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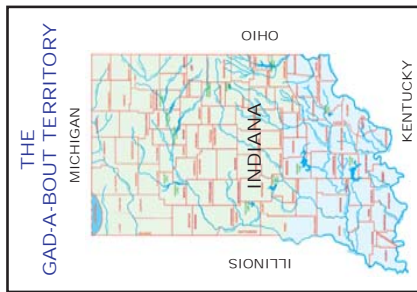
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INDIAN DANCES TRAIL OF COURAGE LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL SEPT. 19-20, 2020 SEE PAGE 17



IN MEMORY OF CWO-4 DONALD R. SLESSLER MEDALS AWARDED HIM 1941-72 - SEE PG 14-16



THE QUESTION IS HOLSTER OR NO HOLSTER? - SEE ANSWER ON PAGE 19

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Quakertown Gate House

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Cutshaw's Market

CENTERVILLE

Gillman Home Center

Village Pantry (VP)

CONNERSVILLE

Shell Service Station - Vine St

EVERTON

Pavey Foodland

FOUNTAIN CITY

Martins Country Mart

GREENS FORK

Greens Fork Restaurant

HAGERSTOWN

Willow's Restaurant

LYNN

Sausers' Truck Stop

MILROY

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NEW CASTLE

Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area

OLDENBURG

Obermeyer Marathon Station

REDKEY

Marathon Pak a Sak

RIDGEVILLE

Tharp's Service Station

RICHMOND

Dunham's Discount Sports

JoAnn's Cafe

Tractor Supply Company (TSC)

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SUMMIT LAKE

DNR Welcome Center

UNION COUNTY

Whitewater State Park Office

WINCHESTER

Hair Crafters Barber Shop

THE WHITEWATER VALLEY PLUS 9

Map Is Still Being Modified - Should Be Done By July Issue.....





THE GAD-A-BOUT™

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AUGUST 2020 • Volume XXX • NO. 365

Created in 1990 & Published Monthly
by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Usually around the holidays, but also in troubled times, criminals will try to take advantage of unsuspecting victims by running popular scams. The Indiana State Police would like to warn the public about a phone scam that has been reported recently in Central Indiana, but happens annually all across the state. See more on Page 6 (**Indiana State Police Photo**)
Top Right: Indian dances at 2001 Trail of Courage with flags of Potawatomi nations: Pokagon Band of Indiana & Michigan, Citizen Band of Oklahoma, Prairie Band of Kansas, Forrest County Potawatomi of Wisconsin. Trail of Courage Living History Festival will be Sept. 19-20, 2020. Don't be scared off. This is an outdoor event. Wear a mask and practice social distance if you wish. But do come and learn about frontier

Indiana: 2 stages with period dances & music, Potawatomi history. (**Photo by Shirley Willard**)
Bottom Left: I and many of my readers have been known to carry a handgun in the waistband of your pants or just tucked inside the belt. That can be quick and convenient, but also a bit dangerous. Let me explain. Back in the 1800s when the single action revolver or single shot derringer were the only pistols carried, holster-less carry was something done regularly. See more on page 19 (**Photo by Marshall Smith**)
Bottom Right: I first met CWO-4 Donald Slessler in the U.S. Air Force at RAF Chelveston in the Midlands of England. Between 1941 and 1972 Don was awarded 75 medals and was considered to be the most decorated CWO-4 in the U.S. Air Force at that time. (**Photo by Ray Dickerson**)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson
The Gad-a-bout

METAMORA INN IN METAMORA INDIANA OWNED & OPERATED BY JO & GI BALL

After receiving an e-mail from Mikel Beck, Executive Director of Franklin County Convention, Recreation & Visitors Commission letting me know the owner of the Metamora Inn, Jo Ball wanted me to call her. I called Jo to set up a day that would be good for both of us to get together.

I visited with Jo at her Inn on Friday, August 28th. We had a very nice visit.

See photos and special article written by Jo Ball on Page 5 telling about their unique Inn located at 19049 Wynn Street in Metamora, Indiana.

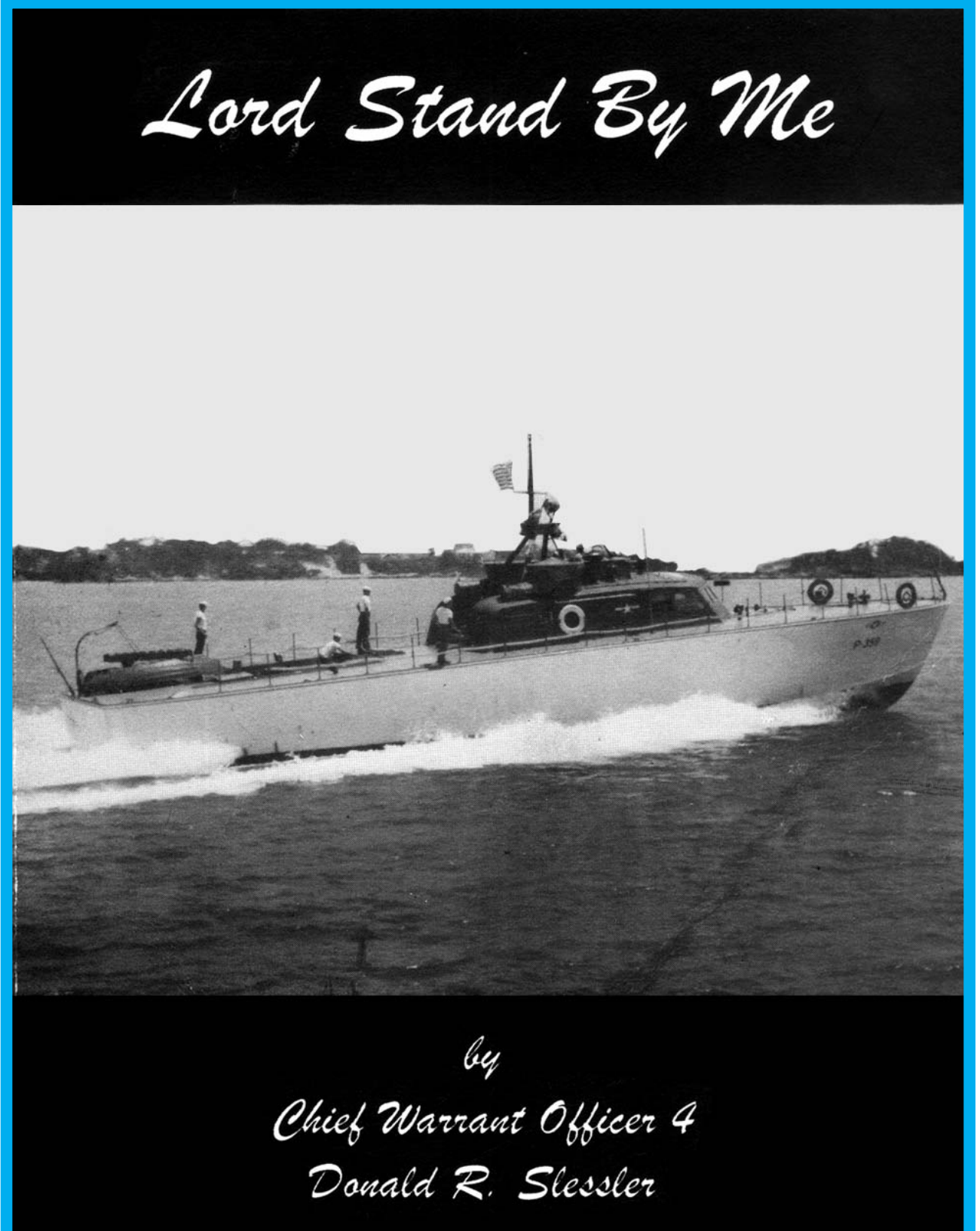
SPECIAL TRIBUTE IN THIS ISSUE FOR CWO-4 DON SLESSLER WHO PASSED AWAY JULY 7, 2020

This has been one of the hardest articles for me to write. Don was loved by everyone who had the good fortune to have known him. And believe me he was known around the world especially by fellow Veterans who were lucky enough to serve with him. This tribute is especially written for Don's family who all reside in Massachusetts not far from Don's home on the tailwater of the Quabbin Reservoir near Belchertown where they all moved to the first week of June 1972.

Sherry and I visited their home at 241 East Street I think about fifteen times from 1981 till 2018. We intended to visit them this year 2020 when we traveled to Worcester, MA where our daughter lives to see our granddaughter, Breanna, graduate from High School, but that was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We would have been there in May, two months prior to Don's funeral. But it wasn't to be.

I received a packet today from former TSgt Howard Ragan who lives in Beaverton, Oregon. You can read about Howard in Don's story too. We've been communicating since 2007 when I was lucky enough to find several Air Force buddies via a RAF Chelveston website hosted by a family who lived near the base in England.

I hope this article about Don Slessler will be considered close to what he deserves to be written about him. I have known a great many people in my 79 years, but not many of them found a place in my heart as did Donald and Phyllis Slessler and their family. I hope you enjoy their story in this issue as much as I enjoyed writing it. See pages 14-16.



This is a copy of the front page of the book Don Slessler wrote, Lord Stand By Me, written in 1998 and copyrighted in the Library of Congress 1999. There is a passage written to me by Don Slessler, "To Ray Dickerson my friend for over 40 years & a great newspaper man." signed Donald R Slessler. This is a prized possession from Don whom I first met in 1961 at RAF Chelveston in the Midlands of England. See my story about him in this issue beginning on Page 14.

THREE DEAD AFTER VEHICLE DRIVES INTO LAKE MONROE

For Immediate Release August 16:

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating the death of three individuals at Monroe Reservoir late last night.

At approximately 10:30 p.m., witnesses reported seeing a vehicle drive down the Paynetown State Recreation Area boat ramp and enter the water. The driver called out for help and attempted to exit the vehicle. The witnesses were not able to rescue the occupants before the vehicle became

submerged.

Monroe County Dive Team responded and were able to locate and remove an adult male and female as well as a male child from the vehicle. The adults were declared deceased at the scene. The child was transported to IU Health Bloomington and was declared deceased upon arrival.

Conservation Officers are working with Monroe County Coroner's Office to identify the deceased and notify the next of kin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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The Metamora Inn

by G.I. & Jo Ball
 Owners of The Metamora Inn
 Metamora, Indiana

G.I. and Jo purchased the Metamora Inn in 2001. They moved here from Noblesville, IN where they had lived most of their adult life. Eager to start a new life in the wonderful little Village of Metamora, they sold their home and started their journey. Twenty years has passed and they are still operating a successful bed and breakfast and have never regretted that move..

The Metamora Inn has hosted tourist and visitors from all over the world. A team of competitors in a worldwide musket loaded rifles tournament stayed a week at the inn. They were from Norway . They loved learning about our culture. They loved the home cooked breakfast Jo prepared especially the gravy and biscuits. A group of Menenites traveling from Canada once stayed at the inn. An Israeli girl and her mother stayed here several times. They come from all over the united States as well.

It is amazing how so many people are interested in the history of the canal.

Jo and G.I. work hard to provide a clean and comfortable place for the guests to enjoy peace and quiet. They love it when guests call it their home away from home

The inn has 4 rooms on the ground floor and a two bedroom suite upstairs. All rooms are decorated nicely . One room has two double beds and two rooms have queen size beds. Another room has a king bed. The Suite has a queen and two double beds. All rooms have private baths and private entrances with central heat and air.

Phone **765 647-2176.** E-mail. [themetamorainn@gmail.com.](mailto:themetamorainn@gmail.com) Website. [www.themetamorainn.com.](http://www.themetamorainn.com) Follow them on Facebook.



Map of Metamora, Indiana. Red arrow points to the Metamora Inn. See driving directions above.



Top Photo: Metamora Inn located at 19049 Wynn Street in Metamora, Indiana. Bottom Photo: Note, travelling east on U.S. 52 you can see the Metamora Inn on your right, giving you easy access to the Inn from US 52 on Church Street. See Map below left. (Photos By Ray Dickerson)

See the map below left to easily find the Metamora Inn. See the purple box on the north-east corner of Wynn and Church Street. Traveling East on U.S. 52 you can see The Metamora Inn on your right, turn south on Church Street. You can park on the west side of the Inn. Or you can continue east and turn right onto Columbia Street. You will see the Metamora entrance sign one block east of Church St. After you turn right on Columbia, turn right at next street (Wynn Street) go west to Church St.



G.I. and Jo Ball, owners of the Metamora Inn. (Family Photo)

The Metamora Inn B&B



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News from the Indiana State Police



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

Beware Of Phone Scams

Pendleton – Usually around the holidays, but also in troubled times, criminals will try to take advantage of unsuspecting victims by running popular scams. The Indiana State Police would like to warn the public about a phone scam that has been reported recently in Central Indiana, but happens annually all across the state. Recently some elderly residents have been swindled out of money by out-of-country con artists that are calling from phone numbers in the U.S. and Canada.

The scam targets grandparents with the subject calling the victim stating he is a grandson or granddaughter and is in trouble and needs cash wired right away. Sometimes the “trouble” is an arrest or a car crash. Now these callers have purchased your personal information off the “dark web” and know your name and family member names.

The caller is quick to ask grandparents NOT to call mom or dad and let them know. That’s why we warn would be victims that receive a call or email like this to always call relatives to check up on the situation, even if the caller tells you not to. Beware any phone call or email that warns or threatens you not to do something. This is always a tip off that it’s a scam.

Call the hospital they’re supposedly in, call the jail or prosecutor’s officer where they are supposedly incarcerated. Remember, never wire money without verifying the situation with other relatives. In addition, never give out personal information like dates of birth, social security numbers or bank account numbers over the phone. Victims have lost funds ranging from the hundreds to thousands of dollars to this scam.

If you get a call from a number you don’t recognize, let it go to voicemail. If they don’t leave a message, it was probably a scam call generated by a computerized automatic dialer set to dial thousands of numbers, looking for a victim who will answer and believe their phony story. If you feel you’ve been a victim, the FBI website for filing a complaint is www.ic3.gov, or you can call your local State Police Post. If you’ve lost money to these scams, chances are it’s gone, as it usually is picked up by someone in country and sent immediately out of country.

Internet Scams and Information You Need to know

According to FBI statistics, Indiana ranks around 22nd in the U.S. for internet scam victims. Business Email Compromise, or BEC, Relationship Fraud, Phishing and Spear Phishing continue to be some of the more popular scams found here in Indiana.

We continue to have folks contact us that have been scammed, or feel they’ve been scammed, either by a bogus email, pop up add scheme or other internet method. We had a lady come into the post that said her bank account had been cleaned out by a guy she met on an online dating site. They talked online, then met, dated and lived together for a short time. He eventually talked her into selling her house and moving into a hotel with him. She gave him full access to her debit card and passwords, which he used to clean out her accounts. There was no crime, because she essentially gave him permission (and passwords) to access her accounts after dating him

for just a few months. After she was near broke he moved on to a different single female in another town, and she moved in with her mother and father. Sure, it was relationship fraud and it would be nice if she could send out a press release saying “ladies look out for this guy, he’s a con artist;” but we all know that’s not possible or legal. Relationship fraud like this remains one of the most lucrative scams here in Indiana.

We also had a company who was having some construction work done nearly lose a very large sum of money because their email had been hacked, unbeknownst to them. They got an emailed bill that looked like it was from the company doing the work, so, unlike previous payments they had made, they wired a large sum of money to a bank like the email asked them to do.

