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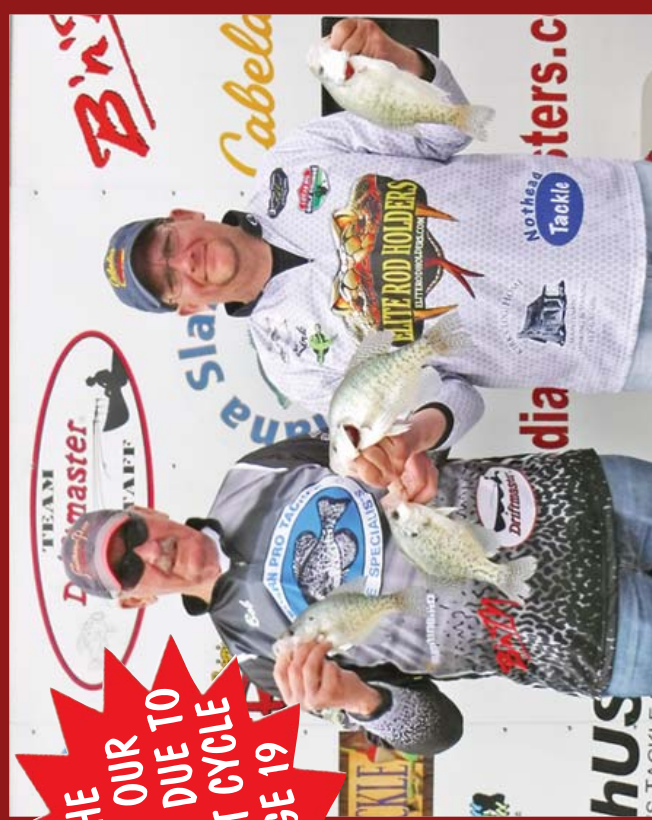
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ONE OF THE EARLY APRIL 2017 BLACK MOREL MUSHROOMS - SEE PAGE 26



INDIANA SLAB MASTERS KICKED OFF THEIR 8TH YEAR AT PATOKA LAKE 3-31-18 SEE PAGE 12



HUEY UH-1 FOUND FOR VETERAN GORGE PARK IN FLORIDA, HELP NEEDED TO BUY IT - SEE PG 23

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

STORY ABOUT GAS EXPLOSION IN DOWNTOWN RICHMOND, INDIANA, APRIL 6, 1968 LAST MONTH, HAD THE LARGEST RESPONSE EVER!!

It is amazing the response I got from the 50th year since Vigran's Variety Shop and Marting Arms Sporting Goods located on opposite corners at sixth and main street in downtown Richmond, Indiana exploded. The back to back natural gas explosions first in Vigrans then Martin Arms occurred in their basements. Jack Bales, the only survivor from the inferno described them as boom-boom, that quick. Witnesses to the explosions said there was a mushroom cloud above downtown that could be seen for miles around Richmond.

I've always had one lingering question. Why on earth could the natural gas leaks go so long without being repaired? Like I said in my article both the front and back doors at Marting Arms Sporting Goods was propped open when I was in the store between 11:30 and 12 noon that day. The smell of rotten eggs was very evident and had been for several weeks, maybe longer.

I think the cost of the lives of 41 innocent people and hundreds more injured was far too great a price paid by the victims, then the repair bill to fix the natural gas leaks in the pipeline between Vigran's and Marting Arms.

The Wayne County Historical Museum (WCHM) held special events April 6th, 7th & 8th. I didn't know anything about them in time to get it announced in last month's issue. I did put it on all of my facebook pages on line. I couldn't attend due to that weekend being my deadline weekend for this issue.

April 6th 1:30 p.m. A Memorial Dedication was held. The public was invited to the presentation at Elstro Park of a new memorial honoring the 41 victims who died that day due to the gas explosions.

April 7th, 5:30 to 8:30 pm - WCHM Signature Event was held in their community room honoring those lost on the 50th Anniversary of the Richmond Downtown Explosion. A video presentation followed the \$75.00 per person dinner.

April 8th, 1:30 pm- in Civic Hall "Death In A Sunny Street"; The public was invited to Civic Hall for a presentation honoring those lost on the 50th Anniversary of the Richmond Downtown Explosion.

Due to an error I made last month ordering copies of the April issue, I have quite a few extra's left over, so if anyone in this area wants a copy of that issue contact me. My contact information is on page 3.

IDNR PIO TRAVIS STEWART WRITES ABOUT NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL WEEK SEE PAGE 7

PIO Travis Stewart tells us in 1962 President Kennedy established May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day. Every year the DNR holds a Memorial Service in Indianapolis to pay tribute to their fallen Officers. That service will be held on May 17, 2018 and is open for public attendance.

Travis writes about each of the six officers and giving some small insight into their ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

(Editor's Note: I was privileged to know First Sergeant Karl E. Kelley having attended the Conservation Officers Recruit School held at McCormick's Creek State Park in 1970 with him and 21 other recruits. During his 28 years with the IDNR before his tragic death I had the good fortune of talking with Karl a number of times.

The Karl E. Kelley Youth Camp is a summer camp program named in his Honor. The camp teaches youth to appreciate our Natural Resources and reminds all of us of Karl's dedication to his job.

PETER CATES A CANDIDATE FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF



MASTER TROOPER PETER CATES

Peter Cates has announced his candidacy for Franklin County Sheriff on the Republican ticket in the May primary.

Cates has over 29 years of service with the Indiana State Police and currently holds the rank of Master Trooper. Prior to joining the State Police, he received a Criminal Justice Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington. During his career, he has attended specialized training in Drug Investigation, Property Crimes and Auto Theft. He has experience working with Federal, State, area Sheriff, and City Police Departments.

Mr. Cates moved to Franklin County 29 years ago after graduating from the Indiana State Police Academy. He stated, "It is a homecoming of sorts, since my grandfather grew up in Franklin County." He and his wife, Sandra, have two grown children. Cates has been active in the community by coaching youth sports, volunteering for the United Way, is a member of the Knights of Columbus and was involved in the Richard T Gaston Scholarship Fishing Tournament

Cates believes his experience as a career law enforcement officer has prepared him to become Sheriff. "I believe a police officer should treat everyone professionally and fair. As Sheriff, I will operate the department within the budget, manage law enforcement issues, and continue to keep Franklin County a safe place to live and visit."

Editor's Note: It is my opinion that Master Trooper Peter Cates will make a first rate Sheriff of Franklin County. I have known Trooper Cates for a number of years, both professionally and off duty times. Especially while attending the Richard T. Gaston Scholarship Fishing Tournament at Brookville Lake.

In today's world what we need are Police (Peace) Officers who can handle any type of confrontation, immediately assess the situation and neutralize the problem before it escalates. It is my belief that Master Trooper Peter Cates has all these skills and enough experience to handle any situation.

COLE KING MARKS 2ND YEAR BEING IN THE GAD-A-BOUT, HOW TIME FLIES!

I met 14 year old Cole King at the Indianapolis Sport, Boat and Travel Show on February 21, 2016. He stopped by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce booth in the Champions Building and was really excited to find that we had The Gad-a-bout in the booth. He said he loved the paper but couldn't get it in his home town of Markleville. He then wanted to shake my hand, then he asked if I would sign the cover for him. He was so happy and enthusiastic about meeting me and getting the Gad-a-bout I asked him how old he was. He replied 14. I asked him if he would like to write a column in The Gad-a-bout.

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Created in 1990 & Published Monthly by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson

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THE GAD-A-ABOUT™

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Just one of many black morel mushrooms found by Dave Wilcox, who owns Dave's Triangle LLC located on Dunlapville Causeway Road at the junction of Dunlapville Ramp road found early in April 2017 at an undisclosed location. (Photo by Dave Wilcox)

Top Right: The Indiana Slab Masters kicked off its 8th year with a club tournament on Patoka Lake on March 31, 2018. Thirty-Five teams showed up to brave the tough conditions. Coming out on top was the team of Bob Raymer and Kirk Wyman with a 7-fish limit that weighed 4.12 lbs. Bob and Kirk caught their fish in one area that they spider rigged. (Photo by Jim Raymer)

Bottom Left: Rich Creason holding two real nice crappie he caught at Blue Bank Resort who offers hunting, wildlife photography packages, private boat tours, and more. To contact them about your visit, call 877-258-3226 or go to www.bluebankresort.com. (Photo by Susie Creason)

Bottom Right: The Wayne County Veterans are in

need of raising \$52,000 to purchase and move a decommissioned Huey UH-1 from Florida to Richmond Memorial Veterans Park. Then mount it as in flight similar to ones I've saw in Fairmont and Sullivan, Indiana. Donations may be sent to the **Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park, P.O. Box 2401, Richmond, IN 47374**. Donations can also be dropped off at **VFW Post 1108, 213 S. Eighth St.**

Checks should be made payable to the **Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park**. For more information contact **Barb Goebel at (765) 967-0330**. The campaign is called **Bring the Bird and a GoFundMe** page has also been established in that name. *This is your chance to honor all Veterans by helping the Vietnam Veterans who fought and died for the cause of freedom and realize now that we care enough to achieve this goal for them.* See page 23. Top photo, Huey flying above Veterans Park in Richmond. Bottom Photo, Huey at Grissom Air Museum near Kokomo, IN. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

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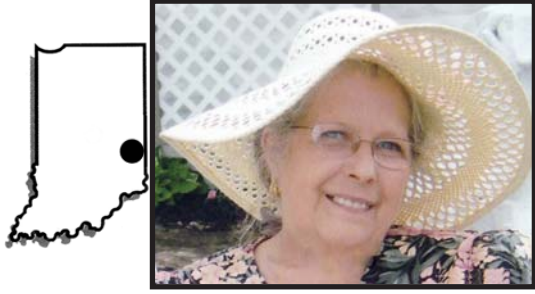
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New Adventures In Old Places



by Donna Schroeder

The New Place for Old Stuff

By the time you read this, Historic Connersville should be well on its way to moving to the new location! Much effort has been put forth in our move to downtown Connersville.

The new building was acquired through negotiations with the children of the late Willie and Christine Wells. They donated a large portion of the purchase price in honor of their parents. A generous bequest made by two sisters, Hilda and Marie Sefton, provided most of the funding for the renovation. As word of our plans spread, other organizations and private citizens donated to the cause, too!

The building had once housed state offices, so there were office walls and carpet to be removed. The original roof was replaced, as were the windows. A showroom door has been installed in the area where the cars will be placed.

The ladies of our organization are so pleased that we will now have a proper kitchen! When you visit us, you will be invited to tour the kitchen, as it will also be part of our displays. The Questers Club has provided funding for the rehabilitation of a set of Connersville built American Kitchens cabinets. John Bolander painted it along with a vintage Connersville Philco refrigerator. We now have a conference room available for our meetings and those of other organizations.

This building provides us with an extra couple of thousand square feet of area. It's adjacent to the Whitewater Valley Railroad depot, and within walking distance of our Canal House, Whitewater Valley Arts Association gallery, and our historic courthouse. We are creating a cultural, recreational, and historical district for the community.

We are also excited to have space for a history/genealogy area. Once we have the materials in place, we will have set times that someone will be available to help researchers. If you have compiled a history of your family with ties to Fayette County, we would love to have a copy for our records. You can submit it in print or on a flash drive or CD.

Getting ready for the move has been interesting. As we began to pack, we found things we didn't remember we had. We also found things that made us say, "Why do we have this"? People have donated things from other towns, and we intend to offer those to the museums in those places.

We have learned some valuable lessons from the

state historical society that I think would be good to pass along to anyone who is a potential donor.

Through the years, we have been hesitant to turn down things that are offered. The result is that we have about twenty typewriters from various eras. We have even more cameras! We have boxes of sea shells – obviously not native to the area. We have the slides from the vacations of unknown families and vintage photos of unknown people (and pets). We have hundreds of books, too, including travel guides from some of the unidentified vacation slides.

There have also been items that have strings attached. People have a tendency to bring something with the understanding that it should be returned if someone in the family wants it returned to them in the future.

The result of all this is that we now have to clean house. The experts tell us not to take things on loan, unless it is specified that we can display it for a given time, and the donor agrees to come and get it at the end of the time period. If we make a diligent effort to return it, and it isn't picked up, it becomes the property of the museum to do with as we see fit. A good example of that is a set of dishes that remained in storage in the Lanier house at Madison for thirty years. When I visited a few years ago, the curator was packing them up. He had given the donor notice that they had to be picked up, or they would be sold. He warned us that people tend to donate things that they don't want to dust or feel guilty giving away, so they loan them.

So, as a donor, you can make things easier for all of us. Bring your items with an open mind. If you bring great grandma's camera, and we tell you we have plenty, please don't be insulted. If you bring her wedding dress, please be prepared to possibly leave it forever, unless we agree to use it for a temporary display. If it's a temporary loan, be prompt in retrieving it. In either case, if possible, bring a photo of her in the dress and tell us her story, including how she connects to our county.

There have also been some bright spots in the packing process. We have a model of a ship of the type that could have brought early settlers to America. While going through our accumulation of books, we found a ship's log. It was written in the 1820s by a member of a family that settled here in the 1810s. It's his account of several trips and includes an explanation of how mariners navigated by the stars. The two items tell a story that neither could tell as well alone.

We're solving other dilemmas, as well. We will keep several typewriters. When we entertain students, they will be allowed to type on one. Children who are accustomed to computers will probably be interested at the effort it takes, especially the inability to effortlessly correct their mistakes! One of our many McGuffey's readers will be on display for children to see and touch. We hope these and other improvements will make our school section more interactive.

We hope to open at the new location by the end of May and welcome you to visit us and the other places of interest. You can visit our Facebook page, Historic Connersville, or call 765 825 0946 for updates on our progress! See you soon in Fabulous Fayette County!

