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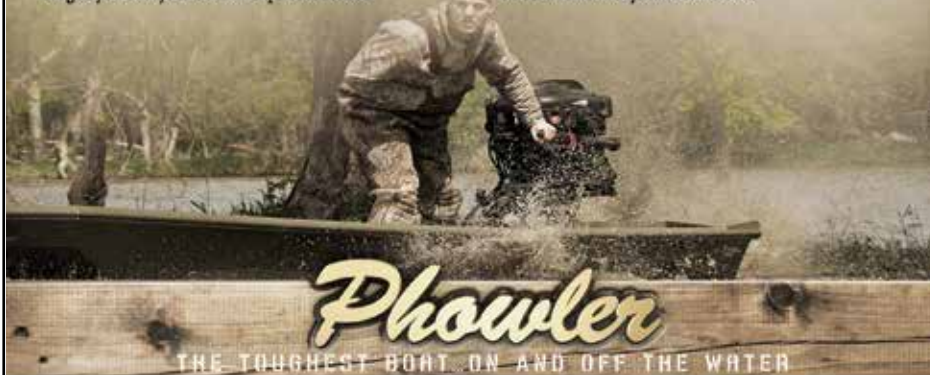
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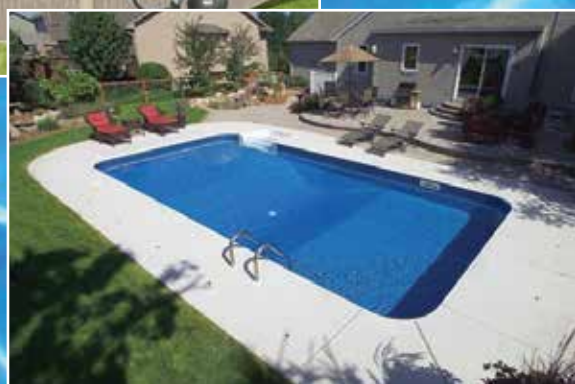
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ON THE COVER

Devils Lake Tourism provided a great picture of a hunt in North Dakota. Thanks to Al Linder Photography for the photo.



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Canterbury Tales



This time of year is my favorite time of year, with hunting season coming and especially waterfowl I am getting excited. My dad introduced me to this sport about 1964 and it has never left me. At times I wish he would have given me a set of golf clubs instead of a new shotgun for Christmas which I still have.

Duck hunting in the 1960's was unbelievable to say the least. I remember when you could shoot on the Illinois River just about anywhere and kill a limit. Times have changed drastically it is nowhere near to what it was then and never will be again. The last few years for me have not been all that productive. That being said I still love to go even if they don't blacken the skies like they used to.

A close friend of mine Alan Johnson of Pekin is one great cook and if we don't shoot anything he makes some of the best grub you ever sunk your teeth into.

The conversation is just as good. I will be going duck hunting not as much as I used to but frequent enough to enjoy good food and good friends.

If I never shoot another duck in my life I have shot plenty. So I will get the gun out and everything else I need to go hunting on opening day. There is something special about the mornings in the marsh that only an old swivel head can appreciate. Have a great season and fun because that is what it is all about.

I had quite an experience a few weeks ago. As a lot of you know I have a winter home in Port Charlotte, Florida just north of Ft. Meyers. Dave Herschelman and I went down on the Tuesday a week before Irma hit to put up the Hurricane shutters and get my boat. It was a typical trip down with no problems but coming back was another thing. Traffic was backed up from Sarasota to Atlanta Georgia and beyond. After being in the traffic for 8 hours and only going 5 miles an hour we got off south of Ocala and headed

to the west coast.

We took extra gas but did not use it. We were lucky to find gas in the small towns along the coast. It took almost 13 hours to get out of Florida. We slept in my truck in Alabama and made it home on Friday night. It was



Typical scene on evacuation on Rt 75 North



Tankers being escorted by State Police
continued on page 8

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Grandma's RECIPES

ELLEN COURTNEY



ROASTED DUCK

2 tablespoons salt
2 teaspoons paprika
1 teaspoon black pepper
1 5lb whole duck
½ cup melted butter

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees
2. Rub salt, pepper and paprika into the skin of the duck. Place in roasting pan
3. Roast duck in preheated oven for 1 hour. Spoon ¼ cup melted butter over bird, and continue cooking for 45 minutes. Spoon remaining ¼ cup melted butter over duck and cook for 15 more minutes until golden brown.



NASHVILLE HOT DUCK WINGS

2lbs of cooked duck wings
Spicy coating:
1/2 cup lard or duck fat

2 tablespoons cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon light brown sugar
¾ teaspoon sea salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon garlic powder

1. Stir together dry ingredients in a heat-proof bowl
2. Melt lard/duck fat on stovetop just to boiling point. Pour melted fat onto dry ingredients. When fat stops bubbling, stir ingredients together to make sauce
3. Prepare wings. Put wings into large bowl, add sauce and toss to coat

DUCK MEATBALLS IN ORANGE SAUCE

4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 shallots, finely diced, divided
4 tablespoons crushed garlic, divided
1lb ground duck meat
1 cup garlic breadcrumbs
2 large eggs
2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
Dash hot sauce



1 cup orange marmalade
3 oz orange liquor
1 teaspoon red pepper flake
Non-stick vegetable spray
1 head leave lettuce, separated
Rice wine vinegar, as needed
1 navel orange, sliced

1. For the Meatballs: Heat pan to medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil. Add one finely diced shallot and 2 tablespoons crushed garlic. Cook until onions are soft then set aside.
2. Place duck meat and shallot mixture in a large bowl. Add one cup of garlic breadcrumbs, 2 eggs, 2 tablespoons

teriyaki sauce and dash of hot sauce. Mix well. Place mixture in freezer for 15 minutes to cool.

3. For the Orange Sauce: Heat pan to medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil. Add 1 finely diced shallot. Add 2 tablespoons crushed garlic. Cook until onions are soft.
4. Add 1 cup of orange marmalade and 3 ounces orange liqueur. Cook for 10-12 minutes or until reduced by half. Remove from heat and set aside. Add red pepper flakes.
5. Meatball Assembly: Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray muffin pan with vegetable spray.
6. Form meatballs by using 1-1/2 ounce ice cream scoop. Place rounded balls in muffin tins.
7. Ladle 1 teaspoon of orange sauce over each ball. Bake for 10 minutes or until 160°F internal temperature. Remove from oven.
8. Drizzle remaining marmalade sauce on each plate. Garnish with orange slice. Serve immediately.

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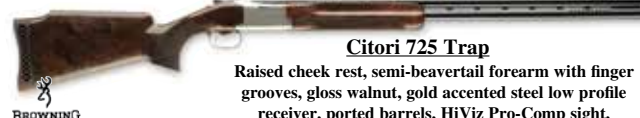
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Citori 725 Trap

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a total evacuation that I never want to experience again but more than likely will. What a trip from hell.

I had a fantastic fishing trip to Reelfoot Lake back in August at Sportsman's Resort. Andy Bugos his buddy Al and I had 3 days of fishing that was as good as it gets. Of course Reelfoot is known for crappies and bluegills but the best kept secret is catfishing. Andy did a story on our trip so I will let him tell it to you, it was the most productive fishing trip I have had in years. If you haven't tried Reelfoot you need to especially for channel cats.

Now another look back in time at the old Red Nose Gun Club on Duck Island. My Dad Jack Canterbury who was a passionate duck hunter all of his life showed me this addictive sport when I was a kid. Dad and for that matter a lot of the guys at the club would shoot a few over the limit occasionally. I too killed a few over a few times but had more respect for the game laws than most did. It's a good thing we have limits because if we didn't there would not be any game especially ducks.

Let's get one thing straight before I tell this story about a duck shoot 50 years ago that I do not in any way condone this practice, but it did happen and believe me Dad wasn't the only one especially

back then that did these things.

It was the duck season of 1967 I remember this because Dad had a 1966 Pontiac Catalina Convertible. He grew up in the 1940's when duck hunting was mainly a rich man's sport. But a lot of river people also shot ducks to sell in the market. It was of course an illegal act but they had to support their families, fishing and duck shooting helped supplement their income. Well Dad wasn't poor he just liked to shoot ducks.

Dad and our pusher Frennie Courtney put out 100 pounds of buck wheat on the North west side of Big Lake where our club was located. They left it for a week or so to let the ducks get in then went hunting. They shot in the afternoon when they thought the game warden would be at home and their work day would be over. Dad back then shot a Browning A5 auto and his favorite shot size was a heavy 7 1/2 two and three quarters. He always said it breaks both wings, feet and is just a hell of a load.

Frennie the pusher, our dog Pepper the lab and Dad started shooting ducks that afternoon. They came over the water about 2-foot directly for the bait. As I heard from Dad they came in 3's, 5's and singles. Dad picked his shots and only shot drakes. When it was over there

were 48 mallards and one hen sprig that old Frennie shot with his double barrel. Frennie was busy just taking the ducks from the dog and tying them up in bundles. When Dad said we better get out of here. He told Frennie go ahead and take a shot. He did and down came a sprig hen. I'm sure they stopped at the 924 bar in Banner for a while for some refreshments.

I remember him coming home in the Pontiac about 8 that night. I saw Pepper who had his head hanging looking like he just ran a marathon. He said Tuffy go out to the car and get some ducks out of the trunk. I thought there would be five or six but no 48 mallards. Close to 200 hundred pounds of ducks were in the trunk.

My mother and I picked, gutted and froze all of those ducks. It took us till 3 in the morning and I had to go to school. About 30 or so years after that shoot Dad said he only wanted to do that one time and he did. He didn't seem proud of that day but at the time it was fun he said. Dad never shot over his limit like that ever again. He said Tuffy as you get older you'll lose that blood thirst

for killing a lot and he is so right. If I get a chance just to shoot a few it is a good day. But when you're young that's what you do. Another Memory of the old Red Nose Gun Club gone but not forgotten.



Our catch for the day while fishing with Lance Mansfield from Grizzly Jigs at Reelfoot Lake Tennessee and Sportman's Resort



Doves cooked by Cathy with hot peppers. They were great.

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ANDY'S CHRONICLES

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We really didn't have high expectations since it was 3:00pm in the afternoon and quite warm. We were very wrong. We were out there for a little over an hour and boated four nice channel catfish. All I kept thinking is... if we can catch this many in an hour or so, what kind of fishing would we have with an experienced guide who grew up on this lake? After eating a nice dinner, we thought it would be best to get a good night's sleep to rest our arms for the day to come. When morning came around, our guide Lance Mansfield pulled up to the dock and to my surprise he was using the same stink bait we were using the day before. We loaded the boat and within the hour we were on the fish! It seemed as if every 15 minutes or so, I were boating a fish. It seemed the guys in the boat were a little jealous. They kept saying this is the Andy Show. I guess I had the hot hand and they were a little a little bit jealous. For the next several hours, we continued to boat catfish after catfish. If one spot would slow down, we would move a little and start fishing a new area. You would think that you would run into an area that you wouldn't catch fish



Reelfoot lakes scenery is a sight to behold

but that didn't happen. We fished from 8:00am to around 2:30pm and we had 33 catfish in the boat. As much as I love catching them all I could think about is how much cleaning we had ahead of us. Well that's okay, I had a fish fry coming up and this would give us some fresh catfish for the fryer so it was more than worth it. Later in the evening we spent time visiting with other members in camp as well as Bill and Candy. I must, if you are looking for a reasonably priced trip, a guarantee to catch fish and have such great hosts such as Bill and Candy...this is an absolute trip to schedule. Not only do they have great catfishing, the crappie and bluegill fishing is what Reelfoot Lake



Al, Harry and our new friend Bob eating breakfast on a beautiful day at Sportsman's Resort in Tiptonville, TN



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Chronicles ... continued

is known for. But if you like catfishing, this a trip you should schedule as soon as possible. I really can't say enough good things about our guide Lance Mansfield from Grizzly Jig Company. He was a top-notch guy and top-notch guide. We had so much fun fishing with him and I sure hope to get the opportunity again in the future. Not only does he know crappie like the back of his hand he can guide for anything on Reelfoot Lake. If you haven't checked it out Grizzly Jig Company you really need to look at their web site: www.grizzlyjig.com. Also, if you love crappie as much as I do this is one of those stores to stop by and check out all of the products and great prices they provide.

After a wonderful weekend in Tennessee, I was then looking forward to Dove Season. My buddy Al drew a permit for one of the State areas so I was excited to go hunting on state land for some doves. It had been over 10 years since I have even been drawn for a state spot so I knew this opportunity was rare. I also had to learn some things the hard way. Al had the permit and without doing our research, we loaded up on the first of



Me with my first catch of the weekend.

September to head to do some scouting before the draw. When we arrived at the park there was already a line of 50 people. Heck one guy showed up the night before with a bed and slept on the porch. Now that is dedication. In past experiences, the permit holders drew first then remaining spots were filled by the rest. As we were sitting there Al decided to ask "why are all of the people in line?" This is a first come first serve on permits. So, if you have a permit when you get to the front of the line you can choose any location on the three fields you would like. Also in the conversation, we found out my name had to be on the permit which it wasn't. As soon as I heard that my heart sank. I have



A great stringer of catfish from Reelfoot Lake, TN

been waiting for this day since he received the permit. See, I love shooting and eating dove and I just don't have any private locations that I go more than once a year. So, this was my day to put 15 doves on the grill. Now that we found this out I knew I would have to draw and I just am not lucky when it comes to drawing. Once Al picked his spot we went to breakfast with Scotty and Pat from Presley's Outdoors and I must say it was the highlight of my day. Great guys with a love of the outdoors just like we do so, I really enjoyed the conversation and the time spend talking with them. They had permits so they were had their spot and were ready to go. After breakfast, we headed back to the state to drop Al off and I needed to go draw. Unfortunately, when it was all said and done of course I didn't get drawn so I had to sit for the next 5 hours to wait on Al. an hour and a half from home) We were Just hoping he was going to get a limit so at least one



Al, Lance and Harry with a nice stringer of catfish caught on Reelfoot Lake

of us had a great day. I tried talking my way onto the field but rules are rules and wasn't allowed. Shooting started at noon and there was a little shooting so I figured I would be there most of the day waiting on Al to shoot a limit. I really didn't have to wait long. At about 2:30 I received the call that he had his limit and was walking out of the field. Well at least one of us had a great shoot and I felt like I was driving miss daisy around to her appointments. As they say live and learn and don't repeat. Maybe next year I will draw a permit and finally get on some doves. See there is nothing my wife and I like better than those tasty creatures on the grill. (Happy wife, happy life.) Might have to wait another year.

After opening day my spirits were down but I received a call from Matt and

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Al with a nice Reelfoot lake catfish

Bob Beoletto asking if I would like to come dove hunting in Cuba and I jumped at this opportunity. See, their farm is located right next to my grandparent's old farm that I grew up and developed my love from the outdoors. This place has a very special place in my heart and when I first learned they were selling the place to move to town, it broke my heart. I spent many days of my youth building fence, digging post holes, baying hay and straw, feeding cattle, taking care of the chickens and so much more and now a piece of me was



Al, Harry and Lance waiting on the next fish

leaving with it. I was too young and had no money or I would have tried to keep the land in our family. My grandparents raised their two kids there and it was my safe place. If I ever needed to clear my head, I would head to a hill I named as a youngster Honey Moon Hill. Still to this day I think about the many great times I spent on that farm and each time a tear will come to my eye. I was very grateful for

this opportunity. I really didn't care if I shot any doves... this was more about me getting to see the valley again and spend some time in a place I treasured. We didn't see a lot of doves but I did scratch out two and that was just fine with me. After the hunt, Bob took me around the property and showed me the outstanding views from atop the hills overlooking the valley. I will always remember this hunt because of the opportunity to see my old stomping ground.

May your sunrises and sunsets be magical!



A view of the valley that I have spent so many of my younger years exploring.



Sunflower field on Bob Beoletto's property

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From the Desk of: Rich Pearson, ISRA Executive Director

The cool mornings and mild days are certainly giving fair warning that Fall is here. The full moons, mixed with the coming harvest, mean the deer will be moving and drivers need to be extra alert. The Harvest Moon in October is on the 5th, and with deer season starting October 1st, deer movement could be very high at that time. Stay alert.

September 11, 2001 marked sixteen years ago, the United States was stunned by the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and, most likely, the White House, had it not been for the courage of ordinary heroes on Flight 93.

Those who had access to television watched as more than 200 of our fellow citizens plunged to their deaths to escape being burned alive. By the next day those photos of people had been air brushed, not to be seen again. I was glued to the television.

As tragic as all of this was, acts of American courage began to immediately

appear. Firemen, policemen and first responders rushed to the scene knowing they were going into the jaws of death. It was a catastrophe and everyone knew it. By the end of the first day, the first responders were exhausted. But suddenly, over 1000 construction workers appeared and voluntarily continued the rescue efforts.

In the next few hours, firemen and rescue workers were coming from everywhere to aid their fellow Americans. Cities, towns and villages, large and small, sent help. Not only did they send people, but they also sent equipment to replace the tremendous amount of trucks and equipment lost in the attack. Although it would take time to replace everything, the American flag did not need replacing. Americans were immediately galvanized into one people, differences forgotten.

We recently witnessed the same phenomenon with hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Originally, people responded to Houston with whatever they had, such as boats and ATVs. Donations were sent by those who could not go to assist. These



ISRA.org

people were not the rich and famous, but rather, Joe and Jane who live down the street, the everyday heroes that make America great, the people with hearts of gold and spirits of steel. They are not the fast-tracked Sunday afternoon millionaires who take a knee when the National Anthem is sung and that have made whining an art form. When these people whine, it makes me feel like a Philistine because I have been assaulted by the jawbone of an ass.

I feel sorry for the folks in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean Islands. The first responders, military and civilian volunteers are doing a great job! Adding to their troubles are looters. Looters are about as low as you can get, in my book. If you are ever unfortunate enough to get caught in one the several types of natural disasters, be sure to prepare in advance. If you are in Illinois, make sure to always have your FOID card, ICCL, and defensive firearm with you. Not only are there looters, but other scum out there that will be more than happy to take advantage of you and your family.

In August President Trump gave a speech I have long waited to hear. I have often written and spoken about the terrible

rules of engagement that our soldiers are forced to follow. Those rules of engagement have caused thousands of soldiers to be killed and thousands more to be wounded and maimed. Now those handcuffs are going to be taken off and our troops can fight back without a Court Martial hovering over their every action. The terrorists don't care about anything except killing us. The only language they understand comes out of the barrel of a gun.

The United States Marines are reportedly considering replacing their M4s with a Heckler & Koch (H&K) M27. The M27 is a variant of their famous 416. Critics say the problem with the M27 is that it has a full auto feature and that it may cost the soldiers to waste ammunition. Well, I would rather waste ammunition than soldiers. The U.S. Military has always worried about wasting ammunition. In the 1870s and 1880s soldiers could be fined \$1.00 per round if they were caught practicing with more than five rounds a month. That was a hefty fine if you were only making \$13.00 a month. The same is true of issuing repeating rifles. In the Civil War, Illinois had more units equipped with repeating rifles than any other state, but few ever made it into battle. Those units were kept home to be used in parades for propaganda purposes. The U.S. Army is already using the H&K 417 in .308.

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Jefferson County Judge Joseph Bruzese Jr. was ambushed on his way to the courthouse in Steubenville, Ohio, by Nathaniel Richmond. Richmond was killed and the Judge is expected to recover. The Judge was reportedly an avid hunter and was one of those on the bench who carried a firearm. We all know when we go to court we don't want to get the "wrong" judge. Apparently, that goes for would-be assassins also.

In Georgia, as part of a history lesson, a school took a group of first and second graders to a shooting range and showed them an 1873 Winchester and a six-shooter. They learned firearm safety as well.

They had permission from the children's parents. It went well until the self-appointed do-gooders saw the pictures on Facebook. Not only did they criticize the school, but also attacked the teachers and administrators. In Atlanta, Georgia, a 10-year-old boy found a .22 pistol in a dressing room of a clothing store. He brought the pistol to his mother who wanted to see if it was real. She pulled the trigger and found that it was real, alright. Fortunately, the shot did not hit anyone. It seems to me the school is way ahead of the game, in spite of what the critics say.

Hurricane Harvey devastated Southeast Texas and parts of Louisiana. Then Hurricane Irma decimated the Florida Keys, Naples,

Marco Island, and Caribbean Islands many communities were hit hard in Florida. It will take years and billions of dollars to put those areas back together again. In the West, wild fires are spreading smoke so far east that the sunset, even in Central Illinois, has a pale-yellow hue. This may be an interesting winter in the Midwest. It is important that wherever we live, we prepare for the most likely perils that we face. We are seeing demonstrations on TV of those who have not prepared. It's never easy, but it is really tough on those who were sure nothing would happen to them.

Those lessons we are seeing can also be applied to the personal defense of ourselves, our families and our friends. It is important when we prepare that we take time to think about what probable things could happen. In Florida, it would be a waste of time and money to prepare for a blizzard. Is it possible? Sure, it is possible, but it is not probable. Living in Central Illinois, I have spent no time at all preparing for a hurricane. This idea is also important when we travel. Be aware of what is happening in the world. Last year, my wife and I went out West; coming back, there were riots in Minneapolis so we took a different route. Don't ever have the attitude that "it can't happen to me." Yes, it can.

Reports in September say people are

stocking up on ammunition, particularly 556/223. With what is going on in the street who can blame them.

Sources report gun sales have fallen off in late summer by about 11% across the country. I have noticed that prices have also fallen. The MSRP's have not changed but there are sales, coupons, rebates and packages that all go to reducing the cost; the same is true of ammunition. I suggest everyone buy the gun they have been longing for, purchase some ammunition, and go to the range and have some fun.

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Come out and join us on Saturday, October 7, 2017 - 9:30am - 3:30pm - Ranges 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Hunting season is fast approaching and each year the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA) allows the public to sight-in their firearms in preparation for hunting season. This includes rifles, shotguns, handguns, and muzzleloading firearms. ISRA or ISRA Range membership is not required to participate, but you are welcome to join that day. The ISRA has experienced instructors and shooters on hand to assist those who may not be familiar with their firearm.

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In recent years Sighting-In Day has seen more casual shooters who are not hunters attend. Many new shooters, who are target shooters, show up to gain a greater understanding of how to adjust their sights and shoot more accurately.

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TA-WAH-QUAH-KE-NOUGH

By Norman V. Kelly

did roam this area at one time. Truth is the Peoria Tribe was forced out of here by hostile tribes in 1720 and by 1820 they had been forced to flee Illinois. Peoria, Illinois was designated a city in 1845.

What was left of the Peoria Tribe ended up in Oklahoma and Kansas and George Finley was born near Paola, Kansas in 1854. I found other evidence that indicated Finley was born in 1855, so perhaps the Chamber of Commerce was wrong about his birth date as well.

Also, further research shows that the Quantrell Border Raiders some time around the beginning of the Civil War forced the Peoria Tribe to flee to the Osage Territories. The tribe finally settled in near Miami, Oklahoma and named the settlement Peoria, Oklahoma. By the way the word Peoria translates to "A prairie fire that wanders about." Now that is not much of a heritage is it?

I most certainly agree we got our name from the Peoria Indian, but certainly not our heritage. No big deal, but Peoria has a history interspersed with myth and I get a bit tired of

it...especially the gangster reputation. Why not stick with historical facts; believe me that history is colorful enough.

As I mentioned George Finley was a good citizen, he was a tribal police officer and a 32nd degree Mason. I found in a book called *The Peoriana*, that George Finley went to the Smithsonian Museum where he recorded almost 1,000 authentic Peoria words. I suggested to the local museum people when I was on one of the *Ad Hoc* Committees that they try to track that recording down and add it to our museum artifacts.

I also suggested that we have a streetcar within the museum that simulated movement as it went through Peoria History. I envisioned Peoria characters such as Mayor Woodruff, Bernie Shelton and others stepping on board the streetcar as actors, to tell us tales of when they lived here in Peoria. Of Course all of that was ignored and in my personal opinion most of what we have in the current museum is just flat out boring.

In 1937 I lived with my large family on Albany Street in a new subdivision called El Vista. Just a couple blocks at the end of Albany was a magnificent wooded area. Today it is called Schmoeger Park, but we called it 'Our Woods.' In the beginning we



played Cowboys and Indians, and believe me we were told that the Peoria Indians roamed those very woods. To prove it we found our share of Indian arrowheads, but when we also looked for Indian Head Pennies, we discovered how foolish we really were.

Once WW 11 started, we quickly forgot about Indians, becoming soldiers, marines and fighting commandoes. But to tell you the truth it was more fun being a cowboy chasing hostile Indians than it was being a soldier. The sad fact is by 1950 and 1951 all of us that played

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in that woods were off in harms way thanks to something called The Korean Conflict.

In 1956 Congress ended its control over the Peoria Tribe and that is when we learned that there were only four full blooded Peoria Indians and George Finley was not among them. All 620 of those names are there for you to see in the Federal Register. You can check for yourself to see if perhaps one of your Native American ancestors is listed there. You

won't find George Finley because his blood was only partially that of a Peoria Indian.

Here are the last names of the four listed full blooded Peoria Indians: Gibson, Blalock, Beaver and Strand.

We like to give credit to the photographer of our photos but the one of the old chief has been around for a long time. It was used often in local articles and newspapers but since he was born in 1854 and died in

Oklahoma in 1933 who really knows who took this photograph?

I always had fun trying to pronounce the authentic Peoria Indian words. Here is one of my favorites. *Kah-Tah-Ke-mong-quah*, it translates in English to Spotted Loon. I checked further and found that this refers to a woman. If she lived today I would have called her 'Kate.'

It would be my guess that we could

have gotten a copy of this photo from Bradley University, The Peoria Public Library, The Peoria Historical Society and a dozen old Peoria Newspapers; thank you each and every one.

Editor's Note: Norm is a Peoria Historian, True Crime Writer and monthly contributor to ASOMagazine.com.
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IOWA SWAN CYGNETS RECEIVE GPS COLLARS FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

by Margaret Smith, Executive Director, The Trumpeter Swan Society

The sky was bright blue and a cool wind pushed white clouds across the sky. Picking my way along a rising path in an Iowa Wildlife Management Area, a pond suddenly appeared in the valley stretching below. In the distance a swan family of two adults and three large gray cygnets swam peacefully near the far shore.

I was there with two folks from Iowa State University and a person from the USDA Wildlife Services. Today I came along to watch GPS collars being placed on cygnets in two different swan families. The GPS collars will track how the swans move across the landscape, where they roost in summer and winter, where they feed, and their migration patterns throughout the three years the collars are active.

The Trumpeter Swan Society is helping to fund the research study through Iowa State University. Iowa State University ornithology students will be able to track the swans via a website, and they will analyze the data to see if there are behavior differences between females and males, the movement across a landscape over time as cygnets mature, roosting behavior and so much more. A total of nine cygnets are part of the study, with five females and

four males collared in late August through early September. Partners in the project include Iowa State University, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Swan Restoration Group, Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, and Blank Park Zoo.

The GPS collars collect hourly information during the day and one data point at midnight. The collars download the information twice a day, which is then uploaded to the website.

One cygnet from each of nine swan families in different areas of Iowa are now part of this fascinating research study. If you would like to receive a link to the Iowa swan GPS collar project website, please email me at ttss@trumpeterswansociety.org.

To learn more about trumpeter swans, visit www.trumpeterswansociety.org

All photos by Margaret Smith



A cygnet on another wetland is released after receiving the GPS collar later that day.



Iowa State University professor, Dr. Stephen Dinsmore, documents the cygnet's release. Another project leader, not pictured, is Tyler Harms of the Iowa DNR.



A swan parent takes flight to check out the intruders (me) while the other parent and three cygnets remain on the pond. One of the three cygnets received a GPS collar for the project.

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PISCIFUN TORRENT

By Mike Roux • www.MikeRoux.com

As fall approaches I will be giving you the results of some my product field testing and performance reviews. Just know that these reviews are based on personal use and experience. I do not get paid for these reviews and do not work for the manufacturers of any of these products. In fact, for every positive field test and thumbs-up review there are 10-12 other similar products that where simply not good enough to take my time and your money. If a review shows-up here it is because the product performed at or above expectations. That having been said, let's get into today's review.

PISCIFUN is a relatively new tackle company here in the United States. I have used a couple of their reels and today I would like to tell you about their new **TORRENT** baitcaster reel. I liked this reel right out of the box. It looks amazing and the specs were impressive. But looks and specs do not a great reel make. It was only after a half-dozen trips that I truly became hooked on this reel.

The **PISCIFUN® TORRENT** baitcasting reel has an 18-lb carbon fiber drag with 7.1:1 gear ratio. Also important to anglers

are the anti-corrosion gears & bearings in the both the saltwater & freshwater baitcaster versions. Here are just a few of the specs that caught my eye;

- **Brake System:** Magnetic Brake
- **Unparalleled:** Our CNC machined brass gear ensures a strong drag system and durability with 7.1:1 gear ratio. A fast and powerful retrieve offer the ultimate fishing performance.
- **Phenomenal:** Precise gears paired with 3-layer high grade carbon fiber drag washers provide an ultra-strong 18lbs drag system with power to handle the big ones that you are after. Our new 4.33 inch extended aluminum crank handle gives the angler the leverage and power needed to pull the biggest fish out of the thickest cover.
- **Anti-corrosion:** Corrosion resistant Premium gears and superior quality stainless steel bearings to ensure the smoothness of this reel. Anglers can be confident in both fresh and salt-water when using the **TORRENT**.
- **Extraordinary Feel:** This reel boasts an accurate & effective 0-10 magnetic brake, providing the angler with on-the-fly tournament ready adjustments. Double

line winding shafts increase the winding stability and durability.

- **Finesse Design:** A unique screwed oil hole in the side-plate helps you quickly and efficiently lubricate in order to lengthen reel life and maximize performance. Novice and pro anglers alike will benefit from this easy method, no more lost or broken parts for basic maintenance.

Now let's talk about performance. As I said, I have used this reel most of this season. I have caught about a hundred bass with it of all sizes. This reel is lightweight and I can throw it all day. Because it is both lightweight and durable, I cannot wait til this fall to resting it with heavier line for my musky fishing. I will give you the results of those field tests, as well.

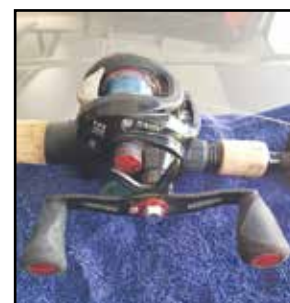
I really like the drag system on the **TORRENT**. It is smooth and very easy to adjust when a bigger than expected fish hits you. And I was particularly impressed with the amount of line that is spooled with each 360-degree turn of the handle. It can rip baits when the need arises.

I mounted this new reel on a heavy action rod because that is how I evaluate its castability (that might just be a new a word I just made up). Level-

wind fishermen know what I mean. On the right light-weight rod you can make any reel perform admirably. But if you put a baitcaster on a really heavy rod you can really see what it is made of. The **TORRENT** performed very well on this rod.

Now for the best news! The price point on this new reel is currently under \$50. After having fished with this reel and knowing the price I could not help but recommend it to my readers. I do not think you will be disappointed.

I just got a **PISCIFUN** spinning reel and will begin my field testing and evaluation on the **DESTROYER MX20** very soon. **PISCIFUN, Go With Family!**



The TORRENT is both a great looking and smooth functioning baitcaster. (Photo by Mike Roux)



Mike Roux's positive evaluation of the TORRENT comes after extensive field testing. (Photo by Roger Lewis)

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IDNR NEWSBITS

Resident Archery Deer

Permits: Resident combination and antlerless-only archery deer permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. Find a vendor link here: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>

Non-Resident Archery Deer Permits:

Illinois Non-Resident Archery Deer combination permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The Illinois Archery Deer Season is Oct. 1, 2017 through Jan. 14, 2018 (except closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting).

Youth Deer Permits: Resident and non-resident Illinois Youth Firearm Deer permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The Youth Deer Hunt is Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 7-9, 2017.

Firearm Deer Permits: Over-the-counter sales of remaining 2017 Illinois Firearm Deer Permits will begin on Oct. 17. Permits will be sold until quotas are exhausted or until the close of the season, whichever occurs first. Individual hunters can purchase one or more permits beginning Oct. 17, subject to availability.

Illinois State Parks Guide: The 2017-18 Illinois State Parks guide is available in print and online. The booklet is a useful guide for planning a fall color weekend, an eventful day in a state park picnic area, a weekend at a state park lodge or campground, a hike or ride on a state trail, or hunting and fishing trips to a state fish and wildlife area. The Illinois State Parks guide is posted on the IDNR website in PDF format at this link: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Documents/ILPARKS2017.pdf>

Copies of the state parks guide can be ordered through the IDNR online publications page: <https://dnr.illinois.gov/teachkids/ordertype.asp>

Poets in the Parlor: The public is invited to attend three poetry events in the coming months at the Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site in Springfield. The "Poets in the Parlor" poetry readings on Oct. 29, and Nov. 29 will provide an opportunity for guests to listen to and discuss poetry in the home of the artist Vachel Lindsay.

Nov. 12, 2 p.m.: Karen Craig. The Vachel Lindsay Home, open on weekends and by appointment, is located at 603 South 5th Street in Springfield. Visit the State Historic Sites at Springfield Facebook page for information on additional events or call 217-524-3971.

Archery Deer Hunting at Frank Holten

SP: Archery deer hunting applications are available for the special drawings at Frank Holten State Park, East St. Louis, IL. Prospective applicants can obtain an application either online or from the site office. The online link is available here: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/FactSheets/Pages/FrankHolten.aspx>

Park-specific applications will offer 11 weekly hunting intervals. Applicants will prioritize their hunting weeks and will be selected randomly in a lottery drawing to be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 2. Frank

Holten State Park, located in St. Clair County, offers approximately 300 acres of hunting area. The hunting area consists of bottomland forest acres. For additional questions or to pick up an application, contact Frank Holten State Park, 4500 Pocket Road, East St. Louis, IL 62205, phone 618-874-7920.

JEPC Trapping Permits: A public drawing for the allocation of trapping permits at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area will be held at Saturday, Oct. 7 at 1:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the site headquarters, located approximately five miles southeast of Chandlerville. One permit for each of the five trapping zones will be allocated through a lottery-type drawing. All persons attempting to enter the drawing must be in attendance and have a current 2017 trapping license in their possession. DP (Dog Proof) Traps, live traps, and traps of similar action may be used. Homemade dog-proof traps must be designed with a foothold trap no larger than a #2 in an enclosed wood, metal, or durable plastic container with a single access opening of no larger than 1.5 inches in diameter. All body-gripping traps must be totally submerged. For more information, contact Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area at 217-452-7741.

Sangchris Lake Trapping Permits: A public drawing for the allocation of Sangchris Lake State Park trapping permits will be held 1:00 p.m., Sat., Oct. 14. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the site headquarters, located approximately six miles southeast of Rochester. One permit for two trapping zones will be allocated through the drawing procedure (the Sangchris subimpoundment area will be included as another zone open to trapping). Two names will be allowed on the permit, and only those individuals listed will be allowed to trap. All persons entering the drawing must have a current 2017 trapping license in possession. For more information, contact Sangchris Lake State Park at 217-498-9208.

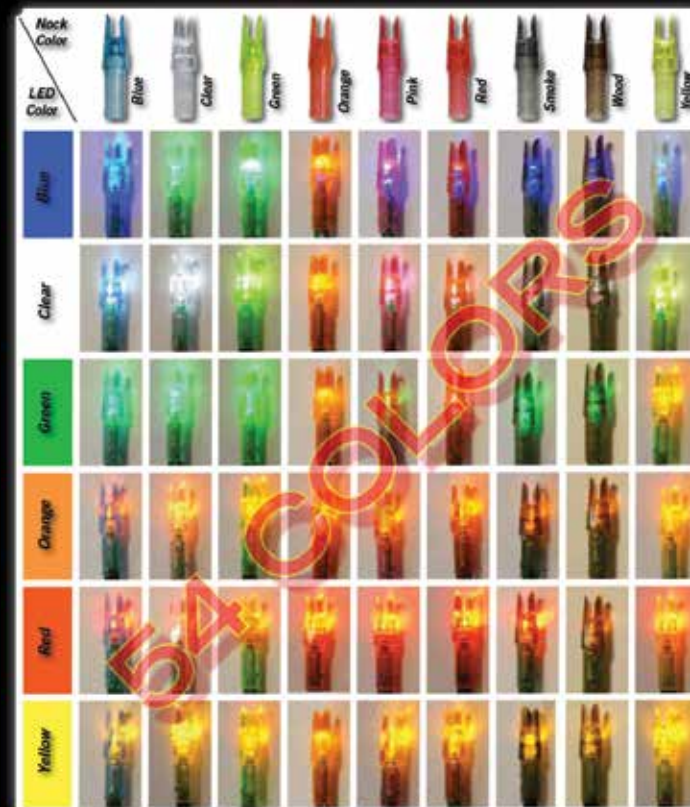
Carlyle Waterfowl Site Tour: A site tour is planned for the Carlyle Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area on Sun., Oct. 22. Managed by the IDNR, Carlyle Lake SFWA is known as one of the top waterfowl hunting areas in the state. It is located at the northern end of Carlyle Lake and is almost 10,000 acres in size, with various types of wetland habitat. The guided tour, by personal vehicle, will give hunters and other interested individuals a chance to view the area prior to the upcoming waterfowl season, which opens with the South Central Zone on Nov. 11. The tour will be conducted by the site staff and will include Sub-impoundments 1 and 2. Information will be provided on site regulations, hunting opportunities, crops planted, and habitat projects undertaken in the last year. Those wishing to take the tour are asked to meet at Parking Lot #1, located south of the site office, at 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 22. For more information, phone 618-425-3533.

Camping Reservations: Make campsite and shelter reservations for many IDNR sites online through the Reserve America website at www.reserveamerica.com using a credit card.

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HOW LONG DO DEER LIVE?

By Mark Kayser

A POPULAR SEARCH ITEM ON GOOGLE, PEOPLE FROM MANY DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE - NOT JUST HUNTERS - ARE CURIOUS ABOUT A DEER'S LIFE EXPECTANCY. HERE ARE SOME ANSWERS.

Many variables contribute to a deer's lifespan and this makes it tough to answer the often-asked question, "how long do deer live?" Some factors include regional homeland, hunting pressure, extreme weather and unforeseen, overlooked death threats.

Still, if you're looking for a good, clean number, without the changing variables to cloud the answer, estimating the lifespan of deer held in captivity is a reliable way to go about it. In the book "The Deer of North America," whitetail authority Leonard Lee Rue III cites deer that lived for nearly two decades, including a Vermont doe that lived to age 19. Research provided by Quality Deer Management Association reported whitetail does living in captivity for up to 18 years of age, while a handful have been reported to make it to 23 years old.

Male deer, however, didn't fare as well. Only a couple were reported to live beyond 15 years. This gender/lifespan trend is typical of almost every species, including humans. Data published by the United Nations reports that women live nearly five years longer than the average man,

with the age gap between life expectancy even greater in some developed countries.

THINGS LOOK DIFFERENT IN THE WILD: But that doesn't mean hunters should hold out for a 20-year-old seasoned buck unless you have access to an expansive property perfectly manicured for whitetail extravagance.

The University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources, breaks down the average lifespan of a wild whitetail. It differs greatly from those living in captivity. "The life span of a whitetail deer can be from 6 to 14 years in captivity. In the wild, the majority of deer don't make it to that age because of disease, hunting and automobile collisions. The average life span for wild whitetail deer is 4½ years (Lopez et al 2003). Males have an average life span of 2.9 years and females have an average life span of 6½ years (Lopez et al 2003)."

