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RAY DICKERSON THE GAD-A-BOUT FINALLY GOT ON HIS COVER SEE PG 4



USO INDIANA SPORTING CLAYS TMT OCT. 29, 2020 - SEE PAGE 10-11



WHITETAILS UNLIMITED WEST FORK CHAPTER BANQUET JANUARY 23, 2021 - SEE PAGE 17

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THE GAD-A-BOUT™

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OCTOBER 2020 • Volume XXX • NO. 366

Created in 1990 & Published Monthly
by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson

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

105 East South Street, Centerville, IN 47330

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Ray Dickerson The Gad-a-bout standing next to his Delivery Van that has 390,000 + miles on it. The October issue will be the last one printed in 2020 due to a health issue. The next issue will be printed in early 2021. (Photo by Sherry Dickerson)
Top Right: Momma Wolf Kathy Baudendistel illustrating her affection for one of the 38 wolves she and her husband Terry care for at Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue located south of Brookville, Indiana. It is Kathy's desire and path in life to not only care for and protect the wolves, but also educate each visitor about the good and gentle side of the wolf. She feels that wolves are truly misunderstood. It was in this passion that Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue was established in 2001, by Kathy and her husband, Terry Baudendistel. (Wolf Creek Habitat Photo)
Bottom Left: USO Indiana is hosting a Sporting

Clays Tournament fundraising event on October 29, 2020 at the Indiana Gun Club in Fishers to support Hoosier military men and women and keep them connected to family, home and country through their time of service - no matter where, how long, or under what conditions they serve. This will be an adult outing and participants are required to be 18 years of age or older. See pages 10-11. (USO Indiana Photo)
Bottom Right: Founded in 1982, Whitetails Unlimited is a national nonprofit conservation organization that has remained true to its mission and has made great strides in the field of conservation. We have gained the reputation of being the nation's premier organization dedicating our resources to the betterment of the white-tailed deer and its environment. See Page 17 (Photo by Jesse Barton)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson
The Gad-a-bout

RAY DICKERSON THE GAD-A-BOUT

I began writing stories at Centerville Indiana High School when the English teacher, Mrs. Edna Pickett asked me to do so. Then she had me read them in her class. I didn't know her purpose, but it evidently stuck in my mind as time passed.

After serving 3 years, 11 months and 13 days in the United States Air Force one of the first things I thought about doing was writing a story about a fox prior to leaving Stewart Air Force Base near Newburgh, New York. I never finished the story, completely forgetting about it when I went to work at several businesses in Richmond, Indiana.

It was kind of strange how I began writing a column for the Graphic Press in Richmond, IN.

I was working as a Security Guard in Union City at a factory. I had an urge to write about what I liked doing, hunting and fishing. So I stopped by The Graphic Press asking if I could talk to Victor Jose, the owner and publisher about writing a column in his paper. Victor was very friendly as I sat next to his desk and I explained what I wanted to do was write about the outdoors. He told me to write something and drop it off for him to read. My very first article appeared in the Graphic, July 20, 1972. It was titled, "Why Exhaust Yourself Driving To Recreation?" I appeared in The Graphic from 1972 till about 1995. I published my first publication from 1973 to 1978, It started out as The Whitewater Valley Gad-a-bout finishing as The Outdoor Gad-a-bout. I started the current one, The Gad-a-bout in April 1990.

SALAMONIE, MISSISSINEWA FARMLAND AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Mississinewa and Salamonie lakes have farmland available for rent as part of their habitat management. These limited acres at each property are rented to maintain early successional habitat, and a portion of the crop is left standing to provide supplemental food for wildlife. Multiple units are available on contracts that span the next four years. Some bids are due by Sept. 23.

The tenant must plant crops designated by the property's wildlife biologist and provide the services listed in the lease in addition to the cash bid.

The term for each lease bid shall be for approximately four years beginning Jan. 2021 and ending Dec. 2024.

Salamonie farmland is in Huntington and Wabash counties; Mississinewa farmland is in Wabash and Grant counties. Visit the property

offices for maps and bid information:

Mississinewa Lake
4673 S. 625 E.
Peru, IN 46970
765-473-6528

Salamonie Lake
9214 W. Lost Bridge West Road
Andrews, IN 46702
260-468-2125

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

INTERVIEW OP - AFTER 55 YEARS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS APPROVED FOR GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT TO PRESERVE PARKS AND FORESTS

Dear Ray? Dickerson:

After 55 years, The Great American Outdoors Act is now going to fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and restore our national parks. The LWCF is a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources and our cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans.

Officials from the Appalachian Mountain Club (which has championed for this important piece of legislation for decades) CEO John Judge and Amy Lindholm LWCF Coalition Manager, are available for interviews. Please read the press release below, and let me know if you would like to schedule a Skype interview with John or Amy who can talk about what this means for your state, city or town. Thank you.

Sent by: Ascot Media Group, Inc.
For: Justin Loeber
Mouth : Digital + Public Relations
Work: 212-260-7576 - Cell: 212-673-7298
Email: Justin.loeber@mouthingdigitalpr.com;
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After 55 Years, Billions of Dollars Approved for Great American Outdoors Act to Preserve Parks and Forests

New York City, NY, September 10, 2020 — The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), America's oldest and most vibrant nonprofit recreation and conservation organization, celebrates a landmark victory for everyone who cares about our nation's most iconic landscapes: the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). This legislation ensures full and permanent federal funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a visionary program established to protect our national parks, national forests, state and local parks, trails, and other public lands. The GAOA also includes billions of dollars for the next five years to address years of maintenance backlogs on federal lands.

For the past three years, AMC staffer Amy Lindholm has organized and coordinated a powerful national coalition to advocate for the passing of the Fund, which was recently approved by a large bi-partisan margin in the House and the Senate, and then signed into law by President

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MENDENHALL HARDWARE

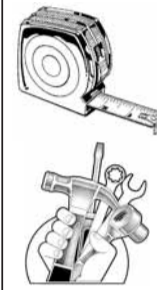
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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
Professional Fishing Guide

October Fishing Brookville Lake

October is one of those months where things will start to change in the lake. This is called a seasonal transition period. As the water temperature starts to cool on the surface it gets heavier. When the surface temperature gets colder than the deep water the surface water will sink through the deep water and reoxygenate it. So now all the fish can go as deep as they want. From this point they are just looking for the right water temperature for their liking. For the last 4 months, the water temperature has been hovering in the low 90's. This can be quite stressful for

some of the fish in the lake. Black bass, catfish, crappie, and bluegill seem to take it in stride, but cold-water fish like walleye and striped bass tend to struggle a bit, but with the water cooling down and fall turn over behind them, these fish get their second wind. What this means to us as fisherman is now their catchable.

The fall bite can be just as good as the spring bite. The water is cool and well oxygenated and full of bait. The only issue now is the fish can be 60 feet deep if they want to be, and at times they will be, plus there's bait everywhere. This is where the hunt begins. Use your depth finder use your fishing pole and use your eyes. Put your fish finder to work. With today's fish finders having side scan and structure scan the process of elimination happens at a glance, you just have to know how to interpret it and trust it. I would say the best help you can find is on you tube or get on a boat with somebody that already knows. I always tell people the fish are going to be deep or shallow. They usually look at me and go really, boy you're a genius. I laugh and say I mean like straight below the boat deep or shallow on the bank in 2 foot of water. With side scan you can just drive along the shore and scan the bank for fish or you can turn on structure scan and find all sorts of fish hold structure on the bottom or turn on the sonar and find fish holding close to the bottom. This all sounds pretty easy right. Well its not. There are still a lot of deciding factors that go into play. I know east wind kills fishing, I know cold fronts in the fall kills fishing, I know when the lake is being drawn down in the fall it pulls fish off the banks, but it doesn't kill fishing, it just puts them in a different spot. But only for short time. See at first the fish think the lake is drying up so they pull out over deep water and suspend. But after about a week of this they get use to it and start to use the falling water to their advantage. Let's face it, it's getting colder every day and the fish know that the very cold weather is on the horizon.

When the fish are deep look for them on deep

humps, at the bottom up drop off ledge or holding around submerged brush. When there shallow, they are usually chasing bait. Look for them on shallow flats or along a shore that the wind is blowing into. If there is a mud line fish along the mud line. Keep in mind that in the fall all the crawl dads, worms and bugs have all went dormant and the predator fish know this, so they won't target them. Your best bet is to stick with bait that looks like fish. A few baits that I like to use are chubs, shiners and bass minnow. To use them shallow just use a small split shot to know weight at all or fish them under a bobber. To fish them deep just use a heavier weight. When using artificial baits shallow you can use crank baits, jerk baits, swim baits, or spinner baits. If your fishing artificial deep use spoons, blade baits or jigging raps. Just keep fishing and let the fish tell you want they want I f you see fish and you're not catching them, change up your technic or your baits.

Good Luck Tag

If you need more info go to my web site www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com or stop in at 52 Pik-up Convenience store just south of Brookville on State Road us 52. We have a full line of live bait, tackle and Fried chicken to go. So, when you ask for chicken liver, be specific. Lol

To schedule trips contacted me at tagnobbe@gmail.com or call my cell 765-265-3238

I guide fish for walleye, and crappie starting in mid-April till the end of December 7 days a week on Brookville lake. We fish out of a 2017 pro V 2075 with a 250 Honda outboard engine. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 - 4 people. The price is according to how many go \$475.00 for 4 people \$425.00 for 3 people \$375.00 for 2 people and \$325.00 for 1 person. We start at 7:30 am and fish till 1:00 pm to schedule trips call my cell 765-265-3238 or tagnobbe@gmail.com.

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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Trump. In her role as LWCF Coalition Manager, Lindholm focused exclusively on raising awareness of the urgent need for this legislation by enlisting grassroots groups of volunteers alongside other conservation groups, local elected officials, recreationists and business leaders to call, write and visit with members of Congress to show the widespread support for LWCF and the GAOA.

Enacted in 1965, the fund was authorized to spend \$900 million annually, though Congress consistently redirected much of its funding elsewhere, leaving only half or less of the authorized funding for the intended conservation projects. Finally, after more than five decades and with AMC's leadership, the Great American Outdoors Act has secured full funding for the LWCF in perpetuity. In addition, this legislation provides \$9.5 billion to help fund the backlog of maintenance projects on federal public lands, including national parks and national forests.

"Now, perhaps more than ever, Americans are showing how essential it is to be able to access public land and water for both physical and mental health," notes John Judge, President and CEO of the Appalachian Mountain Club. "Congress and the President have taken truly historic action to

support our nation's vibrant recreation economy and local communities. AMC has been fortunate to be the lead organizer of the LWCF Coalition for the past three years, and without the engagement of key stakeholders, as well as hundreds of thousands of AMC members and other outdoor enthusiasts, the success of permanently reauthorizing and funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund may not have come to be."

Amy Lindholm adds, "I have been truly honored to work on behalf of AMC in this effort. AMC volunteers led countless trips to places that will be open to the public forever thanks to LWCF, raising the profile of this much-loved but little-known program. Our members have used their voices to speak up, and AMC has mobilized partners across the country to work together in common cause. At a time when the country is divided in many ways, it is incredibly gratifying that this issue brings us together around a shared love of the outdoors and belief in its power to support our communities' health, spirit and economic well-being."

LWCF dollars are used to protect national parks, areas around rivers and lakes, national forests, and national wildlife refuges from development, and to provide matching grants for state and local parks and recreation projects. Thanks to the Great American Outdoors Act, this federal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sergeant John D. Bowling
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

BOWLING 10/42

I was recently talking with my friend Ray Dickerson, and he was telling me the Gadabout was going on hiatus until just after the first of the year. I told Ray I fully understand, as none of us are getting any younger. In fact, with that in mind, I hope to be retired from the Indiana State Police Service by the time he decides if the paper is continuing or not.

You see, 11/24 will mark my 29th anniversary as an Indiana State Trooper. When I started in 1991, I made \$20,500 a year, and the guy training me, who had been on 7 years or so, made \$23,500. Thankfully, our pay has come a long way since then. Up until 2000, we used the same radio in our cars that they used on the show Adam-12, (which aired from 1968-1975.) Thankfully our communications have come a long way since that 1968 "technology," as we went to more modern radios after 9/11.

We started using computers around 2000, and now I couldn't imagine doing my job without one. I never had a course on computers; I just got handed a laptop and told "learn to use it" I remember going from my very first car, an old 1990 Caprice to a 1993 Caprice with fuel injection and anti-lock brakes, and I thought it was the greatest thing in the world.

Yet the 2016 Charger I drive everyday gets 20 MPG and is by far the fastest, best handling car we've ever been issued. In fact, I'd say it's the greatest single piece of equipment I've ever been issued. I've recently been driving one of the guy's

all-wheel drive Chargers while mine is being worked on, and this car is getting 22 MPG while being all wheel drive!

Our sidearms went from the Beretta 9mm to Beretta .40 cal., to a very short stint with the failed Glock .40, then to the Glock 9mm. We had a short one-year stint with the Glock .45 to the sidearm we carry now, the Sig Sauer P227 .45. Of all those, the Glock .45 was the most accurate in my hand; but I would still take my first issued gun, the Beretta 9mm over any handgun I've ever carried. All the guys I know that ever carried that gun all say the same thing, because it was accurate and never failed to fire.