Thankfully large sums of money have to be held a certain amount of time before being released by the bank, and the business that had sent the money became suspicious and contacted us. We caught the money at an east coast bank just hours before it was going to be transferred to a bank in another country. This is just one example of business email compromise, (BEC.) More money is lost in Indiana each year to this scam than any other

.Phishing is a common term that refers to mass emails sent out by con men, usually off shore, that purport to be from reputable companies, banks or credit card companies etc. trying to get you to give up personal information, passwords or credit card numbers. Often (but not always) they have misspelled words, punctuation or grammar mistakes, as the folks sending them don’t seem to have a proper “grasp” of the English language.

These emails often start out with general salutations like “Dear Customer” or “Dear Valued Customer.” Remember the bank, credit companies, social security or IRS will never contact you via email or phone for your information. Often these emails will have an embedded link they want you to click on that will take you to a web site to infect your computer. I recently heard of an elderly female that got an email she thought was from the Social Security Office asking her for.....you guessed it, her Social Security number! She clicked on a link and ended up calling them.

She gave them her social security number as well as other identifiers, as they said her account had been breached and they needed her correct information to issue her a “new number.” When she went down to the local Social Security Office to check on it she was told the email was bogus and there was nothing they could do now that the “bad guys” had her actual Social Security number. As the

real Social Security people told her, they don’t “issue” new Social Security numbers, even when your number has been breached by folks stealing identities.

Spear Phishing is an email that is directed to a specific person or business, or may even appear to be from a government agency.

They have your name, family member names and even business names that you deal with often via email. An email arrives looking as though it’s from a trusted source, but often leads the recipient to a fake website that infects your computer, or leads to you sending confidential information. Chances are they’ve hacked your email and have watched it to gain information about you they can use against you.

These emails can target normal folks, all the way up to CEO’s of the biggest companies and even government agencies. Often these emails will have threatening messages, I.E. your bank account has been breached, your account is about to be closed, etc. and they want you to click a link and respond immediately. I’ve even received “phishing” emails saying they are from Fed Ex and that they have tried to deliver a package to me but I wasn’t home.

They nearly always have a link in the email to click on to “remedy” the situation. Be leery of any email asking you to click a link or that has an attachment to open, or that has threatening language and requires an “immediate” response. Don’t click on any link in the email.-go to the company’s actual web site and review that vendor’s contact policies and procedures for requesting information. Again, your bank, credit card, government agencies etc. will NEVER contact you via email or phone and ask for personal information.

Make sure you have some sort of virus protection and internet security software installed on your computer. Also on most systems, all you need to do is hover your mouse cursor over a hyperlink and it will often show you the real link address. You can also look at the URL, or email address, as the information between the double slash and single slash in a web address is often the REAL web address that the email came from, or where an embedded link will take you to.

There’s so much information out there that I wish I knew and could give you; but it could literally fill up volumes of books. This is just some basic information to make you a little better informed and hopefully less likely to be a victim. If you feel you’ve been scammed, go to the FBI’s web site at [ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov) <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx> and click on internet crime complaint to report it. ■

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(PHOTO PROVIDED BY DEAN OREWILER & TRINE UNIVERSITY)

Wayne County Veteran Services Office



In this photo taken on Aug. 8, 2019, visitors walk among the headstones at the Henri Chapelle World War II cemetery in Henri Chapelle, Belgium. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

WWII Hero Led Ragtag Group That Killed over 200 Nazis Considered for Medal of Honor

by Mark Pesto

The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, Pa

U.S. Rep. John Joyce announced Thursday that he has introduced legislation that would award the United States' highest military honor to a World War II hero from Bedford County.

Joyce's House Resolution 7835 would authorize President Donald Trump to award the Medal of Honor to Lt. Eric Fisher Wood Jr., who died during the Battle of the Bulge. After becoming separated from his unit, Wood gathered a group of allies and led a guerrilla campaign that is credited with killing more than 200 Nazi soldiers.

When he was found dead in the forest outside the village of Meyerode, Belgium, in January 1945, he was surrounded by the bodies of seven dead Nazis; it's believed he killed all of them before succumbing to his injuries.

"Lt. Eric Fisher Wood Jr. was an American hero, and it is my privilege to recognize his extraordinary service and sacrifice for our nation," Joyce, R-Blair, said in a press release. "His gallant actions undoubtedly saved American lives and aided the war effort. On the Western Front, Lt. Wood gave his last full measure of devotion to defend our liberty and American values. ... By awarding Lt. Wood the Medal of Honor, we can ensure that this outstanding Pennsylvanian is remembered and honored for years to come."

Wood was born in 1919 in California, but grew up on a farm in the Bedford area after his family moved there in the 1920s. His father, Eric Fisher Wood Sr., was a co-founder of the American Legion and a notable architect whose best-known work today is the tomb of President Warren G. Harding.

Wood attended Valley Forge Military Academy and Princeton University and served in the Pennsylvania National Guard's Artillery Reserve before being called up to active duty. He was serving with an Army artillery battalion in the Ardennes Forest in December 1944 when German forces launched the counter-offensive campaign now known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Wood's unit faced a heavy German presence, and he became separated from his men after a skirmish and found himself alone in the woods. Over the next few days, he gathered together a small band of American soldiers who had been separated from their own units. For several weeks, the group harassed German patrols and worked to cut their lines of communication and supply, Belgian witnesses later said.

"Cut off and surrounded behind enemy lines, Lt. Wood mounted his own personal guerrilla war over the course of several weeks against the Wehrmacht,

frustrating and slowing the German advance and helping prevent American forces from being overrun," said retired Marine Corps Col. Stuart Helgeson, president of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, Wood's alma mater.

Wood was found dead on Jan. 23, 1945. The actual date of his death is not certain; the Army officially lists it as Dec. 17, 1944, the day he went missing from his unit, but Belgian witnesses would later testify about his exploits in the weeks afterward.

Wood's son, Eric Fisher Wood III, wrote a letter thanking Joyce and the other leaders of the effort to award the Medal of Honor to Wood.

"The loss of a father I never met has been a constant in my life," Wood III wrote. "The loss of a father to a war of great purpose and meaning gives me some sense of peace. Every time my father is honored, I feel a little closer to him. During these moments, I remind myself that his life had true meaning.

"He went above and beyond the call of duty at a difficult time in the history of our nation. He went to battle to help the vulnerable citizens of the world overcome atrocities that many will never even fathom of seeing or experiencing. There is no sacrifice that matters more than the sacrifice of one's life." ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Additional agencies assisting at the scene include: Perry Clear Creek Fire, IU Health EMS, and Monroe Fire.

PATOKA LAKE WATERFOWL RESTING AREA HUNT DATES FOR 2020-2021

Wildlife Management staff at Patoka Lake have selected the 2020-2021 waterfowl resting area access dates for the 2020-2021 Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Seasons. Patoka Lake's 8,800-

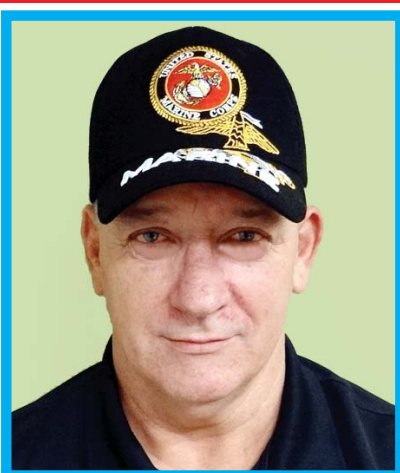
acre water body and 17,200 acres of land offers waterfowl hunters abundant opportunities to hunt open water, tributaries, marshes, and fields for various migrating waterfowl. Patoka Lake has three managed Waterfowl Resting Areas (WRAs) that can offer distinctive opportunities for hunters.

Similar to past years, the Sycamore Creek WRA will be closed to any and all forms of waterfowl hunting from Sept. 1, 2020 through Feb. 28, 2021. In addition, the Sycamore Creek WRA will have public access restrictions. There will be no legal access for hunting, fishing, trapping, or boating (motorized or non-motorized) within

Sycamore Creek WRA from Nov. 1, 2020 through Feb. 28, 2021. The intent of this public access restriction is to allow Sycamore Creek WRA to act as a temporary wildlife refuge for waterfowl, offering them a place of little disturbance.

Wall's Ramp WRA and Allen Creek WRA will be open to hunting (including waterfowl hunting), fishing, trapping, and boating (motorized or non-motorized) on the following specific days, Nov. 1, 2020 through Feb. 28, 2021.

PATOKA LAKE
HUNT DATES FOR 2020-2021
CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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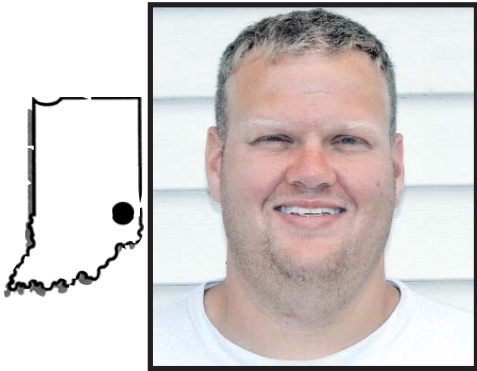


Here he is. A beautiful mount by Steve Kinker of Kinkers Wildlife Art. A mountain goat has been on my bucket list to hunt for years and years. In 2013 a medical issue prevented my hunt. In 2016 with the help of Copper River Outfitters in B.C. I got my goat. (Author Photo)



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

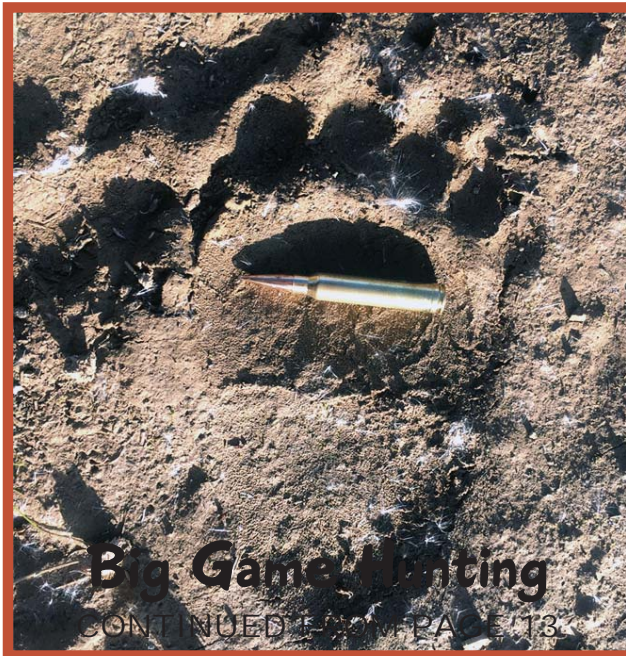


by Joel Biltz

High in the cliffs

A mountain goat has been one of my bucket list animals and the number one animal on my list to hunt for years and years. This story starts out with a very difficult and heartbreaking medical emergency that almost left me to believe I would not get the opportunity to hunt my dream!!!

In 2012 I made the decision to finally book a mountain goat hunt. After pouring over hours worth of research and phone calls I finally made a decision and booked a hunt with Dennis Zadra, Lonesome Dove outfitters based out of Cordova, Alaska for the upcoming 2013 season. I was high on anticipation and was very motivated to get in the best shape of my life. I worked out doing both cardio and weight training five days a week and had lost 45 pounds and was ready to tackle the mountain and chase mountain goats. Two and a half months before my highly anticipated hunt I became violently ill. Severe stomach pains and cramps as well as vomiting. I was rushed to the ER where they ran a CT scan and discovered I had a condition called Mekles Diverticulam. Basically this condition caused my intestines to collapse. I was rushed into surgery where the doctors had to cut out four inches of my intestines and put them back together. I was very glad that the surgery was successful and I made it to



Small Grizzly track. (Author Photo)



300 Win Mag case in a Wolf track. (Author Photo)

the ER in time but I was absolutely heartbroken knowing there was no chance of fully healing in time to be able to safely climb mountains to hunt goats.

The next several years were spent hunting as always but I always had the beautiful white mountain goat in the back of my mind. I still had the drive to go hunt one of these majestic animals. In 2015 I decided once again that I would try to fulfill my goal and dream of killing a mountain goat. I spent countless hours once again on the phone, internet, and Facebook. I had come across a booking agent by the name of Wade Derby. Wade owns Crosshair consulting and specializes in finding great hunts for his clients. I gave Wade a call and told him my goals and we talked about a few outfitters. I ended up choosing Jim Lancaster of Copper River outfitters out of Smithers British Columbia Canada.

On Sept. 8, 2016 I was finally on a flight to Smithers BC for a long anticipated mountain goat hunt. I arrived in B.C. And met my two guides for the next nine days, Dylan and Riley. We got a hotel room that night and were up bright And early the next morning for the drive up into the mountains. We had about a two hour truck ride followed by an hour

ATV ride into the heart of mountain goat country. We finally made it to where we were going to set up a base camp, a comfortable Wall tent with cots and a wood stove. The weather was not cooperating that afternoon and the mountain was socked in with rain and fog but with only an hour or so of daylight remaining the fog lifted revealing the mountains and the big drainage. My first thought was how am I going to be able to climb that? The mountain was very intimidating. My second thought is this is the most stunning place I have ever been. We were basically right below a big glacier across the valley from us. We then took a quick hike to peek around a corner and there he was. About a mile and a half away was a big lone goat on the side of the mountain, up in the granite cliffs. Then to the right of him we spotted two more goats and then all the way at the top one more. Riley looked at me and said the one in the cliffs is the one we want to go after and we will have him killed by 2:00 the next day.