The major factor causing shortness in deer lifespan is hunting. You and everyone else in search of their annual venison allotment account for approximately 5.5 million bucks and does ending up in freezers, according to the latest Quality Deer Management Association Whitetail Report. Of course, hunting seasons provide sound management for whitetail populations coast to coast. Without hunting seasons, whitetails could exceed the carrying

capacity of the land, be prone to disease and increase collision rates on area highways.

PREDATION AND DEER

MORTALITY: The aforementioned occurrence of auto collisions accounts for more than 1 million injured or killed deer annually. Those that survive limp off, possibly to be pursued by area predators.

Even healthy deer fall prey to predators such as coyotes, black bear, bobcats and mountain lions. Coyotes currently cause the most predation issues due to their widespread distribution throughout the whitetail range. Expect fawn mortality to increase from coyotes as new research details this problem. One study from the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina reported 70 percent total fawn mortality at this site, and coyotes were identified for approximately 80 percent of these mortalities.

DISEASE AND DEER MORTALITY:

Disease can break out in nearly any whitetail locale, with epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD), chronic wasting disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis (BTB) being some of the more prevalent. HD outbreaks vary annually and range from infecting a handful of deer to wiping out 50 percent or more of a region's population. Fortunately, whitetails rebound quickly to combat any accumulating decline. CWD ranges from as high as 19 percent infected in some mule deer herds to a more common infection rate of 10 percent or less



Mark Kayser found this buck dead while he was bowhunting and could not figure out why the deer died.

in various whitetail herds. If the infection rate nears 30 percent, however, a herd could not sustain itself. As for BTB, in most areas it is insignificant. Still, it's monitored closely to ensure it stays that way.

DUMB LUCK AND DEER MORTALITY:

Finally, a whitetail's lifespan could be halted simply from forest accidents. Getting hung up in fences, breaking a leg or getting trapped in the crotch of a tree. Many other accidental anomalies occur and kill whitetails before their prime.

If you're an avid whitetail buck hunter and hope to shoot the buck of a lifetime, keep in mind that a buck's lifespan is short. If you tag a buck that was 4½ years of age, know that it exceeded the average lifespan. Any buck you shoot that is older than that is a true trophy to be cherished.

Resources:

Quality Deer Management Association
www.qdma.com
Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance
cwd-info.org



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The Meandering Murray's WHAT THE HEQQ IS IT?

By Bob Murray
bigmur2@aol.com

Now, to get to the real meat of my October contribution to ASO which was triggered by the marine monument article I read and the loss I am experiencing by having a very close friend move to Florida. I know there is some great fresh water fishing in the Sunshine State, and it is home to some of the most well-known names in the bassing world. Roland Martin has a guided service on Lake Okeechobee, and you can't count the number of tournaments that the state hosts every year. That wonderful bass fishing isn't what I'm talkin' bout here either.

Nope, it's a Yankee transplant that decides to take up salt or brackish water fishing after a lifetime of drowning night crawlers and imitating bait fish and frogs in the lakes, ponds and rivers of our non-coastal waters. Of course, there are some similarities in working baits, setting

hooks and so on but there are some real differences as well.

One of the first things you learn in fishing in estuaries or inter-coastal waters where salt water and fresh water species prowl the same mixture common to their species, is you are never sure what it is you're going to catch. Sure, you may smack a catfish when you're throwing a rattle-trap at some bass you're mad at. You may drill a nice Northern when you're dreaming of walleye filets sizzling in a nice mixture of butter and olive oil. Attach that water to some tidal driven salt water and you may be in for some "real" surprises.

As an example, bull sharks have been caught miles and miles inland from the mouth of a river. They are not thrill that happens often, however. But I will

tell you that the first time you think that you have just hooked the biggest redfish in the world and you end the fight reeling up a sting-ray that had sucked onto the bottom like it was a two-year-old trying to avoid a swat on the butt.

The first time that it happens you either cut the line, or if you're with a southerner you land it and cut that barbed tail off the ray and put it in the live well. The vision of Steve Irwin's final demise fades from your mind and you take your hand away from your chest, not having realized that you were unconsciously protecting your quickly beating heart. In your fear and confusion, you ask; what are you going to do with it? He gives you a knowing look and informs you that some unscrupulous restaurants cut rounds of ray with a donut cutter and sell them for scallops. You stop to think on that awhile, while the southern sun makes you wish it was raining.

Relentless, is what that sun is like. You learn just how relentless when you go to rebait your hook with those live shrimps you paid a small fortune for and

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discover that you could make a shrimp cocktail with them now after they got poached in the live well. So, you now know that it's better to buy dead shrimp unless you have an aerator and a way to keep the water from being suitable for a cup of Earl Gray.

You bait with that limp shrimp because that's the closest thing to live bait you have, and next thing you know you've got a bite and you set the hook and nothing is there. You do it again and again and again. Finally, you tease your bait in to a point that you can still feel the fish on the line. You start to wonder if you'll be able to net it with just a little more line cranked up. You start to see color and it ends up being a blue crab lunging on that very expensive shrimp.

All those years in the mid-west with bluegill, ringed perch and stunted bullheads stealing as much bait as you can throw in the water. Now you have to deal with crabs! Oh! The pesky catfish are there too. Gafftops is their name and they have a dorsal fin that will make a channel cats look like they brought a butter knife to a sword fight. I never got stabbed but understand it is worse than fresh water cats. For either fresh or salt water one of the best treatments is washing or soaking in a liquid over 105 degrees for

up to an hour and a half. It has something to do with the toxin that causes the pain is diminished by the heat.

So, we know that any catfish can put the hurts to you, just like every new place you ever went fishing required "must have" local bait most likely made by the bait shop guy's brother-in-law. Well... bend over and grab your ankles because salt water brings a whole new chapter to your tackle inventory. Let me put it this way. Any fresh water gear you have that is used in salt water needs to be rinsed thoroughly after salt water use. Hooks get corrosion, unrinsed reels seize up, rod guides turn green and the price of artificial baits jumps by at least double.

I love salt (brackish) water fishing. It is a new challenge when you all of a sudden are fishing with a cork, a popping cork to be specific, it is used to fish for speckled trout (weak fish out east) that is designed to "pop" when jerked to get the attention of the trout. You have it on your favorite very relaxed braided line. Bad idea. As you "pop" the line it will wrap around your cork and present you with a mess comparable to a backlash on your favorite bait caster. You start fishing with circle hooks that look like a really bad idea but they work really well regardless of what your brain tells you.

As good as your brain is you just don't know what is going to be on the other end of the line. You're fishing for red drum and catch a black or a sheepshead. You're fishing for trout and catch a ray or skate. You throw in a canal and catch nothing but eel. I have not mentioned some of the highlights like flounder that are a blank canvas upon which you create a masterpiece such as flounder Malia. You may accidentally run into a shrimper that sells you fresh shrimp for three bucks a pound. Or you may meet a crabber that has bushels of crabs that he doesn't need.

Maybe you figured it out that the

transition from mid-west fresh water fishing to a sojourn into salt water is a lot of fun and for sure supplies a variety of protein for the table that exceeds anything that our lakes and rivers offer. One thing that is heartbreaking in fishing the Mississippi estuary and areas that have been subject to the oil industry is major littering. I do mean "major". One area I fished frequently had an abandoned tanker in the channel we traveled to get to the fishing grounds. Emblazoned on the side...AMACO! How did they get away with that?

Inland...coastal...intercoastal... mountain...Hey! Keep it clean out there!



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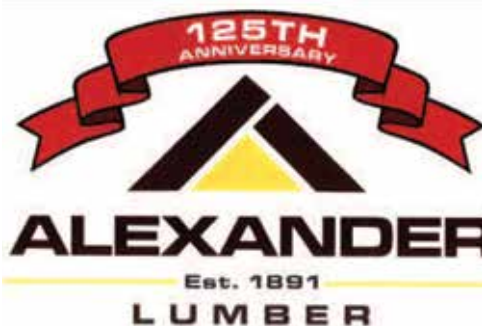
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THE UNITED STATES OF HUNTING

by: *Ted Nugent*

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Iconic actor and comedian George Lopez burst into my backstage dressing room in Los Angeles all aflutter and buoyant again recently, ready to rock-n-roll like he means it.

Intense laughter and lots of gorilla-like man-hugging erupted with the rock-solid thumps of manly high-fives and fist-pumping rock-n-roll camaraderie gone mad.

George and his posse were here to celebrate the universal positive communication of killer rock-n-roll music. The upbeat energy in the place was so beautiful I could hardly stand it.

The runaway lovefest nearly brought a tear to my eye!

Old George is the poster boy of liberalism and the democrat party, yet here he was backstage with Ted Nugent, the loud-mouth poster boy for hardcore rightwing redneck all things NRA, guns, hunting and conservative Republican we the people politics.

Though George and his friends and I good-naturedly tease each other about our opposing politics, never has there been a harsh word or mean-spirited moment over the years when we rendezvous for our annual night of united American musical celebration.

At a time when America is so very contentiously divided on so many ideological and political issues, I am here to share how so many of us from both sides of the aisle can and do get along famously without a hint of incivility or anger when the American rock-n-roll soundtrack brings us together.

In my 69 years I have never witnessed such a dangerous degree of hate and violence in my beloved America, the worse examples always emanating from the left. My life has been threatened too many times to count going back to the 1960s for the absurd reason that I am a hunter and NRA member.

As we cling to the critical soul cleansing Great Escape of our outdoor lifestyle, we do so more and more these days to get away from the intensity of our everyday lives and the increasingly heated politics and the unacceptable viciousness that goes with it.

Sadly, such embarrassing and mindless hate and viciousness does not only come from the hunter haters and gun-grabbers out there. Horrifically and heartbreakingly, some of the worst of the worst comes directly from within our own hunting community in the form

of elitism, judgmentalism and petty, unfounded jealousy.

I don't have to categorize or detail the many and absurd forms that such insanity materializes, as we have all witnessed it in one way or another at some time in our lives. It's ugly, irrational, unnecessary, counterproductive, and just downright inexcusable and foolish beyond words.

My goal and belief is that just by those of you reading this reaching out and initiating an intelligent, sincere dialog with all the hunters and outdoorsmen in our lives, we can push back effectively and put an end to this cannibalism in our beloved sporting BloodBrotherhood.

Feebly attempting to find fault with someone else's choice of gear or hunting methodology is pure folly and represents one of mankind's most petty and embarrassing failures.

When I hear of a fellow hunter poking fun at or outright condemning another hunter's choice or hunting style, I am hearing the exact same anti-hunting rhetorical nonsense that I hear from the animal rights freaks that mindlessly hate all of us.



It is up to the smarter, more sophisticated amongst us to put an end to this buffoonery once and for all.

We have all seen and heard it at one time or another and we must no longer tolerate it. Step up and speak up. Explain to these petty, ignorant fools how insane it is to parrot the hate of those who would ban our sport altogether if they could, and how the enemies of hunting rejoice when hunters turn on their fellow hunters.

Stupid is as stupid does, but if we forcefully condemn such inbreeding, we can all join forces to go a long way in ending this curse within.

At the 1000s and 1000s of hunting campfires that I have been blessed to share with the finest hunting families

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the world has to offer, we all agree that our hunting lifestyle is surely the conservation model God had in mind for real hands-on environmental stewardship of our precious renewable wildlife resources.

Fan the flames of this perfect tooth, fang and claw organic lifestyle by pushing harder to maximize the good while we whittle away at this glaring bad and ugly element of our world.

I have a dream where the whole of society looks to the hunting world for leadership in bringing civility to opposing politics. I have recently shouted my commitment to do so from the media mountaintop, and if the firebreathing Motorcity Madman can do it, certainly anybody and everybody can do it.

Do it like you mean it. Lead by example. Upgrade is ours! United we stand! The United States of Hunting!

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SEC. ZINKE SIGNS ORDER SUPPORTING CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sept. 15, 2017 — U.S. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3356 today, supporting sportsmen, public access, wildlife management and conservation opportunities in the United States. In addition to increasing public access for hunting and fishing, the executive order specifically outlines important policies benefitting migratory waterfowl.

"On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of Ducks Unlimited nationwide, I'd like to thank Secretary Zinke for his actions today to ensure both the long-term survival of vital habitats and their use by American sportsmen and women," said Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall. "Wetlands are not only a valuable resource for our nation's waterfowl, but they also benefit more than 900 other species of wildlife. Investments in the conservation of wildlife habitats, like wetlands, are vital in preserving, protecting and advancing our nation's long hunting and angling heritage. At the end of the day, it's all about ensuring that all Americans and those generations to come, have access to the wildlife and wild places that we enjoy today."

Section six of Secretarial Order 3356, is

dedicated to migratory waterfowl, including expanding hunting opportunities through science-based conservation practices:

(6) significantly increase migratory waterfowl populations and hunting opportunities throughout large portions of the country by:

(a) enhancing and improving the use of voluntary perpetual grassland and wetland conservation easements;

(b) expanding habitat and water conservation/ protection efforts on wintering habitats;

(c) assessing and utilizing sound science to direct the development of proposed project and/or policy proposals to enhance waterfowl production;

(d) identifying partnerships and resource opportunities; and

(e) utilizing sound scientific evidence in conjunction with landowner/stakeholder input.

In March, Zinke invited Ducks Unlimited and other sportsmen's groups to witness the signing of his first secretarial orders, which benefitted hunters, anglers, conservation and outdoor recreational opportunities. Secretarial Order 3356 now helps fulfill his



previous commitment by outlining specific directives for the Department of Interior, while working with partner organizations, to help execute these policies.

In the coming months, Ducks Unlimited's volunteers, members and staff are committed to working with Secretary Zinke and his team as they work to implement these pivotal and critical priorities.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 14 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.



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SHADOWS ON THE WATER AND IN THE WOODS

AUTUMN INDICATORS

by Dave Shadow
davidsha@consolidated.net

fun fall fishing!

I photographed some real nice bucks this past week. They can sometimes be seen in bachelor groups or in the company of other bucks. They are still in velvet and do not yet object to the company of the other bucks. As the weather and season progresses these bucks will lose the velvet covering (blood-rich tissue) and will polish their racks on bushes and tree limbs. They will then begin to dominate their home areas creating rubs and scrapes. The rubs are created with their hardened antlers on the trunks of trees and serve several purposes. They polish their antlers to a fine sheen and vent some testosterone while marking their territory. The scrapes are created with their front feet by removing the ground vegetation while pawing the earth. After creating the scrape the buck will urinate in it, again marking his territory. He will visit the scrape with some regularity as the season progresses. Many times the scrape is created under an overhanging limb that provides another method of marking his territory. He will rub his head around upon the branches leaving odor from the scent glands around his eyes and head.

As this season progresses the farmers will flock to the fields making travel on the rural roads more dangerous. The presence of the farmers in the fields will cause more deer to be upon the roadways again creating a much more likelihood of an auto-deer collision. Slow

In the past week or so I've noticed several indicators of an upcoming change in seasons. Some of us look forward to these changes that accompany the arrival of autumn or "fall" with great anticipation and others dread the change since it means that winter looms in the near future. The soybeans are turning orange and brown and are losing some leaves. The corn is "firing" up from the bottom and the ears are beginning to droop. These little indicators along with many others seem to be early this year compared to past years. Maybe that's older age and gray hair talking?

Autumn is defined as that period between summer and winter during which the weather becomes cooler and many plants become dormant. It's a period of maturity for many plants verging on their decline. Even though August normally holds some very hot weather, it has been exceptionally cool these past few mornings. Does that mean an early fall or will we just get the hot weather later? The trees seem to be indicating an early fall with the sycamore tree in my back yard already losing many of its leaves. Also my apple trees are shedding hundreds of apples prior to them ripening to a usable stage. The crows are enjoying this feast of deteriorating apples and I have several of them that seem to have made my yard and orchard their permanent restaurant.

The hummingbirds have been feeding voraciously this past week and fighting for each ounce of the sugar-water that Rosalie provides. We've even had a few new hummingbird arrivals that also seem to be feeding up in anticipation of taking that long trip across the Gulf of Mexico. It doesn't seem possible that those little wings could carry them on such a journey. I hope they've got some alternate routes and feeding areas selected since most of eastern Texas seems to be under water. I'll bet they make it just fine and return again next season.

In the aquatic world, I've noticed massive schools of baitfish that provide the forage for other predator and larger fish as they also feed up for the coming winter season. Most all of the larger fish are already pursuing the schooling gatherings. This is a fun time to fish top-water "popper" type baits. This is almost always productive when you can see some feeding activity among the schools. My personal favorite is a "pop-r" plug with a white hair trailer. The trailer results in more "hook-ups" and fewer lost fish. This is some

down and watch closely is the best advice. Also avoid those dawn and dusk travel times when possible. If you're traveling in my hunt areas please don't hit any big bucks. I'm saving them for bow season! Pick a small one if you must hit one! Have a nice Autumn!

TOURNAMENT INFO: The Cumberland Bassmasters' held their tenth 2017 tournament on Paris Twin Lakes on 08-23-17 with a good turnout of boaters participating. Some tough summertime weather affected the weigh-in results a bit but these guys still had some impressive mid-summer weights. -- 1st place, Scott Stifel of Casey wins 1st Place with 12 lbs 1 oz. Scott also had the "big bass" of the day with a nice 6 12 pounder. -- Jeff Winchester of Mattoon placed second with four fish and 8.6 lbs --- Tom White of Greenup was placed

third with three fish totaling 6.9 lbs. --- Next tournament will be on Clinton Lake. --- For additional information contact Pete Shanks: peteshanks@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS: The Coles County SWCD will host a Pond Management Seminar on Wednesday September 6th at 5:30 pm with Mike Mounce (IDNR fisheries biologist) as the speaker. These are highly informative and enjoyable. The location is on co rd 80n, Lerna. The discussions will deal with several topics of fish management, aquatic plant control, pond construction, and much more. Plan to attend this if you have any plans or pond concerns. To RSVP for this free event or if you have questions call the SWCD office at 217-345-3901. or e-mail info@colescountyswcd.org

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WHITE KNUCKLE LAKE TROUT FISHING

*Exciting Methods for Larger than average
Lakers and a Real Fight*

By: Colby Simms with John Yow

Photos by: the Colby Simms Outdoors Team

www.ColbySimmsOutdoors.com

Lake trout are voracious predators. These animals rank right up there with muskies, largemouth bass, northern pike, redbfish and stripers, in the way they hunt and attack prey, the way they strike and fight, the way they leave even the most seasoned of anglers with shaking hands

and sweaty palms, that is if you fight the good fight with them on their own terms. You can fish lakers the same old way that most anglers do, never really understanding what these willful warriors are truly capable of, or you can accept the challenge that the beast of the north offers,

put in some work, and live for every second of the masterpiece of battle they weave!

***Same Old Same Old**

It wasn't until I'd fished lakers for years that I actually realized how tough they can be, how much fun it could be to target them. Most of the lake trout fishing I'd done was vertical jigging or trolling, not really my cup of tea. I'll admit that I never really got excited about lake trout fishing before, partially because I'd never caught any big lakers, but mostly because of past experiences with fishing methods used. I enjoy vertical jigging, but not with small lures, 100 feet down over deeper water, for small fish. That was my first encounter with lakers on a trip to a boat-in lake in Ontario, and something I've done many times since. This method never produced a big trout for me or anyone I've fished with, and it's not thought of as a great trophy tactic with many of the dedicated lake trout anglers on my company's Pro Staff and Field Staff.

Another popular method is technical big boat power trolling with tons of gear. I don't have anything against trolling. In fact, trolling produced some of the fish that helped Ray Simms and I win some major muskie tournaments over the years. If we do

troll, we usually flat line two lures, holding rods so we can actually feel the strike, and begin fighting fish immediately with the motor out of gear. For lakers though, it's common to let the boat and equipment do most of the work, and anglers often ski fish in across the surface behind a moving boat,



Champion tournament pro, guide & TV personality Colby Simms displays a big Manitoba master angler lake trout he caught on a School N Shad

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something that doesn't do much for me. In truth, the only time I really enjoy trolling is for marlin, sailfish and other pelagic saltwater giants offshore, as the sheer size and power of the fish always give it the advantage, and the boat is just another piece of the puzzle, rather than the determining factor for success. Even though power trolling seems to produce bigger lakers on average than jigging, the fish just can't give an angler the same kind of fight, after being dragged for a while with a rod in the holder and then skied across the top while the boat continues forward. I make many public appearances and give many seminars each year across North America, and when the subject turns to lake trout fishing, I've found more anglers who don't care for it, than the other way around. Every angler I've talked with that doesn't like fishing lakers has only jigged or trolled for them.

Gut Wrenching Excitement

It's been quite a few years now since I made my first trip into northern Manitoba, but I try to go back whenever I can. I've come to love this special landscape where the boreal forest meets arctic tundra and giant fish roam every inch of water in between. My good friend Mark Davis invited me on an exclusive media event he'd organized to a remote fly-in lake, not far from Nunavut. For those who don't know, Mark is Host of the award winning fishing TV show, Big Water Adventures (www.OutdoorChannel.com/Shows/BigWaterAdventures.aspx) that you've got to check out. It was on this trip that I finally experienced the aggressiveness and power of the lake trout. We actually got to cast for these fish! I was so excited when I realized what we'd be doing. The trout were big. Medium-heavy casting



Guide Tom Kinsley lifts another one of Colby Simms' arctic lake trout taken on the Colby Simms Tackle Original School N Shad spinnerbait shown.

equipment was used to lob large lures near big rocks where lakers hung out.

I developed a whole new respect for the species. These beasts would chase muskie sized lures as aggressively as the large pike that shared their waters. They'd hit so hard, they'd nearly pull the rod out of your hands. Battles were long and intense. The monsters pulled as hard as any big sport fish I've caught in freshwater, and they never seemed to give up. This was nothing like the lake trout fishing I'd done before, and I couldn't get enough of it. This tactic doesn't just produce in the far northern regions in and near the arctic. It will produce lakers anywhere they swim. While we targeted early season ice out lakers in the shallows, it works just as well during fall when trout invade the shallows again. In summer, we've used the same exciting tactic, only in deeper water, where we make a long cast to an area holding fish, allow the lure to hit bottom, and slow roll it back to the boat. When we're not flying into remote areas, I tow my 21 foot bass boat to lake trout waters. The casting decks on my ZX Skeeter (www.SkeeterBoats.com) are enormous, and allow two anglers to cast large trout lures, on long big game rods, from the front deck at the same time. A third angler, or sometimes one of our TV show cameramen, will fish or film from the back deck. Casting is now the preferred method of lake trout fishing for my staff



Colby Simms shot this photo of Josh Raglin with a monster lake trout taken on a Colby Simms Tackle Monster School N Shad spinnerbait with 5 blades.

Colby Simms ...continued

and me on most waters we fish, and it's a red hot tactic for trophies in the fall.

*Lures & Tackle

Strong yet lightweight graphite casting rods of at least seven feet are best, and our favorite is the MH Split Grip from Tackle Industries (www.TackleIndustries.com). We spool casting reels with Vicious Braid from 50-65lb test (www.Vicious-Fishing.com) and add a 12-18" 80lb fluorocarbon leader. Large spoons, big jigs and swimbaits can be effective options, but one lure is as close to magic as anything for lots of big lakers, the long arm, multi-blade safety pin style spinnerbait. Colby Simms Tackle School N Shads from Colby Simms Outdoors (www.ColbySimmsOutdoors.com) are large skirted spinnerbaits that feature either 3, 4 or even 5 big graduated willow blades on a long arm, with swimbait tails. These lures perfectly mimic the lake trout's favorite prey, large schooling baitfish like ciscoes, shiners and whitefish, and have produced more and bigger lakers for me and my staff than anything else. They do perform well with trolling tactics, but why

troll when you can cast? School N Shads produce giant trout with simple cast and wind techniques in shallow or deep water, with steady or stop and go retrieves. Some days the fish want the lure moving steady and sometimes they hit it better when its retrieved and then dropped back to the bottom, but it's a lot more fun than traditional fishing styles, and produces bigger fish more consistently.

*Get Out There

There's lake trout fishing and then there's lake trout fishing, and this is unquestionably the most exciting way to approach this sport. To give our quarry a sporting chance, to beat us at our own game, makes the experience that much more rewarding when we do win. Real sportsmen long to get back to nature, back to the raw unadulterated savageness that is the wild. This is a true contest, where sheer strength and will rule the day, where your gut wrenches, as your fists clench the rod handle, and you go toe to toe, in a slugfest, with the power of nature, on its own terms. This, my friends, is what being in the wild is all about, the sheer exhilaration of the age old battle between man and beast, so get out there...



Big skirted long arm spinnerbaits with swimbait tails and lots of blades like this Monster School N Shad from Colby Simms Tackle are a top choice for big lakers.



Colby Simms Outdoors Pro Staffer John Yow with a nice Ontario lake trout caught casting an Original size School N Shad spinnerbait with 4 blades.

COLBY SIMMS is a multiple bass & muskie tournament champ and multiple circuit championship title holder, record holding guide, public speaker, award winning international writer and network TV & radio personality, and Owner of Colby Simms Outdoors LLC, offering tackle, professional promotions, media services, seminars & public appearances, and guided trips & fishing vacations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico & Costa Rica at:

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**By Bob Park, Owner/Maker
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As I'm writing this month's article, I had to blink my eyes and can't believe it's already mid-September and Deer season is just around the corner! Like many of you other Outdoorsmen out there, I am asking myself, "Where'd the Summer go?" Okay, let's not dwell on the fact that most of the great fishing weather is behind us, because it isn't! With all the strange weather we've had this Summer, fishing has been pretty much hit and miss here in Central Illinois. Just ask anybody who has spent time on the water this year... they'll echo my sentiments! By the time you read this it is now October and Fall is upon us and now it's time to take advantage of the opportunities presented to us for some really HOT bass fishing! This time of year is one of the two best seasons for catching really big Bass. I don't care if you want Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spots or whatever species you're targeting, Fall is a great time to go after trophy Bass.

What do we do about Fall cold fronts and falling water temperatures? The answer is easy, dress accordingly and deal with it. In many respects the Bass we are pursuing are a lot like us. For several months now the weather has been warm and pleasant and now it isn't. The Bass have learned to adapt or they won't eat and we have to adapt or we don't catch fish. The Bass have found the thermocline and now have the temperatures and oxygen levels they need, as their activity levels lower along with their body temperatures. This doesn't mean you pack up the rods and reels, and go hunting, or worse yet, stay home watching football. Actually this

SUCCESSFUL FALL BASS FISHING

time of year concentrates the Bass in some pretty predictable patterns, making our job easier! The fall feed is on and Bass will follow their chosen prey wherever they go. If they are feeding on Shad in your lake, target the schools you locate on your depthfinder. How do you tell the Shad apart from other baitfish you ask? Easy, it doesn't matter! This time of year a Bass will literally eat whatever it can fit into its mouth. I have seen them eat Bluegills, Crappies, Chub Shiners, Catfish and yes, Shad! So the lesson learned here is to mimic the baitfish patterns that are most successful. Experiment with colors till you find the one the Bass like best. Square lipped crankbaits in Bluegill and Crappie colors, or stickbaits in Minnow, Sucker or Shad colors, and of course my favorites... spinnerbaits and swim jigs in all those same patterns! Let's not forget to consider rattle traps and other lipless baits also, as well as deep diving crankbaits for those deeper schooling bass. Anything that looks like a nice fat meal and somewhat matches the baitfish in your lake will do the trick. Some guys will swear by smaller sized

lures in the fall, but my thinking is, the bait grows and matures over the season and all of the baitfish are now larger and longer than they were in May! Not to mention, Big Bass don't get big by eating minnows! They want a mouthful this time of year...large crankbaits, 5" stickbaits and ½ to ¾ oz jigs and spinnerbaits. Even the Shad are now considerably larger than they were in mid-summer.

The importance of cover really comes into play now. And any kind of green weeds will attract bass in the Fall more

so than any other time of year. There are two very good reasons for this... oxygen and food! The weeds offer the Bass the much needed oxygen that is beginning to deplete in other areas of the lake, and the baitfish congregate around the weeds for the same reason. Target weedlines, open pockets in deep weed edges, and any kind of wood, be



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it laydowns, standing timber, or wood boat docks. Believe it or not, the wood actually provides oxygen too! After all it's usually covered in that slimy green algae below the water surface. A couple of my favorite patterns in the fall are running a ½ oz tandem willow Raptor Premium Spinnerbait in the Crappie or Bluegill patterns through the thick branches of a laydown tree, ticking the branches as it comes through, then "killing" the lure and letting it "helicopter" down between the outer tips of the extended branches. The strike usually comes on the fall, if a bass hasn't already swiped it from between the branches!

Or I'll throw an RC3 or Big O square lipped crankbait and pull it through the same tree in the same color choices as the spinnerbaits, making sure to bounce off every branch I can, pausing briefly after a deflection. The strike usually comes right after the lure bounces off the branch or twig it just hit! This same pattern will work with swim jigs too. And don't be too quick to give up on rocky shorelines like riprap covered dam areas and banks. Those in relation to muddy clay flats can really produce as the last of the Crawfish

a r e getting ready to hibernate and they come out of their hiding places in the rocks to find a bed in the

mud for the winter. Any dark Crawfish colored lure can be good here too! Bouncing Craw colored cranks of the edges of the rocks or crawling a Craw colored jig and trailer through the rocks onto the mud flat works well too. A try jerk and dropping a Crawfish colored spinnerbait through the same area, you might be surprised at the result!

All in all, Fall can be a great time to go after some really hungry Bass and have a good chance at catching a real wall hanger! This time of year is what I'm anxious for and can't wait to try my luck for some Monster Bass during the Fall feeding pattern! Be safe, always wear a life jacket and take a kid fishing with



Fall Shad



Bluegill Squarebill

you, as they are the future of our sport! Be sure and check us out on Facebook for Fall fishing colored lures and also check out the assortment of Raptor Premium

Spinnerbaits at Route 24 Gun and Pawn in Bartonville. Until next month... Good Luck, Good Fishing and I hope to see you on the water somewhere!

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MDC CO-HOSTS YOUTH DEER HUNTING CLINIC IN HAWK POINT OCT. 7

HAWK POINT, MO - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to help youths discover why Missouri is such a great place to hunt. MDC is partnering again this year with the Cuivre River Wildlife Management Association to host the Lincoln County Youth Deer Hunting Clinic in Hawk Point on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The purpose of the day-long clinic is to provide area youth with the opportunity to learn about deer hunting basics from experienced adults. The event is free and open to all youth, ages 6-15, but an adult mentor must attend with the youth.

The event will be held at a private shooting range in the Hawk Point area and all participants will have an opportunity to hone their skills with archery, rifle, shotgun and atlatl stations. Participants will also learn about deer hunting, safety and regulations.

Local MDC conservation agents and members of the Cuivre River Wildlife

Management Association will provide hands-on instruction for a safe and positive learning environment. All equipment, firearms and ammunition will be provided.

Although this youth deer hunting clinic is free, space is limited. Participants must register by calling 636-441-4554. Registration opens Sept. 11 and closes Oct. 2.



Participants of the 2016 Youth Deer Hunting Clinic with staff from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Cuivre River Wildlife Management Association. The two organizations are hosting the clinic again this year on Oct. 7 in Hawk Point.



Join Quail and Upland Game Alliance - QUGA for a family fun night for the whole family! This is a night of fundraising for local upland game establishment, hunting, youth events and so much more. QUGA Chapters across Illinois will be hosting banquets with raffles, hunts, guns and of course great food and friends. Be a member of like-minded conservationists for all your outdoor resources. Contact any of your neighborhood QUGA Chapters for ticket information or visit us at www.quga.org or on Facebook.

River Oaks, Saturday, October 7th, 2017

Outlaws Motor Sport, Harrisburg, IL - Doors Open @5:00pm
Contact: Daniel Cullers - 618/926-5078

Sangamon River Valley, Thursday October 12th, 2017

Indian Creek Farmstead, Petersburg, IL - Doors Open @5:00pm
Contact: Alicia Davis Wade - 217/341-5857

Logan County, Thursday October 19th, 2017

American Legion, Lincoln, IL - Doors Open @5:00pm
Contact: Kendall Fitzpatrick - 217/737-6869

Cumberland Trail, Saturday, October 23rd, 2017

Vandalia Moose Lodge, Vandalia, IL - Doors Open @5:00pm
Contact: Christy Duval Robertson - 618/292-5505

Skillet Fork, January 13th, 2018,

Salem Community Activity Center, Salem, IL - Doors Open @5:00pm
Contact: Brad Hargis - 618/292-1798



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MDC INVITES YOUTH, FAMILIES TO TRAPPING CLINIC IN CALLAWAY COUNTY OCT. 21 - 22

By Robert Hemmelgarn

WILLIAMSBURG, MO – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites youth ages 11 – 17, and a parent or adult mentor to attend a Discover Nature – Families Youth Trapper Education Clinic. The clinic will take place Saturday, Oct. 21, from noon – 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 22, from 6 – 11 a.m. at Whetstone Creek Conservation Area near Williamsburg. Participants will learn basic trapping techniques including water sets, dry land sets, trapping equipment care and

maintenance, skinning, fleshing, and proper fur handling. MDC staff and volunteers from the Missouri Trapping Association will provide expertise, and under the guidance of experienced trappers, participants will set their own traps.

"Missourians have used trapping as a method of pursuing furbearers for generations," said Conservation Agent Matt Spurgeon. "It's a skill that requires special attention to animal behavior and how different species interact with their environment. Learning effective trapping skills can be a great way to enjoy the outdoors as a family,

and put food on the table."

MDC offers this youth trapper education clinic at no cost to attendees, but participants must preregister by Oct. 7. Dinner will be served on Saturday evening, and breakfast on Sunday morning, but participants should plan to bring their own snacks and drinks for the remainder of the training.

To register for this FREE training, contact Agent Spurgeon at (573) 864-3559 or Matt.Spurgeon@mdc.mo.gov (link sends e-mail) by Oct. 7.

MDC offers free Discover Nature programs across the state to help families



MDC invites youth and families to a FREE trapping clinic Oct. 21 - 22 at Whetstone Creek Conservation Area near Williamsburg.

explore nature and master outdoor skills together. To learn more about Discover Nature programs, visit nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/events.

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DEER HUNTERS: MDC NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH FINDING CWD

By Joe Jerek

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) needs the help of deer hunters to keep the deadly deer disease called chronic wasting disease (CWD) from spreading to more deer in more areas of Missouri. MDC will be conducting mandatory CWD sampling of harvested deer in 25 counties opening weekend of the fall firearms deer season, Nov. 11 and 12. Hunters who harvest deer in any of these select counties of MDC's CWD Management Zone during opening weekend **MUST** present their harvested deer at one of the Department's 56 CWD sampling stations so staff can collect tissue samples to test the animals for CWD.

The 25 mandatory CWD sampling counties are: Adair, Barry, Benton, Cedar, Cole, Crawford, Dade, Franklin, Hickory, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Macon, Moniteau, Ozark, Polk, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Warren, and Washington.

The 25 mandatory sampling counties include ones recently added to the CWD Management Zone after cases of CWD were found there in 2016-2017, counties with previous CWD positives, and counties very near where cases of CWD have been found.

Find mandatory sampling stations online at mdc.mo.gov/cwd, and in MDC's 2017 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet, available where permits are sold.

MDC is also offering voluntary CWD sampling throughout the entire deer hunting season at more than 55 participating taxidermists and designated MDC offices in and around the CWD Management Zone. Find voluntary sampling locations online at mdc.mo.gov/cwd.

INFO TO KNOW FOR MANDATORY SAMPLING

- Sampling locations will be open from 7:30 a.m. until at least 8 p.m.
- Deer must be presented by the hunter who harvested the animal.
- Hunters will be asked to identify the location within the county the deer was harvested.

- Deer may be field dressed before being taken to a sampling station.
- Hunters can also present just the deer head with about six inches of neck attached.
- For bucks bound to a taxidermist, the cape may be removed prior to being taken to a sampling station as long as about six inches of the neck is left attached.
- For bucks bound to a taxidermist, hunters may also leave the deer intact and inform staff the deer is bound for a taxidermist. Staff will complete paperwork and inform the hunters about participating taxidermists taking CWD samples.
- Hunters will be given information on getting free test results for their deer.

TIME-SAVING TIPS

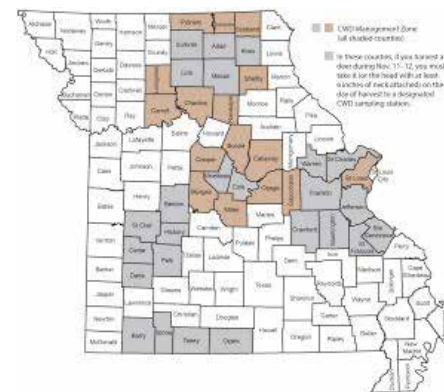
- Telecheck deer before going to a sampling location.
- Have completed permit information ready.
- Be prepared to locate the harvest location on a map.
- Position deer in the vehicle so the head and neck are easily accessible.
- Have the detached head or cape with about 6 inches of neck ready for sampling.

CWD sampling takes only a few minutes and consists of cutting an incision across the throat of harvested deer to remove lymph nodes for testing. Tissue samples are sent to an independent lab for testing.

EMPHASIS ON OPENING WEEKEND

Opening weekend of the firearms season is the most popular two hunting days for most deer hunters in Missouri. During those two days, hunters take about a third of the state's total annual deer harvest of about 275,000 animals.

continued on pg. 41



Hunters who harvest deer in any of the 25 gray-shaded counties of MDC's CWD Management Zone during the opening weekend of the fall firearms deer season, Nov. 11 and 12, must present their harvested deer at one of 56 MDC CWD sampling stations so staff can collect tissue samples to test the animals for CWD. Find sampling stations at mdc.mo.gov/cwd.

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COMPREHENSIVE DEER STUDY ENTERS THIRD HARVEST SEASON

By Bill Graham

St. Joseph, MO — The number of deer harvested during the archery and firearms hunting seasons are a major component of a five-year study to benefit Missouri's deer herd and hunters. Biologists from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) are using computer and satellite technology to track collared deer in specific northwest Missouri and Ozark counties. Hunters are asked to harvest collared deer if it is an animal they would normally take during the legal hunting seasons.

White-tailed deer wearing GPS collars are giving biologists data on how deer use habitats, their home ranges, movements, and survival rates. Biologists are tracking 108 deer in four northwest Missouri counties dominated by agriculture and 101 deer in four counties in the Ozarks where forest habitat prevails. Hunter harvest and natural mortality are both factors in how the state's deer populations fare in varied habitats. So hunters should not let a collar on a deer influence their decision on whether or not to harvest the animal.

"We want the study's sample group, the deer wearing the GPS collars, to reflect what is going on with the state's entire deer herd," said Kevyn Wiskirchen,

MDC deer biologist.

Biologists trap the deer during the winter months, collect data from them such as size, sex and age, place tracking collars on them, and then release them. GPS collars then send regular data about the deer's location and movements to the satellite, which relays that information to computers. The study is nearing almost one million data points on file.

"Over a span of five years, it's setting us up to have a large set of data to answer a lot of questions," Wiskirchen said.

The information will be used in years ahead to help make management decisions about the state's deer herd. For example, regulations may be adjusted according to a region's rise or fall of deer numbers due to disease or harvest pressure.

Deer were trapped and collared last winter in Douglas, Howell, Texas and Wright counties in the Ozarks; and Nodaway, Gentry, Andrew, and DeKalb counties in northwest Missouri. Crews also use technology to track pregnant does, find fawns after they are born, and put tracking collars on fawns. MDC and research partners have long studied deer. But this five-year study is one of the most comprehensive deer research projects



ever conducted in the state. The study is funded with assistance from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds.

The GPS collars provide regular updates on deer locations, so it is not necessary for hunters or the general public to report spotting deer with collars. But if anyone should spot a deer with a collar where something seems out of the ordinary with the collar, they are welcome to report the sighting.