Over the years, I've seen so much tragedy, and like any job, I've had a lot of good memories and some bad. Some of the good memories come from practical jokes we played on one another. The time a coworker was taking out his trash at home before coming to work, and unbeknownst to him, his portable radio fell off his belt into the trash can. We all spent the morning listening to the occasional rumble of the trash truck over our radios, and his morning was spent chasing the truck down and following them to the dump so he could sort through the load to recover his radio.

We always had the unwritten rule, never eat or purchase a pastry while in uniform. One New Year's Day, this same co-worker was drinking coffee early in the morning with myself and another co-worker. He explained how his brother and kids were visiting and he would love to go get donuts for their breakfast, but he was in uniform and couldn't. Suddenly he decided he had to go.

My other co-worker waited on him to leave; then promptly said he was leaving to go get the big guy's picture coming out of the donut shop. I asked him, "How do you know he's going?" He said, "Oh, he's going to go." We knew he wouldn't go right away, knowing we would be trying to catch him.

So, Todd waited about fifteen minutes, did a slow drive by and spotted the other trooper pulling up on a side street to hide his car. Todd got his camera ready and shot the picture as the other trooper was coming out the door with a big box of donuts and a stupid grin on his face-PRICELESS. The same big guy was notorious for sucker-punching co-workers in the arms or legs at inopportune times as a joke.

We co-workers happened to know the big guy was very sensitive to our pepper spray, and more than once we were known to spray a small squirt under his car door handle, or in the vent, to pay him back for a punch he had delivered. He would always call us minutes later, pulled off the side of the road somewhere with eyes and nose running, wanting to

know "where did you put it this time?" Yep, we all worked hard, but we also played hard and had fun. In looking back, I think it helped us deal with all the tragedy.

Speaking of the tragedy, it hasn't gotten any easier to take over the years. I don't care who you are, the tragedy tends to accumulate over time. You simply must be cut from a different mold to do this job any length of time, as it's not for everybody. We've had young guys do this job 3-5 years and decide it just wasn't for them, a decision I fully understand.

But the one thing that has remained constant throughout the years is that I've never dreaded going to work. I've always loved seeing that State Police car parked in my driveway, and so have my neighbors. It's truer now than ever, that this is a "young man's game." While I'm not getting any younger, I'm still able to do the training at the same level I did 10 years ago. But, as Jerry Seinfeld once said, "it's better to go out while you're still on top"- so I am.

No, there won't be any "crying videos" of me on Facebook, going 10/42 (Off Duty) for the final time. For me it's more of a "I'm out, drop the mic" moment. I have a great deal of respect and pride for the uniform that I wear and for the job I've done while wearing it. I've always made a point to treat folks the way I would want to be treated, with dignity and respect, regardless who they were or what they had done.

There is no doubt, looking back at some of the situations I've been put in, that I've truly been watched over. Dear old mom always said she said a prayer every night asking for my safety, and I'm living proof that prayer works. I am truly humbled that I've been able to serve you, the public, these last 29 years, always doing my very best while doing a job I truly love.

To this day the job remains the same, to serve and protect you, the citizens of Indiana. Know that when you go to sleep at night, and when you get up in the morning, the men and women of law enforcement are always out there, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, serving and protecting you and your family.

I would like to thank all the co-workers that have worked beside me over the years and helped to keep me safe. But more importantly, I would like to personally thank all of you for allowing me to work for you these last 29 years. It's truly been an honor. With the holidays just around the corner, I hope that you and your family have a safe Thanksgiving and a safe and Merry Christmas. Please take care of yourselves, and your neighbors. Thanks to you all and God Bless!

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INDIANA VETERAN AND MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION

by Ron Weadick

Suicide is a national public health concern that affects all Americans. The VA believes that everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide. That's why they are working with an extensive network of community partners across the country — including faith communities, employers, schools and health care organizations — to prevent suicide among all Veterans including those who may never come to VA for care.

Their approach involves partnering with communities to put into action tailored, local prevention plans while also using the latest, evidence based clinical strategies to care for Veterans at risk for suicide. They're focused on both what they can do now in the short term and over the long term to implement VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide. The strategy reflects VA's vision and offers guidance for action for preventing Veteran suicide based on the best available data and scientific evidence.

The VA conducts the largest national analysis of Veteran suicide rates each year. Findings are made available to the public. Contact the VA Suicide Prevention Program at VASPDataRequest@va.gov if you are interested in learning more about requesting data access.



Indiana Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Access: Quick Reference

SIGNS of Suicidal Thinking

- ✓ Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- ✓ Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness or mood swings
- ✓ Feeling like there is no reason to live
- ✓ Rage or anger
- ✓ Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- ✓ Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- ✓ Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of any of the following signs requires immediate attention:

- ✓ Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- ✓ Looking for ways to die
- ✓ Talking about death, dying or suicide
- ✓ Self-destructive or risk-taking behavior, especially when it involves alcohol, drugs or weapons

ASK the Question: Are you thinking about killing yourself?

Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help....

Veterans Crisis Line – Connects Veterans in crisis (or family and friends) with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through free confidential support 24/7/365, via phone, chat, or text. Anyone who calls may remain anonymous; however, if the Veteran caller chooses to disclose his or her identifying information and agrees to a referral to connect with the VA Medical Center closest to their home address, the Veterans Crisis Line will contact and send a referral to the Suicide Prevention Coordinator (SPC). After the immediate crisis has been addressed, the SPC will follow up by making an outreach call to the Veteran, ensuring that the Veteran in-need has barrier-free access to mental health services and assisting with accessing resources either within the local VA or in the community.

- Phone Option: 1-800-273-8255 (press 1)
- Chat Option: www.veteranscrisisline.net
- Text Option: 838255

Indiana National Guard Crisis Intervention – The Indiana National Guard (INNG) Crisis Team operates two 24-Hour Crisis Lines for INNG Soldiers; www.in.ng.mil

- INNG Crisis Intervention Team: 317-247-3114
- INNG Behavioral Health Access Line: 317-247-3155

VA Suicide Prevention Programs serving Hoosier Veterans – Comprised of the SPC and team members, Suicide Prevention Teams are equipped to assist with linkage and referrals to address the needs of Veterans in crisis. Suicide Prevention Teams can help coordinate access to VA mental health services. The Suicide Prevention Team serves as the oversight arm of mental health services in tracking, monitoring and case management of Veterans at high risk for suicide, as well as participates in community outreach programs to promote the Veterans Crisis Line and access to mental health care. A vast supply of free Veterans Crisis Line promotional items (wallet cards, magnets, key chains, etc.) are available to the public for distribution in the community, by contacting a Suicide Prevention Coordinator during normal business hours.

- www.veteranscrisisline.net → click on "Resource Locator" → under "Select a Resource," click "Suicide Prevention Coordinators," enter your zip code, and click "Search"

- Indianapolis VA Suicide Prevention Team: 317-988-3213 or 317-988-4327 or 317-988-3365

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

funding will continue to protect cherished places across the United States, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia National Park, Cape Cod National Seashore and the Appalachian Trail, as well as regional sites enjoyed by AMC members in the northeast, such as Sterling Forest State Park

in New York and New Jersey; Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsylvania; Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge, spanning New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut; and AMC's Maine Woods lands, and many more.

To learn more about the Appalachian Mountain Club, please visit: www.outdoors.org.

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Indiana's state tree nursery in Vallonia will pay you to collect certain tree seeds throughout the state if the seeds meet DNR specifications.

Each year the nurseries, part of the DNR Division of Forestry, plant millions of seeds to produce tree and shrub seedlings for conservation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



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After talking briefly with Joe Schirmer about hearing a grinding sound braking while delivering The Gad-a-bout. Joe drove my van into their repair shop. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



Joe Schirmer got right to work and found that both of my front brakes were bad. The noise I heard was the metal on metal contact when I was braking. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

I Had An Amazing Turn of Events On August 27, 2020 Delivering The Last of the September issues

On Thursday August 27th I headed for Brookville, Indiana to finally get the last of my September Gad-a-bout papers delivered after waiting to pick up my delivery van, which had been in for repairs at a couple different auto repair shops. My route that day extended to Greensburg and Shelbyville, then back to Centerville. I would be gone most of the day.

As I was entering Brookville I noticed a grinding sound when I was braking for a stop light.

Not knowing who could help me in Brookville, I

stopped at the Franklin County Convention and Visitors Center to see if my good friend Mikel Beck could help me. She is a great source of information and has helped me many times in the past. I told her my problem and she suggested I stop at Schirmers Automotive Service Center on Murphy Street. She gave me directions, I thanked her and headed for Schirmers Automotive Service Center.

I knew I would have a hard time getting anyone to help me in this predicament, especially since I didn't know anyone at that repair shop. I found Schirmers and parked outside an open door. I walked inside and saw a young man nearby. I told him who I was, that I was delivering The Gad-a-bout and about hearing the grinding noise coming from what I thought was the right rear wheel. I told him about my route and needed to have

someone check my rear brake. I asked him if it was possible to have them look at it for me. In my mind I knew I was asking the impossible, especially as busy as they were. I learned his name was Joe Schirmer and he would check to see what they could do.

Within a short span of time Joe asked for my key and abruptly drove my van into the shop (see photo). He called me over and showed me on the front right brake where metal had been touching metal, that was the grinding sound I heard!

Much to my amazement, within two hours and fifteen minutes Joe had fixed the brakes and I was able to completely finish delivering that day.

For that reason it gives me great pleasure to be able to tell you about my good fortune in finding them and to have Bill Schirmer tell you about their story below. ■

The Story Behind Schirmer's Service Center

by Bill Schirmer

The Schirmer name has always been connected to auto repair and superior service dating back to 1960 when Bill Schirmer's father, Vince, and his two brother's Frank and Joe started their own auto repair shop, Schirmer's Garage, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bill began working there in 1982 while still in high school.

Bill grew up on the west side of Cincinnati, and his parents purchased a weekend getaway farm in Franklin County, Indiana. It was one of those weekends he met the "love of his life", Cassie Smith, and married her in 1986. They moved into the farm here in Franklin County, Indiana.

After commuting back and forth from Schirmer's Garage for over 20 years and raising a family in Franklin County, Indiana, it was clear that Bill wanted a job closer to home. My wife and I discussed starting an auto repair business in Brookville, or possibly purchasing an existing business. In 2005 we purchased Tom's Sales and Service in Brookville, Indiana from Tom Drewes.

Tom's Sales and Service was like having 2 businesses in one shop. They sold and serviced lawn and garden equipment along with automotive service and repair.

Tom and his wife Jo Ann continued to work at the shop. Tom handling the lawn equipment parts and sales, while Joann continued to handle the accounting.

Now fifteen years later, Tom and Jo Ann continue to work part time. When it came to the auto repair side of the business, we were blessed to have Harold Hofer as our mechanic. Harold had worked at Tom's Sale and Service for quite some time.

Harold had a loyal customer base, and a work ethic that reminded me of the characteristics that made Schirmer's Garage in Cincinnati so successful. Honesty, integrity, and a commitment to customer safety.

Two of our three sons, Joe and Josh, started in the business right out of high school. Joe helps manage the auto repair side of the business, while Josh over see's the lawn and garden sales, parts, and repair.

Most importantly is the team of technicians that put the business in play. On the auto repair side, Gary Schnitker has been around cars all his life. Computer



Left to Right: Bill Schirmer, Cassie Schirmer (wife), Joe Schirmer and Josh Schirmer sitting on steps at their business located at 14 Murphy Street in Brookville, IN 47012. (Schirmer's Service Center Photo)

diagnostic skills and a commitment to doing a thorough job are only a few of the characteristics he brings to our team.

Brad Singer came over from the Ford dealership in Brookville when it closed. Brad handles service, maintenance, and drive ability diagnostics.

On the lawn and garden side, Tim Dirkhising handles the service, sharpening, and mower repairs.

Rick Anderson wears a lot of different hats. Stihl power equipment repair, pick up and deliveries, setting up new equipment, and building maintenance are only a few of the roles he plays.

Bill's wife Cassie handles new equipment registrations, parts ordering, and she helps behind the parts counter.

The business has continued to grow at what seems like the speed of light. In 2016 the Schirmer family decided to expand the operation and build a new showroom and repair shop. To achieve the size facility, the Schirmer's were looking for, they would have to expand onto 2 adjoining properties and consume a

portion of the street. The Brookville Town Board reviewed our plans, and the layout, and agreed to vacate a portion of the street to help make our dream a reality.

With the new building, came our opportunity to attach our family name to the business.

Schirmer's Service Center sells name brand lawn and garden equipment. Such as, Cub Cadet, Country Clipper, Toro, and Stihl. Josh said we have seen a steady increase in sales year after year. We pride ourselves on service that follows the sale. Bill is always telling customers, we do not work for Cub Cadet, Country Clipper, or Stihl, we work for you.

As the auto repair business changes, we are committed to the latest training, and the most up to date equipment. From routine service and maintenance, to computer diagnostics and reprogramming control modules.