The following morning had us up bright and early for a great breakfast. We headed straight for the spot we were the night before and were presently sur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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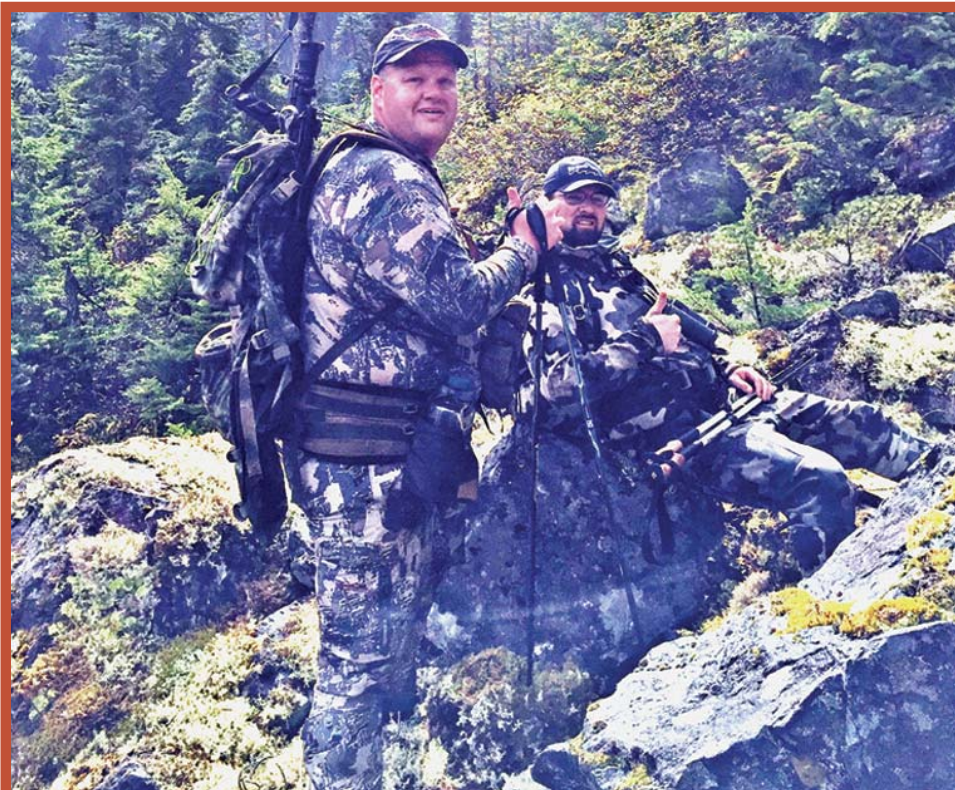
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We hiked until we were at the base of the mountain. We set up two tents as a spike camp and then located the goat still bedded above us at 800 yards. (Author Photo)



The next six hours were spent climbing the mountain. Resting here, Riley relocated the billy goat at 200 yards. I ran the bolt on my 300 Win Mag and prepared to shoot. (Author Photo)



After taking careful aim the goat finally stood up and I shot him. The guides had to climb above the goat and repel back down to retrieve it. This is their repel line. (Author Photo)



The guides made it back around midnite and we finished the hike back to the Spike Camp at 2 a.m. Here I'm in the camp resting with my goat all ready to packed out. (Author Photo)



Here is a cool shot of me in British Columbia, one of the guides took the photo. I'm silouted against the colorful background with a mysterious shaft of light beside me. (Author Photo)



Guide Riley with my goat. (Author Photo)

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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**
Professional Fishing Guide

Fishing Brookville Lake In September

Fishing in September can be somewhat of a mystery. Don't be afraid to do something different. I myself generally fish with a jig and night crawler, the reason being it works perfectly for imitating a crawdad. But at this time of year I may troll or pitch a spoon. In September, the lake is so full of bait fish that it can leave you scratching your head. The majority of the bait fish are shad, but a lot of the predator fish all so have young swimming around in the lake as well. The shad schools are constantly on

the move. Some days they are on flats, some days there on the surface, and other days their suspended. One thing that I do every day I am on the water is keep my eyes open for any disturbance on the surface as well as keep my eyes on the fish finder. What you looking for are little clues to the potential of feeding fish. You can look at it more like hunting and not fishing. What you're looking for on the surface is small splashes, and what you're looking for on your fish finder is clouds of bait fish or arches on the bottom. These are good places to start. Check around with your depth finder. Look for a hump, a drop off ledge or some type of irregularity on the bottom that could be holding fish. If you find something like this position your boat in the



Tag fishing with one of his customers who caught a couple really nice walleye fishing with me on Brookville Lake. (Author Photo)

deep water or just about a cast length away and start by casting a jig and night crawler. Fish it slows on the bottom. After a few casts if you don't get bit, tie on a spoon and frog hop it along the bottom back to the boat. If this don't work tie on a crank bait cast and retrieve it across the same hump. This is just a simple process of elimination. We were doing this very thing a couple of weeks ago on my guide boat. We caught 15 catfish and 4 walleyes on a jig and night crawler. One guy picked up a pole that had a 1/2 ounce blade bait tied on it. His very first cast he let it fall to the bottom and started to frog hop it back to the boat when a white bass hit it. I think we caught about 30 white bass that day. Another day we were fishing a jig and night crawler, the fish were biting but it was slow. So, we tied on a couple of crank baits and trolled around on the drop off edge of a flat and caught 10 walleyes. This is what I mean by an open mind, you can't go by what worked yesterday. If they are not biting, it might just mean they're not biting what your trying to feed them. If you do troll, try not to over think it. Stick with a medium to medium heavy pole. It can be a spinning outfit or a bait caster. Use crank baits that dive 8 and 10 feet deep or 10 to 12 feet deep. I stick with crank baits that look like baitfish or crawl dads. If you use monofilament try to stay with 8 to 10 lb. test. Heavier lines will just not let the bait work to its. If you use braid use 15 to 20 lb. test. There are few differences mono is thicker and stretches. Braid is thinner and doesn't stretch. Mono feels like your dragging a wet t shirt. Braid you can see and feel the crank bait vibrating in the rod tip. This can just be a personal preference, but I like to use braid for trolling. As far as how much line to let out, just enough where the bait is ticking the bottom. I start out at just an idle and just start letting out line as I do this, I count to say 75. From here I watch my rod tip as I move a little shallower. When I see my crankbait start ticking the bottom, I check

my depth, and this is the depth I want for this crank bait. I might adjust my crankbait in or out a little or make wide S turns with the boat to speed the crank bait up or slow it down. Your trolling speed should be somewhere between 1/2 and 1 mile an hour. When I'm frog hoping a spoon or blade bait, I like to use a med heavy 6 ft. spinning pole or a 6'6" bait caster pole spooled with 17 lb. test mono. And for fishing with a jig and night crawler I use 6 ft. med. light spinning pole spooled with 6 lb. test mono. All these poles and methods have the potential to catch fish. The million-dollar question though is there fish there. In today's market there are all kinds of gadgets to help you find fish, and all kinds of gadgets to try and catch fish, but time on the water is what's going to help you the most.

Good Luck Tag

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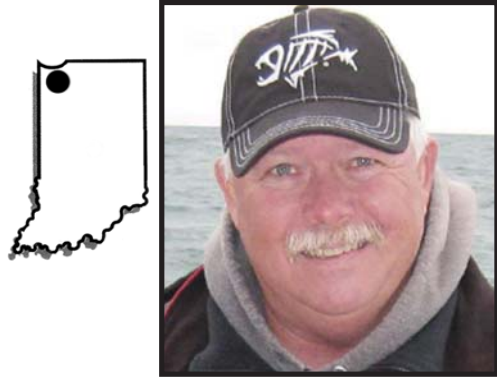
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

CDDI STRATEGIES ARE SPREADING THE MESSAGE

Everyone is subjected every day to advertising campaigns designed to make the products being hyped so familiar they become ingrained into people's thoughts and actions. I'm sure you recognize the product when you hear the words, "Great Taste, Less Filling" or recognize insurance is being sold the

second you see Progressive's Flo or the GEICO Gecko.

Though you may not realize the not for profit group called Wildlife Forever is the "parent," I'm sure you have seen and hopefully understand the concept being sold when you hear the words, "Clean, Drain, Dry. Wildlife Forever just released the advertising statistics for last year's "Clean Drain Dry Initiative." Wildlife Forever and their coalition of partners which includes dozens of local, state and national partners made 102 million targeted impressions in 2019.

So, why do impressions matter? If you're a biologist, an impression could be compared to an introduction of an invasive species into a new environment. The increased frequency with which a boater, homeowner or hiker introduces a foreign species, the greater chance for it to spread or become established. If only one male and one female Asian Carp get into the Great Lakes, the chances for them to find each other, successfully spawn and end up disrupting the whole ecology of the lakes is remote. But if 100 carp get in, or a thousand, or 10 thousand, each increase in number makes it more likely the carp will become established.

That's why targeted impressions matter. It's why beer and soft drinks are advertised during the Superbowl and cleaning products and arthritis medicine are advertised on The Price is Right. The right message needs to be seen by the right people.

The Clean Drain Dry Initiative, emphasizing prevention and public outreach, is similar in that it disseminates Clean Drain Dry messages at a high frequency in targeted environments. Maximizing exposure to the right people and at the right places, increases substantially the likelihood that Clean Drain Dry behaviors will be adopted.

Just in case the words "Clean Drain Dry" are unfamiliar to you, it's an effort to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. As invasive mussels, Eurasian milfoil and other non-native species became established in the Great Lakes or other lakes, it was soon recognized they could be spread by fishermen and other boaters to unaffected areas or lakes in bilgewater, livewells, minnow buckets or in the case of milfoil, just by scraps of the weed clinging to boat trailers.

That being the case, the best defense would be for

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CLEAN

- Boats, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axels, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

DRAIN

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

DRY

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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every boater who regularly, or even occasionally, moves from one lake to the next to make sure their boat and trailer are clean, with no weeds or other debris in or on the boat or evident on the boat's trailer. The drain plug should be pulled as soon as the boat is trailered and pulled from the lake to make sure any water in the bilge drains out. Then open the hatches and access panels as best you can to let air circulate and allow the bilge and bait tanks and livewells to dry out completely - Clean, Drain Dry.

Since its inception in 2006, Wildlife Forever has consistently used new and innovative strategies to generate over 2 Billion Impressions with outdoor recreation users. In addition, Wildlife Forever and our partners have made cost-effective investments into nationally-approved best management practices for invasive species prevention.

Through all of this the group has remained laser focused on the target audiences with the greatest impact on invasive species, thus maximizing the success of the Clean Drain Dry program. In 2020 Wildlife Forever will continue to introduce new tools to help managers and communities implement Clean Drain Dry Initiative.

Working with coalition partners, new resources are developing to better coordinate the data, tools and techniques for invasive species prevention and management. An action plan has been formalized with the Department of Interior to streamline and improve federal coordination and to strengthen implementation of the Clean Drain Dry Initiative

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

STEVE'S MARINE



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Cabinet Factory Outlet building. Photo by Ray Dickerson

Cabinet Factories Outlet Of Richmond, Indiana

by Ray Dickerson
An Interview with Owner Toby Yutzky

Ray - Toby how did you get started getting into this business?

Toby - Actually I started at the factory loading trucks while I was in High School in Arthur, Illinois. That was my hometown.

Then I moved out to the Outlet Store, that was the Schrock Cabinet Factory's home base in Arthur, Illinois.

Ray - How old were you?

Toby - Sixteen, I was still in high school. I loaded trucks in the night time and went to school in the day time.

Ray - Where did you go to school?

Toby - Arthur high school.

Ray - Did you go to college?

Toby - The working man's college, I started at the factory when I was 16. When I was 18 or 19 I moved out to the outlet store, just like this factory here in Richmond.

Ray - When did you and Jamie get married.

Toby - Jamie and I were married in 1994 on June 18th exactly 5 years after the day we met.

Toby added - Then in 1996 they transferred me



Cabinet Factories Outlet's warehouse is stocked with all the latest cabinets and accessories. Photo by Ray Dickerson

to Denver, Colorado. We lived there for two years.

Then I was transferred to Richmond from Denver, Colorado in 1998. So we moved to Richmond, Indiana.

Ray - Was that still with Schrock?

Toby - They changed their name. In the years I worked for them, I worked for a lot of different companies. Within the same company. When I started it was Schrock Cabinet Company. Then they sold it to other brands. Then they created their own brand and it was called Masterbrand Cabinet Company.

Toby added - So I worked for all those companies under one umbrella. Then after they transferred me to Richmond they spun this store off to one of the local guys. Cabinet Supply on Northwest 5th purchased the business in 1999 or

2000.

Ray - Oh, yeah I vaguely remember that store.

Toby - There was a cabinet shop there for a number of years. Dave Karn owned that and I worked for him for about six years and became part owner of the Cabinet Factories Outlet. Then we sold it to an investor. I worked for him about three years. Dave and I became very good friends. With his mentoring and guidance I was able to purchase the Cabinet Factories Outlet in 2010. We remain friends to this day.

Toby added - We have saw many changes in the 22 years we have been in this area. But are proud to be business owners in Richmond.

We are also proud of our staff past and present and the customer service they give when helping people achieve their kitchen goals. ■

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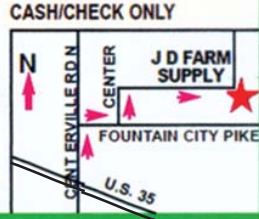
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Left to Right: Rhett Weiss, Austin Amyx, Toby and Jamie Yutzy (Toby holding onto Jeffrey their pet Corgi dog) Photo by Ray Dickerson



Bath Vanity Cabinets. Photo by Ray Dickerson



Stock Oak Cabinets. Photo by Ray Dickerson



Stock Grey Cabinets. (Cabinet Factory Photo)



Schrock Selection Center. Photo by Ray Dickerson

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Top Photo: Air Force Warrant Officer Donald R. Slessler (August-16-1922 - July 7, 2020) and his wife Phyllis L. Slessler (January 13, 1927 - June 30, 2015) are together now forever.

Bottom Photo: This is a copy of the photo of the Slessler family at the time I first got to know them at RAF Chelveston in 1961 England where Donald and I were stationed at the time. We were both in the U.S. Air Force. Top Row: Donald and Phyllis Slesler. Bottom Row: Alan, Donna, Lori, Marla and Mark Slessler.

Donald R. Slessler, An Extraordinary Military Man 1922 - 1972

I first met CWO-3 Donald Slessler in the U.S. Air Force at RAF Chelveston in the Midlands of England. Once you got to know him it was okay to just call him Don.

I worked in the Base Supply Inventory Section and Don was the Unit Supply Officer for the base. As far as I can remember our paths didn't cross until 1961 when I joined his newly formed RAF



Don and I in his living room at his home on our last trip there in June 2018.

Chelveston Pistol Team. He recruited many of us from 10th Supply Squadron.

With a pistol or rifle Don shot in the Expert Class, we new members of the Chelveston Pistol Team were just happy to keep the .22 and .45 bullet holes within the target. We practiced at every opportunity, Don saw to that. The pistol range was on the other side of the target mound of the rifle range enclosed in cement at RAF Chelveston. We used spent .30 caliber cartridge shells for ear plugs until we were able to obtain real ear plugs. When you are surrounded by cement and you fire your .45 automatic pistol, the echo of firing can be deafening without ear plugs.

Our first official pistol match was August 1961 at RAF Lakenheath Invitational Pistol Match with orders dated 25 July 1961 by 1st Lt. Robert B. Meslow, USAF Personnel Services Officer for team members 1st Lt James R. Jacobsen, MSgt Jason C. Hurd, SSgt Ralph M. Massey, A2c John D. Duignan, A2c Anthony Trezza and A2c Raymond E. Dickerson.

The RAF Alconbury Pistol Teams participated at Lakenheath too, members included Capt. Richard Johnson, Capt. Gloria Sanchez, Capt. Charles Wylie, 1st Lt. Harry Otto, CWO W3 Donald Slessler, MSgt Louis Tuliano, TSgt Douglas Hasseler, SSgt Benjamin Howard, SSgt Hubert Legg.

At the time Don was a Chief Warrant Officer W-3 and one of his duties was Base Range Officer in charge of all Firearm Competition matches at both RAF Alconbury and RAF Chelveston. Don was a regular member of the RAF Alconbury Pistol Team and the 5th member of the newly formed RAF Chelveston Pistol Team if we were short a shooter.

Don, unlike most officers, maybe it had something to do with his gaining rank from Private to Warrant Officer, but we really felt at ease in his presence. It was through this time that my friendship with Don began that has lasted to this very day. Not only with Don, but his family also. In England Don lived at Hargrave Hall, just a short distance from the base. I had a 1956 Ford Popular and visited Don, Phyllis and family from time to time at their home. Anthony Trezza from Long



Don and Sherry on our last visit there. We traveled to MA to see our Grandson Dylan Smock graduate from H.S.

Island, NY who was also a member of RAF Chelveston Pistol team and I on several occasions visited Hargrave Hall to spend the day with Don and Phyllis.