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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**

Professional Fishing Guide

a temperature gauge built right in to them that puts a display right on the screen. As you move along pay attention to your screen and you will see the change in water temperature. Especially as you move back in a cove, or head to the other end of the lake. For this method to work you truly have to fish every day or at least every other day. Now there is variables in this statement, say if somebody goes fishing and gives you some information, that's different. But if you're the type of guy that has to do it yourself you have to fish every day.

Especially if you're a crappie fisherman. Some of the biggest crappie will be caught during the spawning cycle. What you can see by watching your depth finder is what we call staging. Out from the shore to the first drop off you will see schools of crappie. Day after day the school at the first drop off gets bigger and bigger, as the water temperature gets closer and closer to 65 degrees. Remember you know this because your fishing every day. What you do is keep checking shallow with a few choice casts with your favorite rod and reel to shallow structure. Then one day like magic, bam you get a strike, and its game on.

Now if you are pursuing largemouth bass you still watch that temperature on your depth finder. What you're looking for is a water temperature between 68 and 70 degrees on the surface. What you need to remember is that the water temperature varies a bit all over the lake do to a lot of different variables. For example: shallow water warms up quick. The influx of water from creeks and rivers warms up the lake faster. While deep water in the lower main lake warms up slow. When a large mouth bass spawns they do it different then crappie. The male largemouth bass builds a nest. The female deposits the eggs in the nest and then they take turns fanning and protecting the eggs in the nest. This all happens in about 2 feet of water usually close to shore. This is not really anything you can see on your depth finder, but with a good pair of polarizes sun glasses you can see the bass sitting on the nest.

Bluegill is pretty similar to largemouth bass. Actually bluegill, largemouth, and smallmouth bass all belong to the sun fish family. Bluegill will also build nests just like large mouth bass in shallow water. The difference is the numbers of nests. While bass build one nest the bluegill will build in groups of 10 to 30 nest all together. They will build a little circle sort of like a bowl and deposit the eggs in the bottom. They will take turns fanning and guarding the eggs until they hatch.

I'm not 100 % sure on small mouth bass though. I know they spawn when the water temperature is more like 59 to 60 degrees. Its usually in rocks and on the first drop off ledge going into deeper water.

You have probably noticed I haven't talked about walleye at all in this article.

Truth of the matter is they spawned when the water temperature was in the mid-forties. All they're trying to do is feed on all these spawning eggs.

Now I know in reality everybody can't fish every day. So, stop in at the local convenience store/ bait shop in Brookville for information and supplies. This will truly help you catch more fish.

Thanks, and good luck.

Tag

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May Fishing on Brookville Lake

May is an exciting time to be on the water. Everything is fresh and new. The water is coming up through the sixties, and all the fish are wanting to spawn. This will make for some of the best fishing of the year. Start out by Looking for fish shallow.

If you're a crappie fisherman, what you're looking for is 65-degree water temperature at the surface. If you're a large mouth bass fisherman your magic number is 69 degrees at the surface, but if you're a bluegill fisherman your number is more like 73, so be patient.

In this day and age of depth finders, they all have

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News from the Indiana State Police



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

Indiana State Police Annual Summer Youth Camps

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

The Indiana State Police have allowed their troopers and staff members over the years to volunteer and participate in the camp program as camp directors, counselors and staff. The below information was taken from the camps web site for this year. If you know a child that may be interested in attending a camp, or if you would like more information on the camps and their history, please visit the Indiana Troopers Youth Services Web Site at <http://trooper.org/>.

Career Camps

Similar to the Indiana State Police Academy,



Camp Graduation at the Indiana State Police annual summer youth camp. (Author Photo)

career camps give high school age students an in-depth and hands on law enforcement experience. This means that any child going into high school or that has graduated but not yet attended college is eligible to attend camps. These camps are co-ed camps that are directed by Troopers throughout the entire week. Our staff is compiled of male and female law enforcement personnel, utilizing many of the same experts that train our very own Troopers, as well as professionals from other walks of life that relate to a law enforcement field. Attending the camps, each camper will find out what it takes to be a police offer, experience some of the same things that officers do during their career and get to see the other careers and specialties within the law enforcement field. Campers will participate in physical training, conduct their own crime scene investigations, hear from defense attorneys, judges, and other experts in the criminal justice field, and watch exciting polic demonstrations! All career camps are held at Universities to give participants an idea of college life while at the camp. All career camps start on Sunday and end that Friday. There is a graduation ceremony at the close of the camp that Friday afternoon that

parents/family are invited to attend!

[Dates and Location for 2018 Career Camps](#)

[Trine University, Angola, IN](#) July 8 – July 13

[Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN](#) July 8 – July 13

*click camp name for online application

Your registration will not be processed until the registration fee is paid (\$250). PayPal is used to the left using the “Pay Now” button to process online payments. There is an additional \$5.00 PayPal fee added to the overall cost when doing this. If choosing to mail a check for payment, please indicate in the checks memo the name of the camper and the camp attending. Mail checks to:

ITYS 8660 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219

[Click and Download to Word Doc – 2018 ISP Youth Camp Registration Form](#)

[Be sure you selected the correct camp for registration prior to selecting “Pay Now”](#)

Indiana Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Camp

The ISP and ITYS are partnering with the American Legion for this camp! The American Legion believes that our youth have a strong sense of patriotism and a high regard for Law and Order. The objective of IYCLEA Camp is to provide a first-hand look at the role of a police officer in today’s society. This is similar to the Career Camp above (a week long, co-ed and any child going into high school or that has graduated but not yet attended college), but is more closely modeled as a mini, week long Indiana State Police Academy. This camp season, the American Legion has graciously agreed to sponsor 50 youths to attend this camp!! The first 50 registered prior to July 2, 2018 will be accepted. Please contact Sgt. Danielle Elwood Henderson @ (317) 450-8720 for information on your local American Legion for sponsorship information!

[Date and Location for 2018 IYCLEA Camp](#)

[University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana](#) July 15 – July 20

*click camp name for online application

[Click and Download to Word Doc – 2018 IYCLEA Camp Registration Form](#)

Law Camps

Law camps give students entering the 6th, 7th and 8th grades a behind the scenes look at the criminal justice system. The four day co-ed camps that are held at University campuses offer a more advanced look at law enforcement through field trips, exciting demonstrations and motivating programs. Campers stay on campus for the week with the Troopers that are running the camp. There are physical activities that take place during the week along with hands on programs. Campers meet peers from around the state, participate in recreational activities and leave with a greater understanding of the police field. Law Camps are co-sponsored by Lions Clubs of Indiana.

[Date and Location for 2018 Law Camps](#)

[Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana](#) June 27 – June 30

[Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana](#) June 20 – June 23

*click camp name for online application

Your registration will not be processed until the registration fee is paid (\$150). PayPal is used to the left using the “Pay Now” button to process online payments. There is an additional \$5.00 PayPal fee added to the overall cost when doing this. If choosing to mail a check for payment, please indicate in the checks memo the name of the camper and the camp attending. Mail checks to: ITYS 8660 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219

[Click and Download to Word Doc – 2018 ISP Youth Camp Registration Form](#)

[Be sure you selected the correct camp for registration prior to selecting “Pay Now”.](#)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Apply Online

For more information on the cost of each camp, and to apply online, visit <http://trooper.org.camps/>.



For additional information, download the Summer Youth Camps brochure, or contact Indiana Trooper’s Youth Services at (800) 671-9851

Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by PIO Travis Stewart

National Peace Officers Memorial Week A time of Remembrance

So we have finally made it to warmer weather and sunnier days. I would say I'm surprised with the weather that we residents have received this year, but I cannot do so. As they say, "it's Indiana weather" and nothing is predictable; just like snow in April.

May is a time to remember fallen Law Enforcement Officers, not only nationwide but statewide as well. Thus the reason for this article. I want to bring the readers some information about fallen Officers within our Department and take time to look back and remember the Officers that have fallen victim while in the line of duty.

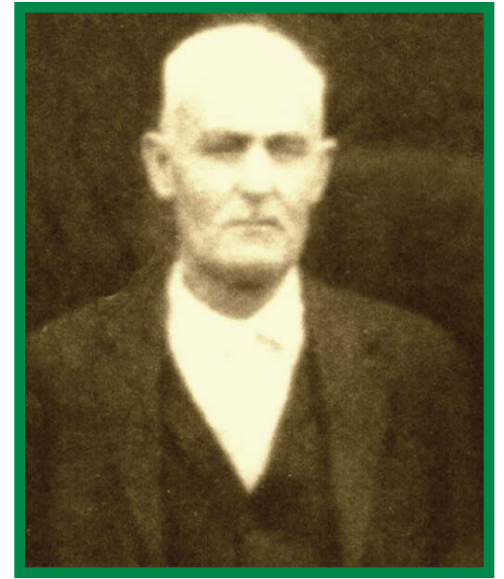
In 1962 President Kennedy established May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day. The week in which the 15th falls is dedicated as National Police Week. This is to pay tribute to and remember the Officers that have given their life to protect our communities.

Every year our Department holds a Memorial Service in Indianapolis to pay that tribute to the fallen Officers within our Department. That service will be held on May 17, 2018 and is open for public attendance.

Our Department has lost 6 officers in the time of our existence. I want to bring some small insight into their tragic event, as a way to remember them and pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice they made.

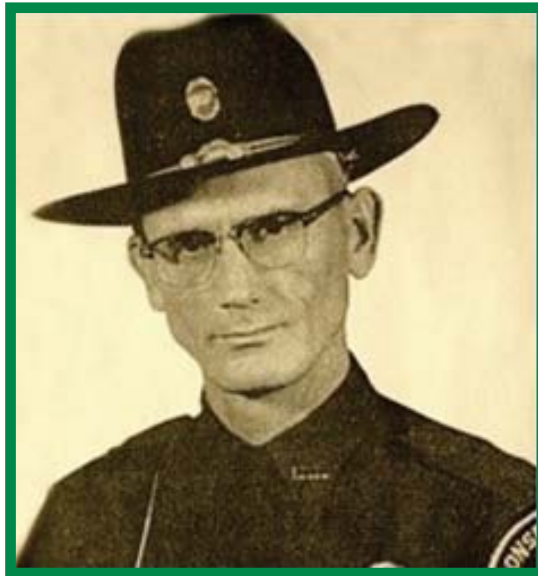


WARDEN WILLIAM J. NATTKEMPER



WARDEN WILLIAM J. PEARE

We will never forget Warden William J. Nattkemper and Warden William J. Peare. They were working boat patrol on the Wabash River responding to reports of shots fired. As they were returning upstream the boat took on water, causing it to capsize and ultimately drown both Wardens. There were three other Wardens with them who were able to swim to safety. Warden Nattkemper had served for the Department for 5 years. Warden Peare had served with the Department for 3 years. End of watch was April 27, 1926.



OFFICER ROBERT S. PERKINS



OFFICER JAMES D. PITZER

LEFT: We will never forget Officer Robert S. Perkins. He was in his patrol vehicle in a rural part of Hamilton County when he was struck by another vehicle. He died from injuries sustained. Officer Perkins had served for the Department for 9 years. He was survived by his wife and 5 children. End of watch May 27, 1958.

RIGHT: We will never forget Officer James D. Pitzer. He was killed while checking illegal rabbit hunters. One of the hunters was a recent parolee who feared going back to prison. That individual fatally shot Officer Pitzer one time. Officer Pitzer had served with the Department for 20 years. He was survived by his wife and 2 children. End of watch January 1, 1961.

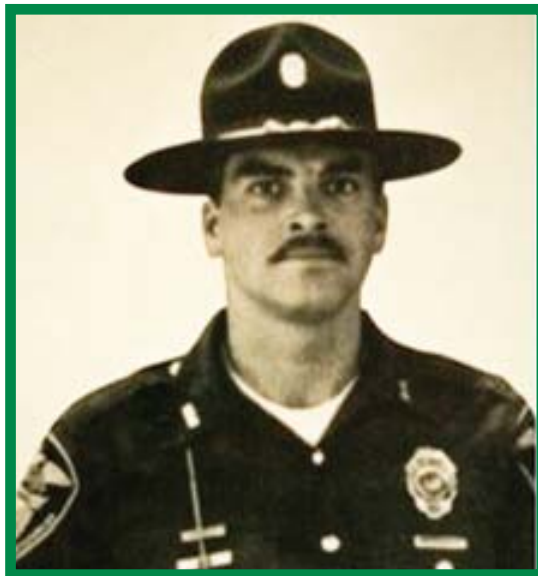
News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Junior Pioneer Camp-outs

Unlike the Career and Law camps, the Pioneer camps are designed specifically for children between ages 11-14 who need a structured program with close supervision. Group homes, welfare departments, law enforcement agencies, probation departments and school counselors may recommend children for the Pioneer Camp. These camps are held outdoors for a week. This is a co-ed camp in which the kids learn to work together to prepare their own meals, campsites and explore the outdoors. Campers receive more one on one time with law enforcement officers who can help them start to develop a more positive outlook on their future. These camps can be applied for online but *must* have a recommendation to accompany the application.

[Click and Download to Word Doc - 2018 ISP Youth Camp Registration Form](#)



OFFICER THOMAS J. DENISTON



FIRST SERGEANT KARL E. KELLEY

LEFT: We will never forget Officer Thomas J. Deniston. He was killed in an aircraft accident after takeoff. Officer Deniston was going to search for illegal deer hunting methods. He had also planned to photograph duck blinds and possible waterfowl bait. Officer Deniston had served with the Department for 3 years. He was survived by his wife. End of watch October 16, 1990.

