exhibition game at the Union County High School in Liberty, Indiana at halftime of the Girls varsity game. Prior to the exhibition game, Wayne County will be playing Franklin County in the high school auxiliary gym. This game should be around 1:00pm and the halftime exhibition game will be around 2:30.

Our Polar bowl will be held at the Richmond 40 Bowl on February 10th. This is a fund raiser for our Polar Plunge. The cost is \$10.00 from 1:00-4:00 pm.

you to BEAR IT FOR OUR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES.

This year will be more organized and who knows what Mother Nature may send us for weather. Last year 25 mph winds and 25 degree temperatures made the plunge quite an experience.

Our Polar Plunge is one of 14 being held across the state of Indiana to raise awareness and provide funding for our Special Olympics athletes. This is Indiana Special Olympics signature fund raising event. You can join us for the plunge or make a donation to us and we will find a plunger to take the challenge. For more information go to soindiana.org/polar-plunge or contact me. Please refer to the Polar Plunge Flyer or contact me at lsnow1952@yahoo.com or 765-732-3636. ■

Prairie Wolf Gun Repair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

crime to be committed. SWATting is not a joke, it is serious. For you own protection and information you can obtain a copy of the National 911 Program Public Safety Information on SWATting Published in 2015 on the 911.gov website. In the 911.go website search box type in swatting.

Quote of the Month

"All the people constitute the militia - according to the Founding Fathers. Therefore every able-bodied man has a duty under the Constitution to become part of the 'well-regulated' militia, specifically to understand and perform well with the individual weapon currently issued to the regular establishment Thus one who has not qualified himself with the M-16 may not be considered to be a responsible citizen." Col. Jeff Cooper

That's all for this month. These notes are mine alone and do not represent the opinion or position of anyone, just me. If you have a question or a comment on guns, gunsmithing, gun rights, or, would like to just make a comment email me with your comments at PrairieWolfGuns@gmail.com. I'll answer your questions with the most up to date infor-

Shoes are included and it is unlimited bowling. Everyone is invited to come and share this fun time and support our athletes. If you are interested please contact me RSVP by February 1st to reserve a lane. The number of Lanes is limited to first come, first serve basis.

Now For The Polar Plunge

February 24th will be knocking on our door for the 2nd Annual Polar Plunge at Whitewater Memorial State Park in Liberty, Indiana. I invite

mation available. Some answers may be included in this column as I'm sure there are others with the same question. No question dealing with guns or self-defense is a bad or stupid question. Only those questions not asked.

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

Marshall
PrairieWolfGuns@gmail.com

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

dnr.IN.gov.

HALO RANGEFINDERS: NEW MODELS REVEALED



HALO: THE MARK OF THE RESPONSIBLE HUNTER

HALO OPTICS REVEALS FIVE FAST AND ACCURATE NEW LASER RANGEFINDERS AT THE 2018 ATA SHOW

Dallas, TX (January 8, 2018) – Few other hunting accessories have contributed more to conservation through successful game recovery than the laser rangefinder. Providing the foundation for a clean kill and a successful hunt by returning fast and accurate distance readings, this essential piece of technology gives hunters the critical information they need to pull the trigger or release the string with confidence.

Halo Optics uses the best available technology to produce reliable laser rangefinders that can be trusted to perform in the field at a range of hunter-friendly prices. The brand will unveil five all-new models at the 2018 ATA Show later this week.

Reaching farther than any Halo rangefinder before, the new XLR1500 gives rifle hunters and long-range target shooters impressive accuracy at up to 1500 yards. Precise to +/- one yard, the Halo XLR1500 automatically detects and compensates for elevation changes with AITM (Angle Intelligence) Technology, which results in the display of a true ballistic distance.

Other exciting new models for 2018 include the XL600, XR700, XR800 and Z1000, ensuring that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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Both photos are of the same house. The left one is the original built in the 1860's. On the right is a current photo. The house pictured here is the home built by John B, McFarlan in the 1860's. It sits on a hill that has a history of its own. The area was first the home of Jonathon John, a pioneer who came from Kentucky. (Author Photos)

New Adventures In Old Places



by **Donna Schroeder**

New Adventures in Old Places

As my term has ended with the Tourism Bureau, I'm looking forward to spending some time on other pursuits! I don't know if this is good or bad news for Ray's readers, but I'm going to be writing on a variety of historical subjects that will include anywhere in the Whitewater Valley that suits my fancy at the moment.

