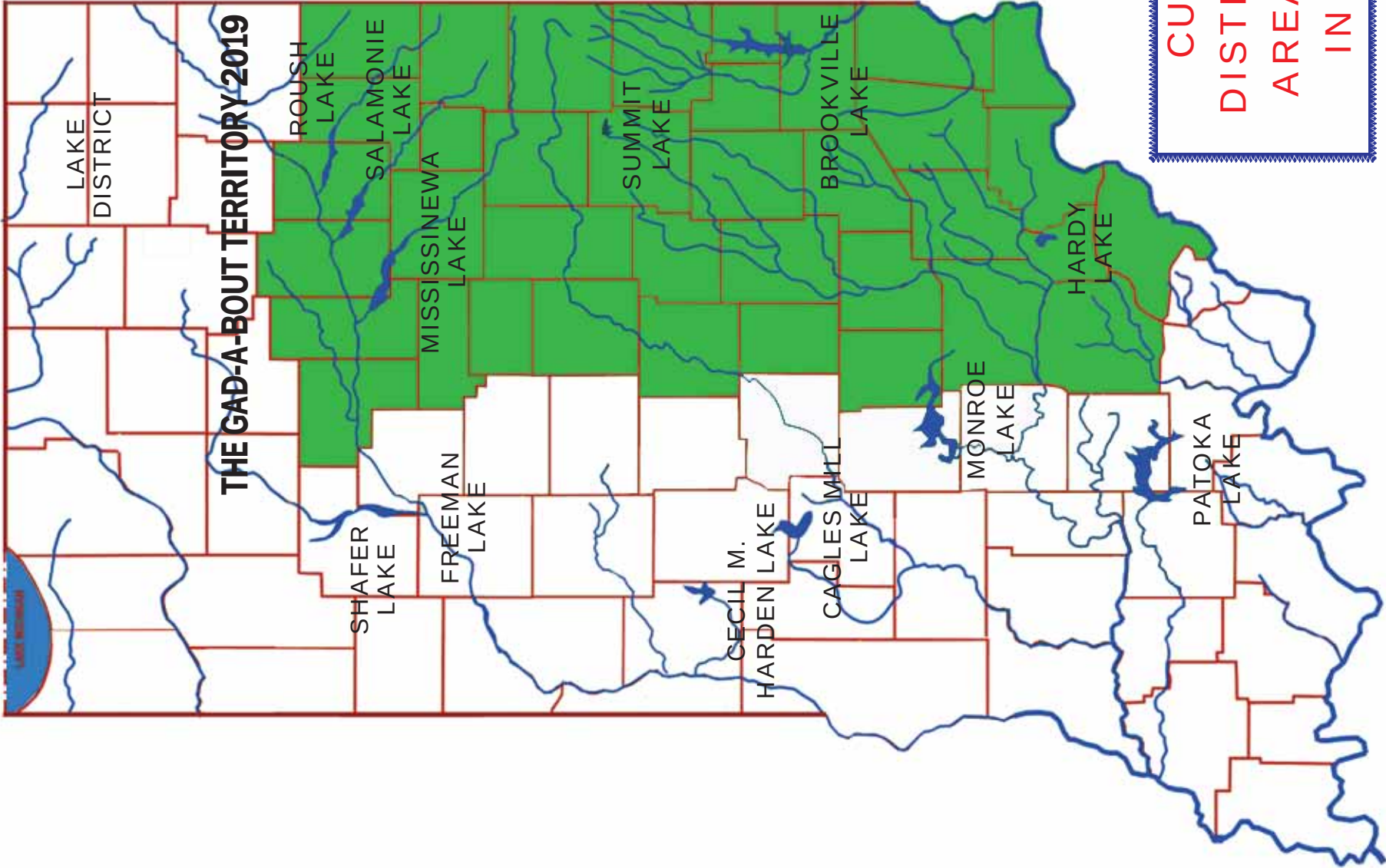


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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: My good friends Eugene and Gladys Fannin are working on another project. This time involving the Indians who lived and traveled in Indiana. More importantly here in the Whitewater Valley in the early 1800's. See Page 12-13. **(Photo by Ray Dickerson)**

Bottom Left: This past summer, we signed up for a fishing trip to Big North Lodge, near Minaki, in northwestern Ontario. Although this would be our first trip to this resort, I had talked to Alex Rheault many times at the Renfro Boat, Sport, and Travel Show in Indianapolis. He has had a display booth there for many years, and will be there in February again this year. See Pages 18-19 **(Photo by Rich Creason)**

Top Right: I took this photo just as Kevin Renfro was passing in front of my booth in Tackle Town. Riding with him are members of the Indiana Bass'n Gal's, whose photo just happens to be on Page 16 of this issue. They were next to me last year in Tackle Town. A great bunch of warm hearted gal's. They really livened up the atmosphere, never a dull moment. I wish I could be next to them again this year, but I will be a little bit further away from them. Don't miss the Ford 65th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds February 15-24, 2019 See Page 16-17. **(Photo by Ray Dickerson)**

Bottom Right: The Eastern Indiana Geological Society 46th Annual Spring Gem Show & Sale to be held March 1-3, 2019 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in the Kuhlman Center. In the photo are several youngsters panning for gold at last years show. The 1st Place raffle prize this year is a tall quartz cluster and 2nd prize is a small one. See article and photo of quartz cluster on page 22. **(Photo by Ray Dickerson)**

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson
The Gad-a-bout



Mendenhall True Value Hardware Store is located at 125 South West 5th Street in Richmond, Indiana. Owned and operated by John and Kyle Mendenhall. They are located on the North East Corner of U.S. 40 and South West 5th St. Tell them you read about them in The Gad-a-bout.



Top Left Photo: Kyle Mendenhall is holding one of the many styles of Darts they sell. Top Right Photo is a photo I took of a dart board at 9 Guns in Anderson, Indiana. I was surprised to see it there. But I'm told by Kyle and one of his employees that the game of darts is very popular in Richmond Indiana. You can play them at dozens of locations here. The Bottom Photo illustrates the many different styles of Darts that are for sale at Mendenhalls. Kyle is an avid player of Darts, he tells me Richmond may be the capitol of dart playing in Indiana. (Author Photos)

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When I was stationed in England compliments of the U.S. Air Force 1960-63, one of our most serious endeavors was to play darts on base and in local venues in every town we we visited.

I asked Kyle about some of the finer points of playing darts, it has been a long time since I played them and couldn't remember the rules. He brought

me up to date. I was amazed to find out that darts was so popular today and was played everywhere in the United States. Take note, if you are a League dart thrower check out Mendenhall's darts too. You may find what you've been looking for right here in Richmond, Indiana.

I have two dart boards here in my office, but no darts. I used to have quite a few, but over time they disappeared. I'm going to get me a set at Mendenhall's just as soon as I get this paper sent to the printer. I really enjoyed playing them in England.

Stop by Mendenhall's and buy some Darts and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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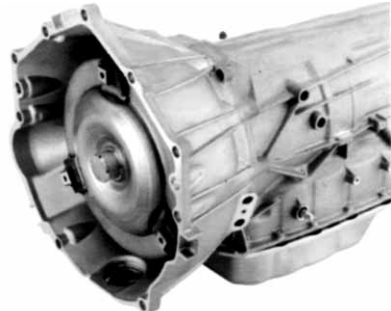
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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
Professional Fishing Guide

February 2019 fishing in Brookville Lake

In this neck of the woods you have options. You have Brookville lake, you have the river below the lake, you have farm ponds, and you also have the Ohio river. One of the things you have going against you though is ice and snow. The lake could be completely void of any ice and ready to fish, but the ramp is covered in snow, or it could be the other way around. Bonwell Hill, and Fairfield boat ramps are two main lake boat ramps that can be used in the winter when the lake is at winter pool. When fishing on the lake look for fish deep. Idle around with your

eyes on your depth finder looking for fish holding close to the bottom. When you find a good-looking spot stop and fish it with a simple straight up and down method. What your looking for are fish on the bottom, these will be your feeding fish. The perfect scenario is a huge school of bait fish suspended over fish pinned to the bottom.

In February the lake is down to winter pool so the odds of them pulling water off the lake at this time of year is low. So, if you have the itch to fish, and the boat ramps are snowed in or the lake is frozen, look to the stilling basin below the dam. This water is being pulled from the bottom of the lake 125 below the surface. What this means is that this water will never freeze, even in the harshest winters. This will be the spot where fish will congregate in the cold months. The stilling basin is just a big deep concrete box. The box is tapered at the leading edge and is just a straight up wall at the lower end. With the box being about 30 feet deep it's a great place to fish with spoons and blade baits. Just a simple straight up and down method will also work here. What your trying



Nice winter small mouth bass caught by Brian O'Connor from Denver Colorado. One of my best friends from grade school. (Author Photo)

your bait to look like is a dying bait fish. If you're a trout guy look down the river from the stilling basin towards the SR 101 bridge and beyond. In the summer the water in the river is colder closer to the dam, and in the winter the water is colder further from the dam. From the dam to SR 252 bridge the water is swift but shallow. From SR 252 to US 52 bridge the water is deep and calm. This entire stretch of river can be fished all winter with just a pair of neoprene waders, but please be mindful at times you're walking all over peoples' private property. You can fish it with a fly rod or spinning tackle it's your choice. You can use live bait or dry flies it's still strictly up to you. Another thing to remember to trout fish you must have a trout stamp along with a fishing license. You can fish for trout all winter, you just can't keep any trout from December 31st till the last Saturday in April of the following year.

Farm ponds are another great place to fish especially when they are frozen. The first thing you are going to need is permission from the person that owns the pond.

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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Nice big winter walleye caught by Mark Ellis from Indianapolis. (Author Photo)



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News from the Indiana State Police



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

Pendleton District Commander Promoted to Captain

Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter recently announced that Pendleton District Commander Tony Delello had been promoted to the rank of Captain, to oversee enforcement operations at the Putnamville, Indianapolis and Pendleton Districts. Delello had served as District Lieutenant at Pendleton since May of 2017.

Captain Delello, a Hamilton County native, graduated from Carmel High School in 1989, then Indiana State University in 1994 with a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice. He began his career with the Indiana State Police in 1995, graduating from the academy in December of that year. He was first assigned to the Lowell District, then transferred to the Pendleton District in 1997 where he was assigned to Hancock County as a road trooper.

Delello was promoted to the Central SWAT team in 1997, where he served as a trooper until 2008, when he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant of the Central SWAT Team. Delello was then promoted to Lieutenant in May of 2017 and served as the Pendleton District Commander until his recent promotion to Captain. Captain Delello and his family reside in Hancock County.

Pendleton Trooper Honored for Twenty Five Years of Service

Pendleton – Master Trooper Ron Huff recently passed the career milestone of 25 years of service dedicated to the citizens of Indiana. Huff, a Tipton native, graduated from Tipton High School in 1985 and from I.U. Kokomo in 1993 with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Huff was then hired by the Indiana State Police and graduated from the Indiana State Police Academy’s 50th recruit class in December 1993. After graduating from the State Police Academy, Huff was assigned to the Pendleton District as a road trooper.

In 1995 Huff transferred to the Peru Post where he served as a road trooper until he transferred back to the Pendleton Post in 2000. Huff, who resides with his family in Tipton County, continues to serve as a road trooper in the Pendleton District working Madison County.

Master Trooper Huff was awarded a framed certificate and a pin to be worn on his uniform signifying twenty five years of service.

The Indiana State Police is now accepting applications for the 79th Recruit Academy. Individuals who are interested in beginning a rewarding career as an Indiana State

More Traffic Laws

Last month we covered some basic traffic laws that seem to be forgotten or disregarded. One that has gotten a lot of press in the past year is 9-21-5-9, slow moving vehicle to travel in right lane. “A vehicle that travels at a speed less than the established maximum shall travel in the right lanes to provide for better flow of traffic on the interstate highways.” The law goes on for several more paragraphs, but essentially says, **THE LEFT LANE IS FOR PASSING ONLY**, and the right lane is for driving only-easy concept, right??