In fact, Christmas 1961, Don and Phyllis invited Trezza and I to spend Christmas with them. Two GI's away from home having Christmas in Hargrave Hall with Don, Phyllis and their five children, what a wonderful time we had. We spent Christmas eve and Christmas day with them. Christmas morning we watched in awe as Alan, Donna, Lori, Marla and Mark were surprised to see all the gifts Santa had left for them. Santa hadn't forgotten Trezza and I either. I received a Tie Clasp in the shape of a pistol with a pearl handle. I still have it. Oh what memories I have of that time in my life.

In October 1961 the RAF Chelveston and RAF Alconbury pistol teams flew to Bitburg Air Base, Germany to participate in the European Fall Open Pistol Match with orders. We newbies's (RAF Chelveston) team found ourselves in a predicament. In England all the pistol ranges were 25 yards. At Bitburg the range was 50 yards. Uh-Oh!

Then at the 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing Small Arms 1962 Matches I was the Assistant Statistical Officer with the responsibility of helping score the targets. On the shooting range there is no rank, every shooter is just that, a competing shooter. The reason being is when I as an Airman Second Class is scoring targets for a Non-Commissioned officer or a ranking officer, when I am scoring their target, if I score a shot as a 9, the Officer can't tell me it is a 10, just because he is an Officer. On the range he and I are equal competing shooters. As soon as we step off the range it's "Yes Sir Captain, Sir!"

After that match I became a member of the RAF Alconbury Pistol Team and went with them to RAF Sculthorpe for an Invitational Pistol Shoot in November 1962, members included Capt. R. Johnson, Capt. G. Sanchez, Capt. C. Wylie, 1st Lt. H. Otto, CWO-W3 D. Slessler, MSgt L. Tuliano, TSgt D. Hasseler, SSgt B. Howard, SSgt H. Legg and A/2c R. Dickerson. I traveled with Don to Sculthorpe in his 1957 VW Van.

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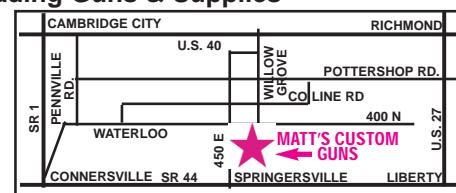
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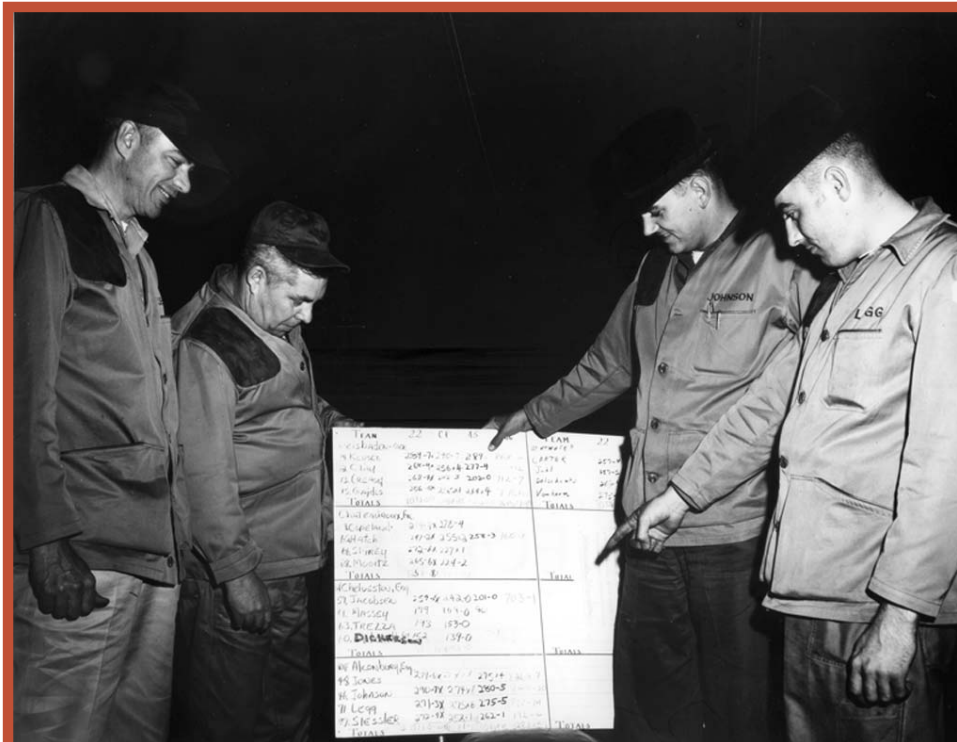
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RAF Alconbury Pistol Team at RAF Lakenheath 25 July 1961 from left to right CWO W3 Donald Slessler, MSgt Jones, Captain Richard "Hardball" Johnson and SSgt Hubert H. Legg (Photo by SSgt Ralph M. Massey, RAF Chelveston Pistol Team & Base Photographer)



RAF Lakenheath, Left to Right: Colonel Thomas C. Kelly Commander of RAF Mildenhall, Raymond Dickerson member RAF Chelveston Pistol Team and Colonel Davis Commander of RAF Lakenheath. (Photo by SSgt Ralph M. Massey, RAF Chelveston Pistol Team)



Don coming out of the house he and Phyllis built on Swift River in 1972. They did all the work them selves. After he retired from his 30 year career with the United States Air Force.



Don received 75 Medals and was considered to be the most decorated CWO-4 in the U.S. Air Force at that time. Most of the Medals are in this case in his living room. See list below.

especially when it is coupled with the respect of those involved.

One of the last times I got to spend an evening with Don and Phyllis in England was at the December 31, 1962 New Year's eve party at RAF Chelveston. We had a great time, I remember it to this day. If only.....!

The story doesn't end here.

I left England February 17, 1963 bound for Stewart Air Force Base near Newburgh, NY in the good ole' USA.

As time passed Don and I kept in touch by mail while Don finished over 31 years and four wars in the Armed Forces of the United States. I have a post card I'm looking at here from Don who was in Vietnam at the time. He had arrived at Saigon airport on November 11, 1965. The post card had a very pretty smiling Vietnamese girl surrounded by beautiful flowers in pots. It read, "Hi Pal: I'm saving one of these for you, believe me she is an exception, most are as pretty as a mud fence. Good to hear from you, Trezza and Ragan. He wrote mostly about his pistol shooting buddies still in the Air Force and ended by telling me about his family who lived in Ludlow, MA. He said see us when you can, signing it, Your buddy Don.

Don remained in the Air Force until July 1, 1972 when he received his "Certificate of Retirement.

Here is the list of Medals Don Received Donald Slessler served his country and earned the following medals from 1941 to 1996.

- Russian Great Patriotic War 1941-1945
- Great Patriotic War 1945-1995-50th Anniversary
- Munitions Maintenance Master Badge
- Bronze Star Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Air Force Commendation Medal 3
- Air Force Commendation Medal

- Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation 2
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Good Conduct Medal Army
- American Defense, December 7, 1941, Coast Guard
- American Campaign Medal
- WWII Victory Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Korean Service Medal 7
- Vietnam Service Medal 4
- United Nations Service Medal
- Air Force Longevity Service Award 6
- Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
- Republic of Korean Presidential Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal 3
- United Nations Medal
- Excellence in Competition Medal (Pistol)

**Donald R. Slessler
An Extraordinary Family Man
1972 - 2020**

Just prior to retiring Don and Phyllis began looking for a place to retire too. They saw an ad for a summer camp on the Swift River in Belchertown, MA.

"On a Sunday in late June 1971, we did go to see the 'camp,' said, Don. Our initial impression was terrible, not to the house, but the driveway/washed-out gully going down to the house.....After looking around, I knew God had this in mind for us, he added. It was in the middle of 1,100-acres of state wildlife land."

Don and Phyllis built a home there where they lived for the rest of their lifetimes. See photo on page 15 of their home on the bank of the Swift River, tailwater of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Regressing just a bit back to 1973 when I began publishing The Outdoor Gad-a-bout. I sent Don and Phyllis a copy each time it was published until I discontinued it in 1978.

In 1981 I contacted Don asking if we, Sherry, Amy and I could visit them at their home. He told us it would be great seeing us, in fact we could stay with them in their home. He wanted to show us their outdoor world, living on the tailwater (Swift River) of the Quabbin Reservoir. He had a Boston Whaler he could take us for a ride on the river, catch trout right in front of his house. We planned the visit for June.

Our very first visit with Don and Phyllis Slessler was a very well planned get together in June of 1981. In our communication leading up to the trip, Don told me graphically about their living in the middle of 1,100-acres of state wildlife land on the tailwater of the Quabbin Reservoir. Their house was situated so that the living room overlooked the Swift River that meandered behind their house. We really looked forward to the trip.

Finding the Fish Hatchery at the entrance to 241 East Street was easy, following the other directions was a bit more interesting, past the hatchery, back the gravel road, name on tree, back the dirt path, between the two trees and you are there. **DON'T GET OUT OF THE CAR UNTIL PEOPLE ARE PRESENT!** Don had-guard dogs on duty!

So in June 1981 I, Sherry and Amy, who was 2 years old at the time, visited Don and Phyllis for the first time there on Swift River. For me it was a reunion long envisioned, having last seen Don, Phyllis and their family at their English home near RAF Chelveston, England in February of 1963.

Prior to arriving Amy had hurt her foot on a corner of a camping table that was folded down in the van, while enroute. It looked like we should have it looked at so we stopped at a hospital in Washington, PA. A doctor at the hospital took care of the toe, instructed us to soak it as indicated in his directions and have it looked at again in a few days. (Continued on next page)

Donald R. Slessler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

After we arrived at Don and Phyllis's home I can remember seeing Amy sitting in a little chair on their back porch looking out over Swift River. She sat there patiently waiting for the chance to move.

We told Phyllis the doctor in Washington, PA told us to have her foot looked at so we needed to get that done. Phyllis told us no problem, Donna, their daughter's husband Roger, was a doctor and we could get that done right away. So we took Amy to Roger's office and he took care of Amy's toe. He said it was doing okay and to keep soaking it for a couple more days.

During the course of the next few days we visited the rest of their family, except for Alan who lived quite a distance away. It was great seeing them and their families too.

We had a wonderful time visiting everyone. Don showed us his paradise, I got my ride on Swift River with Don. What a ride that was, Don was an excellent boat Captain. I wobbled a bit when I got back on terra firma, just kidding!

One evening the five of us had a cook out on Quabbin Reservoir, it was a lot of fun.

We could tell Don and Phyl loved their surroundings. Who wouldn't though, it was indeed a paradise, especially the privacy. He had two guard dogs who kept it very private!

Soon it was time to leave, we wanted to go to Boston while up there to see the sights and planned on seeing them.

Over the years since 1981 on our many visits, eighteen I think, we have had the pleasure of visiting everyone in Don's family, I think. We've saw family photos that Don and Phyllis have shown us through the years. Just about every Christmas up until the last couple of years Phyllis had sent a Christmas letter to all her friends telling the news of their family and friends.

Our last visit was late May 2018. We traveled to Worcester, MA where our daughter Amy lives with her family. Our grandson Dylan Smock was graduating from High School and we promised him we would see him graduate.

While visiting Amy we spent a day with Don at his house. We had a great visit enjoying talking about all the things we remembered. For lunch we took Don to Almeida's Country Cafe, a nearby restaurant. They have good food there and the staff is very nice too.

It's a good thing we did visit that year, our plans to visit in 2020 for our grand daughters graduation was thwarted due to Covid-19. Returning back to Don's home after our lunch, we sat down and began talking about old times again. Soon Don got up and brought over a photo of the Air Sea Rescue boat he served as Marine Engineer on. He also showed me a couple of paintings of his boat.

As the time neared 6 p.m. I told Don we needed to head back to Worcester (Wooster if you are a native). I told him when we visited our daughter in 2020 we would visit him again. We shook hands, hugged briefly, waved goodbye as we got in our van and head up the lane.

Note: If we had gotten to visit in May 2020 there was a good possibility we would have gotten to visit with Don one more time. But it wasn't to be Don passed away on July 22, 2020.

We all miss you Don very much.

Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

message and outreach services.

The Clean Drain Dry Initiative uses the science of marketing to ensure a consistent message and a clear, positive brand image. Targeting key user groups such as lakeshore property owners, the campaign eliminates redundancy and focuses on maximizing public awareness and engagement.

Communicating prevention behaviors in multiple ways and a variety of focused locations is critically important. They want the message, Clean Drain Dry, to be as familiar as the slogans Pepsi, Nike and other major corporations use to ensure their products are recognized. Expect to see ready-made content and branded designs displayed in ice machines, in marina windows, at bait shops and other areas fishermen and boaters will see them.

Digital ads provide an efficient way to directly deliver information to targeted audiences. Social media is the "new normal" for communication, engaging with new audiences and expanding invasive species outreach with digital advertising.

The CDDI is just one of many ways Wildlife Forever is promoting and conserving America's fish and wildlife heritage. The best way to support it is to become a member. There are many levels starting at only \$20. Check them out at

www.wildlife-forever.org.

THE END

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Wall's Ramp & Allen Creek WRA Open Dates

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February: 5,6,7,8,9,13, & 14

All hunters must sign-in at one of the 19 hunter sign-in stations on the property. Hunter sign-in is mandatory, and failure to sign-in and return a One-Day Hunter Check-in Card properly may result in a fine. All game taken must be recorded on a One-Day Hunter Check-in Card that is to be carried with you as you hunt. The card is to be turned in at the end of the day, even if no game were harvested. Please be sure to return the card to the same hunter sign-in station where you originally signed in. This system provides valuable wildlife management information.

Special federal, state, and property regulations must be followed — visit Hunting.IN.gov for details. Hunters are encouraged to contact DNR Law Enforcement at **812-837-9536** regarding specific questions on federal or state laws, statutes, and/or rules. Maps of the Waterfowl Resting Areas can be picked up at the Patoka Lake Main Office.

Hunters may find additional information by visiting the Division of Fish & Wildlife Migratory Gamebird Seasons and Regulations webpage at hunting.IN.gov/3569.htm, or by calling Patoka Lake at **812-685-2464** between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and asking to speak to the property wildlife specialist.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at 3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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News of Native American Indians in Indiana



by Shirley Willard

Fulton County Historian, Rochester, Indiana

Trail of Courage celebrates 45th Year September 19-20, 2020

Yes, we plan to produce the Trail of Courage as usual this year.

Trail of Courage Living History Festival will be Sept. 19-20, 2020. Don't be scared off. This is an outdoor event. Wear a mask and practice social distance if you wish. But do come and learn about frontier Indiana: 2 stages with period dances & music, Potawatomi history. Also Indian dances, Mountain Man tug-of-war, how to fire a cannon, muzzle-loading shooting contests, canoe rides. So educational that many school buses bring students. Enjoy foods cooked over wood fires: buffalo burgers, big kettles of soup and popcorn, Scottish pies, fudge, ice cream and apple dumplings. Open Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission charged. See www.fultoncountyhistory.org. Phone 574-223-4436. Email fchs@rtcol.com. Fulton County Historical Society, 37 E 375 N, Rochester IN 46975. Located at Fulton County Museum and white round barn which are open free during festival, located beside U.S. 31 four miles north of Rochester, on 35 acres on north side of Tippecanoe River. Free parking, free rides on trams pulled by tractors.

Founded in our nation's Bicentennial year, 1976, this event started as a one-time celebration and reminder of Fulton County's Indian history. Today after growing and improving for nearly half a century, the Trail of Courage Living History Festival attracts between 14,000 and 18,000 people. Over a thousand re-enactors wear historic outfits and camp



Indian dances at 2001 Trail of Courage with flags of Potawatomi nations: Pokagon Band of Indiana & Michigan, Citizen Band of Oklahoma, Prairie Band of Kansas, Forrest County Potawatomi of Wisconsin. (Author Photo)

in tepees, wigwams or white canvas tents. They portray several time periods: Revolutionary War, War of 1812, French & Indian War, Civil War, Plains Indian, Woodland Indian, and Chippeway Village, the first white man's village in Fulton County, founded by William Polke in 1830.