One of my interests has always been our pioneer cemeteries, and I'm planning on helping Fayette County's cemetery board with a map and brochure for genealogists. It will be available, hopefully, sometime in the spring. I can't be much help to them physically, but I hope to aid with correcting and adding to some of the records we have.

We are working really hard to finish the new museum building, and we hope it will open in the spring, too. There is a lot of packing and cataloging to be done, plus the job of placing everything in the new museum. One new addition will be a family history center where folks can come and view the records we have, as well as the maps and photos we would love to share with anyone who's interested. It's a labor of love for those of us at Historic Connersville, and we hope all of you will come and see our new home!

The house pictured here is the home built by John B, McFarlan in the 1860's. It sits on a hill that has a history of its own. The area was first the home of Jonathon John, a pioneer who came from Kentucky, having bought a parcel of land sight unseen. He didn't unpack his wagon for three weeks, being somewhat disappointed with the land. He finally decided

to stay and became fast friends with John Conner. John John turned out to be a worthy citizen of the town, holding public office and farming his land.

John B. McFarlan was a native of Liverpool, England who came to America with his parents and siblings as a child. As an adult, he became one of the influential and forward thinking men who made Connersville a hub of industry. I will tell you more about the McFarlans next month, but I wanted to say how happy we are that a new family will soon be taking over the house and restoring it. It has caused quite a stir lately, having been offered for sale a few weeks ago. The new owners have great plans for it. I look forward to telling the story.

Editor's Note: Donna Schroeder, now the former President of Fayette County Tourism Bureau will continue to appear in The Gad-a-bout writing history articles about the Whitewater Valley among other things. I am glad she chose to continue appearing in The Gad-a-bout. If any of you readers has a history related subject in the Whitewater Valley, send it to me raythegadabout@gmail.com and I will pass it along to her. I'm sure when she has the time she will consider writing about it, but it is up to her.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

there's a hardworking and reliable Halo rangefinder for any kind of hunter. See them all at the ATA Show later this week in booth #1518.

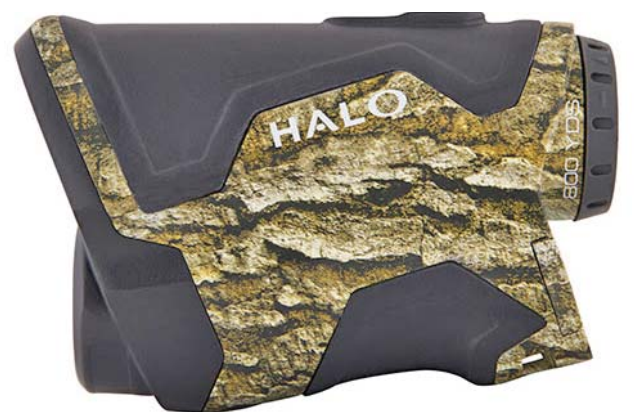
Media members attending the ATA Show are invited to contact Amelia Vick to schedule their hands-on tour of all the exciting, new-for-2018 products from the Plano Synergy brands.

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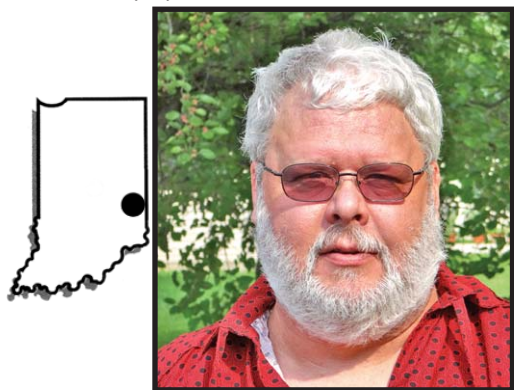
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Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

It's Cold Outside

There is nothing more vexing in trapping, than coming up on a set, that you know will connect, and finding a perfect paw print centered on the trap pan without the trap firing. It doesn't happen to me often, but when it does, I just want to scream. Usually, a trap freezes down when the weather is fluctuating. Warmer sunny days "melt" the ground cover around the trap during the day, and cold "freezing" nights solidify everything before the target animal gets to the set. You may see where the fox, let's say, tried to dig around the set extensively, without tripping the trap. The trap may even come out of the trap bed as a solid piece of cover material.

There are several ways to try to keep this sort of event from occurring. First, you have to pay attention to the weather. If you are getting rain, freezing rain, slush snow or extremely warm sunny days with cold freezing nights, the odds of your sets working as you would like them to work are stacked against you. You will need to be rebuilding each set almost daily with dry materials. If you don't, you will have a lot of inoperative sets.