Evidently not as you continue to see people cruising along driving in the passing lane on interstates and roads such as four lane US 40. If you’re in the left lane and there isn’t a vehicle in the right lane next to you that



Indiana State Police Tony Delello promoted to Captain to oversee enforcement operations at the Putnamville, Indianapolis and Pendleton Districts. (Author Photo)

you’re currently passing, then you are violating the law-period. Ohio has been trying to get this law for years, and if you’ve driven over there recently, you know they definitely need it. I’ve stopped folks from Ohio in the past year who seem oblivious to the fact that the left lane is for passing, the right lane is for driving.

Along those same lines is 9-21-5-7, Motor Vehicles Driven at Slow Speed Impeding or Blocking Traffic. “A person may not drive a motor vehicle at a slow speed that blocks or impedes traffic on a roadway that has not more than one lane of traffic in each direction; at a slow speed so that there is three or more vehicles blocked and cannot pass on the left around the vehicle; Shall give the right of way to the other vehicles by pulling to the right of the right lane at the earliest reasonable opportunity and allowing blocked vehicles to pass.”

This is a big one in the spring and fall, during planting and harvest. I’m always for the farmer, but this past fall I got in a line of 14 vehicles behind a combine on a state road. Three times he passed turn lanes to the right, and once a wide gravel spot, where he could’ve pulled off to the right and let cars go-but he didn’t. I couldn’t decide if he needed educated to the law, or a ticket for not caring.

By the time he pulled off into a field he had more than



Indiana State Police Master Trooper Ron Huff awarded a framed certificate and pin for recent milestone of 25 years of service dedicated to the citizens of Indiana. (Author Photo)

16 cars that I could see behind us, that had now been there for several miles. Most farmers are considerate and aware of this law, and they do a great job obeying it. This was a young guy in the combine, and maybe he was just oblivious? Either way he needed someone to talk to him about it, or as the professional big truck driver would say, maybe he needed a “safe driving award” to wake him up!

ISP Still Hiring Through 2/10

The Indiana State Police is still accepting applications for the 79th Recruit Academy through midnight on February 10th. Individuals who are interested in beginning a rewarding career as an Indiana State Trooper must apply online at <http://www.in.gov/isp/2368.htm>. This website will provide a detailed synopsis of the application process as well as information on additional career opportunities with the Indiana State Police.

Applications must be submitted electronically by **11:59 pm (EST) on Sunday, February 10, 2019**. Applications submitted after the deadline will **not** be accepted for the 79th Recruit Academy.

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- 1.Must be a United States citizen.
- 2.Must be at least 21 and less than 40 years of age when appointed as a police employee. (Appointment date is **December 19, 2019**)
- 3.Must meet a minimum vision standard (corrected or uncorrected) of 20/50 acuity in each eye and 20/50 distant binocular acuity in both eyes.
- 4.Must possess a valid driver's license to operate an automobile.
- 5.Must be willing, if appointed, to reside and serve anywhere within the State of Indiana as designated by the Superintendent.
- 6.Must be a high school graduate as evidenced by a diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED).

The starting salary for an Indiana State Police Department Recruit is \$1,615.39 bi-weekly during the academy training. At the completion of academy training, the starting salary is \$48,000.00 a year. Graduates of the 79th Recruit Academy are offered an excellent health care plan, which includes medical, dental, vision and pharmacy coverage for both current and retired employees, along with their families, until reaching age 65. The Indiana State Police pension program provides a lifetime pension after 25 years of service. Additionally, the Indiana State Police Department provides comprehensive disability coverage and a life insurance program. Student loan forgiveness programs are being offered at this time through the following: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>

Interested applicants can obtain additional information about a career as an Indiana State Trooper by visiting <https://www.in.gov/isp/3041.htm> to find the recruiter assigned to your area.

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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by PIO Travis Stewart

Getting Back to the Root of Things

Several years ago I purchased my first hunting bow. I still remember walking around the Deer and Turkey Expo during the Boat, Sport and Travel Show with a mindset of getting a “new” bow. I use the term “new” because to me it was, but in reality it was used. I found a booth that sold used bows at a reasonable price, and found one that was great for what I wanted, the key is it was within my price range. I found a PSE compound bow, picked up some arrows and a release and was ready to practice for the upcoming deer season. That year, I didn’t get that bow out much, but the excitement of wanting to archery hunt still remained.

I never did hunt with that PSE bow that year, and traded it the following year. I ended up with a Diamond Outlaw. I hunted with that bow for several years, harvested my first deer with archery equipment, and added some others to its belt. Two seasons ago I traded that bow off and took over a Mathews DTX from my dad. I was able to harvest a buck with that bow this past season after an eventful evening hunt.

I talk about the different compound bows I have used or currently hunt with to point out what type of archery equipment I use. In the long run I am just starting my hunting adventures with archery equipment. I would like to transition over traditional equipment at some point. I’ve talked to some that hunt with a recurve and picked their brains some on it. There’s a few other officers that hunt with a recurve as well that I’ve picked the brain of. I have a friend that even made his own Osage bow; working the wood and created a piece of art that he then hunted with. At some point I want to utilize a recurve bow, maybe even make my own. I want to get back to the roots of archery hunting, and take that traditional aspect into account. I want to get down to the method part of archery hunting, but for now I will keep using my compound bow and practice with it during the off season and even during season, to ensure that I have a clean kill.

Just as mentioned during hunter education

courses, the method stage is part of any hunter. A challenge in hunting is getting back to the roots of it, whether it be tradition archery equipment compared to compound bow or flint lock muzzleloader instead of rifle.

Something else that I have dabbled in is trapping. There is enough information about trapping to cover a whole article itself. I only mention this because if you are interested in trapping, the DNR holds tapper education courses throughout the state. District 9 holds a few classes a year, and you only have to go to www.passitonindiana.com to sign up.

Fishing in the Frozen, not Freezing Becoming Frozen

This article is of no shocker to readers of the Gad-A-Bout, or readers of articles that I have wrote, but with the time of the year, I still feel the need to write about it. Temperatures are crazy in Indiana, hence the old saying about our weather. Already this year we had 60 degree days in December and January both. With the warm days there are cold days to come which means that waters are going to freeze. Not only are smaller ponds going to freeze, but larger bodies of water and creeks/ rivers will freeze also.

These freezing waters are going to draw fisherman wanting to get out. There’s talk that fish caught over a block of ice taste better than any other, either way water is a dangerous thing that can’t be mistaken or taken for granted. The key to dealing with ice fishing is ensuring that the water has frozen enough to safely fish. The rule of thumb, is 4 inches of ice is enough to safely walk on and fish. Anything less than that can be detrimental and dangerous.

Along with ensuring where you are going to sit and fish, you need to ensure that the ice is thick enough on the way to the fishing spot. In order to do this, check the thickness often.

Never venture onto ice with moving water underneath it. Water in this state is never able to freeze enough to stabilize and thicken.

Either take or wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) of some sort.

Purchases ice picks can help recover from a breakthrough of the ice. These are a few extra bucks, but again can make a huge difference in life or death.

Along with ice picks, ice spikes can help keep your footing while getting to that “hot” spot.

There is a short video on the DNR website describing a few safety tips. It can be found at: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3601.htm>. I encourage those wishing to partake is this “chill” activity to take a few minutes and watch the video; if only as a refresher for safety.

With ice fishing it’s better to fish with a buddy in case an emergency arises, the buddy can make contact with emergency personnel.

As always, Stay Safe Indiana!

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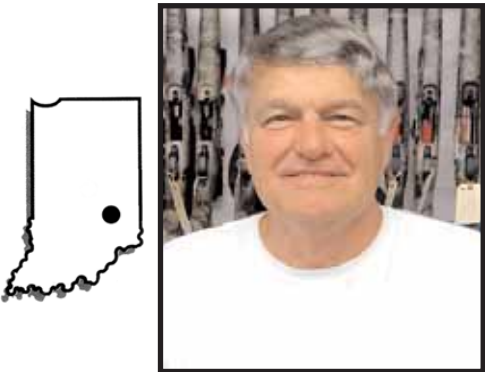


Wild hogs in Indiana. (Photo Courtesy of IDNR)



Farmer's field where wild hogs have had there way with it.. (Photo Courtesy of IDNR)

Blue River Outdoors



by Steve Dake

Indiana wild pigs (feral pigs) are an invasive species and are a Threat to Domestic Livestock

This article is about wild pigs in Indiana. The hog in above picture was taken by Scott Gahimer of Shelbyville. It was taken Dec. 16 of this year while deer hunting with his son Masyn. Masyn got a hog 2 years ago with a muzzle loader. It was taken in South Central part of the state.

Wild pigs—also called wild hogs, wild boar or feral pigs—are an invasive species in Indiana. Wild pigs have either been illegally released or were formerly domesticated pigs allowed to become feral. These animals pose significant threats to both agricultural and ecological health. Wild pigs are mid-sized hooved mammals with a long, pointed head, short legs and a stocky build. They vary in color and size, but some general characteristics are:

- The average female weighs 110 pounds; the average male weighs 130 pounds.
- Hair is coarse and denser than a domestic pig, with long bristles.
- Most are black.
- Snout is flat and long.

- Tails are straight, never coiled like that of a domesticated pig.
- Males have four continuously growing tusks that are 3-5 inches long.

Wild hogs cannot be imported into Indiana, possessed in captivity, sold, traded, bartered, leased or gifted. Wild hogs can cause significant damage to property, destroy wildlife habitat and can carry diseases that transfer to domestic swine and other animals. Wild hogs are a threat to native fauna and flora, specially ground nesting wildlife or young wildlife such as deer fawns. Wild hogs will also displace deer from an area, out compete deer/turkey for acorns, and cause severe damage to food plots and other habitat improvement efforts. Wild hogs are a major concern to farmers because they cause extensive damage to crops, are a source of disease for domestic livestock, and will prey on young livestock and small animals. Wild hogs may carry diseases that can infect people. They also contaminate human food sources and water supplies. Wild hogs have reaped havoc on residential lawns, landscaping, rural cemeteries and etc.

Estimating the wild hog population in Indiana is extremely hard due to their nature and choice of habitat, but current estimates are now less than 500 due to the success of the USDA/APHIS- Wildlife Services wild pig removal project funded under the Farm bill. While the wild hog population is relatively small in Indiana, it has the potential for explosive growth. Currently there are few regulations on the hunting of wild hogs in Indiana. No licenses are required and no bag limits are in place. But, you must have written permission of the landowner to hunt hogs on their land, captured wild hogs must be killed immediately, it's illegal to release a wild hog, and no wild hog may be transported alive. In 2015 regulations were modified to stop the use of dogs to hunt and make abetting or assisting in the release of wild pigs illegal.

Steven Backs Wildlife Research Biologist of Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife has attached a letter he uses to respond to the many emails, phone calls, and other inquiries he receive about wild pigs.



Scott Gahimer took this wild hog December 16th while hunting with his son Masyn in South Central part of the state. Photo by Masyn Gahimer)

While the IDNR receives numerous requests from hunters wanting information on where they can hunt feral or wild hogs, no landowners with a wild pig problem have contacted the IDNR or USDA-Wildlife Services to request assistance from outside hunters. Many of these landowners feel quite the opposite and do not want to legitimize or promote the existence of wild/feral pigs or any recreation associated with wild pigs on their property.

The wild pig problem is being addressed either directly by the impacted landowners themselves or by cooperatively working with the USDA/IDNR. In 2014, Congress approved \$20 million dollars over 5

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE (9)

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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

FIFTY YEARS IS A LONG TIME

As the heading says, fifty years is a long time. During that time I met him on a professional level and ended up as a fishing buddy. We shared a common interest in the design and construction of mechanical things and a passion in seeing which of us could catch the biggest crappie or the most reluctant bass. Not once during those years did either of us intentionally lie about the size of our catch or the number of fish caught. Admittedly, our judgement of the length of a fish might have been a little on the plus side, but there was never any “my fish is bigger than yours”. As the years passed, his business, eventually with the help of his son, grew from a fairly a modest size to considerably larger as it expanded in other areas.

But, in spite of the demands of maintaining a bustling enterprise, he always managed to find time to wet a line. Being asked to accompany him quite often, I learned from him how not to use prime expletives when my line got wrapped in the trolling motor or hung in a tree fifteen feet above the water. Always calm, cool, and collected, except when a big one came off the hook just as he was bringing it aboard, he was the king of calm.

For the past eleven years since we’ve lived at the lake, one of his favorite fishing holes, I would get a call from him saying:

“Daniel! What’re you doin’?”