MDC will begin trapping deer again in the winters of 2018 and 2019 once hunting seasons are complete. Any landowners interested in hosting deer trapping and tracking are welcome to contact MDC. Private landowners are a key partner in the study, as 93 percent of the state's acreage is privately owned. White-tailed deer are

among Missouri's most popular watchable wildlife, and deer hunting provides food, outdoor recreation and a \$1 billion boost to the state's economy.

Landowner cooperation has been a positive and important component of the study, said Jon McRoberts, MU research scientist and project coordinator. Biologists have worked with more than 300 landowners in the study areas.

For more information about the deer study, contact Kevyn Wiskirchen at 573-815-7901 ext 2899, or by email at Kevyn.wiskirchen@mdc.mo.gov (link sends e-mail); or contact Jon McRoberts at McRobertsj@missouri.edu (link sends e-mail).

For more information about deer hunting in Missouri, visit <http://on.mo.gov/2gLxZOR>.

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DESPITE HIGH WATER FISHING REMAINS GOOD ON WHITE RIVER

by Bill Cooper

Epic floods have been the norm in 2017. Several 500-year floods rocked the Midwest and the Ozarks last spring and now Texas faces the ravages of a 1,000 year flood.

The White River Basin in Arkansas faced heavy flooding in April and May. Flood records which stood for over 100 years toppled. The North Fork of the White at Tecumseh, Missouri reached the highest levels since August 1, 1915. Bull Shoals Lake is still well above normal pool as a result.

Damon Spurgeon and I recently traveled to Cotter, Arkansas to fly fish the fabled White River for monster Brown trout. The renowned trout stream still ran high because of the heavy spring rains and is expected to do so until October, according to local fly fishing guide Larry Babin.

"This is the longest stretch of high

water I've experienced on the White," the manager of the Natural State Fly Shop in downtown Cotter said.

Despite the higher than normal river flows for the summer season, Babin has continued to put his clients on fish. "The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission stocks roughly one half million trout in the White River each year," he said. "That is a lot of fish and they are still there despite the high-water conditions."

As we walked onto the deck of White River Trout Lodge, Damon and I paused, before placing our bags inside, to look at the river. "This place is mesmerizing," Damon said. "Look there are trout feeding just off that weed line. There is a really nice Brown, too."

"Calm down," I said. "You are going

to tire yourself out getting so excited. We have three days coming up with the best fly fishing guides on the river. You'll see lots of trout over the course of those three days."

After visiting with White River Trout Lodge owners Bill and JoAnna Smith, Damon I headed to downtown Cotter to Natural State Fly Shop, which is located within sight of the famous Rainbow Bridge, which spans the White.

We immediately struck up a conversation with renowned fly tier Ron McQuay. He is well known in fly fishing circles and Damon immediately began quizzing him about fly patterns best for the White River and how to fish them.

I saw an opportunity. Minutes later I began filming the conversations between McQuay and Damon. McQuay proved

immediately to be a wealth of information. Clips from those discussions may be soon on WWW.Facebook.com/Outsidealways.

Shortly, the fly shop manager, Larry Babin walked into the store. Introductions were short. Conversations took off like a fire doused with gasoline. We had walked into a fly fisherman's dream come true. Babin proved to be a virtual encyclopedia of trout fishing information and we intended to glean all of it we could in a short amount of time.

We planned to hook up with Larry of WWW.HOGSONTHEFLY.COM, Matt Millner of Rising River Guides and Taylor Wooten of WWW.FLIPPINFLYGUIDES.COM the following afternoon. Larry, Matt and Damon would float in Larry's drift boat with Larry at the helm, while the other two guys fly fished. Taylor and I would follow in a second boat. I would film the action.

Damon and I spent the next morning filming pieces with Larry and Matt and intermittently discussing what we could expect for the afternoon of fishing to come. We were primed by the time fishing time arrived.

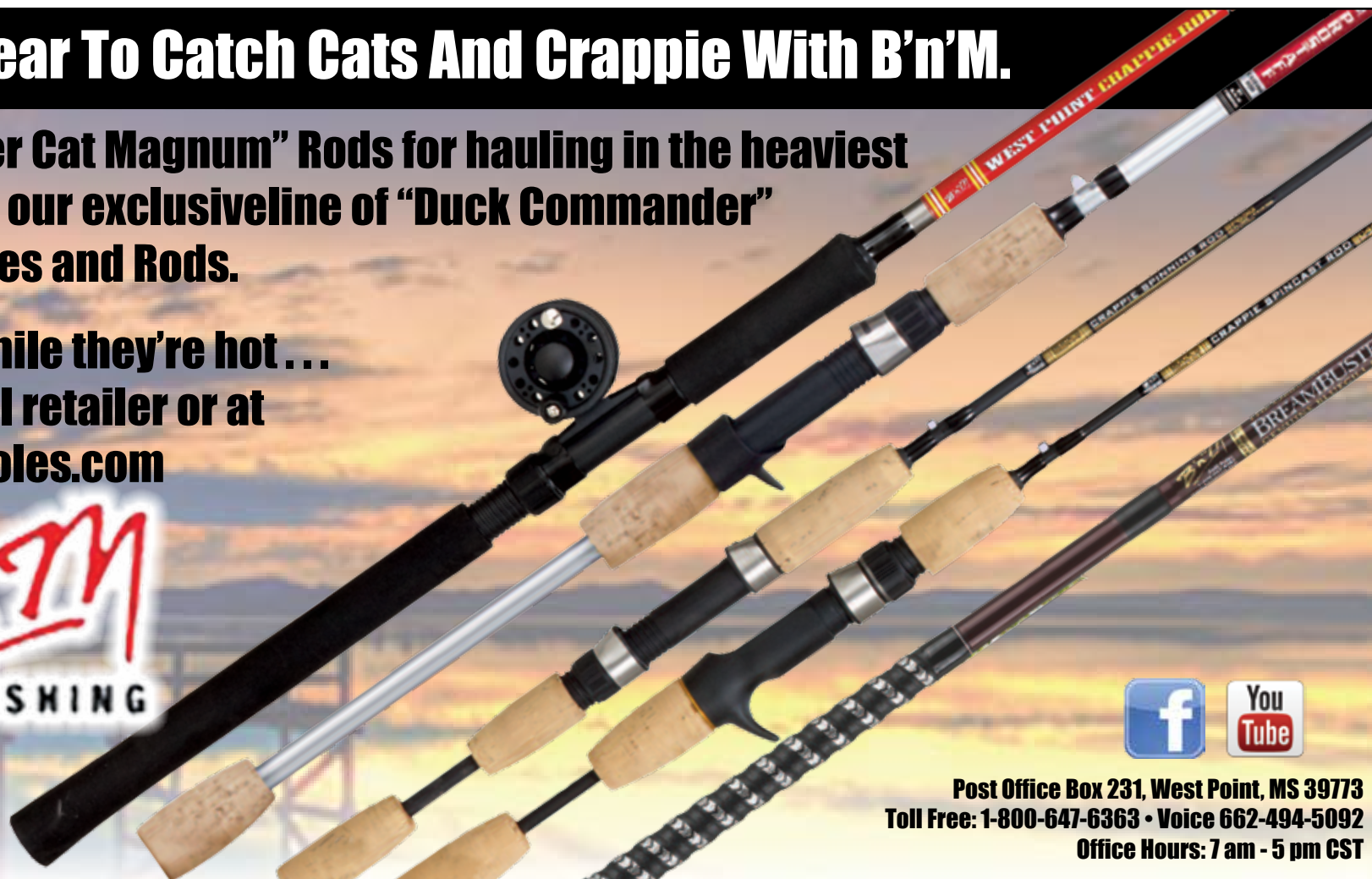
Everyone chattered nonstop as we readied the drift boats, tied on flies, and double checked the camera gear. The

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consensus among the fishermen in our party was to tie on a hopper in hopes of catching a big brown of ten pounds plus.

I inhaled the fresh air fragrant with river smells as we pushed into the current. I made my last second checks for light and power on my video camera. Seconds later, Larry, Matt and Damon yelled in excitement. "Did you see that fish blow up on that hopper?" Damon had a fish on less than 75 feet from the boat ramp. It looked to be a good afternoon on the water.

They all posed for photos with the beautifully colored Brown trout. It provided a great start to the trip, but was not what we were looking for. Damon and I were on assignment for WWW.SOUTHERNTROUT.COM and hoped for a monster Brown trout of 20 pounds or more.

Larry had informed us that the bite had been tougher with the high-water conditions. It would be a gamble to target larger fish, but Damon knew he was facing the possibility of catching a lifetime fish. He elected to cast big hoppers and even larger streamer in hopes of hooking that one monster Brown.

Respectable Browns up to 22 inches

continued to fall prey to the big hoppers, but the monsters weren't playing. Damon managed one explosive strike from a much larger fish before night fall approached.

"I saw several huge Browns that will haunt me for a long time" Damon said. "One had to be well over 20 pounds. It is just phenomenal to be on waters that house such huge fish. I know every cast I make has the potential to turn one of the big ones. I'll fish until my arms fall off for that one fish."

Damon made thousands of casts over the next two days and caught plenty of trout, but no monsters. "I knew the chances



Rising River Guide Matt Milner shows off a trophy Brown trout his client caught in the White River near Cotter, Arkansas.

of catching a really big Brown were slim, with the current water conditions, but I'd fish it every single day if I could. The big ones are there."

We were sent to the White River to gather material for a winter time trout fishing article. With it still being summer, we relied on the guides for information and photos about winter time trout fishing. Therefore, it proved a great adventure to gamble on catching a big Brown. Big Browns one...us zero. We shall return soon!



Bev Taylor of Dunlap with the first fish she caught in her new kayak over the Labor Day weekend. Thanks to Mike O'Bryan with REMAX Traders Unlimited for the great photo. Call him at 309-687-5069 for all of your commercial needs.



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ILLINOIS FALL TROUT SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 21

The Fall Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing-Only Season Opens October 7 at nine sites

SPRINGFIELD, IL — The 2017 Illinois Fall Trout Fishing Season will open on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 54 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

Two weeks prior to the fall trout opener, the Fall Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing Season will open at nine sites (locations marked with an asterisk (*) in the list below) on Saturday, Oct. 7. Fly fishing anglers can use fly fishing gear to catch and release trout beginning Oct. 7 at those nine sites. No trout may be kept during the fly fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular fall trout season beginning Oct. 21.

The Illinois catchable trout program is funded by those who use the program through the sale of Inland Trout Stamps. For the fall season, the IDNR stocks approximately 80,000 rainbow trout into bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted.

No trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from Oct. 1 until the fall trout season opens at 5:00 a.m. on Oct. 21 (not all sites are open at 5:00 a.m. on opening day). Anyone attempting to take (harvest) trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

All anglers — including those using fly fishing gear who intend to release fish caught before Oct. 21 — must have a valid fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp, unless they are under the age of 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. The daily catch limit for each angler is five trout.

Illinois fishing licenses and Inland Trout Stamps are available at DNR Direct license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. For a location near you, check the IDNR website at this link: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>

Fishing licenses and trout stamps can also be purchased by using a credit card through DNR Direct online via the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or by calling DNR Direct toll-free at 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648).

NOTE: Not all fall trout sites open at 5:00 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite trout fishing location prior to the season. For more information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout.

The 54 locations that will be open for Fall Trout Fishing Season are listed below.

2017 Illinois Fall Trout Locations

(*) Denotes Sites Open for Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing Early Season

North

- Bureau County: Hennepin Canal Parkway
- Cook County: Axehead Lake, Cook County Forest Preserve District

- Cook County: Belleau Lake, Cook County Forest Preserve District
- Cook County: Busse Woods North, Cook County Forest Preserve District
- Cook County: Green Lake, Cook County Forest Preserve District
- Cook County: Sag Quarry East, Cook County Forest Preserve District
- Cook County: Wolf Lake, Wm. Powers Conservation Area
- DuPage County: Silver Lake, DuPage County Forest preserve District
- Jo Daviess County: Apple River, Apple River State Park (*)
- Kankakee County: Bird Park Quarry, Kankakee
- Kankakee County: Rock Creek, Kankakee River State Park (*)
- Kendall County: Big Lake at Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Lake County: Banana Lake, Lake County Forest Preserve District
- Lake County: Sand Lake, Illinois Beach State Park
- LaSalle County: Illinois and Michigan Canal, Lock 14
- McHenry County: Spring Grove Hatchery Pond
- Ogle County: Pine Creek, White Pines Forest State Park (*)
- Rock Island County: Prospect Park
- Warren County: Citizen's Lake
- Whiteside County: Centennial Park Pond, Rock Falls
- Will County: Lake Strini
- Will County: Van Horn Woods

Central

- Adams County: Siloam Springs State Park Lake (*)
- Cass County: Gridley Lake at Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA (*)
- Christian County: Manners Park Pond, Taylorville Park District
- Coles County: Eastern Illinois University Campus Pond, Charleston
- Douglas County: Villa Grove West Lake
- Hancock County: Horton Lake, Nauvoo State Park (*)
- Macon County: Rock Springs Pond
- Macoupin County: Beaver Dam Lake
- McDonough County: Argyle Lake
- Morgan County: Morgan Lake, Nichols Park, Jacksonville (*)
- Sangamon County: IDOT Lake, Springfield (*)

- Sangamon County: Southwind Park Pond, Springfield
- Sangamon County: Washington Park Pond, Springfield
- Shelby County: Forest Park Lagoon, Shelbyville
- Tazewell County: Mineral Springs Park Lagoon
- Vermilion County: Clear Lake, Kickapoo State Recreation Area

South

- Bond County: Greenville Old City Lake
- Crawford County: Crawford County Conservation Area Pond #6
- Jefferson County: Mount Vernon Game Farm Pond
- Johnson County: Ferne Clyffe State Park Lake
- Madison County: Highland Old City Lake
- Marion County: Boston Pond, Stephen A.

Forbes State Park

- Massac County: Fairgrounds Pond, Fort Massac State Park, Metropolis
- Randolph County: Derby Lake, World Shooting and Recreational Complex, Sparta
- Randolph County: Randolph County Lake
- Saline County: Jones State Lake Pond
- St. Clair County: Frank Holten State Recreation Area main lake
- St. Clair County: Jones Park Lake, East St. Louis
- St. Clair County: Willow Lake, Peabody River King State Fish and Wildlife Area (*)
- Wabash County: Beall Woods Lake, Beall Woods State Park
- Wayne County: Sam Dale State Fish and Wildlife Area Trout Pond
- Williamson County: Devil's Kitchen Lake

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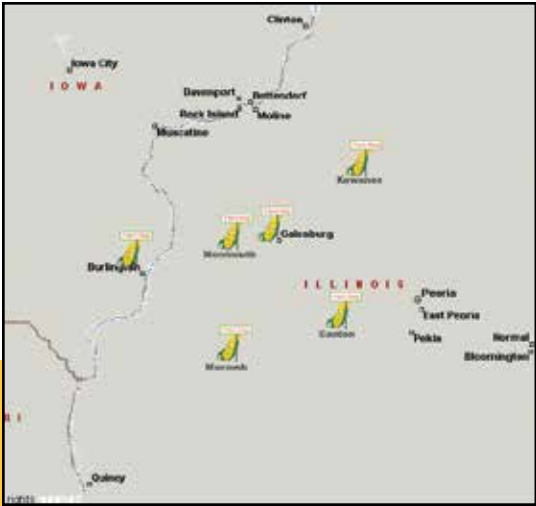
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BASS POPULATION THRIVING AT LAKE OF THE OZARKS

by John Neporadny Jr.



A bountiful bass population will make for an exciting fall at Lake of the Ozarks, but one of Mother Nature's annual quirks could slow down some of the action.

"From a fisheries biologist standpoint, it is a pretty boring population because it never changes," says Greg Stoner, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) fisheries biologist. "It is always good because we don't see fluctuations in year-class strength and growth rate like they do in some other lakes. In this lake we have very stable recruitment and very stable growth rates so the population doesn't change much from year to year."

Tournament weights have increased in recent years, which could be an indication of a couple of years of above average recruitment in the bass population. "You will see that reflected in the tournament catches and angler catch rates because there is a higher percentage of big fish out there," says Stoner.

A major factor aiding the yearly recruitment of Lake of the Ozarks bass is the abundance of docks that provide plenty of cover for young bass. "We probably have more cover in this lake than Truman or Pomme de Terre have," Stoner says. "There are 25,000 docks on this lake and maybe a third of the people put brush out around their docks so that is a lot of brush."

With such a large bass population, the fishing should be easy during this fall since the water is cooling down and bass are feeding heavily in preparation for winter. However, the fall turnover could curtail some of the action. Stoner believes anglers can use the turnover as a viable excuse for struggling in the fall if they are fishing in an affected area. "I don't know if the fish feed differently then or all of sudden they can go anywhere," says Stoner.

Bass can go anywhere during or after the turnover due to a mixing of oxygen through various water layers. "To understand turnover you have to understand the characteristic of water in lakes called stratification," says Stoner. "When coming out of the winter and into the spring, water starts warming up and you will get a layer down to 25 feet called the thermocline. Above that there is an area called the epilimnion where all the photosynthesis takes place and where your oxygen is at. When you get to the thermocline there is a rapid drop in temperature but also a rapid drop in oxygen. Below the thermocline

is a layer called the hypolimnion which is devoid of oxygen in the summer. So by the end of summer you have these three distinct layers set up."

The top layer of water is lighter in density than the thermocline, but when cooler weather arrives in the fall, the warmer top layer cools down and becomes denser. As the water continues to cool, the surface water's density continues to increase causing the layer to drop and mix with the thermocline. The turnover occurs when the upper zone cools to the same temperature (somewhere in the 50-degree range) as the bottom so there is no difference in water density and stratification has broken down. This allows the similar densities and temperatures of the water layers to mix and create the turnover.

Water affected by the turnover usually has a milky green tint to it. Some areas will be covered on the surface with bits of moss and bubbles, which is the result of algae dying and decomposing in the cooler water.

Turnover typically occurs from mid- to late October but will start sooner if the weather has been unseasonably cooler in late summer or early fall. Stoner notes the upper tributaries turn over first, and it might take three weeks to

a month for the turnover to spread throughout the whole lake. That means anglers will always be able to find sections of the lake unaffected by turnover.

Another fall phenomenon anglers should pay attention to is the shad migration. Stoner believes the cooler water temperatures and food supply in the fall draw shad to the backs of coves. "If there is a good warm, sunny day the baitfish will be in the backs of the coves," he says. "They are also putting on the feedbag for winter and they feed on plankton. When the water is warm on sunny days there will be more production of plankton in the coves."

"If the sunlight can hit the bottom sediment it is going to make it a little warmer and algae will grow on the sediments that the shad will feed on," says Stoner. "Shad don't just swim around and pick plankton out of the water. If you go to the back of the coves and see bubbles coming up, that is where the shad are pecking at algae on the bottom."

The biologist also suggests looking for gulls in the coves to find large concentrations of baitfish.

Stoner recalls winning a tournament at Lake of the Ozarks during the fall by keying on big schools of shad in the back end of a tributary. He caught all of his fish throwing a 3/4-ounce Rat-L-Trap that he let sink 10 to 15 feet deep into the schools of suspended shad.

For information on lodging and other facilities at the Lake of the Ozarks or to receive a free vacation guide, call the Lake of the Ozarks Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-FUN-LAKE or visit the Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau web site at funlake.com.

Copies of John Neporadny's book, "THE Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide" are available by calling 573/365-4296 or visiting the website www.jnoutdoors.com.



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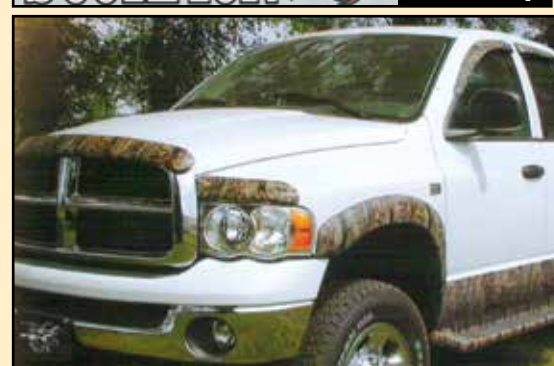


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ADD NEW ELEMENT TO YOUR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

by Dave Shadow
davidsha@consolidated.net

There's a bunch of ways to enjoy our great outdoors and millions of Americans participate in one or more of them. Whether your "likes" run toward bird watching, hiking, picnicking, fishing, hunting, biking, or one of the myriad other outdoor activities, there's new ways to enhance the experience. I've been playing with some of the products (just a few) that are available today. Let me explain.

There's almost no end to what "modern technology" has brought to our everyday world. Just a few years ago we would have thought many of these products were just figments of an overactive imagination. Maybe something from a Star Wars movie or a Dick Tracy comic book. A lot of this new hi-tech stuff was developed by the military or some subsidiary company, usually with our tax money. Many of these hi-tech products are not only "real" today but they're available to the

general public. These products open up a whole new world of enhancement and enjoyment to the above mentioned outdoor activities.

One of the new products that comes to mind are the "drones" with amazing capabilities. Many contractors and farmers are using these to learn more about their endeavors without the necessity to travel into the fields to glean out this knowledge. They not only have immense photographic capabilities, but may have mapping with GPS coordinates and more. It's a fast growing industry with no one knowing where it will eventually lead.

Another cool product and less expensive are the ACTION CAMERAS. I'll bet you've been hiking, hunting, camping, or fishing when you've seen or done things that you would give a "buck" to have on film. Action cameras open up a whole new world of a means to capture your memories. These are the present items

I've been playing with for some time. These action cameras are available from several different manufacturers and retail sources and probably most will work to some extent. For my use and my "mental capacity" I needed something simple and easy to use.

If you suddenly hook a big fish or spot a large whitetail buck everything seems to speed up and it's very difficult to remember such simple things as "turn on the camera". When I tried (for years) to do this with conventional equipment, the results were dismal. The new action cameras solve that problem (mostly). You still have to remember to start the camera.

Go-Pro seems to be a very popular brand but I selected a Tactacam because of the ability to mount it very simply on the top of my rifle scope or bow. This puts the single "operation button" right at my fingertips and the quality of both still pictures and action videos is great. As I said before, when everything is happening so fast, simplicity is an imperative option. The Tactacam operates all from one simple push button, auto-focuses, and captures videos in a form that is pretty much just in the same form that you're seeing them. Some cameras have a fish-eye effect in order to capture both distant and close-up views. Not the Tactacam. I don't have to know how they accomplish this, it just works.

Once you've captured the still pics or video, it's just a simple matter of plugging into a USB cable and viewing, editing, copying, or deleting your memories. These and many other "hi-tech" products are now within reach of the average outdoorsman. Try filming your

experiences and I think you'll not only enjoy it more, it will encourage you to get out more and do more things.

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TOURNAMENT INFO: BROCK McMORRIS

of Newton wins The Cumberland Bassmasters' tournament on Clinton Lake. 17 year old Brock not only showed the "old guys" how to weigh in a winning creel but he also weighed in a monster largemouth that tipped the scales at 7 pounds and 3 oz for the "big bass" of the day. His winning total was 12.58 lbs. Brock hadn't got to fish much this summer due to some physical issues but he certainly didn't forget how to do it! Clinton Lake was a pleasant new experience for many of the club members with several nice creels coming to the scales. Second and third places were shared by Dave Winchester and Lee Walden with a tie of 6.74 pounds. The next event will be on Sam Parr Lake --- For additional information contact Pete Shanks: peteshanks@yahoo.com




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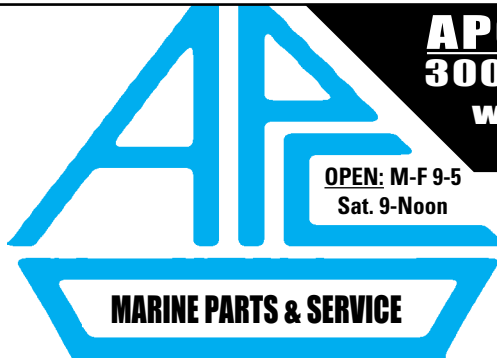
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WOO'S CORNER

BY WOO DAVES

October is a great month to fish for bass for several good reasons. The top water bite is fantastic in the fall. The shad are cruising the shore lines feeding and the bass are right there with them. Most lakes are in draw down mode making the stumps, rocks and brush piles easy to find. Probably one of the best reason is very few people are on the water giving you plenty of water to explore.

When I head out in my Mercury powered Nitro Z20 I'm looking for bait fish or birds working in an area as this tells me bass are probably around. If you see striper fishermen working an area the bait fish are probably there and that is another good place to try. Bass can be in the main lake or in the creeks, it all depends on BAIT. My favorite two places to look for bass are long tapering points and the back end of creeks.

Bass will run bait up on tapering points and feed. Now if you can find several points in an area you can rotate

TECHNIQUES FOR FALL FISHING

around all day and catch bass. The creeks offer two settings, one is the last channel bank which can be good and then some creeks have big flats in the back. A lot of times you can get across the flats into another deeper channel and that can be great. This is where your Raymarine A12 with the Navionics chip comes in real handy, as it will show you places like that. If the bass run a school of shad into these areas it's game on.

In the morning, I will start out with a Zoom Horny Toad and fish it like a buzz bait. Hold your XPS rod up high so you can fish the toad slow on the surface and this allows you to drop the rod if a bass hits giving him a couple of seconds to take it. I usually go by the rule when I can't see the frog set the hook. Now if you miss a fish have a Zoom trick worm rigged weightless and try to get it in the strike zone as fast as you can, just let it sink about three feet and start a slow twitching back to your Nitro. This will catch a lot of the bass that missed the toad. White or black frog and a green pumpkin Trick worm works the best. No matter what top water bait I throw if I miss

a strike, the Zoom Trick worm goes right to that area as fast as I can get it there.

Next, I will throw a Bass Pro Shops' Laser Eye buzz bait in black, taking the skirt off and putting a black Zoom Horny Toad on for a trailer and also using a trailer hook. This can be deadly combo. Yep, I got my Trick worm ready if I miss a strike.

As the day goes on I like to use Bass Pro Shops' Slim Dog, because a walking bait comes into play or an XPS Z-Pop popper.

Some days the bass want a walking bait and other times a popping bait. I don't know why you just must try both until something happens. The Slim Dog is a very easy bait to walk and has put a lot of bass in the live well for me. One



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Now if you have a big flat area to fish look for stick ups brush or anything that can hold a bass. Ease up to the area with your MotorGuide slowly, put your Power Poles down and work slowly with a variety of baits. Sometimes, no make that a lot of times, you must make the bass bite. I have fished places like this for five minutes suddenly, a bass bites and then you catch two or three. Many times, it's all about reaction. Another thing fish it like you know there is one there.

Now shallow crank baits like the Zoom Mutt or the XPS Rattle Shad work well in the fall around flats or shallow points. A Carolina rig is another option to work in these areas. But if I'm just fishing I look for the top water bite for the excitement.

This is also a good time of the year, especially if the lakes are down to mark stumps, rocks, brush piles or any other structure you find for spring fishing. Get out on the water this fall and make it happen. good luck and hope you catch a big one.

May God Bless you and your family. Thank a soldier and a policeman for a job well done. Visit hendrickcars.com for a great tow vehicle.

Deer Hunters ...continued

"Focusing on this key weekend gives us the best opportunity to collect the most tissue samples during a very concentrated time period," explained MDC Wildlife Disease Coordinator Jasmine Batten. "Prior to conducting mandatory sampling for the first time last year, we collected about 7,600 tissue samples through voluntary sampling over the entire deer season. Thanks to deer hunters, last

year we collected 19,200 samples during opening-weekend mandatory sampling." Batten added the increased number of samples collected gives MDC scientists a much better understanding of the distribution and prevalence of the disease -- where it is and how many deer may have it. It can also help find new cases in new areas.

Find more information on CWD from the MDC website at mdc.mo.gov/cwd.

DID YOU KNOW: Missouri offers some of the best deer hunting in the country, and deer hunting is an important part of many Missourians' lives and family traditions. Deer hunting also gives a \$1 billion annual boost to the state economy and local communities. CWD has the potential to greatly reduce deer numbers and deer hunting over time for Missouri's half-a-million deer hunters and almost two million wildlife watchers.



For some reason, grass carp were hitting the hook, worm and bobber on Sunday, August 27th 2017. This giant grass carp was caught and released by Renee Farris while fishing on a private farm in Peoria County while fishing with her husband Gary and her great nephews Dalton and Caiden. What a great day to spend with young family members.

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BIGFOOT

By Daniel Vinovich

The last season was a good one. Within a few weeks, everything had fallen into place. With a 153 inch buck and a 145 inch buck on the ground before the first gun season, my homework had paid off, but there was still a nagging pain coming from my gut. BigFoot had once again steered clear of the 12 or so traps I had set for him. Had he found a hot doe on another farm or had another hunter taken him out in the last couple weeks of the season? I saw him three times during the season. Each time, just a little out of range of my Mathews Z7. The first time, he had slowly moved down the ridge checking the wind's current for the first signs of the does coming into estrus. The second time, he had a hot doe holed up in a box valley where there was no chance of a stalk without him seeing me. The third time, he busted me climbing down from the stand heading in for a little lunch. He did not get that big by being stupid. He was one of those bucks that seemed to know my every move before I made it, and I hated him for it, but, for some reason, I could not shake the thought of the opportunities I had on him. He was right there three times. I just could not close the deal. Each time, my stand was just a little off or the cold November wind had sent me toward the truck just a few seconds too soon.

These are the gut wrenching thoughts that flooded my mind as I shrugged across the soupy, freshly picked ground at the end of October. Yes, I needed answers. Was he still alive? My cameras never saw him this September? Where had he set up his rub lines? How had he steered clear of my stands? Was he just lucky or had I made a little mistake that he picked up on? I slowed my pace as I reached the center of the field. The ground under my feet was covered with deer tracks. They had spent a lot of time here before the season opener. My eyes strained trying to decipher the tracks one from another. Most of the tracks were those of does and small bucks. His were nowhere to be seen. I slowly made circles in the field looking for his track. His track could not be mistaken for another buck, not from

the stand point of an odd track, but rather the sheer size of it. His tracks were long, wide and deep. His dew claws left their mark on even the hardest ground. He had to be over 300 lbs. on the hoof. His huge size gave him his name, BigFoot. He actually looked like a donkey when he walked. You know, big chest with a bigger gut, swaying from side to side with every step. A huge frame with even a bigger set of hardware on his head. One of those racks that would make even the most seasoned hunter go weak at the knees. I still remember our first encounter. After it, I felt like I was gonna' throw up. He was the real deal! I have 3 Booners on the wall. My best topping with a B&C score around the mid 180's, but this brute would make both of them turn and run!

I headed north hoping to come across his track, but by the end of the field all I had to show for my trouble was 16 pounds of mud on my boots. I stopped and sat on a fallen tree cleaning my boots before checking the creek crossing for his track. The feeling I felt was not good! This was one of the main fields where I had seen a majority of the whitetails feeding before the season and his track was nowhere to be seen.

Fatigue had set in. I had checked six different creek crossings and the edge of two bedding areas and still no tracks. Had he fallen in one of the gun seasons? Surely, I would have heard something if a hunter had even seen him, let alone put their tag on him. This was the thought that made me climb ridge after ridge. The



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hope that I would, once again, be able to match my wits against such a worthy adversary come November. Just as I thought to myselfthis is stupid.....I saw it up the ridge a hundred yards or so. An old rub so big it looked as if the old hedge tree had tangled with a 100cc chain saw. It was massive. The tree, being at least 12 inches or so in diameter, was shredded. I worked my way up the steep ridge. As I neared the rub, I could not believe how far up the tree it went. I am 6'3" and it was almost up to my chest. There is only one whitetail in this neck of the woods that could have left this. So, this is how he was eluding me. Damn, this buck must have some mountain goat in him. I would never thought he would have moved around this farm on the damn side of a cliff. Well, that explains a lot of his disappearing tricks! I picked up my binoculars and started scanning the ridge for another rub.....after a couple minutes, I saw another. Moving to it, I scanned again and there was another. Each rub was surrounded by older smaller rubs. Each area around the giant rub had 3-4 smaller rubs from 3 inch trees up to 10 or 12 inch trees. He had been traveling

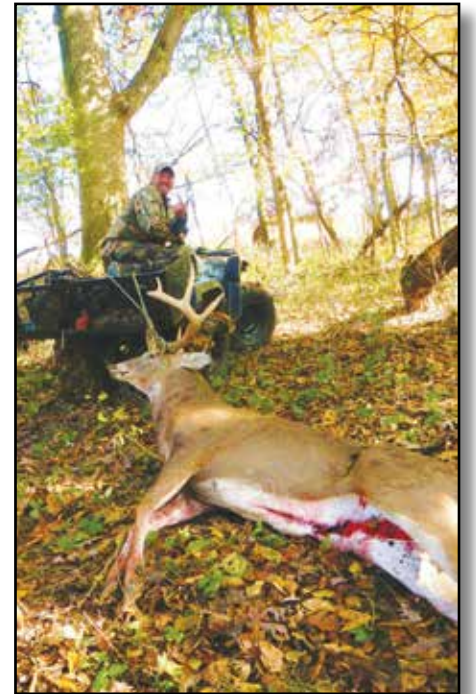
here since he was a 2 year old, probably the reason I never had any trail camera pics of him. I followed the rub line for a couple hours marking each set of rubs on my map. Each rub area told a story, and boy, did I soak up each one. After an hour or so, I lost the rub line at the edge of the property. I took a little break on a small stump on my side of the fence. Tilting my water bottle up trying to gain the last drop, I saw it, a well placed stand about 30 yards from the property line. Was this where the BigFoot met his fate? Had the big rubs been his last? Had an arrow or slug ended his reign in this area or maybe crippled him only to crawl into a ditch and take his last breath of cold November air? I felt sick to my stomach!

Up the ridge I dragged my sorry brow beat ass knowing that the deer I hoped had made it probably may not have. Closer to the top of the ridge I climbed. The hundred and fifty yards seemed to take hours fighting for each foothold on the slippery slope I trudged. I was not upset from the thought of losing such a deer, but rather pissed at myself from not finding him during the last season.

I had traveled quite a few miles on

this wet and cold October day and the truck was still about a mile away. The rest of the walk was not fun. I was no longer looking for his track. I had already decided in my mind the next time I would see him would be at the Illinois Deer Classic mounted and displayed with the huge rack being fondled by every Tom, Dick, and Harry that passed. The thought of that made me push even harder through the mud. I was not sure if I was soaked from the late October scouting or from the light rain that was now falling? Across the field I went towards the point. Then, south along the edge of the field with about a half mile left to the truck, I saw a well beaten path coming out of the bottoms. "I never knew that one was there," I thought to myself. Well, I need to mark it on my map for a quick hunt with the climber. I struggled to pull the wet pack from my back, dropping it on the ground. I headed to the trail with map in hand. It was a well worn trail heavily rutted from years of use. Well, today was not a complete waist of time. This would be a great setup for the upcoming rut. I marked it on the map and walked it a little ways looking for a tree for a stand, finding

a nice straight oak about 25 yards off the trail. I reached in my pocket for a marker tack to mark it for a stand location. Damn, I am out of tacks. I moved back towards the field edge and my pack to get another tack. Kneeling, I opened the pack and



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CONTINUED ON PG. 81



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OCTOBER MEMORIES!

By: David Herschelman

Our first meeting was in the first week of the Illinois Archery Season for deer many years past. In my most productive stand well before dark, my concentration was broken by movement from the south! Straining hard to see the animals' headgear before he passed below me was difficult but as he progressed further, movement was noticed from his rear. As these two Bucks passed it was clear they were the juveniles of the group appearing before me! The next traveler had high tines clearly evident in the early morning glow from the slowly rising sun. The adrenaline jump clearly initiated the "get ready" response. Suddenly, at about thirty yards distance another Buck materialized. As is often the case, the last follower is the most senior of the group and this one's headgear identified him as the clear "Best of Class" in this group of four travelers.

Again, being the senior member usually signifies a maturity level superior to the juniors present and this was the case with this animal. Something was not right! Either he had caught a minimal scent not to his liking but with the other bucks within the danger zone not alarmed, he was frozen. Mature deer will often remain frozen in time until the danger is identified and analyzed! His angle towards my position was not good and he was out a good thirty yards both making a shot difficult but not impossible. I elected to let time progress and hope he would follow his brethren to within a higher probability of success bow range! Seconds elapsed and to my dismay, he elected to back-track his path, knowing his safety and my opportunity was lost!

Was my movement to blame? Was the fickle scent trail reversed in the eddy created from the canyon to my rear the culprit? Was his dreaded sixth sense initiated? Whatever the reason, heartbreak in the deer woods was upon me. Bucks still associating with one another and traveling in a group signified their lack of competition and willingness to follow their normal travel patterns often giving a bow hunter the best opportunities of the season. To me, this is the finest of hunting if your homework was successful and you catch your target in complete unawareness in the early season but today one chance was lost!

This animal was never seen again until an all-day vigil on this same stand about fifteen days into November that year. His first appearance was chasing a doe to the West of my location about mid-morning. Later that afternoon he approached from the North East hot on the same doe but presenting no shot opportunity! His rack seemed wide and tall but enough time had been endured on the stand this year to create the "they all look prettier at closing time" phenomenon!

Hungry and cold this windy November day, the



decision was made to stay put as two sighting in one day signified he was close and walking out and back in was too dangerous in this situation. As darkness approached, my attitude shifted to at least the day will be over and I can eat and rest! As light faded, movement was noted by a doe as she climbed from the valley to my elevation and began to walk directly toward my position. Soon the Buck materialized behind her and my hopes soared! Surely, he would follow her and give me a bunny shot with the wind perfect! The opposite occurred, he drifted off towards the North West and I cursed my luck. Was I witnessing the split up of this pair, with him off to find another girlfriend?

He stopped and froze looking back at her. As if on a string he reversed direction and reinitiated his desire for this girl!

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As they approached, their line of travel would put them within ten yards of my location and wind safe! I readied and drew. The doe slipped past without incident and now for the moment of truth! When he closed to the closest point, I mouth grunted to stop him although risky at this close range, I calculated the rustling of the leaves under his hooves would muffle my sound but get him to freeze. I was wrong, my grunt was not even acknowledged. He continued to walk leaving me in a panic as to what to do! He suddenly turned and headed directly away from me further increasing my level of anxiety! I lined up on my best shot and released. He continued to move away and turned back to the South with no sign of concern vanishing in the darkness. After my all day vigil, did I shoot nothing but dirt?

After readying my gear and climbing from my position I walked to the point where I had last seen him in the now darkness. Frustration turned to elation as ten yards ahead lay my animal expired! Evidently his demise occurred without his knowledge! My plan to hold vigil on the stand and due to not taking a shot at him earlier in the year, patience had paid off with this animal.

As an afterthought, this deer has evidently been in a fight early in his career resulting in a left eye being off center due to a crushed eye socket and slightly curved face pattern. My taxidermist, Gene Davis, from Shelbyville noticed this feature unbeknownst to me. He trimmed the normal form away and built the form with clay to mimic the actual dimensions of the animal! As a result, he is one of my favorite mounts both from the memories of the hunts involved in my ultimate success and the care taken by Gene to honor this trophy.

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Geese on the Golden River. This photo was taken at Henry Harbor/ Illinois River on April 23, 2017. This won second place at the Marshall County Old Settler's Days Photo Contest on August 26th.

WHAT IS A BOWIE KNIFE?

By Jason Baldwin

jasbebel@comcast.net

Have you ever asked yourself that question? What is a Bowie Knife? What shape is it? How big is it? What does it look like? What materials are they made out of? Well, if you haven't, you might contemplate those questions and then try to imagine a good Bowie. What comes to mind? No doubt the variety could be as endless as there are collectors and their stage of collecting.

I do think however that there are a group of knives that ascend to the top of that list. I will try to describe them here and why. I have held and inspected many classic Bowies and all that are photographed here. I continuously wish to hear the answer to... "only if they could speak". Upon reading the following, hopefully you will have some insight as to what is a Bowie knife.