Joe said we believe we are a head above the dealerships. They generally work on one specific brand, we work on them all. ■



Schirmer's Service Center Staff members from Left to Right: Owner Bill Schirmer, Josh Schirmer (Son), Brad Singer, Gary Schnitker, Tim Dirkhising, Joe Schirmer (Son), Rick Anderson, Jo Ann Drewes and Tom Drewes. Missing from the photo is Cassie Schirmer who was off that day. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Left Photo: Since 1941, USO Indiana has sought to lift the morale of our Hoosier service members and nourish support on the home front. Today we have five USO centers throughout the state and several outreach programs. Center locations are: Camp Atterbury, Indianapolis Airport, Indianapolis MEPS, Camp Muscatatuck and Fort Wayne. Right Photo: USO Indiana supporting our service members as they support our state during Covid-19. (Photos courtesy of USO Indiana)

USO Indiana

by Sarah Huber

USO Indiana is hosting a Sporting Clays Tournament fundraising event on October 29, 2020 at the Indiana Gun Club in Fishers to support Hoosier military men and women and keep them connected to family, home and country through their time of service - no matter where, how long, or under what conditions they serve. This will be an adult outing and participants are required to be 18 years of age or older. Participants may bring their own shotguns (no tactical weapons or barrels less than 26"). The Indiana Gun Club will provide use of shotguns, eye protection, ear protection and shooting and safety instruction by qualified instructors.

USO Indiana is the Force behind the Forces, providing a vital bridge between Americans and their military service members. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, we rely heavily on the generosity of the people, organizations and businesses of our state to help us complete our mission. Thanks to our loyal supporters, USO Indiana is by the side of the brave military service members and their families from the moment they enlist and throughout their service to our nation.

Since 1941, USO Indiana has sought to lift the morale of our Hoosier service members and nourish support on the home front. Today we have five USO centers throughout the state and several outreach programs. Center locations are: Camp Atterbury, Indianapolis Airport, Indianapolis MEPS, Camp Muscatatuck and Fort



Through the Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program, a dad deployed overseas reads his little girl a bedtime story. (Photo courtesy of USO Indiana)

Wayne.

Our Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program, Oxygen Stronger Families Seminars, unit events and care package distribution are just a few of the many ways that we provide quality support to our nation's finest. All services are free of charge to the more than 100,000 current service members and their families that use our centers or participate in our programs every year.

At the Camp Atterbury USO Center, the service members love to stop by as they grab a snack, hot or cold drink, use the free Wi-Fi to connect to their families, play a video game, watch a movie in our movie theater, take a nap in a comfy chair or just unwind. If a service member is flying out

of the Indianapolis airport, our USO Airport Center provides a place to grab that last-minute snack, watch tv or a spot to relax. At all our locations, we strive to provide that "home away from home" for each and every service or family member.

One of our special programs is our Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program (BHLRP). BHLRP provides the service member the opportunity to choose a storybook and be video recorded reading the story for their child. The book and video are then mailed to the child. At one of our Bob Hope Legacy Reading events, a young man chose the book he would read. When asked about his child, his response was "He is due in two weeks".

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His unit was being deployed immediately for 9 months. They were going to a location that would not have Wi-Fi consistently, if ever. His new son would know his daddy's voice and face because of the storybook that the young service member read before he left. These recordings provide the children of our service members the opportunity to connect to their mommy or daddy on demand even when time and distance are an issue.

Unit support is also a critical mission. Many of our National Guard here in Indiana have been mobilized during Covid-19. We continue to support these mobilized men and women by providing snacks and drinks along with the occasional hot lunch to give them a break from their MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) and the knowledge that their work is appreciated.

USO Indiana is proud to continue President Franklin D. Roosevelt's vision that began just prior to the onset of America's involvement in World War II in 1941, when he requested several service associations unite to work together to create one organization to lift the morale of our military and nourish support on the home front. The effort of these entities – the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board – formed the United Service Organizations or, the USO.

If you would like to support this event or learn about other opportunities to support the USO, please visit our website <https://uso.indiana.org/> for additional information. ■

Catching Takes Lots of Practice



by Tyler Frame
Frame's Outdoor

Reservoir Draw Downs

We are getting into fall, the leaves are slowly disappearing, and most reservoirs are in the midst of the annual draw down for winter. Here on Brookville Lake the draw down starts October 15th and will drop on an average of one foot per week. Many anglers fear these conditions, when the water levels are on the fall. Bass adapt to changing water levels repetitively throughout the year, but this time of year they are gorging themselves in anticipation for winter and falling water levels seems to affect the feeding fish very little.

Despite the lake draw down the bass are feeding and readily available for catching. During these conditions we will start by choosing shallow, slow tapering banks with down timber along the shoreline. During the lake draw down the bass



Bowi Frame with an early fall largemouth bass. (Author Photo)

will position out off the bank on the vary ends of the shoreline cover. The ideal spot is a bank transitioning from deep rock to shallow sand with an isolated tree top extending out from the bank. With falling water conditions most of the shoreline cover will be less and less fishable each week as the water continues down. Many anglers believe this makes the fishing tougher but it actually makes catching bass more predictable. If you are a bass angler you know that isolated cover holds the highest probably of catching a bass and each week of the lake draw down there is less cover for fish to hide and ambush food.

This is the time of year when we are fishing our fastest. Bass are scattered from the main lake to the very back of the creeks and speed and efficiency is vital to catching larger numbers of fish. This is the time of year when we put away the jigs and soft plastics and get out the crankbait, spinnerbait and topwater. These bass will still react to a slow presentation but we believe we catch them faster and cover more water with these types of baits. We hear many anglers this time of year make the comment that they were flipping treetops and caught a bass or two in a day's time. They were onto the right pattern but they simply didn't fish enough treetops with this slower presentation. When the water temperature is above 60 degrees we will always start with top water. We love a fast moving white Buzzbait or a large Zara Spook on the ends of the treetops. Another good choice is bumping the wood with a shad pattern square bill crankbait. Next we will roll a double willow leaf spinnerbait through the treetops as well and our goal once we get a bite is to run that lure through every treetop in Brookville Lake as quick and efficient as time will allow. One thing to always remember, if you are not bumping the cover with your lure your missing strikes. Try these tactics on Brookville this fall, you won't be disappointed. ■



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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

LOST FISHING LINE IS A HAZARD TO PETS & WILDLIFE

Recently, a kayaker, along with her two small dogs, were exploring a small island on the lake she was paddling. One of the dogs ate a dead fish it found on shore and it also swallowed a fish hook and partially swallowed a long section of monofilament line attached to the fish. The veterinarian

who performed surgery to remove them said the hook was dangerous in the animal's stomach. But the ingested fishing line also posed serious dangers to the digestive system.

Thankfully, this is a rare occurrence, but the hazards for wildlife, pets and people from lost or discarded fishing lines is real. It's up to each angler to recover lines and properly dispose of what is no longer useful.

Each time a lakeshore or river side clean up occurs, lost or discarded monofilament fishing line is found. Monofilament and fluorocarbon line does not readily degrade. Even if the animals don't eat the line, they can get entangled in old lines, injured or killed months or years after the line is lost or discarded.

The line and 1½-inch hook the dog ingested likely came from a fish that broke the line for some unlucky fisherman. That happens to beginners as well as expert anglers. Sometimes, however, line is purposely removed from a reel.

Anglers often need to strip off some line when fishing due to tangles or nicks in the line and most fishermen change the line on their reels once or twice each year. Whether it's a ten foot long section or a 100 yards of old line peeled from a reel, make sure it's put in the trash or saved to be put in a recycling program - but not just any recycling program.

It cannot go into most regular household recycling bins. Instead, it Fishing line is a high density plastic and requires a special recycling process. should be brought to an outdoor recycling bin often located at marinas, boat ramps or participating tackle shops. If you must dispose of old line in household garbage, either chop it into small lengths or wad it tightly and stick it inside some other trash being discarded. Even at a landfill, scavenging animals can become entangled.

As important as properly dealing with your own used fishing line, be proactive when ever you spot any lost or discarded line. Pick it up, pack it with you. Then either recycle or dispose of properly.

Most recycling programs are labor intensive. Recycling fishing line into useful products even moreso.

The used line is collected in bins through programs like the BoatUS Foundation's Reel In and Recycle program, which partners with Berkley



Used fishing line should be disposed of properly or recycled. There's a contest being run to find better, other uses.

Line and a processing facility in Iowa. The program situates special containers in suitable locations to collect the used line. However, trash, hooks, weights and other items sometimes end up in bins and have to be removed by hand before it can be repurposed.

Some facilities are very good at sorting the good from the bad, others just box up whatever is in their containers and send it off to be recycled. Once the line arrives at the Berkley collection site it has to be reinspected and cleaned of any objects not screened out where the line was collected originally.

Only then does the line actually ship off to the recycling facility where it undergoes still another inspection and evaluation. Most of it passes muster, is melted down into plastic pellets and then sold as raw material for manufacturing new products. The line that fails is incinerated and used as an energy source.

All of this is time consuming and expensive. At least the line isn't out injuring pets and wildlife, but the BoatUS Foundation and Berkley suspects there are undiscovered ways to improve the system.

One way is to solicit ideas from all of us and to make it worthwhile to put on our collective thinking caps. To get our ideas, they are sponsoring a "Recast and Recycle Contest" in which anyone with unique solutions can enter and win cash prizes. First place is \$15,000! For more details on the program and how to participate go to: www.boatus.org/contest.

THE END

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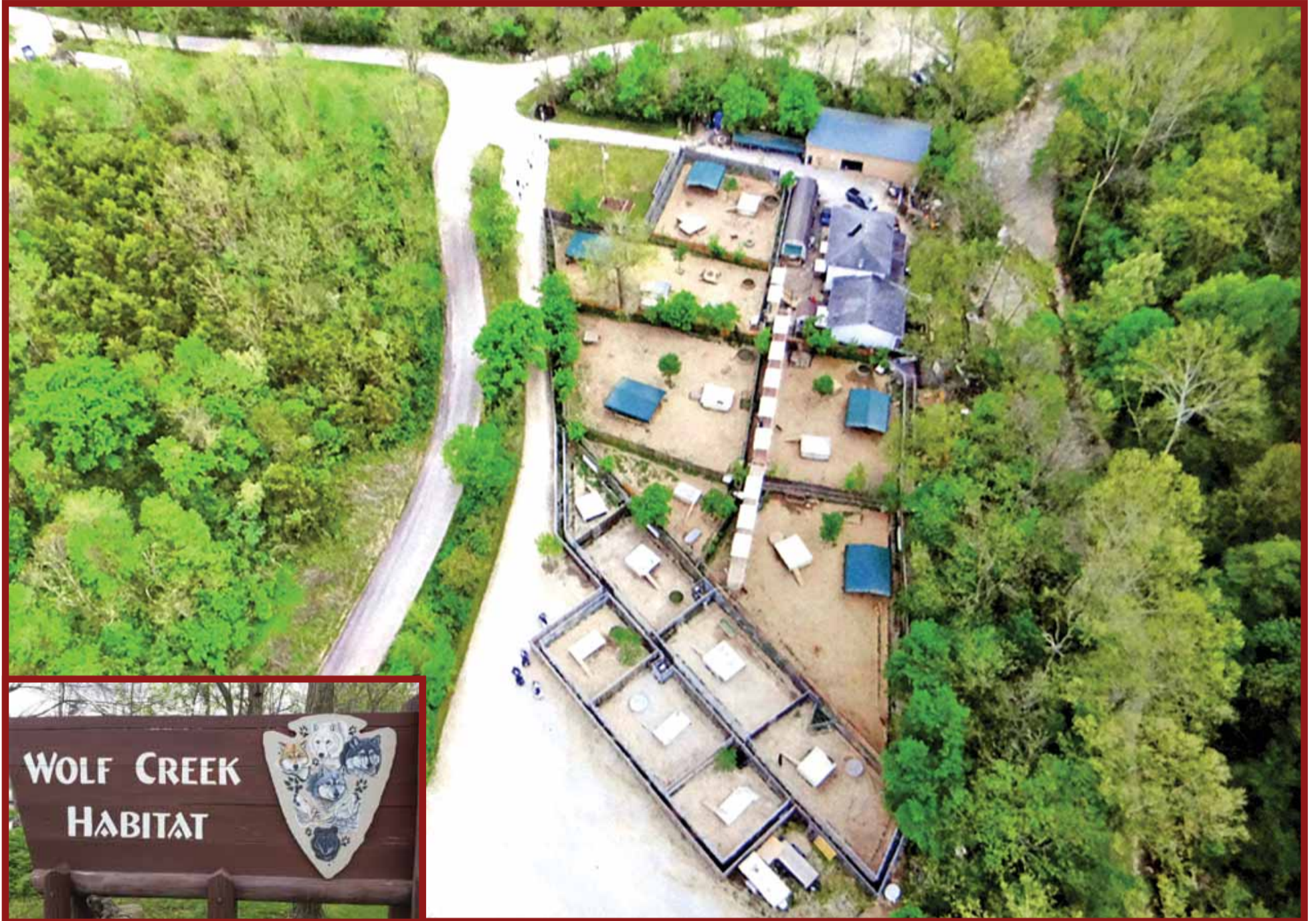
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WOLF CREEK HABITAT & RESCUE BROOKVILLE, INDIANA



AERIAL VIEW OF WOLF CREEK HABITAT AND RESCUE PROPERTY



Owners and founders of Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue Terry and Kathy Baudendistel live in Franklin County and have always had a great love for animals. They lived on a large property and in 2001 found there were several people in the area who had wolves. The owners couldn't take care of the wolves anymore so Kathy convinced Terry they should start a rescue for those wolves.



