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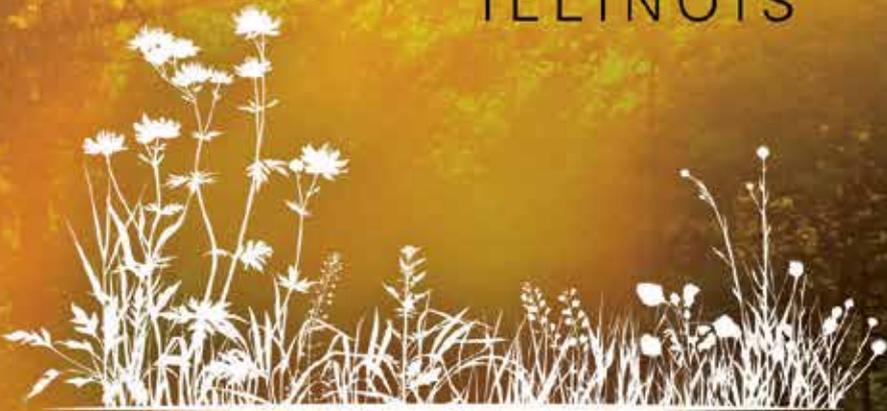


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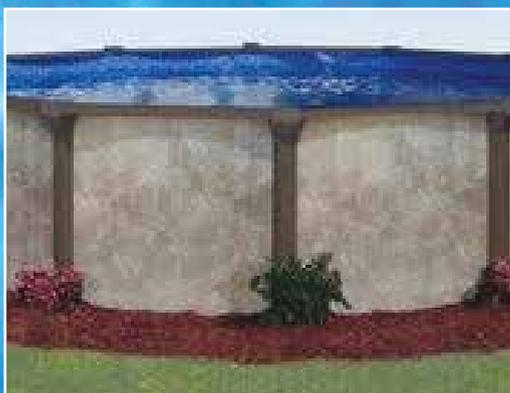
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ON THE COVER:
Avery Houk with a couple
of beautiful Lake
Shelbyville Crappie



OUTDOORS

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SUBSCRIBE TODAY ON PG. 6!

- 6 Andy's Chronicles
- 9 Grandma's Recipes
- 10 Canterbury Tales
- 12 Richard Pearson ISRA, Executive Director's Message
- 14 Jason Houser, Gun Review: Bond Arms Roughneck 9mm
- 16 Walt Matan, Walley Time on the Weed Edge!
- 18 Mike Roux, Welcome to the Brotherhood
- 20 Dan Galusha, Shoot 'N' Plink, Popular 22 Goes to Air
- 22 Ted Nugent, Dear Gentry
- 24 Dave Shadows, An "In-Depth" Look at Bass Baits
- 26 Colby Simms, Summer Bass in the Prairie State
- 28 Bob Park, Raptor Premium Spinnerbaits, Spinnerbait Techniques
- 30 City of Litchfield Tourism
- 31 Bill Graham, MDC Encourages Anglers to Harvest Crappie at Reed Area Lakes in Lee's Summit

- 32 Bill Graham, MDC Says Track Summer Birds Near Home for Fun and Learning
- 33 Bill Graham, MDC Says New Crappie Regulations at Smithville Lake Showing Good Results
- 34 Bill Cooper, Catch Crappie with Walleye Deep at Stockton Lake Now
- 36 Mark Kayser, Seasonal Food Plots for Whitetails
- 40 Woo Daves, Woo's Corner, Love that Grass Fishing
- 42 Dan Vinovich, Predator Guide Service, The Giggler
- 45 ISRA 2020 Leagues and Competitions at the ISRA Range
- 46 David Herschelmann, A Day Remembered
- 48 Dan Galusha, Fish 'N' Tales, What's in a Head
- 50 SeaArk Boats, SeaArk Releases New Super Lounge Easy
- 51 CPO Reports: December 1-15, 2019
- 55 Farm King
- 56 Kirby Schupp, Even a Shotgun Should Shoot Straight
- 58 Scott Cummings, Exploration of North America, The Winkelman Way
- 60 Ed DeVries, BAI News
- 62 Dan Gapen Sr., To Know Me Better
- 64 Valerie Blaine, Outdoor Illinois Wildlife Journal, Ring-Necked Pheasants
- 65 Future Anglers Foundation, Record Number of Young People Discovering Fishing
- 66 John Simeone, The Investment
- 69 QUGA Membership Info
- 70 Marlene Odahlen-Hinz, More Time to Prepare
- 72 Dave Molyneaux, The Strategy of Whoa
- 74 Gretchen Hoffer Farb, Three Things to Know about Chronic Lyme Disease