The photo examples here are of Bowie knives manufactured in what I believe to be the "Classic period" of Bowie manufacture. That is a time period

parallel to the Bowie Brothers (James & Rezin) exploits, late 1820's to circa 1850. Jim died at the Alamo in 1836 and his brother Rezin passed away a handful of years later. To me this is the classic time for American and Sheffield Bowie knife Manufacturing.



Photo 1 Lamb W. City Ivory handled Bowie. Tip to bottom left. Similar knife to that as in Tachees Sash only white ivory handle rather than ebony.

Above you have an exquisitely hand forged American made Bowie by Lamb of W City (as Washington DC was called in the first half of the 19th century). This is one of the best quality examples by this maker, only a handful are known to exist. It has beautifully patinated ivory scales with three birds-eye rivets, classic coffin handle and S cross-guard. This knife has a very

thick spine being over a 1/4" thick at the top, opposite ricasso. It also has the very aesthetically desirable clip point. Overall this is one of the best early knives by a rare American maker. It likely was made circa 1830's. All of the aforementioned points help to make this and other Bowies with the same or similar attributes to be a classic "Bowie Knife". Could Lamb have been the same maker of the knife that is in Tachee's sash (below) (The McKinney & Hall portrait)? Provenance: William R. Williamson, William Turner, Jason Baldwin, private collection. I believe Tachee was known to have visited W City.

Early in my collecting and purveying, I decided to concentrate on a period of early Bowie manufacture. I concentrated on the earliest time period for several reasons. I realized pretty quick after researching and attempting to try and acquire some great knives that the most classic

knives came from the earliest time frame after the Sand Bar duel (1827). They were also some of the best made, aesthetically pleasing, classic in shape and form and also utilitarian. As one could expect they often were also the most expensive, relatively speaking, of course.

Not losing my focus, I surmised that the earlier a knife was made, the increased opportunity it had, to be involved in wars and in general more of Early America's Westward expansion. This equaled more historical possibilities for the earlier knives as well. Don't get me wrong, an inexpensive knife that has great character also can get me salivating. A simple stag handled skinner could (at times) probably speak volumes over an untouched mint large Bowie.

As a young boy I learned early how to skin muskrat, raccoon, and fox. I grew up trapping and hunting furbearers for fun and Christmas money. This love of the out of doors, garnered my interest in its past history. I loved the early fur trade era and all that it encompassed. Having a few good knives at ones side was a must for any early Frontiersman. Not unlike early frontiersman, I also became involved in trading Native American items. It seemed



Photo likeness of Tachee

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that the earliest made items (generally speaking) tended to be the most classic or with chance to have historical significance.

The race for riches of the fur trade, Texas' battle for Independence, The Mexican, Indian, and Civil Wars, and the Cowboy & Indian conflicts all affect the desire to collect. If a knife was made in 1870 or 1880 it missed much if not all of that great early American history (Cowboy culture set aside of course). Historical significance gives many of us a reason to collect. Knives are no different. Those that have early dates of manufacture, likely witnessed some great early frontier life in all its forms. Those are some of the reasons that made sense to me.

My reasoning that knives made in and/or during periods, associated with conflict, would always be popular and classic, have proven reliable over time. This and more research and effort, helped me to realize that 1830 through about the end of 1850 seemed to be a period of manufacture. Have you ever asked yourself that question? What is a Bowie Knife? What shape is it? How big is it? What does it look like? What materials are they made out of? Well, if you haven't, you might contemplate those questions and

then try to imagine a good Bowie. What comes to mind? No doubt the variety could be as endless as there are collectors and their stage of collecting.

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Photo of Dogbone Ebony Handled Bowie with brass sheath

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BOWIE KNIFE... CONTINUED

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seemed to be a period of manufacture from whence most "Classic" Bowies come. In retrospect that ideology has seemed to be right on and has really helped me to understand some of the best Bowie knives and fellow collectors.

Above you have one of the earliest "Classic" Sheffield England made (circa 1837) Bowie Knives. It is marked in three lines "Manufactured, R Bunting & Sons, Sheffield" on the Ricasso. It is also marked on the flat of blade just under the spine ahead of the crossguard in cartouche "W. Greaves & Sons". W Greaves & Sons was a New York retailer of fine goods. His mark appears on some of the very best early Bowie Knives. It is always a bonus to have that mark on your knife. This type of Bowie is referred to as a "Dog Bone". There are very few today that exist and past auction records prove their popularity. This specimen here is one of only a few known example to be in diminutive form. Its handle is 4" long with a blade length of about 7.75". The sheath is a period metal (copper) sheath. Slabs are ebony. This style knife was Sheffield's first offering to America and the phrase, I want a knife like... (Jim) Bowies.

My response to "What is a Bowie

Knife" used to be... "just about any knife made prior to about 1880, could be considered and probably was at one point in its life referred to as a Bowie Knife". That was a kind of an easy, include all definition for the masses. Upon spending several years collecting, buying and selling all types of knives, I have reformed my opinion. One should also read Mr. Norman Flayderman's book on Bowies. After collecting for about five years, I had compiled and used for reference a stack of papers, articles and books about 3 or 4 feet high, all on Bowie Knives and/or closely related. Mr. Flayderman has eloquently researched, compiled, and abridged all of that info and much more. He has also given the first all encompassing definition of a Bowie Knife. It is quite lengthy but deservedly appropriate. I will include it here in its entirety, of course with Mr. Flaydermans permission. It is the first attempt and will likely stand the test of time and give credence to the mountain of research performed in grasping "What is a Bowie Knife?"...from (The Bowie Knife, Unsheathing an American Legend by Norm Flayderman)...

Bowie Knife: Generic name for category of knives perceived, from

their introduction, circa 1827, as weapons. Synonymous to "Arkansas Toothpick," By the latter 19th century they gradually assumed the more utilitarian characteristics and function of the hunting knife. Named for James Bowie (1796-1836), American frontiersman and Texan Hero, whose use of the large hunting knife to defend himself during a wild melee received unrestrained, inordinate notoriety that would eventually enshrine the weapon in legend. The knife he wielded was blacksmith-fashioned, of indeterminate features, fitted with a straight, nine-inch single edged blade. The incidental act, by parties unknown, of bestowing the Bowie name on a knife or knives, fabricated at some time following that melee, lent them a certain stature, if not lethal mystique, that enhanced their attraction. Americans are believed to have coined the "Bowie knife" designation and were likely first to make the knives. Well established English cutlers, quickly grasping the sales potential soon adopted the name for a wide range of knives

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generally represented as weapons, ultimately dominating the market for them. Earliest examples are presumed to have been of sizeable proportions fitted both with and without crossguards.

Knives popularized by the Bowie name, with some English specimens actually bearing that title marked on the blades, gradually assumed a wide variety of sizes and configurations. They encompass blades both straight and curved, double-edged or single-edged, and in varying lengths. Among basic distinguishing features are contours of blades, notably those with spear points or clip points, the latter form especially popular. Handles and crossguards were fashioned in endless varieties.

I think that it would prove difficult at best to improve upon this definition. A large "Bravo" is given to Mr. Flayderman for his definitive work on framing a definition of the Bowie knife.

Early on in my collecting, my main interests were those Bowie knives that were made by American Cutlers and/or surgical instrument makers. Many of the early Bowie knife manufacturers of the Eastern Seaboard

made all types of items that would cut. That is another story so I will concentrate on just the knives. There was at least one and likely a few cutlers from that area, aforementioned, that filled orders for Rezin Bowie.

Henry Schively of Philadelphia was that cutler and surgeons instrument maker. He is mainly known for his classic large knives. Other early classic cutlers that may or may not be associated with the Bowies include Rose, J.D. Chevalier, both of New York, H Huber and later in partnership, J English & Huber also of Philad, Lamb of W. City and Searles of Baton Rouge, LA. These cities are all in close proximity to one another (minus Baton Rouge, LA); which of course would lend itself to the quick or rapid growth and exchange of ideas and methods of manufacture. It only stands to reason that if you were a cutler and heard that the then famous James and/or Rezin Bowie were in town, or coming thru soon and looking at having a few good knives made, you would want to be involved.



Photo of Ivory Handled (handle to left blade tip to right) Schively Bowie

Above is an example by American maker Henry Schively, one of the cutlers associated with Rezin Bowie. This knife is about 16.5" long and likely made in the late 1820's or early 1830's. There are only 7 or 8 of these large Bowie knives known to exist. Private Collection.

Many of the knives photographed here likely could have had direct or close influence by the Bowie brothers or those hired to make knives for them. Also notice that coffin handles are the predominant handle style that I have choosen. That is personal preference on my behalf; yet that style is backed up by Bowie # 1 (guardless coffin handle), and many other famous coffin handled knives (such as the Lamb photographed above). Many of the Bowies that are considered classic, do have the coffin handles.



Photo Of Chevalier Bowie W Gold Wash sheath Pearl & Stag handle

Here you have one of the very best examples ever by American maker, J.D. Chevalier of New York, circa 1830 or 1840 in mint condition. It is American workmanship at its finest. It sports a long clip point blade with both pearl and what we think

are elk scales. The blade resembles the style of how Searls, of Baton Rouge made his blades (a little off center with blade extended below the handle centerline more than it rises above the top of the handle). Private Collection

There are of course other American and yes English Bowie knife makers that deserve mentioning. We will save that for another article. The knives photographed here are a select few that to me represent what a real Bowie knife is and looks like. They are likely the first of their kind, not yet copied. These knives photographed here, to me, are a few of the real Bowies knives. They are American and Sheffield from a time period in which the term Bowie Knife and the knives them-selves were still being forged into history. These knives not only have great form and function, they are aesthetically pleasing to look at, collect and hold. I hope that this article and these knives will give some insight as to... "what is a Bowie Knife". But, as Mr. Flayderman pointed out, they could take the shape and form of endless variety!

Thank you, sincerely.
Jason Baldwin

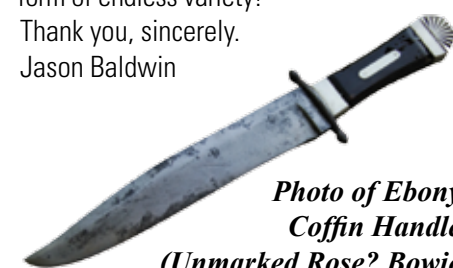


Photo of Ebony Coffin Handle (Unmarked Rose? Bowie

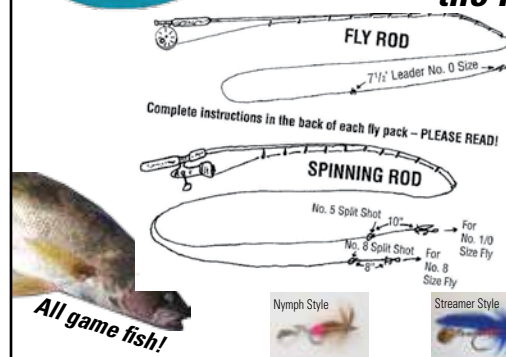


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BOWIE KNIFE... CONTINUED

*Photo Of
Huber Bowie
Stag handle MINT blade
w/ Sheath missing tip mount*

Above is fine unmarked Bowie Knife that has an almost 9" blade with extremely rare horn handle, acorn cross-guard finials and very desirable coffin handle. Early American made coffin handles are difficult at best to find, one with horn



*Photo of
English/Huber Ivory
Handled silver pin studded Bowie w/
ornate sheath blue background*

the hand. Private collection.

Here is one of the earliest known American Bowie Knives with 10" mint blade and antler haft. It is marked Huber Steel Philad in three lines. This knife was made by H Huber of Philad. H Huber made some of the finest blades for Bowies extant. He began a partnership with J. English whom made some of the finest handles (see knife below) together they made some of the finest early Bowies known. Rezin and James Bowie likely visited them at some point on their trip to Philadelphia. There are only a handful of these knives known to exist of which this example is the largest and in the best condition. You can almost use the blade as a mirror!

American made by J English & Huber

of Philadelphia. Ivory handled silver pinned and fabulously made and scalloped sheath all lend to this Bowies beauty. J English likely contributed the exquisite Ivory handle to the partnership of Bowie making with Mr. Huber. Either way in partnership English and Huber made one of the finest American Bowies extant. We can count most of the known examples by these makers on our hands and toes. I'm sure that a few more exist out there somewhere. No list of classic knives would be complete without one of these fine knives being listed and/or shown. After all it is the logo on the Antique Bowie Knife Associations headings and Journal. They are about as finely made as any knife of the time, English or American.



ILLINOIS IDNR TO ALLOCATE TRAPPING PERMITS FOR JIM EDGAR PANTHER CREEK SFWA

CHANDLERVILLE, IL – A public drawing for the allocation of trapping permits at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area will be held at Saturday, Oct. 7 at 1:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the site headquarters, located approximately five miles southeast of Chandlerville.

One permit for each of the five trapping zones will be allocated through a lottery drawing. All persons attempting to enter the drawing must be in attendance and have a current 2017 trapping license in their possession.

DP (Dog Proof) Traps, live traps, and traps of similar action may be used. Homemade dog-proof traps must be designed with a foothold trap no larger than a #2 in an enclosed wood, metal, or durable plastic container with a single access opening of no larger than 1½ inches in diameter. All body-gripping traps must be totally submerged.

All persons who are allocated trapping permits must obtain a free windshield card permit for the site by going online to the following web address: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/UplandGame.aspx>

Trappers will be required to report harvest/hunter/trapping trips no later than Feb. 15 each year (or two weeks

after the season closes for those seasons ending after Feb. 1). Failure to report in this manner will result in forfeiture of hunting/trapping privileges at this site for the following year.

For more information, contact Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area at 217-452-7741.



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This report represents some events the OLE handled over the weeks of Aug 1 - Aug 15, 2017; however, it does not include all actions taken by the Office of Law Enforcement.

REGION 1 – Captain Laura Petreikis District 1 – Sgt. Tony Petreikis (Counties: Carroll, Henry, JoDaviess, Lee, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson & Whiteside)

CARROLL COUNTY

CPO Jones cited a Clinton, Iowa man for falsification of record and unlawful take of whitetail deer. The Clinton man was issued warnings for two other falsification charges.

LEE COUNTY

CPO Palumbo issued a citation and a written warning to a Harmon man and his grandson for taking a Whitetail fawn doe from the wild and retaining alive. Arrangements were made with a rehabilitator.

While on boat patrol on the Rock River, CPOs Teas and Posateri observed a boat which appeared to have too many occupants and children not wearing PFDs. The boat was

stopped and discovered to have 12 people on a boat rated for eight. Also, children under 13 were not wearing PFDs and some other equipment violations were found. The driver was issued a citation for the children not wearing PFDs and warnings for the other violations. The CPOs instructed everyone on board to put on PFDs and return to shore due to the amount of people on board.

CPOs Teas and Beltran conducted a boat patrol on the Rock River. During the patrol, they issued four citations to boats for no PFDs, including one boat that had an infant on board without a PFD in the boat for it.

OGLE COUNTY

CPO Teas cited two fishermen for possession of undersized smallmouth bass on the Rock River. CPO Teas cited a fisherman for an undersized walleye on the Rock River.

CPO Teas responded to a complaint by park staff of a subject at the cabins in White Pines State Park who had gotten angry and called staff very inappropriate names after they explained to him they had received complaints of his dogs and again reminded him pets were not allowed in the cabins. The cabin manager told the CPO they wanted the subject to leave after his behavior. The CPO made contact with the subject and his wife and explained to the wife what her husband called the staff. They agreed to leave without incident.

District 6 - Sgt. Phil Wire (Counties: Boone, Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Putnam & Winnebago)

BOONE COUNTY

CPO Alt conducted watercraft safety inspections and checked shore fisherman at Candlewick Association Lake. Three fishermen were found to be fishing without valid sport fishing licenses;

one of whom showed CPO Alt his Candlewick Association Fishing Pass believing it was valid in lieu of a state fishing license.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

CPO Schoonhoven investigated a complaint of a subject in possession of two alligators in Machesney Park. The individual possessed the proper permit for the alligators but was cited for a record's keeping violation.

CPOs Fraser and Murry received a turkey poaching complaint from an off-duty police officer. The complainant stated he heard a gunshot near his property and went to investigate. Upon investigation, the complainant located four young men with a dead turkey and a rifle. Before the suspects left the area, the complainant got a partial license plate. On the day of the complaint, no leads could be followed due to lack of information. A day later, CPO Fraser found a vehicle matching the description given and was able to get a license return matching the partial plate. After several interviews, CPO Fraser received a confession from all four subjects who stated they believed it was legal to kill the turkey since they were on private property. CPO Fraser explained the hunting regulations to the violators and explained the dangers of using a high-powered rifle in a populated area like they did. The shooter received citations related to the unlawful take and has a mandatory court appearance; the three other violators were released with warnings for accessory charges due to their cooperation with the investigation.

CPO Fraser received a disposition from a stolen ATV case. During the investigation, a subject was arrested for fleeing to elude, trespass to state property, possession of a stolen vehicle, and other ATV and IVC charges. The violator was found guilty on the charges and sentenced to five years in prison. The ATV was returned to the rightful owner.

District 7, Sgt. Scott Avery (Counties: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, Marshall, McDonough, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Warren & Woodford)
KNOX COUNTY

CPO Elliott conducted Recreational Boat Enforcement on the Illinois River during the Peoria White Trash Bash Weekend. Enforcement efforts resulted in one citation for insufficient number of PFDs and one written warning for No Wake.

CPO Elliott investigated a Hazmat Manure Spill south east of Wataga. The material was released into a stream connecting to North Creek. CPO Elliott, along with Fisheries Biologist Rob Hillsabeck and Nerissa McClelland, assessed fish kills along approximately a one-mile stretch of the stream. Numerous fish were found dead. The farmer was very helpful in attempts to pump the stream and remove the materials as best he could under direction of IEPA officials from Peoria. The investigation is pending.

REGION 2 – Captain Brett Scroggins District 2 – Sgt. Eric Schreiber (Counties: Kane, Lake & McHenry)

KANE COUNTY

CPO Knop and Sgt. Schreiber patrolled the

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Fox River, issuing several citations and written warnings for violation of the posted no wake zone, children under 13 years of age not wearing lifejackets, and insufficient personal flotation devices.

LAKE COUNTY

CPO Davis cited a subject for failure to immediately release an 11-inch.

CPO Davis assisted with the release of a rehabilitated hen turkey that he had helped get into the care of Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation. The turkey was released in the vicinity it was initially found after a three-month rehabilitation from a believed coyote or dog attack.

CPO Vaughan was working sport fishermen on the Fox Chain O'Lakes when he came across five subjects fishing from shore. The subjects were in possession of approximately 20 legal fish and had been fishing for hours. None of the individuals could produce a valid fishing license; citations were issued.

CPO Vaughan and CPO Ausmus participated in the National Night Out event in Arlington Heights. Children and their families were invited to check out our patrol snowmobile and take a tour through the Conservation Police Lodge trailer which contains numerous animals and pelts on display. CPO Vaughan attended the Gurnee Police Department open house which was held in conjunction with "Gurnee Days." Children and adults were invited to climb aboard our Impact 750 patrol boat. Approximately 75 -100 children toured the patrol boat while asking numerous

questions. The most popular of which being: "where do you put the bad guys?" followed by "ooohhh I want to sit there."

District 3 – Sgt. Dave Wollgast (Counties: Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall & Will)

GRUNDY COUNTY

CPO Honiotes responded to a call about an injured juvenile bald eagle discovered along the bank of the Illinois River near the Dresden Lock and Dam. The eagle was transported to a local veterinarian, where it was determined to have a broken leg and other issues. X-rays are scheduled to be performed prior to transferring it to the Illinois Raptor Center for further treatment.

KANKAKEE COUNTY

CPO Farber received a call from a farmer in Chebanse, IL regarding an injured Great Horned Owl. The owl was stuck in an electric fence on his farm. CPO Farber met with the farmer and took possession of the owl. The owl was taken to Morris Veterinary Hospital. Dr. David Bainbridge, a licensed rehabilitator, took possession of the owl. Dr. Bainbridge treated the owl and will attempt to release it back into the wild.

CPO Farber observed a subject fishing below the Kankakee Dam. CPO Farber watched the subject catch three smallmouth bass and put them into a bucket. Twenty minutes later, CPO Farber approached the subject to conduct a compliance check. The fisherman was in possession of two smallmouth bass within the protected slot limit for that stretch of the river. The fisherman was educated about Illinois

Site Specific sport fish rules and regulations and issued two written warnings.

District 4 – Sgt. Jed Whitchurch (Counties: Cook & DuPage)

COOK COUNTY

CPO Snodgrass checked several boats at Worth Boat Ramp for proper safety equipment. One subject was found to be operating with a 9-year-old who was not wearing a personal flotation device. The vessel also did not have a type IV throw-able onboard. He was issued a citation for the 9-year-old not wearing a life jacket and issued a warning for the type IV PFD violation. CPO Snodgrass informed the subject that all children under 13 years of age must wear a life jacket when the boat is underway.

CPO Snodgrass concluded an investigation into the unlawful take of a Red-Tailed Hawk. The offender was charged with a Class A misdemeanor for the unlawful take of the hawk. CPO Snodgrass seized an Air Bow which was used to take the federally protected Hawk.

CPO Snodgrass and CPO Ausmus patrolled the Cal-Sag Channel where they observed a boat

operating with several youths not wearing personal flotation devices. Five youths under the age of 13 years of age were found on the boat. Anyone under the age of 13 is required to wear a lifejacket at all times when the boat is underway. CPO Snodgrass educated the parents and issued them a citation for the violation.

CPO Ausmus and CPO Stanbary investigated a complaint of a boater dumping gasoline on the bushes at De Sauble Harbor. The suspect was located and admitted to spilling a bucket of fuel. The Chicago Park District issued the subject a \$500 citation for illegal disposal of gasoline. Chicago Fire Department also responded and mitigated the fuel spill before it entered the harbor.

CPO Stanbary and CPO Ausmus assisted CPO Klemme with a fishing compliance check on the pier at the Joint Marine Facility. Two non-residents were fishing and had four short largemouth bass. The female didn't have a fishing license. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CPO Klemme completed an investigation of an illegal charter operating on Lake Michigan.

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The owner of the vessel was issued citations for Engaging in Business Prior to Obtaining A Rental Boat License.

CPO Klemme conducted a joint boarding with Coast Guard on a suspected illegal charter. It was determined that 9 females had chartered the vessel for a bachelorette party. They paid \$1300 for four hours. The owner and operator of the vessel insisted that the passengers were friends of his niece. The passengers produced the charter agreement from a boat rental website. The owner was issued the following citations: Obstruction/Resistance, Operating A Charter Without a Coast Guard Captain's License, No Passenger for Hire License and No Type 4 PFD on the vessel.

CPO Mooi patrolled the Chicago River and Lake Michigan in conjunction with Coast Guard personnel. CPO Mooi arrested a licensed captain for operation of an untitled and unnumbered watercraft after interviewing the man about suspected charter activity.

REGION 3 – Captain Jim Mayes District 11 – Sgt. Brian McReynolds (Counties: Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie & Shelby)

CLARK COUNTY

CPO Greuel investigated a personal injury boat accident occurring on Mill Creek Lake. A minor was handling a line attached to a tube, when it became entangled in his hand and caused injury.

COLES COUNTY

CPO Greuel cited a Mattoon man for unlawful take of migratory birds on Lake Mattoon.

SHELBY COUNTY

CPO Mieure, while on boat patrol at Lake Shelbyville, cited a Pana man for too many occupants on board his watercraft.

District 19 – Sgt. John Williamson (Counties: Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Macon, McLean, Piatt & Vermilion)

DEWITT COUNTY

CPO Graden cited a Decatur man for Unlawful Operation of a Watercraft in a Posted-Restricted Area during the afternoon of 8/12/17. The fisherman positioned his boat, well-inside the restricted area buoys, immediately next to the top of the spillway face, at the Clinton Lake dam.

McLEAN COUNTY

During the afternoon of 8/8/17, CPO Graden conducted sport fishing license checks at various lakes, and ponds. In total, he issued three Fishing Without a Valid Illinois Resident Sport Fishing License citations.

REGION 4 – Captain Jamie Maul District 9 – Sgt. Eric Myers (Counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin, Pike & Schuyler)

BROWN COUNTY

CPO Blakeley cited a Missouri man in for hunting turkeys with the aid of bait and for illegally feeding deer. This was a follow-up to a case where the subject's brother was arrested for same offenses. The brother said he did not put the turkey bait out, but his brother did. CPO Blakeley located the brother and arrested him for the placement of the bait.

PIKE COUNTY

February Pike County Case Disposition: CPO Blakeley received a complaint off illegal road hunting of snow geese in the river bottoms near Hull. CPOs Blakeley and Blazinic responded to the area and located the suspect vehicle containing two snow goose road hunters. One hunter was cited for hunting without permission,

unlawful transportation of uncased/loaded gun (accessory) in a vehicle, and unlawful shooting from the roadway (accessory). The other subject was cited for unlawfully hunting snow geese by use/aid of a motor vehicle, hunting without permission, unlawfully shooting/harvesting snow geese from upon the roadway, and unlawful transportation of uncased/loaded gun. The subjects were also issued 2 written warnings each for other related hunting violation. Both subjects plead guilty to hunting snow geese from a roadway and were fined a total of \$887.00.

December Pike County Case Disposition: CPO Blazinic checked a non-resident firearm deer hunter who was not wearing a blaze orange vest, did not possess a non-resident hunting license or habitat stamp, had an unsigned permit, and was hunting 52 minutes past legal shooting hours. Subject plead guilty to hunting without a non-resident hunting license and was fined a total of \$742.00.

District 10 – Sgt. Chris Stone (Counties: Cass, Christian, Logan, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon & Scott)

SANGAMON COUNTY

CPO Macias and his intern were driving around the county and found two fishermen inside a pond that was clearly marked "no trespassing." After talking to the pair, it was determined they did not know where they were. Several warnings were issued.

CPO Macias was checking people fishing and came across a male who said he had purchased his fishing license "some time ago." He was showing the CPO several fish he had caught over the years. Upon doing a check on the internal sales system, it was determined he had been revoked since 2008 due to child support. All photos were voluntarily shown to the CPO. A citation was issued. A follow up meeting has been scheduled with the individual.

District 13 – Sgt. Eric Manker (Counties: Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, St. Clair & Washington)

RANDOLPH COUNTY

CPO Rolfingsmeier worked a hunting accident by Sparta that occurred on 08/01/17, the first

day of squirrel season. A hunter was trying to shoot at a squirrel that was up a tree. While he was walking around the tree, he tripped and fell onto the shotgun. The shotgun went off striking the hunter on the left side of his abdomen. The hunter was rushed to the hospital and later released. The hunter suffered a major flesh wound but no internal damage. The hunter also did not have a valid hunting license. Appropriate enforcement was taken.

Sgt. Manker, along with Randolph County Deputies Brad Ginglew and Cody Mueller (former Conservation Officer) responded to a report of subjects shooting at birds from a vehicle on Kaskaskia Island. The Deputies arrived on scene first and quickly searched the area for the Chevy pickup. The vehicle was no longer on the Island, and the Deputies were parked at the entrance to the Island when a vehicle matching the description approached from St Mary, Missouri. Deputy Mueller exited his squad and walked up to the vehicle as it approached his location. He asked the four male subjects in the vehicle if they had been shooting at any birds on the Island to which they replied, "no." Deputy Mueller noticed a box of 9mm ammunition sitting on the console between the driver and passenger. He asked if they had any weapons in the vehicle to which they again replied, "no." Deputy Mueller looked in the back seat and observed two uncased rifles between the passengers (AR-15 & bolt action). The subjects were ordered out of the vehicle, and another weapon, a Smith & Wesson semiautomatic 9mm handgun, was under the front passenger's leg. All three weapons were loaded and uncased. Sgt. Manker arrived on scene. CPO Manker and Deputy Mueller, spoke to each occupant of the vehicle. Three of the subjects were juveniles and one subject was 25 years old. The 25-year-old was at first argumentative with Deputy Mueller, but quickly changed his demeanor when Deputy Mueller and Sgt. Manker explained the severity of the situation. The subjects all admitted they had been shooting at Snowy Egrets but had not killed anything due to the inaccuracy of the AR-15

Police ... continued

and the handgun. They had left the Island and returned with an additional gun, a Ruger bolt action .223 caliber with a scope, when they drove up to the Deputies. The subjects also had been drinking, and there was open alcohol in the vehicle. It was also learned that the 25-year-old worked as a substitute teacher at Perryville High School and had befriended the juveniles while teaching. He also works for the levee district, and they have done this behavior in the past. They admitted to shooting opossums, raccoons, Blue Herons, or anything else except deer in the past.

REGION 5 – Captain Jim Mayes District 14 – Sgt. Jeff Cariens (Counties: Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Pope, Saline, White)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

District 16 and 14 CPOs searched and recovered a drowned male from a boat accident on Rend Lake. CPO Folden was the lead investigator for the fatal boat accident.

CPO Williams investigated the unlawful harvest of trees, and a felony charge was filed against a subject for Theft of Timber.

POPE COUNTY

CPOs Schoenhoff, Folden, and Vasicek assisted with the investigation/recovery of a male subject that drowned at Bell Smith Springs within the Shawnee National Forest

in a very remote part of Pope County.

SALINE COUNTY

While patrolling boat ramps on Department lands, CPO Folden located a vehicle parked at the Sahara Lake boat ramp within Sahara Woods State Fish and Wildlife Area. The vehicle remained in the area past the posted closing time, and CPO Folden could not locate the owner. Approximately 40 minutes after the 10 PM closing, CPO Folden observed a light near the boat ramp. CPO Folden then educated a fisherman who had multiple violations. The fisherman was in possession of an over limit of channel catfish (possessed nine, limit six). The fisherman was in a boat without any wearable life jackets. There were no lights on the boat, the battery terminals were exposed, and the watercraft was unlawfully using a water usage stamp (trolling motor powered boat with only a water usage stamp). The fisherman was also in the area after 10 PM. One fish citation, one boat citation, three boat written warnings, and one park written warning were issued.

District 15 – Sgt. Dave Hyatt (Counties: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion, Richland, Wabash & Wayne)

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Sgt. Hyatt and CPO Taylor conducted a boat patrol on the Wabash River. Multiple boats were contacted during a catfishing tournament. Many of the participants were in possession

of undersize channel catfish and not aware of the new law requiring all catfish in possession to be at least 13 inches in length. The subjects were educated on the new law, and warnings were issued. One citation was issued for failure to register watercraft

MARION COUNTY

District 16 – Sgt. K. Taylor (Counties: Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pulaski, Union & Williamson)

JACKSON COUNTY

CPO Mohrman cited a Wisconsin subject for taking a buck deer without a valid deer permit and hunting without a habitat stamp. The charges stemmed from an open source investigation referred to CPO Mohrman by the open source task force.

CPO Mohrman and CPO D. Lewis seized a juvenile red-shouldered hawk from a Makanda subject. The subject located the baby hawk after a recent thunderstorm and was feeding it hot dogs. The subject was cited for retaining wildlife alive, and the baby is now being cared for at a licensed rehabilitator.

CPO Vasicek cited a subject on Kinkaid Lake for unlawful possession of several undersized crappie. Kinkaid Lake has a 9- inch minimum length limit on crappie.

PERRY COUNTY

CPO Lewis cited a fisherman for fishing without permission of the landowner. The fisherman was caught fishing a few feet away from a large "No Trespassing" sign.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

CPO Johnson observed a large bag blow out of a boat on the Lake of Egypt. The boat entered a no wake area, on full plane, and circled a boat with swimmers in the water. CPO Johnson stopped the boat and spoke with the operator. The operator appeared angry and gave short abrupt answers to any questions asked. He said both violations were not his fault. He was issued two citations for a no wake violation and pollution of a waterway.

CPO Lewis investigated a boat accident on Devil's Kitchen Lake. The accident occurred when the operator hit a submerged stump with his motorized canoe. The collision caused the canoe to capsize, and both occupants of the canoe were ejected into the water. Both the operator and passenger were able to get out of the water without injury, however, the canoe sank to the bottom (in 70 foot of water). Efforts are being made to recover the canoe.



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NEW STATE LAW ALLOWS ALL HUNTERS IN ILLINOIS TO USE CROSSBOWS DURING ARCHERY SEASONS

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Hunters in Illinois may use crossbows during archery hunting seasons, including the Illinois Archery Deer Season and the Illinois Fall Turkey Archery Season beginning on Oct. 1.

Governor Bruce Rauner signed into law House Bill 2893, which amended the Illinois Wildlife Code to repeal restrictions on the use of crossbows during archery hunting seasons in Illinois.

Illinois law previously allowed the use of crossbows for archery hunting by persons age 62 or older, and those persons with disabilities who qualified for a crossbow permit issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). In addition, the previous law allowed certain youth hunters to use crossbows, and allowed all archery hunters to use crossbows beginning the Monday after the second firearm deer season.

The 2017-18 season dates for archery deer and fall turkey archery hunting in Illinois are Oct. 1, 2017 through Jan. 14, 2018. Archery seasons will be closed Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 30-Dec. 3 during the Firearm Deer Season in those counties open to firearm deer hunting.

DEDICATION CEREMONY PLANNED FOR OCT. 6 FOR NEW EDUCATIONAL FISHING POND AT PERE MARQUETTE STATE PARK

GRAFTON, IL – Pere Marquette State Park will host a dedication ceremony and grand opening on Friday, Oct. 6 at 11:30 a.m. for the park's new Educational Fishing Pond.

The public is invited to the ceremony to help celebrate the completion of the project. The new fishing pond will be used at the annual Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair every June, as well as for other park interpretive programs and Urban Fishing Program events.

The new pond is located just

outside of the Visitor Center in front of the Log Cabin at Pere Marquette State Park.

The pond was constructed thanks to the support of individual and corporate donors.

The Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery was the primary donor for the project. Monsanto, Friends of Pere Marquette State Park Foundation, and another sponsor who wishes to remain anonymous also were major donors for the project. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Fisheries provided funding to pay for aerator and pump services and supplies for the pond. Total Lawn Care, Inc. of Jerseyville was the contractor for the project. Other project partners include:

- Pere Marquette State Park staff
- IDNR Region 4 Hot Shot Crew
- IDNR Office of Resource Conservation, Fisheries
- IDNR Office of Land Management
- IDNR Office of Realty and Environmental Planning
- Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources (IFOR)
- Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
- Unique Concrete Concepts - Jerseyville, IL
- Trico Electric - Jerseyville, IL
- Baxter Gardens - Chesterfield, MO
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WARPING WOOD WOES

As long as there are arms, there will be handles (stocks), and many will be made of wood. An overall and sometimes continuing warping can occur especially to wood poorly dried and cured or insufficiently sealed, and such a condition makes correct use harder due to the change of angle or position of rest for the shoulder and face that impedes correct pointability. Changes in bedding can also create alterations that affect stock bedding strength and stability during use and change point of impact of rifle barrels by altering contact pressure from being warped from initial shape.

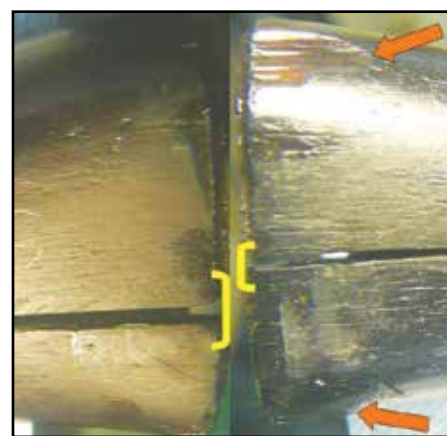
Warpage can be present in small sections of wood, and a split line can allow the independent section to absorb moisture through the opened grain in the split line, and even wood

not disconnected can be affected by exposure to spot heating such as near a radiator or open fire. Bending by softening of wood with steam and heat has been known for centuries for curving the sections of wood used to build boats and ships, and any ingrained stress may be altered if heat changes the dryness of wood grain - even more so when open grain sections are exposed to vent moisture. The importance of grain sealing during the finishing process should not be underestimated.

This first set of images shows two sides of a cracked stock that has exhibited warpage at the split sections with unequal spreading noted by the yellow brackets. The red arrows denote where chunks have been lost that will require filling to restore full bedding

contact during the repair process. The variance in split spread may have been due to heat or moisture exposure differentials from having been in a fire about 18 years ago.

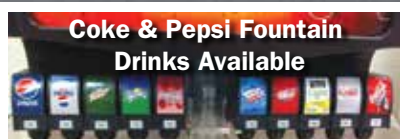
Whether this spread has increased over time is not known, but the time that the wood has been spread is not disputed. The only real effort to mitigate the singed wood was to paint the surface black to hide finish defects, and the half-melted plastic grip cap was still in place.



The next set of images first shows the stock's right side, the larger opening, and the extent of the crack can be seen to cover a length of about 3 and one-half inches. Some splintering of the interior faces may be present when such separations happen, and certain times these fibers will interfere with letting the wood faces close and naturally mesh (and minimize the residual crack appearance) when clamped to fixture the adhesion repair. Note the middle image is of that specific side after clamping and adhesive cure - and failing to completely close even from substantial pressure - with the other side having the crack almost vanish in comparison - noted by the yellow dotted brackets. The red arrows in the first image are to note the difference of spread that might have been due more to the upper side than the lower, with the arrow size representing different amounts of curve, without being specific to noting which side was more at fault for the majority or not, just that differential is possible. In certain repairs of this type, complete removal might be an option to perform fibrous clean-up, but the section joint may not be able to cleanly separate and

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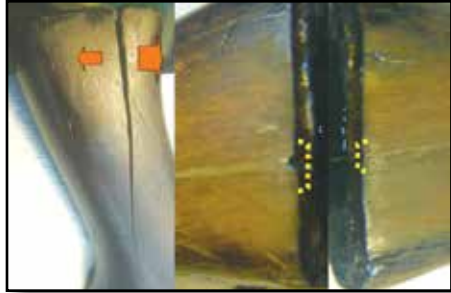


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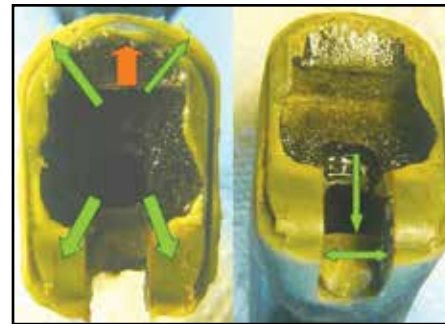
re-attachment could have an unfortunate blend operation necessary to conceal the end possibly splintering when freed from the whole. An unforeseen defect brought about from deliberate removal might be worse than dealing with the residual gap that might remain as was present in this example. If planning for a possible gap remainder, the adhesive used must have some structural capability in addition to any adhesive properties counted on to resist any subsequent spreading forces remaining after repairs.



This final image pair has views of the bedding restoration conclusion subsequent to the crack/split remedy. Realizing the spread of the cracks might have been lopsided, and the closure also being possibly offset in a different level,

ratio, or complete/incomplete closure, the contact face that was in interim use had to have been unlike the contact originally present at manufacture, considering when the stock was tight but the cracks were open — no other possibility could exist. The spot at the red arrow was definitely lifted above the normal contact point and wood crush below the original mate face should be presumed since any minimal remainder wood not cut to clear the internal parts would not necessarily be at the desired level as the surrounding flat bedding faces. The chips previously noted were also filled during the initial bedding action and reshaped after the compound was fully fixed and cured, with some of the residual fill noted at the smaller green arrows around the top edges on the left image and the bottom double arrow on the right image denoting the lower edges filled. The larger arrows at the left lower section show mirror image impression molded from full contact with the metal faces of the trigger housing being used for gaining all possible contact to preserve solidity from future use impacts. Note that it is better

to be having surplus than depending on the thin edges of the frame faces to provide nearly sole primary contact. Making use of adjacent surfaces to gain useful surface area can even be seen in the right image section with the single green arrow showing the back contact of the trigger housing having some useful flat face contact there for the asking, with it best all being molded simultaneously.