RIGHT: We will never forget First Sergeant Karl E. Kelley was killed from injuries sustained during a training accident on April 15. A boat containing two other Officers had overturned in turbulent water. First Sergeant Kelly and another Officer attempted a rescue of the overturned boat. During the rescue attempt, his boat capsized. First Sergeant Kelly was submerged underwater for 15 minutes before he was rescued. He was taken to the hospital and succumbed to his injuries two days later. First Sergeant Kelly had served with the Department for 28 years. He was survived by his wife, 3 children, and 2 step children. End of watch April 17, 1998.

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Seed-sowing area in big greenhouse.



Shade bay with flowers and foliage.



Marion's Greenhouse located 4 miles north of SR 256 on SR 3 north of Deputy, IN. An easy drive from just about anywhere in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.



Marion's Greenhouse A Labor of Love

by Lorraine Henry

I had worked for Marion's Greenhouse for about 16 years, when the owners decided to retire, then Steve and I bought it in 2004.

We have one large 3 bay greenhouse, and 5 more one bay hoop house greenhouses. The large greenhouse houses our seeding area, where we plant a variety of annual flowers, and vegetable plants every 15 days in the spring. We plant over 30 different kinds of tomato, over a dozen kinds of pepper, from mild to Super hot. Also cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuces, eggplant, cucumbers and melons, and a wide variety of Herbs. We also have rhubarb, berry bushes, strawberry plants, asparagus, onion sets and slips, seed potatoes.

We have a whole wall in our retail shop full of bulk seeds. Vegetable plants, or "Edible Gardening" continues to grow in popularity each season. So along with the old time gardeners who have always grown vegetables, we have a new generation of people interested in growing their own food.

Along with seeding, the big greenhouse features many new and different kinds of annual flowers and foliage, along with hundreds of hanging baskets. Another greenhouse is dedicated to Perennials, those plants which come back year after year. We try to add new perennials each year

along with all popular offerings.

Our retail shop, besides featuring seeds and garden pharmacy items, also has a big selection of garden gifts and accents. We get a big load of concrete statuary and fountains each year, along with a shipment of clay pots, pottery and glazed clay decorative pots.

One big area in the shop which continues to grow each year is miniature gardening, or "Fairy Gardens". We have a HUGE selection of miniatures for people to make about any kind of small garden scene they choose, along with small plants suited for pots. Believe me this is not just for children, many adults are frequent customers of this craze!

Succulents, or plants that are bred for hot humid desert like climates are also a popular plant choice. Although they do not over winter in our climate, they are suitable for dish and other small gardens.

We are well known for planting our specialty planters, known as Vintage Garden Designs, or Garden Junk! We plant flowers and arrangements in just about anything we can find, usually an old unique "vintage piece".

We try to assist our customers in every phase of the gardening experience, and strive to offer people quality plants and supplies at a reasonable price.

We currently have myself and husband Steve, along with 2 almost full time employees, Sheri Scott and Rob Stidham. In the busy spring we have a part time cashier, Donna Phillips, and both my son, and my 2 granddaughters now helping me



A large inventory of concrete statuary and fountains.

this spring.

In an effort to curb the rising cost of gas, several years back we installed a outside wood burning furnace, which does help on fuel early in the year, but also keeps My husband Steve in the woods a lot in the fall and winter since he cuts all that we burn, (a lot!).

Editor's Note: Steve and Lorraine Henry have been advertising their Greenhouse (s) in The Gad-a-bout for a very long time. I didn't really get to know them until April of 2017 when my sales person stopped delivering the Gad-a-bout in that area. It took me quite a while to learn the route, but it didn't take too long to make friends with Steve, Lorraine and the owners of my other businesses I go to. I really enjoy seeing them each month. ■

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Bay 3 almost full of annuals and hanging baskets.



This is the perennial house. Many selections.



Here I'm checking our bulk seeds, we have a whole wall for them in the shop.



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Aerial view of Marion's Greenhouse, Deputy, IN.



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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

LENGTHEN YOUR SPRING TURKEY SEASON THIS YEAR

Sometimes you have to stray from home for more hunting

Turkey season; It's just not long enough. If you love turkey hunting and find yourself wishing you could just do more of it; you can. Here in Indiana, our spring turkey season is only open for two-and-half weeks, and that is simply not enough for me. Opening in late April and closing in mid-May with a bag limit of one bird just doesn't do it for me anymore. I enjoy turkey hunting too much to only spend a couple of weeks out of the year doing it.

Luckily I found a remedy for my turkey hunting addiction, and so can you; hunting in multiple states. It's easier than you think - and well within your reach - unlike a lot of big game hunts.

Case in point; I did some research when I initially began planning my first out-of-state turkey hunts. Missouri, for instance, has a spring season that pretty much overlaps with ours outside of a few days in the beginning or on the end, and tags are pricey at \$190 for one bird. Illinois is not much different and you must be drawn for a spring turkey permit, which cost \$125 apiece. These are good bets for taking your child on a youth hunt, however. Dirt-cheap licenses and earlier youth seasons make them hard to beat.

Kentucky is a bargain at \$60 for the license and the opportunity to kill two gobblers, but here again, not a whole lot of opportunity to extend your season here. Their season does open a few days ahead of ours, but not a lot, so it's a good go-to if you tag-out early here.

Then I noticed Tennessee and Michigan. Tennessee's spring turkey season begins at the end of March. Their licenses can be pricey at about \$275, but you can kill up to four gobblers for that price. My son and I took advantage of Tennessee's southern hospitality on turkey tags a few years ago during spring break. We went as a family with a simple plan. My son and I would hunt in the mornings and by the time we returned to our cabin, my wife would be up and ready to do family things the rest of the day. Our plan could not have gone more perfectly. On the very first morning of our hunt, my son Nicholas, ten years old at the time, smashed his very first southern longbeard.



Kim Cahalan and her son Chase trekked out to South Dakota a few years back for some Rios. Left: Chase Cahalan with his South Dakota wild turkey. Right: Kim Cahalan with her South Dakota Rio Turkey. (Author Photos)



Plenty of public land that is loaded with birds abounds in the Volunteer State.

What makes Michigan great is that their season does not go out until May 31st, which is pretty unique in these parts. I can also be at the state line in less than two hours. It also means that I can hunt spring gobblers for at least two weeks longer than I can in Indiana, whenever time permits. And at \$69 bucks for a permit, it doesn't break the bank either. So, even if I only make it to Michigan for a day or two each spring, it's worth it to me.

My first Michigan hunt started with me leaving my house at 3:15 in the morning and driving to a public hunting area that I had never set foot on. Sounds a little crazy, but what did I have to lose? Our season had already ended, so at the very least I was going to take in some nice scenery.

The first place I pulled into had a truck in the lot, but I didn't know where the hunter was - until I heard a shot a little ways into the section. I got back in my truck and drove to another spot where I did manage to strike a gobbler. The only problem was that bird was a half-mile away and never did close the distance. So, back to the truck I went, and as I was tooling down a gravel road, I saw a field strutter with a couple of hens. A quick check of the map proved the birds were still on public land so I pulled over the hill, snuck out of the truck, grabbed my gear and crawled a couple of hundred yards along the edge of the timber to try to get in the best position I could.

I got as close to the birds as I felt I could, but a hill in the field kept me from being able to lay eyes on them. After an hour-long game of cat-and-mouse with me calling and the gobbler sometimes responding, I decided to rise up just a bit to try to catch a glimpse of the birds. As luck would have it, just as I

rose up, I saw his bright red head pop up over the hill a mere twenty yards away. As quickly as he appeared, he disappeared. Still, a pretty successful first-ever Michigan turkey hunt in my mind. I beat that bird. The only problem is that I also beat myself by getting a bit too anxious. Just a few minutes likely would have changed the outcome considerably, but how was I supposed to know?

So, if you love turkey hunting as much as I do and just cannot get enough of it, think about hunting other states to lengthen your season. I mean, can you really eat too much wild turkey breast? ■

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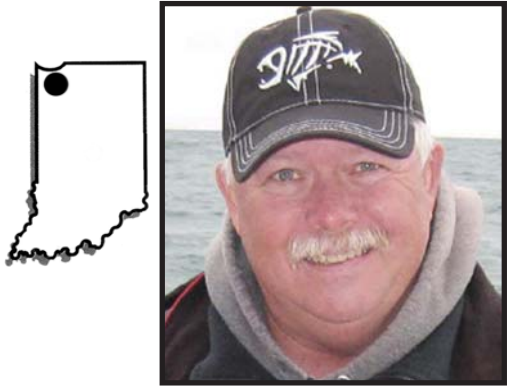
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

COMPASS HEAD SALMON

Marked salmon studies have proven definitively most king salmon originating in Lake Huron tributaries swim over to Lake Michigan in their early stages of life to feed then swim back to Lake Huron when it's time to spawn, eventually making their way to their natal stream. It's an amazing journey, right?

It is, but it pales in comparison to the life journey their ancestral great, great ... (keep counting) grandparents made. King salmon originated far west of the Great Lakes in the North Pacific Ocean where they spawn in both North America and Asian Rivers, make their way downstream to spend their formative years in the vast Pacific Ocean. A journey from the Swan River to forage offshore of Manistee isn't all that amazing, comparatively.

Actually, it is amazing, just not for a salmon. I was taught the life history of salmon while in grade school. I vividly remember films depicting Pacific salmon spawning in tiny mountain rivulets. I learned of their epic journey to the sea and then back, years later, on their own spawning journey. There were salmon leaping waterfalls in the story, bears snagging leaping salmon and finally, footage of the fish at the exact same mountain trickle, spawning, dying, spent, their journey over. The cycle was complete and at least one youthful boy (me) so thoroughly enamored of the process, the pursuit of salmon here in the Great Lakes and in Pacific Ocean tributaries, became a lifelong obsession.

My grade school lessons attributed the homing ability of the salmon to their uncanny sense of smell. We were taught they could sniff out the unique odor of the Kenai, Nushagek, or Columbia River even if they were hundreds of miles out to sea surrounded by bazillions of gallons of water, thousands of feet deep while swimming in ocean currents that flow globally.

I believed what I was taught unquestionably. B follows A in the alphabet, three is a larger number than two and salmon can smell faint odors of their natal stream hundreds or thousands of miles out to sea. Certain things you just don't question.

Silly me, I let common sense get into my mind stream. Common sense would dictate the impossibility of this. Salmon may have excellent sniffers, but their sense of smell can't be that good. Common sense also says it's impossible for Lake Huron kings to sniff their way back to their home stream after living and foraging in Lake Michigan. The "flow" of the Great Lakes follows the rules of gravity far more than whatever solunar forces causes ocean currents and tides. Water from Lake Superior flows downhill into Lake Huron, Lake Huron water flows down past Detroit to Lake Erie.



Everything we learned about salmon in grade school isn't true. (Author Photo)

Lake Michigan water also flows into Lake Huron and feeds on down the system.

Other than a some wind-driven sloshing back and forth through the Straits of Mackenac connecting Lakes Michigan and Huron, very little, I would argue none, of the unique smells of the Swan River or any of the tributaries from Georgian Bay are ever present in the water off St. Joe, South Haven or Milwaukee. But salmon from Lake Huron certainly are.

Were my grade school lessons wrong? Is the sense of smell possessed by salmon no better than the smelling ability of sunfish? I can't answer that, but the fact Lake Huron kings do exit Lake Michigan and find their way back to their natal streams is undeniable.

That lead me to do additional research and learn facts not taught in grade school. It certainly doesn't make the homing ability of salmon any less magnificent.

Salmon, as I have done, as mariners have done for hundreds of years, make their migrations around the Pacific Ocean (or between Lake Michigan and Huron) by monitoring the Earth's magnetic fields. Not only do they "memorize" or imprint on the magnetic signature of the area where they are born, but they somehow memorize the migration route they've traveled and use it to find their way back. Only once their magnetic "GPS" system gets them close does their sense of smell take over leading them back upstream, past waterfalls and bears to the spawning beds where they were born.

Am I disheartened to learn salmon don't make their incredible journey through life using the sense of smell. Not in the least! Their built in magnetic mapping ability is even more incredible.

THE END

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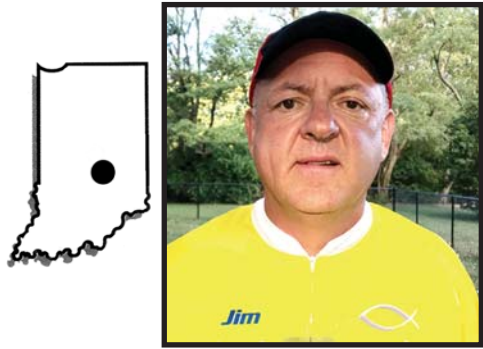


Winners Bob Raymer and Kirk Wyman - Total weight of 4.12 lbs. (Author Photo)



Second place Larry Yates and Doug Allen - with Big Fish of 1.81 lbs. (Author Photo)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Jim Raymer

President & Founder of the Indiana Slabmasters

Indiana Slab Masters Kick Off Their 8th Year

The Indiana Slab Masters kicked off its 8th year with a club tournament on Patoka Lake on March 31, 2018. The conditions were about as tough as it gets. Unseasonably cold, flooding rains the week before the tournament and water rising daily, heavy stain to muddy conditions throughout most of the lake, and fish just not biting. The fishing was very tough, and other than small fish, the crappie were just not cooperating.

Thirty-Five teams showed up to brave the tough conditions. Coming out on top was the team of Bob Raymer and Kirk Wyman with a 7-fish limit that weighed 4.12 lbs. Bob and Kirk caught their fish in one area that they spider rigged most of the day and in the afternoon switched and caught their fish vertical jigging. Congratulations on a great win on a very tough lake!