I knew he was on the water and this was his invitation to join him. Sometimes my work schedule wouldn’t allow it, but when it did I knew it would be a few hours of quiet casting, casual and sometimes not so casual discussions on politics and decisions on whether or not to seek shelter when rain clouds rolled in. Occasional bad casts would jerk a hat off a head and a fall overboard avoided only by blind, dumb luck. But it was always fun. Here’s to Rollin:

Reflecting on his life, he mused
Had he lived like he knew he ought’er
No answer came, so he hitched his mule
And rode to see ‘ol Potter

A wise old man with aging eyes
Wrinkled brow and silvered head
When he told him why he’d come, he laughed
And winked at him and said
T’aint no worry a’tall

Grass will grow in springtime
Geese will fly in fall
Life goes on as usual
T’aint no worry a’tall

All things was here before we came
They’ll be here a’ter we go
This old world don’t change a lot
It ages mighty slow

Now you ‘an me on the other hand
Don’t last quite near so long
We ain’t got the time it seems
To right our every wrong

Life is like a field of wheat
It starts off kinda slow
Then rain will fall and sun will shine
An’ things will begin to grow

You tend an’ care an’ fuss an’ weed
Until its time to reap
The field’s done well, it needs to rest
In eternal winter sleep

So don’t you worry ‘bout yore life
You done the best you can
Just leave the rest up to the Lord
He knows, t’aint no perfect man

So long, Rollin. Keep the rods and tackle handy
and when the time comes I expect to hear:
“Daniel! What’re you ‘doin’?



Family of wild hogs. (Photo Courtesy of IDNR)

years to control and eliminate wild pig populations, with special emphasis being directed at what are termed “emerging wild pig populations” in the Midwest farm belt. The Congressional support was re-affirmed in the 2019 Farm Bill. The USDA has hired professionally trained technicians in each state to direct and implement a variety of wild pig population control techniques including combinations of trapping, snaring, helicopter shooting, and selective night shooting of pigs not effectively eliminated by other techniques.

adamant that the IDNR not encourage or promote hog hunting opportunities in Indiana.

The importation of wild hogs across state lines is a Class D felony with severe penalties. Possession of a live wild pig is illegal by Indiana Code 312 IAC 9-3-18.5. Wild pigs damage crops and fields of local landowners, pose a potential disease threat to domestic livestock, are a serious threat to native wildlife, plants, and wildlife, degrade water resources, and negatively impact other legitimate sport hunting recreation opportunities.

Trapping groups of wild pigs is the most effective and feasible way for landowners to control wild pig numbers on their property. The removal of individual pigs by recreational hog hunting is not as effective as trapping entire family/social groups and hog hunting is generally counterproductive to successful trapping efforts. Recreational hog hunting often just shifts the problem from one neighbor onto the adjacent neighbor, all the while the pigs become more secretive and harder to capture for removal. Impacted landowners are rather

The IDNR has no interest in promoting the existence of these destructive, invasive, non-native species or any associated recreational opportunities that might arise from their occurrence in Indiana.

We will do an article on bobcats next month. Anyone who has unusual pictures of wildlife or anything they would like to share email Steve Dake at sdake@sbcglobal.net. I will contact you about the picture.

With the holidays over and hunting seasons winding down it’s a good time to give the firearms a good cleaning and inspection before putting them away.

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New resident at Summit Lake a soaring Bald Eagle. (Author Photo)



I got a good photo of this Bald Eagle perching in a tree. (Author Photo)

Outdoor Scenes & Verse



by Anita McFalls

The Eagle Has Landed,
I Mean Nested!

There is a lot of excitement here at Summit Lake in Henry County these days. We have a pair of nesting bald eagles!

Many people have already discovered the nest, and are asking a lot of questions. I decided to write on this subject for 2 reasons, #1: first, and foremost, for the protection of the eagles, and their nesting area, and #2: to share some interesting and informative facts about bald eagles.

As most people know, the bald eagle has been the National bird of the US since 1782, and it is the only eagle unique to North America.

Bald eagles and Golden eagles, as well as their nest ,eggs, and surrounding area ARE, and HAVE BEEN protected under federal law since 1918, with several revisions having been made.

In the 40's and 50's they nearly became extinct in the lower 48 states. Their decline is blamed on the development and use of DDT in the 40's , as well as lead poisoning, their food sources being over hunted, and habitat being destroyed. *DDT was banned in the US in 1972.

Bald eagles were declared endangered in 1967. Due to contamination of their food sources, they began laying eggs with very thin shells, which caused the population to plummet. They were delisted 06/07, and in Indiana in 08. This was due



Many people have already discovered their nest. (Author Photo)

to specific restoration projects throughout the US.

Indiana's efforts to restore the bald eagle population began when DNR officials collected 73 eaglets from Wisconsin and Alaska, and released them at Lake Monroe from 1985-1989. About 1/3 survived, and built nests in Indiana.

Although Indiana eagles have been tracked as far as New York, they return home to nest, anywhere from 50 to 100 miles or so from where they were fledged.

Bald eagles, (name deriving from an old English word meaning White), typically nest near forest areas where tall, mature, trees grow near the open water. Their nests can range from 5-10 feet in diameter to 2 feet and deeper. They use the same nest year after year, and it can weigh 1000-4000 lbs. Typically by February they are on the nest site, eggs are laid in March,(5-10 days after mating), and they hatch after the 35 day incubation period, sometime in April. An eaglet isn't mature until they reach 4-5 years old, and the white on their head and tail does not develop until then, however,

they leave the nest at about 12 weeks.

The male and female bald eagle have the exact same coloring, but the female is the larger of the two. She ranges from 10-14 lbs with a wing span of about 8 feet, and the male weighs about 8-9 lbs, with a wingspan of 5-7 feet. They both have dark bodies and wings, with bright yellow, hooked, beaks, and yellow legs. Although they both do their share in building the nest and feeding their young, the male is better built for the hunt, and female can better shelter the eaglets from the cold with her slightly larger body.

Their preferred diet is fish and small birds, but they will forage on road kill, or themselves, kill small prey, such as rabbit, snake, or squirrel. An eagle's territory, (range), is approximately 1.2 square miles. Bald eagles fly at a "cruising" speed of around 40 mph, but can reach 100 mph when diving for prey. Eagles do not plunge straight down, but come in at an angle, and amazingly, they can reach an altitude of 10,000 ft.

An eagle has 7000-7200 feathers, which they can manipulate for flying, heat, or cold. When in flight, they soar on what is called "thermals", which make it possible for them to glide long distances. Mostly, they stretch their wings out flat and enjoy the ride!

Eagles are amazingly strong creatures, and can carry a "kill" up to about 4 lbs. An eagle's talons grip at 10 times that of a humans grip, or about 400 psi.

Sighting a bald eagle is still a thrill to most of us. They are such a powerful and majestic bird.

As they build their family here, or anyplace else, please allow them the space, respect, and quiet that they need, and are entitled by law. If you see someone breaking these laws, please contact law enforcement so we don't lose these great birds to another area. There is so much more information on these grand birds, and many places

Including Mississinewa, and Lake Monroe actually host Eagle watching outings in the winter. Happy birding!

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

FISHING IN THE RAIN LEGALIZED

Personally, I don't particularly like fishing in the rain but if I stayed ashore on all the days with a slight chance of rain, my days spent fishing would dwindle significantly. So unless I think it's positively going to rain and elect to stay home, I usually just include my rainy day gear in my duffel and head out anyway. Is



which flowed through a hose and used to wash down the deck of a boat and then run into the lake or stream was incidental discharge and the hoser would have to be permitted and log in the time, place and amount of water used to clean up the boat. A fisherperson would also have been required to keep tabs on the amount of water pumped out of the lake to fill the livewell in his or her fishing boat if that water recirculated back into the lake. A jet ski owner would have needed to fill in the blanks and mail in their daily incidental discharge report logging the amount of water the motor in their jet ski pumped out of the water, through the cooling system of the engine and then squirted back into the lake.

A new bill, recently made law, removes the EPA regulations which tried to make fishing or boating in the rain a cumbersome process. (Author Photo)

(was) that illegal, as the title of this column implies?

The answer is no, but a more complete answer is almost. I reported on this in a column several years ago when big government bureaucrats were at their peak of power at the Environmental Protection Agency. I don't want to get overly political about the mission, agenda and hidden agendas of the EPA or other government agencies; but at the time I first wrote about this issue the Feds were adding new regulations for people, businesses and corporations at a rate of 80,000 per year.

One of their mandates made it illegal to fish in the rain. Actually, it was okay to wade or fish from the shore in the rain, but not in a boat. Nor could you water ski, canoe or for the most part, leave your boat parked at the dock on a rainy day without getting a special permit and then complying with the paperwork.

The problem, you see, is what the regulators called incidental discharge. Once they found out raindrops falling into a boat were usually bailed out with coffee cans, pumped out with bilge pumps or just allowed to run down the deck and drain through the scuppers into the waters in which the boat was floating, the EPA regulator teams went into action.

Their proposal actually wasn't planned to stop this incidental discharge. It was to require boaters to get an EPA permit to allow rain to fall in their boat and then keep a log of when, where and how much rain fell in or on the boat and incidentally was discharged overboard each day. To be fair, the EPA didn't single out rain as the only source of incidentally discharged water.

Water from a well or municipal water source,

When the EPA added the incidental discharge provision to their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System - acronym NPDES - boating groups (both recreational and commercial) banded together to ask, demand, plead or otherwise cajole the EPA to back off their new decree. As bureaucracies usually do, instead of admitting to creating a stupid or unworkable solution, they stonewalled, pontificated and only reluctantly granted an exemption to boats under 79 feet in length - but only for 10 years. After 10 years they planned to have a new regulation, more sensible and workable, to address the havoc rain water, live wells and engine cooling discharge was having on America's waterways.

Of course, they didn't come up with a new plan in 10 years and the exemption expired. Luckily, when by the expiration date, the regulators were busy enforcing thousands of pages of even newer government regulations they'd dreamed up and with new officials at the top of the EPA hierarchy, the EPA cops weren't assigned duty at busy marinas on rainy days to crack down on non-NPDES fishermen.

Instead, a new legislation called VIDA (Vessel Incidental Discharge Act) was tacked onto a bill funding the US Coast Guard which was signed into law in early December. The new law rescinds the NPDES requirements permanently for recreational boats under 79 feet in length. So go ahead and fish on rainy days without worrying about the EPA cops cracking down on you. On a rainy day just worrying about staying dry is enough.

THE END

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Eugene Fannin holding a Wayne County map with Indian Mounds located on it. Notice the mound locations when a line is drawn between them forms the Big Dipper. Hmmm.



Eugene, Gladys and I met at the Wayne County Museum on Dec. 27, 2018. Eugene wanted me to see his Trace & Trails information on display there. (Author Photos)



Eugene Fannin

Eugene's Passion is Indian Trails In the Whitewater Valley

by Ray Dickerson
(Loka'Dwe Ichutaku Yushedon')

I first met Eugene and Gladys Fannin in the fall of 1976, they had recently opened the F & H Archery Shop in Richmond, Indiana. At the time they already had 15 years of combined archery experience. In my October/November Outdoor Gad-a-bout (a publication I was publishing at the time). Eugene appeared on the cover of that issue. Gladys wrote a feature article in that issue about a National Archery Tournament she and Eugene attended in Aurora, IL.

In my July 20 thru August 16, 1991 Gad-a-bout column I wrote, "Volunteers Wanted." "I am embarked on a great adventure and I would like to take you with me. I have researched the Indiana/Ohio frontier for the years 1791 thru 1812 (not including the war of 1812). On September 1 & 2, 1991 I am going to attempt to re-enact that adventurous time at the Treaty-Line Pioneer Village. What I need you for is to portray the people who lived during that time, including settlers, frontiersmen, soldiers and Indians. We are having our first meeting at Treaty-Line Pioneer Village on Sunday, July 21, 1991 at 1 p.m."

Twelve people attended the meeting including

Eugene Fannin that day

From that meeting Frontier Days grew and Eugene Fannin, his wife Gladys and others became a group of dedicated individuals who became more involved in life from 1784 thru 1812, the life span of Miami Chief Little Turtle.

On Labor Day weekend in 2001 Frontier Days ended. True to form Eugene, Gladys and many other volunteers remained with me until the end.