Wolf Creek Habitat Volunteers Front Row Left to Right: Cortney, Karen, Cory, Jane and Jake. Back Row Left to Right: Joe, Kathy and Terry, Tony P., Tony S. and Jenny. (Wolf Creek Habitat Photo)

WOLF CREEK HABITAT

by Ray Dickerson, The Gad-a-bout

I was invited by Terry and Kathy Baudendistel, owners of the Wolf Creek Habitat located south of Brookville, to visit and experi-

ence their Wolf Habitat and Rescue property first hand.

This past Sunday, September 6th I arrived at Wolf Creek Habitat at 10 a.m. as scheduled. As I got ready for my visit, I was given a check list of things I needed to do to be ready for the interaction with the wolves. I wasn't too sure I wanted to interact with them. I had to wear a long sleeve shirt due to being on blood thinner. I had

to remove anything from my pockets and leave my camera in their office. The reason being I was told the wolves like to chew on any loose items they take a liking too. Kathy told me I was to be in Team 4, that we would be going in with the wolves in about ten minutes. I asked her if I could take some photos before going in. She said I could go out on the observation deck to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Tokori

Tokori was born at Wolf Creek Habitat. She is a very gentle wolf and enjoys giving gentle kisses. Her name means 'Screech Owl Spirit' as she was very vocal when she was a baby.



Arrow

Arrow was born at Wolf Creek Habitat. He has always been a very easy going wolf. He loves people and loves affection, yes even belly rubs. He is a very large wolf, much like his grandfather, Loki.



Zonta

Zonta was born at Wolf Creek Habitat. Like his siblings, he is easy going, very gentle and loves attention. He will sometimes scent rub on visitors- and does so ever so gently.



Athena

Athena is the most outgoing of the 4, she wants all the attention for herself! She likes to put her front paws on shoulders. Athena is easy to tell apart from the others with her underbite and striking pale eyes.



Iya

Iya is one of our most social wolves. She loves attention just as much as she loves pestering her brother Kodiak. Her name means Pumpkin in the Cherokee language and came to be as a baby, Iya had the perfect Pi symbol marking on her chest, which led us to call her Pumpkin.



Kodiak

Kodiak appears aloof and noble to those on deck, but in actuality, he enjoys attention and visitors just as much as his sister Iya. He often finds himself on the receiving end of his sister's antics, often telling her off with a grumble or a snarl, but the two cannot live without each other.



Tala

Nicknamed our Tea Cup Wolf, Tala is incredibly small, but incredibly mighty. Despite being so small, she did not let her larger siblings steal her food or give her any attitude. She loves attention just as much as Iya, who was her wolf foster mom.



Lobo

Lobo is the very quiet and reserved member of Kodiak's pack. Gentle natured and a bit more cautious, Lobo prefers to approach visitors after the initial greeting has calmed down quite a bit. Once he does approach however, he's just as loving as his packmates.



Aquene

Queen of the pack, Aquene's name means peace. She is amazingly affectionate and loves people. If you don't pay enough attention to her, she will give you a paw, sometimes none too gently to remind you that she wants more attention.



Bartok

One of Aquene's boys, Bartok, like his brother Koda, is a true gentleman as far as wolves go. He likes to greet people up on the shelter and gives very gentle kisses. Wherever his brother Koda is, you'll find Bartok, and vice versa.



Koda

Our wolf with a coat of many colors, as a baby Koda's color changed multiple times as he grew. Easy going and gentle, He does, sometimes get the 'Wolf Zoomies' when he sees people he hasn't seen in a while.



Loki

Loki was recently rescued and brought to Wolf Creek Habitat. While his history is a mystery, he is a sweet boy who is getting used to his new home. Aquene and the boys absolutely adore him.



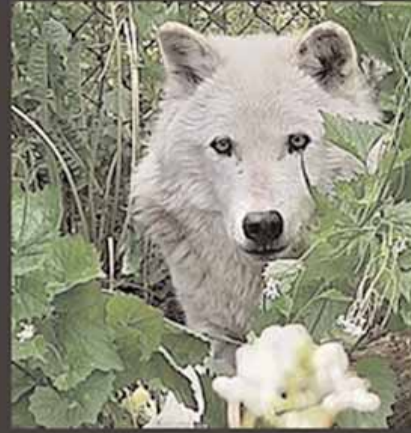
Nico

Nico was rescued from a roadside zoo where lived as a lone wolf. Now that he is at Wolf Creek, he lives with a female named Star. Nico is a very intense individual and is not too fond of human contact.



Star

Star was born at Wolf Creek and while being socialized, grew up to be a wolf that prefers the company of other wolves over people. She was introduced to Nico after his rescue and the two have been together since.



Waya

Waya came from Haliburton in Canada. Waya is a very intense little lady and loves attention, sometimes a little too much. She may not get visitor attention, but gets plenty of Staff and Volunteer attention.



Nanook

Nanook came to us after he was picked up by animal control as a puppy, first labeled as a coyote, then sent to a shelter as a shepherd mix. Nanook is our only wolf dog at the habitat and has also taught some of our wolves some 'doggy' habits.



Dakota

Dakota came to Wolf Creek after he was labeled for sale by his owner in a state where it is illegal for the general public to have Wolves or Wolf Dogs as pets. Dakota is a bit of a bouncy boy when excited and enjoys attention from volunteers and staff.



Ayashi

Ayashi was born at Wolf Creek, but was not bottle fed as a baby. As a youngster she was very shy, until she met Kenai and she blossomed into a strong little lady. Ayashi is the mother of a few of our interacting wolves such as Iya and Kodiak.



Denali

Denali was born at Wolf Creek and is a big lovable guy though he can get a bit pushy. He loves volunteer attention and loves to scent roll on his humans. Unlike some of our other wolves, he's not really gentle when he does this.



Nimii

Nimii was born at Wolf Creek and is a petite little lady. She is a very social and loving wolf who lives with her Brother, Denali. She likes to give volunteers a paw so they can scratch her favorite spot under her arm.



Heyoka

Heyoka is a very social wolf and loves attention- so much so that he wants to play. He tends to forget his strength in his excitement too. While he cannot interact with visitors- rest assured he gets plenty of Staff and Volunteer attention.



Daisy and Vega

Daisy and Daisy were born at Wolf Creek, and are both somewhat shy wolves. Although bottle fed and socialized, they prefer wolf company to that of people. Funnily enough- both girls get along great with Heyoka, who loves human attention.



Jericho

Jericho is our oldest wolf in the Habitat. He is an incredibly gentle senior with an easy going demeanor. He is social with volunteers and staff, but isn't too fond of larger groups.



Nova

Nova was born at Wolf Creek and is incredibly social- so much so that she wanted all the attention to herself and wanted to be in charge of her sisters. We opted to move her in with one of our quieter male wolves and she is a much happier little lady, No longer with the nickname "No Fun Nova."

KATHY BAUDENDISTEL

Wolf Creek Habitat & Rescue

Kathy Baudendistel was a 1974 graduate of Colerain High School, Cincinnati, Ohio. She moved to Franklin County, Indiana in 1984, where she met and later married Terry Baudendistel, the love of her life. Kathy and Terry have three (3) wonderful children, all of whom are grown and have families of their own. Kathy has been blessed with four (4) beautiful grandchildren that she adores and cherishes spending time with at home and the rescue.

In her spare time, Kathy enjoys photographing her grandkids, the wolves, eagles and other animals she finds in their natural habitats. She practices her photography skills by offering photography sessions (i.e., individual, Senior pictures, etc.) at Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue.

It is Kathy's desire and path in life to not only care for and protect the wolves, but also educate each visitor about the good and gentle side of the wolf. She feels that wolves are truly misunderstood. It was in this passion that Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue was established in 2001, by Kathy and her husband, Terry Baudendistel. Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue is a nonprofit 501c3, Wolf Rescue/Educational Center located at 14099 Wolf Creek Rd, Brookville, Indiana. It is about an hour from Cincinnati, Ohio, about 1 1/2 hours south of Indianapolis, Indiana. The Habitat and Rescue operates 100 percent by volunteers, sponsor memberships, and donations from the

public.

In December, 2019, Kathy was doing her daily chores at the habitat when she experienced a terrible fall on the ice, resulting in her being air-cared by helicopter to The University of Cincinnati Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. There, she was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Her prognosis was grim at that time. She was instructed to rest, stay off of the computer and other electronics, such as cellphones, etc, to help her brain heal from the injury. Being an independent business person, she found this to be the most difficult thing she had encountered since establishing Wolf Creek Habitat. Kathy not only spends time with the wolves, she was also the sole person running the office that operates Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue. Upon weeks of pleading from her family and friends, Kathy reluctantly asked for help. In January, 2020, she made the decision to bring an assistant on board to train and help alleviate her time spent in the office and at the computer. Even with the help of her assistant, Kathy continues to battle and suffer with memory loss and other unhealed TBI issues. After months of continuous doctor visits and follow-ups she has realized that this will take much longer to heal than what she was hoping for.

Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue has a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers that help in feeding and caring for the wolves, maintaining the

upkeep and grounds around their enclosures, as well as working weekends to give tours to the visitors who come to see the wolves. This year, 2020 decided to throw them a curve ball. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, they were forced to shut their doors to the public. This caused great emotional and financial difficulty for Kathy and Terry, as well as Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue and their volunteers.

After being closed for nearly six (6) months, they were able to reopen their doors, in a limited capacity the last week of August, 2020. The emotional and financial strain placed upon them during the shut down has been very difficult to overcome. Even though the Habitat and what seemed like all of civilization was shutdown, the wolves still had to be fed, enclosures cleaned and repaired, utility bills had to be paid, and veterinary care obtained, to ensure safety of all the wolves.

Kathy and Terry would like to thank everyone for their donated time, money and supplies. They are truly humbled by the kind and generous spirit of all volunteers, neighbors and donors that have continued their support during this pandemic. Kathy would like to personally say that she misses being with everyone and is extremely excited to be able to reopen Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue. She will continue to heal and rest and she appreciates all of the love and support shown to her and her family.

WOLF CREEK HABITAT & RESCUE INFORMATION

Howls from the Habitat.....Kathy (Owner)

Wolf Creek Habitat & Rescue Inc.

14099 Wolf Creek Road, Brookville, IN 47012, Phone: 765-647-4735

Visit our Website at: <http://www.wolfcreekhabitat.org>

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Spring/Summer Hours: Saturday & Sunday 10-2/4

WEATHER PERMITTING

WHO WE ARE

Wolf Creek Habitat is a Wolf Rescue/Educational Center located at 14099 Wolf Creek Road, Brookville, Indiana, about an hour from Cincinnati, Ohio, and about a half an hour south east of Indianapolis, Indiana.

It's very important to us to educate our visitors about the good & gentle side of a wolf. They are truly misunderstood.

We are open to the public on the weekends year-round, weather permitting, and it is free to observe all of our packs from the Observation Deck, however there is a \$50 donation per person to interact with 2/3 wolf packs.



Routes from major Cities to Wolf Creek Habitat & Rescue located at 14099 Wolf Creek Road, Brookville, IN 47012. From US 52 Stoplight South Edge Brookville go west on River Road, at first stop sign turn right, at Wolf Creek Road turn right, 2.5 miles to Wolf Creek Wolf Habitat.



Habitat Volunteer Jennilee Braun petting one of the wolves as two of the visitors watch her.



Three wolves resting in the shade on the platforms in one of the enclosures.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

take photos. So I took quite a few, you can see them on page 16.

Then I met up with Team 4 and felt better about going in with the wolves. Team 4 members included two Habitat Volunteers, Theresa Farrell and Jennilee Braun, Tom, Ella and Kara Drabczuik from Mason, Ohio and me.

We all met in the office, then proceeded to a safety entrance where you enter one section safely closing the gate behind you, then open another safety section and enter the wolf habitat closing that gate behind you.

Once inside Theresa and Jennilee introduced you to the wolves in the different enclosure. It was amazing to say the least, Theresa and

Jenilee led off petting and caressing first one wolf then others as all of us got the chance to pet them once we felt more at ease being near them.

We went into this one enclosure where Kodiak was up on the platform and Theresa had all of us stand up close to the edge of the platform. She began petting him and the rest of us took our turn. Well evidently Kodiak took a liking to me, he gave my head a massage, putting the full weight of his head down on my head, not once but twice. All I could do was laugh when he stopped.

Shortly after that experience we went into another enclosure. There was three wolves in it, but they evidently were tired as they lay down in the weeds. Theresa took that time to tell us

about her experiences with the wolves, giving us in detail, some very fascinating facts about them. She pointed to a rather large wolf that was laying back in a corner, its name was Lobo.

It was soon time for us to leave and go back out. By this time I would certainly recommend any of you readers reading this to visit Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue and by all means don't miss the opportunity to interact with the wolves.

See pages 14 & 15 to see and read about twenty four of the wolves you may get to see and intermingle with when you visit Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue.