There are several ways to combat this problem. Keeping the set dry is one way, and works well for say raccoons in barns and buildings. Just beware of cats, they live there too and the farmers often want them around. Rebuilding the set often, and using dry dirt, or dry buckwheat hulls, will improve your odds, but won't guarantee that a brief sprinkle, followed by a cold night, won't put you out of business again. Using waxed dirt may help, just be sure you have some sort of drain hole punched in under your set. Waxed dirt repels water and just lets it run through or off. The water still has to go somewhere, so make sure it has somewhere to go. Using Peat moss, or peat moss moistened with antifreeze fluid, to bed your trap well, and then covered with dry, or waxed, dirt should deal with all but the coldest nights. If the weather is solidly frozen, you may just use the snow itself over a trap "bedded" in a depression beaten into the ground. Note, even solidly frozen snow will develop a crust with time. It doesn't take much of a crust to support a fox, but fox do tend to follow their own tracks, so slide that bare trap under a fox print and anchor it off to the side.

Salt and calcium chlorides help keep the dirt from freezing solid, but they will also corrode steel quickly. Mixing antifreeze with peat moss

works nicely. Take an empty plastic salt bag, and sift it half full of peat moss. Now add a couple of cups of antifreeze fluid, mineral oil, or glycerin. Mix well, and then check the consistency of the peat moss. When it takes on a little darker color, and isn't so "dusty", and yet not "wet", you are good to go. Use this treated peat moss to bed the trap in, and then blend in with a very light cover of local dirt, even if it is "grated" dirt. Waxed dirt is dirt that has been heated with paraffin wax and has absorbed just enough to be water repellent, yet still be sift able, and not inclined to form a solid block if it gets reheated. To make it, you need a hot July day, five (5) gallons of bone dry dirt, and a couple of pounds of paraffin wax like that used in canning. Spread the dirt out on a piece of plywood, then shred / grate the wax over it, and let it sit in the sun. Rake it about some to evenly mix in the wax as it melts into the dirt. You can make it hotter by making a frame of wood that you staple a clear plastic sheet drop cloth to, and then set it over the spread out dirt. This makes a "hot house" effect, and the wax will melt very fast. Test the dirt for water repellency by taking a little aside, and dropping some water on it. If the water adsorbs, you need more wax. If when you are done, you get sheets of dirt, you have too much wax. Good luck with your cold weather trapping.

For those of you who will need a place to sell your furs, the next ISTA fur sale will be on FEBRUARY 10, 2018 at the Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1079 W. 200 N., Peru, IN 46970. The doors will open at 8 am with a setup similar to last year where the fur moves toward the sellers sitting at the east end. Everything else should work out as it did last year. Bring that extra skin or two to donate to the ISTA so that we will be able to continue to do what we do. Also, we are looking for eight (8) vendors / tailgater's who are willing to pay \$25 for a @12' X 12' spot inside the building to sell whatever they have to offer. Tables and chairs will be provided. They will be against the north and south walls of this building. Their fees will essentially pay for our use of the building. Tube steaks, buns, condiments, coffee and soft drinks will be available. We could use some new blood to help run this event, especially, a couple of teams to list the fur and help out in general in moving the fur. Let us know at the door or give Byron a call at 219-863-3803 or email him at dogman@honeycreekboardingkennel.com. See you there.

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

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH UPDATE 13 JANUARY 2018

BOAH Offers More Options for Electronic Updates

You are currently subscribed to receive email messages from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH).

BOAH is now offering the option to receive notices about regulatory animal health and food safety issues via text message to your mobile device.

If you would like to receive text messages in addition to, or instead of, email notices, visit the BOAH website at: www.in.gov/boah.

Check out BOAH's new menu of offerings with updated species-specific options, as well as regulatory information about food safety programs, including dairy and meat and poultry inspection, and the agency's quarterly newsletter.

In addition to topic subscriptions, BOAH continues to offer a "page watch" feature on the most popular agency webpages. By clicking on the red icon at the top of the page, you may opt into automatic notifications via email or text message each time the selected webpage is updated. This is a great way to follow specific issues in real time, such as the bovine tuberculosis investigation or hi-path avian influenza findings in Indiana.

Update your subscriber preferences and view the new list of info offerings on BOAH's website at: www.in.gov/boah.