- 76 Ducks Unlimited, Federal and State Agencies Cancel Waterfowl Breeding and Habitat Survey
- 77 Ducks Unlimited, DU Joins Forces to Promote #Responsible Recreation
- 78 Van City
- 80 Tom Berg, Lake Michigan's Salmon & Trout Boom
- 82 Shabbona Creek RV
- 83 Don Higgins, The Illinois Covid 19 CWD Connection
- 84 Dru Hauter, A New Prescription Proven to Improve Your Health
- 86 Matt England, England Expeditions, Summer Patterns for Lake Shelbyville
- 88 Reagan Smith, Reag's Guide Service, Fishing Central Illinois With Reag's Guide Service
- 90 IDNR, 2020 Illinois Youth Turkey Season from the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources
- 91 Thane Hunt, Summer Heat
- 92 Lawdog Dago Dom & Shortcake (Dominic & Kathy Visione), Both Barrels
- 94 Anthony Regnier, Where the "Addiction" started... My Mother
- 96 HouseLogic, 8 Simple and Easy Landscaping Ideas for People Who Hate Yard Work
- 99 HouseLogic, 3 Handsome Solutions to Handle Outdoor Clutter
- 100 Richard Creason, Visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- 102 Branson MO, A Great Place to Celebrate Summer
- 104 Neal Graves, Illinois Trappers Association, What is a Trapper To Do
- 106 Shawn Stafford, www.huntingfit.com, Is it Fishing or Hunting
- 110 War Eagle Boats
- 111 Corsaw Lumber, Warren Danz and Michael Sue Attorneys at Law
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Realizing I was going to have more time than I have had since I was 15 years old, I went to work. After the first week my yard looked amazing, the flower beds are groomed and ready for some fresh color, the garden has been tilled too many times, gutters cleaned, my house is very clean, hell even the windows are clean and now I have to figure out how to keep myself busy. The next few weeks just seem to drag on. I try to find things to stay busy but let's face it if you are stuck at home and are ordered to be there, you are even more antsy than normal. Finally, I came to point where I needed some outside

Well this has been an interesting couple of months. I'm not sure any of us have experienced anything like this. The decisions that had to be made around Covid were not easy choices for anyone. I never dreamed going into 2020 that I would have to make a decision about whether to print the month of May or not. After so much thought, many prayers and discussions, I determined the best thing for ASO Advertisers, ASO drivers and ASO Magazine itself. It was an agonizing decision but once made, I realized it was the right decision. Many businesses are struggling to come to grasp with what is happening right now. I know myself I don't understand how some businesses are allowed to continue to thrive and others are just out of luck until they are told they can open. Pretty tough on many small businesses to just close the door. The expenses are still there. They have employees who are like family and you



Brandon Bach with an Illinois River Catfish



Nice Illinois River Catfish

activities away from home. I knew a couple of my friends have been cooped up as well and I decided to see if one of them would like to go fishing on the river for some fresh catfish for the fryer. Of course, as soon as I called Brandon, he was like "oh yea I need out of the house". So, we decided to head out on a Thursday. The