In the years that have passed our friendship has endured the passage of time. Our paths have crossed many times at the many festivals and chance meetings.

Eugene called me a few weeks ago concerning a Copy Righted booklet he has written entitled "Indian Trails in the Whitewater Valley." and a map of the same.

We first met on Thursday, December 27th at the Wayne County Museum. That was when I took the photos at the top of this page.

To understand the map the trail lines indicate the trail followed the river or creek. Terrain, water (springs), would determine which side of the stream the trail actually ran. Information collected from historical documents, newspaper articles, original survey notes.

Eugene probably knows more about Indian Trails, Traces and Mounds than most experts on the subject, not only in the Whitewater Valley, but extending into states bordering Indiana.

In the photo above on the left side at the top of the page is a map of the Traces and Trails he has studied up till now in Wayne County, Indiana. Just today he was telling me about new trails he's discovered on how the Hoover family and others traveled from afar, ending up in our neck of the woods. Eugene lives and breathes extending his knowledge on this subject.

The map on the right behind Eugene illustrates how the Quakers and Brethren settlers traveled from the east coast to Indiana.

He has had several revelations just recently of newly discovered trails and traces, that he didn't know of before and he's been able to connect the dots so to speak. One was the "east-west connector trail" opening up an understanding how settlers traveled more easily from the east to Wayne County. He knows of several east-west trails that link the east to the Whitewater Valley.

Eugene's trek is now centered on working with area libraries getting the map and his booklet placed in them. He's hoping the knowledge he has devel-

oped will encourage school kids to become more interested in the Indian Trails, Traces and Mounds. He hopes if he plants the seeds the kids will reap the rewards of learning about how we became who we are today from a primitive past.

I met him Wednesday, January 9, 2019 in the Centerville Library where he has already placed his map and booklet there.

Here's an interesting point.

Say you wanted to go to Vincennes via Indian trails, traces, buffalo traces, etc in the early, early 1800's about the time settlers were arriving here in the Whitewater Valley.

On his map, Eugene shows me a trail that heads up toward New Castle, you have to take this trail all the way to Anderson where you would connect with the White River trail and follow it to Vincennes. I said, wait a minute, it would be easier to go this way a more direct route to Vincennes.

Eugene points out, we're talking about the early 1800's, there wasn't any maps, there wasn't any trails nor traces known to the settlers back then. Men like John Conner who had a Trading Post near Big Cedar creek south of Brookville in 1803. From there John Conner moved his trading post to Brookville in 1805. Not finished, in 1808 he blazed a trail moving his Trading Post to where Connersville is now. Back then it was mostly swamp. There is a shop, the Glass House at the corner of East Vine and Eastern Avenue in Connersville today that is believed to be the spot where John Conner had his Trading Post.

Hence the name Connersville was named after John Conner.

Can you imagine being an early farmer and having to go to Vincennes, which was a major point of entry in the Indiana Territory. Commodity goods traveled up the Mississippi to the Ohio to the Wabash river to Fort Knox in Vincennes. Look at a map today, walking or riding a horse leading a pack horse from Centerville north to Anderson, then traveling along the White River south to Vincennes. Then heading back north to Anderson and south to Centerville. A distance of approximately 320 miles! That's a far distance even by today's standards in a vehicle, let alone riding a horse leading a pack horse. The settlers and trading posts near the Ohio River could reach Vincennes via the Ohio River to the Wabash River, but that still was quite a trip. Add to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Bozarth's Annual Spring Tackle Sale starts Saturday, March 2nd and runs through Sunday, March 10th. Best prices of the year on all your favorite fishing gear. Free fishing seminars presented by local pro anglers will be available throughout the day on March 2nd! Come visit us and stock up on all your fishing gear and gain valuable tips and techniques from some of the best anglers in our area! (Author Photo)

Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by **Ryan Pershing**
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

Great Lakes of the Wabash Spring Tackle Sale & Eagle Watch

As we sit in the middle of winter many of us begin to turn our attention to the upcoming spring season and get excited thinking about being outside and enjoying all the opportunities nature provides us. With that being said, when looking for a place to enjoy the outdoors then look no further than the Great Lakes of the Wabash. Even though we are in the midst of winter there are still several options in the area to enjoy such as: hiking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling (when trails are deemed sufficient), eagle watching, and many other fun activities. Sometimes we don't realize how fortunate we are to have these three great properties (Salamonie, Mississinewa, and Huntington) all within a short drive of each other available to take advantage of for recreational purposes.

Speaking of getting outdoors, a great opportunity presents itself on the weekend of February 9th and 10th. This is when the popular Eagle Watch returns to the Salamonie Reservoir and this is a great time to view and learn all about the majestic bald eagle. For both of these events you meet at the Salamonie Interpretive Center at 3 p.m. At this time you will receive a short overview of eagles and then proceed by caravan to popular roosting spots and watch eagles come in for the evening. You are

encouraged to bring your binoculars, spotting scopes, and cameras and enjoy spending time observing the eagles in action. There is a small amount of walking involved and handicapped parking is available with previous notice. Food and hot drinks will be available for donation. Advance registration is requested to attend these events by contacting the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center at (260) 468-2127.

Another event to mark on your calendars is the Annual Spring Fishing Tackle Sale that takes place at Bozarth's Country Store and runs from Saturday, March 2nd through Sunday, March 10th. This is a great time to take advantage of the best prices of the year on your favorite fishing gear. Great deals on rods, reels, terminal tackle, bulk bags of bobbers, and many other items will be on display so grab your family and friends and head to Bozarth's! In addition to the great deals we will also be giving away door prizes to the first 100 paying customers. Popular local tackle producers, Big Diddy Baits and Spider Monkey, will be on hand with a full display of their existing and hot new products along with sharing their fishing knowledge.

Another exciting reason to attend the Bozarth's Spring Tackle Sale is the free fishing seminars put on by local pro anglers. These seminars will happen on Saturday, March 2nd and run throughout the day. The seminars put on this year are going to be outstanding and include: Indiana Slabmaster champions, Crappie USA National Champions (last 2 years), American Crappie Trail Tournament winners, and CAST National Champion! Combined these anglers have won numerous tournaments and series and the knowledge they are willing to share is priceless. I highly encourage you to attend these free seminars and get the

opportunity to learn several new fishing techniques and strategies from some of the best anglers in the area. Grab your friends and come enjoy the day with other fellow anglers and while visiting be sure to grab one of our delicious hot sandwiches from our popular food menu. For more information you can find us on Facebook by searching Bozarth Country Store or contact us at (765) 981-4522. Bozarth's Country Store and Campground is located at 7309 E 400 S Lagro, IN 46941.

For all you crappie tournament fishermen, be sure to mark the following dates on your schedule for the upcoming tournaments at the Great Lakes of the Wabash. The Indiana Slabmasters will make their annual return to Salamonie and Mississinewa Lakes on Saturday, May 4th and Sunday, May 5th. This will be a two day super event and will count towards the four tournaments needed to qualify for the season ending classic. For more information visit www.indianaslabmasters.com The Crappie USA tournament trail will come to Salamonie and Mississinewa Lakes on Saturday, May 11th. The seminar will be held on Friday, May 10th at Bozarth's Country Store. For more information visit: www.crappieusa.com. Lastly, the 2019 Bozarth Crappie Tournament dates will be released in the following Gad A Bout issue.

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Quail Forever

Youth Pheasant Hunt

March 16th, 2019



Tree City Quail Forever is sponsoring its first youth pheasant hunt in beautiful Franklin County Indiana. Each child that attends will be hunting one-on-one with a guide and dog and participate in skeet shooting. Quail Forever will be providing lunch for everyone. Each child will have the opportunity to harvest a pheasant and learn proper techniques for cleaning a pheasant. The Youth hunt will start at 8:00 a.m. and will break for lunch at 12:00 p.m. The age limit for the hunt will range from 8 to 17 years of age. Quail Forever is about getting kids active in outdoor recreation, whether it be hunting, habitat improvement, fishing,

hiking or camping. Quail Forever is a non profit organization that cares and encourages kids to spend time outdoors. This event is limited to 30 children, so make your reservations now.

Location:Fields Outdoor Adventures Shooting Preserve
27063 US 52, Laurel,IN 47024

Contact: Ryan Fields 765-561-3139
Josh Miller 812-560-9766



Top Left Photo: Youth participants enjoying learning the proper technique of firing a rifle. Top Right Photo: Youth learning how to shoot skeet properly. Bottom Left Photo: Youth sitting down for lunch break at 12 Noon. Bottom Right Photo: Youth participants learning wildlife habitat planting. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

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The Indiana Bass'n Gals booth was next to The Gad-a-bout booth last year in Tackle Town. Their smiles are genuine, a happier or harder working group would be hard to find.



A very popular activity for kids is the "Trout Pond" as you can see by all the kids fishing in it in February 2018. "Daddy put down the phone I think I caught one!"



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

TICKETS TO ADVENTURE

The phrase "ticket to adventure" is a trite expression used by any number of enterprises trying to convince a person to pay the price of admission. Buy a ticket to adventure and the doors will be open to the experience of a lifetime, they say. The promise may come from a carnival barker assuring passersby they will see amazing sights. "Step right up and buy a ticket." It may come from a professional spokesman on an airline commercial. "Your ticket will take you to the adventures you can only imagine.

This time the phrase is from me and I'm promising, "for the price of a ticket" adventures galore, adventures to last a lifetime and adventures to match your lifestyle. The first ticket you will need is a one to get in the door of the Ford 65th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show being held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds from February 15th to the 24th.

The show itself is an adventure. With six buildings filled with exhibits, trying to see it all without a plan is like being lost in the wilderness. Be sure to log in to www.indysportshow.com in advance to at least see the general layout. Look, plan and chart a course through the show. Advanced planners even make a schedule of where to be and when.

The schedule will likely be the hardest to keep since along the way you are sure to come across

unexpected places, activities and opportunities. Exploring takes time and it's part of the fun. If you are in pursuit of a particular adventure, whether it's a vacation, a fishing trip, a new boat, RV or just a few hooks or a deal on a fishing rod in Tackle Town, a plan and schedule will serve you well and not leave you short on time.

TACKLE TOWN

I seldom walk out of the Tackle Town building at the show with less than I started. My shopping is always a combination of stocking up on items I know I will need as well as new and interesting gear I didn't know existed. I often find my needed items at show-discounted prices.

Any visitor to Tackle Town should schedule a stop by the DNR's display area. Here's where more "tickets to adventure" can be obtained. There's plenty of free information there, but many people put this stop on their annual visit to the show specifically to purchase Indiana State Park passes, launching permits, fishing and hunting licenses - all tickets to adventure, right here in Indiana.

The new fishing and hunting license year starts April first and buying the licenses in advance ensures you'll be legal when you get that first opportunity to hit the water. Turkey season will be opening later in April. Many people just buy all the hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and stamps they'll need for the entire year. Those that do are set for all seasons and it's a bonus for the DNR, as well.

Everyone knows the money spent on hunting, fishing and trapping licenses is what funds the fish and wildlife management activities across the state. What most people don't consider is buying a license at the show actually boosts the amount the DNR receives from your license fees.

When you buy a license at Walmart, Cabela's or any other retail outlet, the business gets to deduct and keep 75 cents from each sale. Your 17 dollar annual fishing license nets the DNR fisheries people only \$16.25. The turkey license nets the DNR \$24.25, not the full twenty-five bucks.

You'll pay the same amount for licenses at the DNR's booth at the show, but all of your license fees go to the resource. I like that and with the number of

these hunting and fishing "tickets to adventure" sold at the show, those extra pennies on each license really add up.

TRAVEL STOPS

When I go to the show, my favorite stops are at the booths where representatives from travel destinations near and far are located. Who doesn't like to dream of a trip to Alaska or a vacation in another state. Who doesn't like to learn about fishing, hunting and other outdoor opportunities available here in Indiana? I'll admit to having these dreams and I'll admit those dreams became reality because of the stops I made, the questions I had answered and the concerns which were addressed when talking with the representatives and owners of these adventure destinations. Use this opportunity to plan repeat trips or schedule new ones.

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Though I'm as likely to buy an RV as an elephant and I don't need a new boat. I still enjoy a quick stroll through these areas of the show each time I come. Sometimes I walk away simply awed by the size, opulence and price tags on display. Sometimes I walk away with the thoughts of how I'd look behind the wheel or at the helm out on the open road or open waters.