Sent to you by: Denise Derrer Public Information Director Indiana State Board of Animal Health Phone: 317-544-2414 Email: dderrer@boah.in.gov

NEW COMBAT COMMANDER SENTRY TRENCH KNIFE IS BATTLE READY

The New Combat Commander Sentry Trench Knife is a Battle Ready Knife

United Cutlery's Combat Commander line expertly and successfully takes tried and true historical weapon designs and updates them for modern warfare.

MOULTRIE, Ga., Jan. 13, 2018 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ -- With the success of its modern, tactical updates on several other historical weapons, United Cutlery continues to explore the possibilities of making time-honored weapons relevant in today's world.

"Each of our products has been inspired by a beast of a weapon out of history and the trench knife, originally used and designed by soldiers during WWI, was a perfect candidate for modern innovation," said Clint Kadel, CEO of United Cutlery.

Since fighting was taking place primarily in the trenches during the First World War, trench knives, also called knuckle knives, were created to use in those close quarters combat situations. They became important weapons in a style of warfare that depended on overtaking an enemy's trench line and both the Allied and Axis forces employed them. The early versions of this specialty knife were constructed by the soldiers themselves or ordinance blacksmiths and were usually just shortened military-issue bayonets. The official United States Mark I Trench Knife, issued in WWII, featured a cast bronze "knuckle duster" guard, which wasn't intended to be used as a weapon per se but to protect the fingers. However, the pommel, on the other hand, was designed to specifically bash in an enemy's head.

"The new Combat Commander Sentry Trench Knife is a sleek and modern, battle-ready version of the iconic trench knife and we believe you will absolutely be combat ready with this incredible blade," said Kadel.

The new trench knife from United Cutlery's Combat Commander line brings the same game-changing innovation that those early soldiers had with its updated razor-sharp, 1065 high carbon steel blade, finished with a black non-reflective coating for those undercover missions. There is no denying that this is a real muscle-blade with its powerful, thick design. The traditional knuckle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Outdoor Scenes & Verse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

family member, but more importantly, it is much safer! So head out to the lake, have some fun, and enjoy the thrill of the ice!

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Information attained from DNR Summit Lake brochure.

To access the Summit Lake Map and Brochure go online to website:

www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/summit_lake_trail.pdf

Summit Lake State Park

Anglers, swimmers, bird watchers and wildlife photographers are among the many admirers of Summit Lake State Park. The 2,680 acres, including an 800-acre lake, shady wooded areas, and lots of open space, serves as home for many woodland animals and 100 species of birds.

Fish—and fishermen—love it, too. Bass, sunfish, crappies, yellow perch and channel catfish abound.

Boat rentals include paddle boats, rowboats and canoes. Guests can also launch their own craft at one of three boat ramps. The large swimming beach is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A modern bathhouse and concession building, including restrooms, is located at the beach.

Three hiking trails offer a good view of the lake. All campsites are electric with water hookups.

Summit Lake became Indiana's 19th state park on Jan. 9, 1988, but its history traces back to the 1950s, when Henry County residents began to talk of having a recreational facility close to home. By 1966 the Big Blue River Conservancy District started to make that dream reality. The group's goals included flood control along the river and waterway improvement, in addition to a recreational facility.

Construction of the flood-control structure at the headwaters of the Big Blue River that created Summit Lake began in the mid-1970s. When the gates of the dam closed in 1980, the man-made lake began to fill. In 1988, after several years of planning and construction, the Big Blue River Recreation Area was sold to the state of Indiana and became Summit Lake State Park. The name comes from being located at the highest elevation in the surrounding area and near the highest elevation in the state.

Present-day visitors will find an array of habitats at Summit Lake. Historically, the area was primarily forested. J. Hendricks, surveyor, wrote in 1821 that the area in the western portion of the park was prairie and wet prairie lands. Located just north of the town of New Castle and U.S. 36, the combination of the 800-acre lake, woodlands, old fields, wetlands and prairie restoration areas at the state park allows for an abundant array of flora and fauna species.

Bird watchers will be especially delighted to find the variety of interesting bird species reported during the migratory seasons as well as resident species. Some unusual bird species that have been observed include the marsh wren, least bittern, American bittern, king rail, osprey, bald eagle, black tern and great egret. Summit Lake State Park is also the home of Henry County's only dedicated nature preserve, Zeigler Woods, which is located in the southwest corner of the park. Given to the state by The Nature Conservancy, the preserve is reflective of pre-settle-

ment Indiana's native mesic upland forest communities. Zeigler Woods presents a rich exhibit of flora and fauna with little evidence of human disturbance. Unfortunately, such areas are becoming increasingly rare.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the following rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public use and enjoyment.