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**My grandparents old house.
So many great memories.**

temperature was supposed to be in the 60's and we really didn't think we were going to knock the catfish dead in mid-April. Brandon got me hooked on Sony's Sticky Catfish Bait, but I have never used it this time of year. Brandon is more of a cat-fisherman than myself, so I trusted his instinct and off we went with our stink bait. It took us awhile to find them, but we ended up with a total of 17 catfish which I thought was really good for the time of year we were fishing. Of course, after we were done fishing, we looked at each other and said "it's supposed to be 70 degrees tomorrow you want to go again?" Well what else was I going to do? We headed back out on Friday and for the first several hours we only caught one. We decided to move again and try some deeper water. Well in the next three hours we pulled 26 catfish over the rail. It was some of the best catfishing action I have had ever let alone in April. It sure



**Tim Conover with a couple
of nice crappie.**

was nice to spend some days on the water to help clear my mind and stop thinking about the magazine for a moment.

A couple of more weeks have passed, and my wife was begging to go fishing. We had planned a trip to Lake Shelbyville at the end of April but wasn't sure if that was something we could actually do. After a little research and a call to Rich at Gregory's Resort and we are set for a four day weekend in Shelbyville. Of course, once my friends got ahold of this they wanted to go as well. So, after getting the rooms coordinated we were set to go. A week before the trip the weather was looking like it was going to be 65 - 70 degrees and sunny. I thought to myself for once we might actually hit the spawn. I really prefer to catch them before and after the spawn but hey as long as we are catching fish it really doesn't matter. As the week turned into days we saw the weather changing and definitely not for the better. It looked like Thursday would be nice



**Nothing I like to catch more than
some big slab crappie.**

when we arrived, and Friday wasn't looking bad but Saturday they were calling for all day rain and Sunday morning showers. Oh well, we were set to go and you could have changed my mind but definitely not Leah's.

We arrived on Thursday morning and got situated and were on the water around 11am. It was windy so we decided not to go to one of our honey holes because it was fairly windy on the big water. We saw fish in the sonar as soon as the boat hit the water. We made it to the first cove, and they were stacked at 12 to 14 feet deep in 20+ feet of water. I thought to myself this is going to be a good day. We started fishing and started catching some fish at first we were catching some nice 9 1/2 - 10" crappie and we had our five unders



A nice 12" slab from Lake Shelbyville

a piece in no time. The overs were a little more hard to come by but after four or five hours on the water we had eight nice overs and our ten unders so it was time to head back in to clean some fish, eat some brats and get cleaned up. Friday morning arrived and we decided we were going to our old honey hole. Of course, it's no secret where we go because there are always plenty of boats. We set up our spider rig system and put our two pole a piece out and away we went. Our normal

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Chronicles ... continued



**They always try to hide
but never quite good enough.**

spot wasn't producing, so we headed across the cove and soon ran into the fish we were looking for. We spent the next five or so hours trolling around catching fish after fish. At the clock hit 2:30pm our limit was in the live well and time to clean some fish. It was nice sitting around outside talking with my friends. It has been weird not seeing some of my friends on a weekly basis, so it was nice to feel like things were semi normal again. As the night came, we looked at the forecast and let me tell you it had rain all day. Sometimes it wasn't going to be as heavy, but it was going to be a cold rain. I think if I had my choice we would have stayed in bed and not hit the water but I have my little fishing devil with me on this trip and



**Al Schackow with a couple of
Lake Shelbyville Crappie**

if we are planning to go fishing it doesn't matter the conditions. Sounds crazy but Leah takes her fishing a little serious. I wanted to take her picture a few times with a nice crappie but in not surprising fashion I received a HELL NO! Oh well she was there but I guess her hair wasn't in good enough shape for the magazine or some other wifely excuse. Anyway, we set out to go fishing around 8am that morning and it was raining and I don't think it stopped until about 8am on Sunday. We dealt with the conditions and we caught fish. Not like we normally would be heck it was hard to see a bite the way the rain was hitting the poles. We scratched out our ten unders and did end up with 14 overs, but we worked for them and earned it for sure. We did fish and catch a few Sunday morning but by the time noon hit we were all tired and ready to head for home. It was a great four days spent with



**I found several of these this year
and some other false morels so I
hope everyone was careful.**

my wife in the boat and I am so lucky to have a woman in my life that supports my passions and will indulge with me (and is super competitive) in these adventures.