Finishing in 2nd place was our last year's point champions, Larry Yates and Doug Allen with a total weight of 3.43lbs. Larry and Doug were swimming baits to win 2nd place. Larry and Doug also won big fish for the day. A 1.81 lb. slab! Finishing in 3rd place was the team of Rodney and Lloyd Hiler with a total weight of 2.85 lbs.

Rodney and Lloyd were swimming baits as well to take 3rd place honors. Finishing in 4th place was the team of Colt Barnes and Troy Murphy. Colt and Troy had a total weight of 2.53 lbs. Rounding out the top 5 was the team of Don Reckelhoff and Ed Ploetner with a 7-fish total of 2.47 lbs. Finishing in 6th place was the team of Troy Williams and Larry Kivett with a 4-fish total of 2.17 lbs. Finishing in 7th place was the team of Luke Fishero and Jake Walters with a total weight of 1.98 lbs. Finishing in 8th place was the team of Rick and Krissy Hancock with a total weight of 1.90 lbs. Finishing in 9th place was the team of Bret Cunningham and Keith Lucas with a 4-fish total of 1.87 lbs. finishing the top 10 teams and finishing in 10th was the team of Joe and Tim Dunigan. Joe and time had a total weight of 1.85 lbs. With the new 100-point system in place every team tried to at least bring in 1-fish to the scale in order to capture the highest place points available. This year, not weighing fish is only 25-points on a 100-point scale. This will make many teams that didn't bother weighing in last year, will weigh this year because there is quite a difference in points.

Our next tournament up is going to be Cecil Harden Lake (Raccoon Lake) on April 21, 2018. We are fishing this lake in a time of year that the club has never fished it before. As long as it is not flooded, the lake should be approximately 8-9 foot below summer pool. This will completely change the way that this lake will fish and where the fish will be located. This effectively will change this tournament and most of the competitors will be fishing this lake under about half full conditions for the 1st time. The club officials are hoping all the water conditions fall into line so this tournament can be fished with the level at the spring pool level the Army Corps of Engineers shows on their yearly lake curve

chart. After the Raccoon Lake Tournament, we will be having a Super Event on Salamonie & Mississinewa Lakes on Saturday and Sunday May 5-6, 2018. Then on to Lake Monroe on June 2nd 2018. In the meantime, I hope you can make it out on our great Indiana lakes! Good Luck and Good Fishing!

INDIANA SLAB MASTERS 2018 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- Saturday March 31 - Patoka Lake
- Saturday April 21 - Cecil M. Harden Lake (Locally known as Raccoon Lake)
- Saturday & Sunday May 5 & 6 - Mississinewa/Salamonie Super event
- Saturday June 2 - Lake Monroe
- Saturday June 23 - Tanners Creek / Ohio River
- Saturday September 8 - Mississinewa/Salamonie/Roush (Choice of Lake)
- Saturday September 22 - Brookville Lake
- Saturday & Sunday October 20 & 21 - Classic (Lake Shafer & Lake Freeman)

(Classic is for members who fish in at least 4 events)

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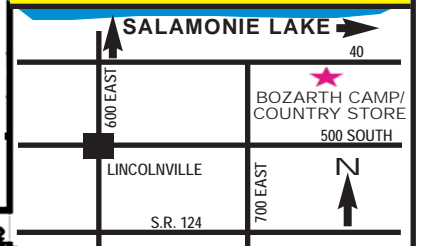
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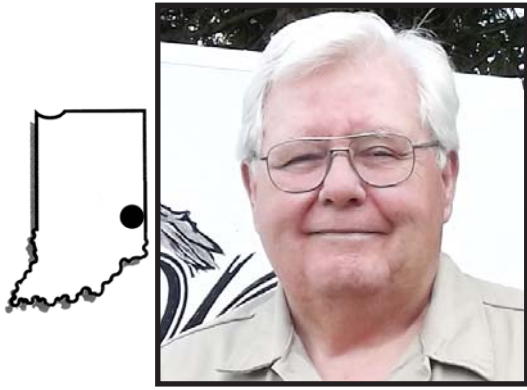
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by **Marshall Smith**

Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO

**GUNSMITHING
FTE, FTL, DOUBLE FEED**

Failure to Eject, Failure to Load, and Double Feeding are all common problems with semi-auto pistols, rifles, shotguns, and includes pump action rifles and shotguns. Generally, a revolver or single shot rifle and shotguns don't have problems with loading or double feeding unless the operator is untrained or incompetent. These guns can have problems ejecting the spent case in certain circumstances. This month I wanted to briefly discuss the causes of FTE, FTL, and Double Feed.

Failure to eject the brass is often caused by a broken or clogged extractor. Extractors can be made of spring steel or hardened steel and engaged with a very strong spring in the bolt. Many military rifles from WWI and WWII era in both bolt and semi-auto action used spring steel extractors which would break when the chamber of the rifle was loaded with a single round by hand. That is the person loading the rifle simply placed the round in the chamber and slammed the bolt closed on the round instead of inserting the round in its magazine or clip and then closing the bolt. The action of closing the bolt catches the



"Shown is a Springfield Model 187. It is jammed with what looks like a double feed problem but it was a broken ejector. The extractor is just above the bottom cartridge which is sliding up to engage the extractor and enter the rifle chamber. The upper cartridge is the spent round which the ejector pulled free from the chamber but did not get bumped out of the receiver by the ejector which had broken. Once jammed like this it may take a complete disassembly to remove the two rounds." (Author Photo)

base and the round and as it pushes the round forward the rim slides under the extractor's hook and engages the extractor for when the round is to be ejected. Loading a single round directly into the chamber and then closing the bolt would cause the extractor to bend outward causing it to break right at the tip. It still happens today with out modern shooters not loading the old antique military rifles properly.

Extractors which are made in today's guns are spring loaded with usually a strong coil spring which allows the extractor to move both in and out without damage. However, problems arise with these types of extractors which are used in semi-auto pistols, semi-auto and pump action rifles, and shotguns. The problem which arises with these are that the extractor, when the bolt is closed, set within a channel or pocket in the barrel with the hook slightly forward of the case rim. The extractor engages the the rim of the case when the action moves to the rear after being fired and pulls the case from the barrel. However, if the pocket or channel in which the extractor sets when closed is full of debris it can cause the extractor hook to load up with debris and skip over the rim of the bullet case leaving the case in the chamber and blocking the next round from entering the chamber. A dirty extractor channel can be easily remedied with a thorough cleaning.

A Failure to Eject on the Mossberg Model 60 .22LR will develop the Failure to eject and double feeding when the Bolt buffer becomes damaged. The buffer sets at the rear of the bolt and is made of a hard nylon. Over time it becomes brittle and breaks. It is the first thing I check when I get a model 60 in the shop for ANY problems with its functioning. A broken buffer cause all kinds of problems. The rifle's buffer, trigger system, and loading lifter all are contained in one unit which can be confusing to disassemble. Best have a gunsmith repair it. Other problems such as broken cartridge stops and broken ejectors cause the same type of Failures and often aren't readily noticeable until the gun just quits working or jams.

Gun Rights

Well, it looks like the emotionally fed fears and

the liberal media have been successful in getting a rule passed to "Protect Society from the evils of Bump Stocks". The ATF by order of the Department of Justice will reclassify the Bump Stock bearing gun as a "Machine Gun". If one owns and has installed such a device on their gun then beware, you could be charged with owning a machine gun and spend up to 10 years in prison.

As I write this the final rule has not been published. Since it is legal to own a machine gun if you pay the tax to the ATF, I doubt that this will involve the confiscation of Bump Stocks from current owners but may required that they register with the ATF or some agency. Of course that brings up the question "Is that Legal to have a list?" Oh what a mess I see coming.

Quote of the Month

"A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined; to which end a uniform and well-digested plan is requisite; and their safety and interest require that they should promote such manufactories as tend to render them independent of others for essential, particularly military, supplies." - President George Washington

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

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Top Photo: Twenty-five towing and recovery vehicles owned by Davis Towing and Recovery who use them for taking care of your towing and recovery needs. Standing in front of trucks from left to right is Brad, Shari, Shannon and Bruce Davis. Bottom Left: Davis's 60-ton Rotator down to a 16-ton medium wrecker is used to transport, tow or haul anything from a ATV to a train car. Bottom Right: Bruce Davis is now offering water recovery with their home built FLOATATOR, Bruce built from scratch that was specific to their needs. The FLOATATOR has a derrick, ballast tanks, airbags, generator, lights and all the equipment need plus they have 8 certified open water scuba divers to assist on every recovery. (Davis Towing & Recovery Photos)

Davis Towing & Recovery Experts in Their Profession

by Shannon Davis

Bob Davis and Sons wrecker service was started in 1972 by purchasing a single one-ton wrecker. In 1974 they moved to the local junk yard on US 52 in Rushville. At this time, it was ran by Bob and son, Gary Davis, who purchased a single axle Hubbard wrecker in 1978. In 1981, Gary Davis opened Exhaust Pro in town, and separated from his dad and the towing business. Bob continued to operate his towing service until 1983 when he sold it to JR Redden. Bob's other son Bruce Davis who was 16 at the time, went to work for Gary at Exhaust Pro. In 1986, Bruce purchased the wrecker service and junk yard back from JR Redden. After owning and running the company with the one wrecker and junk yard for 2 years, he was broke. He was forced to sell out to Danny Scott and went to work for a GM dealership in Rushville. There he started in the service area, worked his way up to parts manager and then became the body-shop manager. In 1990, he started working for Starkey Welding where he was a fabricator and welder. Bob Davis, who had been working in Indianapolis at Palmer Dodge, decided to come back to Rushville and work for Danny Scott as a wrecker operator. He ended up purchasing the wrecker back and changed it to Bob's Towing where he only operated small wreckers.

In 1992, Bruce and Gary Davis bought a 1985 Freightliner and fabricated and built a twin line

hydraulic large wrecker with under-reach. The unit was built in Tim Starkey's facility with the help of great friends and the support from their families. Now they were officially operating as Davis Towing and Recovery with large wreckers only. In 1996, Bruce and Gary purchased Bob's towing and incorporated the large and small wreckers together. They also opened another location in Spiceland IN doing 24 hour road service and towing, while working a lot on I-70 to the north and I-74 to the south. Being centrally located between the two interstates allowed them to expand throughout east-central Indiana. In 2008, they built a new, much bigger facility in Spiceland to cater to their growing needs. In approximately 2009, they purchased their third location farther southeast, in Milan IN. Davis Towing and Recovery now owns several different companies including Starweld Industrial Contractors and Indiana Spill Response, but Davis Towing was the start of it all.

In 2005, Bruce was named Citizen of the Year for Rush County and was smiling while saying "When my dad (Bob Davis) started this years ago, it was a one tow truck operation. Over the years, we have grown successfully due to our great employees. We couldn't have done any of this without them." Going from a 1 wrecker and 1 employee operation, to now 23 trucks and 50 employees, somehow, they continue to grow. Their fleet of equipment ranges from a 60-ton Rotator to a 16-ton medium duty wrecker. They have several rollbacks, Landoll trailers and semis. They have transported, towed, and hauled just about everything, including a 300-foot-long covered bridge that was destroyed during a tornado in

2008, up-righting loaded tractors and trailers, extracting submerged excavators, cars and boats, hauled airplanes and helicopters, and even derailed trains.

Davis' has always been involved in pulling many kinds of vehicles out of the water, from air crafts to boats. For the last 8 years they have been recovering sunken boats from nearby lakes and reservoirs. There was no great boat for this job, so Bruce saw a need to build one. In January of 2015 he started building a boat from complete scratch, specific to their needs. This new boat has a derrick, ballast tanks, air bags, a generator, portable welder, and all the equipment needed to do the work. After a long two years of working on it, the boat and trailer, now called the Floatator, is dedicated to the memory of Glenn Reynolds. Glenn was very instrumental in getting them started in boat recovery. In fact, his house boat was the first sunken boat that Davis Towing worked on and successfully recovered from Brookville lake. The Floatator was revealed to the public on July 4, 2017. This boat with its 4-ton rotating crane and water bags, is capable of floating 40,000 pounds. Not only is the boat equipped with towing equipment, but also Scuba gear to assist the eight certified scuba divers on staff and available 24/7. They have completed several jobs of sunken boats, dock repairs, and installs. They will go anywhere you need them to go, not just central Indiana. They will be happy to travel to any surrounding states for boat and dock services. You can reach them 24/7 at (765) 932-3884 or 1-800-722-0008.

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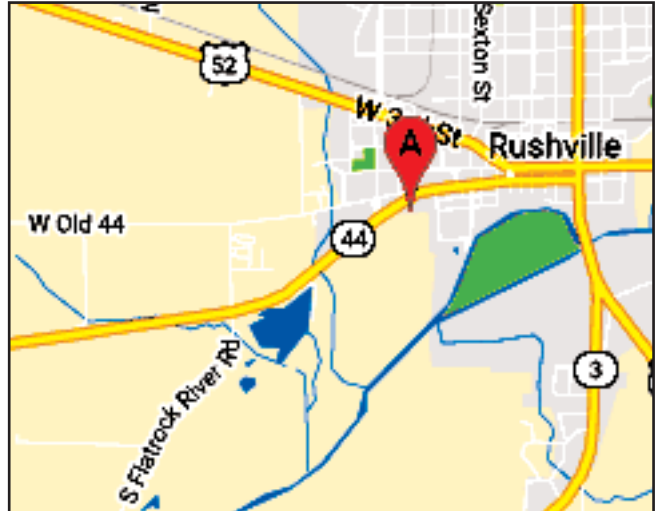
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Above Photos: Davis Towing & Recovery specializes in heavy duty lifting and transport. They have performed complex recovery operations as pictured above including lifting railroad equipment to clear roadways, removing fallen trees from homes, righting overturned semi-trailers, removing submerged equipment, aircraft, watercraft, vehicles and trucks from ponds, lakes and rivers. (Davis Towing and Recovery Photos)



Davis Floatator in action helping this boater on Brookville Lake. (Davis Towing & Recovery Photo)

Davis Recovery crew righting an overturned semi-trailer. (Davis Towing & Recovery Photo)

Davis Towing and Recovery location map. Just west of Rushville on SR 44 (See Red Balloon).