ACTIVITIES and FACILITIES

Boats—Rental rowboats, paddle boats, and canoes are available by the hour or day. Privately owned boats may be launched. Outboard motors are permitted to operate at idle speed only.

Camping—All sites are electric. Campground is equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers. Occupancy is limited to 14 consecutive nights. Sites will accommodate trailers. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

Rent-a-camp Cabin—One queen bed and one twin loft bed; sleeps 3 people. Two small benches; one ceiling light with fan and two electric outlets; modern comfort station with showers nearby. ADA accessible. Reservations through the Central Reservation System.

Concessions—Located at the beach.

Fishing—Fishing is allowed away from the beach area. A state license is required. No fishing on beach is permitted when beach ropes are in place.

Hiking—Easy-to-moderate marked trails are available for hiking all year.

INTERPRETIVE Naturalist Service—A seasonal naturalist is available from mid-May through Labor Day. Naturalist programming offered includes the Hoosier Quest outdoor adventure program. Additionally, cultural arts activities are scheduled for many summer weekends. Additional information may be obtained by visiting InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or (765) 766-5873.

Picnic Areas—Tables, grills, toilet facilities and playground are available.

Shelter House—Reservations for the Harvey and Sunset shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

Swimming—Swimming is permitted sunup to sundown, Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. There is no charge for swimming. The bathhouse and beach open the Saturday before Memorial Day and operate no later than Labor Day

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM CAMP CENTRAL RESERVATION SYTEM

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free. Online: camp.IN.gov Call: 1-866-6campIN (1-866-622-6746)

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Reservations: 1-877-lodges1 (1-877-563-4371) Online: IndianaInns.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION Write: **Summit Lake State Park 5993 N. Messick Rd. New Castle, IN 47362-9309** Call: (765) 766-5873 Online: dnr.IN.gov

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance

costs of the lake. List of fees available in the lake office. The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: **Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.**

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

duster handle has also been given a tactical construction upgrade to black, heavily textured powder-coated cast metal and it features no-slip rubberized grip inserts and the requisite skull-crusher pommel.

"We are committed to making our Combat Commander line your go-to for tactical weapons, made from the highest quality materials, that you can always count on to back you up," said Kadel.

For more information or to purchase the new Combat Commander Trench Knife, visit <http://www.budk.com/Combat-Commander-Sentry-Knuckle-Knife-38015?sourcecode=TRENCH18>

The New Combat Commander Sentry Trench text and email alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDOT/subscriber/new>.

SAUNDERS' LEGISLATION CALLS FOR ADDED TRANSPARENCY WIND FARM

Statehouse (Jan. 11, 2018) — A bill introduced by State Rep. Tom Saunders (R-Lewisville) would prevent conflicts of interest for county officials related to local wind farm projects. Saunders said this legislation would require county officials or family members of county officials with financial interests in wind power devices in their county to recuse themselves from any official proceedings on that subject.

"With so many new wind farms being constructed, this legislation would bolster transparency in our county government and help keep any personal financial interests out of the local approval process for prospective wind farm projects," Saunders said. "My bill would also require energy companies to file detailed paperwork and notify, at their expense, all property owners who live near a proposed wind turbine."

Saunders said the bill would require county officials who have familial ties to someone with financial interests involving the ownership, operation, construction or location of a proposed wind farm to also recuse themselves from any proceedings.

The next step for the bill is to be heard in committee. For more information on this and other legislation, please visit iga.in.gov.

State Rep. Tom Saunders (R-Lewisville) represents House District 54, which includes Henry County and portions of Rush and Wayne counties.

TWO US 50 PAVING PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR 2018

DEARBORN & RIPLEY COUNTIES—The Indiana Department of Transportation will repair and resurface U.S. Highway 50 in Dearborn and



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Ripley counties during 2018 under two separate contracts. Pre-construction meetings with the contractors and consulting engineers were conducted yesterday (JAN 8) at INDOT Southeast District offices at Seymour.

US 50 "White Top"—SR 101 to Aurora

Walsh Construction of Crown Point is Indiana's contractor for a \$16,790,126 "white-top" resurfacing project on 4.56 miles of U.S. 50 from State Road 101 to just west of Aurora. The contract calls for topping the east-west roadway with a 4½-inch concrete overlay that consulting engineers say could have a 20-year service life.

The white-top project includes a significant amount of concrete and asphalt patching, plus new driveway and road/street approaches. Traffic will be shifted to single lanes in each direction on one side of the highway—then the other—while milling and overlay operations take place.