When you visit Wolf Creek Habitat and Rescue you will come away with a completely different outlook and friendship for wolves. ■



Whitetails Unlimited 2019 Banquet. (Jessee Barton Photo)



Whitetails Unlimited raises funds for local worth while causes. (Jessee Barton Photo)

WEST FORK CHAPTER OF WHITETAILS UNLIMITED

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Locally, the West Fork Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited was founded over a decade ago, and serves Franklin, Union, Fayette, Wayne, Dearborn, and surrounding counties in Indiana and Ohio. The West Fork Chapter holds an annual fundraising banquet each year in January. The banquet is currently being held at the Connersville Expo Hall in Connersville, IN and will take place on January 23rd, 2021 this time around. The banquet has been growing exponentially each year in both the number of guests and funds raised. After the 2020 banquet, The West Fork Chapter was recognized by Whitetails Unlimited as the biggest and most profitable chapter in Indiana. One of the many reasons to support Whitetails Unlimited is that a much higher percentage of money stays local, compared to other similar organizations. This money has been used locally to support youth hunter education programs, National Archery in the Schools (NASP), equipment for our local conservation officers, scholarships to local high school seniors, breast cancer awareness, and disabled youth and wounded warrior hunts, to name a few. Guests of the banquet are able to take part in games, raffles, and both silent and live auction events to have a chance at winning great prizes including, guns, archery equipment, hunting gear, and countless other things generously donated by our sponsors. Children are encouraged to attend, and all children at the banquet will walk away with a prize. All Veterans in attendance are also recognized, and will be entered into a special drawing. Banquet tickets are currently on sale

for \$45 (single ticket), \$25 (additional spouse), and \$15 (children). Tickets include dinner, free beer and non-alcoholic beverages. All are encouraged to come

out on January 26th, and have a fun-filled evening of great food, drinks, and fellowship. See our flyer here in the Gad-A-Bout for more information and ticket details. ■



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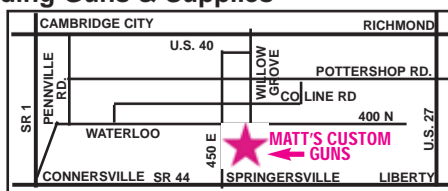
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by Dan Graves

DRIVING ON CHICKEN POWER

(Whoever said that there's nothing new under the sun has never struck a match near a compost heap and found out that there's more to a pile of fertilizer than a bad smell).

The worldwide quest these days seems to be aimed at finding a way to produce fuels that are an alternative to our present dependence on petroleum. Surprisingly, there are a number of choices, but very little progress has been made in developing any of them into economically feasible substitutes. However, with the advent of newer technology more emphasis is being placed on finding a way to cut the noose of dependence on fossil fuels. Automobiles which run on fossil fuels won't leave the driveway if fueled with say, Coleman Fuel. The combination of developing an alternate source of energy and the ability to use it means we will be held hostage by the major oil companies for years to come. But don't be discouraged. There may be immediate answers to this dilemma.

One of the most promising fuels is methane, a gas that is commonly a byproduct of the breakdown of vegetable and animal waste. For instance, if a chicken coop is cleaned regularly and the stuff stored in an enclosed space, it will begin to produce methane after a period of time. I can foresee a future when automobile dealers will offer not a cash rebate or a year's supply of gasoline with a new purchase, but a pen full of chickens to power your flashy SUV. Of course, you'll be responsible for keeping your fuel suppliers fed, but cracked corn is "chicken feed" compared to the cost of a gallon of fossil fuel. It's easy to visualize future homes with a two-car garage and an attached chicken coop with its methane producer. Other benefits will include an abundance of eggs, and chicken and dumplings will become a common inexpensive meal.

Combustible fuels distilled from grain products have been in use for many years. Ethanol, or grain alcohol as its known, is normally mixed with regular gasoline, I assume, to reduce fossil fuel consumption. Even though it can be economically feasible, it has one major problem. Due to its properties, it's also very popular as a consumable liquid. Certain distillers, especially in the mountainous regions of the former Confederate states, have been producing it for decades under such names as "moonshine" and "white lightning".

Unfortunately, the government has declared the liquid illegal and has waged a war to stamp out the practice. Should moonshine become a viable fuel source and legalized, how can a line be drawn between Exxon and Billie Bob, making one legitimate and the other a felon? Would it be reasonable to say that after a motorist fills his or her tank, he or she could top off their mug from the same pump and drive away? It's a certainty that a compromise will have to be reached and drunken driving laws altered to accommodate both parties before ethanol can be considered for widespread use.

The newest technology involves the development of fuel cells using hydrogen as the source of power. It can either be burned directly or fed into fuel cell batteries to provide electrical energy. The main advantage of using hydrogen, unlike fossil fuels, is the total absence of any form of polluting emissions. However, there is one drawback. Hydrogen must be extracted from water using either electricity or a chemical process. When used in internal combustion engines it reverts back to water which is expelled from exhaust pipes. This means that with 500 million automobiles in the world (half of which are here in our area), people in certain parts of the world will be up to their necks in water within two years. It will rain or snow 365 days a year and the entire planet will turn into a steaming tropical jungle. This in turn could result in a growing number of tropical predators. If you think stray dogs are a problem, just wait until you have to chase alligators off the front porch. If science could find a way to convert the water emission from hydrogen power into ethanol, the world's population could be saved by drinking their way out of oblivion or into it.

Another source presently being investigated, and in fact is in limited use, is natural gas. It's cheaper than regular gasoline and burns cleaner, but fluctuates in price per gallon according to demand (what's new?). According to an article on alternate fuels, natural gas comes from wells in this country and Canada. That surprised me because I thought natural gas came from another source. Just as methane results from the breakdown of certain elements, I have operated under the misconception that natural gas is the result of beans and hard boiled eggs. Subsequently, I was hard pressed to understand how it could power a home or car. As far as I've been concerned, it is no more than a source of acute embarrassment and social disgrace. I'm greatly relieved to learn that there must be vast reserves of it directly under our feet and that all one must do to tap this resource is drill a hole down to it. Perhaps I'm wrong, but isn't that risky? I can't imagine opening up a giant pocket of gas that would be 10,000 times noisier than a Whoopee Cushion. But hey, if it helps to relieve a potential energy crisis, I'm all for it. Just don't do it in my neighborhood.

With all the strides being made to develop more efficient and cost-effective sources of energy, we can look forward to a time when being stuck for hours in a traffic gridlock might be a little more pleasant as we breathe cleaner air. At least it will be humorous to listen to cars idling while burning natural gas.

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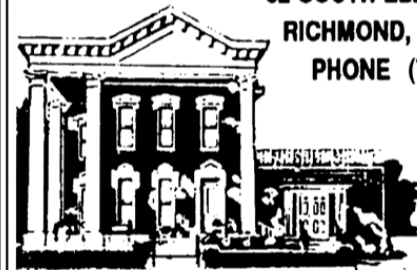
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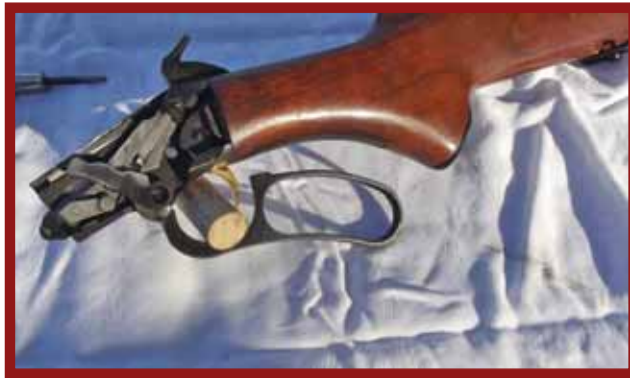
by Marshall Smith

Gunsmith, NRA Endowment Member, Retired LEO,
U.S. Navy Veteran

GUNSMITHING

Due to the the Covid-19 restrictions not much has been going on in the shop. This article was first appeared in December of 2016 Gad-a-bout.

I had a few interesting jobs come into the shop this last month. The jobs were on three Marlin model 39A lever action .22 caliber rifles. On two of the Marlin 39As the finger lever spring and screw were missing. The loss of the spring and screw was probably due to improper disassembly. The screw and spring appear on the bottom of the right half of the receiver. The 39A is a quick take down rifle and once the take down screw is removed the rifle comes apart into two halves. One half holds the trigger/hammer group, finger lever, and stock. The other half of the receiver contains the bolt and firing pin, the rifle barrel, and tubular magazine. Both rifles' finger levers were loose and not holding tight to the rifle when in the closed position. The finger lever spring not only holds the lever tight in the closed position but gives the lever the locking action against the bolt when in the closed position. The failure to lock the



Here the Finger lever is not fully closed causing a dangerous situation. (Author Photo)



The Finger lever in the correct closed position and holding the bolt fully closed. (Author Photo)



This is the Finger lever spring screw. There is no need to remove this screw. (Author Photo)



Firing pin on bottom is brass tipped and badly made. Firing pin on top is the correct firing pin. (Author Photo)



The ejector in its normal unlocked position. Note that the lock screw is aligned with the ejector. (Author Photo)



The ejector in its locked down position for cleaning the bore from the breech. Note that the lock screw slot is not aligned with the ejector. (Author Photo)

bolt closed will lead to a dangerous situation as the rifle will fire with the bolt not fully closed. For those of you who own a Marlin 39A check to make sure the finger lever closes tightly into position when closed. One of the rifles had been loaded with a .22lr round the exploded when fired with the bolt not fully closed which literally blew the base off the case and injured the shooter and left the rest of the case stuck in the chamber. The second 39A hadn't caused any problems and the missing spring was found before it could be a problem. The rifle was purchased at an auction and when fired by the new owner only fired a couple of rounds before the firing pin stopped working. I say Stopped working because it had been broken and was repaired by brazing a new brass point onto the steel firing pin. Of course the soft brass used to make a new point which was made as if it were for a centerfire cartridge instead of a rim fire cartridge. That may have been a good thing as a disaster may have been prevented by the firing pin being incorrectly made. The soft brass would only have lasted a few rounds before failing. Firing pins must be made from high carbon steel and hardened to stand the beating they take from the hammer and the strike against the cartridge primer. The rounds which did not fire were dented in the middle of the round and not on the rim of the rimfire .22 cartridge.

The third 39A had a failure to eject problem. The ejector had been broken. A little explanation

on how the 39A ejector works is in order. It sets inside of an assembly which is held in place by two screws which are accessed from the left side of the receiver. In side the assemble is a lock screw, a pin, a spring, and the ejector bar. The lock screw is used to lock the ejector in the down position while cleaning the gun from the breech. If the lock screw gets turned while the ejector is in the up position then the when the bolt closes it will break the tip of the ejector off. It will continue to work for a while, just not as well with the spent cartridge not ejecting as forcefully as before. After a while the rest of the ejector will break and fall out. This seems to be a common problem with the 39A. When looking for another ejector to fix the gun I only found 3 in the country. None of the usual parts suppliers for the 39A had any ejectors in stock. Just happened I found another gunsmith in Arkansas that had 3. So when cleaning your 39A, be sure to follow the owner's manual instructions to the letter. Be sure that the slot on the lock screw is in line with the ejector and the ejector moves freely into the ejector slot. If you break the ejector you may not be able to get it repaired. Parts are becoming very scarce for the 39A.

Quote of the Month

"The Constitution of most of our states (and of
CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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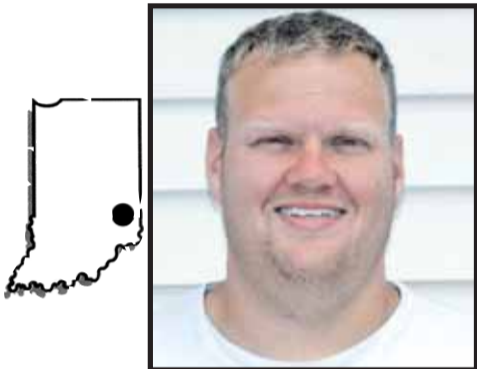


Here he is. A beautiful mount by Steve Kinker of Kinkers Wildlife Art. A mountain goat has been on my bucket list to hunt for years and years. In 2013 a medical issue prevented my hunt. In 2016 with the help of Copper River Outfitters in B.C. I got my goat. (Author Photo)



We were socked in with rain and fog. The fog lifted revealing the mountains. I thought this is the most stunning place I have ever seen. We were basically right below a big glacier across the valley from us. (Author Photo)

Big Game Hunting



by Joel Biltz

The "What If" Dream Buck

There are always those times in your life where you think "what if?" Taking it back to the 2018 Colorado draw season I was highly anticipating drawing an eastern Colorado deer tag for a family farm I had access to. I had hunted this ranch in 2010 and saw a lot of deer and was able to kill a nice 172 inch 4x4 mule deer on the first evening of my hunt. I had seen a lot of deer and knew the potential of this place in Eastern Colorado. I thought I had enough points to draw the tag but apparently that was not the case and Colorado fish and game decided to throw me a curve ball.

Following the Colorado draw I kept my eyes and ears open looking for a quality Landowner tag to buy or a quality outfitted hunt that would be available. On June 24th, I received a email from a great friend and an outfitter I had hunted with three times in the past. Donny Carr of Golden Eagle outfitters. Donny informed me he had received two Muzzleloader deer vouchers. I immediately picked up the phone and gave him a call. We talked a bit and I decided to book the hunt with high expectations.

A velvet mule deer buck has been high on my list of animals I wanted to hunt. I have been fortunate to hunt mule deer three other times, but not in

velvet. I always look forward to getting my Eastman's magazine to gaze and dream about the big velvet bucks that would grace the pages. Many, many sleepless nights have been endured thinking about the day I had the chance to kill a giant velvet buck.