21st ANNUAL INDIANA DEER, TURKEY & WATERFOWL EXPO

If there's a drop of hunter's blood in your system, plan to attend the show on the final days of the show when the Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo is a part of the adventure. It takes up an entire building and features all things you'd expect from the title and more. Hunting gear retailers, hunting outfitters, guides and hunting oriented organizations all gather to exhibit and explain what they have to offer. Special appearances are slated for top industry guides and personalities.

Check out all the latest information on the show at: www.indysportshow.com . It's your ticket to adventure.

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Top Left Photo: Big North main lodge. Great looking outside, even better inside. (Author Photo) Top Right Photo: Susie is standing outside our cabin. Open porch for when the weather was nice and no mosquitoes were out. Bottom Left Photo: Author with nice northern. One of many we caught. (Photo by Susie Creason) Bottom Right Photo: Our guide starting shore lunch. Nothing better than walleye and fried potatoes over an open fire. (Author Photo)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Fishing and Hunting
Northwestern Ontario

I was standing over my stove watching the wall-eye fillets turn a golden brown in my cast iron skillet. On the next burner, sliced potatoes were doing the same thing in another skillet. My wife was leaning over my shoulder asking me how soon dinner would be ready. This was not exactly a Canada shore lunch, but it was as close as we could get until our next trip north.

Susie and I have traveled to Ontario and Quebec numerous times since 1971. Usually our trips are fishing related, but several times I have hunted, bear, moose, deer, ducks, and grouse. Over the past nearly five decades, I have learned what to look for

before I book a trip to a remote location. If I go to a Canadian camp, I am fairly sure it will be a good trip before I make a deposit. If I return to the same camp a second time, it is a great choice.

This past summer, we signed up for a fishing trip to Big North Lodge, near Minaki, in northwestern Ontario. Although this would be our first trip to this resort, I had talked to Alex Rheault many times at the Renfro Boat, Sport, and Travel Show in Indianapolis. He has had a display booth there for many years, and will be there in February again this year. Susie and I had gotten answers to all of our questions and finally decided to visit Big North Lodge.

My questions, or course, were about pricing, lodging, food, equipment, guides, etc. Susie’s main question was if they offered shore lunch or not. That would be a deal breaker. We signed up for the American plan which included all of the items in which I was interested. Three meals a day were included, one of which was shore lunch with our guide preparing our meal of freshly caught walleye. While we had caught northern and smallmouth bass also, walleye taste the best.

August found us heading north towards Minaki, Ontario. We crossed the Canadian border at Baudette, Minnesota. That crossing is a bit further than crossing at International Fall, MN, but at Baudette, we can cross in about three minutes. If there are two cars in line, it’s a busy time. International Falls usually takes an hour or more to clear.

Rainy River is the first town on the Canadian side from Baudette. Thirty miles back east, then



We saw many eagles close-up on our trip to Ontario. Many were in trees, some in nests. (Author Photo)

north through Nester Falls, Sioux Narrows, finally reaching Kenora. Another 30 minutes and we reached the sign pointing towards Big North Lodge. We arrived at their parking area, checked in with Alex’s wife, Pat, and loaded our gear into a trailer on the back of their four-wheeler. We walked along the boardwalk to our cabin (one of six in camp), while Zach, their son, transported our stuff through camp to our porch. For the next few days, we would have a great time in the far north wilderness.

Our American plan package included lodging (with indoor plumbing, hot and cold water, kitchen, and screened in porch), three meals a day, maid service, boat, motor, gas, fish wrapping and freezing. As always, we opted for the guide at an addi-

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tional cost to run the boat, find and clean the fish we caught for lunch, and fry them. Housekeeping plans are also available but doesn't include food. Big North Lodge has its own float plane with Alex and Zach both licensed pilots to take guests to their outpost cabins if that option is chosen.

Our cameras got a huge workout, taking pictures of the gorgeous scenery, many eagles, beaver, a wide variety of waterfowl, including loons (their distinctive call is the ring tone on my phone!), mink, and other birds and animals. Then we took photos of the cabins, main lodge (both inside and out), various boats, and the float plane, both landing and taking off.

For those of you more inclined to hunting, Big North also offers deer and bear hunts, and fly-in moose hunts. Deer season is for bucks only and runs for five weeks ending November 15. These hunts are limited to only six hunters per week. Bear hunts are from the lodge or outpost camps. Season is the first three weeks of September. Deluxe bear hunts include meals, lodging, bear license and export permit, one guide per two hunters, six full days and seven nights, baited stands, tracking and

skinning with guides, transportation to stands with guide, boat, motor, gas, even a conservation fishing license, plus more.

Susie and I made our first visit to Big North Lodge this past summer. The fishing was great for walleye, bass, and northern. While musky are also available, I didn't catch any on this trip. The food was delicious and plentiful. Our cabin was comfortable and fully equipped. Our guide was knowledgeable of the area, helpful and courteous. We are hoping to take our grandson, Benjamin, back to Big North with us this year.

If you are interested in an outstanding Canadian fishing and/or hunting trip, check out Big North Lodge and Outfitters. The best way to do this would be to visit the Renfro Boat, Sport, & Travel Show from February 15-24, 2019, at the Indianapolis Fairgrounds. Then, go to the Champions Pavilion and walk along the outside wall until you reach Alex at the Big North Lodge display. Or check out the show program for the exact location. If you can't make the sport show, contact Alex by phone at **907-224-4318** or **1-800-387-3577**. You can also email him at big-northlodge@kmts.ca or visit their website at www.bignorthlodge.com.

Just like a trophy deer or a special fish, Big North Lodge Is a “keeper”.

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

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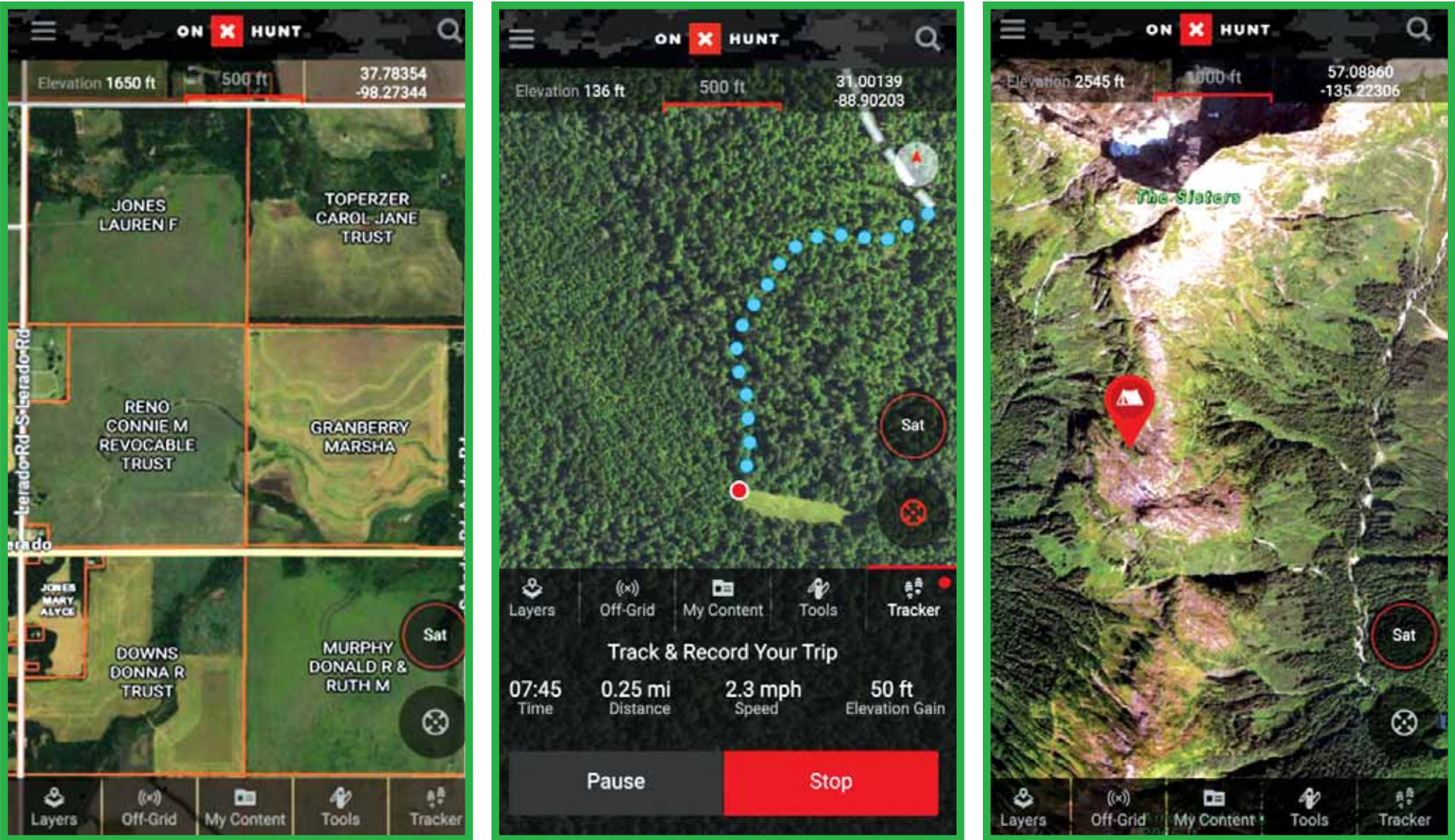
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With onXmaps, you never have to worry about straying onto private property which you cannot hunt, getting lost or going back to your blood trail. Rich with features, including being able to use the GPS while off-line and without service, onXmaps is THE best app of its kind out there. (Author Photos)

Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Go West, young man...but not for GPS hunting apps

Having just returned from a western do-it-yourself big game hunt out west, I have some fresh and exciting ideas about how to make one of the tools that was crucial for me out there work for me here in the Midwest.

One of the first things to cross a Midwestern or Eastern deer hunter’s mind when considering a trip out west is a GPS or GPS app of some sort. This is for good reason. Head out there without one and one of two things, or both, can happen. You can get lost. Yep, it is seriously easy to do in the big, mountainous country of the west. And getting lost out West is not like getting turned around back East. The other thing is that you may inadvertently wander onto someone’s property that you don’t belong on. There are plenty of areas where private parcels but right up against BLM land, and without a GPS, you wouldn’t even know it.

A good GPS app can eliminate both of these from

happening, and there are a couple of other cool features they have that help make your hunt more memorable as well. They can also help you mark where you saw game, sign, etc.; or where you didn’t. Should you down an animal, they can also help you get back to the carcass for one of the many pack trips you will have to make to get the goodies out.

I don’t have an actual GPS unit. Well, I guess I do because I have a smart phone. I prefer an app over an actual hand held GPS unit. This is simply because it means one less thing I have to carry. Why carry an actual GPS when I already have my phone which is capable of being one? Plus, seeing as how I don’t already have a hand-held GPS unit, why incur the expense? That being said, there are a couple things to consider. First, most GPS apps are not anywhere close to as good as an actual GPS unit when it comes to their ability and options, and second, apps can drain battery life.

For these reasons, I chose an app called onXmaps. With features designed to not drain my battery, and it’s off-grid capability, I also never have to worry about being out of cell service. Once my maps are saved, I can easily use my phone as a GPS device even when I don’t have service. If, however, you prefer an actual separate GPS device, onXmaps also has a chip available that can be loaded right into your GPS.

Besides being compatible with smart phones and GPS units, the app can also be used on desk tops, laptops and tablets.

onXmaps Maps is also the very best app I have found. It is very powerful; much more powerful than my horse-power will ever be at mastering all of its features. But even so, I

have still found a plethora of ways in which the app will help me take my Midwestern deer and turkey hunting to the next level.

So, how does this all apply to a small-tract white-tail hunter in the Midwest? Simple; While you may

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not get lost on you “Back 40,” when deer hunting, you will certainly love the advantages that the app will give you.

While getting lost may not be your biggest fear in your home state, trespassing should be. With OnXmaps Maps loaded on your phone, you will never have to worry about stepping foot on the wrong property. You won’t be struggling to find portions of the fence that has seemed to vanish over the years. Likewise, you will know of those hunting neighboring lands are.