If your looking for a great trip at a reasonable price you should consider Lake Shelbyville. For many years we have stayed at Gregory's Resort Motel & Cabins. Rich is the owner and such a great guy. He always wants you to have a memorable experience and has always been great to me, my family, and friends. You can reach Rich at 217-774-4313 or check them out on Facebook or their website www.gregorysresortmotel.com.

Another great place to stay at Lake Shelbyville is Lithia Resort. I had the privilege of meeting Cindy at Lithia



**Just to make your mouth water.
Now we must wait for another year.**

Resort for a tour of her cabins. I was amazed at the number of accommodations she had and how great of facilities were. There are cabins for any number of people. She can accommodate one person to very large groups. She was so friendly and accommodating and we look forward to staying with her later this summer. You can reach Cindy at Lithia Resort at 217-774-2882 or check them out on the web at www.lithiaresort.com.

I know everyone is getting the itch so give Gregory's or Lithia Resort a call and book your trip today. The fishing is never bad on Lake Shelbyville.

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- 4 6-8oz Fillets Coho Salmon
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Fresh Cracked Pepper
- 1 lemon



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1. Pre-soak planks under water for one hour
2. Add fillets to cedar plank skin side down
3. Lightly coat salmon with olive oil
4. Season with salt and pepper
5. Heat grill
6. Cooking time will vary with size of fillets

7. Be careful taking cedar planks off the grill they will be burnt on the bottom
8. Take fillets off cedar planks and dip planks in cold water to cool down planks

CILANTRO PESTO

- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup roughly chopped cilantro leaves
- 1 clove garlic
- ¼ cup pumpkin seeds lightly salted
- ½ lime juiced
- Jalapeno to taste
- Salt and Pepper to taste

1. Place extra virgin olive oil, cilantro leaves, garlic and pumpkin seed in small food processor and completely puree.
2. Add lime juice, jalapeno, salt, pepper to taste
3. Serve with salmon

SLOW ROASTED SALMON WITH SAGE AND PARSLEY PISTOU

- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, smashed
- 2 whole sprigs fresh sage, plus ¼ cup coarsely chopped fresh sage
- One 3-pound salmon fillet
- 1 tablespoon pink peppercorns, crushed
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups fresh parsley leaves
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar

Sage and Parsley Pistou

1. While the salmon cooks in the bowl of food processor combine the chopped sage, parsley and reserved garlic. Pulse a few times until chunky.
2. Add the vinegar, ¾ teaspoon salt and some pepper. Pulse again to combine.
3. With the motor running, drizzle in the remaining flavored oil through the feed tube. Stop occasionally to scrape down the sides.
4. The finished pistou should be smooth and bright green; keep processing until the oil looks completely combined.
5. Scrape into a serving bowl
6. Divide the salmon into 8 pieces and serve the pistou on the side

Directions:

1. Combine the oil, garlic and 2 sprigs of sage in a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium-low heat. Cook at a bare simmer until the garlic is soft and lightly browned, about 15 minutes. Set aside to cool.
2. When cooled strain the oil into a bowl; reserve the garlic but discard the sage.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
4. Rub a rimmed baking sheet down with 2 teaspoons of the garlic flavored oil and sprinkle with pink peppercorns.
5. Roast salmon until cooked thoroughly. Approximately 25 to 30 minutes



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home on Hoffer St. in Port Charlotte. From the first time we met them we hit it off like we'd known each other for years.