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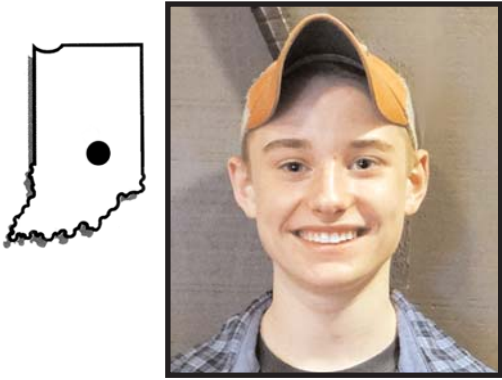


The Black Drum caught by my grandfather, Clyde House. (Author Photo)



Clyde, me, and Bob, with our booty from a day at sea. (Author Photo)

Adventures in Indiana



With Cole King

A Different Kind of Fishing


Hello once again, folks, and welcome to my article in the May 2018 issue of The Gad-A-Bout. In case you have forgotten, this will mark two years since my first article. Crazy to think about, right? It seems like just yesterday I was nervously thumbing through my thesaurus, and slowly tapping away at my keyboard. As I look back on my time writing in this paper, I realize now that I may have mis-titled my column. Because once again, "Adventures in Indiana" will be straying far beyond the borders of the Hoosier State. It's no surprise that I'm the youngest person currently appearing in The Gad-a-bout. This means I still deal with the many aspects of high school; including getting a spring break. My break consisted of a trip to the Gulf Coast in Alabama, and starting my new part-time job at the Anderson Tractor Supply. But unlike the other spring breakers in "LA" (Lower Alabama), I didn't spend my time partying on the beach. So, what else is there to do down there in the Gulf? If you're curious, keep reading!

The reason for my trip was to visit my maternal grandparents, (Clyde and Carla House,) who drove their motorhome down to Alabama for the winter. While I was home, stuck in the snow and ice, my

grandpa was sending me pictures of the exotic fish he was catching with seemingly little effort. I had to see what all of the fuss was about, so on March 15th, I flew out of Indy, headed for Mobile. I was of course picked up at the airport by my grandparents, and filled in on their action-packed plan for my trip. I must admit that I was a bit reluctant at first. After all, I was on vacation, and didn't want to be stressed with a busy schedule. However, my time in Alabama ended up being well spent. I loved it so much, I'm writing an article about it! The more notable events included a "Duck boat" tour of Mobile, a visit to the USS Alabama, and getting some great photos of birds on the beach. (I never realized how much I love pelicans!) Even though I could talk all day about these things, I want to dedicate the majority of this article to the best part of my trip, fishing.

On Saturday morning, we woke up early and headed to the boat ramp on Dauphin Island. There, we met our fishing guide, Chad. My grandpa had commissioned the charter along with his neighbor in the campground, Bob William. We loaded our coolers into the boat, and quickly headed out to sea. Naturally, my heart was racing. But the waters got choppy the further we went into the Gulf, and we had no choice but to head back to shallow waters. Our goal was to jump from oil rig to oil rig, searching for Sheepheads. "Sheepheads" are one of the many species of fish living in the Gulf of Mexico. The name is earned by their peculiar-looking mouths, which look like the teeth of a sheep. (Personally, I think the teeth look more human.) These fish have grown the teeth to chew barnacles off of the debris in the ocean. That's why the fish flock to the oil rigs, as the barnacles are prevalent on the poles used to support the equipment. I'm not ashamed to say this type of fishing was a challenge for me. I've grown used to throwing casts under logs and brush, but that skill is not appreciated in this instance. The boat is tied close to the rigs, and the lines are dropped right next to the vessel. The bait of choice was shrimp, and I was instructed to let the crustacean hover directly above the bottom, about 14 feet deep. I struggled

taking the advice of our guide, as it went against all of my natural instincts. He had told me to slowly raise and lower the pole, to check and see if a fish is on the line. I had a hard time keeping this slow pace, as my body wanted to bob the pole and imitate the movement of the shrimp. Chad nicely reminded me we were not trying to trick the fish into biting, the raising of the pole was only to check the activity on the line.



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The interesting teeth inside the mouth of a Sheephead. (Author Photo)



Our guide Chad, cleaning the Sheephead fish with a sawzall. (Author Photo)

Little progress was made at the first few rigs. No sheepheads were found, and the only catch was a spontaneous bite by a 30lb. black drum. Although it was an exciting fight for my grandpa, it was a random occurrence, and would not happen again. So we headed to the long bridge connecting Dauphin Island to the mainland, and tried our luck under it. We were all disappointed to find the waters were quite inactive. Discouraged by the little success we were having, Chad called his friend, a fellow fishing guide who was also out chasing sheepheads. We received word that the fish were biting at a distance marker, and that there was room for a second boat. We did not delay in reeling in our shrimp, and we took off to find the particular point.

In the first few minutes of us sitting below the tower, my grandpa hooked a sheephead. His goal was to take me fishing, so he handed the pole to me. As many people fishing in Indiana have learned, the first step after feeling a bite is to set the hook. I jerked up on my pole, and my heart sank as I watched the hook fly out of the water. Chad began to laugh, and said, "That won't work here, Bill Dance!"

Apparently the sheepheads will sit on the bottom and suck on the shrimp before biting, so my sudden movements will just yank the hook out of their teeth. Luckily I hooked a sheephead in the next few minutes, and followed Chad's guidance. Without setting the hook, I kept tension on the line, and reeled in swiftly. Although it was hard to tell the fish had even taken the bait, once it was hooked, it fought harder than any trout, bass, or crappie I've experienced. I pulled the pole into my belt buckle, and fought to keep my rod tip out of the water. Every muscle in my body was fighting this monster, and it seemed impossible to get leverage on the pole. When I finally got him to the surface, Chad yelled not to get him out of the water. The experienced guide shoved his net in the water, and a silly grin spread across my face. The sheephead was colossal, especially compared to my usual fish of choice, bluegill. Its black stripes glistened in the sun, and I felt a wave of pride wash over me. It is moments like these that reassure my decision to never run track or play baseball, because these fish are better than any shiny

trophy I could ever win. When the fish was out of the net and in the bottom of the boat, Chad urged me to stay away. These fish have sharp spikes, which could easily stab through a shoe and pierce the skin. I would have to wait until the fish died to hold it.

By the end of the day, 11 fish were caught, the black drum being the only one thrown out. Even though Grandpa only caught two of the sheepheads, he got some bragging rights by catching the first fish of the day, and his three fish were the largest of the ones caught. I caught three, but Bob got the quantity award with five sheepheads. (What a show off!) When we got back to land, we loaded in our vehicles and returned to the campground. At the fish cleaning station, Chad taught us how to harvest the large fillets. The process is similar to filleting a bluegill, but on a bigger level. For example, we use an electric knife to clean our panfish here at home. However, Chad supersized this method, and uses a sawzall with a knife blade to slice through the hard scales. Certainly a sight to see! Chad would carve out each slab, Bob would remove the scales and ribs, and I ended the process by completing any extra deboning and removing pieces of spine in the meat. The results resembled steak more than a fish filet, as the thickness of a single filet was nearly an inch. Once the fillets were rinsed and bagged, we said our good-byes. But before leaving, Chad shared an offer with me. If I spent both weeks of my next spring break in Alabama, I could work on his boat as a deckhand, and keep any tips he made. Needless to say, I pounced on the opportunity! My plan for next spring break now revolves around this "job," so I will drive instead of fly, and most likely reserve a hotel room rather than stay with my grandparents. I feel extremely blessed to say I will get a chance to work for a fishing guide in the Gulf of Mexico! Although I'm not a huge fan of the beach, I can't wait to go back to Alabama next year.

To close my article, I want to remind readers that I am still working on my 14' crappie boat. My next article (which will appear in the July issue,) will be a report on our annual "Fish Camp," and will include pictures of my new boat. I'm excited to reveal the transformation that's taken place! ■

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LEFT PHOTO: A really nice yellow bass I caught on Reelfoot. I found their fins are like razors. It took 20 minutes to get my fingers to stop bleeding. CENTER PHOTO: Bill Blakley with two nice crappie taken while guiding us on Reelfoot. RIGHT PHOTO: Blue Bank boats in a sheltered area to avoid the high waves. (Author Photos)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Searching for Large Crappie on Reelfoot

The ground was rolling like the waves on the ocean. Cracks in the earth were spewing sand and water into the air. The shaking was so violent people and animals couldn't stand. This was mid-December, 1811. The place was in the far west of Tennessee and eastern Missouri, along the Mississippi River. One of the largest earthquakes ever felt in North America was occurring.

The ground continued to shake for many days and nights. Two more massive quakes hit with thousands of aftershocks over the next several months. If they were able to be measured 200 years ago, these three events would each score over 8.0 on the Richter scale. Lakes and swamps rose as much as 20 feet creating dry ground, while higher ground dropped forming other lakes and swamps. The Mississippi flowed into these new lowlands flooding forests of tupelo and cypress trees. The eighteen thousand acre Reelfoot Lake was created.

Susie and I decided to try our luck catching some of the huge crappie which swam in this "earthquake" lake. This would not be our first time fishing Reelfoot. Actually, we had probably visited this area a half dozen times in the past. Once was for a deer hunt, the rest for crappie, bluegill, catfish, and bass. My next visit might be for their outstanding duck hunting.

While we were at the Renfro Boat, Sport, and Travel Show back in February, we stopped and talked to Billy Blakley at the Blue Bank Resort booth. This is the place we always book with when going to Reelfoot Lake. I told Billy we wanted to

catch some of the big crappie which are common in late winter there. We got our calendars out, matched them with his, and found a date which worked for both of us. Mid-March was our choice. Being 400 miles south of us and almost halfway to Florida, we figured the weather would be much nicer than what we were having in Indiana. Boy, were we wrong!

As we were driving through central Kentucky, Susie's phone beeped at her. It was a winter weather advisory. The area we were passing through was supposed to receive five to seven inches of snow that night. Evansville would get two inches. Blue Bank Resort was not supposed to receive any snow, but lows would be in the upper twenties and highs in the forties for the next three days. Winds steady at 15 MPH. Not the best fishing weather!

We arrived and checked into Blue Bank, got our room key, and carried our bags to the room. We were located on the second floor overlooking the lake. A dozen or so mallards swam and quacked below us. Large whitecaps covered the lake. Cold water broke over the shoreline and docks. We weren't planning on fishing from the bank that night, so we headed downstairs to the restaurant for an early dinner.

The Fishhouse Restaurant & Grill is on the main floor of the resort. The dining tables overlook the lake or in nice weather, tables are outdoors if you desire your meal on the deck. A large selection of steaks, pork, fish, seafood, chicken, burgers, salads, and appetizers make it hard to pick from their menu. One night while we were there, they offered a buffet meal including a variety of smoked meats, catfish, several sides, and an outstanding gumbo.

We had booked for two days fishing. We both had appointments at home upcoming and couldn't stay longer. The first morning, the lake was too rough to fish. We decided to do some local touristy stuff. Fortunately, the Reelfoot area has a lot of great attractions. You can visit the Full Throttle Sloopshine distillery or the White Squirrel Winery if your tastes are inclined that direction. The kids (and adults) will enjoy the Tennessee Safari Park with over 1,000 animals and a drive through safari. The Grizzly Jig store carries everything you need for your crappie fishing at Reelfoot or Cypress Creek Outdoors carries a wide variety of outdoor products.

We wanted to visit the new Discovery Park, less than 30 minutes from the Resort. This attraction offers an 1800's settlement, a train station with locomotive and cars, dinosaurs and fossils, Native

American artifacts, old time automobiles, and much more. It even has a theater simulation of the 1811-1812 earthquakes which made this area unique. Unfortunately, this attraction is closed on Monday. So instead, we drove to another must stop place just down the street.

Dixie Gun Works is well known to anyone interested in muzzleloading and black powder firearms. This location is half retail store and half museum. If you are interested in old originals or new replicas, kits or parts, check out this store. We were really interested in their cannons and Gatling guns. Go online and order one of their huge catalogs.

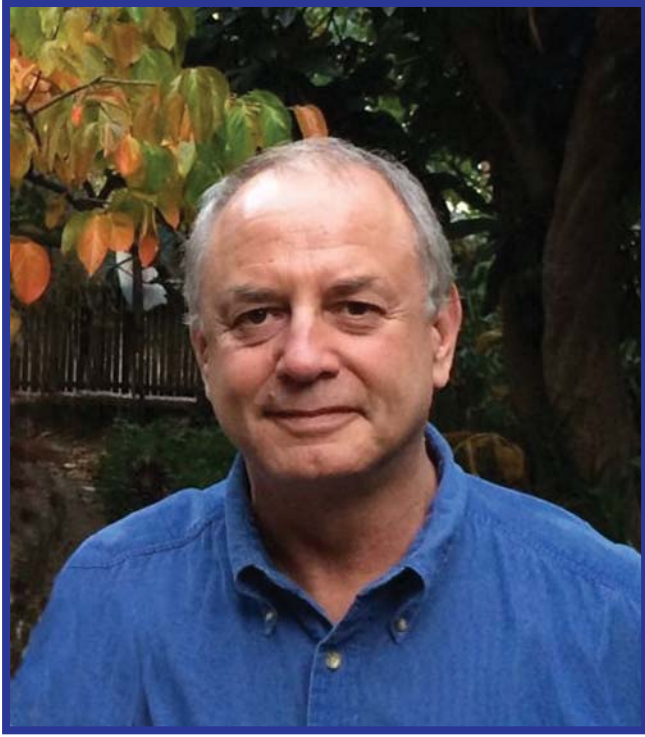
The next morning, the wind had eased somewhat, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**

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ALLEN EMERSONN

Weather Change Explained by Allen Emersonn

While carbon dioxide (CO2) may be contributing to climate change, it's not the only factor that needs to be considered at the current time or as we look into the future. The Sun itself has cycles that can affect us here on earth. One such cycle is the sunspot cycle.