Walsh hopes to mobilize in early February and begin actual construction activities by April 1. The construction contract has a completion date of November 15.

The U.S. 50 white-top project limits extent from 1.85 miles east of S.R. 262 to 2.44 miles west of S.R. 350. Daily traffic count is 13,490 vehicles per day.

US 50 "Black Top"—Jennings/Ripley County Line to SR 101

Dave O'Mara Contractor Inc. has been contracted to repair and resurface U.S. 50 from the Jennings/Ripley County line east to S.R. 101. Crews will begin forming 19 ADA-compliant curb ramps at Versailles in early April. At the same time, the North Vernon contractor will start making full- and partial-depth pavement repairs along the 17.5 mile-long route.

The state's \$4 million contract calls for resurfacing the section of U.S. 50 with a thin HMA asphalt overlay. This "black top" project includes drive and road/street approaches and installation of a center rumble strip. Motorists will encounter single-lane restrictions with flaggers directing

traffic around worksites as needed.

U.S. 50's traffic count at the construction zone is 9,800 vehicle per day. The contract completion date is November 15.

Motorists can learn about highway work zones and other traffic alerts at indot.carsprogram.org, 1-800-261-ROAD (7623) or 511 from a mobile phone. For highway information, monitor social media sites: www.Facebook.com/INDOTSoutheast and Twitter @INDOTSoutheast. Subscribe to receive text and email alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDOT/s/ubscriber/new>.

Customer Service:
INDOT Southeast District Office
185 Agrico Lane
Seymour, IN 47274
1-877-305-7611

secommunications@indot.IN.gov
INDOT TO HOST PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED SR46 PROJECT

INDOT to host public hearing regarding a proposed SR 46 bridge rehabilitation project over the East Fort of Tanners Creek, 2.8 miles west of SR 1 located in Dearborn County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will conduct a public hearing in regard to the proposed -----SR 46 bridge rehabilitation project over the East Fork of Tanners Creek, 2.8 miles west of SR 1, located in Dearborn County. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the draft environmental document and preliminary design plans for a proposed project. The hearing will convene on **Tuesday, January 9, 2018, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the East Central High School Cafeteria, (Door 15) 1 Trojan Road A, St. Leon, Indiana, 47012.**

The bridge is a three span reinforced concrete arch bridge, with each span measuring 60', 80', and 60' in length. It was constructed by the Indiana State Highway Commission (ISHC) in

1937. The SR 46 Bridge No. 046-15-03032, National Bridge Inventory (NBI) No.17460, is determined to be eligible in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C for its engineering significance. The bridge has been designated as "Select" in the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory, which means it is an excellent example for its type and most suitable for preservation. The bridge was processed under the Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the management and preservation of Indiana's Historic Bridges. Following the "Standard Treatment Approach for Historic Bridges" from the PA, the preferred alternative is to rehabilitate the existing bridge for continued two-way vehicular use and will follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Under the preferred rehabilitation alternative, the proposed project would include but not limited to the removal, widening, and reconstruction of the bridge deck, coping, and railing. Concrete patching at the coping and piers. Remove and install new fill material in the spandrel walls and arch rings along with patching. Seal concrete surfaces, replace riprap at abutments and piers, and approach work including new guardrail. The rehabilitation is proposed to extend the service life of the bridge to 40 years. Temporary disruption of emergency services and school bus routes may occur but will be notified prior to any construction that would block or limit access. The official state maintained detour route will utilize SR 101, I-74, and SR 1. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction including Trackville Road and Legion Road. The anticipated closure for construction is approximately nine months. Existing 4.8 acres of right-of-way is being re-acquired with no new additional permanent or temporary anticipated. The agenda will afford the opportunity for the public to provide formal statements to be recorded as part of the official hearing transcript. Tentative timetables for right-of-way acquisition and construction will be discussed during the formal presentation. Representatives from INDOT will be available to address specific questions before and after the formal hearing process. Please be aware general conversations are not considered part of the official record. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments collected before, during and for a period of two (2) weeks after the hearing date, will be evaluated and addressed in the final environmental document. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to the following address: **INDOT Public Hearings, IGCN Room N642, 100 North Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204.**

The Categorical Exclusion Level 4 (environmental document) and preliminary design plans are available to view prior to the public hearing at the following locations:

North Dearborn Branch Library, 25969 Dole Rd., IN 47060 Phone # **(812) 637-0777**

Indiana Department of Transportation Seymour District Office, 185 Agrico Lane, Seymour, IN 47274, Phone # **1-877-305-7611**

Hearings Examiner, Indiana Government Center North, N642, 100 North Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204-2216. Phone # **(317) 234-0796**

WINTER WEATHER NOTICE

In the event of inclement weather resulting in hazardous driving conditions and the closure of the meeting venue, this meeting will be **rescheduled to Tuesday, January 16, 2018** at the same location and time listed above. Please contact the INDOT Office of Public Involvement (317) 232-6601 to learn if the meeting will be held or postponed.