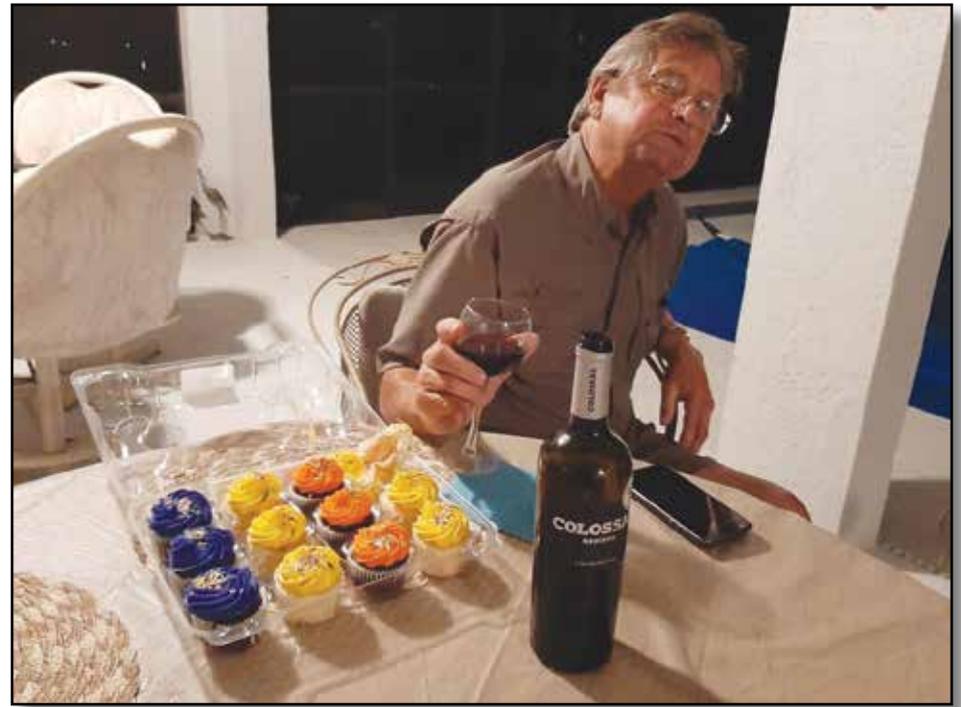
Dave was born 1950 in Marianna Arkansas; it's about 40 miles west of Memphis Tennessee. He left that area when he was 19 years old to go to work at Ford Motor Company near Cleveland Ohio. There he met the love of his life Sharon. They were married in 1970 had two boys and lived in Elyria for the next 30 years. He retired 20 years ago, sold most of their worldly possessions to travel and see the world. They visited every National Park in the Union and had great time.

Dave and Sharon decided to settle in SW Florida. Soon little Claria a 4 lb. Yorkie joined their family and is still with them today. He was a handy person and could fix anything that was broke. Dave was a very witty guy and a lot of fun.

My wife Cathy sometimes had a

We had a wonderful winter in Florida. Cathy's mom is in Ft. Myers and we saw her often before the shutdown and after Easter and several weeks of quarantine. Cathy substitute taught in Charlotte County schools till mid-March. We boated and gathered with friends. All those friends practiced quarantining at home and we socially distanced when we got together. We've had no signs of being exposed to the virus.

We had some sad news about our dear friend Dave Dooley. He lost his battle with cancer. We met Dave and Sharon when we bought our first



Dave Dooley's 70th Birthday Celebration at our home in Florida

hard time understanding him through his southern accent. He's been on ASO TV many times. When he wanted to drop his southern accent and talk like the guy on 6 o'clock news he could. I asked him why do you still use that Arkansas accent? He replied the girls think it's cute.

When we first went to Florida Dave taught me everything there was to know about Florida fishing, the tides, seasons and garage/estate sales where you can get anything you want at a fraction of the cost. As a

friend he knew what I was thinking and I knew what he was thinking. He was never pretentious just the most wonderful guy you'd ever know; a real true friend.

The last time I spoke to him on the phone he was working on a fence for a friend in Palm Beach. Standing 6'4 and strong as a bull, work was one thing he was not afraid of. We are going to miss him very much and just hate that he's gone. It will never be the same again. Life is short; keep your friends close to your heart.