The app will also make you a more effective hunter in a number of ways. For one, you can keep tabs on all of your stands by marking game sightings, shot opportunities, where game was seen, etc. Over time, patterns will develop, better allowing you to set stands strategically based on actual deer movement you have observed. You will also be able to determine the best travel routes to and from your stands based on the topographical map in the app. Lastly, you easily spot funnels, pinch points, etc. from the app as well.

For turkey season, you can easily mark roosting areas, travel patterns of the flock you are hunting, and mark some likely ambush sites.

Don’t forget tracking wounded game either. By setting markers in the app, you can mark things such as where the shot was taken, where it was last seen, the spot where you marked last blood, etc. Pretty valuable stuff.

But by far, what makes this app so valuable to us small-tract private land hunters comes in the form of finding landowners.

Gone are the days when the owner of that prime looking piece of ground lived in the house right on the property. Nowadays, more often than not, the owner may not even live in the same state, let alone around the corner! For this reason alone, the onXmaps Maps app has more than earned its keep with me.

The app displays parcel and landowner information for every piece of private land. A very useful tool for trying to find out who owns that piece of property you’ve been wondering about for the last few seasons. Just considering what it saves me in gas, wear and tear on my truck, and time makes just such an app pretty much priceless to me.

So, if you think that apps like onXmaps Maps are only useful when planning a hunt out west, think again. You could be missing the boat by ignoring them right here in your own back yard!

Just about all such apps have a fee. The membership for onXmaps Maps is quite reasonable at around \$100 per year. Check out their website at www.onxmaps.com for more information.

Indiana Slab Masters



by Jim Raymer

Founder of the Indiana Slabmasters

Introducing the Nothead Tackle Elite Series Crappie Trail

As I wrote about last month, I retired from being the president of the Indiana Slab Masters. I still love this club, and I have every intention to fish the club as it has been a passion for a long time now. You will still see me here writing a monthly article about the Indiana Slab Masters and if you show up to an event you will almost be guaranteed to see me there!

One thing I have noticed over the 8 years of being the president of the Indiana Slab Masters, there were a lot of teams that love to crappie fish by using a single pole and artificial baits. Another thing that I noticed is there are no organizations that have a single pole artificial only format for tournament fishing. A few years ago, I started working on a separate organization for the single pole artificial crappie fisherman during my spare time. I started with the Indiana Slab Masters rules and adapted them to be a single pole artificial bait only format, put back in the 9” size limit. I was thinking that maybe one day after I was all done with the Indiana Slab Masters, that I would possibly start another club or organization that was a single pole artificial only format. I saw some potential of getting sponsorship, and good support from bait manufacturers since this could definitely impact a bait company to want to be supportive of an artificial only tournament.

Last year the Indiana Slab Masters had Nothead Tackle become the headline sponsor of a single pole artificial only open crappie tournament that we had at Monroe last June, during the club’s summer break. We had a good turnout and a very competitive event that had far more interest than I ever thought. After the season was over and I retired from being the president

of the Indiana Slab Masters, I discussed my single pole artificial only idea with Mike Spieker and Tom Weaver, the co-owners of Nothead Tackle. These men partnered with me and we have decided to try a new organization. So we are introducing the Nothead Tackle Elite Series Crappie Trail. 2019 will be the Inaugural year of this organization and we are still working on sponsorship to finish getting the startup fees and permits together to support this project. During the first year we are going to have a total of 3 events. The first event will be in April at Patoka Lake and the second event will be at Monroe in late June. If you fish in 1 of the 2 events we are going to have this year, then you would be eligible to fish in the 2-day Championship in October. The Championship will be at one of our largest waterways in our state the Ohio River out of Tanners Creek and the tributaries in the Markland Pool.

Tentative Schedule:

Patoka Lake – Saturday - April 13, 2019

Monroe Lake – Saturday - June 29, 2019

Championship – Saturday/Sunday October 11&12, 2019

If you are an Indiana Slab Master club member, none of these tournaments will interfere with the Indiana Slab Masters schedule, and the Championship will be after the Indiana Slab Masters Classic is all wrapped up. Be sure to check out the website where updates and new information will be posted as they occur, and we also have a Nothead Elite Series Facebook page as well. The website for the Nothead Elite Series Crappie Trail is: www.eliteseriescrappie-trail.com . Please check us out if you get a chance and if you have interest in sponsorship in this organization, feel free to contact me at crappieking1@aol.com . Until next time, tight lines!

So You Wanna' Catch More Fish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

from the shore around the dam.

Look for turbulent water and cast swim baits or casting spoons. From a boat you can vertical fish using spoons, blade baits or minnows.

The key to fishing below major dams on the Ohio river is knowing all the rules, regulations and what the heck you’re doing. I would suggest going with somebody that has done this before, because there can be a lot of current. There is a lot fish here, but there are also barges carrying coal, gasoline, corn and they are big, very big!

The best way to get to the major dams in a boat is to find a ramp downstream and come in from below. This will keep you from having to lock through the dam, although locking through the dam is another option, it just takes time.

Good Luck Tag

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I guide fish for walleye, and crappie starting in mid-April till the end of December 7 days a week on Brookville lake. We fish out of a 2017 pro V 2075 with a 250 Honda outboard engine. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 – 5 people. The price is according to how many go \$500.00 for 5 people, \$450.00 for 4 people, \$375.00 for 3 people, \$325.00 for 2 people and \$275.00 for 1 person. We start at 7:00 am and fish till 1:00 pm to schedule trips call my cell 765-265-3238 or e-mail tagnobbe@gmail.com .

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One of the most popular activities, especially for youngsters. Panning for gold. I had to wait to take this photo due to their running out of rocks and they had to re-supply. (Author Photo)



Sherry and I are avid rock hounds. Left to Right, Sherry Dickerson, John Lamont (EIGGS Dealer Chairman) and Dave Straw (EIGGS Member & former Treasurer) (Author Photo)



The 2018 45th Annual Spring Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show and Sale was packed with visitors as you can see here. Hope to see you here this year, March 1-3, 2019. (Author Photo)



John Lamont (Center) presented EIGGS 2018 Scholarships to Noah Hancock, Lincoln H.S. and to Chole Anderson, National Trail H.S. Their parents attended the presentation too.

Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society 46th Annual Spring Gem Show March 1-3, 2019

The Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society's (EIGGS) **46th Annual Spring Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show** will be held at the Kuhlman Center located on the Wayne County Fairgrounds on **March 1-3, 2019**.

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

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

The Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society has been putting on the rock and gem show since 1973, this is their 46th annual show. The purpose of the Gem Show is to promote knowledge and interest

in the earth sciences and the Lapidary arts. The show is also a fund raiser for club expenses and provides money for a college scholarship awarded each year.

EIGGS was founded as a nonprofit group in April 1966. EIGGS is for anyone who is interested (not necessarily experienced) in earth sciences, collecting minerals, crystals and fossils; polishing stones, silver smithing and related activities.

EIGGS sponsors rock- and fossil-hunting outings, offers classes and does educational demonstrations at local schools.

Prior to acquiring the new clubhouse the club met at Hayes Regional Arboretum, the Richmond State Hospital and Earlham College.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse located at 5199 US 40 East, Centerville, IN. This is about 1/2 mile east of Centerville at the intersection of Rice Road and U.S. 40. Guests are always welcome.

For information call Judy Burton 937-339-1966.



First Place Raffle winner gets the tall quartz cluster on left and Second Place gets the smaller on right. (EIGGS Photo)

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Left Photo: Here the rotational action of the recoil on an oil soaked and weakened pistol grip stock has cracked and then broken the cap of the wrist off the pistol grip stock. This is from a 12 ga. Pump shotgun. Center Photo: This is a closeup view of the cap and stock break. The picture doesn't give a very good view of the oil soaked end of the stock. I does show the grain of the stock which is in line with the recoil direction and not giving a stronger stock in that area. If the grain of the stock were more diagonal to the direction of the recoil there would be less chance of the wrist cracking even when weakened by the oil from the gun. Right Photo: This old double barrel external hammer shotgun stock has extensive cracking in the straight grip receiver cutout. Mostly due to the years of oil soaking the wood and continued pounding from the recoil. The white is the expanding glue used to reinforce the grip and hold the piece together. The gun is a wall hanger and won't be shot. If the intention was to put the gun back in the field then a new stock would be required. Bottom Right Photo: This is an antique external hammer L.C. Smith double coach gun with Damascus Steel Barrels. The wood has split at both the top and bottom of the wrist where the action came loose and the recoil movement cracked the stock's "ears". The cracks will be glued back in place and the finish redone to match the original. This will make a beautiful presentation (aka: Wall Hanger) gun when done. (Author Photos)



Random Notes from:
Prairie Wolf Gun Repair



by Marshall Smith
Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO

**GUNSMITHING
UPDATE on the Norinco 1911A1**

An update on last months article regarding the Norinco 1911A1. I replaced the factory thumb safety with an American made thumb safety and that corrected the hammer falling while on safe. I compared the new American made thumb safety with the original part and could see differences in the two parts. If you have a foreign made clones and have any safety issues regarding the operation of the clone, return it to the factory or seller when possible, The factory will repair it if under warranty. A few U.S. Manufacturers have lifetime warranties, some a no questions asked lifetime warranty.

GUN STORAGE

Hunting season is winding down, spring is still a couple of months away, and it is time to put the shotgun and deer rifle away until next season. I've written articles about how to clean and the necessity of cleaning your firearms before storing them away. I've restored or refinished many old or antique firearms and nearly all have one common problem. The stocks are cracked and

soaked with oil in and around the wrist of the stock. Many have had fatal cracks in the wrist or butt of the stocks. On some doubles and pump actions the forend or action handguard is also oil soak and cracked.

Before stocks were made from laminates, composite materials or steel they were made from wood, usually a hardwood like hickory, walnut, beech, birch, and sometimes mahogany, mesquite, myrtle or maple. All were directly in contact with the metal of the rifle or shotgun. Muzzle loaders included. The owners were concerned that with to little oil on the metal the gun would rust. So the guns were oiled regularly with plenty of oil then set against a wall, or put placed in a closet with the muzzle pointing up. Oil on the gun and its action would slowly creep down the metal and migrate into the wood around the back of the receiver or the forend weakening the wood.

The recoil force of a 12ga shotgun can, for an instant, exceed 25,000 pounds. That force is transmitted into the stock and the wrist of the stock. If the stock wrist has been weakened by oil softening the wood it can break suddenly or at least crack the wood in contact with the metal receiver. I currently have a pump shotgun where oil had impregnated the wrist and the cap of the wrist broke off.

When the recoil forces are transmitted the shape of the stock becomes a spring to absorb the recoil. The straight grip stock often used with double barrel shotguns was excellent in absorbing that force. When oil leached into the straight grip and wrist the result was the wood would split along the lines of the wood grain. A well made stock with good straight grain would be ruined with to much oil. With the pistol grip the recoil force is transmitted towards the top of the wrist causing a rotational force on the grip which can split the top or cap of the wrist behind the receiver.

So how to store that prized rifle, shotgun, or muzzle loader with that beautiful English Walnut stock? Store it muzzle down. Only use a minimum amount of oil, or better yet use gun wax. Storing muzzle down may have it's downside if you set the muzzle on a surface like concrete or tile. Something hard. Muzzle down doesn't necessarily mean to set it on its muzzle. You can hang the gun by a sling with the muzzle pointing down but not touching anything. You have to protect the muzzle crown. Damaging it and you'll be consistently missing your target. Be creative. Muzzle down can be placing it upside down in a wall mounted gun rack. You have a locking wall mount for your shotgun? Turn it so the muzzle points down not up. The long term storage of a wood



stocked gun is to protect it from damage, even unintentional damage caused by preservatives used to protect the metal doesn't drip into the wood. So where possible keep the wood higher that the metal.

Quote of the Month

"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. (That is) They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."- Thomas Jefferson, Commonplace Book (quoting 18th century criminologist Cesare Beccaria), 1774-1776*

That's all for this month. These notes are mine alone and do not represent the opinion or position of anyone, just me. If you have a question or a comment on guns, gunsmithing, gun rights, or, would like to just make a comment email me with your comments at PrairieWolfGuns@gmail.com. I'll answer your questions with the most up to date information available. Some answers may be included in this column as I'm sure there are others with the same question. No question dealing with guns or self-defense is a bad or stupid question. Only those questions not asked.