This model shotgun was never known for robust contact for the stock bedding to the frame, but wasn't expected to have problems if the retention was attended to by snugging the stock bolt every now and then. When a stock is used for some

time, the recoil forces compress the wood faces and shorten the clamped wood length between the stock bolt/washer and bedding face, and thus the tension falls off with continued use. If any play is allowed to develop, or if tension is reduced to a very low level, the wood contact and impact absorption becomes skewed to the upper section from recoil lift of the frame vs. the stock lagging in rotation by being against the shooter at the shoulder and face. Continued attempted raising of the top edge under the pivoted pounding force of recoil can pry the grain open and start a crack, and any slack allows the wood compression to continue at an accelerated rate at each firing, since more slack creates continuing elevation of impact. One of the simplest bits of insurance against unintentional stock cracking is to securely snug (not over-tighten) the stock retention bolt and assure that bedding contact remains on the most intimate of levels.



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CITIZEN SCIENTISTS: HOW HUNTERS CONTRIBUTE TO WILDLIFE RESEARCH, CONSERVATION

By David Hart

SCIENTISTS TEAM UP WITH THE HUNTING COMMUNITY TO GATHER GAME DATA, SPECIMENS AND TRENDS TO BENEFIT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

Hunters and trappers don't just provide on-the-ground help. They serve as specimen collectors, data gatherers and eyes and ears for wildlife biologists and other scientists, all of which benefit wildlife conservation. Through bowhunter wildlife observation surveys, a number of states rely on hunters to record the number of animals observed while hunting.

"They give us a look at population trends of certain species of wildlife. That gives us an idea of what's going on with wildlife throughout the state," says Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries furbearer biologist Mike Fies.

"Bowhunters tend to be the best ones to get good data. They are camouflaged, quiet and still and they stay in one place for several hours at a time. They tend to be pretty observant and knowledgeable about wildlife, too. The data we get isn't necessarily scientific, but it's reliable enough that we can

use it to show trends," adds Fies.

THE BENEFITS OF TRAPPING FOR SCIENCE: When Will Gulsby needed 20 live coyotes for a research project, he briefly considered catching the predators himself. The two-year study looked at home ranges, movements and activities of the animals in central Georgia. A post-doctoral researcher at the University of Georgia at the time, Gulsby ultimately realized that he had neither the time nor the knowledge to catch that many coyotes.

"I've done some trapping, but in no way was I proficient at it," recalls Gulsby. "There was a significant amount of funding involved in this research, not to mention there were a lot of people involved, so we wanted to make sure we had the greatest probability of success."

That meant catching the coyotes quickly and humanely. As with most any research project, time was limited. Gulsby turned to the Georgia Trappers Association, a group of dedicated trappers and predator hunters, many of whom have decades of experience with coyotes.

"They wanted to be part of this, so they

connected me with Dan Eaton, a trapper who had a lot of experience catching coyotes," he says. "I've used the services of several other trappers in other research projects I've been involved with. It just makes sense to use people who are very good at what they do."

Aside from on-the-ground knowledge, the folks Gulsby hired for various research projects had a few other things that he didn't: The right tools and enough time. Trapping (live-trapping coyotes in particular) not only requires specialized traps, it takes a lot of time to run a successful trap line. One conservation study, which examined the impact of coyote removal on whitetail fawn recruitment, covered 10,000 acres and required about seven months of trapping divided over two years.

"I would have never had the time to do what the trappers did. Dan (Eaton) actually sub-contracted with some other trappers he knew who were skilled at catching coyotes, so that really helped. The project just would not have worked if we had only taken a few coyotes off the study area," he adds.

What's more, those trapping efforts were conducted in the spring when most hobby trappers have long since hung up their steel.



"I participated because it's what I do for a living and I was able to make some money off it, but I also helped with the project because I thought it would be a good experience," says Eaton, who has trapped for 40 years.

It not only turned out to be fun, it was also educational. As a full-time trapper and nuisance-animal specialist, Eaton got a front-row seat to the research efforts many hunters and trappers never see. He also learned a few things about coyotes.

"They aren't as smart as we think they are. On several occasions during the live-trapping effort, I caught a coyote that we already caught. That proves that they don't always learn to avoid a trap the second time," he recalls.

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TO CONSERVATION RESEARCH: Virginia hunters count everything from predators and prey to stray dogs and cats and even other hunters. In all, they are asked to keep a tally of 21 different items. Ohio bowhunters are asked to count just 11 different animals, including such elusive species as badgers, mink and bobcats. But count, they do. Nearly 700 Ohio bowhunters spent more than 37,000 hours in a tree stand in 2015. They observed 37½ raccoons per 1,000 hours, which was the most common animal sighted. The next most common was coyotes, with 14.7 per 1,000 hours. Raccoons remained stable since the survey began in 1990. Coyotes, however, skyrocketed from about three sightings per 1,000 hours to about 19 in 2010. Equally surprising is the downward trend in such species as opossums, skunks and red and gray fox, which correlates with the increase in coyotes.

Researchers at West Virginia University wouldn't have been able to complete an in-depth bobcat study without hunter and trapper assistance, either. Graduate student Stephanie Landry collected nearly 300 bobcat carcasses in 2014, the first year of her study, and more than 200 in 2015.

"We could have trapped some ourselves, but there's no way we would have gotten the number we did and from as many parts of the state. Hunters and trappers were critical to the study," she notes. "The more specimens we have, the better our data will be."

Landry reached out to the West Virginia Trappers Association to let members know about the study. She also mailed information to everyone who checked in a bobcat in recent years, urging them to donate carcasses. Anyone who killed a bobcat was instructed to take it to the nearest Department of Natural Resources regional office. The vast majority of the carcasses she got came from trappers, but a few were shot by hunters.

"The response was fantastic. Everyone I spoke with was very supportive of our research project. We could not have done this without their help," says Landry.

SPECIMEN DONATIONS OFFER KEY INSIGHT TO HELP SHAPE FUTURE REGULATIONS: Although the project is not complete, the results could shape future bobcat hunting and trapping regulations. So far, Landry says West Virginia's bobcat population seems to be healthy and is similar to what it was in a study conducted in 1980. However, juvenile survival rates seem to be considerably higher and reproductive rates are slightly higher. She is also examining things like diets, parasites and sex ratios to get a better understanding of the state's bobcats.

A similar study took place in Florida. Instead of bobcats, researchers at the University of Florida collected coyote carcasses from hunters and trappers in an effort to study the animals' diets. Scientists wanted to determine if the predators were

eating game animals or endangered or threatened species.

"The cost associated with trying to collect a whole bunch of specimens by ourselves shows you how important hunters and trappers are to research projects like the one Stephanie Landry is doing," says West Virginia University wildlife professor Dr. James Anderson. "There is no way we could do these types of studies without donations."

He is researching the various ways scientists have relied on hunters and trappers and found there is an increase in the use of what he calls "citizen scientists." Such things as waterfowl wing surveys and even bow and turkey hunter observation surveys have been around for years, but they are relying more on hunters and trappers to provide parts or entire carcasses.

While scientists are still trying to determine how reliable information gathered entirely by hunters is, Anderson says long-term data sets can most definitely show significant changes in population trends. That data can also help influence management decisions.

"Budget cuts and other changes will likely mean we will see scientists reach out to sportsmen even more in the future," says Anderson. "That's not a bad thing. These research projects can have an impact on hunting and trapping management decisions, so it's great to get those who are impacted more involved."

SCIENTISTS RELY ON HUNTERS

FOR SKILLED OBSERVATION: Wildlife research depends on people like you. That's why so many scientists reach out to the hunting and trapping community. If you want to help out with wildlife conservation as a citizen scientist, consider joining various sportsmen's groups like state trappers and fur takers associations. Pay attention to various hunting forums, too. Biologists will sometimes post a request for help.

If you bowhunt for deer and want to participate in your state's observation survey, call your wildlife agency's furbearer or small-game biologist. If that person doesn't oversee the program, they'll likely know who does.



Hunters and trappers were critical to an in-depth bobcat study conducted by West Virginia University. The majority of more than 500 carcasses were donated by hunters between 2014-2015.

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THE FALL FLIGHT

By Dan Gapen Sr.

A gathering of families in small 6- to 10-numbered groups had begun. They'd come together on the big lake from the barren lands to the north where weather had begun to sprinkle the white flecks of winter. Soon the breeding ponds would freeze over. It was time to head south.

A day later waves of white birds descended on the river land to the west of the port of Churchill, Manitoba. So many were descending on the land that it appeared to be covered in snow. The fall migration of snow geese had begun. From here they'd move southwest to another lake near Boissevain, Manitoba.

It's there that this writer would meet

them. For nearly 50 years we'd meet. During those years there were days the white geese won; days they lost.

Five years ago, I began the legal hunting season five miles east of Boissevain on the twin ponds at the 109 mile marker. 'Bobber' Anne and I arrived forty minutes before sunrise. With us were my Labrador Retrievers, one black, the other yellow. It would be the last year for Smudgy, the black one. She would succumb to age six months later, her 14 years overcoming her one night near Christmas. Smudgy wasn't the best retriever I ever had, but definitely the fastest. There was never a crippled

goose or duck that could outrun her, no matter how it was wounded. Thumper, my yellow one, would learn a great deal from her, but Thumper just didn't have her legs. Thumper's legs were short but her nose was keen. What one dog lacked the other made up for!

Like Anne and I had done the previous years we selected to shoot 109 on the first morning. When the major influx of snow geese descended on Whitewater Lake to our west, overcrowding saw many of the ponds and lakes surrounding the town of Boissevain fill up with the overflow. 109 was one of them, only five miles from town. We chose the pass between the two prairie lakes for our shooting position. As our van's engine was shut off the heavy murmuring of geese could be heard. It was evidence we'd chosen right. The wind was slight and from the east. That meant the main flocks would ascend and pass directly over us. Years of studying the lake at 109 was about to pay off.

We had only a hundred yards to access the pass. Both dogs eagerly bolted from the van when the door was opened, then whined and pranced about. Once we reached the pass it was 12 minutes



Oh, that's where she went, she's with Anne!

to shooting time. Anne settled in behind a willow bush on the down side. I did the same on the up side. Within minutes, the first morning scouts from the flock began to trickle over and past us.

As always, Anne is tuned in to letting the first birds pass over, thus setting up a flight direction for the rest of the flock. Next came a group of 30 geese which passed over me no more than 20 yards

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If you can't shoot me a goose, I'll bring you a duck, Anne!

away. My watch showed a minute to shooting time. I let them go by. Then as the roar of talk increased from the pond to our west a couple hundred birds headed our way. The huge flock split as it neared our blind positions. Anne looked at me and I acknowledged it was time. As the birds passed over her she raised her .20 gauge Benelli and rapped off her allowed three shots. At the same time I lifted my .28 gauge over/under Browning and selected two big Blues from the batch going over me. As the small gun popped, its first target folded, descending 30 feet away. The second bird turned out to be



Is this the motel you told us about?

a cripple which slammed into shoreline weeds 100 feet east of me. Smudgy had elected to race off to attend to the twin snows Anne had taken. Suddenly she shot again. This time a huge Blue folded above her and fell onto the 109 roadway. Somehow, she'd had time to reload after her first three shots. Then she fired again, this time not quite killing a juvenile snow which flew a cripple's pattern to settle on the eastern pond. Smudgy, the old black lab, after watching the bird settle with a heavy splash, took off like a rocket. This was what she loved. Fifty yards of bulrush shoreline was stomped through

as I watched her head out to open water where the cripple was swimming east in an attempt to reach the safety of the reeds. Not only did Smudgy run fast but swam fast! Ten feet before the bird hit reeds Smudgy caught up, pivoted with her prize and headed back, not to Anne but to my position. I could almost hear her thinking: "I'll show that yellow pup!"

Thumper had retrieved my two birds and raced over to Anne to retrieve her second snow; I think you'd call that tit-for-tat in the retrievers' world.

Meanwhile, dozens of geese blew over us, continuing to use the morning's



A brace of snow geese she took from the first flocks

exit path. Reloaded, with the pattern of geese now a bit higher by 35 yards or so, Anne and I hammered away at the departing geese. I took four more, Anne also a couple more. I should mention that the daily limit in Manitoba was 20, with 100 in possession.

We were 25 minutes into the hunt when seven mallards attempted to sneak through the pass. My trusty little .28 doubled on a pair of greenheads while Anne managed to down one from the same group.

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Fall Flight . . . continued

One of the problems I had was that it's hard to find .28 gauge shotgun shells, especially in steel. .12, and .20 gauge are easily purchased at most sporting goods or hardware stores. But .28 are nearly impossible to buy over the counter. Three years ago, I had to special order them, and have them bussed in from Toronto.

Later in the morning the east breeze switched to the northwest. That changed the departure pattern. Between the change a fog settled in over the prairie waterfowl paradise. We had all the geese we needed--not our 40-bird limit but plenty of food.

Later that day we chose to hunt the small Honkers working the grain fields north of Whitewater Lake with some

success. These shoots for Honkers off of Whitewater are always a crap shoot! With harvested wheat fields, everywhere the chances are likely to be a hit or miss game more likely than not. We did scout a promising grain-stubble field that night which the next day allowed us to harvest five birds from it. As the photo shows, bales of wheat straw became our blinds as the birds descended into the stubble.

From the Boissevain area the white cloud of geese departs late in October on a strong north wind, riding the wind to Devils Lake in North Dakota. From Devils Lake, where they feed on both grain and corn fields, they do a split flight to the panhandle of Texas and the salt marshes of Louisiana.

There are many gunners who follow their path to collect these birds but I've



109's mixed bag of snow geese, some mallards, as they rise to go feed in the wheat stubble at morning sunrise



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always wondered why. It isn't that the meat of the Snow isn't good eating---they are! Many grind their meat into sausage---that too is good. Maybe my 85 years is taking a toll on a desire that consumed me fifty years ago.

But this year without my dogs...both have passed on. That was half my reason to hunt. Maybe I'll give it one more try, without Smudgy and Thumper. My hunting buddy, Dan Stewart from Detroit,

claims he'll carry me from the car and set me on a pass! Maybe I'll take him up on the offer.

Until next time, this is the Ol' man, hoping you relax, savor and enjoy our great outdoors. It's ours to save for our grandchildren and their children.



Why the blue collar, Dad. I'm not a Democrat, I'm a red conservative!



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TOP 10 TED NUGENT QUOTES ON GUNS AND HUNTING, PART I

By Bob Robb

THE MOTOR CITY MADMAN — AN AVID HUNTER AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST — IS ALMOST AS WELL KNOWN FOR THE SPEED OF HIS WIT AND NO APOLOGIES DEFENSE OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND HUNTING AS BLURRED FINGERS RACING OVER HIS FAVORITE GIBSON GUITAR.

Before our paths crossed for real in the early 1990's — we used to be on the same pro staffs for a couple of hunting industry companies — I was a Ted Nugent fan. I was first drawn to Ted's wild ways on stage and his unparalleled skill with an electric guitar. Later, after I'd gotten to know him a little bit, it was his wit, an intellect most never see, his unparalleled work ethic, and his take-no-prisoners style (when it came to defending many of the core values I hold dear) that held my admiration.

Millennials and Gen-X dudes, you may not know much about Uncle Ted, so let me give you a brief on one of America's modern-day entrepreneurial success stories.

Theodore Anthony "Ted" Nugent was born on December 13, 1948, in Detroit, Michigan, and began playing music when he was six years old; by age 14 he had formed his first band, the Lourds. On the strength of their 1964 performance at the Michigan State Fair, the Lourds were given the opportunity to open for the Beau Brummels and the Supremes. Nugent later moved to Chicago, where he fronted the band the Amboy Dukes; in 1968 they achieved national recognition with the single "Journey to the Center of the Mind," which reached No. 8 on the pop charts. In the early 1970s, the Amboy Dukes continued to record while averaging more than 300 concert dates per year. With the aid of props, wardrobe, pyrotechnics

and live animals, their concerts approached rock opera dimensions. Soon the Amboy Dukes were renamed Ted Nugent and the Amboy Dukes.

In 1975, Ted went solo. Now recording with the Epic Records label, he released his first solo album, Ted Nugent, featured the hit singles "Strangle Hold" and "Hey Baby." In 1977, Nugent recorded his most successful album to date, Cat Scratch Fever. Eventually selling more than three million copies, the LP included the now-classic rock anthems "Cat Scratch Fever," "Workin' Hard, Playin' Hard," and "Out of Control." Later, in 1989, he joined forces with rock veterans Tommy Shaw and Jack Blades to form the heavy metal band Damn Yankees.



Ted has never shied away from the limelight, and he has never been afraid to speak his mind. In an entertainment world dominated by left-wing thinking and activism, Ted's love for the outdoors and hunting, coupled with his right-of-center politics and support for the Second Amendment, quasi-squashed his popularity in the 1990's. Then in 1995 he resumed his solo career with the critically-acclaimed album "Spirit of the Wild," which revolves around his political views and passionate relationship with nature and hunting.

In the summer of 2000, Nugent

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opened 79 sold-out concerts on the KISS Farewell Tour. That same year, he published a book of essays titled *God, Guns and Rock-N-Roll*. Throughout his career, Nugent has served on the boards of more than two dozen political and charitable associations, including the National Rifle Association and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. He is currently a loyal supporter of the Republican Party. While I could not find exact numbers, I figure Ted has released something like 34 albums and has been able to sell something like 30 million records. He's also the long-time host of the successful cable hunting show, "Spirit of the Wild."

Here's one of the things I like about Ted. Most celebrities are barricaded behind walls of public relations flacks and "posses" — but not Ted. No dummy, Ted is a media pro. In public he's always "on," he knows how he looks, he knows how his rock star image can be manipulated, and he's very good at doing so. He once told me that organizations like the NRA would be crazy for not allowing him to be a spokesman for them since his past and persona open doors to mainstream media outlets that Joe Average could

never open. And he's right. But get him in a small environment away from the crowds and cameras, and you can have thoughtful conversation that will make you think about things.

Ted is also famous in the world of rock music for having never taken drugs and not drinking alcohol. When I once joked with him about how he could possibly have avoided all that stuff surrounded by all the coke and heroin and meth and free booze, he just laughed and said, "Yeah they all had fun, but now they're dead, and I'm still Ted!"

That's just one of Uncle Ted's better quotes. Below are 10 of my favorites pertaining to guns and hunting. There are so many that I'll bring you Part II with another 10 zingers.

- 10) Ted likes his meat dead, enough said.
- 9) Vegetarians are cool. All I eat are vegetarians — except for the occasional mountain lion steak.
- 8) I'm the gun guy, a loud guitar Dirty Harry with a ponytail.
- 7) If you want to save a species, simply decide to eat it. Then it will be managed — like chickens, like turkeys, like deer,

like Canadian geese.

- 6) Look what venison does to a goofy guitar player from Detroit. I'm going to be 54 this year and if I had any more energy I'd scare you.
- 5) There are hundreds of millions of gun owners in this country, and not one of them will have an accident today. The only misuse of guns comes in environments where there are drugs, alcohol, bad parents, and undisciplined children. Period.
- 4) Fortunately, as it pertains to guns, my dad and uncle introduced me to guns the way it needs to be done: smart, slow and safe.
- 3) There's an absolute surety to the hands-on conservation lifestyle of hunting, fishing and trapping where you know you're going to consume today.
- 2) Every study on crime and on firearms proves time and time again, that 99.99999 percent of American gun owners do not commit crimes or use our firearms in any dangerous or improper way.



*In 1977, Ted Nugent recorded his most successful album to date, **Cat Scratch Fever**. Photo: Flickr Creative Commons/Matthew Hutchinson*

- 1) Mankind: A quality of life upgrade is available to each and every one of you. It should give you a quality of life upgrade, which means no drugs, no alcohol, no fast food — unless, of course, it's a mallard.

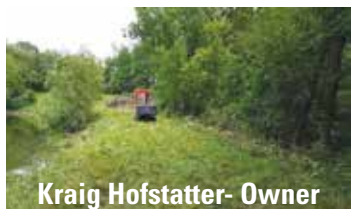
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BREAK OUT THOSE JIGS

Fall and winter is rapidly approaching and that means get out the crappie jigs no need for live bait. I have crappie fished most of my life and after nearly sixty-one years, twenty-five as a fishing guide I picked up a thing or two. All crappie jigs are not the same. Different styles and colors for different applications.

My partner and I many years ago wanted to come up with a jig that could be worked deep during the winter months down on Kentucky Lake. A huge profile jig that had a small hook on it to allow you to put it about anywhere including some of the nasty brush piles we have built down there.

The 1/4oz. Deep Ledge Jig was born. There are jigs similar but none like this one. First of all money was not spared and shop time at a machine shop was needed to make the molds on a C&C machine for these jigs to be as precise as we needed them. They needed to always stand up horizontally and we added sunken eye cavities for hi-vis eyeballs that won't just peel off.

Most crappie fishermen just jig their rod up and let the jig freefall back to the original depth. With this heavy jig you can watch it go down the screen on your front depth finder then stop it just above the brush and then start swimming it back and forth. Much more like a natural bait fish would swim. If you don't get bit then I simply pull out a foot of line and repeat. Sometimes you have to force feed those deep crappie. This heavy jig puts out a huge profile and you can put any plastic on the back you want. Like I said the trick is swimming it rather than popping it up and down. I have my boat set up for three anglers to all set up on the nose and I would tell my clients to hold their rod very still and I would slowly move the boat back and forth. If their depth was right they would get hammered very soon.

There was no need for a huge hook as most are sold with the small number four but we had the mold cut to accept

number one and two hooks for different applications which has worked out for those smallmouth fishermen who routinely vertical fish down thirty feet or more. The walleye guys love the jigs with larger hooks as do all the guides on Grenada that want live bait on them like the walleye guys as well as the plastic.

I enticed Brad Whitehead, a guide on Pick Wick Lake another one on the Tennessee River system that fishes very similar to Kentucky in the winter to give them a try. He has completely bought in on the small hook and has landed many crappie over three with this jig as have I. I once told him if you are not getting your fish hooked then maybe you ought to be looking at your rod set up. You need a shorter very stiff rod to get a hook in fish deeper than twenty-feet and with the shorter rod you can watch the whole thing on your electronics so you know exactly what depth you are fishing.

The deep lakes in the south are not the only that this works on. Angler's love that you can feel this heavy jig and crappie just seem to hit it harder than any other jig. I think they can see it so much better.

The first jig was such a success that it spawned many more variations for other applications. We made the same great jig in 3/16, 1/8, 3/32 as well as the original

the 1/4oz. Then we added the same line with a small 00 willow blade. Most put to large of a blade on their Roadrunner style jigs. Not needed, all you need is a little flash to get their attention.

Then a fly-tier friend of mine talked me into our latest adaptation the Brush Bug and our newest the Baby Bug. These I am really proud of because they hold up so well that fifty fish can be caught from just a single jig. Plastics are alright but when you are fishing twenty-feet down and a crappie just takes a nip at it the tail pulls down and you

have to bring it up and put it back on then drop it back. Yeah you can glue them on but that doesn't last either.

With these hand-tied jigs you get a nip at it just keep fishing. The Brush Bug was made very bulky to entice larger fish and we even make them with a spinner to enhance further visibility. The Baby Bug I wanted a smaller, lighter version to fish the mid depth and shallow stakes on Kentucky since the big Black Crappie are much more prevalent and like to live shallower. I am really proud of our latest jig and think it is our best jig yet. I have quite a few guides using them and all wish I would



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not release them to the public as they are their go to jig and can't say enough about them. They only come in our smallest 3/32oz. and only a handful of colors so far, but like the Brush Bug special orders can be met as long as you can wait a spell.

These jigs I believe are the best made on the market. The molds were made precisely to ensure what we wanted. Perfect balance and a squared head to help your sonar reflect off it. Everything was thought of for you. We are not some huge company just me for the most part but I do get some help from time to time. I don't want these jigs in stores across the nation but am happy to have them in my favorites and I have an on-line store on my website for mail order. As it is I make about sixty thousand per year, all hand-made and that is more than enough.

The stores that carry our jigs are Chip's Marine located at the mouth of Bo-Woods boat ramp on Lake Shelbyville IL., Howie's located out on Rt. 32 south of Sullivan IL., and The Crappie Pro Shop in Carterville, IL. Plus our on-line store at www.LakeShelbyvilleGuide.com. Look them up, give them a try the last jigs you will ever buy.

DUCKS UNLIMITED ANNOUNCES DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



Memphis, TN — September 6, 2017 — Ducks Unlimited (DU) recently announced the 2016-2017 Regional Director (RD) and Director of Development (DOD) of the Year award recipients. Erik Wettersten and Kirk Davidson were recognized for their outstanding fundraising leadership efforts during the 2017 fiscal year.

Regional Director of the Year: Erik Wettersten was named Regional Director of the Year for his efforts as a staff member of Region 2, an area that encompasses the Prairies and Great Plains region. Wettersten, a resident of Evergreen, Colo., covers Front Range and West Slope, Colo., working with volunteer committees hosting fundraisers for the 80-year-old conservation organization. Erik raised more than \$1.8 million for DU's conservation mission in the recent fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

Director of Development of the Year: Kirk Davidson was named the Director of Development of the Year for his fundraising efforts in Colorado and Kansas.

Davidson secured more than \$2.5 million in pledges and more than \$1 million in cash during the fiscal year. Kirk is a 25-year member of DU and has been on staff in various capacities for 15 years, eight of which have been in Development.

"Erik and Kirk are both exceptional members of DU's fundraising team of volunteers, staff and donors," said Amy Batson, DU's chief fundraising officer. "Their unwavering dedication to DU's mission of wetlands and waterfowl conservation is inspiring. I am proud to see them recognized for their extraordinary accomplishments and to serve on the fundraising team with them."

For more information visit www.ducks.org.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually



disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 14 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.

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Lovebird History

The first written record of lovebirds appeared during the 1600's. It took scientists and bird enthusiasts over 200 years to discover and identify the nine different lovebird species. Lovebirds originate from Africa and were first imported to Europe during the 1800's. Before long, they were in high demand and tens of thousands were shipped to the USA and Europe.

Unfortunately, a large number of these wild birds failed to thrive in captivity and many died. Several species were routinely caught by trappers, which often wiped out entire local populations. Today, some lovebird species are so rare they can only be found in national parks

and protected forests.

In the 1970's the US and European governments placed restrictions on the importation of lovebirds. Today, most of the lovebirds available for sale are born and raised in captivity.

Natural Habitat

In their native habitat lovebirds live in communities of 5-20 birds. They tend to roost and forage together as one big happy family. Only during breeding season do they break apart and live in pairs. Lovebirds mate for life, but they have been known to have affairs with other mates on the side. Lovebirds nest in tree holes, abandoned weaver finch nests, and termite mounds. They prefer to live in tall grasslands or scrublands, and close to a water supply. In some dry regions, lovebirds are nomadic and move frequently to avoid times of drought.

They eat a wide variety of foods and love to plunder fields ripe with millet, rice, corn and sesame. The Black Collared Lovebird has a selective appetite and will only eat figs.

Lovebird Species

Unlike most parrots where the majority of species are extremely similar to one another, the lovebird species are quite distinct. Only three of the nine lovebird species are readily available

for purchase. The other 6 are rare and difficult, if not impossible, to find.

The most common lovebirds include:

- The Peace Faced Lovebird. This bird is 6-7 inches long and weighs close to 2 ounces. It has a bright green body, blue tail feathers, red face and black or brown eyes.





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- Fisher's Lovebirds. These birds are relatively small. They have an orange face and a variety of other feather colors including blue, yellow, orange and green. Due to their small size, the Fisher Lovebird is a good choice for beginners. However, they are high-spirited and need a lot of attention to stay tame. The good thing is you won't have to invest in a huge bird cage for your little Fisher. A small parrot cage or finch cage will do just fine.
- Black-Masked Lovebirds have a dark green body with a yellow chest and neck. Some of these birds have blue instead of green bodies.

Caring for Your Lovebird

Lovebirds are feisty little creatures, but they can be extremely cuddly, friendly and amusing. In a way, they're a lot like teenagers. Ever feel that love-hate relationship with a teenager who drives you up the wall one minute and then melts your heart the next? Well, lovebirds are the same way.

Many people believe lovebirds must be kept in pairs... and if left alone, without a bird companion, will die of a broken heart. Well, this is not exactly true. As long as you give your lovebird an abundance of attention, he'll do just fine being the only bird in the house. However, if you are unable to spend at least 3-5 hours a day with your bird, purchasing a second lovebird is probably your best bet.

You will need to find a birdcage large enough to accommodate a pair. If cost is a concern, rest easy. There are dozens of beautiful bird cages available at a reasonable price. And remember, just because you're purchasing a cheap bird cage, doesn't mean it isn't top-notch quality. Many discount bird cages, such as those offered by Cages Under \$500 are sturdy and spacious. The most important thing is to find a lovebird cage that meets the needs of your bird.

Choosing the Perfect Cage

When picking out a cage for your lovebird, be sure it is large enough for your pet to adequately move around. Could you imagine spending most of your time stuffed in a small closet? You wouldn't like that would you? Well, neither will your bird. Your lovebird cage should be no smaller than 36" x 24" x 36". Ideally, your parrot cage should be large enough

for your bird to fly from perch to perch and stretch his wings. An indoor aviary may be the perfect choice. Your bird will love the space to fly.

Sunshine—Essential for Lovebirds

Sunlight and adequate lighting is essential for lovebirds. Lovebirds have an uropygial gland located at the base of their tail. This gland secretes oil which the bird uses to spread throughout its feathers. When exposed to sunlight, the oil turns into Vitamin D, providing your pet with a healthy dose of this essential nutrient. However, if your lovebird is not exposed to adequate lighting, he will develop a Vitamin D deficiency.

If you live in a warm, sunny region of the country, consider purchasing an outdoor bird cage or an outdoor aviary for your bird. These bird cages can be placed on a deck or slab of cement. They'll allow your bird to soak up some much-needed sunlight and fresh air. If you do not want to purchase an outdoor aviary, consider picking up some casters for your birdcage. This will allow you to attach wheels to the bottom of your cage, so you can easily roll it outside and back inside the house.

I Don't Have Enough Sun

But what if you don't live in a warm, sunny region of the country? What if you live in Washington or Oregon where it rains 80% of the time. Or maybe you live in Alaska where you only have 3 hours of daylight during the winter months. Don't panic. There's a solution for this problem as well.

If you cannot afford an outdoor aviary...don't want to hassle with constantly moving your cage inside and outside...or simply live in a damp, region of the country, you can utilize special equipment to give your bird the light he needs. Simply purchase a florescent strip fixture and attach it to the top of your birdcage. The Fluorescent Strip Fixture comes with 5.0 bulbs that are ideal for lovebirds. It is extremely affordable and even comes with pre-drilled holes for easy mounting.



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HOW HUMMINGBIRDS SURVIVE ON COLD NIGHTS

By www.hummingbirdmarket.com

Extreme cold

Our coldest nighttime temperatures here in Southern Arizona occasionally drop to the freezing mark, or even below. Last winter, we had the coldest winter weather since records have been kept. Luckily, this winter won't be as cold. Many of our customers have asked us how it is that tiny, fragile hummingbirds are able to survive such cold night temperatures.

Migration

Most North American hummingbirds are migratory. Do they simply fly south from their northerly breeding territories and ranges for the winter when the weather is cold and their food sources are nearly exhausted? In most of North America, the hummers leave long before the prolonged cold sets in. Many researchers believe that lack of food is not the main reason hummers (as well as other birds) migrate. It is believed that the number of daylight hours and raging hormones are more critical factors in determining when hummers migrate south.

The Tucson basin has a temperate enough winter climate that this region becomes the destination of their southern migration for some hummer species. Others continue farther south. In recent decades, due in part to the relatively mild climate in winter and the great increase

of backyard nectar feeders and nesting materials, many species are seen here throughout the coldest of months and some species seem to have adapted well to year round living in Southern Arizona. Anna's hummingbird is a common hummer that breeds here in winter.

In Southern Arizona, we have hummingbirds every month of the year, every day of every month. We can't complain about any lack of hummers, especially since 21 species have been recorded here.

Torpidity

On particularly cold evenings, Anna's (and other species) enter a state similar to hibernation called torpidity. John K. Terres, author of The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of Birds, defined torpidity as "a state of inactivity that is brought about by certain physiological changes — greatly lowered heart rate, breathing rate, and metabolism, and a greatly reduced response to external stimulation." While hibernation is generally thought of as a long-term period (an entire winter — bears are a good example), torpidity is very short term, usually only overnight or for several nights in a row.

Other measures

During cold snaps, small birds lose body heat more quickly than large birds. Likewise,

small birds overheat more quickly than large birds when subjected to temperatures greater than their own body temperatures. Some cold climate small birds like Chickadees are equipped with down feathers. They fluff their feathers up and trap more insulating air when it is cold. They also shiver like we humans

do to cause muscular contractions that generate heat. While hummingbirds have more feathers overall than larger birds, they don't have down feathers. They can only maintain their body temperature by increasing heat production.

How torpidity works

The problem is that hummers have little energy reserves due to their extremely high metabolic rate. They cannot survive by shivering for very long. Instead, many enter a state of torpor. They drop their metabolic rate to 1/50th of what it would be at normal body temperature. The rate of water loss by evaporation decreases to one-third to one-tenth of the norm. The

smaller the hummer, the more rapidly it enters and emerges from a torpid state. While torpid, the hummingbird's heart rate varies with its body temperature, ranging from 50 to 180 beats per minute. Normal heartbeat of active hummers can be as high as 1200 beats per minute. In their state of torpidity, breathing becomes irregular, with long periods of no breath at the lowest temperatures.

Alexander Wilson, the father of American ornithology, first noted torpidity in 1810 when he observed a Ruby-throated hummingbird that took over half a day to come out of a torpid state. In 1861, British artist John Gould wrote of two species of South American hummingbirds that



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became torpid in his laboratory at 63-70 degrees. Tropical hummingbirds have very little cold tolerance. They sat on their perches with heads drawn into their shoulders, and "showed...no spark of life; they could be moved about and laid on a table like so many dried skins."

Torpidity in other birds

Hummingbirds are not the only birds that can become torpid. The Common Poorwill is a master, maintaining a state of torpidity for 88 days. Swifts (which are related to hummingbirds) can enter torpidity, and it can be induced in owls, nighthawks, swallows, and titmice. Although they do not enter deep torpor, Smooth-billed anis, Greater roadrunners, Inca doves and Turkey vultures all can decrease their body temperature on cool nights.

As an emergency measure

In 1950 Oliver L. Pearson noted that Anna's and Allen's hummingbirds enter torpidity. He pointed out that a hummer that becomes torpid overnight saves a lot of energy. In 1963 Lasiewski observed 67 individuals of five different hummer species – Costa's, Anna's, Allen's, Rufous, and Calliope – and concluded that

hummingbirds do not become torpid every night. It is probably an emergency survival method used when energy reserves are low. Presumably, hummers cannot survive much below freezing at night. They must locate to a warmer location or find shelter, like in a cave or some other enclosed area, as Pearson reported in 1953.

However, there are reports of hummers flying about and surviving in below freezing weather. A Ruby-throated hummer was seen in the last two weeks of May 1936 in Canada when the temperature was only 22-28 degrees. From December 3, 1963 to January 3, 1964, a female Ruby-throat visited a North Carolina garden. The nighttime temperature dropped below freezing during 28 of those nights and below 20 degrees on seven consecutive evenings. The little bird almost totally depended on a nectar feeder that was put out for it. No one found its protected nighttime roost. Feeders are helpful

In the same vein, the internet offers records of a Anna's wintering in Seattle and Rufous hummingbird spending her winters in central Texas. Entries like the one following point to the use of feeders and their importance in maintaining the

bird through ice storms and hard freezes. "There was a 24 degree freeze on November 16 (1997), but our Rufous was at the frozen bottle early on. I used the warmth of my hands to thaw the solution to where it could be used, but also put out a second bottle in a sunny location – immediately preferred." If you want more information, check out the Purolo Bird Reports site at <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~harms/birds.html>

To maintain the temperature of her eggs or young, an incubating or nesting female hummingbird does not lower body temperature and become torpid. The nestlings do not enter into torpidity either. The insulated nest retains enough warmth to keep them from the cold.

A different strategy

The Magnificent hummingbird uses a different strategy. This hummer stores insects and nectar in a well-developed crop. In view of Lasiewski's discovery that hummers do not always enter into torpidity, Weymouth et al (1964) found that



storing food in the crop helps maintain the Magnificent through a cold winter's night, much as finches often fill their crops with seed before roosting in the far north. Truly unique birds!

Hummingbirds never fail to interest and amaze those who focus their attention on them. They truly are among the most unique of birds, anywhere. As such, they are one of a few birds that can raise and lower their body temperatures and metabolic rates to survive in the extremes of winter in North America. Truly incredible!

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IT JUST GETS BETTER

Top Guides Describe Devils Lake: 'Phenomenal, Incredible, Top-Notch, Crown Jewel'

By: Devils Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau

Devils Lake, ND - Devils Lake fishing gets better and better each season. According to North Dakota fisheries manager Todd Caspers, "Not only does this lake demonstrate a stable situation, but it has a good, consistent mix of all sizes of walleyes, not just one dominating year-class." Guides agree, calling Devils Lake fishing, "Phenomenal, incredible, top-notch, a crown jewel."

Caspers is the area biologist. Walleyes are perhaps the most popular Devils Lake species, but yellow perch also rank high with thousands and thousands of local and out-of-state anglers. "We test young-of-year perch in a few weeks, but are cautiously optimistic of a good hatch," he said. This year, the Fish and Game summer net surveys averaged nine perch per net compared to 7.4 last year. Most age classes were about the same as long-term averages.

Walleyes were exactly at the long-term average of 20 fish per net. The 15 to 20 inch fish were slightly above average, as were the 25-inch plus walleyes. Northern pike numbers were above average. The 34 to 44 inch fish were right on the long-term average. Numbers of 28 to 34 inch pike were double the long-term average.

The fourth major species targeted by anglers is white bass. The trend is pointing upwards, with seven bass per net this year, up from 1.2 white bass per net in 2015, and 6.6 last year. The long-term average is four bass. The big jump is due to the 2015 year-class; they're 10 to 12 inches now.

Devils Lake expert guides are jubilant about the great year-after-year fishing. Approximately 25 percent of all non-resident fishing licenses sold in North Dakota are sold in bait shops around Devils Lake, which is open for fishing all year.

Aaron McQuoid, owner of McQuoid

Guides with 19 years on the lake said, "The words 'average' and Devils Lake are not ever used in the same sentence. Change the word 'average' to 'phenomenal' and that's more like it. With more good news from this year's netting, I smile and know the future is better and better." Anglers stay at McQuoid's lodge, hire guides or go in their own boats, but he said, "They all enjoy the fishing here."

Jason Mitchell, TV show host and owner of one of the largest guide services on the lake was even more positive. He said, "Over the past 10 years, Devils Lake has been the best walleye lake in the country. It's incredible how it sustains itself, and with the news of the hatch this season, will remain one of the best fisheries for years to come."

Mitchell attributes the long-term success to the cycles of rising water. A couple feet of water each year creates areas for small game fish and their forage to thrive and survive. "My clients often refer to the fish here as 'dumb' because they bite so readily. Devils Lake is the closest you can get to a Canadian fly-in lake yet remain in the US," he added. Another reason his clients head home with big smiles is because they love to catch fish, and he said, "They get



Guide Johnnie Candle with a nice walleye catch this fall.

worn out catching walleyes, pike, white bass and perch. They gain an appreciation of our fantastic multi-species 180,000 acre lake."

Community leader and guide Clint DeVier has fished the lake for almost half a century. For the past three decades he said, "Devils Lake is way above the other walleye systems I've tournament fished throughout the Midwest." The reason so many people love Devils Lake is because they can catch fish using their favorite tactics. Due to so many types of structure, if jigging is what a person loves to do, that will work. So



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will slip-bobbers, trolling, bottom-bouncers, casting crankbaits, fishing shallow or deep. "Most days are 50-plus walleye days with many pike, white bass and some perch netted. This makes for a top-notch experience," he said.