The sunspot cycle is a count of the number of smallish dark spots that move across the face of the Sun. It repeats about every 11 years. With each passing cycle, the number and location of the spots change in a regular manner. The spots increase and decrease in number while moving across the Sun in two bands. These two bands move very slowly, one from the top of the Sun's disk and the other band from the bottom of the Sun's disk, to the center and back to the extremes again in lock step over the 11 year cycle. There is an even longer cycle of the sunspots.

About every 206 years the number of spots in each cycle gradually declines to a very low point. The last time this happened was just about 200 years



The Planet Earth (Photo Courtesy of NASA)

ago back in around 1810. So, we are again entering another such period of very low sunspot numbers called a "Grand Solar Minimum". GSM for short.

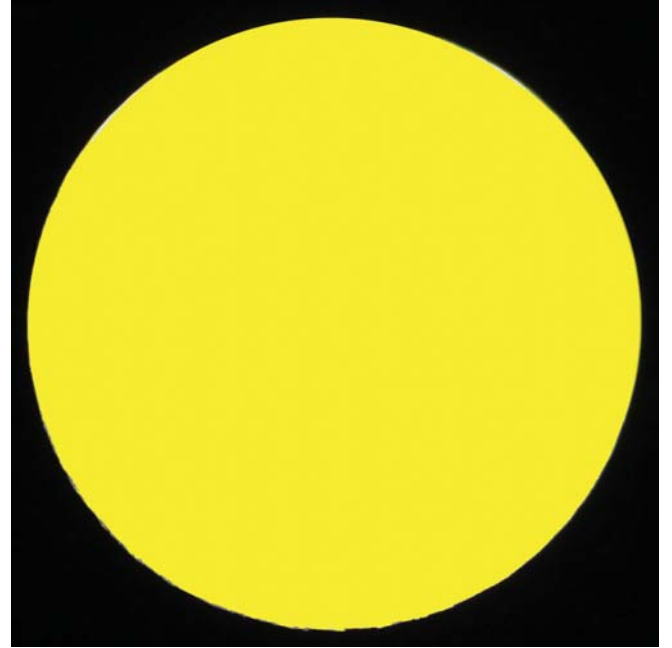
These GSM's are given names by scientists. The last minimum was called the Dalton Minimum (1793-1830). Going backwards in time these minimums were called Maunder, Sporer, Wolf, and Oort. By studying things like 10,000 year old tree rings from California and ice cores drilled from glaciers and pack ice in places like Tibet, Greenland and the Antarctic, scientists have been able to pool and match up their results to reconstruct our recent past climate.

If we look at this reconstructed data back to about 1100 AD (You can easily look it up on line if you are curious), we can see that these minimums mark some serious changes in our weather. We need to take a closer look at this weather data so as not to be surprised by the changes that will, in all likelihood, begin to occur in the very near future.

These GSM's often last two 11 year sunspot cycles or 22 years. Occasionally they are 3 cycles long and there was at least one in the last 2000 years that was much longer, about 10 cycles long. That one was the Maunder minimum(1615-1730).

We can look at the last minimum, which began with the very early 1800's, for indications of what this next Grand Solar Minimum might look like. We were a new country then, not many records kept, so let's begin with Europe. It was colder. On average it was about 2°F to 4°F colder than it had been in the previous 150 years. That's on average, but at the extremes it was colder yet. It was cloudier and rainier. The growing season was shortened and the fields were often too wet to work even with the horse teams of the period.

Food became more expensive. Some foods became less available or could not be found at all. Grain often molded in the field or could not be dried enough and molded in storage in the months following. Food shortages made the poor more susceptible to illness and death. Some areas of Northern and Eastern Europe suffered from famine to the point that many died. The number may have been in the millions. Europeans all over the far north could not easily feed themselves and some, in desperation, ate their farm animals and their crop seed; in the follow-



A created image of the Sun.

ing year they themselves died. Of the Four Great Famines in China, one of them occurred across several of the years of this Dalton Minimum period.

Napoleons troops, in their invasion of Russia, starved and died in the tens of thousands in the frigid Arctic cold waves that descended on them. The Russian troops that drove Napoleon out and into full retreat back to France, died in the millions from famine and deep cold. George Washington's army also encountered very rough going. In one famous event, he found the Delaware River almost impassable from the choking ice that clogged the river. All over the Northern Hemisphere rivers that rarely froze over were now often frozen solid repeatedly in winter. Several of London's ten coldest recorded winter temperatures occurred then. The Thames River froze over & ice skating was again the craze as it had been 200 years before.

Most of those past problems, should they recur today, could be easily handled. However, there is also a complication present today that was not recorded if it occurred back then. The Earth's magnetic field is now weakening. It has weakened about 15% in the last few years. The result of this is that more cosmic rays (charged particles from outer space) are able to penetrate deeply into our atmosphere. These particles cause an increase in cloudiness. More cloudy days will likely mean more cool and rainy days in our future. Add in the effects of the coming Grand Solar Minimum and we could find some gloomy times ahead. Europe has had the coldest temperatures in 150 years this last winter. Record snow fell in many areas. It snowed in the Sahara desert.

If we see the weather continue to grow more erratic, with sharp hot by followed by stiff cold; with large storms bringing extremely heavy rain and frequent hail; it will now be no surprise. I wouldn't be surprised if we saw occasional very late spring frosts, early fall freezes with occasional overnight winter lows here in Southern Indiana of -20°.

Editor's Note: Allen Emersonn works at Scotts Hardware in Scottsburg, Indiana. When I was there last month Allen had some interesting views about our weather. I asked him if he would send me an article on the subject. ■

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Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

National Convention Season

Trapping season and Hunting season are done for the year. I am hearing about a lot of coyote / dog interactions resulting in the dogs making trips to emergency clinics. I tell these people the seasons may be closed, but that coyotes are fair game all year long, as is any wildlife that is doing damage to your property. Staying in touch with your IDNR officer through the County Sheriff's office is a good way to be sure that you are legal. Remember, you can never discharge a weapon within city limits unless it is in self defense, and police officers figure that you can outrun a raccoon and do not have to defend yourself with a firearm.

This time of year, National Conventions loom on the horizon. The best advertised are the National Trappers Association and the Fur Takers of America. There are several regional conventions and early Rendezvous', you just have to look a little harder to find them. Good sources are generally the Fur-Fish-Game Magazine, Trapper's Post, Trapper and Predator Caller, the Fur Takers Magazine, the National Trapper Magazine, Trapperman.com/calendar, and the indianatrappers.org or the Indiana Trapper Newsletter. A few of these you need to be a member to receive the magazine. But if you are a trapper, you need to be a member of as many of these organizations that you can be.

For Trapper Education classes that are coming up in Indiana, see www.PassItOnIndiana.com. This site will redirect you to the IDNR website that lists all sorts of events that they have planned. On the bottom right, you will find a listing for Trapper Education Classes. You just click on it and get registered. Be sure to mark it in your calendar and make your plans to attend. Lunches and materials are planned around how many register,

so if you register and do not show up, money is wasted preparing for you. Of course, if you try to sign up at the Event, you may not have a lunch available if everyone else who pre-registered, shows up. Be true to your word, please.

Coming **June 28 – 30, 2018** is the 50th Anniversary Rendezvous of the Fur Takers of America. (See www.furtakersofamerica.com/convention.html for the official website.) This Rendezvous will be held at the Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, 513 E. 17th St., Marshfield, WI 54449. The official website lists Hotels, Attractions, Restaurants, and an Itinerary of Demonstrations to happen. This Convention / Rendezvous has been held in Marshfield before, and I am told it was a very good time the first time around. It should be great this time around.

On **July 26 – 28, 2018**, the National Trappers Association will be holding its 59th Annual Convention and Rendezvous (www.nationaltrappers.com/convention.html for the official website.) It will be at the Upper Peninsula (Michigan) State Fairgrounds, 2401 12th Ave., North, Escanaba, MI 49829. Again, visit the website to get more information and details of the event. Their Convention planner ALWAYS does a fantastic job, and their evening auction is usually full of deals. I once bought a handful of snares, I am sorry, cable restraints, I mean several dozen, for under \$10. I have used them for demos at trapper education classes and passed them out for trappers to use as a template for their own cable restraint building efforts.

For Events that the Indiana State Trappers Association will be holding throughout the year, please visit www.indianatrappers.org, frequently, as new events get added quite regularly.

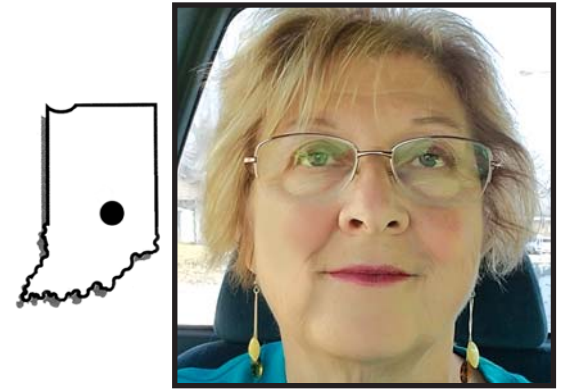
This year's 57th Indiana State Trappers Association's Annual Convention and Rendezvous will be back in Tipton, IN on **Sept. 14th & 15th, 2018** at the Tipton County 4-H Fairgrounds. Be sure to mark it on your Calendar, and check the website, or call and Officer, for when other dates have events.

If you are in need of selling or buying any sort of trapping equipment, these are the best places to find quality goods and marked down prices. The traps may even be experienced and know what to do if you just give them that chance that they need, and want. See you there.

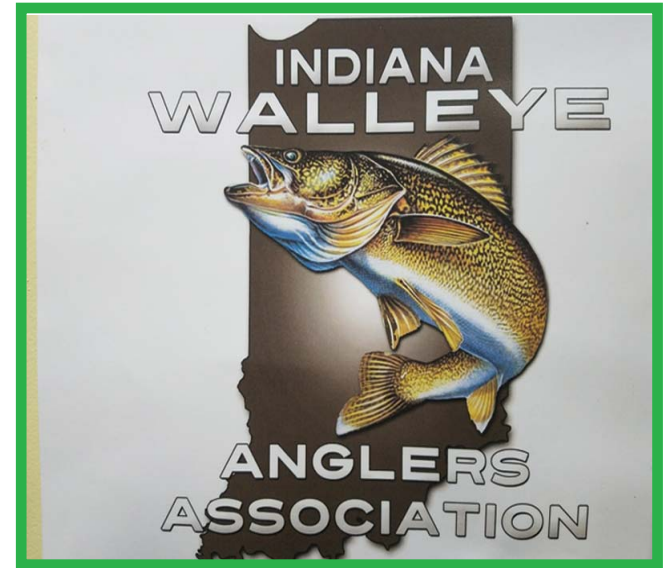
Watch your top knot. Keep your eyes along the skyline.

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM

Outdoor Scenes & Verse



by Anita McFalls



Indiana Walleye Anglers Association Logo.

Mike Parks, Walleye Fisherman

It's April 1st and spawn time for the walleye here at Summit Lake! Even though the wind was gusting at 45 mph, there was a full moon last night, the boaters were out looking for that evening bite.

I spoke to Mike Parks, an avid walleye fisherman of 20 years, competitor, and Series Director of the Indiana Walleye Anglers Association (IWAA). Though it's in its infant stages, the club is growing by leaps and bounds. Mike said things really took off last year, and they are looking for their memberships to increase exponentially this year.

There are two types of memberships, with the basic costing \$25.00 and the Federation being an additional \$65.00. Competitions are fished in two person teams, with a cost of \$80.00 per boat. Subtracted from that fee, is \$10.00 towards the biggest fish pot, and \$10.00 to Angler of the year. Members vote on the lakes they want to fish within the state of Indiana, and decided that this year the limit will be six fish, with the 5 biggest weighed in, and the sixth can be kept to eat. All fish must be live when weighed in, and will be released afterwards.

Membership information is available at their website listed at the end of this article.

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Mike is proud that this is a family oriented club. Most of them camp out together at the tournaments, and it is indeed a family affair. There are man/wife teams, father/son teams, and buddy teams. Three out of 4 of the tournaments last year were won by father/son teams, with the boys ages from 14-16 years old. There is no required skill level. The goal of this club is to have fun, better themselves through competition, learn about conservation, and what makes a lake healthy.

This year's competition begins at Prairie Creek Reservoir on April 22nd. The following three will be May 6th at Summit Lake State Park, Brookville Lake on June 3rd, and then finishing up back at Prairie Creek on July 15th. The IWAA championship will be held at Brookville Lake on September 22nd, and 23rd.

All of the information and more specific details are on their website Indianawalleyeanglers.com. Mike can be reached at 317-681-3858 and the address and contact information is listed on their website.

Love to have a good time; Love to walleye fish and Love the challenge of competition. Then join the Indiana Walleye Anglers Association and experience it all!