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

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9 Guns gun shop entrance located at 2213 S. Scatterfield Ste #6 at Mounds Mall in Anderson. (9 Guns Photo)



Wes Foster, Owner of 9 Guns ready to take care of your gun needs. Stop in, hours are Mon. thru Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Closed Sun. (9 Guns Photo)



You will notice by this photo your ability to view a neat and orderly shopping area when you enter 9 Guns. (Author Photo)



In this photo of the north wall of 9 Guns indicates the organized hand gun display cases as well as wall displays of rifles and accessories. (Author Photo)

9 Guns - Where Gun Enthusiasts Gather

by Ray Dickerson

Wes Foster, owner of 9 Guns located at 2213 South Scatterfield Road in Anderson, Indiana was a factory worker most of his life. There came a time though when he had the opportunity to open his own business and live the life he only dreamed about earlier.

Wes lives in Muncie, but he picked Anderson to open his gun shop because of all the people, all the cars coming and going led him to believe this was the place he wanted to be. He originally looked at New Castle, Frankton and Hartford City, but knew this community needed a gun shop.

I met Wes Foster for the first time when I began delivering The Gad-a-bout to him in April 2017. I noted right from the start how friendly he and the fellas who worked for him were.

9 Guns is a family run business. Wes, who is 53 years old now, worked 30 years in a plastic factory (maintenance) in Muncie, Indiana. He retired to start this gun shop. His wife, Michelle works for the United States Post Office as a rural carrier for

22 years now. They have three kids.

Their oldest son, Adam went to Ball State University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Masters Degree in Business Administration. He is the Human Resources Manager for Newell Brands. He enjoys playing golf, poker and watching sports. Adam is married, his wife's name is Amber Foster.

Their daughter, Katie attended Ball State University studying Exercise Science and Public Health and is in Grad School for Masters of Health Administration and Human Resource Management.

Their youngest son, Brandon attends Ball State University majoring in Accounting. He enjoys scuba diving, shooting, hunting, riding bikes, running and is a video gamer.

Brandon works for his dad when he can. He also works at Ball State and helps out at a local dive shop in Muncie.

When you visit 9 Guns you will more than likely be greeted by his regular employees, Gary or Jeff. It could also be Wes (Owner) or his son Brandon. No matter who it is you will be greeted with a smile and a noticeable eagerness to make sure your visit is a pleasant one.

Wes told me he shot his first gun when he was 6



Wes' daughter Katie Foster is holding a 9 Guns target. The two was at the range enjoying some father and daughter time. (9 Guns Photo)

or 7 years old and has always been active in shooting sports and hunting activities.

Wes said, "I think people have misconceptions about people who have guns." "There is a lot of



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Wes and his boys, left to right. Adam, Brandon and Wes standing behind the counter in their gun shop at 2213 S. Scatterfield Ste #6 in Anderson, IN. (9 Guns Photo).



9 Guns employees Jeff Chase on the left and Gary Smith on the right. I visit a lot of gun shops, these fellas make me feel right at home when I deliver there. (9 Gun Photo)



Rifles are displayed in the center aisle for easy access for customers looking to buy a rifle. (Author Photo)



Brandon Foster is right at home in all the aspects of the gun shop. Here he is doing some repairs on a customers gun. (9 Gun Photo)

cool stuff out there to do with them and I enjoy the whole atmosphere," he added. "Running a gun business is not without its challenges either," he said.

Wes opened 9 Guns on November 29, 2013, Black Friday with the hope of growing his business, looking forward to the future with the possibility of passing it on to his youngest son some day.

He offers a wide variety of guns, ammunition, holsters and cleaning supplies. They buy, sell and trade weapons. He told me his business has gained a reputation for its honesty and good prices. He indicated he wanted to be informative to give his customers something they are not going to get from the box stores like Walmart. Good customer service and being friendly go along way in keeping your customers happy. They will return time and time again if you are fair in your dealings with them.

Wes says their facebook page, www.facebook.com/anderson.9guns, is brimming with positive posts from customers who say the customer service at 9 Guns is second to none.

He added, "That is our number one goal, we want people to get what they want, when they want it and at the competitive price."

Future plans: Wes wants to expand in the upcoming year which would require him having to move. He is

currently located in front of the Mounds Mall in Anderson which is all but closed now. He needs more room and wants to add a mill and lathe to his gun smithing area.

9 Guns is easy to find, see detailed map on this page.

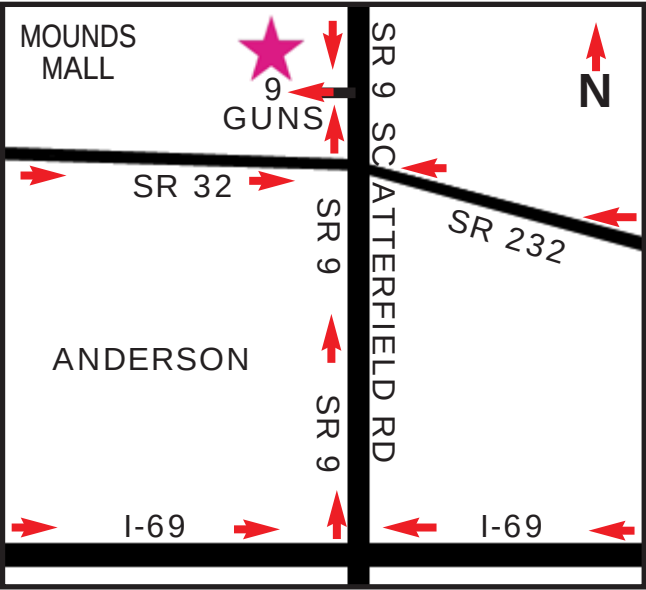
I was having quite a time finding my way the first day I delivered in their area though. I needed to go to Prairie Creek Reservoir next and they gave me explicit directions to SR 67, then SR 32 to Selma, once in Selma it was easy for me as I'd already been delivering that area for some time.

Stop by 9 Guns located at 2213 S. Scatterfield Ste. #6, Anderson, IN 46016, Phone: 765-646-9000 / Fax: 765-646-9010. Facebook: [9-GUNS](https://www.facebook.com/9-guns) Website: www.9-guns.com E-mail: contact@9-guns.com . Hours of operation: Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. / Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. / Closed Sunday.

See map at right, this is the way I go when I'm delivering The Gad-a-bout to 9 Guns.



One of several World War era combat rifle displays in 9 Guns. (Author Photo)



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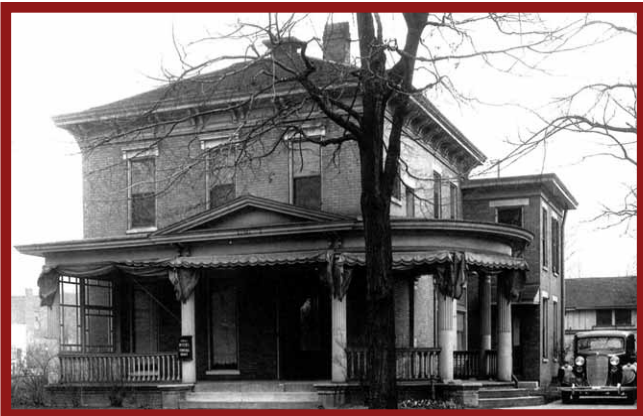
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Frazee Children's Home. (Author Photo)



Frazee Home at 920 Central in 1930. (Author Photo)



Frazee Home at 920 Central today. (Author Photo)



L.A. Frazee seated at 920 Central. (Author Photo)

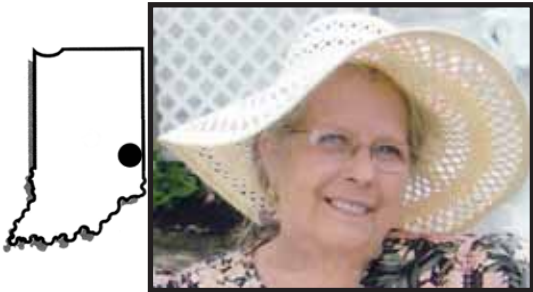
today's prices.

Andie Frazee lived in a big house on the west edge of Connersville on State Road 44. It was an imposing structure which was built about 1847. When he and his wife decided to move into town, he leased his large old home to the county, and it became the Frazee Children's Home in 1922. It housed the county's orphans until 1954. At that time, it was remodeled to suit the purpose of a school. A new elementary school was built on the grounds, and the house was razed in 1959.

Mr. Frazee and family moved from that home to the brick home that now houses Showalter – Blackwell – Long Funeral Home on Central Avenue.

After concluding his business career, Mr. Frazee and his wife, the former Beulah Hamilton, traveled extensively, touring many foreign countries. He died in 1949 at his home in Rushville and is buried at East Hill Cemetery. At the time of his death, the folks in his little hometown of Orange were still calling the operator. I wonder what he would think of the cell phones we all take for granted seventy years in the future.

Whitewater Valley History



by Donna Schroeder
Fayette County Historical Museum

Can You Hear Me Now?

While hosting at the Fayette County Historical Museum, a visitor and I took a sentimental journey back to the 1950s in the small town where I was born and still live. It turned out that her grandparents and great grandparents had lived in the same little hamlet. As far as we knew, we never met. She was a few years older than I, and she had great memories of visiting her grandmother who happened to work at the local telephone office. Keep in mind it wasn't the phone company of today. It was a switchboard in a private home. I remember going with my mother to pay our bill. It was a short walk, as the house was right across the street from ours.

The phone at our house was on the wall in the kitchen. We had a party line, which meant that each house had its own ring. I don't remember ours, but it would come in as a short ring and a long ring, for instance. It really didn't matter too much, because most of the neighbors picked up regardless of whether it was their ring or not. There were no secrets in a small village like ours.

When you needed to make a call, you simply turned the crank which alerted the operator. You would tell her who you wanted, and she would put you through. Or not. If you asked to talk to someone who lived close to her, she might very well tell you that they weren't in the house, so there was no point in calling. At times, she would gauge how long she thought they would be gone, depending on what they were doing. If she saw them going up the street to the grocery, it might be a while. If she saw them on the way to the outhouse (not a lot of indoor plumbing in those days), well, it might not be quite as long.

The telephone repairman was another neighbor. He had a little red pickup truck and a step ladder.

Life was a lot more simple in those days. None of that making an appointment next week to make a house call. He was a couple of blocks away.

All that brought to mind a man who was born in our little village and moved to the big city of Connersville. He started his own phone company there. His name was L. Andrew Frazee, but he preferred to be called Andie. The beginning of phone service in our county seat can be found in The History of Fayette County which was published in 1917.

"In 1882, James H. Fearis, of Connersville, started the Bell telephone exchange; which was the one hundred and eighth station opened in the United States up to the year mentioned. Fearis continued to operate the exchange for two and one half years, at the end of which time it was sold to the Central Union Telephone Company of Chicago, At the time of the transfer eighty subscribers were using the telephone service. The rates in those days were; for business lines, three and one half dollars a month, and residence service was fixed at two and one half dollars. Following the change in ownership, W. Everett Lowe was in charge of the local station for some years, In 1895, L. Andrew Frazee, of Connersville, organized the Connersville Telephone Company, which has since been in continuous operation, and has no local competitors. The rates are, for business service, two and one half dollars per month, for residence, two dollars, and party wire service one and one quarter dollars per month. The company provides facilities for long distance service, and three toll lines are also in operation. The entire plant is owned and managed by Mr. Frazee, who, in 1917, installed new equipment costing thirty thousand dollars and acquired a new location on Sixth Street, At the end of 1916 the company had one thousand six hundred subscribers. In December, 1916, the public service commission of Indiana was asked by certain subscribers of the company to review its existing rates, their complaint being that the present charges were excessive. The commission ordered a reduction of the rates, which the owner either had to accept or appeal to the courts. Feeling that the decision of the commission was unfair, Frazee applied to the courts for relief. The decision of the court resulted in the matter being referred back to the public service commission, whose further action had not been reported when this work went to press."