Guide and world-walleye champion Johnnie Candle said an average April and May pike day is 50 fish, with many 100 pike days. Some 20-plus pounders are hauled aboard every year. May and June are peak walleye months with about 20 coming to net daily, averaging three-pounds. July and August are "numbers" months with 60 to 100 walleyes per day. "Many days, our boat goes six to 10 casts in a row with walleyes on every cast," he said. If targeted, walleyes over five-pounds can be caught, and always end up winning most tournaments.

The season around the corner, September until ice-up, is called "incredible" by Candle. He does not keep walleyes over 20 inches, and despite catching 20 to 30 walleyes per day in the fall, he is often unable to keep any. Catching big walleyes, 75 pike or upwards of 100 white bass make every trip an adventure. "Devils Lake is the crown jewel of the prairie," he said.

For more information about Devils Lake

motels and resorts, fish cleaning stations, water levels, ramps, public fishing piers, fishing reports for walleye, pike, perch and white bass, community activities, tournament opportunities, guides, dining, casino and much more, go to devilslakend.com, or call the Tourism office, 701-662-4903.



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THE WATERFOWLING DOG - CREATING A GREAT CONSERVATION TOOL

by Joe Arterburn with Randy Bartz

Take your dog.

Sure, there are some waterfowl hunters out there debating whether a dog belongs in the blind, but there's no doubt in the mind of Randy Bartz.

Take your dog, said Bartz, a kennel owner and dog-training product designer and manufacturer who has been involved with dog training since a 1964-65 stint as a sentry dog handler for the U.S. Army.

Those who say otherwise - that dogs are a bother, perhaps even a danger in the blind or that they cause distractions and movement that can spook approaching waterfowl - simply aren't able to control their dogs, Bartz said.

By far, he said, there are more reasons to take a trained dog than there are to leave him home.

For one, it might keep you out of

trouble with the game warden. Laws require hunters to make every reasonable attempt to retrieve downed birds. Failure to do so can be considered wanton waste of game birds, a prohibited offense.

Wounded birds sometimes lock their wings and sail up to a quarter of a mile before landing, leaving you with the daunting task of chasing them down, perhaps in heavy cover. Obviously, a well-trained dog can do it faster and more efficiently than you, reducing the amount of valuable time you would spend out of the pit, possibly flaring ducks or geese that want to come in.

And you can't always wait for an appropriate time to go after a wounded bird. The sooner the better. "Many times if you



don't make the attempt right away, wounded birds walk off, making it even harder to find them," Bartz said.

Dogs, he said, "are a great conservation tool."

Training The Ultimate Waterfowling Dog

Bartz recommends making simulated-hunting waterfowl training part of the daily

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dog-training ritual early in the year. By that, he means getting out the decoys, a portable blind - or go to your blind if it's a permanent blind.

There are a lot of good portable blinds on the market," he said. "It's a good idea to get into a blind with your dog." Once in, you can teach the dog the position you want him to be in and get him used to the enclosed atmosphere. A dummy launcher provides a good simulation of flight with the report of a shot. Remote launchers, situated strategically around the blind, also work well to train dogs to watch for and mark downed birds, he said.

And, don't forget the calls. Practice blowing your duck or goose calls with the dog in the blind with you. Go through the whole sequence as if a flight was approaching. Go through the motions from crouching down and peering out to blowing the call, ending with a retrieve from a dummy or remote launcher.

Work with the dog so they learn to quickly recover the bird (or dummy) and get back into concealment.

The Blind Retrieve

Teaching the blind retrieve will pay dividends. "The ultimate waterfowl dog will take hand signals," Bartz said. Waterfowl hunting, often with multiple shooters

downing multiple birds, is a challenge for any retriever. But the good ones soon learn to mark falling birds and, add to that blind retrieves, and you've got an extremely valuable hunting companion on your hands. "I've seen my dog stand over a downed bird searching the sky for any other birds that might be dropping or wounded but sailing off," Bartz said.

Bartz believes blind retrieving is so important he has developed products to help ensure successful training.

"To speed the process, I use a black and white flag to point out the areas where the dummies are," he said. "It is important to do as much as you can to help the dog succeed. Dogs proceed in training by succeeding, not in failing." And, he said, those successes lead to confidence and a willing attitude to want to please.

The dummies his company, Flagman Products, produces are black and white, which makes them easy to see regardless of the background, plus they're available with streamers attached which effectively doubles the visual effect, again helping the dog mark the dummies down and improving the chances of success.

His mainstay retrieving tool, in open country, is his 4-inch by 15-inch black and white dummy with a 15-inch streamer, he

said. "I prefer the 4-inch diameter dummy because it conditions dogs to accept a bird of about that size. Ducks, pheasants, most birds other than geese are in the 4-inch range," he said.

He also makes a 4-inch by 6-inch dummy which he uses on pattern drills because they are easy for dogs to carry, particularly in brushy or heavy cover.

Remote Training Collars

"If you have a willing performer, by repetition you can create a willing worker," he said. And that, he said, is where remote training collars fit into the picture.

"So much of the off-leash control work is made possible by remote training collars," he said.

Such as blind-retrieve training, he said. You can dissect the retrieve and use the collar to reinforce the learning process step by step, from learning to stop, sit and look back for directions at the sound of a whistle to following hand signals.

"There are so many little things you can do with remote collars and launchers, like Innotek's Command Series, that tie in nicely with dummy training," he said. "They've really changed the basic training and preparation of dogs. They make it so much easier for one guy to start these dogs

and progress at a good rate."

Justifying the expense of a remote training system is easy, he said, if you look at the amount of time it will save in the training process, plus what you'll save traveling to groups and clubs where assistance is available.

After his military career, Bartz worked his way up through the retriever field trial world, eventually becoming an eight-point licensed judge.

After purchasing his kennel, Lake Shady Kennels in Oronoco, Minnesota, he gave up judging, since you can't earn money from a kennel while a judge, and switched his efforts to hunting test trials. In 1989, he left an insurance career behind to devote full time to the kennel. He credits his wife, Susan, who pitched in with long hours of hard work, with the success of the kennel and Flagman Products.

But it all, ultimately, comes down to the dog handler, Bartz said. "If you recognize the need to spend a little time each day with your dog, you won't have much of a task when the season comes," he said. "A little bit each day gets you big results."

For more information on Lake Shady Kennels and Flagman Products, call (507) 367-4782.



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WATERFOWL 2017

DUCK NUMBERS REMAIN HIGH Most populations are above long-term averages

Memphis, TN — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) today released its report on 2017 Trends in Duck Breeding Populations, based on surveys conducted in May and early June by FWS and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Overall duck numbers in the survey area remain high. Total populations were estimated at 47.3 million breeding ducks in the traditional survey area, which is similar to last year's estimate of 48.4 million and is 34 percent above the 1955-2016 long-term average. The projected mallard fall flight index is 12.9 million birds, similar to the 2016 estimate of 13.5 million.

The main determining factor for duck breeding success is wetland and upland habitat conditions in the key breeding landscapes of the Prairies and the Boreal

Forest. Conditions observed across the U.S. and Canadian survey areas during the 2017 breeding population survey were generally similar to last year with a few exceptions. The total pond estimate for the United States and Canada combined was 6.1 million, which is 22% above the 2016 estimate of 5.0 million and 17% above the long-term average of 5.2 million.

"The surveys indicate that wetland conditions and populations of most frequently harvested ducks remain above the long-term average, and for most species, populations were at or above those from last year," said DU Chief Scientist Tom Moorman. "This is great news for waterfowlers who can now turn their attention to preparing habitat, tuning

up dogs and relentlessly watching the weather forecasts for the onset of fall and winter weather that will push the birds on their annual southward migration.

"DU remains concerned about northern pintails and scaup in particular, as the survey information continues to indicate these two species remain below their long-term average populations. Both species have struggled to regain desired populations. We will continue to work with our many conservation partners to understand what drives populations of these two species. If science points to habitat limitations as contributing factors, we'll rely on the science to develop conservation solutions to help restore populations of these birds.

"Hunters may notice in the report

that mallards declined 11%, or about 1.3 million birds, from 2016. The bulk of that appears to be related to drier conditions in the Canadian parklands region, where the surveys detected about 0.6 million fewer mallards. Overall, mallard populations remain in great shape, and FWS estimates the mallard fall flight will be similar to last year.

"Hunters should always remember that habitat and populations are going to vary over time, so we must keep focused on habitat conservation efforts over the long term. Ultimately, we need to maintain landscapes so that when precipitation and other conditions are right, the ducks will respond, produce

continued on pg. 95



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SHOULD YOU TRY A 20-GAUGE FOR DUCK HUNTING?

By Jarrod Spilger

A 20-GAUGE SHOTGUN OFFERS LIGHTER WEIGHT, LIGHTER KICK AND MORE THAN ADEQUATE PAYLOADS FOR DUCKS. WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

While big-bore 12-gauges will always dominate the waterfowling world, there are several advantages to downsizing to a 20-gauge, at least for ducks. I say ducks, because the 20-gauge has limited applications on geese, mostly due to a shortage of suitable goose ammo. The largest nontoxic shot size usually offered in 20-gauge is No. 2s (although a few rare loads have No. 1s), with 3-inch payloads seldom exceeding 1¼ ounce. That limits the 20-gauge to all but decoying shots at honkers.

For ducks, though, the 20-gauge is nearly perfect, especially in the early season when smaller, fast-flying ducks, like teal, are numerous and before the regular goose season has begun. The 20-gauge shotguns are light, usually weighing one or even two pounds less than their 12-gauge counterparts. A lighter shotgun swings quicker and is easier to pack into hidden public land hotspots along with a bag of decoys.

Likewise, women, youth and even older hunters are discovering that a lightweight

20-gauge often fits their needs better than a heavy 12-gauge. It's easier to shoulder and kicks less, especially if shooting a small-bore semi-auto. Felt recoil in a gas-operated 20-gauge is negligible, even with 3-inch loads, although it's not too bad in other action types either. Plus, if you're going to hit the surrounding uplands for pheasants after a morning duck shoot, the 20-gauge is a lot more pleasant to carry.

There are a surprising number of suitable 20-gauge scatterguns and shotshells available for duck hunting. Here are a few of them.

Most notable in the shotgun department is Benelli's new 20-gauge M2 Performance Shop Waterfowl Edition. This tricked-out small-bore M2 weighs just 5.9 pounds and features numerous enhancements performed by esteemed gunsmith Rob Roberts. These include a polished and honed inertia driven operating system for improved cycling, a crisp, tuned trigger for faster follow-up shots, and an enlarged bolt handle and bolt release button for easier use with gloves.

Roberts gave the M2's 28-inch barrel a complete makeover. The forcing cone is lengthened and polished for more uniform patterns and less felt recoil. Up front, there's

a HIVIZ fiber-optic sight with interchangeable light pipes. Finally, a set of Roberts' excellent Triple Threat waterfowl chokes provide optimal patterns at close, medium and long ranges. The whole gun is covered in new Realtree Max-5 camo.

Less flashy yet more affordable 20-gauge, inertia-operated semi-autos can be found in Franchi's Affinity and Stoeger's M3020. Both weigh only 5.6 pounds with 26-inch barrels. Finishes include black synthetic or Max-5 camo. Compact versions of both are also offered.

Winchester's SX3 in 20-gauge is a real gem among small-bore semi-autos. Its soft-shooting Active Valve gas system tames what little sting the 20-gauge has, making it a perfect choice for recoil-sensitive shooters. The SX3 is available in wood, black synthetic and Mossy Oak's waterfowl-worthy Shadow Grass Blades and new Break-Up Country camo patterns. It comes with 26- or 28-inch barrels and weighs around 6.5 to 6.75 pounds, depending on the model.

My 78-year-old father has a 20-gauge SX3 that he shoots at everything from doves and ducks to grouse, and this spring he's taking it turkey hunting. He often hits better with it than he does with a 12-gauge, thanks to the SX3's light weight and low recoil. Dad's gun impressed me so much that I recently bought a 20-gauge SX3 for my wife to use on doves. At least that's the excuse I gave her to justify the purchase. In reality, I plan to frequently sneak



it to the marsh and use it myself on early-season ducks.

There are also plenty of tough 20-gauge pumps out there, such as Stevens' 320. With its rugged, black synthetic stock, the 320 weighs 7.25 pounds with a 26-inch barrel. This year, Winchester introduced a 20-gauge SXP. It comes in either wood or black synthetic, with 26- or 28-inch barrels, and weighs between 6.5 and 6.75 pounds, depending on the model.

Benelli's 20-gauge Nova has a corrosion-resistant, polymer-encased receiver that's integrated into the stock. It's available in black synthetic or camo, with either a 24- or 26-inch barrel at 6.5 and 6.6 pounds, respectively. I have a tough little 20-gauge Nova I've used with great success on teal.

It should be noted that all three of these pumps have lengthened forearms that extend back to the receiver for a more ergonomic grip, and safeties located in front of the trigger.

Whichever shotgun or ammo you choose to shoot, rest assured the diminutive 20-gauge won't disappoint on ducks.

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ILLINOIS YOUTH FIREARM DEER HUNT IS OCTOBER 7-9

All Hunters Reminded of Blaze Orange Requirement During the Youth Hunt

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The 2017 Illinois Youth Firearm Deer Hunt is Oct. 7-9 for those hunters with a valid Youth Deer Permit who have not reached their 18th birthday by the first day of the hunt. Youth Deer Permits are available over-the-counter at license vendors throughout the state. Hunters may purchase only one permit (either-sex) for one of the open counties. Hunters that are 16 years of age or older must also have a Habitat Stamp.

All youth hunters must have a current, valid Youth Deer Permit and have a regular hunting license, Youth Hunting License or Apprentice Hunter License, unless exempt. If using a regular hunting license, participants must have completed an IDNR-approved Hunter Education course. Each hunter participating in the Youth Deer Hunt while using an Apprentice Hunter or Youth Hunter license must be accompanied by a non-hunting, validly-licensed (Illinois hunting license) parent, guardian or

grandparent who is 21 years of age or older. All other hunters participating in the Youth Deer Hunt must each be accompanied by a non-hunting supervisor (parent, guardian or responsible adult) who has a valid Illinois hunting license or who has in his or her possession a valid Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card. The non-hunting supervisor must wear the orange garments required of gun deer hunters (blaze orange cap and upper garment with a minimum of 400 square inches of solid blaze orange material), and must remain with the hunting youth. Each supervisor may only accompany a single youth at any given time during the hunt.

All Illinois counties except Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties, and that portion of Kane County east of Illinois Route 47, are open for the youth deer season. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset on Oct. 7-9. The bag limit is one deer per legally authorized permit. All either-sex permits are subject to the following restrictions: no hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits

in his/her possession, may harvest more than two (2) antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons.

Successful hunters must register their harvest by 10 p.m. on the same calendar day the deer is taken by calling the toll-free telephone check-in system at 1-866-ILCHECK or by accessing the online check-in system at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/HarvestReporting.aspx>. They will be provided with a confirmation number to verify that they checked in their harvest. This number must be written by the hunter on the temporary harvest tag (leg tag).

Unfilled Youth Permits will also be valid during the first firearm deer season only for private land in the county named on the permit, or for hunting on public land that is open to statewide regulations (no limit on hunter access) in that county during the firearm season. Unfilled youth permits would not be valid during the first firearm deer season on special hunt areas that limit hunter numbers with a quota.

Youth hunters are reminded that archery deer season will be underway and archery hunters will be afield during the Oct. 7-9 youth hunt. Archery deer hunters and all other hunters are reminded that they must comply with requirements to wear blaze orange the weekend of the youth deer hunt (except in

counties closed to the youth deer season).

The IDNR-managed sites in the counties listed below are open to youth hunting during the Youth Deer Hunt. Note that some of the IDNR sites allow participation in the Youth Deer Hunt only by site-specific permit. Contact the sites listed below for special site regulations:

- Adams – Mississippi River Pools 21 and 22
- Adams/Brown – Siloam Springs SP
- Alexander – Cape Bend SFWA, Horseshoe Lake SFWA
- Calhoun/Jersey – Mississippi River SFWA
- Cass – Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA
- Clinton – Carlyle Lake – East Fork Unit, Eldon Hazlet SP – North Allen Branch Unit
- Crawford – Crawford County SFWA
- Effingham – Wildcat Hollow SHA
- Fayette – Carlyle Lake SFWA
- Franklin – Campbell Pond SHA
- Hancock – Cedar Glen SNA
- Henderson – Big River State Forest (new in 2017); Mississippi River – Pool 18
- Iroquois County – Iroquois County SWA
- Jackson – Kinkaid Lake SFWA; Burning Star SFWA
- Jackson/Union – Giant City SP
- Jackson/Williamson/Union – Crab Orchard NWR
- Jasper – Meeker SHA, Newton Lake SFWA
- Jefferson/Franklin – Rend Lake SFWA and COE-managed areas of Rend Lake

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- Jefferson/Hamilton – Ten Mile Creek SFWA
- Jersey – Copperhead Hollow SFWA, Pere Marquette SP
- Jo Daviess – Apple River Canyon (Salem/Thompson Units), Hanover Bluff, Rall Woods, Tapley Woods, Upper Mississippi River NFWR – Lost Mound Unit to include IDNR properties Eagles Landing and Stewardship Park (special permit required from USFWS), Wards Grove, Winston Tunnel
- Johnson – Cypress Pond SNA, Deer Pond SNA, Ferne Clyffe – Cedar Draper Units only, Glass Hill SNA, Skinner Farm SHA, Wise Ridge SNA
- Johnson/Pulaski/Massac – Cache River SNA
- Knox – Spoon River SF
- Lawrence – Chauncey Marsh
- Lee – Green River SWA
- Marshall – Marshall SFWA
- Mason – Sand Ridge SF
- Massac – Fort Massac SP, Mermet Lake SFWA, Seilbeck Forest SNA
- Menard County – Oakford CA
- Mercer – Mississippi River – Pool 17
- Moultrie – Lake Shelbyville Project Lands in Moultrie County including Shelbyville SFWA
- Montgomery – Coffeen Lake SFWA (Upland Management Area only)
- Peoria – Portions of Marshall SFWA

- Perry – Pyramid SRA (East Conant, Galum and Old Park Management units only)
- Pike – Mississippi River (Pools 22 & 24), Ray Norbut SFWA, Ray Norbut – Dutch Creek Unit
- Pope – Dixon Springs SP, Dog Island
- Randolph – Turkey Bluffs SFWA
- Randolph/St. Clair/Monroe – Kaskaskia River SFWA
- Saline – Saline County SFWA
- Sangamon – Sangamon County CA
- Shelby – Hidden Springs SF, Lake Shelbyville Project Lands (NOT including Eagle Creek and Wolf Creek State Recreation Areas)
- Schuyler/Brown – Weinberg King SFWA including Scripps and Spunky Bottoms units
- Tazewell – Mackinaw SFWA
- Union – Trail of Tears SF, and Union County SFWA
- Union/Alexander – Devil's Island SFWA
- Will County – Kankakee River State Park

Note: Crab Orchard, Dixon Springs, and Lake Le-Aqua-Na offer youth firearm hunts during the regular statewide firearm deer season and require a site-specific firearm deer permit.

For more information on the Youth Deer Hunt in Illinois, check the IDNR website at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/DeerHunting.aspx>

HUNGRY MANGROVE SNAPPERS PROVIDE NON-STOP ACTION

by Tom Berg

Florida has long been known as the Sunshine State, but it should also be known as the Fishing State. Anglers from far and wide spend countless hours fishing Florida's clear waters, and the fish are usually amazingly cooperative for visiting fishermen.

That was definitely the case with one of my recent excursions in Lee County, FL. I was staying at the Angler's Inn on Matlacha Island near Fort Myers, and I had scheduled a day of fishing with local guide Capt. Ryan Kane from Southern Instinct Charters (www.southerninstinct.com). I had never caught a mangrove snapper before, so I was anxious to catch a few and see what these fish were like.

I met Capt. Ryan and told him I was interested in catching some mangrove snappers. His face lit up and he blurted out "Yes! We can bust some snappers!" I could tell right away that these were some of his favorite fish.

Minutes later we were headed out

through Matlacha Pass in search of some hungry snappers. We soon stopped at a small mangrove island where Ryan knew the fish would be stacked-up, especially at this time of day when the tide was running perfectly.



Here is one of the smaller mangrove snappers, also called gray snappers.

Photo by Tom Berg.



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We got set up quickly and I cast a lively 2-inch pinfish out to the current edge where the tide was running along one side of the island. The pinfish swam nervously away, pausing every foot or two. Within a minute, I felt a sharp strike as something grabbed the bait. We were using circle hooks, so Capt. Ryan told me to relax and let the fish tighten-up on the line as it took off. I followed his advice and was almost instantly hooked-up with a good fish.

The light tackle I was using strained against the strong pull of the snapper, but it didn't take long for me to fight the fish up to the side of the boat. I swung it aboard and admired its copper-colored face and flanks, and the large canine teeth in its mouth. A beautiful mangrove snapper! I snapped a quick photo and then released it. I grabbed another pinfish from the baitwell and cast out to the same current seam. The pinfish hadn't moved more than a foot when it was clobbered by another ravenous snapper. Fish on!

I didn't even have time to think about the circle hook and whether or not I should set the hook. The snapper had already set the hook and was heading for the other side of the island! I held on and let the fish take some drag, then I started gaining

the line back. In less than a minute I had fish number two flopping around on the deck. This one was slightly larger than the last one.

The action continued like this for quite a while. Some of the snappers were smaller 10-12 inch specimens, but others were chunky 14-inch bruisers that had enough weight to put up a great fight. A few of the fish were a more drab gray color, which is why mangrove snappers are also called gray snappers. I had not planned to keep any fish on this trip, so each one was carefully released after we had time to admire it properly and remove the hook. The circle hooks were great for making good hooksets and preventing any gut-hooked fish.

After I was setup and was busy fighting fish, Ryan baited another rod and got in on the fun, too. The action was almost nonstop. If one of the snappers happened to cut the line on the sharp edges of an underwater oyster bar, Ryan simply handed me the other rod which he was holding.

Of course, the pristine waters where we were fishing were not home to snappers only. We also caught some nice-sized redfish and even a spotted seatrout.

A small horde of puffer fish must have been down there, too, because every once in a while my pinfish would come back with a small hole cut into it. Capt. Ryan explained that the beak-like mouths of puffers cause those types of wounds. Their hard mouths also make it difficult to hook them. Too bad I didn't catch one of them, too. Puffer fish are cool!

If you are interested in catching some mangrove snappers for fun or for the table, the next time you visit Florida you need to make time to visit Capt. Ryan. You won't be disappointed.

For more information about the fishing around Matlacha and the beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel Island, visit the Lee County tourism website at www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com. HOW members can also check out www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com/media-central.



*Capt. Ryan Kane gets ready to swing another snapper aboard.
Photo by Tom Berg.*



*The larger mangrove snappers were copper-colored like this one. Once hooked, they fought like crazy!
Photo by Tom Berg.*

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BIGFOOT...CONTINUED

there, right under my nose, was his track! I placed my hand on it. Yep, that's him, one inch longer and wider than my hand with a depth of around 2 inches. WHOO HOO! I let out a scream you could have heard in Iowa. He had made it. This track with the edges still sharp had to have been made since the heavy rains a couple days ago. Was this the draw he laid up in during the gun season? Maybe it was where he had been bedding all along. The stand from where I had seen him the first time was only about 200 yards away. It was all coming together now. I knew where his rub line was and where he beds AND.....AND..... he was still on the green side of the DIRT! A new found vigor came across me as I trudged the last hundred yards to the truck. The mud on my boots was not so heavy. My soaked body was not so wet and my head had already started to devise a plan for this buck. November was growing near. I pictured him standing on the edge of the field on a frosty morning searching for a hot doe. Yes, the time was growing near. The 2 weeks of the year that the girls would make him let down his guard, maybe even making him a little stupid with lust. I was ready. The chance out of range encounters on the edge of the fields would not happen this year. I had added a new weapon to my Whitetail pursuit. This year, I would be hunting the edge of the fields with the new Ravin R9 crossbow with tight 2" groups out past 80 yards. His lollygagging in the middle of the fields out 75 yards would not end so good for him. With the Z7 Mathews, the Remington slug gun and the Ravin R9 crossbow all dialed in, I had confidence that I possessed all the right tools to get the job done this November. The added information from this mid-October scouting trip and the addition of the API climbing stand from Bass Pro Shops would keep my options open in case he decided to steer clear of the new permanent stand locations I had hung last February.

I still have a few dates open for fall muskies before they shut down the lakes for waterfowl season. You can contact me at 309-267-8309 or trolling@mtco.com.

SEE YA' ON THE WATE! Oh, hell no. You wont see me at all.....LOL.



IDNR TO ALLOCATE SANGCHRIS LAKE TRAPPING PERMITS ON OCT. 14

ROCHESTER, IL

— A public drawing for the allocation of Sangchris Lake State Park trapping permits will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 14. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the site headquarters, located approximately six miles southeast of Rochester.

One permit for two trapping zones will be allocated through the drawing procedure (the Sangchris subimpoundment area will now be included as another zone open to trapping). Two names will be allowed on the permit, and only those individuals listed will be allowed to trap. All persons entering the drawing must have a current 2017 trapping license in possession. Persons whose names are drawn must be in attendance.

Starting February 1, 2018 until the end of the trapping season on March 31, 2018, Sangchris Lake State Park will open to statewide regulations, meaning that any individual with a valid 2017 trapping permit who is interested in trapping can do so (beaver, muskrat, and river otter only).

All persons who trap at Sangchris

Lake, including the drawing winner and partner, must obtain a free windshield card permit for the site by going online to the following web address: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/UplandGame.aspx>

Trappers will be required to report harvest/hunter/trapper trips no later than February 15 each year (or two weeks after the season closes for those seasons ending after February 1). Failure

to report in this manner will result in forfeiture of hunting/trapping privileges at this site for the following year.

For more information, contact Sangchris Lake State Park, 9898 Cascade Road, Rochester, IL 62563 or phone 217-498-9208 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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BEDDING AREA TACTICS

By Jason Houser

Stay out of bedding areas. Most hunters agree that a buck, especially a mature buck, will find a new bedroom if it is disturbed more than a couple of times. Do not trick yourself into believing you can sneak into a buck's bedding area without alerting deer to your presence.

Even though it is often best to stay far away from a buck's bedroom under most situations there is an exception to the rule. Hunting public ground that contains highly pressured deer is one time I will risk the chance of getting up close and personal with a bedding area.

Contrary to popular belief even highly pressured bucks are not 100 percent nocturnal. Instead, most of these daylight meanderings take place in close proximity, if not in their bedding area. The only time you can expect to see these mature, pressured bucks away from the security of their bedrooms is during the seeking, chasing and peak breeding phases of the rut. During this time, it is likely to see buck movement anywhere, at any time.

Most hunters do not travel further than one-half mile from the road to hunt. Over years, bucks that have survived past seasons begin to notice this pattern. For

that reason, bucks choose to bed deep into the woods.

On a particular piece of property that I hunt there is a small multiflora patch about 300 square feet in size in the middle of a cattle pasture next to a farm pond. One day while fishing for bluegills I got a little nose about all the deer tracks in the area. After closer examination, I came to the conclusion that deer were bedding in the briars. All they had to do was walk 10 yards to water and 30 yards to a prime food source. For the previous 15 years I had been hunting the big timber on the property, but that day of fishing changed how would hunt it in the future.

With no trees suitable for a stand I went in several weeks before the season opened and placed a ground blind on the downwind side of a trail that leads from the pond to briar patch. Hopefully there would be enough time for the deer to grow accustomed to the blind before bow season arrived. If everything went as planned I would be able to arrow an early season buck as he took his water breaks during the still hot summer days.

For years I only looked at the multiflora patch as a tangled mess of briars as a walked to an oak flat. Now



it is one of my favorite site to hunt when the wind allows me to do so.

Sneaking into or very near a buck's bedding area is the toughest part of this hunt. If your stand is too close to the bedding area you might bump the deer before you even get to your stand. Putting a stand too far away and you are defeating the purpose of hunting a bedding area. When deciding where to

place a stand, the direction of the wind, the noise you make getting to and from your stand, and the buck's ability to see all factor in when you are deciding how close to get to a buck's core bedding area.

Once a buck has been startled from its bed, it could take weeks before he feels comfortable enough to return. To avoid ruining a hunt I prefer to scout and prepare my stands early in the spring.

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If I spook a buck now he will have all summer to return, and they likely will.

If I have to scout and hang a stand very near or even during season I get it all done in one trip. Midday is the best time to accomplish this task, and if at all possible do it on a rainy day that will quickly eliminate your odors or on a day when the wind is blowing to mask any noise you might make. Carry your tree stand with you on your scouting trip so you do not have to go back after it and then return back to the area.

Just like when hunting, take precautions when scouting. This includes practicing the same scent control you would use when hunting, being as silent as possible, and using the wind to avoid sending your scent into the bedding area. The white "nubs" left behind after trimming shooting lanes are a no-no. Keep the cutting of shooting lanes to a minimum. Deer will quickly notice the disturbance. When you do have to trim shooting lanes camouflage the white nubs by smearing mud on the tops, and make the cuts as close to the ground as

you can.

Hunting the buck's bedroom early as well as late in the season is a great tactic when hunting mature bucks when they are not traveling far from their bedrooms. What about the seeking, chase and peak breeding phases of the rut when bucks are searching for does? At this time of the season, mature bucks will be where the does are, often in doe bedding areas.

For me to be successful at killing a buck near a doe bedding area I play on his need to find does. I place my tree stand 20 to 25 yards on the downwind side of the bedding area. Even though bucks will be cruising very close to the edge of the bedding area, trying to catch the whiff of an estrus doe there is still the possibility that the buck could be even further downwind from the bedding area than where you placed your stand. To combat this problem, I hang a scent wick soaked in estrus scent 15 to 20 yards on either side of my stand and a few yards upwind. If everything goes as I hope, a buck that is downwind of me will catch the scent of an estrus doe that I hung about three

feet off the ground, and turn and walk towards the bedding area. This should prevent any buck from getting directly downwind of me and catching my odor.

I always try to place my stand within range of a well-used trail, but if I can't for one reason or other it is not that big of a deal. Once a buck catches the scent of a hot doe he is going to her whether there is a trail or not.

Another technique to hunting where does bed is to get in with them. This is primarily a morning tactic. Trying to go in for an afternoon hunt will bump the bedded does. Well before first light I climb a stand directly on the edge,

sometimes slightly inside the bedding area. Keep in mind that if you do not kill a buck early you might have to hunt all day. Getting down mid-morning will bump does. However, this is the rut and a big buck could show up at any time.

To put the odds in your favor of a buck showing up early, rather than later, use a drag rag soaked with estrus, and hang estrus soaked scent wicks crosswind and slightly upwind of either side of your stand. With a little know-how, bedding areas can successfully be hunted.

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BIRTH OF A BOWHUNTER

by Marlene Odahlen-Hinz
marleneasomag@gmail.com

ago and my heart still jumps when I see a bear coming in to my bait station.

It is the perfect game animal to start a new bowhunter on. In our area, the most effective way to hunt bears is by establishing a bait station. Fall is the time of the year when bears need to put on 30 pounds of fat a week in order to survive their winter hibernation. To do this, they must consume 20,000 calories a day so they are constantly looking for food.

As their natural food sources (acorns, berries, insects) begin to dwindle their need to feed turns to food placed at bait stations by hunters. Because their appetite usually wins they will

My favorite big game animal to pursue is the North American black bear. In fact, when I stepped over the target shooting line and stepped into the woods I announced to my husband, Jerry, that I wanted to shoot a bear. He told me that it was a very ambitious goal but he thought it would be better to first get a couple of whitetails with my bow before trying to tag a bruin.

To this day I still remember the time when I made my decision to hunt bears. It was when members of our local bowhunting/archery club were gathering in the clubhouse after league night and were talking about their latest successes. One fellow had pictures of a huge chocolate bear he'd taken in Canada a week earlier. That was over thirty years



Abby was a quick learner when it comes to fileting a walleye.

Photo courtesy of Marlene Odahlen-Hinz

become more relaxed and begin to feed sometimes spending quite a bit of time there. It is possible for two people to sit over a bait site, which is perfect for first time bear hunters. I've been able to talk with my husband or someone filming the hunt in low tones about the size of a bear without alerting it. Once the bear feels comfortable it will also tolerate movement if you need to stand to shoot provided your movements are slow and your stand doesn't squeak.

So, how do women get excited about bear hunting?

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

The first weekend in August I had the chance to give a presentation to a group of

women attending a "She Hunts" program sponsored by a local archery shop (A-1 in Hudson, WI). I wanted to get these ladies new to bowhunting excited about the possibility that they could successfully hunt a big game animal. Programs like "She Hunts" and those offered by Becoming an Outdoors Woman are great for letting women know that they can become confident with their equipment and skills to bowhunt large game.

TELEVISED PROGRAMS

If you have access to DISH, DIRECT TV or any of the cable companies there are many outdoor programs featuring bear hunting experiences and some even show women bowhunting. Melissa Bachman has dedicated several programs to her quest for black bears. All of these productions help to show that women can



Fishing for trout, walleye and northern is a bonus activity when bear hunting. Photo courtesy of Tim Adams

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ROLE MODELS

Media celebrities are great to meet and take a selfie with them. But nothing does more to get a person (man or woman) eager to start bear hunting than being around those who have done it. The Bear Camp out of Armstrong, Ontario CANADA has seen a surge in women clients. Duane Boecher, owner, said that about 25% of his current clients are women and of those 100% are bowhunters.

In August, a young lady named Abby accompanied her friend to The Bear Camp as his camera person. She had just started shooting archery 6 months previous and was eager to be involved in the harvest experience. Three of the 6 booked clients at the camp that opening week were women. One was 83 years old and after her 5th bear, another hoped to get her 24th bear with a bow and the third woman had previously taken a 490-lb. bear at The Bear Camp. All were bowhunters and each one was ready to encourage Abby to join their ranks of accomplished big game hunters when she was ready.

preparing bait buckets that would be used for the next afternoon hunt. She was also right there at the skinning tent the following morning to watch (and learn) how to skin and process a bear one of the hunters had arrowed the previous day.

Before the week was over I heard Abby say that she had wished she'd brought her bow but that she would be ready to hunt next year and planned to return to The Bear Camp with a license in hand. To hear her say that warmed my heart because it reminded me of how I felt over 30 years ago.

Duane Boucher has made his wilderness camp so comfortable and clean that it is easy to see why he is always booked with returning hunters. Boucher has access to 800 square miles

of Canadian wilderness giving his clients remote areas to hunt some big bears, but to also pick wild blueberries, raspberries and reel in some great walleye, trout or northern pike. He is the only outfitter I know of that actively encourages women bowhunters. No wonder I continue to return every fall to hunt with him and to see how many ladies will be in camp.

So, until next time don't forget to take your daughter, granddaughter or niece bowhunting.



Abby helped get the bait buckets ready and then selected one she felt would be appetizing for the bears.

Photo courtesy of Marlene Odahlen-Hinz



Abby watches while bear is processed in the skinning tent. Photo courtesy of Tim Adams

SEEING BEARS

Nothing jump starts your heart faster than actually seeing a bear at close range. How exciting is it to watch a child, spouse or special friend, who has joined you in a blind or treestand, as their eyes widen when they glimpse their first bear in the wild. I can only imagine how thrilled Abby must have been to sit behind her friend, Mike, and have the opportunity to film 7 different bears that came into the bait site the first afternoon. Abby said that was the moment she decided she wanted to hunt bears with her bow. She was amazed at how long the bears stayed at the site eating.

Being part of a hunt, even if it is as an observer, can create real enthusiasm or a desire to get more involved and even to try it. By the next day, Abby was



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Lake Shelbyville Slab Crappie



Matt with a nice 14 inch Slab Crappie!

FALLIN' FOR CRAPPIE

Lake Shelbyville in the month of October is a fantastic fishery to target fall crappie and catch some exceptionally large crappie. During October you can expect the early morning and late evening (pre-sundown) to produce the best times for fishing. Crappie can be caught in shallow water in both early morning and evening, which makes fishing from a boat or the shoreline a successful trip. Crappie will hold on riprap shores

chasing baitfish, so setting a cork rather shallow with a minnow will be a very successful approach to catching crappie now. Riprap rocks are a fantastic place to cast small and shallow diving crankbaits, blade baits, or hair jigs. The bite will be aggressive, which makes it a very FUN and PRODUCTIVE strategy. Submerged stumps and root balls are also structures to look for to hold crappie at this time of year. Crappie will use a submerged stump

for habitat or for hunting its next meal. You do not have to be afraid to revisit places you have had previous success at during the same fishing trip because factors that bring fish to structures and take them off are always changing. Another place to fish would be boat docks. Boat docks are usually found with riprap rock present, which totally compliments this time of year. As the crappie go deeper in the day, at this time of the year, boat docks will provide great structures for the crappie and provide anglers with an easy place to avoid hang-ups and catch fish.

Tackle options for this time of year can vary, but I prefer to use a 6, 7, or

8 foot two piece spinning combination. I prefer this because you can cast, jig, or cork fish with these poles. During some trips all three methods can be used. My line preference is any six pound high visibility line, because you will be able to see the slightest amount of abnormal movement. This could be a very slight/soft "peck" from a SLAB crappie. Setting the hook on a crappie is very time sensitive and the high visibility lines will assist in helping you see and catch the crappie that barely moves your

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line. Many times you notice that high visibility lines start to curl on the drop, which indicates a crappie has your line and is swimming upwards. Once you use these lines you will notice many subtle differences that will help you catch more fish. Baits during this time that will work range from live bait, artificial bait, and scented baits or scented attractors. Minnows with corks or tipping a typical jig head will produce great numbers in October for anglers of all experience levels. A bucket of minnows on the right day with the right company can and will produce memories that can be shared for a lifetime. Hair jigs or plastic tubes will catch fish now and I like to double rig one of each to see what works best for the particular day. Then I switch exclusively to the one that is catching more fish that day. When double rigging I use a Palomar or improved clinch knot on the bottom and a loop knot for the top knot allowing me to fish two different depths ranging from 12-18 inches.

Those are a couple successful techniques and strategies that have worked for me in the past, so if things



Mitch Bender with two nice Slab Crappies

are slow try one of these methods next time to switch things up. Lastly, with the tough conditions Lake Shelbyville experienced during crappie spawn, this fall has the chance to produce great numbers of SLAB crappie. That does not happen every year!

August 21, 2017 was the day we had the eclipse and I am going to share that trip, with client Brad Foster, as my monthly memory. First, when booking this trip Brad and I knew we were going to know firsthand of the fish activity before, during, and after the eclipse. On this day, we started at 8:00am. The sky was cloudy with a slight breeze and the



Brad Foster with a limit of Crappies

temperature was in the low 70s. After a short boat ride to our first fishing spot Brad had caught his first crappie of the day. I literally counted every fish we caught and at 10:15am we caught our 50th crappie of the day. After that it was like a switch was hit and the fish had shut down completely. Brad and I fished several spots that day catching fish at every stop until this time. The bite was shut down for almost three full hours and at 1:30pm the fish turned back on almost like they had never stopped. With the hours left Brad and I boated exactly 30 more crappie to give us a total of 80 crappie for the trip. Brad



Matt with a 13.5 inch Lake Shelbyville Crappie

had a beautiful limit of white and black crappie to share with his family. He is pictured with them at the cleaning station. "CATCHING MEMORIES ONE FISH AT A TIME!" To book a trip go online to englandexpeditions.com or call 217-520-3653.