Gittin Jiggy With It Bait and Tackle, LLC is proud to promote this club. ■

Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

Replacement Parts Are Groovy and Hip

We've all faced those times when the firing pin breaks or the reel jams up and has to be replaced. The prop on the boat shears a pin and the family car starts upchucking oil all over the garage floor. In other words, anything with more than one moving part will eventually wear something out that must be replaced. After all, nothing but your annual IRS form is perpetual. Unfortunately, this also holds true for our own bodies. Fortunately, modern science and medicine has devised ways to jerk the faulty spark plugs, crankshafts and firing pins and replace them with sparkling new ones.

Around six years ago I began experiencing discomfort in my left hip joint. Nothing serious, but I thought I might have to re-consider my ambitions to play professional baseball. With an MRI and x-ray on discs, I visited an orthopedics specialist. He reviewed them then asked me, "Now, when does it hurt?" As solemnly as I could I answered, "It bothers me the most when my parachute opens and after about 150 miles on the bicycle." He looked at me as though something alien had just appeared on this planet. Not until I explained that I was joking did he crack a weak smile.

He pushed and tugged and asked if that hurt, to which I replied that it was just a little uncomfortable. He replied that it was nothing serious, just some arthritis around the joint, but not so much that any action was necessary at that time. But, he told me, I would eventually know when it would require some attention.

Five and one-half years passed with only occasional bouts of walking like Grandpa McCoy while I tried to convince myself that all I had to do to avoid problems was to live the life of a lumberjack, although sometimes it was difficult to belly up to the bar and order a Krakatoa Volcano with olives through gritted teeth. Finally, three months ago, it appeared that the lumberjack had met its match and an appointment was made to start the procedure. Apparently, the orthopedics people must be busy because they scheduled me for the first appointment in late March. Encouraged about the lack of need to plunge into the situation, we went ahead with our annual plans to winter in Florida. However, a couple of weeks into our stay it became necessary to take drastic actions. I called the offices in Indianapolis and told them I had taken a job as a deck hand on a fishing boat and the discomfort was threatening my position and that I needed the money to pay our apartment rental. Besides, I was trying to bass fish in Stewart lake through gritted teeth. Could they move me up on their schedule?

Obliging, they re-scheduled me for the first of February for the preliminary review and we packed up and came home. At the clinic, x-rays showed the left hip joint looking like an explosion in a garbage dump. Three weeks later I sat in the preparation room dressed in the latest in hospital fashion; a striking blue, loose fitting gown, open in the back to admit breezes and snickers from the staff, and a pair of skid proof socks two sizes too big. In the pre-op room, the nurse told me to sit on the edge of the table, lean toward her while an anesthesiologist administered something to make me take a trip and never leave the farm. The next thing you know you're snuggled in a warm bed with your own personal nurse with no memory of where you've been for the past three hours. Almost immediately, they have out of bed on a walker moving down a hallway with your bare bum bouncing with surprisingly no pain. After a pleasant overnight stay, they wheeled me to the entrance for the trip home. Just that simple.

Two weeks have passed and the recovery is remarkable. The first week and a-half was spent roaming around the house behind a walker and then to a cane, which I found was only necessary to assure balance to avoid a fall. I'm now off the cane and getting pretty good at driving my wife nuts. But I must admit that if anyone must get this procedure, only the real lucky ones have a wife/caretaker who is a registered nurse. She is well versed on letting her patients know when they have stepped across the line and can expect to hear the crack of the whip when required. Just kidding. I couldn't have a better caretaker.

I have only one minor complaint. In the preliminary discussion with the doctor I asked if he had hips in a designer series, perhaps with various designs or shapes that I could choose from. He smiled and brought out a picture of the ball that would be the replacement. The ball (titanium, I think), was coated with a tough, high wear resistant material. It was pink. He asked me if that would be appropriate. I wanted blue but it wasn't available in that color. ■

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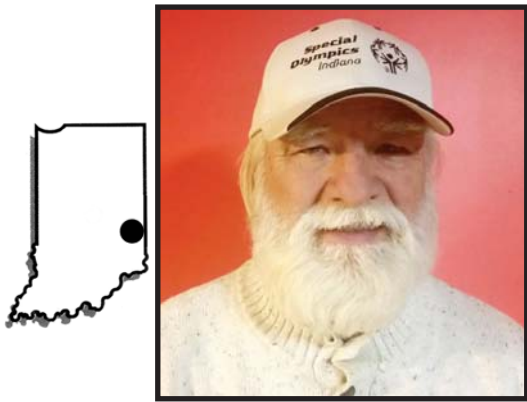
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Outdoors With Lonnie



by Lonnie Snow

Special Olympic Fans

We had a great Liberty Polar Plunge on February 24th at Whitewater Memorial State Park. We had over 80 plungers and raised over \$15,000 for Special Olympics. The After Bash Splash held at Frames Outdoors had a good turnout with plenty of items to bid on during the Silent Auction.

We owe a great deal to our local community partners who helped promote and take part in this event. Thank all of you who gave us use of your facilities, time, and donations to support Special Olympics athletes across Indiana.

Special thanks to Union County Schools Superintendent, Christopher Winchell, and Athletic Director Ryan Overholt, for getting a team together to take the plunge along with several high school students from the Union County Unified Sports Club. We also had a young man, Michael Browning, from Union County Life Skills Class participate in the plunge. We are looking forward to having a 2019 Plunge.

As the County Coordinator I was blessed to raise over \$4,000 dollars in Wayne and Union Counties and was invited to take a second plunge at Eagle Creek in Indianapolis. I now hold the title of Super Plunger. I joined 15 other plungers for this title and together we raised over \$100,000 dollars for Special Olympics. I also had the pleasure of meeting Miss Indiana, Darrian Arch. This was a great event with over 350 plungers joining us.

Basketball:

Our State Final Games were canceled due to weather.

Our men's team, the Dragons, won their Sectionals and would have gone on to state finals.

The men's basketball team, the Hurrying Hoosiers, won their Sectional and would have gone on to state finals.

Individual Skills athlete, Jacob Miller, would have gone on to state finals.

Our men's team, the Hustling Hoosiers, placed second at Sectionals.

Our girls' team, the Believers, won their State Final.

Our men's basketball team, the Pacers, and our girls' basketball team, the Angels, did not place



As the County Coordinator I was blessed to raise over \$4,000 dollars in Wayne and Union Counties and was invited to take a second plunge at Eagle Creek in Indianapolis. I now hold the title of Super Plunger. I joined 15 other plungers for this title and together we raised over \$100,000 dollars for Special Olympics. I also had the pleasure of meeting Miss Indiana, Darrian Arch. This was a great event with over 350 plungers joining us. (Author Photo)



The Union County Unified Sports Club students assist their fellow student Michael Browning during the Liberty Polar Plunge. (Author Photo)

but did an outstanding job on the court and displayed great sportsmanship.

Congratulations to all our athletes

Track & Field

Track and Field Practice started at the Richmond High School indoor track. Their practice will be moved to the Earlham College track as soon as the weather warms up.

Our Area 9 Track Meet will be held at the Union County High School Outdoor track on May 12th, 2018. Competition begins at 1:00 pm. Opening ceremonies start at 12:30 pm. The public is invited to come and watch this event. There will be approximately 150 athletes competing from

several counties. A food concession stand will be open and operated by the Union County School Boosters Association.

Parents:

I want to encourage parents that have a special needs child to call me and see what we can do to get your child involved in Special Olympics. There are some great opportunities for youth between ages 8 to 15 years of age. There is a new program to have your child involved in soccer or t-ball in unified sports. We are looking for volunteers to be part of this. There is no cost to you to have your child in Special Olympics.

Lonnie Snow, Wayne/Union County Coordinator Special Olympics Indiana.

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BUY YOUR FIREWOOD BY THE BUNDLE OR BY THE SKID



Union County High School takes the Liberty Polar Plunge to support their fellow students in the LIFE Skills Class. Together they raised over \$1,800 dollars in community support for the plunge. Great job and thank you from Special Olympics Indiana. L/R Chance Baker, Laura Powers, Madeline Power, Nate Webb, Mason Powers (Union County Patriot), Mary Morgan, Micheal Browning, Dan Kelich, Jason Ray, Chris Winchell, Mike Reister, Ryan Overholt, Brian Shipler, Blake Fields, and Rainy Shepler. (Author Photo)

Outdoors with Rich Creason

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

but the middle of the lake was still rough. Fishing was possible on the far bank where it was sheltered by the trees. Billy was our guide for the day, and he took us there and set out nine rods tipped with jigs and minnows. It wasn't long before the fish we were searching for cooperated. Both crappie and yellow bass liked our bait and almost all were very nice size.

After four hours, we had enough fish to load in our cooler. It was starting to get rough again and we were cold. Billy took us back to the dock and found one of the help to clean our fish for us. I measured the two largest crappie, both over 12 inches. The largest yellow bass was 11 inches, which is a huge one.

We had a late lunch and then took a walk through Blue Bank's butterfly garden. This area is planted full of many raised beds of assorted flowers to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. While the flowers weren't blooming yet, we saw pictures of what it looked like last year. There were several thousand monarch butterflies there in a two week period then. They also raise vegetables, herbs, and spices in the garden for use in their restaurant.

Besides fishing, Blue Bank Resort offers hunting, wildlife photography packages, private boat tours, and more. To contact them about your visit, call 877-258-3226 or go to www.bluebankresort.com.

The author may be reached at eye-write4u@aol.com.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Cole's first column was on page 14 in May 2016, he picked the name, "Adventures in Indiana with Cole King." You can see it in my archives on my website www.thegadabout.com. Cole writes every other issue. Due to his busy schedule attending high school and all of his other activities we thought it best for him.

This month he writes about becoming one of my contributors, two years ago this month. His column appears on Page 12 in this issue.



I took this photo of a Huey from Grissom Museum which was at the Veteran Gorge Park a few years ago when we had the Moving Wall here.

HUEY FOR VETERANS GORGE PARK AFTER 10 YEARS OF LOOKING A DECOMMISSIONED UH-1 WAS FOUND

Ron Hill called me and asked if I could help them get the word out to my readers about this important project. He asked me to contact Joe Goebel, but I've been busier than a one-armed paper hanger ever since laying off my help. So I haven't been able to contact anyone.

I got the following message via e-mail from William Engle and I'm going to use it to inform you readers and a couple of contacts in Washington, that could help if they receive their copy of The Gad-about. Never sure if an underling throws my paper away before it's given to who I send it to.

"Hi Ray. Wonder if you could help us get the word out about this. Thanks in advance. Hope you are well.

Wayne County veterans are looking for the com-

munity's help in adding the next feature to the Veterans Memorial Park in Richmond.

After more than 10 years of searching, veterans park committee members have located a decommissioned UH-1 Huey helicopter that they wish to bring to the park in Indiana. But they will need to raise approximately \$50,000 to do so.

Park president Joe Goebel said the Huey, which was located in Florida, will cost about \$40,000 to purchase and another \$10,000 to transport and mount it for display in Veterans Park.

Our vision for growing and improving the park comes from our passionate belief that those who fought for our freedom, many paying the ultimate price, deserve to be honored and remembered, said Goebel, a veterans of the Vietnam War. We are asking for your support to bring the Huey to Richmond to make it a permanent part of our park.

No contribution is too small, he said.

The UH-1, first introduced in Vietnam in 1963, was the most widely used helicopter in the war. More than 5,000 were used from 1963 to 75 as gunships and for medical evacuation, air assault and observation, and for transporting personnel and materials.

Local veterans have been trying to find and purchase a Huey for the park since 2005.

Donations may be sent to the **Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park, P.O. Box 2401, Richmond, IN 47374**. Donations can also be dropped off at **VFW Post 1108, 213 S. Eighth St.**

Checks should be made payable to the **Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park**. For more information contact **Barb Goebel at (765) 967-0330**. The campaign is called **Bring the Bird and a GoFundMe** page has also been established in that name. Veterans park was started in 1991 and features memorials to men and women who served the country in the Civil War, both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, each of the Gulf Wars and to those who served in peace time." William Engle.

My thoughts. This is a good cause for all veterans who served in war time or peace time. I visit the Veterans Gorge Park often, its peaceful there, but a lot of blood was bled by Americans fighting to keep

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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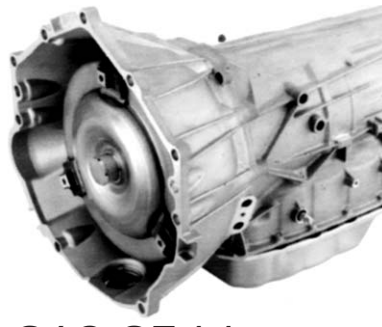
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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

us free from those who would do us harm.

It is a good cause for all who are reading this that are able to move freely in America today!

I'm fearful of a time in the not too distant future that our children's children won't have the freedom we enjoy today. The college generation now seem more intent on destroying everything our fore fathers worked so hard and died trying to give us a life we would enjoy for eternity. But it's not only the college age group, it's also the millions who want to come to this country for the free lunch, who don't seem to know life is not free unless you work for it, learn our language, be educated and work for their dream too.

God Bless America, may she be forever free and help those who think other wise be banished forever away from our borders.

We can do that from within by making sure our Second Amendment rights will forever be ours and we have a standing military ready to pounce on others who think otherwise.

I would like to see an American Flag waving in the breeze at every home in America. So that those visiting America see's that United We Stand and are ready to protect what's ours and have the means to protect it at all costs.

SMOKIN' ON THE WATER BBQ FESTIVAL DUNLAPSVILLE, IN. MAY 4-6, 2018

The Smokin' on the Water BBQ Festival By The Lake will be held on May 4,5,6, 2018. The barbecue contests are open to all who want to participate. Everything you need to know about participating can be found on the Liberty Lions Club website, whether you want to enter barbecue contests, set up a vendor booth, volunteer to help during the festival or just attend as a spectator. Parking is free and there is no admission to attend the event. There is handicapped parking near the front gate.