At the north end of the grounds next to the museum are the round barn and 14 old buildings forming the Living History Village called Loyal, Indiana. William Polke's white house, built in 1832, was donated by Airvac and moved to FCHS grounds in 1993. Polke's house was a stagecoach inn and was the first frame house built north of the Wabash River. Polke was the first white settler. (Settler means he owned land; others were here working as government employees to operate a corn-cracking mill at Lake Manitou for the Potawatomi Indians.) Polke was the first postmaster here. He was also the conductor of the Trail of Death forced removal of the Potawatomi from Indiana to Kansas. This event is a reminder and apologizes for the forced removal.

Other old buildings were moved to create the Living History Village called Loyal, Indiana; 1876 Rochester Depot, 160 feet of railroad track with 1971 Norfolk & Western caboose and 1955 boxcar, replica blacksmith shop, print shop, Pioneer Woman's Log Cabin Museum, 1920s general store, Athens cider mill, Kewanna jail, octagon corn crib, round brooder house for baby chicks, Dr. Shafer's office and dental office, railcar and Parrot's railcar garage, Leedy - Partridge - Paxton big white round barn, and McCrosky little red round barn. The big white round barn was the first building moved and restored, donated by Larry and Patty Paxton in 1989 after a tornado took the roof off. Another tornado took the roof off in August 2015. These buildings are open to the public during the Trail of Courage with no admission charge.

Also preserved is a windmill and a small iron bridge made by the Rochester Bridge Company.

The Trail of Courage charges admission. \$8 adults, \$3 for children ages 6 to 11, free to children age 5 and under. Age 12 is traditionally the age of adulthood, stemming from history when age 12 was when boys left school and went to work.

The Trail of Courage has two stages with music and dance and programs all day. Programs are funded in part by a grant from Indiana Arts Commission. Music is by River Valley Colonial Fife & Drum Corps, Aztec dancers, Mark and Liza Woolever, Common Stock Entertainment, Anderson Marching Highlanders, Indian dancers and drum, Mark Gropp on bagpipes, and Mike Kenny on guitar, Lane and Jennifer Laffoon on banjo and fiddle. It varies from year to year.

Over 30 wooden booths are occupied by food vendors and craftsmen. Traditional crafts are demonstrated, taught and offered for sale: basketry, weaving, spinning, blacksmithing, beadwork, rope making, candle dipping by local Girl Scouts, etc. Boy Scouts are in charge of the parking in the 20 acre field between the museum and the festival on the banks of the river. Canoe rides are available.

Foods are cooked over wood fires: buffalo burgers, ham and beans and vegetable soup in big iron kettles, barbecue, chicken and noodles, and more. Also for the sweet tooth: fudge, apple dumplings and ice cream!

Each year a different Potawatomi that had relatives on the Trail of Death is honored and their biography published in the Rochester Sentinel and in a postal folder for sale in the replica Chippeway Village post office at the Trail of Courage grounds.

This event is so big you cannot see it all in one day. ■

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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

THE FINER POINTS OF SUMMER

Ah, Mother Nature, the guardian of all life on the planet, the maker of seasons and the matron of weather. Where would we be without her? I'll tell you where. COMFORTABLE! Some time within this decade someone has done something to really tick her off and we're all being made to suffer because of it. She snowed us under and froze us solid for four months, tried to drown us for two more, and now we're being slowly baked and basted in dirt, grime and sweat. I feel like a microwave meal for a bunch of modern cannibals.

"Uh, what's in freezer?"
 "Frozen, tall, skinny Hoosier with knobby knees."
 "Drop it in a pan of water for two months to thaw out and then roast it on a spit for three months. Remove that raccoon skin coat, take the umbrella out of its hand and discard that bottle of sun burn ointment. Also, wipe that stupid smile off its face.

I know you think I'd probably gripe if I were mugged by a super model, but it's hard to be objective with sweat running into my eyes while scratching mosquito and chigger bites. Not long ago I was whining about frozen wind shield wipers and now I'm griping about them melting to the windshield.

I really do love the lazy, hazy days of summer, but the weird meteorological conditions this year have my yard looking like a small patch of Brazilian jungle I've discovered new strains of growth that look like they could off your foot if you got too close. There is something growing out there that I could swear I saw walk from one side of the yard to the other last night. I'll admit it was dark and I could have imagined it (maybe the white lightning had something to do with it), but when the dog won't go out to potty without an escort, something from a science fiction movie is prowling out there. In addition, we have enough dandelions to keep half the people here at the lake in wine for a year. My question is, who would want wine made from a noxious weed that has resisted every deadly chemical known to man? I know I'm being paranoid, but I believe I'll pass and stick to the stuff brewed in big copper kettles.

I must admit that a dandelion is a highly adapt-

able plant. The first stage is the aforementioned blossom followed by a ball of fluffy little seeds on top of a rubbery stalk. Below all this is a root that goes deep enough to suck water out of wells in Beijing, China while spreading a layer of greasy looking leaves that dine on Kentucky blue grass. Breaking off a stalk produces a milky substance so bitter that by comparison, makes a green persimmon taste good. As kids we found that these stalks made great whistles, but when the sap touched your tongue, it fell asleep and your teeth itched. Everything in nature is supposed to have a purpose, but there seem to be a few exceptions. Besides the dandelion that produces nothing more than an intoxicating beverage and rotten tasting whistles, there are the chigger and the mosquito.

According to Webster, the chigger is a six-legged larvae, one-sixteenth of an inch long, parasitic on man and other vertebrates that causes severe itching. That's an understatement. In spite of all the years I've served as a dinner table for these nasty little creeps, I've never seen one. A drawing in the dictionary shows a bulbous body to which are attached six hairy legs and a pair of pincers meant no doubt for burrowing into its victim. That's disgusting. I believe that when they get their fill, they drop off and become a bigger chigger. Eventually, they get large enough to account for the mysterious disappearance of small household pets. So beware when you're out late on summer evenings.

Another critter that doesn't seem to fit in the natural order of things is the mosquito. What good is something too small to carry off road kill, but nasty enough to cause a grown man to reduce a bedroom to shambles while trying to swat it with a magazine in total darkness? Nothing is more unnerving than settling down for a night's sleep and hearing this nasty little assassin buzzing around your nose. I normally try to smack it between my hands, but when that fails I resort to swatting myself about the face and ears until my head feels like a punching bag. By this time, one of two things will have happened. You will either be lying there with a squashed bug carcass on your forehead or the little monster will be launching another attack. In case of the latter, I will finally resort to a rolled up magazine, turning on a light and swatting wildly while muttering something about the ancestry of that particular bug. Occasionally, my swings are less than discreet, resulting in Judy standing by the bed with her ball bat in the cocked and ready to fire mode, watching me like a mongoose tracking a cobra. If I'm lucky I carve another mosquito symbol on the head board of the bed. If not, I sleep with my head under the covers and worry about dust mites and bed bugs.

Maybe Mother Nature knows best, but until I have proof that these characters are doing whatever job they were designed for I'll continue to jerk them out of the ground, scratch their little behinds, and swat them with Good Housekeeping. In spite of all this I still love summer. After all, it's better to swat than sniffle and sneeze.

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Random Notes from: Prairie Wolf Gun Repair



by **Marshall Smith**
Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO

Holster or No Holster

I and many of my readers have been known to carry a handgun in the waistband of your pants or just tucked inside the belt. That can be quick and convenient but also a bit dangerous. Let me explain. Back in the 1800s when the single action revolver or single shot derringer were the only pistols carried, holster-less carry was something done regularly. The revolver was tucked in the belt (Mexican carry), no cartridge under the hammer, and the gun had to be cocked before it would fire, all of which made the holster-less carry more appealing. Derringers were meant to be pocket guns and also had to be cocked before firing. Neither gun was carried cocked and ready to fire.

Then along came the semi-auto pistol. The semi-auto pistols were generally less bulky and encouraged the concealed carry. Many gun-owners felt that they could easily conceal the pistol in their waistbands or pockets as a holster tended to bulk up the pistol and make it hard to conceal. To carry the gun safely, it need a safety which blocked the trigger from being moved, or the hammer from falling on the firing pin, and then later the firing pin safety to block the firing pin from contacting the primer unless the trigger was fully engaged. Still, there were many negligent discharges occurring from guns being carried in the waistband or in a pocket and discharging and injuring someone, usually the person carrying the gun. Notice that I didn't say accidental. Even revolvers could go off if the gun owner had a bullet in the chamber under the hammer and the hammer was struck hard enough to contact the primer. So revolver safety evolved with the early S&W hammer block appearing around 1914. An improved hammer block safety was developed and put in service during WWII after a Victory model S&W with a hammer block safety discharged when it was dropped on the deck of a U.S. Navy ship. Leave it to the Navy to get things done.

Early semi-auto models like the Colt 1911 could be carried cock and locked (Cooper's

Condition 1) safely by a trained individual. But negligent owners often forgot the locked part and shot themselves in the leg or foot. Today's semi-auto has several passive safeties to keep the firearm from going off until the trigger is pulled. Some models are smoothed and polished so that they slide from the holster easily and smoothly. That brings us back to why you should carry your gun in a holster. The holster covers the trigger to stop negligent fingering of the trigger. It keeps the trigger covered from external hooks and crooks which can trip the trigger. It also keeps the gun in a relatively secure position on the body and readily accessible in an emergency. And I think, more importantly, you learn to draw and fire the gun from the same position on your body. So that, in that high stress situation, you don't have to THINK, "where's my gun?"

Carrying your gun inside the waist band or in your pocket creates a couple of problems. One, in the waistband, the gun can slide right on down your leg at the most inopportune times. Say like when your shopping at your favorite discount store. Or in that stressful instance you go for your gun and its not there. Then you THINK "Oh, it's on the other side or it's on the table because it was pinching me, or, it's sliding down my ??????" Secondly, your belt or waist band of your pants won't provide even support of the gun and when you go to draw the weapon it will hang up, snag your belt or waistband and slow or even stop your draw. You can see where I'm going and how dangerous a holsterless carry be.

If you haven't bought a good holster for your gun, try going to gun store and try different holsters out to find one that fits your gun, and is comfortable to wear. Hip, Shoulder, Appendix, Crossdraw, Crotch, Ankle, or Thigh, doesn't matter as long as you train with it until it's second nature when you go for your gun.

Quote of the Month

"We've heard black lives matter, all lives matter. Well, cops' lives matter, too." *Sheriff Ron Hickman, Harris County, Texas*

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

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

Marshall Smith

PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com



MexicanCarry - Excuse this old black powder replica of a Remington Navy. It was given me by a good friend but needs many parts. But it is representative of the "in the belt" or "Mexican carry" of the 1800s. I searched the internet trying to find a public domain picture of the Mexican style of carry but due to the political incorrectness of the term "Mexican Carry" the pictures are unavailable. (Author Photo)



InThePants - This is almost self-explanatory. The revolver is so low in the waistband, just a quick twist and it's on its way to the ground. Same is true of any semi-auto. The grip is hard to grasp and dig out of the cloth and belt, the cylinder will hang on the belt and inside the waistband. However, the trigger is covered. (Author Photo)



ProperHolster - Here is a Colt Combat Commander, series 70, (no firing pin block), carried in a Fobus Roto-Holster paddle style. This particular holster can be adjusted to be used as a cross-draw, bodyguard/driver (aka: appendix), small-of-the-back, and strong-side carries. The Colt is carried in this instance in Condition 1, Cock and Locked. Ready for instant presentation. Notice that the trigger is completely covered by the holster and the gun stands out for easy grasp. The Fobus is a retention holster and your's should be also. (Author Photo)

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Drawing of Van Amburgh. (Author Photo)



Painting of Van Amburgh. (Author Photo)

Whitewater Valley History



by **Donna Schroeder**
Fayette County Historical Museum

The Circus and Elephant Hill

A recent visitor to the museum asked about the elephant of Elephant Hill, an area on the very northwest edge of Connersville. I told him what I knew of it, but I thought I needed to know more, so I started to search.

What I knew for certain was that the elephant who was named Tippo Sahib belonged to the Van Amburgh Circus. He died in Connersville and was buried on a hill on the land of the Frost family. Several years later, the bones were exhumed and taken to Earlham College at Richmond, Indiana, and put on display in a building that later burned. I also knew that Tippo was said to be ill tempered and might have been poisoned. The search turned up much more.

The first thing I wanted to know was more about the Van Amburgh Circus itself. I knew that it wintered in Connersville for several years. I soon learned that the circus (or menagerie, as it was called) was owned by Isaac Van Amburgh, a man who had come from very meager means in New York. There's a legend that says his mother,

on the night before his birth in 1808, dreamed that she was in a room where various parts of a lion were cooking in huge pots, and she ate them, one by one. At the end of the dream, she ate the head of the lion. The dream frightened her badly, and she thought it meant that her child would be in danger, so she kept a close watch on him. As it turned out, that probably wasn't a bad idea. It seems that, as a child, Isaac read the story of Daniel in the Bible, and decided he would be a lion tamer.

Isaac wasn't the average little boy. While other children played games, he studied animals. He would feed mice and rats and train them to do tricks.

At nineteen, Isaac left home and found work cleaning cages at the Zoological Institute of New York. This sounds like a zoo, but it was really a traveling menagerie. The owner recognized Isaac's talent for training animals, and, by 1821, Van Amburgh's Menagerie had its beginning, and Isaac became the first lion tamer in the United States.

Isaac is said to have had such a way with animals that he would go into a cage with several large cats at one time. His feats included putting his head in a lion's mouth and putting a lamb next to a lion with no harm to the lamb. However, churches of the day preached against the circuses. As we've seen recently, there was criticism of the way animals were treated, and it was widely known that Van Amburgh subdued his animals through the use of beatings and withholding food.

About that time, also in New York, James and Sophia (Kelly) Frost were starting their family. James died in 1836, and Sophia brought her children to Fayette County, Indiana, in 1839, to be near her family who had settled here. One of those children was Hyatt, born in 1827. He and his brother Eli (born 1831) became interested in the circus while children in New York when they helped care for Old Bet, the first elephant brought to America.

Both brothers would later work for the Van Amburgh show, Eli as a ticket taker and handyman, and Hyatt as the general manager. Although I haven't traced the lineage, I believe that they

were cousins of Franklin Hyatt who was also born in New York and lived in Fayette County. He was manager for the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

During the late 1830s and into the 1840s, the entire show was shipped to Europe. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert attended the show frequently. The Queen even had a portrait of Van Amburgh painted and hung in the Royal Academy. Oddly, back in the states, this special attention from royalty cost Isaac followers among common folk and "upper crust" alike.

After a number of years, Isaac Van Amburgh retired. He died in Philadelphia in 1865, and Hyatt Frost took over the show. Hyatt later joined P. T. Barnum as a partner in a show in New York, but that concern was destroyed by fire in 1868, and the partnership was dissolved.

An article in an 1881 Connersville newspaper tells of the circus getting ready to go on the road after spending the winter in Fayette County. By this time, it was more than a menagerie of animals. The acts included several clown troupes, William Larue and his celebrated family of acrobats and gymnasts, and Madame Rivers and Madame Sebastian equestriennes, as well as one hundred and eighty horses, a dozen or more camels, and the largest performing elephant in the world. The circus train included sixty-five wagons carrying one hundred sixty people, and the show required five acres to be fully displayed.