With advance notice, INDOT can provide accommodation for persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters, signers, readers, or large print. Should accommodation be required please contact Rickie Clark, Office of Public Involvement at (317) 232-6601, or email rclark@indot.in.gov. In addition, persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring language interpretation and document conversion services are encouraged to contact the INDOT Office of Public Involvement for assistance.

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\$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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Emma Hoover took her 2nd buck that was taken on November 19th. Congrats Emma! (Bozarth Country Store, Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



Doug Jarrett took this wood duck at Brookville Lake on 11-05-17. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, Indiana)



Cody Case with his 10 point Indiana muzzleloader buck. (Photo submitted by Alex Case via an e-mail)



This is Aiden Selig pictured with his first deer. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)

I am attaching a picture of my son Denver age 13 with his first deer and it was a 9pt buck that he is extremely proud of. Denver is my kind hearted son who has had multiple opportunity's to harvest a deer in the last 4 years but those moments just didn't feel right to him. When it would come to a doe that was in range it was either " well dad that's probably the mother to a set of twin fawns and well I'm just not going to" he just couldn't do it. Then when it would come to a buck it was " well if we wait another year he will be even bigger". I was beginning to think he just didn't have it in him to be a hunter which was perfectly fine.

It was the last Sunday of firearms and this buck followed a doe out of the woods into a corn field at first light and we ranged the deer at 320 yards. Denver didn't feel comfortable taking that long of a shot so I said we will just wait because they were slowly moving in our direction. Well after about 15 minutes of the deer eating in the corn field they headed back into the woods and didn't make it any closer to us and Denver was pretty upset but I told him that they were held up together and would stay in that same area the rest of the day and we should have a pretty good chance of seeing them again that afternoon.

We made it back out to the same location that evening and Denver was just as ready and excited as could be! We had been watching 3 doe's that had made there way out into the corn field around 4:30 and then around 5:15 6 more doe stepped out of the woods but still no sign of Denver's buck. It was about 5:35 and another doe came out of the woods close to the same location the buck and doe did earlier that mourning. So we new right away that was the doe from this mourning and it was just a matter of time before that buck would step out also!! Sure enough about 10 minutes later he stepped out. Now that was still at about 320 yards and we only had about 10 minutes left that we could shoot so we were both praying that he would come into range before time was up. They started moving and feeding in our direction rather quickly and now ranging at 280 yards then 240. I said to Denver " he is at 240 yards" and Denver felt very comfortable taking that shot. I said " now you tell me before you shoot so I can watch him threw my binoculars to see where he goes" but before I got all that out" I heard the crack of his rifle.. and Denver saying "dad, dad, that was a good shot, that felt like a really good shot". We started high fiving and I said great job Denver are you sure about that shot. He said "yes dad I know he's down" I just know it. Now just to let you know all three of my boys have been shooting since they were 5 years old, we are members at Farmland conservation club and they have been in the Randolph county 4H shooting sports so they have had a lot of practice with long distant shooting. So we waited about a half hour then went and got my oldest son Dexter from his tree stand and walked to where Denver made the shot on the buck. We found blood right away and then laying in the tall grass about 15 yards away was Denver's buck!!

I was so proud of him and any hunter knows that a shot like that isn't the easiest when your adrenaline is going out of control and your breathing is uncontrollable. So after all the hard work we do preparing for a trophy whitetail Denver was very deserving of this great deer. Thank you Lord!! (Submitted by Dustin Hatzell, a very proud Dad)




This year Emma (my youngest at 13) took her first deer ever. Emma caught up with me in the stand one afternoon and a doe and fawn entered the foodplot later that evening. After working the edge of the plot for a few minutes she made a great shot...maybe 75 yards. The deer didn't go far and it was a fairly easy recovery. She was very excited and we took some pictures and then we had to have the hunters talk. I had to explain to her and make sure she understood that we had just taken a life so we could live and that this is why it is important to respect the animal and the environment. That talk tends to be a difficult one for both me and the new hunter. There is something special about sharing a hunt with kids.