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

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

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

Good Luck!

FRAMES BASS RODEO BEGINS AGAIN THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN MAY

Frame's Outdoor who has held their Bass Rodeo for quite a long time wants me to convey to my bass fishing audience that it is time to break out the snow shoes, oops wrong note! On May 2, 2018 you are invited to come to Hanna Creek launching ramp on Brookville Lake and fish with a bunch of great guys and gals. Check in and boat check takes place at 5:30 p.m. and be on the lake by 6:30. In case I might be wrong, call ahead 765-4587227 and verify the times. It's 2 a.m. and I'm on deadline to get the May Gad-a-bout sent to printer later today, Sunday. For some reason most of my contacts would rather I not call them at this late or early hour to check my facts.

I might be there too, to take your photo when you weigh in. Depends on how close I am to get the next issue done. But you can take a photo and e-mail it to

me if you are proud of what you caught. Even if you didn't win. I encourage everyone to send me photos for my Gad's Corner page. I caught a rock once and put it in my column. I was proud of that rock, I even got a "Bent Hook Award for it."

Frame's Outdoor is located just south of Liberty, IN at 855 South SR 101. It's about a stones throw north of Whitewater Memorial State Park.

METAMORA PERFORMING ARTS INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE THIS INFORMATION

I requested information from Metamora Performing Arts about how to find information for them. The address for their Metamora Opry Barn is 19189 Pennington Road, Metamora, IN 47030. Their website is

<https://metamorampa.org/canal-town-doings>

Our calendar on our website has our performance and event dates for 2018, and our bluegrass page shows the dates and bands for 2018 and 2019

You can find the calendar here

<https://www.metamorampa.org/mpa-schedule>

and the bluegrass page is here

<https://www.metamorampa.org/bluegrass-nights-at-the-opry-barn>

bands that have a facebook page or website have live links from that list to their information

There will be a benefit one day Bluegrass Festival for the Opry Barn on May 5, 2018.

The upcoming shows page on our website has the shows outside our normal rotation of Bluegrass Nights.

We have two country music shows for 2018 in June and September.

<https://www.metamorampa.org/country-music-at-the-opry-barn>

Our music festival over Labor Day weekend has a page on the website that leads to the site for the festival.

We're still working on the times for the bands, but the general information is there

<https://www.metamorampa.org/music-festival>

The Mandolin Gathering was snowed out in March and has been rescheduled for July, same format, same instructors, same schedule.

<https://www.metamorampa.org/metamora-mandolin-gathering>

Our calendar is also integrated with the general Metamora calendar that is displayed on metamoraindiana.com and the Franklin County tourism calendar, so you should be able to see our events there as well.

Thanks for inquiring, Gail.

STAINED GLASS WORKSHOPS AT SALAMONIE LAKE APRIL 22 AND 29

Create a cardinal or blue jay from stained glass at a Salamonie Lake workshop in April.

The one-day workshop takes place on April 22 and again on April 29. Both sessions run from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Salamonie Interpretive Center.

Artist Katy Gray, a 20-year veteran of stained glass, will lead the workshop.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes all supplies.

Participants should pay by check before the workshop. Make the check payable to UWIS and mail Upper Wabash, Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road., Andrews, IN 46702.

Advance registration is requested by April 17 by calling 260-468-2127.

Salamonie Lake (stateparks.IN.gov/2952.htm) is at 9214 West-Lost Bridge West, Andrews, 46702.

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

NEWS ITEMS FROM THE IDNR TAKE A 'FOREST BATH AT SALAMONIE LAKE, APRIL 28

Relax your body and mind with a "forest bath" at Salamonie Interpretive Center on Saturday, April 28.

Shinrin-yoku, known as "forest bathing," is a Japanese term that means "taking in the forest atmosphere." Forest bathing is said to relax the body and mind and is used in preventive health care.

Certified forest therapy guide Christy Thomson will lead two sessions with an overlapping lunch presentation from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The first session ends with the lunch presentation, and the second session begins with it.

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: First session and lunch.

Noon to 4:30 p.m.: Lunch and second session. A program fee is \$15 per person, per session, or \$25 for two participants, per session.

Register by calling 260-468-2127. Participants must be ages 10 and older. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Salamonie Interpretive Center (stateparks.IN.gov/2952.htm) is at Salamonie Lake, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews, IN 46702.

TAKE A 'FOREST BATH' AT MISSISSINewa LAKE, MAY 5

Same as above except with Mississinewa info.

Register by calling 260-468-2127. Participants must be ages 10 and older. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Mississinewa Lake (stateparks.IN.gov/2955.htm) is at 4673 S. 625E, Peru, 46970.

INDIANA STATE PARKS HANDS OUT ANNUAL AWARDS TO VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR 2017

The DNR Division of State Parks recently honored volunteers and employees for their commitment to conservation in 2017.

Indiana State Parks director Dan Bortner presented the annual awards at the Division Leadership Conference.

Volunteer of the Year Awards went to:

—Jerry Byard for volunteering more than 250 hours in 2017 as a photographer at Mounds and other state parks. Byard's images help promote parks, often through social media and online sharing.

—James and Daphna Bickerstaff for volunteering more than 1,300 combined hours in 2017 at Mississinewa Lake, performing electrical work, repairs, mowing and office duties.

—Jim and Sara Terry, campground hosts and volunteers at Spring Mill State Park, for recruiting more volunteers and helping coordinate the Vintage Camper Rally, Christmas in July, Bicycle Parade and the "Let's Camp America" weekend.

Partnership Awards went to:

—Indiana Kicking Bear, and group coordinator Mike Miller, and Shakamak State Park for hosting an archery camp for at-risk kids for the past 10 years.

—Randy Strebog and Pokagon State Park for sponsoring the annual Sea Plane Splash-In. It brings in 3,000 to 4,000 visitors and two dozen planes. Strebog also inspired the Pokagon Toboggan Speed Challenge and helped bring a triathlon to the park.

Bortner also presented awards to DNR employees.

Steve Lemen earned the Tulip Tree Award, the division's highest annual honor for outstanding

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service. Lemen, Indiana State Parks south region manager, often volunteers for tough assignments, even if they are unlikely to earn notoriety or praise. A 40-year veteran of State Parks, Lemen is known for his deep understanding of preventive maintenance and construction, dependability and willingness to help.

State Parks planner Mike List, maintenance supervisor Jim Portteus, and the division's maintenance crew earned an Innovation & Leadership Award for designing and building a new swimming beach and boat launch at Ouabache State Park on Kunkel Lake.

Hardy Lake earned a Property Achievement Award for significant efficiency improvements in energy and water usage.

The O'Bannon Woods State Park staff earned a Cultural Resources Award for maintaining and interpreting an old farmstead and working hay-press from 1850.

Indiana Dunes State Park staff earned a Natural Resources Award for general excellence in management. Examples included monitoring migratory birds and reducing invasive species.

Tina Colburn, assistant manager at Fort Harrison Inn & Golf Resort, earned the Inn Employee of the Year Award for outstanding customer service, exceeding guest expectations, and a positive and encouraging attitude with staff.

A Special Recognition Award went to staff at Brown County State Park and the Abe Martin Lodge. Their accomplishments included responding to a severe spring storm that downed trees, blocking roads and affecting nearly every trail; and hosting the wedding for the son of Vice President Mike Pence.

A Director's Award went to the DNR Division Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA). The Director's Award is presented to an organization, agency or division that has provided significant assistance to Indiana State Parks. DHPA helps protect archaeological resources and historic structures inside state parks.

For more information, call Ginger Murphy, deputy director, DNR Division of State Parks, at 317-232-4143, or the associated property.

COMPETE IN STATE PARKS SOCIAL MEDIA PHOTO CONTEST

Celebrate spring and show off your photography skills by participating in the Indiana State Parks spring photo contest on social media.

Prizes to be awarded include a \$100 State Park Inns gift card for the highest vote-getter, and a 2018 annual pass, annual lake permit, horse per-

mit or off-road cycling permit for the top 10 runners-up. There will also be a random drawing for winners of 20 one-day passes.

To participate:

Take photos of spring wildflowers, spring scenic beauty or selfies of spring activities in the 32 Indiana State Parks or seven State Park Inns between March 20, the first day of spring, and May 12, the last day of Visit Indiana Week. See a list of eligible locations at StateParks.IN.gov/2392.htm.

Post photos on the Indiana State Parks Facebook page Facebook.com/INdnrstateparksandreservoirs or on Indiana State Parks Twitter feed @INDNRstateparks or the DNR Instagram feed @indianadnr.

Tag photos with #INStateParksSpringPix and include the location and date to help contest coordinators find them. There is no limit on the number of entries per person.

Photos submitted should be natural photos of great spring stuff in Indiana state parks, taken without using filters that enhance or alter colors. Photos will be placed in albums on Facebook for two weeks of voting in late May.

Winners will be based on the number of likes in the albums, and there are no limits on the number of images a person can vote for.

The DNR may use photos entered in the contest on social media or in other locations in the future. Contact Information Call Ginger Murphy

Phone: 317-234-4143

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN WORKSHOP MAY 4-6, 2018

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Danielle Shrake at dshrake@dnr.in.gov

Whether you've never stepped foot in the woods or you're a seasoned outdoor enthusiast, you'll have a wild time at Indiana's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop. The program is designed for women 18-80+ to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. Shoot

clay targets, paddle a canoe, catch a trophy bass, become a campfire gourmet cook, make a fur hat, spot rare wild birds, or learn to track deer...it's up to you. Design your own outdoor experience to match your interests!

INDIANA RESIDENTS FREE FISHING DAYS IN STATE'S PUBLIC WATERS

Current: Free Fishing Days Free Fishing Days Indiana's Four FREE days of fishing are April 21, May 19 and June 2-3, 2018

Indiana residents do not need a fishing license or a trout/salmon stamp to fish the state's public waters on Free Fishing Days. On all other days, only youth (age 17 and younger) and a few other special anglers are exempt from the license requirement. Indiana residents born before 1943 do not have to have a fishing license.

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

Fishing calendar

Public Fishing Events in Indiana

Find a place to fish

•Go FishIN in the City - Indiana's urban fishing program

•Where to Fish interactive map

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•Weekly fishing reports

Buy a Fishing License

If you enjoyed the Free Fishing Days, please consider purchasing a fishing license so you can fish throughout the entire year (license year is April 1 to March 31 of the following year). License sales fund fisheries management, maintain public access sites, and provide free sport fishing educational programs.

Want to host a fishing event? Visit Go FishIN or contact us at gofishin@dnr.in.gov.

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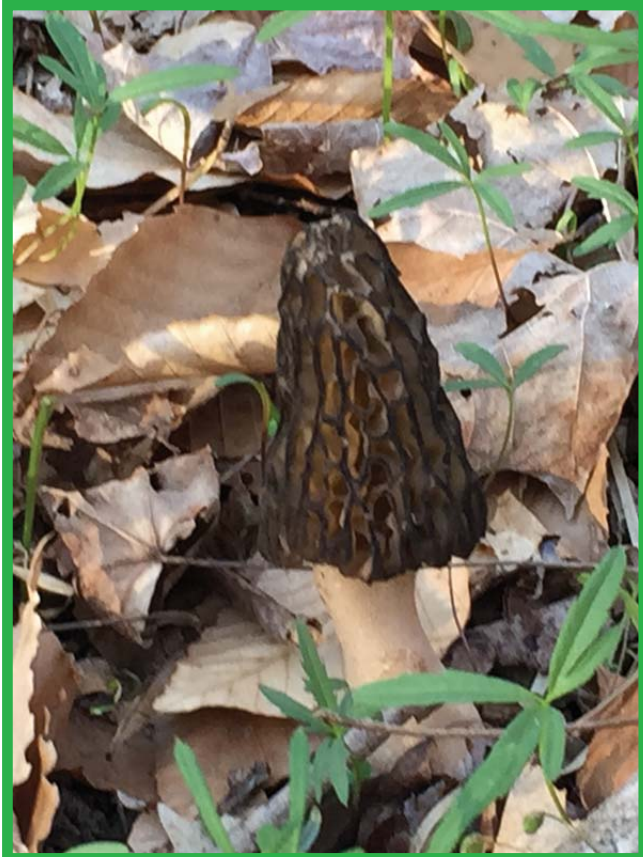
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One of the black morel Dave Wilcox found in April 2017. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Another one of the black morel Dave Wilcox found in April 2017. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Another one of the black morel Dave Wilcox found in April 2017. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Shyann Thomas from Richmond, IN caught these these two 18-19" Walleye in river. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Another one of the black morel Dave Wilcox found in April 2017. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Four 18-19 inch Walleye caught this Spring in Brookville Lake. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)

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Our Gun Shop and expanded AR build center remain open. We are grateful for the generous support of the **NRA** in funding our defense and to you, our loyal customers and friends for your patience and patronage while we diligently work to restore ALL OF OUR RIGHTS. Thank you!



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All items in stock at time of ad. Pricing valid while supplies last. Sorry, no rain checks or special orders. Not responsible for typo errors. Case quantities available on some ammunition.
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Description	Caliber	Sale Price
Woodsman or Timber Ridge	Various	\$899.99
HMR	.308 Win or 6.5 Crd	\$949.99
Premier HMR Pro	.308 Win or 6.5 Crd	\$1649.99



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CCI Blazer Brass	..45 ACP 230 Gr	\$350
CCI Blazer Brass	.40 S&W 165 & 180 Gr	\$320
Federal	AE223, AE223J, .223 55Gr FMJ	\$330
Federal	XM193 5.56 55 Gr FMJ	\$350



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\$10.99

250 rounds of 12 Gauge Estate or

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