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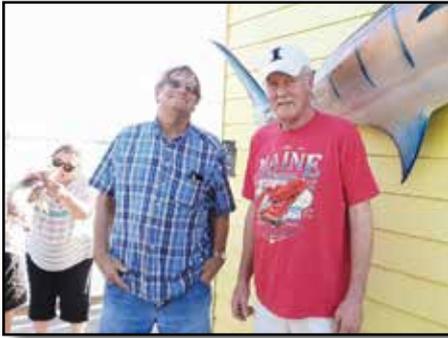


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Not, what was his station,
but had he a heart?
And how did he play
his God-given part?*



Harry and Dave Thanksgiving 2019

*Was he ever ready with
a word of good cheer;
To bring back a smile,
to banish a tear?
Not, what was his church,
or what was his creed
But had he befriended those
really in need?
Not, what did the sketch in the
newspaper say,
But how many were sorry when he
passed away?*



Another great day fishing on the Myakka River with Dave, Sharon, Clairra & Harry

Let's get our country back to where it should be. Stay safe.

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Keep your powder dry and worm wet - Harry



Dave with three sail cats on 1 line, with Clairra & Sharon

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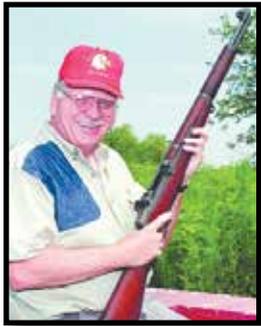
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From the Desk of: Rich Pearson, ISRA Executive Director

Gun sales in April and May were still amazingly strong and were 69% higher than April 2019. Handgun sales were the majority of sales with 984,872. It is obvious that people are worried about the times we are going through and the social unrest that may be on the way. Everyone is preparing. People keep throwing the term social unrest around, but what does that mean? I can best describe social unrest by my own experience. I witnessed this at my own front door. In the late 1960s, I lived with two other guys on North Indiana Avenue in Kankakee, Illinois. It was an old 11 room house and my share of the rent was \$27 per month. It wasn't exactly Gold Coast property. The house was located two blocks north of the Kankakee Police Station. At the 4-way stop, a half a block from the house, people were getting robbed if they had the windows rolled down in their car. It was simple, if you had your driver's window rolled down and you stopped, a guy would run up to the car and put a hunting knife to your throat. If you moved, you would get your throat cut. One night we

were having a party and three of our guests were on our front porch. One-time riots broke out but we thought we were pretty safe with the police station only being two blocks away. When we looked at the police station, the windows were all boarded up. We had to park in the back and I carried my Winchester Model 12 shotgun in the car. When I got home, the shotgun was uncased and loaded when I entered the house. I know the neighbors saw me and that was just fine with me. I remember being home and getting a call from one or the other of the two guys who lived at the house, telling me they were on their way home. I would stand in the upstairs window and cover the rear parking lot with their pending arrival home. Two blocks from the police station might as well have been 20 miles. I totally understand why people want to arm themselves and why they need to. Needless to say, it wasn't long before we found more upscale living arrangements.

In those days as a school teacher, I was making \$105 a week so I was always working a second or third job. West of Kankakee, there was an Illinois Youth Commission Forestry Camp



ISRA.org

which was a nice name for a juvenile prison. Two of the juvenile prisoners had hidden five butcher knives behind a toilet. About an hour after lights out, these same two claimed they had to use the restroom at the same time. It was a policy violation to let two people to use the facilities after lights out. The two night guards decided to allow it. Within five minutes, one guard was dead and the other lingered for almost a year and died. These were 15-year old kids who did this.