Gad's Corner


Photos sent to The Gad-a-bout for GAD'S CORNER must contain identifying information, date, weight, points, other, experience, etc. Send a phone number in case I need to contact you.

Send regular size, i.e. square and horizontal rectangular photos. Large vertical photos can only be used when I have enough space to use them. [Please identify person with game!!!](#)

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



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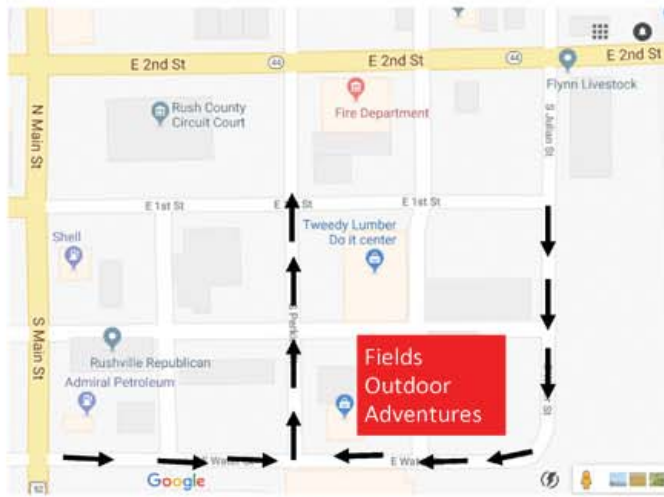
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24 Gun	\$999.99
36 Gun	\$1274.99
54 Gun	\$1499.99



Model	Caliber	Sale
SHIELD	9mm or .40S&W	\$349.99
SHIELD with Night	9mm or .40S&W	\$429.99
SHIELD 2.0 (NEW)	9mm or .40S&W	\$449.99
SDVE	9mm W/ Extra	\$299.99
BODYGUARD 380 W/ LASER	.380 ACP	\$319.99
Victory	.22LR	\$349.99



Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Sale Price
Pointer	O/U	12 & 20GA.	\$519.99
Weatherby	Upland SA-08	12 & 20GA.	\$549.99



Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Sale
FMK	G2E	9MM	\$279.99
SCCY	CPX-2	9MM	\$199.99
Taurus	TCP	.380ACP	\$179.99
Taurus	M85 Protector	.38 SPL	\$249.99
Armscor	1911 A1 GI	.45 ACP	\$399.99



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Model	Caliber	Sale Price
870 Tactical	20 or 12 GA	\$329.99
R51	9 MM	\$279.99
RP9	9 MM	\$369.99
1911 Carry	.45 ACP	\$699.99
783 w/ Scope	Various (Blued/ Synthetic)	\$349.99



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Caliber	Sale Price per 1000 RDS (unless noted)
9MM (APC 124 GR FMJ)	\$200
.32 AUTO (71 GR FMJ)	\$260
.45 ACP (230 GR JHP)	\$170 per 500 RDS
5.56 MM (62 GR FMJ AP)	\$340
.243 WIN (70 GR SP)	\$140 per 200 RDS
.45 COLT (250 GR LRN)	\$285 per 500 RDS
.223 REM (55GR SP)	\$90 per 200 RDS



Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Sale Price
Thompson Center	Venture (Weathershield)	Various	\$399.99
Thompson Center	Venture	Various	\$379.99
Howa		Various	\$399.99



Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Sale Price
Springfield Armory (Black Only)	XD Mod 2	9MM and .40S&W	\$399.99
Beretta	Pico	.380ACP	\$199.99
Beretta	Nano	9MM	\$299.99

Caliber	Sale Price per 1000 RDS
.380 ACP	\$275
.38 SPL	\$275
.223 REM	\$330
ESTATE 12 GA	\$50 per 250 RDS
CCI Mini Mag 'Choot 'Em (36	\$24.99 per 300 RDS



Description	Model	Caliber	Sale Price
Woodsmen	B-14	Various	\$749.99
Timber	B-14	Various	\$749.99
HMR	Tactical	Various	\$899.99



Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan with
Lasergrips \$649.99



Manufacturer	Description	Model	Caliber	Sale Price
Magpul	P MAG Gen 3	30 RD	.5.56MM	\$10.99
Taser	Pulse Kit			\$299.99
Mace	Knife	80470		\$12.99
Bushnell	Trophy 10x42	334210		\$129.99