The Van Amburgh show continued to travel throughout the United States, but it was difficult for smaller circuses to compete with bigger shows like Barnum and Bailey, and the assets were sold in 1884, apparently bought, primarily, by Ringling Brothers.

Hyatt Frost returned to New York and died there in 1885.

Eli Frost remained in Fayette County. He was a farmer and had only traveled with the circus sporadically. He raised his family here and died in 1916. One of his children was Connersville attorney Hyatt Frost (1860-1938) who also served as the city's mayor from 1894 to 1898.

Now that we have the background of the show and the people, we can move on to the story of Tippo. Tippo, an Asian elephant, was brought to America about 1840. He was ten feet tall and

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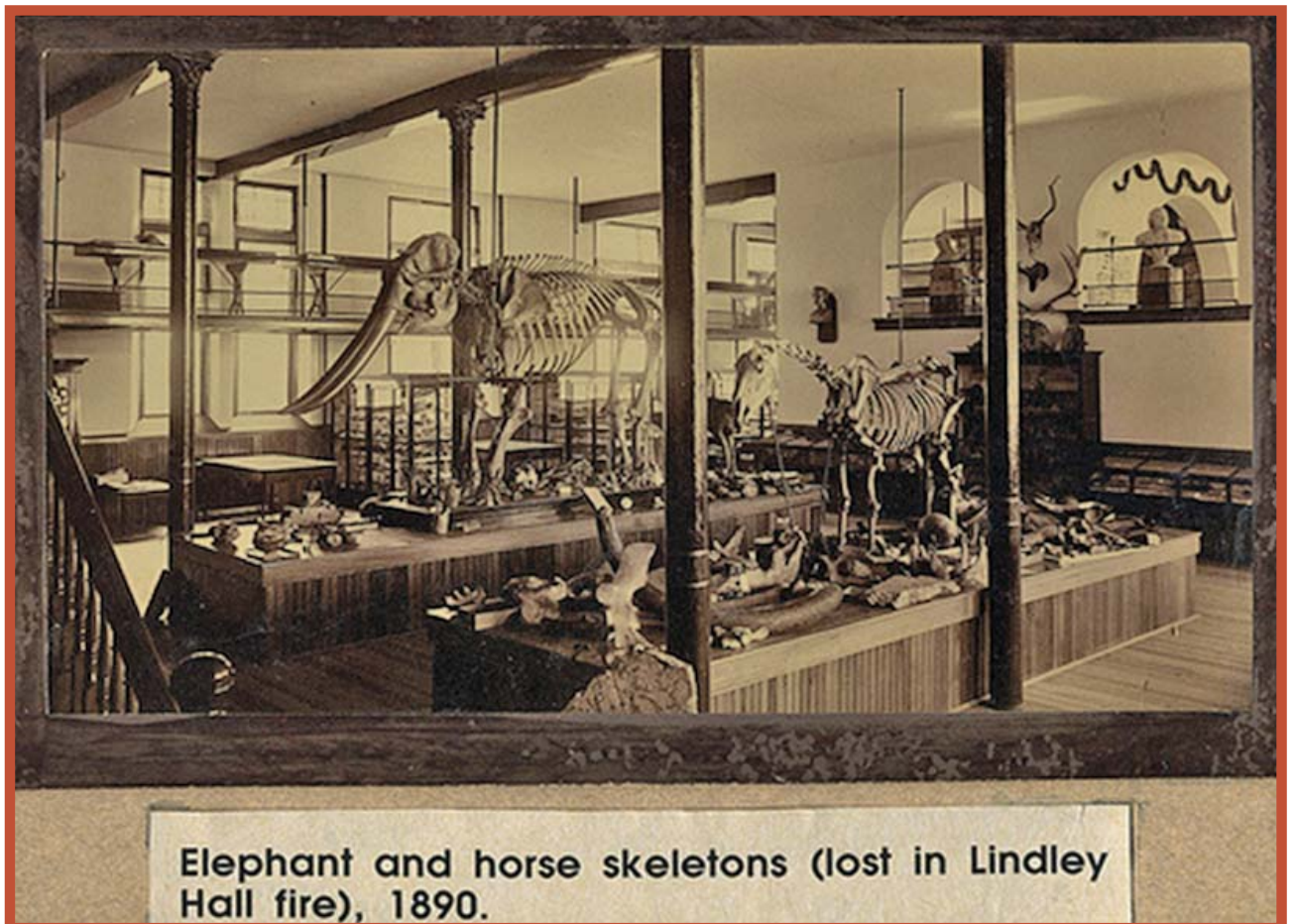
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KATO.H.

1885 Banners for Circus. (Author Photo)



weighed ten thousand pounds. His keeper was a man named Frank Nash.

Nash decided to retire around 1867, and another handler took over. Tippto was accustomed to Nash and wanted no part of the new fellow. There's an account of it taking three hours to subdue him through shackling his legs and stabbing him with pitchforks after he was approached by Nash's replacement. That happened while he was quartered here.

There's another account of the circus crossing a river after an appearance in New York. The giant elephant had never seen a barge, and the men on the barge weren't expecting to see an elephant ahead of them in the river. Being

unable to avoid a collision, the men all jumped into the river. The barge hit Tippto. Tippto attacked the barge which ran aground and was smashed to pieces, but the elephant emerged without a scratch.

The final account of Tippto in Connersville is the news of his death, reported to have been due to a heart ailment. It was 1871, and Frank Nash had come out of retirement. The giant beast died suddenly at about sixty years of age. He was dismembered and buried in a hill on the farm of Charles Frost, a brother of Eli and Hyatt.

In 1877, Tippto's skeleton was retrieved and reassembled at Earlham College in Richmond. A fire destroyed his remains in 1924.

Even though Tippto has been gone from the earth all these many years, Elephant Hill is still known by the name,

If you come to the Fayette County Historical Museum, you can see some pieces of circus history, as well as a set of bed sheets which allegedly were slept on by P. T. Barnum when he visited Connersville. Those are one of our "museum mysteries". We have no record of where he slept or who donated the sheets, but it's a reminder of our circus days.

We're open Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. until 3p.m., and we're located at 200 West 5th Street. Hope to see you soon!

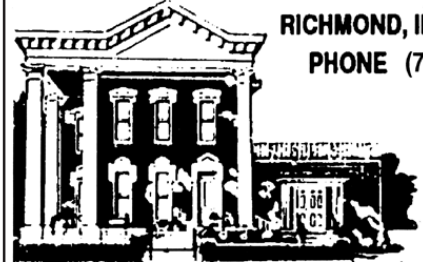
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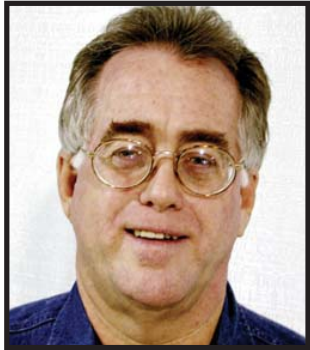


Benjamin's prize. Three J-hooks, 2 Mini balls and a half-dime. (Author Photo)



Confederate rifle presented to Benjamin. (Author Photo)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Benjamin Competes in His First Treasure Hunt

When his metal detector sounded off, Benjamin quickly dropped to the ground, stuck his digging tool into the dirt, and popped out a Civil War musket ball. He took a second to hold it over his head to show to us nearby. Then, it went into the "finds" bag on his belt as he immediately began swinging his machine searching for the next target.

Benjamin is our 15 year-old grandson. He actually has been metal detecting with us since he was five when we bought him his first machine. Since that time, he has participated in kid's hunts, junior hunts, and beach hunts, besides hunting with us in yards, fields, and other locations. He has actually been in paid adult hunts, but only as a relief hunter. One of our friends is in his early nineties. He pays the entry fee for a treasure hunt, starts the beginning of the event, and detects for six of seven minutes before he tires and he leaves the field. Benjamin then steps in to take his place for the rest of the 30 minute hunt.

But this would be the first paid adult hunt in which our grandson would be the registered hunter. The fee was \$90 for the day. This particular day was special for him. The first event of the day was a Civil War relic hunt. It cost \$40 for the entry. Relics and artifacts from 160 years ago would be buried in a large, hilly field. The 40 entrants picked a spot to start and the gun sounded the beginning. Along with the relics were 40 metal targets with numbers on them. These were tokens for special prizes to be redeemed later. Everyone was hoping to find one of these.



Eagle button I found in relic hunt. (Author Photo)

When this first hunt was over, we returned to our truck to compare finds. We all found some round balls, Mini Balls (a bullet shaped like a modern bullet), J-hooks (look it up), and other items. Susie and Benjamin both found a token. I didn't find one, but I did dig an Eagle uniform button. This is a common button, but was in very good condition.

We all went to the pavilion for the awarding of the token prizes. The huntmaster would call out a number, and the person holding that token would come up to receive their prize. Susie's number was good for an antique ginger beer bottle and a Civil War book. An OK prize, but certainly on the lower end of some outstanding items on the table. The numbers kept being called but not Benjamin's. The table was almost empty. Only three prizes left, and one was the grand prize. It was a decorative dress sword, long and narrow. It was not used for fighting, but only for wearing to fancy events when the soldier was wearing his dress uniform. The other two items were both boxed collections of several nice relics.

A number was called and it was his. Not the sword, but a neat box with three J-hooks, two Mini balls, and an 1840 half-dime. When the drawing was over, we took the coin to the dealer and he graded it as extra fine. After he checked his reference book, he told us it was worth around \$100. Not bad for one dig in the ground.

The rest of the day was a normal coin hunt. It cost \$50 and we all were busy during the next three hunts,

digging silver dimes, both Roosevelt and Mercury, and tokens for other prizes such as digging tools, headphones, and even new metal detectors. We won a few small items, but none of the better ones. Susie and I have won several detectors in the past and Benjamin won two in kid's hunts (real detectors, not kid's toys) and another on a token found on a beach hunt. At age 15, he already has four machines.

The hunts were over for the day, but after dinner, there was a Civil War relic display and talk. Some of the guys were displaying some of their better finds from years of hunting relics in mostly southern states. Bullets, buttons, buckles, bayonets, and many other great artifacts have come to the surface from the skillful work of these hunters and their metal detectors. One of the displays was a Confederate Enfield 57 caliber rifle. It was found complete except for the wooden stock which had rotted away after decades in the ground. But, the best was yet to come.

"Doc" is the head ER doctor in a hospital in Virginia. We met him five or six years ago at one of the treasure hunts we attend every year. He was camped next to us and Benjamin also attends these events with us. Doc and Benjamin became great friends. Doc found our grandson was extremely knowledgeable about the Civil War and even had a 4-H collection of over 80 relics. Last year, this collection took Grand Champion of all collections at the Fort Wayne fair.

Doc began giving Benjamin some great relics every year to add to his collection. These were all found with a detector and were mostly displayed with locations where they were found and often information about the item itself, from which army it belonged, and other related facts. Doc said he had never found a person that young who was that interested and knew that much about the Civil War. He would give Benjamin special bullets, buttons, and other relics and their friendship grew.

During the Civil War talk at the hunt, Doc explained the history of his Enfield rifle on display, then called Benjamin up on the stage. He explained to the crowd about how he had met Benjamin and how they had grown to be such good friends. He gave Benjamin a 57 caliber Mine ball which had been fired, and asked him if he knew what the bullet was fired from. Then, he presented this Civil War rifle to our grandson.

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

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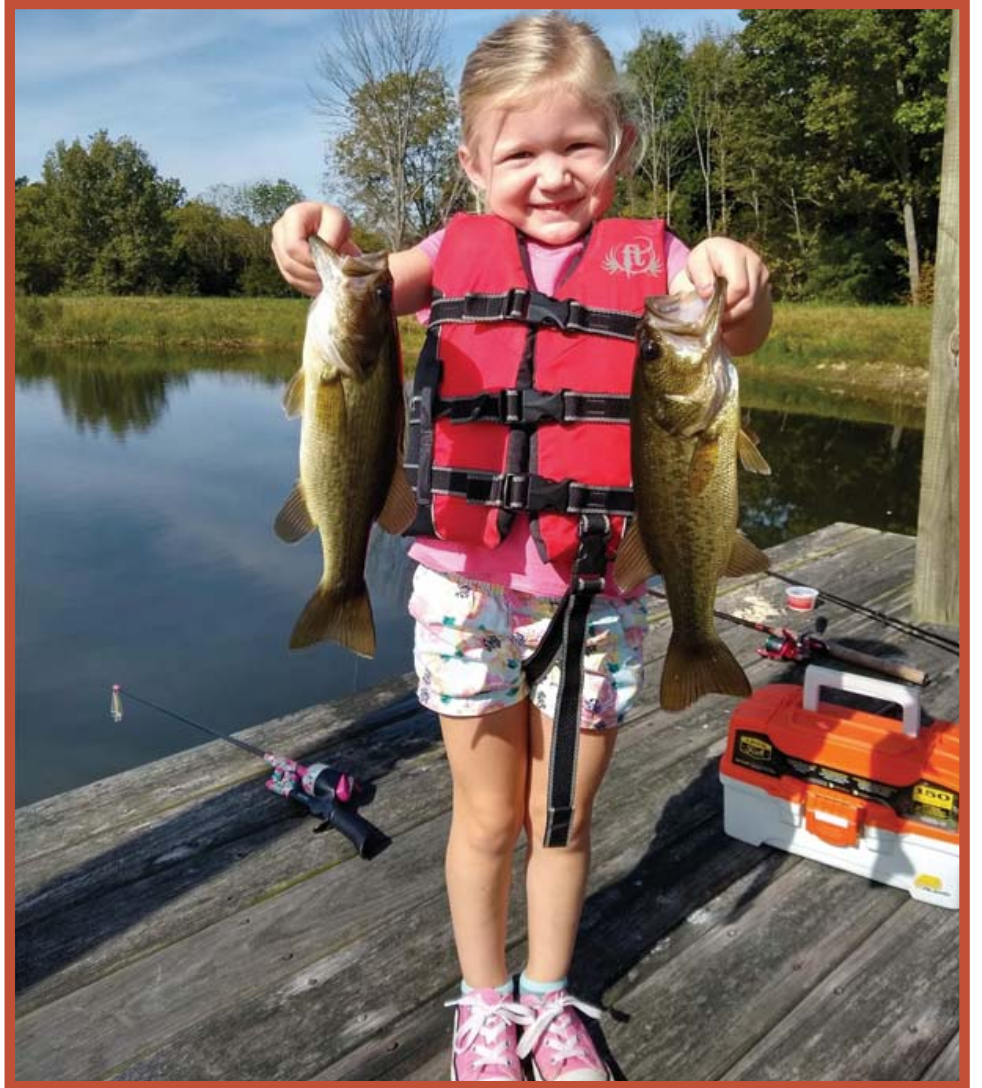
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Tyler Frame with two nice Brookville Lake Smallmouth. (Author Photo)



Emeri Frame with two nice Largemouth Bass from local pond. (Author Photo)

Catching Takes Lots of Practice



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Power Fish into Fall

Fall can be a great time of year to go bass fishing. While some anglers are laying down their rods and reels to get geared up for the fall hunting season, others are still on the lake catching large numbers of fish. The fishing pressure has dropped dramatically leaving vulnerable bass looming the shallows ready to strike. In the fall bass are scat-

tered around the lake following pods of shad and fishing with lures that have the ability to cover water will yield the most success this time of year.