There was a part-time teaching position available at the camp and I applied. I got the job and after a couple weeks they asked me if I would also supervise a table of 8 or 9 prisoners during breakfast and the evening meal. Part of the deal was that I could stay in a room at the camp all night with my trusty Winchester in case more trouble broke out. I had a place to live and two meals a day. I taught four nights a week, with weekends off, and I was getting paid. The neighborhood had not improved any. Several of the prisoners went on to eventually murder people. One prisoner who was at my table was approved for release by one of the psychologists. Within two weeks this prisoner beat an 83-year-old man to death with a baseball bat, all for \$3.00. I worked

there for 15 months. As you might guess, I have some opinions about rehabilitation and being ready to defend yourself at all times. The reason I quit was because I was assigned to develop a science curriculum using readily available materials so every prisoner (there were also four other locations) was taught the same thing. There was a lot of slide and film support material because of the reading difficulties. I turned in the project with two bidders. Later I learned that the approved bid was exactly double the amount turned in. Within a week, my supervisor was driving a new car and I resigned. This is Illinois so I should have expected it. What I am trying to point out here is there is a world out there that no one likes to think about but it is still there whether you want to think about it or not. Moreover, you may have to deal with it. I imagine, right now, you are thinking "I don't live in that kind of neighborhood." Maybe not, that is why the looters and arsonists may just come to where you live. The other thing that nobody wants to hear is that there are some 13, 14 and 15-year old kids, as well as older kids, that will kill. If so-called social unrest comes, these are the type people we will all be facing.

The Coronavirus headache is obscuring the fact that in less than six months there will be a General Election. The Presidency,

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all the members of the United States House of Representatives and about one third of the United States Senators will be up for election. What is really on the ballot in this election is the future of the United States. Everytown, one of Bloomberg's anti-gun front groups, is busy registering voters. Bloomberg has committed a billion dollars to influence this election and that doesn't count what he has already spent on different supporting projects. It is also time for pro-gun groups to prepare.

If you have been watching the news at all it is evident that corruption brought on by the left goes all the way to the top. I don't think we have seen it all and we never will. Some of these snakes will get away, crawl under a rock and live to bite us again. We must be prepared to fight always. After years of watching the world, I have determined that there are only two conditions in life. We are either at war or preparing for war. The next

six months will determine as much about the future of the United States as the Civil War did.

There is no doubt that the NRA has been weakened by recent events. They have cut 60% of their staff. We must not lose them. The reality is that other national and state organizations must step up and fill the gap. The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms are sister organizations. The SAF is a 501 (c) 3 and handles education and law suits and the CCRKBA is a 501 (c) 4 and deals with lobbying and political efforts. I am not their spokesman but that is how I read it. These two organizations are as fine as they come. I get calls about what organizations to support nationally and I can wholeheartedly recommend both of these organizations.

Recently the SAF-CCRKBA hired a longtime friend and former NRA employee, Glen

Caroline. Glen was with the NRA nearly 30 years and managed the NRA Institute for Legislative Action Grassroots Programs and Campaign Field Operations Division. Glen will be a great asset. Each year the SAF-CCRKBA hosts the Gun Rights Policy Conference (saf.org/grpc/). This is the greatest event ever to update Second Amendment advocates on what is going on. This year it will be held on September 18, 19 & 20 in Orlando, Florida at the Marriott Orlando Airport Lakeside. If you can get there, you should go.

The Illinois General Assembly has gone back in session on a very limited basis starting on May 20, 2020. There will only be discussion and voting on limited topics to meet constitutional and federal mandates. The ISRA lobbying team does not expect any action on firearm related issues but, nevertheless, we will be watching.

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GUN REVIEW: BOND ARMS ROUGHNECK 9MM

By Jason Houser

When my mom recently took her concealed carry class, she got in the market for a firearm to carry with her. She was not looking for anything too bulky or tough to handle. I have seen plenty of ads from Bond Arms and their Roughneck derringers and liked what I saw. After studying the options that Bond Arms has, we settled on the 9mm Roughneck for my mother.

These firearms are made right here in the U.S.A in the Lonestar state. They are compact, come in a variety of calibers, are affordable and accurate. It seemed like they offered everything my mother wanted in an everyday carry "sidearm".

The idea behind Bond Arms was to take away the thoughts that pocket-pistols were dangerous and build a safe, dependable, and accurate handgun. After some hardships, that finally happened, and the Roughneck, in my opinion, is one of the best pistols of this style on the market today.