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FISHING CENTRAL ILLINOIS WITH REAG'S GUIDE SERVICE

By Reagan Smith

Hello again, friends. Since the article last month, a lot has changed in my life - for the better! My wife and I welcomed our first child, Haddie Mae, on August 18th at 9:30 am. I took a week off from fishing to help take care of my wife, Bethany and our new baby girl. See the picture in this article of me and Haddie at her very first fish fry at 3 weeks old. Her shirt is her current favorite and says "Daddy's New Fishing Buddy." I can't wait for many memories on the water with this sweet girl as she grows up. Fall is one of my favorite times of the year and now that my little girl was born in the fall months, it makes it even that much sweeter! This month I want to talk a little about fall fishing specifically and about a couple of the trips I have had this last month so far.



Fishing in the fall is one of the best times of year to fish! The fall is a feeding frenzy for all species of fish and they start to transition from the deeper water they have been in during the summer months into the shallow water to feed quite a bit more, preparing their bodies for the winter. Usually in the beginning of September I concentrate on the white bass and as it becomes later in the month, I get the fever to crappie fish. Crappie are generally easier to find and catch once September is over. During September, crappie seem to be all over the place trying to find out what they want to do. Do they go shallow? Do they go deep? They tend to not be consistent so targeting keeper size crappie is difficult but you can still catch a lot of small ones. So...as October, November and December roll around it is time to put those warmer clothes on and catch some crappie!

My favorite jigs to use for crappie this time of year are Charlie Brewer slider grubs. And...I'm pretty sure if you have read my articles from the past few months, you have caught onto that! I always start out in October with jig fishing, throwing out slider grubs before I try the minnows. October is the beginning of the feeding frenzy and the fish will be chasing all sorts of baits - live and artificial. We all know that crappie is one of the most sought after pan fish ever. The flaky white meat with the sweet taste makes everybody want crappie and if you don't fish, you are hoping you get invited to that fish fry from your neighbor down the street!

Since it is still the beginning of September as I'm writing this article, I have had multiple trips recently targeting white bass. The white bass are very easy and fun to catch from September through about the end of November on Lake Springfield. This is where most of my trips have been lately. I will be back on Clinton



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starting end of September here shortly when the crappie bite picks back up.

My first white bass trip for this month was with Denny, who is a frequent repeat customer and his son in law Gary. Gary had never used an open face reel and he only ever catfishes. However, by the end of the day, Gary was a natural at casting an open face and actually still landed a catfish on our crazy blades! The guys were sent home with a great amount of white bass and three cats, as a bonus, that day.

The next day I took out my friend Peter. Peter has been talking to me since April of 2017 wanting to go out on a trip and he finally decided it was time and made the trip down to Lake Springfield for the day. Peter and I had a little bit of a slow start. He seemed like a natural to me but said that he has days that he does not take any fish home because he cannot catch them. Peter shared that he is newer to the sport of fishing but wants to learn how to be a better fisherman for his daughter and son. I was honored to be a part of his success as he works to build memories with his kiddos in the future. We did end the day with a good mess of fish and Peter booked another trip for November.

My next trip was with Ron, his son Ethan and his grandson Jack. Ron is also a repeat customer on Lake Springfield taking frequent trips with family members, creating

those lasting memories. This time around, he was spending the day out with his son and his grandson. This had to be one of my favorite trips so far! Jack was cracking me up with all of his questions, fishing line tangling and reeling the bait in too far. Grandpa kind of kicked back and enjoyed the show as well. Now Ethan had not been fishing since he was a small child and is now a grown man with a family of his own. Despite the years since he had fished, I thought Ethan was a natural fisherman, but I also noticed he was natural as a parent. Ethan showed so much patience with his son that it was unreal. He kept helping Jack and encouraging him throughout the trip, regardless of the amount of tangled lines and questions. Since I have become a father recently, this trip was really special to see another dad interacting and having so much patience and time for his kiddo. I was there as the guide, supposed to be teaching them to fish, but little did they know that this trip taught me a lot about what I get to look forward to as a dad. I hope someday that I have three generations of my family out in the boat enjoying a fishing trip! By the end of the trip, Jack had reeled in the most fish out of



all of us and did a fantastic job, as he had never fished in a boat before.

My next trip, that was very fun, was with a married couple - Aaron and Randi. They were out taking a trip for Aaron's birthday and enjoying the day out as a couple as their three kiddos spent time with Grandma. Randi is a very competitive person. I found that out about five minutes into the trip! She loved to let us know that she had caught more fish than us. I believe every time either of them had a fish they said, "FISH ON!" just like Jeremy Wade on River Monsters and I could not help but laugh so hard. I soon joined in on the banter and the whole day was filled with funny remarks back and forth between all three of us. I kept telling them "my arms are sore so I will take a break so you guys can catch up." Aaron would catch a few fish in a row and say, "are you counting, darling?" They ended the day with 50 nice size fish to take home and said that they had an absolute blast.

Usually I write about the way I would fish and what's going on in the lakes and river around us, but this month was just such a fun month of getting out there and making memories with these customers and their families and making new friends along the way. I just had to share some of these memories with you. Even though I am the captain and I am supposed to be the teacher or helper that day, sometimes it is nice to learn something myself about a person, life, parenthood, or just how competition works in certain households! I want everyone to have a safe fall with hunting and fishing this next month and as always tight lines and take a kid fishing!

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COFFEE AND BLUEGILLS

By Kevin Wright

The fields were blazing with the sunny yellow of Goldenrod. Along with them were the snowy tops of Boneset. Fall was indeed fast approaching. It wouldn't be long before this area of central Illinois would be shutting down my flyfishing for the season. But now I was out enjoying the fall weather and scenery and hoping to catch a few fish.

While I do hope to catch a few fish on flies it is not my sole intention. I'm here to enjoy my surroundings as much as I am to fish and the fall season is no better time in which to do so.

You could say that I am fishing a fairly wild expanse of strip-mine country that offers a plethora of fish most any time of year but on this day, I carry only two flyrods, a 4-weight for some panfish action and a heavier 7-weight for the possibility of a bass or two.

In my waist pack are two fly boxes, one with an assortment of tiny wet flies and nymphs, the other a box with streamers. Along with some leader and tippet material and my gear is as simple as that. I also wear a tiny backpack that carries my midday break. And during this time of year this

midday break offers the greatest of solitude adventures, a coffee pot.

One of the small propane canisters with a special adaptation that screws to the top will offer as my cooking stove. Twig fires are best but sometimes wood is hard to come by or conditions are too dry to warrant the risk of a grass fire being started from a floating ember.

I approach the first small body of water that typically holds a good sunfish population, not big fish by any means, but that has no meaning on this trip. Most fish are not true bluegills but hybrids of the sunfish family. But as I walk the shoreline I notice shinning particles along the higher banks and as I look it appears that these shinning objects litter the entire shoreline of this particular body of water.

Upon further investigation, the shining objects are fish scales and those fish scales are the work of otters, otter scat in other words. Otters can wipe out a pond in short time and my fear is that that have done just that in this pond.

I tie on a tiny black ant and lay it down near some shoreline brush. The pond is shallow so the sunfish rely on the cover that heats up from the morning sun, having no



warmer deeper water to move to.

To my relief there is a take of the ant on the first cast. The fish is only five or six inches long but with the 4-weight rod and the light 2lb. tippet, it is a match made in heaven.

I stay with the pond and the black ant for some time. I manage to land several fish all about that same size. The 7-weight rod leans against some shoreline brush and will continue doing so for this pond is bass free, the 4-weight will be the workhorse.

Geese fly overhead as I light the stove and get the coffee boiling. Behind me is a longer and much larger lake that I will try for bass later in the day. But for now however I concentrate on only one thing, coffee.

The willows along the shorelines are turning a golden yellow. In the far distance the hardwood trees are just showing a

glimpse of the wonderful colors to come. Hints of red and orange reflect the morning sun. The air is cool, calm, silent.

A flock of Blue-winged Teal rocket by overhead. Red-winged blackbirds fly into the cattails in large flocks. In the distance I can hear the deep croaking of Great-Blue herons. I can feel the season changing right in front of me.

I catch a few more sunfish as the coffee boils. Steam is rolling from the pot as the smell of the black liquid gold hangs low and makes its way in my direction. It is time to take a break.

I sit now sipping my coffee and enjoy my surroundings. Could it get any better I wonder? Yes, I could by a trout stream in Montana or a lake in the Boundary Waters but for now this is what I have, I might as well make the best of it.



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HUNTERS HELPING

By Thane Hunt

With hunting season just around the corner, many will be going out to hunt. However, there are those who feel that hunting is something they are not able to do because of a disability. Central Illinois Accessible Hunts (CIAH) is going to change that with the help of Giant Goose Ranch and the Herman family.

Duck hunts, for hunters with disabilities, tend to be limited to ground blinds on the shore. This does allow for hunting, however, a floating blind or a blind that is in the water is ideal. Many floating blinds or blinds in the water are not accessible for many hunters with disabilities. With the help of Giant Goose Ranch, CIAH will be able to build a floating accessible duck blind. By doing this, it will give CIAH the chance this fall to take out hunters with disabilities for duck hunts. We are currently looking for hunters with disabilities to bring on these hunts. The hunters with disabilities can be experienced or novice hunters for these hunts. CIAH is excited to have this partnership and the ability to be able to provide the hunts.

In other Illinois hunting news, HB 2893 Crossbow Hunting was passed. While crossbow hunting was allowed before for persons with disabilities, there were steps to the process to do it

legally. With the passage and immediate implementation of HB 2893, all hunters can now hunt with a crossbow during the appropriate archery season. This makes hunting more accessible for both hunters with disabilities and those without disabilities.

Remember that when hunting whether with a firearm, crossbow, or bow to be safe and have fun. Central Illinois Accessible Hunts is looking for hunters with disabilities for the fall hunts or if you or someone you know would like to attend one of the hunts have them contact us at 309-338-0990 or at ciah4u@gmail.com. Train Hard and Stay Safe. T.H.



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REUNITED WITH OLD DIRT

It is hard to imagine 15 weeks have already flown by since I moved back North. Renovating a house with outbuildings and working a brand new full-time job has certainly clouded my conception of time, but I was able to slow down a bit last week, take inventory. It is no secret I suffer from anxiety and depression, and for the most part drugs do a very good job at keeping symptoms at bay – but they are not miracles on their own – diet and exercise are a large part of also managing your mental health. As I'm sure you can imagine, my stress levels have been tested to the extreme in the last couple of months, and I'm a little surprised I haven't collapsed. That comes from a place of realizing when you have had too much and need to take a break.

Since I have been back in Dixon there have been a grand total of 2 days I decided to do nothing. As in nothing – no shower, barely get dressed, watch mindless TV for hours, eat ice cream, feed the dogs treats at surprise intervals, and fry up some comfort food. On top of anxiety and depression, I have what is known as an Empathic Personality. That means I am very sensitive to the world around me and I absorb other people's emotions. That also means I require a lot of alone time to decompress. I haven't been getting much in the way of alone time lately – unless I'm asleep, but that doesn't really count. So, last week I decided to just pull myself back up off the couch after work and head out to one of my favorite old hiking spots.

I was amazed at how good I felt— instantly! When my car slumped into parking gear, I opened the door, and set my feet down on the familiar grass. The dogs were excited, as they had been confined to my same schedule, and never

been to The Meadows before. It was so odd to open the car door and River and Red come bounding out instead of Joe and Guinness. 10 years is a long time, and a lot can change. I leashed the dogs and off we went, leaving behind us a massive crowd of nuclear families that occupied the soccer fields – the soccer program having also grown by leaps and bounds since I moved south.

I marched myself down the familiar stretch of gravel until it opened into a rolling field of soybeans. I took a sharp left, and followed the curve of the field around down into a ravine. The trail hooks up and to the right, and then you are in The Meadows. Despite the gigantic prison sniper towers looming off in the distance, the place is peaceful and quiet. Through careful management and controlled

burning, this native prairie is teeming with life and wildflowers. I could not believe my eyes – the growth was dense and diverse. Everything about this hike felt right. My overalls felt so comfortable against my hips and shoulders – my hiking boots hit the soft earth at a steady clip. The dogs were nose-chasing every smell they could find. I felt alive and well.

The stress from working nearly constantly dropped away, and I felt myself restored. No sore back could stop my gate. I couldn't look enough, my eyes weren't large enough—I couldn't smell enough,

my olfactory was not refined enough—I couldn't breathe enough, my lungs weren't large enough. I felt like bursting. My body and my mind needed this so badly. It was weeks since I had attended Dirt Church – I was not doing myself any favors. I was so worried about the change in landscape, that I'd mourn the loss of the Shawnee as the loss of a loved one, and I have, but I also realize that all of my old hiking spots probably mourned my loss when I moved away. Now I am back, and I'd like to think that the trees remember me. The places I've cried and ran and collapsed in times

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of emotional breakdown – I think I am remembered here – in places where dirt holds its own memory of my footprints, my tears and my joys. I have been healed here in this Midwestern landscape, and now I meet her once again, as a woman, scarred and battle tired, but a new perspective I now bring with me as I walk through her woods—dare I say wisdom is in my blood now?

I know now how not to break, but should I break, I know how to cope. Skills beyond value. Taking a walk with the flora and fauna is about as good a medicine as I ever had. Though this landscape is vastly different from the southland – it is of the same value in how it envelopes my spirit and lifts me up. Amen.

A.K. Thompson is curator of The Dillon Home Museum in Sterling, IL, a fiction writer and teacher who makes her home in northern Illinois. She holds a Master's Degree in *Writing and Consciousness* from the New College of California, and an MFA in Creative Writing from Southern Illinois University. She has served as an Assistant Editor for the *Crab Orchard Review*. Her work has appeared in *STORY Magazine*, *Surreal South -- An Anthology of Short Fiction and Poetry*, *The Smoking Poet*, and *The Chiron Review* among others. Friend Dirt Church on Facebook! Email A.K.: akdirtchurch@gmail.com



For some reason, grass carp were hitting the hook, worm and bobber on Sunday, August 27th 2017. This giant grass carp was caught and released by Renee Farris while fishing on a private farm pond in Peoria County with husband Gary and great nephews Dalton and Caiden. It was a great day to spend fishing with young family members! Thanks to Renee Farris for sharing this fun fishing day with ASO!



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OCTOBER STARTS OUR FALL FISHING AND HUNTING SEASONS

October officially starts our fall fishing and hunting seasons. With the cooler nights, the water starts to cool and the deer start feeding heavy preparing for the rut. Bear season begins Oct. 1 for bow and the harvest is usually over in the first 2 weeks. Our bear region usually sees over 200 black bears harvested. If the season runs longer then you can harvest a bear using your muzzle loader which is the third week of October. Arkansas's deer season is one of the longest in the country. Our bow season begins the end of September and ends February 28th. In between that we have a 9-day muzzle loader season beginning the third week of

October then beginning the second weekend of November. Our modern gun starts and runs until the first weekend of December. We then have a 3-day muzzle loader in mid-December and a 3 day modern gun right after Christmas. In all you have many opportunities to harvest a deer. Combine the hunting with some great striper fishing and you have a perfect Cast & Blast opportunity. We offer both deer and bird hunting Cast & Blast packages starting in Mid-October thorough Mid-February. Check them out at www.stroutfitters.com/specials.

Striper fishing picks up steam once the water cools. We move our fishing

up river near and beyond the Arkansas/Missouri boarder. While the lower end of the lake is cooling and waiting for the turnover the upper end of lake is already turned over. The average water depth is less than 30 feet and the shad are everywhere. The stripers have not feed much the last month so they begin to bulk up for the winter. We usually begin our fishing near Calamity Beach and move north as the water cools. Our presentation varies but it's usually planner boards, floats, and some downlines. Since the water is shallow most lines are set at 19 feet. Our normal bait will be 6 to 7-inch gizzard shad. Most times we will have out 10 rods that covers a very wide spread. The next best way to catch the fall stripers is trolling a swim bait or crankbait. 3" swim baits and 7" crankbaits would be the best. Since it's shallow you can run long lines you do not need downriggers planner boards



also work well trolling. As the weather cools the stripers will move up most major creeks and also be on Robinson Point. You can catch them using the same method I

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described above.

The bass will start feeding heavy, with lots of top water action. Early morning top water, then jigs, worms and spinner baits are your best baits. There is also great night fishing throwing jigs, worms, and black or red 3/8 oz spinner baits. You can catch fish all over the main lake and creeks.

As the water begins to cool the crappie will start moving up and start their fall feed. Spider rigging is the most effective technique to catch them. Again, moving north will provide the best opportunity for the first big crappie bite. Once we are in the middle of October you should be seeing lots of action in Brushy Creek, Big Creek on the south end of the lake, and Bennett's Bayou,



Red Bank, Calamity Beach, Pigeon Creek on the north end.

Regardless of your outdoor passion, the fall scenery displayed by Norfolk Lake is fabulous. Beginning in mid-October there is no better time to view the Arkansas hardwoods exploding with vivid colors. The lake gives you a never-ending fall treat as you motor from hot spot to hot spot.

Tom & Sean Reynolds have fished Lake Norfolk for over 51 years and they guide out of Tracy Ferry Marina; you can reach him at www.stroutfitters.com, 870-421-1541 or on Facebook.

Duck numbers...continued

more ducks and provide us all with a nice return on our conservation investments."

The spring surveys provide the scientific basis for many management programs across the continent, including hunting regulations. Individual states set their hunting seasons within a federal framework of season length, bag limits and dates. Hunters should check the rules in their states for final dates and bag limits.

Species estimates are:

- Mallards: 10.5 million, 11% lower than 2016 and 34% above LTA
- Gadwall: 4.2 million, 13% above 2016 and 111% above LTA
- American wigeon: 2.8 million, 19% below 2016 and 6% above LTA
- Green-winged teal: 3.6 million, 16% below 2016 and 70% above LTA

- Blue-winged teal: 7.9 million, 18% above 2016 and 57% above LTA
- Northern shovelers: 4.4 million, 10% above 2016 and 69% above LTA
- Northern pintails: 2.9 million, 10% above 2016 and 27% below LTA
- Redheads: 1.1 million, 13% below 2016 and 55% above LTA
- Canvasbacks: 0.7 million, similar to 2016 and 25% above LTA
- Scaup: 4.4 million, 12% below 2016 and 13% below LTA
- Black ducks (Eastern Survey Area): 0.5 million, similar to 2016 and 12% below LTA

*Long-term average

View all the data and get a species-by-species breakdown at www.ducks.org/DuckNumbers.

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- Gerald A. Sampen (OC Salesman)



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Weather: We have mainly two seasons here: dry and wet. The dry season runs from January through April. The temperature is generally 80 to 85 degrees, cooler in the evenings and it rarely rains. The temperature is a little cooler and afternoon thunderstorms can be expected from higher humidity during May through December.

Fishing: The government of Panama is recognized world-wide for its conservation efforts. There is a 20-mile radius non-commercial fishing zone that protects the Pinas Bay fishing area. A Presidential Decree, written into law in 1997, protects all billfish from being caught for commercial value. As a direct result from this legislation, our fishing has dramatically improved.

At our lodge, most of the fishing is done 6 to 12 miles offshore in calm waters. In the Pacific waters around the lodge you can catch black, blue and striped marlin as well as sailfish year round. You will also have a good chance of reeling in huge dolphin, tuna, above average roosterfish, snapper, grouper, amberjack, rainbow runner and mackerel. In recent years, a few tarpon have also been caught.

The top season for billfish is December - April, with the best months being January-March. Winter months tend to be better for billfish. The prime black marlin season is December through mid-April as well. The majority of the marlin released in this time

period average in the 500 pound plus range! Pacific sailfish are here all year round and are abundant from mid-April through June.

The Giant Yellowfin Tuna are most frequent in the spring, with tuna over 200 lbs. being commonly caught between March and April. If it's a grand slam you are after, March to mid-April is the best time. Your grand slam could be black, blue, striped marlin, sailfish or even a swordfish! We highly recommend that you spend some time fishing the rocks, so you may want to bring along some of your lucky plugs and lures.

Accommodations: The main lodge is 3000 square feet and consists of the restaurant, bar and game room with pool and card tables. There is a large covered lanai so you can choose between outdoor or indoor dining. We have 10 individual cabins. All are air-conditioned, studio sized cabins with private covered lanais (decks) and just steps

to the beach, pool, restaurant and bar. Each spacious cabin and rooms are air-conditioned with beautiful views of Pinas Bay. Each room has twin beds and private bath/dressing room areas. A king bed can be requested. Both the main lodge and cabins have tropical hardwood high beam ceilings, Spanish tile floors and plenty of space to relax. The lodge and every cabin have spectacular views of the pool and ocean. The original owner's home is known as The Palace. It is reached by cable car and for those looking for a bit of exercise, there are 122 steps up the mountainside! The Palace has three bedrooms with private baths and can sleep six. It has a sunken living room and outside terrace, both with breathtaking views. The Palace is perfect for groups and families. The lodge also has a fresh-water swimming pool and bar. A jungle trail has been cut across to La Playa Blanca, where you may enjoy swimming,

WELCOME TO PANAMA (PMF2)

Welcome! Our lodge is a veritable paradise cut out of the side of a mountain at the edge of the Darien Jungle on the Pacific Coast of Panama. The lodge is situated 150 miles south of Panama City. It can only be reached by boat or plane, since there are no roads with 100 miles! A charter plane lands on an air strip in Pinas Bay. You then take a 10 minute boat ride to our lodge.

You can be assured that all amenities are provided for your complete comfort and peace of mind. This extraordinary resort offers no fax machines, phone or newspapers. It is truly a "get away from it all" experience. We do, however, have a TV/VCR in the bar for the purpose of viewing your videos of the day's fishing action. Please bring any cords or adapters required for your video equipment.

Our staff of over 80 employees is a source of pride here at the lodge. Their personal attention and friendliness can only be matched by the awesome fishing that the nearby waters have to offer. We value many repeat clients and we always welcome new guests. Our intimate lodge only accommodates up to 36 guests. To avoid being put on a waiting list, we strongly

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Multi-course dinners, complete with wine, are served each evening in the scenic bay-view dining room. The chef prepares numerous specialties including baked Alaska, cherries jubilee, black bean soup, fresh baked pies and bread, ceviche and many more delectable dishes. A fresh catch of the day is always offered, as well as our regular main course selection. Our fleet consists of:

- 3 - 35' Custom-Built Sport Fishers
- 1 - 33' Blackfin
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A trip to our lodge may look something like this: Day 1: Arrive Panama City. The private transport service will greet you there and take you to your hotel.

Day 2: The transport service will pick you up at the hotel and take you to the airport for your flight to go to the lodge. Once you arrive at the airport the private transport serve will pick you up for transport to the lodge. Once at the lodge, unpack, then a short briefing about the resort. Rest of day spent at the lodge relaxing by the pool, cruising the beach or cocktails in the Bar. Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

Day 3-6: Wake up call at 6A.M. Breakfast. Then off to the boats for an 8 hour fishing day 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Then relax time around the lodge and pool. Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

Day 7: Back to airport for transport to hotel.

Day 8: Transport from hotel to airport for the return trip home.

If you would like to extend your stay in Panama before or after your stay at the lodge, let them know and they can make recommendations for other areas to visit.

WELCOME TO THE BAHAMAS (BAF2)

We sit on a property that was once a sisal plantation. Owned by the British, the plantation's main function was to make ropes for boats. In 1984, Our Captain purchased this property from the government of the Bahamas with a dream to create the lodge which stands today.

Located approximately 150 miles southeast of Miami, Andros Island is the largest island in the Bahamas chain, yet it remains the least populated. The island is located at the confluence of the Atlantic Ocean, Cargill Creek and the eastern end of the North Bight. This places us just 100 yards from a productive, wade able flat where bonefish are frequently

spotted tailing in the nearby waters. In this ideal position we are able to offer out guest's direct access to some of the best saltwater sport fishing in all the world and more fishable flats than any area of the Caribbean. Andros has long been known as the home of the world's largest bonefish. As your host, Capt. will tell you, "Here, you will turn the agony of defeat into great thrills of victory."

The Fishing: Our anglers' fish from 16-18ft modern flats skiffs, complete with poling platforms, 90-140hp Yamaha outboards and spacious casting decks. They are roomy, fast and comfortable. For your safety, all boats are equipped with life jackets, tools and radios. Fishing can be done from the boat where mobility and visibility are optimal, or by wading hard flats and white sand beaches in order to stalk and isolate the fish. The occasional and elusive permit and the resident tarpon found cruising the deeper creeks on the west side attract many serious anglers to our lodge. Barracuda are also available to the angler and can be found on the flats most of the year. Jacks, snappers and sharks are often encountered on the flats while you're stalking bonefish, permit or tarpon.

Having a rod rigged and ready to cast will greatly increase your chances of hooking these fish. With the Great Barrier Reef of Andros only one-half mile from the lodge, you can explore the possibilities the deep blue water has to offer. Beyond the reef lies the Tongue of the Ocean, a deep drop-off which harbors big

game, including blue marlin, sailfish, dolphin, wahoo, king fish, mackerel, tuna, snapper and grouper. Probably the most prolific offshore species is the dolphin or dorado which can be caught on light tackle and with flies.

What to Expect Fishing: Bonefish are the main target, and Andros Island bonefish get as big as any in the world! An average Andros bonefish is about 4-5 lbs, but we've averaged over 7 pounds some days. A bonefish that weighs 4-5 lbs will rip 50-100 yards of backing off your reel in seconds. A 10 pounder will probably double that. Expect 15 shots per boat per day, and hope for 30. Some of these fish are huge.

Tarpon and permit are somewhat uncommon at Andros, but are present at times. If you want a shot, have the rod rigged and ready. Either species could be big! Dolphin, wahoo and tuna are sometimes present and can be caught on flies. Sharks are plentiful...2-8 footers on the flats and 6-15 footers in the deep blue sea. They can be hooked on flies if you get them in a "feeding frenzy". Amberjacks, crevalle jacks, etc. are available in the creeks and Shark Hole. Barracuda are everywhere, easy to get on a spinning rod...harder on the fly.

Fishing Seasons: We offer year-round fishing and guest accommodations. October thru mid-July is peak season to book a fishing trip, when weather and water temperatures are ideal.

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OUTDOOR CONNECTION... CONTINUED

A wide variety of fish can be caught at the beginning of the calendar year. Best months for big bonefish! In addition to bonefish, it is possible to catch mahi, tuna and wahoo and lots of barracuda on the flats.

Spring (March and April) — Peak bonefish season!!! Great time for tarpon fishing on the west side of the island.

Early Summer (May and June) — Bonefish, tarpon and barracuda are plentiful. Winds are calmer and afternoon rain showers are possible.

Late Summer and Fall (July, August and September) — Morning fishing is best for bonefish. Flats heat up quickly. This may be the perfect time for stalking shark, barracuda, and snapper. Calmest winds, except for the possibility of tropical storms. Tarpon are also available.

Late Fall and Winter (October, November and December) — All bights of Andros are very good at this time for bonefish. Occasionally you will see a permit. Residential tarpon are available on the west side of the island.

Accommodations: Our location is now recognized as one of the premier bone fishing lodges in existence today. We take you away from the distractions of everyday life and place you within a fly cast of some of the best fishing in the world. The lodge stretches over a quarter of a mile and outside

every room there is a great view of the ocean. All twenty-nine rooms are clean, comfortable and air conditioned.

Each comes with a private bath, a personal refrigerator and a ceiling fan. The rooms are modestly decorated to make room for all of your tackle and belongings. We now have single rooms, double rooms and even two triple rooms available to better accommodate your needs. Daily housekeeping and laundry service are provided.

In May of 2003, our Captain announced the acquisition and merger with our neighbor, acquiring a new lodge. With this addition we can now offer great new amenities. As our guest, you will enjoy the freshwater swimming pool with surrounding patio. Offering satellite television in addition to a full service bar, the indoor lounge adjoins the dining room and is a comfortable place to relax.

The bone fishing mecca of Andros Island and our superb hospitality come together in a tropical paradise. A place where you can fish the seemingly endless flats, relax in a shaded hammock and absorb the beauty that surrounds you at our location.

What to Expect at the Club: Food: Very good...lots of fresh seafood such as conch fritters, tuna, conch salad, mahi, cracked conch, lobster and steamed conch. The appetizers (dolphin fingers and you guessed it, conch fritters) are so good you'll be almost too full for dinner. You make your own lunch during breakfast. A suggestion...

the tuna salad!

Drink: An ice cold Kalik (Bahamian Export Quality Beer) at the end of the day tastes really good. The bar is well stocked with most popular brands of libations but bring a liter of your favorite if you like...ice and mixes are available. Bottled water is also readily available and is included in your package. Our bar is a lively beach-front is a lot of fun.

Atmosphere: Casual, friendly, fun and lively described the Andros Island. Everything is well organized and the guest service is great. We also have a beautiful swimming pool!

Rooms: The rooms have been newly renovated, with 2 double beds, good A/C, dressers and refrigerators stocked with ice and cold drinking water.

What To Bring: For fly fishing we recommend that you bring two 8 or 9 weight rods which are best for catching bonefish. For spin fishing we recommend you to bring two rods that are light to medium action with 8-10lb line. The weather is usually warm and sunny on Andros Island. The atmosphere is very relaxed, so wearing casual clothing is most appropriate.

• long-sleeved shirts • rods • reels
• long pants and shorts • fishing hat
• flies/lures • wading shoes • leader/tippet
• rubber-soled shoes • flyline • flashlight
• polarized sunglasses • flyline dressing
• lightweight rain gear • needle-nose pliers
• bandanna • nail knot tool • chapstick

• hook sharpener • sunscreen • clippers
• insect repellent • waterproof gear bag
• personal items • alarm clock • camera/film

Eyewear: Bonefish are difficult to see, even under perfect conditions. It's really tough to get a cast if you can't see them. We recommend high-quality, polarized, UV blocking glass eyewear in copper, vermilion or brown lenses. These colors offer the best combination of target contrast and light blocking ability under the widest range of conditions. Action Optics offer many styles, of which the Otis, Ambush, Passage, Exuma, Vector and Cayman are some of our favorites.

Shirts: Long sleeve or short sleeve tropic-weight shirts with at least SPF 30 are great. Mesh back vents and cool, quick drying materials as found on Simms Ultralight fishing shirt will keep you comfortable and safe from the sun.

Pants/Shorts: Shorts are great, but the doctor flies in March will take chunks out of your ankles unless you wear long pants and flat shoes. Roll-up or zip-off lightweight pants will work well. Some guys prefer to wear shorts and be barefoot, so they can feel the line under their feet.

Footwear: Flats Sneakers from Simms work well in protecting your feet from coral while wading and from doctor flies.

Hats: Baseball caps and lots of sunblock works; but flats hats with a long bill and neck protecting flap are the safest. A dark underbill helps.

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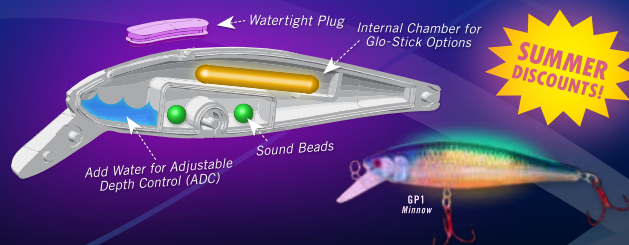
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Fly Rods: For bonefish, a 9 foot, 8-weight, fast-action graphite travel rod works best. We suggest bringing two rods in the 7, 8 or 9 weight range. Favorites Includes: Sage 890-4 Xi2, 890-4 TCR or 890-4 XP, Albright EXS 890-4, Temple Fork Outfitters TiCrX 890-4

For dorado, barracuda, permit, small tarpon, jacks, snappers and bonito, a 9 foot, 10 weight rod in any of the same models will work well. Weather permitting, we will be able to run out to "The Buoy"...a fish attractor over 5,000 feet of water in The Tongue of the Ocean. The "Tongue" is a deep water trench that comes within about a mile of Andros Island and is accessible by flats boats on a nice day. The range of fish species is almost limitless...everything from dolphin (mahi-mahi or dorado) and bonito, to yellowfin tuna and wahoo. Oh, and some really big sharks, such as bulls and oceanic white tips. There are even billfish. You'll have a blast sight casting streamers to schools of dorado running near the surface. They're very acrobatic and tasty! For sharks, large tarpon, yellowfin tuna and big cubera snapper, bring a 9 foot, 12 weight. Saltwater fish pull hard and big saltwater fish are incredible. **Note:** Offshore fishing is seasonal for some species.

Fly Reels: Saltwater is very corrosive, and is as hard on the equipment as the fish that swim in it. Machined aluminum fly reels that have been anodized for saltwater use are the only option. An adjustable disc drag is also a must. The best reels use a large, cork disc and have a large arbor design. Bonefish will peel backing off your reel at an unbelievable pace, and it's fun to watch your reel spool spin smoothly at several thousand RPM's as your bonefish disappears into the horizon. We won't even talk about what a dorado, wahoo or tuna will do to you!

Tibor reels and Abel's Super Series reels work flawlessly and are a thing of beauty. The both offer models sized perfectly for 8 -12 weight lines. Highly Recommended!

Ross Reels' Canyon Big Game Series have also proven to be an excellent performer in saltwater, with similar sizes and capacities as Able and Tibor models. Canyons use a synthetic drag material instead of cork, and costs quite a bit less. Galvan and Sage also make some great reels for salt. I recommend

buying a quality reel from a company whose primary business is manufacturing fly reels.

Backing Requirements: Bonefish: 8-weight line + 250 yards, 20 lb; Dorado, Barracuda, etc: 10-weight line + at least 250 yards, 30 lb; Tarpon, Tuna, Sharks, etc: 12-weight line + 300 yards, 30 lb

Fly Lines: Bone fishing is primarily sight casting to a moving target. You must act quickly...located the fish, consider the range, not the direction of its movement, consider the wind, make one or two back casts and deliver the fly in front of the fish. You need a fly line that is tapered to shoot well, is stiff enough to work well in hot weather, floats, blends in with the surroundings and lands softly. All of these qualities can be found in Mastery's Floating Bonefish Taper, Cortland's 444 Tropic Plus Floating Line or Sage's Equator Taper. They're great for all flats fishing and work great for bass fishing at home. Floating lines are much easier to pick up off the water quietly for a re-cast than intermediate or clear-tip lines. Put a black mark at about 60 feet, or your best range. Clear-tip lines can mess with your depth perception.

Permit are a long shot here, but having a 9 or 10 weight rigged with Cortland or Mastery flats line and a Del Brown's Permit Crab will get you ready, should they appear. Tarpon are sometimes present with the right tidal situation on Andros' West Side. A 10 or 12 weight loaded with a Mastery Tarpon Taper or 444 Tropic Plus Line and a deceiver should do the trick. There are occasionally a 100 lb tarpon taken! Barracuda, sharks, jacks, snapper, bonit, wahoo and dorado may require long casts. I recommend Cortland's Tropic Plus Intermediate line for all of these fish. Its stiffness and shootability are exceptional.

Fly Fishing Leaders: Bonefish leaders should be long and strong. I prefer a 12 foot, 16 lb tapered leader. Sci Anglers Mastery Bonefish leader work well, or Climax. For a custom bonefish leader, here's what to do: **1.** Nail-knot a 2 foot section of at least .026" diameter stiff butt material to your fly line. **2.** Blood knot a 9 foot, 16 lb bonefish leader to the butt. **3.** Cut 2 feet off the tippet end of the tapered leader. **4.** Blood knot 3 feet of OX Seaguar Grand Max fluorocarbon tippet to your leader. Barracuda leaders should be short, strong and wire-tipped. We like: 3 feet of 50 lb butt material Albright knotted to: 2 feet of 20 lb Clear Maxima Albright knotted to: 2 feet of 40 lb Micro Ultra wire

Dorado, tuna, tarpon, jacks, etc, shock tippet is required. We like: 4 feet of heavy butt material like 40-50 lb fluorocarbon, Albright knotted to: 2 feet of class tippet like 20 lb Maxima or fluorocarbon, Albright knotted to: 2 feet of shock tippet like 40, 60, 80 or 100 lb hard mono or fluorocarbon.

Don't let the sharp teeth and rough skin of these fish be the reason the big one gets away! These sharks are really mean! You simply cannot invent a fly leader too strong for sharks. Try to make something like a 4 foot, 40-60 lb butt with 3 feet of at least 90 lb solid wire.

If you are interested in any of the adventures featured in this article or in any of the other adventures that Outdoor Connection offers give us a call. These adventures make excellent gifts for high school and college graduations, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, fund raisers and Christmas. TIME TO BOOK NOW!

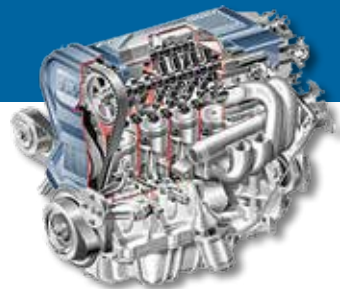
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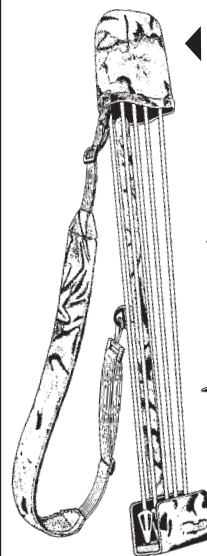
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SIGHTED AND UNSIGHTED HANDGUN SHOOTING

By Tim Milligan

For decades, we have all heard the phrase, "Front sight."

when shooting in training and preparing for competition or even on the range just having fun. It has been a code for, "Use your sights." It is essential that we learn to use the sights. Sight usage is part of good shooting fundamentals and part of our shooting follow through. Sights must be used to acquire precision accuracy. Want to shoot tight groups? You got to use the sights. But, sometimes we just can't use the sights and are required to shoot with acceptable and effective accuracy without using the sights. Often known as Point shooting, Unsighted shooting, Instinctive shooting, or more recently Intuitive Unsighted shooting. Sighted or unsighted accuracy and ability to hit the target is still required. There are elements we need to consider to be good at both.

Sight alignment

Basic sight alignment when using the notch and post sighting system. The system most commonly found on handguns. Aligning the sights is not a difficult task. If a person can see the front and rear sight at extension and with the handgun present toward the target they should be able to align the sights.

Step 1) Extend the handgun to full extension. Good two hand grip preferred. One handed if necessary. At this point you should have full extension with arms or arm straight

providing a good skeletal lock behind the gun. The handgun raised to eye level.

Step 2) While looking through the rear notch place the front post in that notch. This should appear with the tops of all three posts, right and left of the rear and the front, level and in line. You should be able to draw a straight line from post to post.

Step 3) Now that the three posts are all in line adjust the posts so that an equal amount of light appear on both sides of the front post as it sits in the rear notch.

Step 4) Focus the front sight in the rear notch so that the front post appears crisp and clear. It must be as clear as you can get it considering the condition of your eyes.

Your stance while presenting two handed should be natural and neutral. I also prefer this when one handed shooting. Feet about shoulder width apart or slightly wider, knees slightly bent but not passing over the toes, your weight coming forward providing a solid platform for the handgun to operate efficiently and as it is designed to. This position will also provide a natural alignment to the target as you align your body to the target. This will bring us close if not at our natural point of aim. Neutral and natural body alignment in respect to the target.

Natural Point of Aim;

The natural point of aim is that positional alignment that will put us on target without muscular manipulation of the position, twisting the body or bending. We will know we have found it when we

can focus on the target, close the eyes and with the eyes closed extend the handgun to full extension. Now opening the eyes at full extension, we should see we are indexed on the target. High or low, vertically, is not the important part here. The important part is that we aligned horizontally. When the eyes are opened you should be close to centerline of the target. If we are not we adjust foot position to bring us in line with center. This will align us to our natural point of aim. Note; it is important to focus hard on the target and be clean with the opening and closing of the eyes. Finding your natural point of aim will improve your ability when using unsighted shooting.