So the big question is: Where do I start looking? Fall is about finding the bait. If the bait is there then most of the time the bass will follow. All summer we have witnessed bass feeding on schools of shad on the main lake body of water. Now the water is cooling and you should start to see shad working their way back into the creeks. We start our fishing at the mouth of a pocket and work our way toward the back until we stop seeing shad on the surface or marking them on the depth finder. Once the shad are located we will start covering water with a topwater presentation. Matching the hatch is always good, but this time of year we like to throw larger faster moving surface lures like the Heddon Super Spook, a 3/8oz white Buzz-bait, or a Whopper Plopper. This time of year we shy away from lures like a popper or prop bait that utilize a much slower presentation.

Alongside topwater we have good luck throwing a squarebill crankbait and a double willow leaf spinnerbait for fall fish. One of the best ways to draw bass from shallow lay-downs or stumps along the bank is by bumping the cover with a squarebill crankbait. The key to squarebill fishing is to consistently contact the cover upon retrieve with the lure, that is when you will trigger the reaction strike from a big bass. If you have shad in your lake willow leaf blades on your spinnerbait are a must. We are not sure if it is the sound or the flash but bass that primarily feed on shad love willow leaf spinnerbaits. If you have trouble deciding whether to throw gold blades or silver blades on your spinnerbait, no problem, do what we do. We always use one silver blade coupled with one gold blade. If we want to fish the lure just under the surface we will use slightly larger blades to help keep the bait up in the water column. If we want to bump the bottom we will add slightly smaller blades to the lure to help keep it down in the water column.

It seems that bass

either feed "up" or feed "down" in the fall. Meaning the fish like the lure either near the surface or ticking the bottom. We have the least success cranking lures through the middle of the water column. Bass innately are aggressive, but when there is an abundance of shad nearby to feed on they become lazy feeders and hard to catch. When we tick our lure off the bottom, bounce it off a stump, or rip it through grass, it can trigger a reaction strike out of a bass that is fairly inactive and unwilling to feed. This creates an opportunity to get more bites and catch more fish. That is why power fishing with fast moving lures produces in the fall. ■

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Left Photo: Gov. Eric J. Holcomb pauses during a walk through the newly established Ravinia State Forest. Right Photo: From left to right: Director of DNR Dan Bortner, Director of DNR Forestry Division John Seifert, Senate President Pro Temp Rod Bray, Gov. Eric J. Holcomb, and Rep. Peggy Mayfield cut the ribbon at the new Ravinia State Forest.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB ANNOUNCES TWO NEW STATE FORESTS (SEE ABOVE PHOTOS)

Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced the establishment of two new Indiana state forests at a ceremony today in Morgan County.

Ravinia State Forest, near Paragon, encompasses 1,500 acres of wooded rolling hills, valleys and restored cropland. The area now known as Mountain Tea State Forest consists of more than 1,150 acres east of Nashville. The state's public lands now include 15 officially designated state forests.

"We could not be more excited to formally designate land to create these new state forests," Gov. Holcomb said. "There's no better way for Hoosiers to get out and get some fresh Indiana air than by exploring our state's parks, recreation areas, fish and wildlife areas, and our 158,000 acres of public state forests."

Recreation opportunities at the new state forests include wildlife viewing, hiking, and gathering wild berries, nuts, and mushrooms. Hunting is also permitted in state forests.

"This is the first time in 67 years that we have created new state forests," said Dan Bortner, director of the Department of Natural Resources. "As with all our properties, we know Hoosiers and our guests will be able find solace and inspiration in these woods for generations to come."

The new state forests also serve as two locations for the governor's Million Trees program, which is an initiative to plant one million trees by 2025.

"This year, our foresters have been hard at work, planting more than 16,000 new trees at Mountain Tea State Forest and 38,000 trees at Ravinia State Forest," said John Seifert, director of the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. "We look forward to completing this important five-year program."

More than 700 acres of Mountain Tea State Forest, formerly managed by The Nature Conservancy, had been acquired by the State of Indiana in 2013 with the assistance of the U.S. Forest Service through the Forest Legacy Program. Additional acreage had been acquired in 2009 through purchases from private land owners.

Ravinia State Forest was acquired through the Indiana Department of Transportation's Crossroads 2000 fund.

PATOKA LAKE CONTROLLED DOVE HUNT INFORMATION

Wildlife Management staff at Patoka Lake will conduct two separate in-person drawings for two controlled mourning dove hunting opportunities on Sept. 1. The drawings will begin promptly at 6 a.m. (ET) at the Archery Range Shelterhouse in Newton-Stewart State Recreation Area.

The first drawing will be for a staked position in a controlled dove hunt field designated for youth hunters only. This drawing and hunt is intended for youth (ages 12 to 17) who are new to dove hunting and need mentoring in the sport. Youth participating in this drawing will be

required to show proof of their youth hunting license and must have a parent or guardian with them while they hunt. Only youth will be allowed to hunt in this field; parents/guardians are expected to mentor and teach their respective youth hunter. A maximum of two firearms will be allowed per staked position (i.e., one parent/guardian and two youth being mentored). Approximately seven staked positions are expected to be drawn for this field on Sept. 1.

The second drawing will be for a staked position in a standard controlled dove hunt field. Approximately 15 to 20 staked positions are expected to be drawn, and there is a maximum of two firearms per stake allowed.

Hunters are reminded to procure the proper licenses, stamps, and their federal HIP number. Hunters are also reminded that they are federally required to use non-toxic shot of size 6 or smaller, and have their firearm plugged so that the firearm can only contain three shells at any time. Hunters participating in the controlled hunt will be limited to 50 shells.

Shooting hours for both of the controlled hunts at Patoka Lake on Sept. 1, will be from 6:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. Both controlled hunt fields will be closed after 1 p.m. ET. All fields surrounding the controlled sunflower field will be subject to similar time restrictions. There will be no "stand-by" or refilling of shooting stations for early departures on Sept. 1.

All sunflower and millet/sorghum fields will be considered open and subject to regular shooting hours starting Sept. 2. Regular shooting hours will be one half hour before sunrise to sunset through the legal season(s).

Hunters should call DNR Law Enforcement at 812-837-9536 regarding specific questions on federal or state laws, statutes, and rules. For other information on the hunts, call Patoka Lake at 812-685-2464 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and ask for the wildlife specialist.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at 3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.

DU CONSERVE FILM:

MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Aug. 13, 2020 – Ducks Unlimited released the latest film in its online series.

In Mississippi Alluvial Valley, DU Conserve Films travels to the Mississippi Delta, exploring the region and its importance to wetlands conservation and wintering waterfowl.

Watch the film at www.ducks.org/media/du-conserve.

The Mississippi Alluvial Valley stretches all the way from the Missouri Bootheel to the marshes and wetlands of southern Louisiana, covering 25 million acres. It was all forest long ago, but time and progress converted much of the landscape into agricultural use.

Ducks Unlimited is at the forefront of Mississippi Alluvial Valley conservation and restoration. DU works with private landowners and state and federal partners to ensure this immense area is vibrant and wildlife sustaining.

Scott Manley is Ducks Unlimited's director of conservation programs for the valley.

"There is no place like it in North America," said Manley. "It is where the mighty Mississippi River, the Ohio River and many tributaries come together. Over years, over centuries the valley has been converted to an agricultural landscape, the most productive outside the mid-west corn belt."

Manley and his team create stability in an environment prone to major flooding.

"What we are after today is a balance," Manley said. "We need agriculture to feed the world, but this area is a historical floodplain. We seek a balance between the natural wetlands, forested wetlands and the agriculture. The way we coin it is, 'farm the best and restore and manage the rest.'"

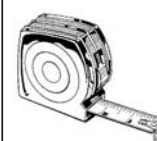
Many private landowners have played a crucial role in Mississippi Alluvial Valley conservation. None are more important than Billy Dunavant of Memphis, Tenn. His generosity and tireless work brought DU National Headquarters to Memphis back in the early 90s.

Ducks Unlimited's Executive Secretary Dan Thiel summed up Billy's pivotal role in the organization's history.

"There have been a number of individuals who have had a tremendous impact on our organization," Thiel said. "Billy is one of those. I put Billy on the Mount Rushmore of Ducks Unlimited. He's one of those pivotal figures that made something very important happen. We would not be in Memphis had it not been for the vision and determination of Billy Dunavant."

Dunavant resides in Memphis and keeps close

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ties with DU to this day. He reflected on why he believes the organization's headquarters belongs in Memphis.

"Number one, and the most important, it shouldn't be anywhere else," Dunavant said. "This is the heart of it, this is where it all starts."

August is DU Conserve month. The 2020 season includes four films released each week in August.

Follow DU's newest Twitter [feed-@DUNews1937-to](#) get the most up-to-date news from Ducks Unlimited.

DU Conserve is produced by Rock Road Creative and sponsored by Yeti and the First National Bank of Omaha.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved almost 15 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.

PARTNERSHIP WITH BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS PAYS OFF

Through a partnership between the Indiana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) and the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, multiple volunteer projects have been completed at J.E. Roush Lake Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) and newly acquired Veale Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

BHA has been a valued partner of the Division of Fish & Wildlife since Indiana BHA was officially formed in May 2019. Since its formation, the chapter has contributed both money and time to property projects.

Bethany Blicharz, property manager of J.E. Roush Lake FWA, greatly appreciates the help BHA has provided.

"BHA is a valued partner that enthusiastically volunteers to help with projects and aids the Division of Fish & Wildlife by securing grant funding to supplement work being done on properties," Blicharz said. "The 25 wood duck boxes that were built and installed by BHA volunteers on J.E. Roush Lake FWA have enhanced the wetland habitat, and staff recently banded the wood ducks that have benefited from those enhancements."

Staff at Glendale FWA also benefits from the commitment BHA has shown to public lands and wildlife in Indiana. Glendale FWA manages Veale

Creek WMA, located near Washington.

"The assistance of BHA to enhance access to Veale Creek WMA has greatly improved the quality of experience available to the public this fall as the property opens," said Kalli Dunn, assistant property manager at Glendale FWA. "With construction of a hunter check-in station complete and boundary marking completed, property staff now have more time to complete more habitat improvement projects on this newly acquired property."

With 550 members across the state, BHA seeks to expand its impact on public lands.

"As public landowners, workdays are a great way for us to give back and strengthen our sense of awareness and ownership of our public lands, waters, and wildlife," said Rob Seilheimer, co-chair of the Indiana Board of BHA. "Over this past year, it's been extremely rewarding to have the opportunity to partner with the Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife on these projects."

BHA and the Division of Fish & Wildlife have plans for more workdays in the future. To learn more about opportunities to volunteer on Fish & Wildlife Areas, visit on.IN.gov/dfwvolunteer. For a list of events, visit calendar.dnr.IN.gov. Learn more about [BHA: backcountryhunters.org/indiana](http://BHA:backcountryhunters.org/indiana).

Conservation organizations and other partners interested in working with the DNR on volunteer projects are welcome to email Elizabeth Middleton, stewardship outreach specialist at DNRvolunteer@dnr.IN.gov.

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

PARKING CHANGE AT INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK STARTS SATURDAY AUG 15

As the summer season winds down, Indiana Dunes State Park will manage access to the park's beach by closing the auxiliary parking lot beginning Saturday, Aug. 15.

The main and west parking lots will remain open, and campers can continue to access the beach and lake from the Beach Trail boardwalk. As is standard practice on busy days during summer, when the lots are full, cars will be admitted for beach access only when other cars leave. This approach reduces congestion on the beach and allows for more social distancing.

"We expect to keep the beach open on week-ends through Labor Day weekend so our guests can enjoy the water and the sun, but we also recognize the need to manage the number of people and vehicles entering the park to do that," said DNR Division of Parks interim director Terry Coleman.

The swimming area is now closed Monday through Friday due to lack of lifeguard availability. The beach remains open on weekdays for sunbathing and walking during regular park hours but no swimming is permitted.

TOP INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICERS RECEIVE AWARDS

The DNR Division of Law Enforcement recently recognized top conservation officers at an awards ceremony in Indianapolis.

District 4 Officer Jordan Brand, assigned to Delaware County, was selected as the James D. Pitzer Indiana Conservation Officer of the Year. Brand was selected from the 10 District Officer of the Year winners, and the award establishes him as the top conservation officer of 2019.

The Pitzer award is named in remembrance of James D. Pitzer, who was killed in the line of duty on June 2, 1961 in Jay County. The recipient is selected based on demonstration of professional ethics, attitude, and service to the public while demonstrating dedication to the conservation of natural resources and the enforcement of those laws affecting the department. The officer must also demonstrate the ability to provide a positive influence, develop camaraderie within the ranks, and gain confidence and respect of fellow officers.

Lt. Kent Hutchins, who serves District 5, received the Director's Leadership Award for his work, leadership, and dedication over his 40-year career.

Matt Garringer, District 4, won the 2019 William J. Nattkemper Brotherhood Award. Nattkemper and William J. Peare died on April 27, 1926 after their boat capsized on the Wabash

River near Tecumseh. Witnesses to the incident, officers L.B. Watson, John Pile and A.R. Hill, remained at the scene until Nattkemper and Peare's bodies were recovered. The award recognizes the recipient as having the commitment and inseparable bond of brotherhood displayed by those officers in 1926.

District 1 Officer Matt Maher was recognized by State Boating Law Administrator Lt. Kenton Turner and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) as the Boating Enforcement Officer of the Year.

District 8 Officer Zac Howerton was presented with the 2019 Waterfowl Protection Officer of the Year award for his enforcement of waterfowl regulations and his related performance in public education and community interaction.

Rhett Braun of District 4 was honored with a Life Saving Award for his heroic and quick response to a 911 call regarding a suicidal subject. He rendered lifesaving first aid.

Braun and Officer Cole Hollingsworth received the Meritorious Service Award for their efforts rescuing an 11 year-old girl from drowning after she fell into the Whitewater River in Richmond.

"It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to recognize the bravery and excellence of Indiana Conservation Officers from across the state," said Col. Steve Hunter, director of DNR Law Enforcement.

DNR LAW ENFORCEMENT WELCOMES EIGHT NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS

DNR Law Enforcement welcomes eight new conservation officers

The Department of Natural Resources Division of Law Enforcement added eight new Indiana Conservation Officers during graduation ceremonies today at the Indiana Government Center South in Indianapolis.

Conservation Officer Jim Schreck, the 2019 James D. Pitzer Officer of the Year, administered the oath of office to the recruits, who will fill positions in various locations around the state.

"This is a day all Indiana Conservation Officers remember for the rest of their career," said Col. Steve Hunter, division director. "It is a culmination of all the hard work and sacrifice these officers have made over the past year."

The new officers represent the 38th recruit class of Indiana Conservation Officers, the oldest state law enforcement agency in Indiana.

The officers and assignment locations, by county, are Nathan Cooper (Blackford), Conner Henderson (Johnson), Cole Hollingsworth (Wayne), Hunter Loller (Marion), Christopher Long (Ohio), Kaley McDonald (Monroe), Jason Neal (Howard), and Isaac Saxton (Allen).

The new officers underwent four weeks of initial core values training followed by a 15-week basic law enforcement academy. Upon completion of the academy, officers then completed an additional nine weeks of essential training before completing 90 shifts of field training.