I wonder what those folks would think about

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Herbert L. Redd, owner of Catamount Trading Company standing next to his General Purpose Hauling and Delivery truck. Another view of his truck. (Herbert Redd Photos)

Catamount Trading Company

by Herbert L. Redd

Greetings from The Catamount Trading Company. My name is Herbert L. Redd. I have been in the Festival Concession business for over 27 years. I go to various festivals, county fairs, and flea markets around the State to sell “phair phood” to the general public. My signature items are grilled corn dogs, (yes grilled, not deep fried),

walking tacos, and the world’s greatest lemon shake ups. I have been in the customer service and culinary business for nearly 35 years in some capacity or another, beginning with the US Military Club system, way back in the early 80’s. I find it to enjoyable to meet and greet the general public and help satisfy their wants, needs, and desires. My season runs from May until October each year.

During the winter, I operate a general hauling, trailer delivery, and handyman, business. I pick up and deliver most anything, most anywhere, assemble furniture and other kits, and whatever else is

needed of which I am capable. My box truck and me have been to a lot of places and hauled a lot of things, but ensuring the safe delivery of your “stuff” is what is the most important to me. I can carry about 3000 pounds of “stuff” in a completely enclosed, weather proof, container, or pull a 10,000 pound trailer most anywhere within a 300 mile radius of Connersville. I am fully insured, DOT and MC certified and also accept VISA, MC, AMEX, and Discover.

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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

accessories too. Also if you need any kind of hardware you will be in the right place to get that too. Tell them you read about them in The Gad-a-bout.

Mendenhall True Value Hardware Store is located at 125 South West 5th Street in Richmond, Indiana. Owned and operated by John and Kyle Mendenhall. They are located on the North East Corner of U.S. 40 and South West 5th St. Tell them you read about them in The Gad-a-bout. You can contact them by calling 765-962-4842.

**FORD 65TH ANNUAL INDIANAPOLIS BOAT,
SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW
INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS
FEBRUARY 15TH THRU 24TH, 2019**

See Page 16 & 17, Outdoor Writer and Contributor to The Gad-a-bout, Mike Schoonveld, has written an article for this show on page 16.

On page 17 is a full page ad entitled “Learn Secrets From The Pros.” Twenty Pro Fishermen are shown on this page telling you the fish or type of fishing each will doing a Seminar from February 15-24 at this show.

Also it shows you the Seminars that will be featured at the Deer Turkey & Waterfowl Hunting Expo February 21-24

For a more complete schedule and activities log onto INDYSPORTSHOW.COM.

I hope you stop by my booth in Tackle Town (Blue Ribbon Pavilion Booth). My booth space is easy to find, it’s the third one on the right just past the south entrance from the parking area to the Blue Ribbon Pavilion (Tackle Town). I will be looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.

Be sure to stop by and pick up your Gad-a-bout.

We’ll have lots of Gad-a-bout Territory information (See map on bottom half of front page for Gad-a-bout Territory). For complete details of the Ford 65th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, visit their website at www.indysportshow.com.

I look forward to see many of you that stops by each year and I get to meet many more of you.

There will be some of the writers in the booth who appear in The Gad-a-bout. They will be listed in the March Gad-a-bout which will also be handed out at this show. I’m a little behind in my work, didn’t get it done for this one.

YOU ARE ALWAYS ON ‘THIN ICE’
District 5 Indiana Conservation Officers are advising citizens across the Wabash Valley of the potential hazards of being on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams this winter.

Recent temperatures in the Wabash Valley have brought about thin sheets of ice.

Indiana Conservation Officers ask everyone to be vigilant and keep a watchful eye on neighborhood retention ponds, lakes and other waterways for those who may venture out and find themselves in trouble.

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers safely enjoy fishing, skating, hiking, or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice. Just like re-learning how to drive on snow versus clear roads, some Hoosiers need to re-learn how to safely have fun on ice.

Conservation Officers want citizens to put safety first. Here are a few tips to remember when considering standing on or walking on a frozen lake or pond:

No ice is safe ice.

Test the thickness of the ice with an ice auger. At least 4 inches of ice is recommended for ice fishing; 5 inches is recommended for snowmobiling.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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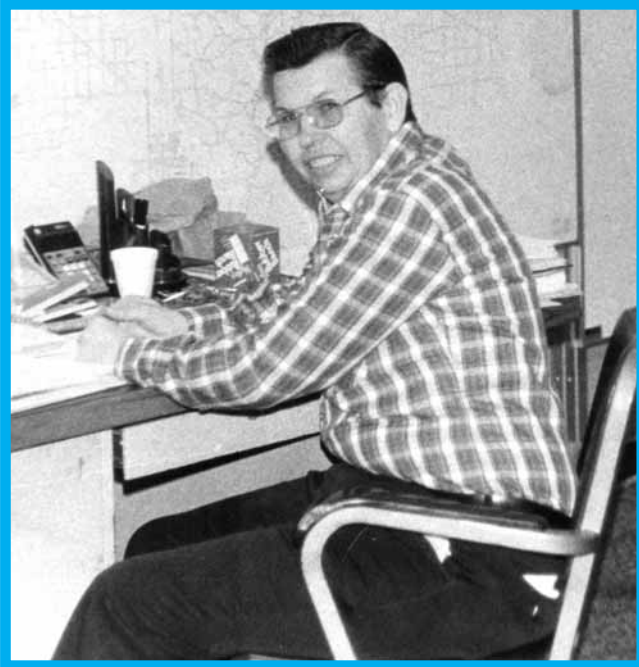
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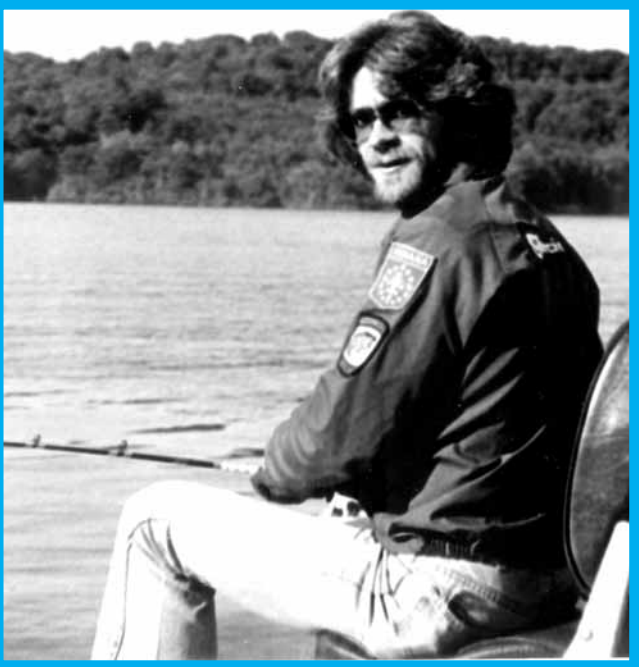
Left to Right Front Row: Rick Coffey, Tom Brunner, Larry Davis, Bob McKinley, Bob Light and Ron Anderson. Back Row: Terry Shipley, Charlie Brown, Alan Alcorn, Clyde Legear, Rob Spurrier and Ray Dickerson. (Author Photo)



Ray Dickerson
GTE Richmond Control Center Clerk



Steve Walker
GTE Richmond Central Office



Randy Ross (Deceased)
GTE Rushville Cable Splicer

GTE - Get Together 12-19-18
Cracker Barrel Restaurant

by Ray Dickerson
(GTE 1975 - 1993)

I got a call from Tom Brunner early in December asking if I could attend a little get together at Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Richmond on 12-19-2018. He and a few GTE and current outside cable guys were getting together for breakfast. He said I should be there at 9 a.m. I thanked him, feeling honored to even be asked. I envisioned about 8 to 10 being there!

It has been 28 years since I took a buy out from GTE. I arrived at Cracker Barrel right at 9 a.m. I was surprised to see what I later found out was 23 guys

there. I recognized a few of them, Clyde Legear was following me into the room. So we sat at a vacant table and began talking a bit. A waitress took our order, I figured it would take quite awhile. I got up and told several guys to tell the other guys I wanted to get a photo of the group before anyone left. I sat back down at our table and our food arrived. Some one at a adjacent table, "hey, how'd you guys get your food already. Clyde replied something about sitting with the Press. I just laughed and began eating.

The hour or so passed quickly, there was a stirring as some of the guys indicated they were going to have to leave. I got up and insisted everyone assemble outside for a group photo.

I'm so glad most of the 25 attendee's stayed for the photo. It was one of the most enjoyable photo sessions I've had the privilege to do. I began telling

them where to stand, tall ones in the back, short ones out front. Once they stopped mingling I went down the line moving some of them so I could see them all. I must admit they minded me better this day than they did back when I was dispatching some of them on trouble calls in the 1970's & 80's.

A few of us stood around for a little while talking about old times and current times before going our seperate ways. I thanked Tom for inviting me.

I found these old photos I had taken during the 18 years I worked at GTE. The photo with Randy Ross I took fishing with him on Brookville Lake once. He loved fishing for smallmouth bass near Red Brick point.

Note: I had to put Clyde Legear and myself in the photo, after the fact. Our heads may look a little out of place, my photo-magic is not as accurate as it used to be when I was a bit younger.

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Left to Right Front Row: George Stallings, Jack Bales, Richard Pease, Tim McAvene and Steve Harlan. Back Row: Stephen A. Wilhelm, Terry Hartman and Jake Pace. (Author Photo)



Left to Right: Richmond GTE Employees, Ben Schneider, Bob Weller, Ed West, Dan ? and Billy Hargrove (deceased). (Author Photo)



Left to Right: Richmond 10th St. GTE Office, Judy Shroyer, Marcia Ghant, Marlene Dishman, Joanne ? and Patty Sonsini. (Author Photo)



Left to Right: Outside Plant Control Center, Ray Dickerson, John Reece, Larry Snyder (deceased), Jim Skaggs, Lowell Vickers (deceased), Jack Durham (deceased) (Author Photo)



Left to Right: Connie Graff Reneau and Brenda Jessee worked in Richmond 10th Street GTE Office, then both were transferred to Fort Wayne in 1993. (Author Photo)



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Gad's Corner

Photos sent to The Gad-a-bout for GAD'S CORNER should contain the following information: date taken, weight, points, length or other identifying information, experience if it's your first hunt or if you want to tell the reader about the hunt, fish caught or other outdoor experience. Send a phone number or e-mail in case I need to contact you. Send Photos to: The Gad-a-bout, 105 E. South St., Centerville, IN 47330 or E-mail .jpg photos to: raythegadabout@gmail.com Questions, Call My Cell Phone: 765-960-5767



Cody Case and his 12 pt. Buck taken in Decatur county 11/21/18. (Submitted by Alex Case via e-mail)



Waylen Case and his main frame 8 point taken in Decatur county on 11/20/18. (Submitted by Alex Case via e-mail)

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

If you don't know....don't go.
Wear life jackets or flotation coats.
Carry ice hooks and rope gear.
When on the ice, leave a note with a friend or family member of your whereabouts.
Don't test the thickness of the ice while alone.
Indiana Conservation Officers say the best rule of thumb is, when walking on ice, to believe you are 'walking on thin ice.' Wearing a life jacket is especially important when on the ice. If you fall through, a life jacket will keep your head above the water

until help arrives.
"Ice is beginning to form on smaller bodies of water. We would like to ask that the community keep a close eye out for children in your area who may play on the ice. It takes extreme low temperatures and quite some time to form several inches of ice. We have not had those conditions in the Wabash Valley this winter," said Indiana Conservation Officer Max Winchell.
If you see a pet or other animal in distress on the ice, please do not venture on the ice after it. This can often end in tragedy. Contact your local emergency response personnel who are equipped to make a rescue on thin ice.
Some bodies of water will appear to be frozen solid but actually can have thin ice in several unsus-

pecting areas. Flowing water, such as rivers and streams, should be avoided when covered by a layer of ice. Water that is surrounded by sand may freeze with inconsistencies in the thickness of the ice.
Underground springs, wind, waterfowl and other animals can also keep areas of ice thin.
Editor's Note: I know this is a second article on warnings about "Thin Ice" but an unsuspected fall through ice can be extremely dangerous and deadly if this happens to you. Conservation Officer Travis Stewart wrote **"Fishing in the Frozen, not Freezing Becoming Frozen"** see it on page 7 in this issue.
If you have any questions or comments about The Gad-a-bout see page 3 for my contact information.
Be Safe!



Carlie Case and her first squirrel Trifecta taken in Decatur county on 12/30/18. (Submitted by Alex Case via e-mail)

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See Next issue for details

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