That chance was about to happen. Over the next few months Donny would send me several scouting pictures of some beautiful velvet bucks. These pictures caused me to have even more sleepless nights filled with anticipation. I had two goals for this highly anticipated hunt. First and foremost was a velvet buck and second was to find a buck bigger than the 172 Eastern Colorado buck.

On September 8, 2018, after one last sleepless night opening day was upon us. My guide Mike Newman and I headed to a ranch where a few great bucks had been spotted the week before. Immediately, I was able to locate two 4x4 bucks. Both were still in velvet and beautiful bucks but not first day first light bucks. The deer bedded down fairly fast that morning and with the exception of a few does, that would be all the sightings for the morning. That evening found us in the same spot, locating four bucks but all were small so we ended the night seeing only a few deer.

Pinch me please

Sunday morning we hiked in about a mile to glass a hidden basin with high expectations. For the first hour of daylight all we turned up were 16 does and fawns and one 2x2 buck. At 8 AM that changed as 10 bucks fed over the top and into the basin. Of those ten bucks six of those bucks were trophy quality and 180+ inches. We put them to bed at 9:30 and started to formulate a plan. At 11:00 we started up the backside of the mountain to get above them. We hiked over the top and carefully shimmied down to the lowest point we felt comfortable on the ribbon rock near the top of the mountain. We started glassing the pines and buck brush looking for the bucks. Then all of a sudden a big 5x4 stood up at 124 yards. The shot was almost straight down. I shot at the buck shooting right over

his back. Fortunately, the buck did not spook and fed off and bedded back down. We continued to glass and finally were able to locate two more of the big shooter bucks, but at 170 yards plus they were just out of range with a open sighted smoke pole. After a few hours and waiting out two brief rainstorms the bucks finally got up and started feeding down the drainage. We quickly formulated a plan and just like that we were on the move. We hustled up and back down the mountain and through a saddle, up another small mountain to cut them off. Finally, at 6:30 I was once again at 80 steep yards from another giant buck. My guide, Mike, reminded me to aim lower, but I guess I still did not aim low enough. I slowly squeezed the trigger and once again missed right over the top of the buck. Eight of the bucks ran up the other side of the tight canyon. Then, with nothing but luck on my side a buck ran right down the bottom and

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The coolest photo I've ever taken. No Words!! (Author Photo)



The bucks fed up over this ridge and bedded below the rocky area. (Author Photo)

stopped broadside. I had already been able to reload and as the big buck stopped at 130 yards, I fired hitting him a tad back. He started walking away very slow so I quickly reloaded and shot one more time hitting in the front of his shoulder at 190 yards. He was still up and going so I took off down the mountain to cut him off. I was able to catch up to him in his bed at ten yards where he got up and I put him down for good.

In the meantime, Mike had caught up to me and as we both walked over to this magnificent buck we could not believe what we just did. We knew the buck was big, but did not know just how big. He ended up being the most symmetrical clean 4x4 buck I had ever laid eyes on. We later scored him just shy of 190 inches. A lot of high fives, hugs and a few tears were shed as I finally realized that my dream of a giant velvet buck was finally a reality!

What if I would have drawn that Eastern Colorado tag? Although, I very possibly could have found a buck like I killed, it would not have fulfilled my dream of killing a velvet deer. I truly believe things happen for a reason and that is why I did not draw that Eastern Colorado tag!!! This buck was meant to be. ■

Prairie Wolf Gun Repair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed." - Thomas Jefferson, letter to to John Cartwright, 5 June 1824

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

Remember, Be Safe, Be Aware, Be Responsible

Marshall
PrairieWolfGuns@gmail.com

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

planting within the state. Each year much of the seed the nurseries use is supplied by collectors from all over the state. DNR Forestry pays seed collectors on the basis of "pure live seed." That term means the seeds must be from the required tree species, and cannot be infected with disease or infested with insects.

DNR Forestry's goal is to produce 2-3 million seedlings each year for conservation plantings. Because of natural factors, achieving that goal requires planting about 8.5 million seeds. DNR Forestry, which operates the nurseries, orchestrates statewide seed collection with the goal of diversifying the seed source. Such diversification allows the nursery to grow seedlings that will be well adapted to grow into mature trees throughout the state.

Some of the seeds being sought, and the price per seed offered, include black oak, black walnut, pin oak, red oak, shumard oak, white oak, bur oak, chinkapin oak, swamp chestnut oak and swamp white oak. See the table below for current pricing

and collection dates.

Some pointers for collecting:

Always call first to see if the seeds you plan to collect are still needed. Collect only seeds and fruit – no leaves, sticks, or trash.

Keep species separate – if you're not certain that two (or more) trees are the same species, keep them in separate containers.

If you are not certain if you have the proper species, email a photo of the seed/fruit, leaves, bark, and twigs to the address below for identification.

Most of the listed species are ripe and ready to collect when they fall off the tree.

Healthy acorns (with the exception of bur oak) will fall free of the cap. Keep the seeds/fruit cool until you can deliver it to the office – an air-conditioned basement is good for a short period of time.

Contact the Vallonia Nursery at **812-358-3621** or vallonianursery@dnr.IN.gov for more information.

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Creason on edge of one of the hunt fields with his new Minelab Vanquish 540 metal detector. (Photo by Susie Creason)



Huntmaster Terry Causey and me with the prize for the token I found. (Photo by Susie Creason)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

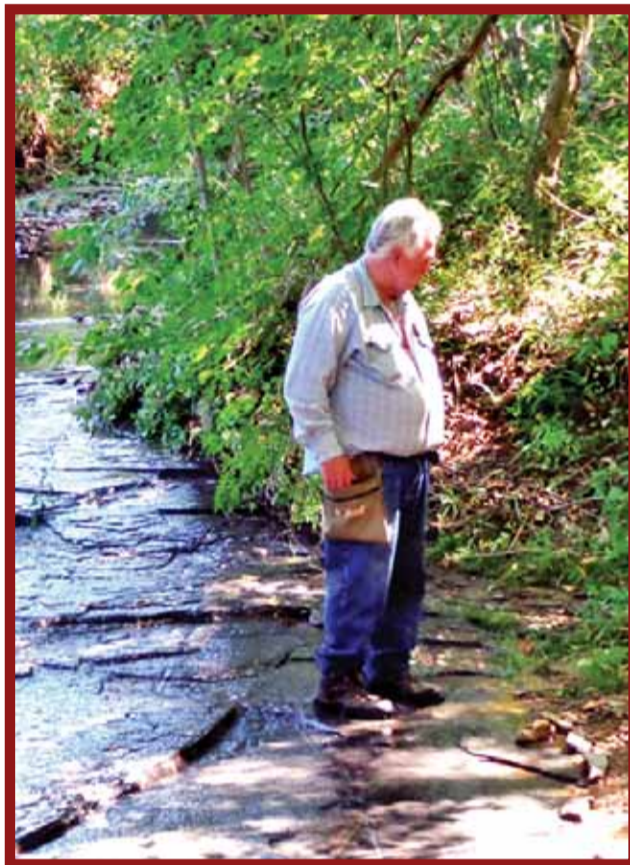
Success at the Moonshine Open Treasure Hunt

My calendar said we would be going to a Minelab metal detector hunt in lower Michigan in mid-May. The Michigan governor said that wasn't going to happen due to the pandemic. I looked on the calendar again and it showed we had a detector hunt scheduled in Ontario, forty miles north of Niagara Falls, over Memorial Day weekend. We have been to this event seven or eight times in the past. Unfortunately, we couldn't go this year because the Canadian border was closed.

Our western New York and eastern Lake Erie fishing outings were next on the agenda in June. The New York governor canceled that one also. Which brings us to July. Our week long treasure hunt at Starve Hollow State Recreation Area, (a yearly affair), was to be our first big trip of the year. The Indiana governor didn't stop this one. The hunt organizers decided for various reasons we wouldn't have the event this year. That got us looking at the big Treasure Week in Pennsylvania in mid-July. We decided to take our grandson and go to it for a couple days.

Unlike all of our other planned activities, this activity was not canceled. We were fortunate to spend two days with some old friends we had not seen in several years. Benjamin found some Civil War relics, we had great weather, and finally spent some time away from home.

Our August fishing trip to northern Minnesota and Sioux Narrows, Ontario was a bust, but early



Left Photo: Two creeks on the property held many geodes and slate slabs with fossils. I found several nice specimens in this creek. Right Photo: Gorgeous sunrise outside our Kentucky hotel. (Photos by Susie Creason)



September there was a scheduled metal detector hunt near Berea, Kentucky. We sent in our entry and soon found ourselves on a relatively short drive (four hours) to this event. We had considered attending this one last year, but a conflict with one of my outdoor writer's conferences prevented that. We heard it was a great hunt from several friends who attended a year ago and it turned out they were right.

This is a paid, or "seeded" hunt. The organizers bury old silver money and metal tokens with numbers which are redeemed for prizes, in fields, and sometimes, woods, for the entrants to find. The first day, the opening hunt was for clad half dollars and tokens. I decided to try my newly acquired Minelab Vanquish 540 metal detector. I have tried this detector in several places near our home and found many coins in just a few hours of use. This Minelab machine looks to be my favorite detector soon. I was concerned about using it in a competition type hunt where speed in finding and removing targets from the ground determines how suc-

cessful your outcome will be. I had been using another detector in all of these hunts for many years and hated to try something different.

It turned out to be a great decision. I found four half dollars and two tokens on my debut with the new Minelab Vanquish. This first hunt of the day is always just a warm up event, making sure your detector is working properly in anticipation of the rest of the weekend. Susie had two more "digs" than I did, but she usually beats me on totals. She found seven halves and one token.

We carried our tokens to the tent when the prizes were on display. Susie received a great coin set and my first token was good for a super nice military compass. I turned in my second token and they couldn't find the matching prize on the table. They told me to wait until the rest of the tokens were redeemed, and they would find my prize. It was worth the wait. It turned out to be a Garrett Ace 400 metal detector anniversary package. This was a \$450 value machine with earphones, pinpointer, and several other accessories. It turned out

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to be the best prize offered the whole weekend. Not a bad start for the two day hunt.

The next two hunts were loaded with old, silver dimes. These are all pre-1965. Some were Roosevelt dimes and others even older Mercury dimes. In the second hunt, I was breathing very hard and Susie heard me and told me to use the asthma inhaler I carry with me. I told her I couldn't stop to breathe because I was too busy digging money! I ended up with a coin pouch loaded with dimes.

The last hunt Saturday was for Civil War relics and more tokens. It was hot and humid, and once again, I was having difficulty breathing. I did finish the hunt with about 15 bullets and one token. Susie beat me in this one, having 20 digs with two tokens. My token was redeemed for a large, metal detector bag. Susie won a silver dollar and a camp set which our grandson will inherit for his Boy Scout outings.

The second day was more of the same, with different prizes (no more detectors). There was no relic hunt on Sunday, but Susie was entered into the ladies only hunt with 12 other women. She found a bunch of coins and six tokens! These were redeemed for a wide variety of nice items including a great bracelet and several rings.

We are already planning on returning to this event next year.

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

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

FALL AERIAL HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS FOR MULTIPLE FWA'S

Visitors at Atterbury, Blue Grass, Sugar Ridge, and Willow Slough fish & wildlife areas (FWAs) may notice helicopters spraying for invasive species at these properties from September through November.

Sugar Ridge and Blue Grass FWAs plan to focus applications on eliminating phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), while Willow Slough will focus on phragmites and black alder. Phragmites is an invasive species that has become established in multiple areas at these properties. Atterbury FWA will target bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), and muliflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*).

Managing invasive plants' spread is critical in maintaining healthy and diverse wildlife habitats within the state. Herbicide applications will promote plant diversity and improve wildlife habitat.

Applications will be targeted at areas in which these invasive species are present and will be completed by a licensed applicator. The herbicide used for these applications is Arsenal®, which is registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. The herbicide does not affect people and has no known effect on wildlife.

Spraying at Willow Slough FWA could start as early as next week. The treatment areas at each respective property will be closed temporarily on the day of the treatment and up to 48 hours after the application is completed. Applications are highly dependent on weather and other conditions – visitors should contact the property's office for more information regarding closures on the day of their visit. Once applications are completed, the areas will be open and safe for all recreational activities to occur.

For more information on Atterbury FWA, see on.IN.gov/atterburyfwa.

For more information on Blue Grass FWA, see on.IN.gov/bluegrassfwa.

For more information on Sugar Ridge FWA, see on.IN.gov/sugarridgefwa.

For more information on Willow Slough FWA, see on.IN.gov/willowsloughfwa.

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

DNR RECLAMATION TO RECEIVE REGIONAL AWARD

An Indiana DNR Division of Reclamation (DOR) project in southwest Indiana will receive the highest regional award the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) issues annually.

The award is for the Buttermilk Highwalls project in Pike County. The project addressed public safety and environmental concerns left by the Ayrshire #7400 mine that operated from 1953-1955 in what is now a section of Sugar Ridge Fish & Wildlife Area. The project included two highwalls and an acidic mine pit lake with poor water quality. Ranging between 15 and 38 feet high, with a combined length of 1,615 feet, the steep and unstable highwalls were a danger to Sugar Ridge FWA visitors.