The DNR employs 214 conservation officers who, in addition to enforcing state laws, are often called upon to help during emergencies and natural disasters. Conservation officers also engage in outdoor instructional programs, including boater, hunter, snowmobile, and trapper education. Specialty response units that are available statewide through DNR Law Enforcement include river rescue, cave rescue, underwater search and recovery, and K-9 teams.

SPRING MILL STATE PARK OFFERS 10 MILE CHALLENGE

Spring Mill State Park and the Friends of Spring Mill group are adding their own trail challenge to the list of Indiana State Park trail challenges, and this one will be the longest of the group. Spring Mill

Spring Mill's challenge is 10.8 miles long and encompasses all of the park's trails. Hikers will see a National Natural Landmark, cave lookouts and a view of the Pioneer Village, and take a lake hike and a walk by Spring Mill Inn. The challenge can be completed within a day or spread out over a year.

Spring Mill's challenge is the seventh challenge trail offered at Indiana State Parks. Turkey Run, Shades, Indiana Dunes, Pokagon, Clifty Falls and

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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Chain O'Lakes also host challenge trails. Find out more about all of the challenges at dnr.IN.gov/healthy.

Hikers who complete Spring Mill's challenge can go to the Friends of Spring Mill State Park Facebook page, where there will be a link to purchase trail challenge T-shirts for \$20. Those who complete the challenge again can purchase a Spring Mill Trail Challenge sticker for \$1 from the park office or Lakeview Activity Center in addition to a T-shirt, but must bring at least one T-shirt into the office to prove they previously completed the challenge.

The design of the stickers and T-shirts will change each year. Profits from the Trail Challenge will support various projects within the park.

Spring Mill State Park (on.IN.gov/springmill-sp) is at 3333 State Road 60 E., Mitchell 47446.

RED GOLD RECOGNIZES CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS WHITE BAR

(See Top Right Photo)

Elwood, IN (Aug. 6, 2020) – The Indiana State Department of Agriculture and Red Gold announced the winners of the Red Gold Stewardship award. Myers Sod Farm of Seymour, Indiana and Rice Farms of LaPorte, Indiana were awarded first and second place, respectively. This presentation, now in its 12th year, is a partnership between Red Gold and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. The award is presented to Red Gold growers who value improving soil health and water quality on their operations.

"Red Gold and its growers are committed to stewardship practices that enhance soil health and improve water quality," said Red Gold's Director of Agriculture, Steve Smith. "I am honored to recognize these exceptional growers and stewards of the land."

Adam Myers of Myers Sod Farm started with an idea and over the course of eight years has grown that idea into a successful business. On their farm they grow a variety of crops, from traditional row crops to tomatoes and sod. They value their land and have implemented several successful conservation practices on their farm, including, grassed waterways, vegetative field borders, water sediment and control basins.

"Practicing conservation is important on our farm," said Adam Myers. "We feel that if we take care of the land, it will take care of us."

Scott Rice of Rice Farms is a third-generation farmer. Over the past 100 years, Rice Farms has shifted their operation from livestock to now specialty crops. On their farm, they grow tomatoes, seed corn, soybeans and wheat. Rice Farms utilizes a multitude of conservation practices on their farm such as grass filter strips, constructed wetlands and riparian herbaceous covers to promote soil health and water quality.

"We want to do the right thing," said Scott Rice. "We want to be good stewards of the land we have been blessed with so that we can pass it on in as good, or better, shape to the next generation."

Indiana is no stranger to soil conservation. Our Hoosier farmers practice a variety of soil conservation practices and planted over 950,000 acres of cover crops in 2019.

"Indiana agriculture is at the forefront of soil conservation," said ISDA Director Bruce Kettler. "Agribusinesses working alongside their farmers to further this progress ensures our Hoosier soil will remain fertile for generations to come."

As the top winner, Myers Sod Farm received a \$1,000 scholarship and the option to ship an extra truckload of tomatoes per day during harvest season. Rice Farms was awarded a \$500 scholarship and the opportunity to ship an extra half truckload of tomatoes per day during harvest.

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture.



Pictured above on the left is first place recipient Adam Myers of Myers Sod Farm. On the right is second place recipients Scott and James Rice of Rice Farms.

Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

DNR DIVISION OF STATE PARKS TEEN VOLUNTEERS SALAMONIE LAKE

Volunteer teens are making a big impact at State Parks. After training, paperwork and permission from parents, youth ages 13 and older can become volunteers. Often these are youth with a passion for the outdoors or animals, or those who are looking into a future DNR career. Younger youth can also volunteer, with their parents.

A couple of great examples of teen volunteers are Simon Brainerd and Silas Manning, both age 14. They help at Salamonie Lake as part of the Interpretive Center's Critter Care Crew. Simon and Silas' main job is cleaning and caring for the live animal display wall. They do a fantastic job! Simon and his mom Ami have been volunteering for 4.5 years and have even raised some of the foods needed to feed the education animals. Simon has researched supplies and aquarium habitat needs for several of the animals, upgrading to new and improved materials and feeding methods. He's an outdoorsman with an interest in wildflowers. He has also helped with interpretive programs, even presenting some on his own. Adults are impressed with his knowledge and public speaking skills. Silas has been volunteering for 1.5 years and isn't afraid to get his hands dirty. He enjoys trapping, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Thanks to both volunteers (and their adult drivers) for their dedication and care of our animals.

Learn more about the State Park volunteer program by visiting: IN.gov/INStateParksVolunteer

FRIENDS GROUP'S WORK MADE OVERLOOK AT TIPPECANOE RIVER SP HAPPEN

Thanks to the work of the Friends of Tippecanoe River State Park group and various partners and volunteers, guests can enjoy a new overlook that is located in the state park's waterfowl area. Tippecanoe River

"It is so rewarding to see people enjoying different assets of the park and that they are able to enjoy this wonderful natural resource that we have here in our home county, and knowing that the Friends group assisted with that endeavor is so exciting," said Friends group president Jack Burger. "It's quite an inspirational time for Friends of Tippecanoe River State Park."

In September 2019, the Friends received a \$5,215 grant from the Community Grants Fund through the Community Foundation of Pulaski County, a \$3,000 grant from the Carol White REMC Operation Round Up program, and \$1,000 donation from Pulaski County Girl Scout Troops #47607 and #00167.

With the help of Pulaski County Girl Scout troops #47607 and #00167 and park staff, the Friends completed installation of the overlook on

June 4.

Friends vice president Mike Schultz praised the hard work of all involved and declared the overlook a beautiful addition to the state park.

"We've been excited to see the completed overlook, and we are quite impressed with the final product," Schultz said. "This new overlook is a definite improvement from the old structure, and now visitors of Tippecanoe River State Park can truly enjoy nature on a wonderful structure."

The overlook is the latest addition to the expanding list of successful state park projects the Friends group has contributed to. The list also includes the replacement of windows at the River Shelter, installation of lights and electrical wiring at Tepicon Recreation Hall, and repairing the historic stone wall behind the Nature Center.

The mission of Friends of Tippecanoe River State Park is to support Tippecanoe River State Park with conservation activities, education, recreation, historic preservation and promote Tippecanoe River State Park. Founded in 2012, Friends of Tippecanoe River State Park is a leader in the field of volunteerism and fundraising, providing well-crafted projects as park attributes that visitors can appreciate and utilize.

About Community Foundation of Pulaski County.

The Community Foundation of Pulaski County encourages the growth of endowed funds to serve and enrich our community today and tomorrow. It is committed to improving quality of life by funding community projects, stewarding endowed funds for the future, and fostering philanthropy in Pulaski County. For more information, see cfopc.org or call 574-946-0906.

About Carol White REMC Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up® is a voluntary fundraising program that lets you donate the spare change on your energy bill to help those in need throughout your community. With an average donation of only \$6 per year, and never more than 99 cents a month, you can make a small investment that pays big dividends in your community. Operation Round Up® is families working together to improve their collective quality of life. For more information, please visit cwremc.com/community/operation-round-up/ or call 800-844-7161.

PATOKA LAKE CLEAN-UP SET FOR AUG 22

Patoka Lake Patoka Lake will have its annual Clean-up Day on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 8-11 a.m. Increased visitation has meant an increase in litter across the park, and volunteers are needed to help pick up the area.

Participants can meet an event coordinator at Painter's Creek, Osborn, South Lick Fork, Lick Fork, Newton Stewart or South ramps. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Plan to wear close-toed walking shoes and long pants, and bring bug spray. Volunteers will be placed in locations based on family groups. Trash bags will be left at the boat ramp and along highways for trucks to pick up. Once you have collected in your area, you are free to head home. There will be no formal meal or prize giveaways this year. ■

Gad's Corner

Photos sent to The Gad-a-bout for Gad's Corner should have enough information as possible about the taking of the game so the reader can enjoy reading about your experience, especially if it's your first time hunting or fishing and also tell who you were with (Dad, Grand Pa, Mom or someone else) Include date taken or caught, number of points, length of beard, number of spurs, length of fish and bait used etc.

Send a phone number in case I need to contact you. Send regular size, i.e. square and horizontal rectangular photos. Large vertical photos can only be used when I have enough space to use them. Send Photos to: [The Gad-a-bout, 105 E. South St., Centerville, IN 47330](mailto:raythegadabout@gmail.com) or E-mail jpg photos to: raythegadabout@gmail.com Questions Call Cell Phone: 765-960-5767 (Leave message if no answer)



Dennis Plemons caught these Four nice walleye caught at brookville lake using a wall-eye gig with half night crawler 10' deep north of Fairfield causeway (Sent via e-mail July 26, 2020)

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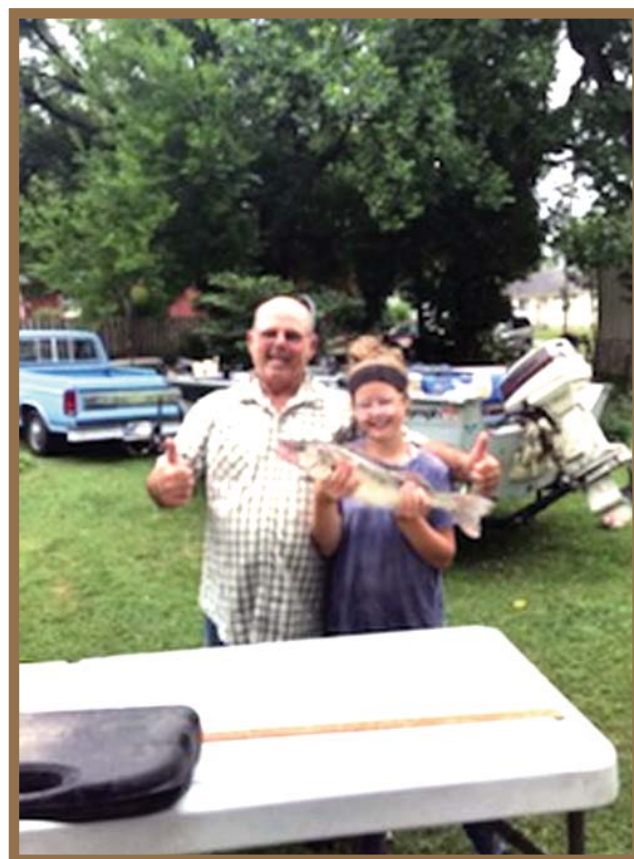
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Big Game Hunting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

prised that the goat was in the exact same location. As we formulated a plan we watched in awe as a golden eagle dive bombed the goat a few times. We hiked until we were at the base of the mountain which happened to be at a swollen creek from the rain the day before. We set up two tents as a spike camp and then located the goat still bedded above us at 800 yards. The next six hours were spent climbing the mountain. At times it was so steep I could reach out and touch my guide's boots. Finally the goat was relocated and to my surprise he was only 200 yards away, but at a very steep uphill angle. Riley got out his spotting scope one last time and confirmed not only was it a billy but a very nice billy. I slowly and quietly ran the bolt on my 300 Win Mag and prepared for the shot. A few minutes passed and the billy finally stood up giving me the shot I've been waiting for, for years. I put one bullet right through his lungs and he stood there like nothing had happened. I then ran the bolt and immediately shot him again through his shoulders instantly dropping him in His bed. I fired one more insurance round and then was flooded with emotions. We all hooted and hollered and I even teared up knowing I had finally accomplished my number one hunting goal. Riley then looked at his watch and the time was 1:52. I couldn't believe it. The goat was in the granite cliffs and as we headed towards him the guides unfortunately thought it was too treacherous for me to join them on the recovery. It was a very happy but sad moment. The guides then had to climb above the goat and repel back down to him and shimmy out a narrow rock knife edge to get to the goat's bed. The guides took great pictures of my goat and skinned him for a life size mount and quartered him up to pack it out. They made it back to me around midnight and we finished the hike back down to spike camp at 2AM. We all ate a Mountain house meal and headed to bed. We woke up at about 9AM and packed up spike camp and started back to base camp with three very heavy packs that all weighed at least 100 pounds. . That hike took us six hours. The next five days in BC was spent Huntin' black



Charlotte Plemons caught this 24 inch Walleye with grand pa Plemons giving helpful instructions as she brought it in. Sent via e-mail July 16, 2020.

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bears and wolves no no avail. I did pass up two very nice black bears in hope to find a color phase bear but no such luck. We saw several tracks including wolf and Grizzly. This was truly a trip I will never forget and am very thankful that I did get a chance to complete my dream. And to my surprise after the 60 day drying period my mountain goat officially scored 48 4/8 allowing him to qualify for the Boone and Crockett record book.

As this publication is coming out and you are reading this I will be in Alaska chasing another dream. The Alaska/Yukon moose. If I am successful this will complete my moose slam and be my third and final moose species. Hopefully that adventure will give me my next Gad-A-Bout story. Until next time.

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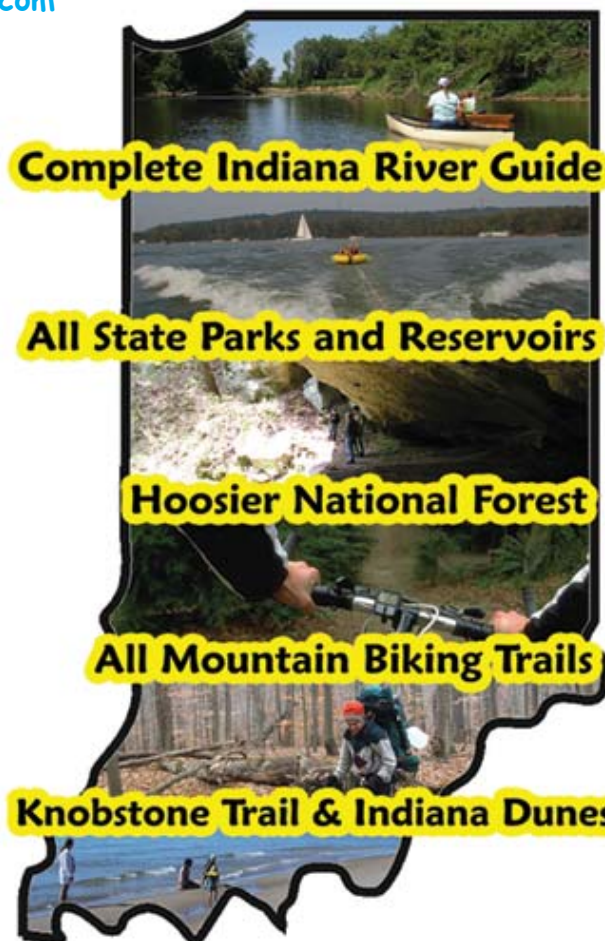
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