For a right-handed shooter;

If to the left bring the right foot back slightly. If to the right bring the right foot forward slightly. If to the right bring the right foot forward slightly. I do mean slightly. Only a half inch can move your alignment in respect to the target a long distance. Continue to adjust until you find the point



where when you open your eyes you are on the center line of the target

For a left-handed shooter;

For the left handed shooter, we simply reverse the steps that are used for the right handed shooter. Here we adjust the left foot forward or back to adjust our alignment to our natural point of aim.

So, after completing the procedure to find natural point of aim we now need to practice stepping to the position until we no longer have to search for the point and the feet land where they need to.

One eye or Both eyes

The next area to consider is the requirement to close one eye to acquire precise alignment of the sights. I know. I have heard it as well. All the best shooters shoot with both eyes open. True to a point depending on the precision requirements. Most every good shooter I know of closes

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one eye when shooting precision. Why? As human beings, we can only align multiple points in front of one eye or the other effectively without distortion of vision.

Experiment with this:

With both eyes open find a target or object to focus on across the room. Now extend your arm to full extension and display your thumb between you and the target as if it were a sight post. Now, both eyes open, focus on the target. Your thumb will appear blurred or a ghost image will appear depending on eye dominance. Keeping your arm extended and both eyes open change your focus from the target to the thumb. Now it will appear the target has doubled. A ghost image will appear on the right or left depending on eye dominance. Now while still at full extension close one eye. This should bring all points into alignment with no ghost images.

Shooting and closing one eye may be required and is not necessarily a bad thing. Some folks just cannot shoot precision with both eyes open. Being capable of shooting with precision with both eyes open takes range/trigger time and training.

Sight Picture

Sight picture is accomplished by imposing the properly aligned sights over the target at the point to which we are looking for impact of the bullet. The precise

point of bullet impact will now be sitting on top of the crisp and clear front post aligned in the rear notch. The target will appear slightly out of focus and the rear sight will appear slightly out of focus. Initially your focus will move between rear sight to target and back to a clear front sight. This is where we picked up the term, "Front Sight. Front Sight." to get the shooter to concentrate on the front sight and get it into focus. Don't concentrate so much on the front sight that you forget about the rest of the shooting fundamentals, especially trigger control, required to shoot with precision.

Un sighted Shooting

Un sighted shooting is the use of kinesthetic alignment of the body (natural and neutral stance) and handgun in relationship to the target to get effective accuracy on the target.

After learning sight alignment, developing sight picture, finding natural point of aim and practicing the package we can look at unsighted shooting. Un sighted shooting will occur at close quarters contact range from a more compressed presentation (handgun closer to your body) and not able to bring the handgun to eye level. In this instance, we can use the body to index the handgun (grip against body muzzle forward) and orient the muzzle on target. In practice keep your body index point consistent and



this will keep you accurate. The closer you are to the target the less you will be required to use the sights. Un sighted shooting will also occur in low light situations when we may not be able to see the sights but are able to get to full extension to follow a good presentation just without sight alignment and sight picture to shoot for defensive purposes. This is where the practice of natural point of aim comes into play. As you align your body to the threat and follow the full presentation to the target or threat you naturally fall on target. You can get effective rounds on target without using the sights. As distance increase and the lighting is adequate we will find more requirement for the use of the sights to get accurate and precise hits on target. Learn to use your sights and natural point of aim first before attempting to practice unsighted shooting!

The chances are high that if we are presented with a defensive situation and are required to use our defensive firearm in



a Use of Force we will be using unsighted shooting. Encounters often happen at close quarters where full extension and bringing the gun to eye level could cost you your gun or make it so you cannot use it. Carrying a handgun for defense means you must practice both sighted and unsighted shooting equally. Un sighted shooting is certainly part of defensive shooting. If you carry a gun learn to be good at unsighted shooting.

In the hunting, target shooting and the competition worlds we are extremely unlikely to ever need unsighted shooting. In these areas of shooting sights are a must. You might see unsighted shooting if competing in IDPA (International Defensive Pistol Association). In these areas of handgun use sighted shooting should be your practice and the norm.

Sighted or Unsighted? Or both?

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AS HOME PRICES KEEP CLIMBING, HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Clare Trapasso

It's anyone's guess just how much higher home prices will go—and if they'll ever slow down. Besides, if you could see the future, wouldn't you rather focus your energies on predicting the winning lottery numbers?

Nationally, the median existing-home price for single-family abodes zoomed up to \$255,600 in the second quarter of the year, according to the new quarterly report from the National Association of Realtors®. (Existing homes are previously lived-in residences as opposed to newly built abodes.) That was up 10.1% from the first quarter of the year and represented a

6.2% rise from the second quarter of last year.

Prices are continuing their steady climb because there simply aren't enough homes on the market to go around. As the economy has improved, more people who held off on becoming homeowners or trading up to bigger, better abodes are getting into the market.

"Household incomes may be rising and giving consumers assurance that now is a good time to buy," NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun said in a statement. "But these severe inventory shortages will likely continue to be a drag on sales potential the second half of the year."

The cost of buying a single-family home

increased in about 87% of the metros that NAR looked at. Prices dropped in just 23 markets.

That might explain why sales of all existing homes, which include both single-family residences and condos, fell 0.9% in the second quarter. They hit 5.57 million, according to the seasonally adjusted numbers in the report.

"With new supply not even coming close to keeping pace, price appreciation remained swift in most markets," Yun said. "An increasing share of would-be buyers are being priced out of the market and are unable to experience the wealth-building benefits of homeownership."

Even the median prices of lower-priced condos and co-ops shot up to \$239,500. That's up nearly 9.5% from the first quarter of 2017 and represented a 5.4% rise from the second quarter of last year. Sorry, buyers.

The most expensive metros were,



unsurprisingly, primarily in California. Silicon Valley's San Jose topped the list with a median price of \$1,183,400 for a single-family, existing home, according to the report.

Silicon Valley buyers are "commonly very well-to-do people in their mid-20s to mid-40s. Most typically are working in high tech," says Realtor® Avi Urban of Keller Williams Palto Alto. "Many of them are making enormous amounts of money."

But prices fluctuate during the year depending on the season as well as the local job market, he says.

"As long as the Silicon Valley economy is doing well, I do not expect prices to go down," Urban says. "I expect prices to continue with



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Dreamy log home with open layout. This home was built with 9" hand hewn logs from Washington state. The corners of the logs are cut to give a decorative appeal. The railings are all hand hewn as well. Stones for the stone fireplace and chimney were collected from the property. Large overhangs to protect the logs and porches to sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings. Hickory cabinets w pull outs for storage in the gorgeous kitchen with breakfast bar. Sunroom with heated tile floor and lots of windows. Radiant heat in basement and garage floors too. Home being sold w just over 5 acres w/ more available.



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San Jose was followed by its neighbor to the north, San Francisco, at \$950,000; Anaheim, CA, at \$788,000; Honolulu, at

\$760,600; and San Diego, at \$605,000.

Meanwhile, the cheapest metros were Youngstown, OH, at \$87,000; Cumberland, MD, at \$98,200; Decatur, IL, at

\$107,400; Binghamton, NY, at \$109,000; and Elmira, NY, at \$111,600.

Clare Trapasso is the senior news editor of *realtor.com* and an adjunct journalism

professor. She previously wrote for a *Financial Times* publication and the *New York Daily News*. Contact her at clare.trapasso@move.com. Follow @claretrap

EVERY REGION OF U.S. SEES FEWER NEW HOMES HITTING THE MARKET-EXCEPT ONE

By Clare Trapasso

Builders just aren't keeping up. Despite the lack of homes on the market making buyers ever more frazzled, the number of completed new homes dropped month-over-month in every region of the country—except one.

The South, which is luring companies and new residents with its lower cost of living and more affordable housing prices, had about 634,000 brand-spanking-new homes go up for sale in July, according to the seasonally adjusted numbers in the latest residential sales report jointly released by the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That's a 15.3% jump from June and an impressive 18.5% increase from July 2016.

(*realtor.com*® looked at only the seasonally adjusted numbers in the report. The numbers have been smoothed out over the year to correct for seasonal fluctuations.)

One of the best indicators of how many new homes will hit the market in the

coming months is the number of permits issued to construct them. Nationally, builders received 1.223 million permits in July. This was down 4.1% from June to July, but was up 4.1% from July 2016.

The culprit behind the monthly drop was buildings with five or more units. The number of these multi-family buildings, which are overwhelmingly rental apartment buildings but also include condos, fell 12.1% since June and dropped 11.7% from July of the previous year.

However, in somewhat better news, roughly 811,000 new permits were issued in July to put up single-family homes. Builders received the same amount in June, but the number of new permits rose 13% from July of 2016.

"It wasn't bad, it wasn't great," says *realtor.com*'s Chief Economist Danielle Hale of the construction report. "It was more of the same gradual improvement."

That doesn't mean that those hoping to score a new home should get too excited. The

number of new homes approved but not started was down 4.8% from June, and fell 5.6% from July 2016.

Meanwhile, the number of new homes ready for inhabitants dropped 6.2% from June. But there was a 8.2% increase in the number of completed homes from July of the previous year. And while the number of finished single-family homes slipped 1.6% from the previous month, they were up 8.8% annually.

"We're seeing slow but steady progress," Hale says of the in-demand abodes. "It's important because we know we don't have enough homes on the market."

Just don't expect those homes to come cheap. The median price of a newly built home was \$310,800 in June, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development data. That was about 17.8% more than median cost of an existing home (one that's previously been lived in) at \$263,800 in June, according to the most recent data from the National Association of Realtors.

The most new homes were completed in the South, followed by the West with about

256,000 completed abodes. That's down 25.4% from the previous month and represents a 8.9% decrease from the previous year.

The Midwest had about 176,000 residences completed in July, down 18.1% from June but up 1.1% annually. Only about 109,000 new homes were finished in the Northeast. That's a 24.3% monthly drop, but a 13.5% annual increase.

"The housing shortage in America will intensify if new construction remains as lackluster as it was in July," Lawrence Yun, the National Association of Realtors chief economist, said in a statement. "Because of this continued shortage, expect rents and home prices to rise."

Clare Trapasso is the senior news editor of *realtor.com* and an adjunct journalism professor. She previously wrote for a *Financial Times* publication and the *New York Daily News*. Contact her at clare.trapasso@move.com. Follow @claretrap





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HOME PRICES ROSE IN EVERY STATE IN THE NATION-EXCEPT ONE

By Clare Trapasso

Home prices continued their steady climb in every state in America—except for one. Thanks for being real, Alaska!

If you're thinking that this steady, inexorable price escalation must have an end in sight, think again. In fact, prices are predicted to go up an additional 5.2% across the country over the next year, according to CoreLogic's Home Price Index and Home Price Forecast.

Nationally, monthly prices rose 1.1% and were up 6.7% year over year as of June, according to the report based on sold prices. In Alaska, they dipped 0.6% from June 2016.

Why Alaska? "The fact that the oil markets have been a little bit slow probably has as many people looking to leave the state as coming in," says Chief Economist Danielle Hale of realtor.com®. Even with the decline,

it's unlikely hordes of wannabe homeowners will be heading for the freezing "Last Frontier" state any time soon.

The rest of the price hikes can be explained by the sheer lack of homes on the market. June had the lowest number of properties for sale in the second quarter of a year in more than 30 years. That's driven prices up to almost 50% more than what they were at the nadir of the housing market, in March 2011, during the depths of the financial crisis. "The growth in sales is slowing down, and this is not due to lack of affordability, but rather a lack of inventory," said CoreLogic's Chief Economist Frank Nothaft in a statement.

And that dearth of homes for sale might be leading to overvaluing in four metro areas where prices are at least 10% more than long-term, sustainable levels, according to the

CoreLogic report. Annual prices are up 8.7% in Denver; 3.4% in Houston; 4.4% in Miami; and 4.9% in Washington, DC.

Buyers "won't have many options, and the options [they] find are likely to be competitive with other buyers" driving the costs up even further, says Hale.

State by state, annual prices surged the most in Washington, home to Seattle, by 12.7%. It was followed by Utah, at 10.7%; Colorado, at 9.2%; Idaho, at 9.1%; and Oregon, at 9%.

Seattle, Denver, and Portland, OR, have been hot markets with buyers submitting offers over asking price and engaging in bidding wars for some time now.

But recently metros such as Salt Lake City and Boise, ID, have been joining their ranks. Year-over-year metro home prices went up a whopping 8.8% in Salt Lake City and 11% in

Boise in June, according to realtor.com data.

Utah and Idaho "have a lot of the benefits and advantages of other sunny Western cities with lots of outdoor activities, decent job growth, technology companies relocating to that area," Hale says. They're "attractive places to live especially since [they're] more affordable than some of the other Western markets."

Clare Trapasso is the senior news editor of realtor.com and an adjunct journalism professor. She previously wrote for a Financial Times publication and the New York Daily News. Contact her at clare.trapasso@move.com. Follow @claretrap



MORTGAGE RATES SLIDE TO 6-WEEK LOW AS NORTH KOREA WORRIES DRIVE BOND RALLY

By Andrea Riquier

Rates for home loans slid to a 6-week low as mounting geopolitical worries drove investors into safe-haven bonds, mortgage provider Freddie Mac said Thursday.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.90% in the August 10 week, down from 3.93%. The 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.18%, unchanged during the week. The 5-year Treasury-indexed hybrid adjustable-rate

mortgage averaged 3.14%, down one basis point during the week.

Those rates don't include fees associated with obtaining mortgage loans.

The 10-year Treasury note yield slid as investors snapped up assets perceived as less risky in the wake of growing worries over the U.S.-North Korea standoff. As demand drives

up bond prices, their yields fall. Mortgage rates track the benchmark U.S. government bond yield.

With this latest decline, the benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage is now just two basis points above its lowest level for 2017.



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LOOKING TO MAKE A QUICK BUCK? SELL YOUR HOME

By Clare Trapasso

You've heard it all before: It's a home seller's market out there. Need proof? In the second quarter of 2017, sellers raked in an additional average of \$51,000 per sale over what they originally paid for their abodes.

That's the highest returns the residential housing market has seen in a decade, according to a recent report from real estate information firm ATTOM Data Solutions. The sale price is about 26% more than owners originally spent on the property, the study showed. The last time it was this high was in early 2007, when sellers pocketed an average \$57,000.

Break out the bubbly, home sellers!

ATTOM looked at recorded sales deeds, foreclosure filings, and loan data to compile the report.

The biggest profits were in places where prices are the highest. Sellers made returns of about 75% in Silicon Valley's San Jose, CA; 65% in San Francisco; 63% in Seattle; 62% in Modesto, CA; and 62% in Denver. This was based on metros with at least 1,000 home sales and sales data were available going back to 2000.

"Those are areas that have seen the biggest gain in home prices during this recovery," says Daren Blomquist, ATTOM's senior vice president. "Modesto was a little bit of a surprise—it was one of the epicenters of the foreclosure crisis. [But] the halo effect of the Bay Area is rippling out to markets like Modesto and several others in central California and boosting home prices."

Where are homeowners staying the longest—and leaving the fastest?

Despite—or perhaps because of—the high prices, homeowners stayed an average 8.05 years in their abodes nationally. That's the longest it's been since the start of the survey, in 2000. And it's because homeowners, while they might have no trouble selling their current property, still need to buy a new property.

"It's not so easy to find a new home to purchase," Blomquist says. "There's not a lot of homes on the market to buy."

Homeowners stayed the longest in their places in Boston, at 11.91 years; Hartford, CT, at 11.9 years; Providence, RI, at 10.28 years; San Francisco, at 9.7 years; and San Jose, at 9.71 years. ATTOM looked only at metros with at least 1 million residents for this list.

But in some other parts of the U.S., people seemed eager to pull up stakes and leave. The amount of time homeowners



stayed in their homes dropped in certain high-profile metros, including Chicago; Dallas; Philadelphia; Washington, DC; and Detroit.

Where can investors—and everyone else—find real estate bargains?

In today's soaring housing market, sales of distressed properties such as foreclosures, short sales, and bank-owned sales have dropped to the lowest levels since the third quarter of 2007. They made up only about 13.4% of all condo and single-family home sales in the second quarter.

"Rising home equity lifts all boats," says Blomquist. "It allows more homeowners to avoid foreclosure. They have enough equity to sell or potentially refinance and lower their payments."

The greatest percentage of distressed properties were in Atlantic City, NJ, at 40.2% of all home sales; Canton, OH, at 31%; Columbus, GA, at 27.8%; Trenton, NJ, at 27.7%; and Akron, OH, at 27.5%. ATTOM looked at metros with at least 200,000 residents and a minimum of 100 distressed sales to compile the list.

Atlantic City's top placement on the foreclosure list is partly due to the area's high unemployment rate—about 7.7% as of May. It was 4.4% nationally that month, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"We're no longer in the paradigm where it's toxic loans that are primarily causing foreclosures," Blomquist says. "Job loss and wage loss is driving foreclosures today."

The lack of distressed properties is pushing investors seeking a deal to set their sights on more far-flung markets to buy into. "They're moving to smaller, more off-the-beaten-path markets that are lower-priced still," Blomquist says. Plus, "there's less competition from other investors."

Clare Trapasso is the senior news editor of *realtor.com* and an adjunct journalism professor. She previously wrote for a *Financial Times* publication and the *New York Daily News*. Contact her at clare.trapasso@move.com. Follow @claretrap

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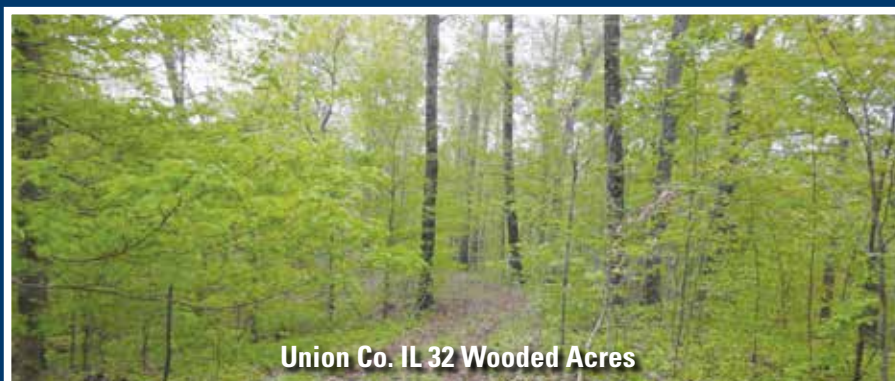
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ANNIE'S CONKLIN CORNER

This is the day that the Lord hath made "Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

We are having a beautiful end of summer "Let's not call it fall just yet! Fall and Winter will be here soon enough. With all the Hurricanes in Florida and Texas and the wildfires in Montana, California, and Oregon. We have so much to be thankful for!

We are getting ready for our moving sale on Oct.21 so that is keeping us hopping! What do you sell? What do you keep? But one I know, if we are not using it anyway, it will be one less thing for our children to take care of when we are gone!

In the canvas Shop we are still busy but people are starting to think of using their boat one last time before Winter then we'll have plenty of time through the winter to get their things ready for spring. The down side of that spring usually comes quicker than we think.

Grandson Ervin and Marlene are getting married on Oct. 5th so we have some wedding preparation yet before our sale but oh well, makes life interesting.

On the Conklin side, I'd like to write a little about our Fastrack product again.

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THE BATS OF AUSTIN

by Diana Storrs

Patt and I had been friends in Minnesota. We had lost touch with each other while I lived in Hawaii. This was in the late 60's, before the days of social media and we were both busy with our careers and families. When I moved back to Minnesota after forty years in Hawaii, our friendship picked up again as though no time had passed. She was alone and retired. We became even closer during the time I lived in Minnesota. Only separated by four hours rather than an ocean, we often spent weekends at each other's homes. We had a few adventures, far different from our high school ones, but good times.

Then I moved to San Antonio, Texas. It was sad to part again, but this time we stayed close. When Patt called asking to come for a visit, I was more than happy to host her for as long as she wanted to stay and of course we would go see the bats! After she arrived and rested, we made careful plans, booked a tour, and plotted our route. I would drive us there.

My excuse for having trouble finding the Congress Bridge was that I was new to Texas. The truth is that I am simply a terrible driver and have absolutely no sense of direction.

Getting to Austin is a pretty straight shot; just follow Interstate 35. Navigating through Austin is an entirely different story. We knew where we wanted to go and could actually see our destination. Taking the exit we wanted was a different matter. We circled and circled, each time passing a homeless gentleman at an intersection, holding a sign asking for help. Each time we passed him, his look of incredulity intensified. I was certain he would motion us over on the next pass and offer us help!

We finally stumbled onto the correct exit, much to the relief of our homeless friend. After checking in with our tour, we relaxed until it was time to board the boat.

These boats depart approximately 30 minutes before sunset. Their destination is the Anne W. Richards Congress



Avenue Bridge, known simply as the Congress Bridge. This is the home of the largest urban bat colony in the world, the Mexican free-tailed bat. In this location, they number an estimated 1,500,000 bats. Each night they eat 10,000 to 30,000 pounds of insects. I have no idea how this is measured and we must take this fact at face value. These bats migrate each spring from central Mexico and return to Mexico in early Fall. The key word here is "urban". Apparently, the largest known colony is at Bracken Cave, north of San Antonio, with

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nearly 20 million bats. Patt and I were not concerned with statistics. We just wanted to see the bats. Actually, she wanted to see the bats. I simply wanted to provide the opportunity to do so. I thought we were on a river. We were not. Lady Bird Lake is actually a river-like reservoir on the Colorado River. "The City of Austin created the reservoir in 1960 as a cooling pond for a new city power plant. The surface area of the lake is 416 acres, and it is currently used primarily for recreation and flood control." Wikipedia

Patt was a scientist by nature and by education and she was fascinated. When the bats started swarming out on their nightly foray, and kept coming and coming, a hush settled over our boat. It was truly awe-inspiring. My thought, which I have

every time I witness a miracle of nature was, "God is evident once again, in all His grace and glory."

After the majority of bats had departed, our guide asked if we were agreeable to moving under the bridge in order to get a better view of where these bats spend their days. Everyone was willing so we slowly moved under the bridge. As the guide was provided



interesting facts about these fascinating creatures, one of them, hanging directly over my head, decided it was time to unload his share of guano. This landed squarely in my eye. I was not thinking of grace and glory at that moment; rather of rabies and blindness! Patt and I both burst out laughing. This was exactly the perfect memory we could share of our last adventure together. As soon as we returned to dry land, I flushed out my eye. Thankfully, I suffered no ill effects from my bat baptism and our return trip to San Antonio was uneventful.

The Mexican free-tailed bats average 3.5 inches in length and weigh approximately .43 ounces, with an average wingspan between 12-14 inches.

Their tails are almost half their total length and I am not scientific enough to explain why they are called "free-tailed"; something to do with their anatomy. They have

large feet with long, white bristles. With elongated and narrow wings with pointed tips, this bat is claimed to have the fastest horizontal speed (as opposed to stoop diving speed) of any animal. They have been clocked at 60 miles an hour using tail winds. This species flies the highest among bats, at altitudes as high as 9,800 feet, which can quickly kill most other creatures, including people.

Patt died later that year. I often think of her and our batty experience. I have a feeling she is still laughing.





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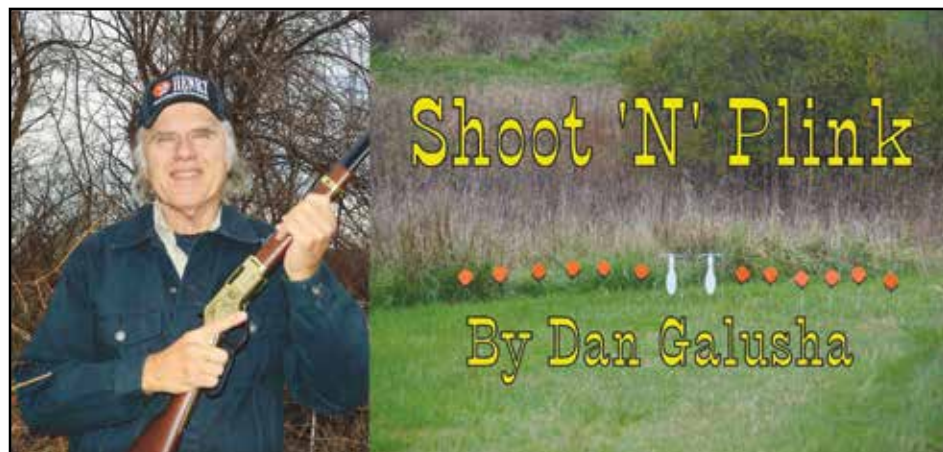
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A target shooter's collection of guns can't be complete without a Browning Buck Mark pistol. This is said to be one of the best for this purpose, and recently one was purchased to find out first hand.

My Buck Mark is the Plus Practical model. It has the top rail, which makes it possible to attach a scope or red dot sight. However, I wanted to use it as it was designed with fully adjustable open

iron sights.

The front sight is a TruGlo fiber optic, while the rear has a white outline Pro-Target sight. It is fully adjustable for windage and elevation, with solid "clicks".

Weight of the pistol is 34 ounces, and it holds a 10 round magazine. The barrel length is 5 ½ inches, with an overall length of 9 ½ inches. Its trigger is gold plated, with a very light pull –



Browning Buck Mark Plus Practical with Case.



After sighting in the Buck Mark the author fired several rounds of CCI Mini Mag ammo into the 2-inch black center section of a narrow ringed, 4-inch airgun target.

almost a "hair trigger".

Ammunition is 22LR, and I've been told by followers of the Shoot 'N' Plink™ Facebook page that a wide range of velocities have been shot through their units. I had only used CCI Mini Mag and Remington Thunderbolt, with equal success. Both are in the 1250 fps range, which is normally recommended for semi-automatic firearms. However, a couple of people said they had fired CCI standard velocity of 1050 fps, so I tried it and it

worked nicely. These same people were asking me to try some CCI Quiet, which I did. The Quiet is only 710 fps, and did not cycle. So, that is not recommended.

While this is a 22-caliber pistol the design of the round barrel gives it a much larger appearance. The slide is also a bit different from other semi-autos in that you can see through from one side to the other.

As for the magazines, they are very easy to load. Some magazines are a



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pain, but the follower is very easy to slide down and hold while loading the ammo. I do recommend purchasing some extra magazines, as this gun is so much fun to shoot you are going to want to have some loaded in advance, and ready to go. I have 3 at the moment, with 2 more ordered so I can load up a full 50 round box without have to stop and reload.

By the way, all of this comes in a very nice, rugged nylon zip case. The Browning logo and name on the outside is very attractive. It is one of those cases that you will be happy to use for storage, and proud to be seen. It truly compliments the good looks of the pistol, so makes a great set.

As for shooting, I had to adjust the sights twice when getting it sighted in on a rifle sight-in target, with 10 rounds of CCI Mini Mag. It was shooting low, but after the second adjustment I was ready to hit the 2-inch middle of some regular targets, which I did with several rounds of Remington Thunderbolt. I shot the gun at 7, 10 and 15 yards.

The day that this was adjusted was extremely windy, so for the conditions of

a 20 to 30 mph cross wind it proved to be a very good shooter. In fact, I shot a video on that day which can be seen on the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® You Tube channel at www.youtube.com/dansfishntales, or the Shoot 'N' Plink™ Facebook page at www.facebook.com/shootnplink.

This is a great two-handed or one-hand shooter. I've seen several people shooting it one hand only, and I can see why, even with the heavier weight.

Overall, I would rate this pistol as a 10, which is rare for me to give anything a perfect score, or even a 9, because I feel there is always something that isn't perfect with any product. The only thing I want to remind you of is to make sure you are ready to shoot, as you should always be, before touching the trigger. Twice I fired shots before I was completely on the center of the target. The shots were still on the target, but not where I wanted them to be. Also, it would be nice if there were two magazines provided with the pistol instead of just one. Neither of these facts are bad enough to subtract from the "10" rating for its targeting and overall shooting.

If you have any further questions on this or another shooting subject, drop me a line through the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com, which has a Shoot 'N' Plink™ page. You can also go to the Shoot 'N' Plink™

Facebook page at www.facebook.com/shootnplink.

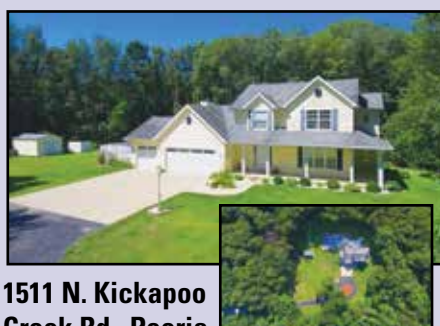
Until next time, shoot safe and have a great day of plinking.



A couple of adjustments on the rear Pro-Target sight raised the strike point enough to hit the center of this Lucky Gunner rifle sight-in target.



Shooting at a regular pistol target from 10 and 15 yards, with CCI standard 1017 fps velocity had some good results with the majority of shots landing within the black 4-inch center.



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By Dan Galusba
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Legendary Communicator

SCENTS MAKE SENSE

Throughout the years people have asked about using some sort of scent on their baits and lures. At one-time scents of any type were illegal to use in many places, and this was just the simple stuff like anise oil, which is nothing like we have today.

I can remember in the 50's and 60's when my grandfather would take a bottle of anise oil and dab it on any sort of bait he would use. He also made dough balls for carp and catfish, in which he would use anise oil and molasses. Both would serve a dual purpose – scent and taste, but still this was illegal in many places.

Today we have all sorts of manufactured scents. Two of the most recognizes in the "history of scents are Power Bait/Gulp Alive and Fish Formula. There is also one that is the original, with which southern anglers are more familiar than those in the north. It is Kick'n Bass Fish Attractant, and covers a lot of species with a



A combination of a Blitz Spyder Jig with Natural Forage Baits Mad Craw (Kick'N Bass Attractant cooked in) and an application of KNB Java, helped pull this nice bass out of a deep weed bed.

few scents. In fact, you might want to mix a few, but we will discuss that in a little while.

Fish have a sort of smelling process through their olfactory system. To put it simply, it allows odor molecules to pass through the system through ports in what could be called their nose area, which detect good and bad odors.

Scents do a couple of things. They mask bad odors, such as from humans, and add attraction if the right one is used.

In the 1980's I fished with Russ Jennings who came up with an idea to enhance the scents. We were using a soap called Odor Away. Whenever Russ

would catch a dogfish or northern he would wash his lure with the soap, and then apply the scent. According to Russ he was eliminating the negative predator odor that would repel bass, and then masking it further, while doubling the power of the scent by wiping out all other negative odors. He also said that the left-over soap, which was biodegradable, would produce bubbles that would add sound and visual attraction, while dispersing the scent further into the water. All of this certainly made sense, and with Russ' success, especially when using skirted lures, it made some pretty strong evidence to support his theory.

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Following right along with Russ' theory is the creation of an "odor zone". This is done by making more than one cast/flip/pitch to an area to disperse the scent, especially when using slower lures like jigs and soft plastics, where they are in an area much longer than the faster moving baits like spinnerbaits and crankbaits. In fact, my favorite use of scents is with the slower moving lures. Spinnerbaits will hold scent and can create a good odor zone, but when using a crankbait, I've always felt it is more of an attraction on its own with sound and action, which is certainly true with the Rat-L-Trap products.

Using scents is easy - just put it on. Although, there are a few tips on applying it to different baits and lures.

Most lures like spinnerbaits, crankbaits (if used on them) and plastic worms is a simple squeeze of the bottle. With smaller jigs, and plastic worm tails I like to remove the bottle's cap and dip it in to the bottle.

Tubes are excellent scent holders; they can have it applied

inside and out. In fact, if a piece of foam is inserted inside the tube it will help hold scent longer.

Most soft plastic jerk baits have hook slots. I apply the scent to the outside of the bait and inside the slot. The slot will hold scent for a very long time, especially if a long holding product like Kick'n Bass is used.

Applying scents for catfish and trout can be a little different. With a catfish worm it can be dipped in the scent first and then catfish dip bait applied, or apply

the dip bait and use the scent bottle's applicator to squeeze it on the bait. In some cases, sponges can be used with the catfish scent alone. The same for the trout where a small piece of sponge can be hooked to a Daiichi salmon egg hook.

This is a good time to talk about what scent to use and when to use it. We will use the Kick'n Bass brand to illustrate, which has catfish, crappie, trout, walleye, anise shad, crawfish, garlic, shrimp, Java and Java with Bacon. According to Ron Risenhoover, company owner, the catfish and trout are both cheese based, with the catfish being stronger, which means these two are interchangeable depending on how strong a species desires it on that day.

The catfish and trout have already been detailed other than the fact that the saltwater shrimp scent can also be used for catfish, so here is my basic use of the other types of scents according to lures and species:

- Java—everything and anything (a great all-around scent)
- Crappie—panfish lures and bait.
- Anise Shad—panfish lures

and bait; spinnerbaits; jerk worms; Road Runners; crankbaits; Natural Forage Baits Swim Bait and Lil Killer; Power Minnows; and Blitz White Finesse Jig for swimming.

- Crawfish—Blitz Jig (finesse or regular) with NFB Mad Craw or some sort of twin tail trailer; tube; plastic worm; and plastic craw type lure.
- Garlic—any of the above.
- Shrimp—panfish lures and live bait.
- Walleye—Grubs and live bait for



Even Pepper likes the Kick'N Bass Attractant to lick and roll on – neither of which is recommended.



Most jerk worms/shad have a hook slot, which is a perfect spot to apply scent to make it hold longer, and create an "odor zone" after several casts to the same area.



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walleye; jerk worms; and Power Minnows for any species.

Using any of these scents on Power Bait and Natural Forage Baits products is mixing, since they both have scent built in, but can really work great, especially in creating the odor zone. Once the zone is created, and producing strikes, the Power, Gulp or NFB with Kick'N Bass the ingredient in the bait will induce the fish to hold on longer, which is very important when fishing soft plastics and jigs.

They can also be mixed on their own. Some of the mixtures, which I would recommend, are Garlic/Crawfish; Garlic/Shrimp; Shrimp/Crappie; and Anise Shad/Crappie, all of which can go with a little Java. Of course, with all the options the sky is the limit on experimenting to find the perfect combination.

When Ron was asked if the scents work he said, "just use them and you can see for yourself". I might add, that scents are not magic; they are tools like any other piece of tackle, and when used correctly in the right conditions you will see a difference in productivity. Even if it catches one fish, that may be one fish more than would have been caught, or in some cases may be the only fish of the

day, if not the largest. So, using scents does make sense.

If you have questions on this or another fishing subject, stop by the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® website at www.dansfishntales.com, or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dansfishntales, and drop me a line.

Until next time, get out on the water, and have a great day of fishing.



Smaller jigs, such as this Panfish/ Trout Road Runner with tube body, can be dipped in an open bottle of scent, which saturates the entire lure, while keeping the angler's hands free of overflow.



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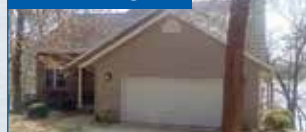
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Amazing 3BR/3.5BA home on Lake Wee-Ma-Tuk! 19x17 FP great tm, adj inf din, breakf bar + appl-eat-in K; MF mstr + 2BR on UL w/Jack & Jill BA; LL fam rm; professional custom stone steps & maintenance free steel sea-wall -4 yrs ago; 2 sheds; New Roof being installed next week; gorgeous lake view from upper deck, walk-out LL patio. \$319,900.

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MINNESOTA ARTIST BOB HAUTMAN WINS 2017 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP CONTEST

Bob Hautman, an artist from Delano, Minn., is the winner of the 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. The announcement was made today by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan at the annual art contest, held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at the Noel Fine Arts Center.

Hautman's acrylic painting of a pair of mallards will be made into the 2018-2019 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp, which will go on sale in late June 2018. The Service produces the Federal Duck Stamp, which sells for \$25 and raises nearly \$40 million each year to provide critical funds to conserve and protect wetland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of people.

"Our nation's waterfowl hunters and other sportsmen and women have a long tradition of leading the way in conserving wildlife and habitat," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "There is no better example of this than the Duck Stamp, one of the most successful conservation programs in U.S. history, through which hunters have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars since its inception eight decades ago."

"Congratulations to Bob Hautman on his win today," Sheehan said. "He is part of a collection of talented wildlife artists whose work has helped conserve habitat not just for waterfowl, but for a vast diversity of wildlife, and helped create and maintain hundreds of places where hunters, anglers and outdoors enthusiasts of all stripes can enjoy their passion."

This is Hautman's third Federal Duck Stamp Contest win. His art previously appeared on the 1997-1998 and 2001-2002 Federal Duck Stamps.

Hautman's brothers, Jim and Joe, are also multiple Duck Stamp artists, having each won the contest five times.

Of 215 entries in this year's competition, 12 entries made it to the final round of judging today. Eligible species for this year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest were the mallard, gadwall, cinnamon teal, blue-winged teal and harlequin duck.

Greg Alexander of Ashland, Wis., placed second with his acrylic painting of a cinnamon teal; Christine Clayton of Sidney, Ohio, took third place with her oil painting of a blue-winged teal.

In 2000, Clayton won the National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest with a painting of a northern pintail. She was 17 at the time.

The judges for this year's Federal Duck

Stamp Contest were: Dr. Jacob Straub, a waterfowl biologist and the Wetlands and Waterfowl Conservation Chair in UW-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources; Jane Kim, an artist and science illustrator; Robert Spoerl, a lifelong hunter and conservationist with a passion for waterfowl; Tim Pearson, an artist - and flyfishing guide - who paints mostly in watercolors, inspired by the waters and surrounding wilderness of Lake Superior; and Richard Prager, an avid collector of Federal and Junior Duck Stamps and Duck Stamp remarks and original artwork.

"A huge thank you goes to the faculty, staff and students of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for hosting the contest this year," said Sheehan. "The UW-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources is one of the nation's premier natural resources programs and has historical connections with the Service as the alma mater of a number of our staff and top agency leaders."

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase and carry the current Federal Duck Stamp. Many non-hunters, including birdwatchers, conservationists, stamp collectors and others also purchase the stamp in support of habitat conservation.




The winning 2017 Federal Duck Stamp art, an acrylic painting of a pair of mallards by Minnesota artist Bob Hautman. Credit: USFWS

Additionally, a current Federal Duck Stamp can be used for free admission to any national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee.

Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds from sales of the Federal Duck Stamp go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which supports the protection of migratory bird habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

You can contribute to conservation and America's great conservation tradition by buying Federal Duck Stamps at many national wildlife refuges, sporting goods stores and other retailers, through the U.S. Postal Service, or online at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php>.

A gallery of the 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest entries is at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwhq/sets/72157686451028213/>.



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<p>FRIDAY OCT 6TH – SUNDAY OCT 8TH LOCATION AND TIME TBD LARGE LIQUIDATION OF THE FORMER COOPER'S TV BUILDING AUCTION</p> <p>SUNDAY OCTOBER 15TH AT 12:00PM VERY NICE PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION HELD AT PERFORMANCE AUCTION PARK- ALEDO, IL</p> <p>SATURDAY OCTOBER 21ST AT 10:00AM REAL ESTATE, WOOD WORKING TOOLS, LUMBER & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AUCTION HELD ON SITE- 315 S. 1ST ST., MONMOUTH, IL SELLER- HOWARD MILLER ESTATE</p> <p>SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11TH AT 9:00AM FIREARMS & SPORTING EQUIPMENT AUCTION HELD AT PERFORMANCE AUCTION PARK- ALEDO, IL</p>	<p>SUNDAY OCTOBER 22ND AT 12:00PM ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, AUCTION HELD AT PERFORMANCE AUCTION PARK- ALEDO, IL</p> <p>THURSDAY OCTOBER 26TH AT 4:00PM THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIAL AUCTION HELD AT PERFORMANCE AUCTION PARK- ALEDO, IL</p> <p>SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH AT 10:00AM JOHN DEERE X738, FORD 800 TRACTOR & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION HELD ON SITE AT 23909 170TH AVE. W.- ILLINOIS CITY, IL</p>
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