To address the safety hazard, the DOR back-filled the highwalls to a safer 4:1 slope using geomorphic landscape design, which mimics natural topography to better withstand erosion. The high-wall backfills required the DOR to eliminate the acidic mine pit lake and reconfigure other lakes and landforms at the site.

In addition to making the site safer, the project helped mitigate a complex water management problem caused by the hydrological connection of surface mine pit lakes in the area through underground mine workings between the lakes. To address this situation, the DOR coordinated engineering designs for multiple projects.

First, the DOR reclaimed one of the affected

mine pit lakes and its adjacent highwall, Pigeon Pit, as part of the Sugar Ridge #2 project completed in 2016. The Pigeon Pit project was recognized for outstanding reclamation from OSMRE with the 2017 Mid-Continent Regional Award.

The Buttermilk Highwalls project added to that effort by adjusting the elevation of Whitney Pit, one of two mine pit lakes originally at the site. As a result, directional movement of water between the mine pit lakes was reduced, which inhibits the formation of subsidences in the mine workings between the lakes, thus mitigating a potential mine-sourced safety hazard in the area.

The project was designed by engineers in the DOR's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program. Project construction was completed by Aigner Construction, Inc., of Boonville.

"Our Reclamation engineering and project management staff did a great job of planning and executing these projects for the long term benefit of the public and environment," said DNR director Dan Bortner. "The collaboration of staff to produce nationally recognized reclamation of pre-law mining areas is a great example of DNR teamwork."

Indiana was among five winners of the 2020 AML Reclamation Awards. A panel of judges composed of directors of state and tribal reclamation programs and OSMRE managers determined the recipients. Since 1982, the AML program in Indiana has restored more than 1,100 AML construction sites that encompass approximately 10,000 acres of pre-law abandoned coal mines and related impacts.

OSMRE will present the award as part of a virtual presentation on Sept. 21.

The DOR administers the surface coal mining laws for Indiana. DOR's Inspection & Enforcement Section permits and inspects active coal mines. The AML program is responsible for eliminating threats to the public and environment remaining from coal mining activity prior to the enactment of current law. All activities are funded through fees collected from active coal mining production. For more information, call the division field office in Jasonville at 812-665-2207; or toll-free if calling inside Indiana at

THE INDIANA REGION OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS ENCOURAGES HOOSIERS TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS TO SLOW COVID-19 SPREAD

The Indiana Region of the American Red Cross Encourages Hoosiers to Wear Face Coverings to Slow COVID-19 Spread

INDIANAPOLIS — It's been a century since the Indiana Region of the American Red Cross last called on Hoosiers to "mask-up" to slow the spread of an infectious disease. Given the continued spread of COVID-19 throughout Indiana, the organization is once again asking Hoosiers to wear face coverings when in public places.

"We've been supporting the health and safety of Hoosiers for over 105 years, and we're continuing that tradition by doing our part now to promote evidence-base public health measures such as the wearing of cloth face coverings when in

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Suffragette Gathering photo 1. (Author Photo)



Suffragette Gathering photo 2. (Author Photo)

Whitewater Valley History



by Donna Schroeder
Fayette County Historical Museum

Hope to See You Soon!

Today is the deadline, so says my good friend Ray, for an article. I've thought long and hard about what to write. I run into so many things in a month that I think should be pondered.

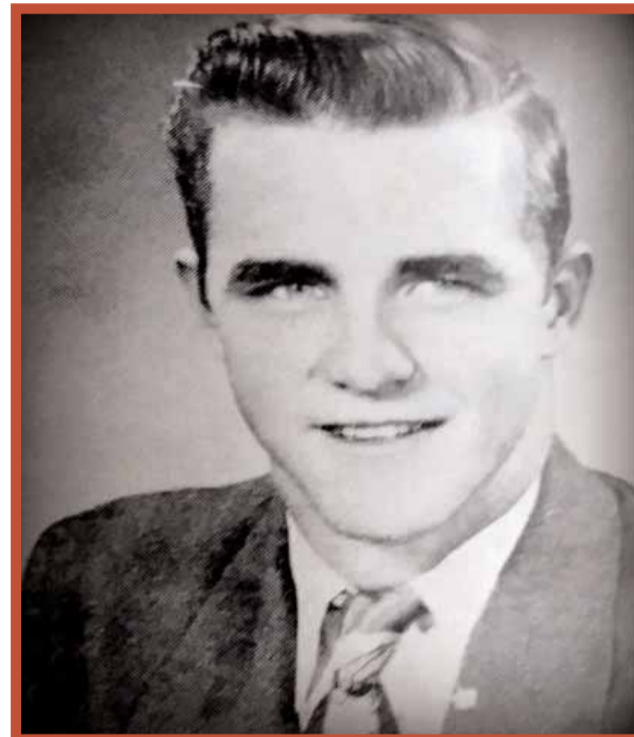
Originally, I thought of an article only about the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. My goodness! Women started lobbying for that in the 1850s, and it took until 1920 for it to become law. Did you know that Indiana passed it in 1917? Fayette County's own Kate Heron, a woman with an unmatched love for her community, was the first woman here to register to vote. She was at the courthouse bright and early that day to add her name to the poll book, only to learn, in October of that year, that the state legislature had changed its mind. I can't find any record of her response, but I'll bet she was hopping mad! Just the year before, one of the local stores was selling 'Suffragette Skirts'. They had only ordered a dozen, and they were selling them for \$3.95, discounted from the suggested retail of \$5.00. I can only guess that there was a man in charge of purchasing, and he wasn't expecting much interest. In case you're wondering, they would have probably been purple. Purple, white, and green were the colors of suffra-

gettes. Purple for loyalty and dignity, white for purity, and green for hope. It was about time for some hope!

When I think about my female ancestors, I'm amazed that neither of my grandmothers were able to vote until after they were married and had all but raised their children. Both of them were good women who did more than clean, cook, and tend to their children. My father's mother served as a midwife for our neighborhood's country doctor, as well as nursing others who were ill. I remember visiting my mother's mother when she was washing and ironing for other families. She had also been the baker at a local hotel. They were valuable citizens, but they weren't equal or valuable enough to have a voice until 1920. In 1921, it made the local news when the first woman was called in Fayette County for jury duty. I'm glad that women were finally seen as people, rather than people who were a little less than men.

Since you won't hear from me again soon, I'm going to spend the rest of my space talking about my great passion - the history of our communities - and what I hope all of you will do with it. PLEASE take some time to write about what you remember. Your grandchildren might not seem interested now, but they probably will want to know sometime in the future. The quality of your writing skills isn't important, but the content of your memories is. Write about your family. Write about the place where you grew up. Write about your neighbors - the funny, cranky, kind people who surrounded you. If you have an item that will add to the general memories about your community, donate it to your museum with a copy of what you've written.

Just this week, an old friend stopped by our museum. He was a good neighbor, as well as having been well known in the little community I come from. His name is Tom Holland, known to all as 'Tommy'. When he was in high school, he played for the Orange Tigers, at a high school that disappeared in 1958 when the building burned. (I was in first grade then.) It was one of those small township schools that have disappeared over the years. He played basketball for four years, and the team won the county tourney each of those years - the only team to win the county trophy four years in a row. He finished high school in 1952, married Nancy, and raised a family. Tommy had the neighborhood service station in nearby Glenwood for many years. We depended on him to repair



Thomas L. Holland Class of 1952.

what we couldn't, fix our flat tires, and fill up our tanks, as well as supplying us with candy and soda pop. At our school reunions, Nancy always wore his letter sweater until she passed away a couple of years ago. He brought the sweater to the museum soon after. He stopped by the other day, and his daughter snapped a picture of him. When I put it on Facebook, there was a lot of interest. A lot of good memories popped up.

Two of the memories were mine. When I was expecting our first baby, my husband and I lived across the street from his station. I had a craving for ice cream sandwiches, but the doc wasn't big on moms gaining much weight, and my husband knew it. Almost every night, after my husband was asleep, I stole over and got an ice cream sandwich. To my knowledge, Tom never told on me. (One night, I sneaked back in bed, and my husband awoke. I had to hide my melting treat under the covers until he fell asleep. Unfortunately, he wanted to talk about his worry that I wasn't sleeping well, so it was kind of a mess.)

Fast forward a few years to 1978. We had two kids and had moved about three miles away in the village of Orange. We went to visit friends a couple of blocks from the station and stayed until we noticed that the snow was already there in full force. (Yes, there was a blizzard warning, Yes, we had made preparations, but who knew it would

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Orange School. (Author Photo)



Thomas L. Holland Class of 1952.



Scoreboard from Orange School, now at the museum. (Author Photo)

happen so fast?) We got stuck halfway home. The wind and drifts were so awful that there was nothing to do but sit on a country road, snow piling up on the car, certain that all four of us would freeze before they found us. Suddenly, I saw headlights! My husband said I was seeing things, but there it was! Tom in a truck. The snow was so bad that we didn't realize there was a small car stuck next to us! The young man who owned the car became stuck early enough in the storm that he was able to walk to Glenwood and talk Tommy into trying to pull out his car. We all squeezed into the little car, and we ended up back at our friends' house, where we played cards for another three days until a bulldozer cleaned the road.

By luck, or fate, or divine intervention, Tom saved our lives.

So, those are the stories you need to tell. Write about your family - where they lived, what they did, and the people they knew. As our county's historian, I've researched many of the families in our county, as well as my own. It makes it much easier when there's a good starting point, and it's a lot more interesting when there are stories to go along with the statistics.

As always, I invite you to visit fantastic Fayette County. The museum is open weekends, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 200 West 5th Street in Connersville.

Stay safe, wear your mask, and, ladies, wear you purple, white, and green proudly and exercise your right to vote!

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

public" said Chad Priest, regional CEO of the American Red Cross-Indiana Region.

The local Red Cross last called on Hoosiers to "mask-up" during the 1918 influenza pandemic. The messaging from 1918, including advertising by the Red Cross, is remarkably similar to the messaging today.

In addition to calling on Hoosiers to wear face coverings when in close proximity with others in public, the Red Cross will:

Distribute 70,000 face coverings to non-profit organizations created by Red Cross volunteers who answered the organization's July call on crafters;

Provide sewing machines and instructions for specific areas in greatest need;

Develop (and translate into other languages) educational materials explaining the health benefits of face coverings for both online and paper

dissemination;

Continue the organization's #DoingMyPart campaign launched in May highlighting ways that Hoosiers can help each other through the pandemic.

"Masks are an essential part of slowing the spread of COVID-19," Priest said. "There is robust scientific evidence that indicates mask wearing reduces viral transmission, especially among those who aren't exhibiting symptoms but may be carrying the virus."

For examples of studies regarding the effectiveness of wearing masks, Priest referenced July guidance from the Centers for Disease Control published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and another that discusses case studies showing a decrease in the spread of the virus when cloth masks were worn.

About the Indiana Region of the American Red Cross: The Indiana Region serves 104 counties across Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois through its six chapter areas: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Greater

Indianapolis (Regional Headquarters). For more information on the Indiana Region: www.redcross.org/indiana. Follow the Indiana Region on Twitter at: @INRedCross, on Instagram at: @indianaredcross or www.facebook.com/INRedCross.

About the American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

REPORT SICK OR DEAD WILDLIFE ON NEW DNR WEBSITE

Indiana DNR has launched a new website for public reporting of sick or dead wildlife.

The new online tool is designed to collect information. CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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News of Native American Indians in Indiana



by Shirley Willard
Fulton County Historian, Rochester, Indiana

Mas-saw Historical Marker To Be Dedicated

A new historical marker to honor Potawatomi chieftess Mas-saw will be dedicated Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. at Lake Bruce. The marker is attached to a huge boulder in PACA Park, beside the Lake Bruce Garage which hosts music and other programs during the year. This is on the southwest side of Lake Bruce. The boulder was provided by Bob Mink and Eric Gudas. The public is invited to attend this free historic ceremony.

Colton Benninghoff erected the historical marker for Mas-saw, thus earning his Boy Scout Eagle rank. His parents are David and Jenn Benninghoff. Colton is a junior at Winamac high school.

George Godfrey, president of the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association, will conduct the dedication ceremony. Godfrey is a member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation, Shawnee, Oklahoma. Godfrey is a retired professor and author of five books. He lives at Athens, Illinois, near Springfield.

Following the dedication there will be a Zoom

meeting of the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association at the Fulton County Museum. The group will have pizza for supper at the museum. All interested persons are welcome. The museum is on U.S. 31 four miles north of Rochester, next to the Round Barn Museum on 375 N.

The dedication is Friday evening, the night before the Trail of Courage Living History Festival Sept. 19-20. This annual event is produced by the Fulton County Historical Society, having founded the event in 1976. The Trail of Courage has two stages with traditional music and dance, teepees and wigwams, Indian dances, trade blankets, many wooden booths selling a variety of pre-1840 wares, and foods cooked over wood fires. Foods include buffalo burgers, ham and beans and vegetable soup in iron 20 gallon kettles, chicken and noodles, fry bread, Scottish pies, apple dumplings and ice cream, and homemade fudge.

Mas-saw was a Potawatomi chieftess at Kewau-nay's village at Lake Bruce in 1836 when George Winter, frontier artist, sketched and then painted her portrait in oils. Winter wrote that Mas-saw (also spelled Mas-sa and Masseh) hosted the government officials for the Treaty on August 5, 1836. She had a double log cabin and rented rooms to those attending the Treaty. Winter wrote that he placed a board across the top of a barrel for a temporary desk.

Mas-saw was a great card player and raked in the money from the white men, playing euchre and poker. Her friend Doga served as cook for the people attending the treaty. She cooked in a near-by wigwam.

Men attending the Treaty were Col. Abel C. Pepper - Indian Agent, Col. L. H. Sands, George Profit, Dr. Jerolaman - whose house is now the Logansport museum, and Gardiner, agent to secure Indian boys for the Choctaw Academy in Kentucky. And of course, George Winter, the artist.

Winter wrote that Mas-saw was married to Andrew Gosselin, a French Canadian. Mas-saw's daughter Mauri (Marie) also married a white man. Both went west in the fall of 1838 on the emigration later labeled the Trail of Death.

species, regardless of the cause of death or the number of animals involved.

"Indiana DNR is excited to offer this reporting tool to Hoosiers," said Mitch Marcus, DNR fish & wildlife health supervisor. "This online system of reporting sick or dead wild animals will be critical for early detection of fish or wildlife health concerns."

CLIFTY FALLS STATE PARK HOSTS VINTAGE CAMPER RALLY, OCTOBER 16-18

Clifty Falls State Park will host a vintage camper rally on Oct. 16-18 as part of its centennial celebration. The weekend will include camper tours, stargazing, a campfire, a picnic lunch, a scavenger hunt, and other activities.

If you have a vintage camper that you would like to show off, reserve your campsite by calling 812-273-8885 and press 3 to be directed to the Nature Center. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the rally will only be open to campers this year. All programs are free unless otherwise indicated. Standard gate fees apply.

Clifty Falls State Park (on.IN.gov/CliftyFalls) is at 2221 Clifty Drive Madison, IN 47250.

ONE RESCUED, ONE DROWNED IN PATOKA LAKE INCIDENT (CRAWFORD COUNTY)

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating the death of a man that occurred at Patoka Lake Sunday evening.

The body of Travis Ray St. Martin, 33, of Racine, Wisconsin, was recovered by conservation officer public safety divers last night at approximately 7:34 p.m., after he went missing in the water.

Yesterday, at approximately 2:51 p.m., a conservation officer was on boat patrol on the lake when witnesses alerted him to a possible drowning, and he immediately responded. Multiple 911 calls came in shortly after, reporting that a man had disappeared in the water.

Investigation revealed that two females were aboard a towable tube affixed to a stationary rental boat by a rope when they fell off the tube and struggled to stay afloat.

Multiple people from the rental boat jumped into assist, and rescued one of the females. One of the people who jumped from the rental boat, St. Martin, disappeared under the water.

The other female from the tube, K'neisha Adams, 25, of Burke, Virginia, was rescued by a group of people from a separate boat. Adams was airlifted to University of Louisville Hospital and later released.

The Crawford County coroner's office ruled the preliminary cause of death as accidental drowning. No alcohol or drugs were suspected to be contributing factors.

Although adequate life jackets were present on the rental boat, none were in use. Indiana Conservation Officers strongly encourage wearing a life jacket when recreating on or around bodies of water.

THE INDIANA REGION OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS ISSUES CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO FILL URGENT DISASTER RESPONSE NEEDS

The Indiana Region of the American Red Cross

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

mation about Indiana wildlife that appears sick or has died without an apparent cause. Reports are added to an active database that helps DNR track wildlife health over time and detect disease outbreaks.

The form can be found at on.IN.gov/sick-wildlife.

Individuals are encouraged to report fish or wildlife displaying odd behavior or signs of disease. The information gathered from this website allows biologists to monitor diseases that may be affecting fish or wildlife in the state, including epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD), avian cholera, and white-nose syndrome, among others. A biologist may contact the reporter if a sample

for disease testing is needed.

The DNR is especially interested in:

Incidents involving the death of five or more animals.

Recurring deaths of animals in the same location over a period of time.

Deer with signs that may indicate chronic wasting disease (CWD) such as emaciation, staggering or standing with poor posture, salivating excessively, or carrying their head and ears lower than normal. More information about CWD can be found at IN.gov/cwd.

Deer with signs that may indicate EHD such as death in or near water, loss of appetite and wariness, swelling around the head and neck, increased respiration rate, excessive salivation, rosy or bluish color of mouth and tongue. Learn more about EHD at IN.gov/8541.htm.

Incidents involving threatened or endangered

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Issues Call for Volunteers to Fill Urgent Disaster Response Needs

Indianapolis—The Indiana Region of the American Red Cross seeks volunteers to help address the many disaster response activities across the U.S. It has been two weeks since Hurricane Laura devastated east Texas and Louisiana, and people are still suffering. Thousands of people are still staying in emergency lodgings because they cannot return home. Historic deadly wildfires continue to consume millions of acres in the west, especially in California, Oregon and Washington, where tens of thousands of people have been forced to evacuate.

The Red Cross is working closely with partners to provide emergency lodgings, food, water, relief supplies and other support to individuals and families affected in the hardest hit areas. To further ramp up support for those reeling from disasters, the Indiana Region of the American Red Cross has fast-tracked its Disaster Action Team (DAT) training and set up virtual delivery capabilities so new volunteers can learn basic response and recovery skills and quickly deploy to a disaster location.

Before committing to training, disaster response volunteers should be willing and able to:

- Accept a two-week deployment;
- Live in a communal space (i.e., a shelter); and
- Work 12 hours per day, 6-7 days each week.

“People depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and currently the needs are great. We’re strengthening our cadre of disaster responders so it is trained and ready to go,” said Chad Priest, regional CEO of the American Red Cross—Indiana Region. “Kindness and compassion are the main job requirements for most of these roles. We can quickly teach everything else.”

To join the Red Cross mission and receive expedited training to provide essential services to those in need, go to: www.redcross.org/volunteertoday or call (888) 684-1441.

About the Indiana Region of the American Red Cross: The Indiana Region serves 104 counties across Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois through its six chapter areas: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Greater Indianapolis (Regional Headquarters). For more information on the Indiana Region: www.redcross.org/indiana. Follow the Indiana Region on Twitter at: @INRedCross, on Instagram at: @indianaredcross or www.facebook.com/INRedCross.

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GOV. HOLCOMB CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF THE DISCOVERY TRAIL IN CLARKSVILLE

Governor Eric J. Holcomb today joined members of the Clarksville Town Council and Redevelopment Commission to officially open the newly completed Discovery Trail. The 1.9-mile asphalt multi-use trail was built with help from a more than \$840,000 Next Level Trails grant.

“I’m so glad I could join you here in Clarksville, Indiana’s oldest town, to celebrate our state’s newest trail. The Discovery Trail accomplishes the key goal of our Next Level Trails program by connecting Clarksville’s residential core to schools, parks, employers, and neighboring communities via the Ohio River Greenway. The opportunity to get outside and exercise with friends and family has never been more important, especially as more Hoosiers are taking advantage of our growing statewide network of trails.”

The new trail is built on a former railroad corridor, acquired from CSX by the town in 2018. The project extends through Clarksville, from

Applegate Lane southwest to Silver Creek, where the trail merges with the Ohio River Greenway, creating uninterrupted trail connections to New Albany, Jeffersonville, and Louisville. As part of the project, a new trailhead and crossing signal were installed at Eastern Boulevard.

“Completing this trail puts the majority of Clarksville residents within two miles of a trail,” said Ryan Ramsey, Clarksville Town Council president. “Trails are an important investment in our quality of life, and we are grateful to the many partners who helped make this project a reality.”

The trail was developed by the Town of Clarksville in cooperation with the Clarksville Redevelopment Commission and Clarksville Parks & Recreation. Key partners in the project include SoIN Tourism, Duke Energy and Silver Creek Sand and Gravel. The total investment for the project, including Next Level Trails funding, was more than \$2,373,000.

The Discovery Trail is one of 17 Next Level Trails grants awarded to communities and non-profit organizations in May 2019. The nearly \$25 million investment announced by Gov. Holcomb, the largest infusion of state trails funding in Indiana history, will develop a total of 42 miles of new trail across Indiana in the coming years. As part of Gov. Holcomb’s Next Level Connections initiative, the Next Level Trails program makes critical trail connections within and between communities. Next Level Trails is administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

This is the third Next Level Trails project opened to the public this year. The Veterans Memorial Parkway Trail was dedicated in Hebron on June 6, and the Syracuse-Wawasee Park Foundation celebrated the completion of the Conklin Bay Boardwalk and Trail on July 30.

A map of the project can be found [HERE](#).

More information about the Next Level Trails program can be found at on.IN.gov/NextLevelTrails.

DUCKS UNLIMITED PODCAST LAUNCHES SEASON 3

Fall ushers in an exciting new lineup of quality podcasts from the world’s leader in wetlands conservation

Read release online »

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Sept. 3, 2020– The Ducks Unlimited (DU) Podcast launched Season 3 on Sept. 1, kicking off a full slate of engaging topics and guests for the fall. The DU Podcast is unique, offering a wide variety of waterfowl-focused discussions including hunting, management, research, biology and timely migration updates. Surpassing more than 300,000 downloads in the first 7 months of publishing, the DU Podcast is the go-to resource for all things waterfowl.

“We set out to create a high-quality podcast that gave an additional touchpoint of conservation, research and hunting information to DU’s more than 1 million supporters,” said Clay Baird, DU Podcast producer and manager of video production. “The podcast gives us an opportunity to dig a little deeper into our overall messages and provides a platform for our scientists, editors, contributors and partners. The engagement based on our first two seasons has us really excited about the potential growth of this program.” The DU Podcast is hosted by Chris Jennings, senior editor of Ducks Unlimited magazine and Dr. Mike Brasher, DU’s waterfowl scientist. The pair bring a light-hearted, conversational tone to a broad range of waterfowl topics and the organization’s conservation mission. A wide variety of guests, featuring DU biologists, agency partners, scientists and well-known hunting industry personalities round out a robust schedule for listeners during Season 3.

“We encourage anyone interested in DU, conservation, waterfowl research, along with duck and goose hunters to tune in to the DU Podcast. There’s a little something for everyone,” Baird explained. “I’m very excited about Season 3 due to the quality of the content and our fantastic sponsors.”

September and October DU Podcasts are brought to you by SportDOG Brand and Filson.

The DU Podcast can be downloaded anywhere you download podcasts, including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, YouTube, and many more. Learn more about the DU Podcast or contact the producer with questions or show recommendations on DU’s website

at ducks.org/DUPodcast.

SEED YOUR FUTURE

Dear Ray,

CONTACT

Susan E. Yoder

syoder@SeedYourFuture.org

(484) 798-5934

Seed Your Future Launches Expanded Horticulture Career Exploration Tool

Free online resource includes videos, profiles, salary information, and educational links to more than 140 careers working with plants.

MARTINSVILLE, Ind. (September 3, 2020) – Today, Seed Your Future announced the launch of its expanded Horticulture Career Exploration Tool. Much more than a basic alphabetical list of the more than 140 careers working with plants, the resource first asks site visitors to consider what they are interested in, and then profiles careers in horticulture that might match their interests. This tool is the latest resource from Seed Your Future, a coalition of more than 200 partners — including horticulture companies, gardening organizations, schools, colleges, universities, public gardens, youth organizations, nonprofit organizations, and individual advocates — united in their mission to promote horticulture and careers working with plants.

Every career page includes a profile of the job, the level of training and education required, links to where to study in the U.S. and Canada, data about salaries, links to professional organizations supporting that career, and engaging videos of real people in each career. Designed to provide introductory information to each career across the art, science, technology, education, and business of horticulture, this expanded resource will continue to grow as more careers are featured, and more videos selected to help users understand the diverse and rewarding options of a career working with plants.

“Seed Your Future is committed to providing quality, reputable information about green-collar careers working with plants,” said Susan E. Yoder, executive director of Seed Your Future. “A ‘green-lining’ of the recent global pandemic has been the renewed interest in plants, with families growing their own food and flowers, purchasing houseplants, seeds, garden supplies, and spending their time improving the world around them. Showing students, parents, mid-career changers and educators that there are meaningful and rewarding careers working with plants is the next step to building the pipeline of talent in green-collar professions,” said Yoder. “Whether this resource introduces site visitors to a fulfilling career, or a lifelong passion, one thing is clear — the more we know about plants, the more we can make a difference in the world today.”

Research identified the lack of detailed, centrally accessible information about the careers available in horticulture. Parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and youth all expressed the need for online resources to help them find out more about the careers available working with plants. “The site SeedYourFuture.org/careers serves as a digital hub for all horticulture-career information in a concise, easy to read format,” said Yoder. Future resources in development by Seed Your Future include a recruitment toolkit for horticulture and green-collar industry training and education programs, and industry promotional materials to open people’s eyes to the remarkable power of plants and the rewards of careers in the green-collar industry.

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About Seed Your Future

Seed Your Future is a national movement to promote horticulture and inspire people to pursue careers working with plants. Supported by more than 200 partner organizations, we envision a U.S. where everyone understands and values the importance of plants and the people who work in the art, science, technology, education and business of horticulture. For information, visit us at SeedYourFuture.org. ■

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