Safety measures are built into this little handgun that has not been seen in similar handguns in the past. Other guns of this style have the firing pin extruded from the chamber with the hammer resting on it. If a gun that is designed in this manner is accidentally dropped, jarred, or mishandled in other ways the chances of it going off are great.

With the Roughneck, the firing pin is positioned to be free of the chamber and goes back into position after being fired. When the gun is fired, and the hammer hits the firing pin, it automatically jumps back into a half-cocked position and locks. The only way to fire the gun is by fully cocking the hammer and then squeezing the trigger. Each gun also has a cross-bolt safety which is a great security feature to the hammer.

Another first for this style of gun is the trigger guard. When Bond Arms designed a trigger guard, it was a first for this style of a handgun.

Besides all the safety measures, the interchangeable barrels set this handgun apart from its competitors.

There are currently 37-barrel combinations with lengths ranging from 2 1/2 - 6-inches. All barrels are designed to fit any Bond Arms Derringer. So, if we decide to replace the 9mm barrel that came with the pistol with a .45LC/.410 6-inch barrel, we can. It is as simple as taking out one screw, taking the

barrel off and adding a new one.

Grips are easily interchangeable too. Bond Arms has a variety of grips in various colors, materials, and styles. These guns can easily and

affordably be customized to fit your individual need and style.

Now, what about accuracy? I have to admit that I was not expecting one of the little guns to be accurate.



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Each gun also has a cross-bolt safety.



All that is needed to change out the barrels is an Allen wrench.



Bradley Wisslead of Peoria with a nice 6lb catfish caught and released at Chillicothe Sportsman's Club

Many styles and colors of grips are available.

After some time on the range, we learned that these guns are accurate out to about 10 yards. We were happily surprised by this. If you found yourself in a defensive position and had to rely on this gun to save you, it will. A person would have plenty of space between them and any danger to accurately get their shots off.

After having this handgun for a few months now, I am positive we made

There are 37 barrel and caliber combinations to choose from.

the right decision. The pistol is easy to handle and load. The safety measures built into the gun are second to none and priced at less \$270 it is a steal. As far as holsters go, the Bond Arms website has a large selection of holsters to choose from as well as other firearms in their collection. If you are looking for a quality American made gun for home protection, concealed carry and more, this gun will fit the bill.

~ • **AMISH BUILT** • ~





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WALLEYE TIME ON THE WEED EDGE!

By Walt Matan

it will stay on the jig better than live bait and still has a lifelike action.

If you have not tried plastic and really love live bait, then use both. Then once you start catching fish, just fish with the plastic. Once you get your confidence up and become a believer, you will open a whole new way you will look at walleye fishing... because walleyes hit jig and plastic wherever they are present!

I like B-Fish-N Tackle H2O jigs since they have the weight stamped



Walt with a good walleye from the weed edge!

Weeds are the new rocks! The weed edge is where the walleye roam. You can cast it, jig it rig it or run slip bobbers over it. Give the weed edge a try right now if you are in walleye country.

Here are some tips to get you fishing, right.

When walleye are relating to the weeds and working the edge here is what I have found; early morning, near dark and on cloudy days, the walleye will roam the edge out away from the weeds. During the brightest and hottest parts of the day, the walleye will bury themselves into the edge. Here is what you can do to get them.

Jigs are great for working the edge and the interior of the edge. There are two styles of jigs that will work in the weeds and they are standard jigs and weedless. Cast a standard jig into the weed edge and you will snag up. This can be bad or a good thing. Bumping and moving the weeds is good because this attracts fish, snagging and pulling your jig back with a pile of weeds obviously spooks them.

So, what to do? Use the lightest jig possible that you can pitch to the weed edge. Tip your jig with live bait or plastic. Crawlers and leeches are good this time of year. Plastic, like the AuthentX Ribb-Finn is great because

right on them which makes jig selection easy. They also have a wire clip that will hold live bait and plastic tight to the head. Finally, they are available in a myriad of colors and wide selection of weights.

One top combo for me has been a 3/32nd ounce hot pink H2O jig with an oystershell color Ribb-Finn. I'll

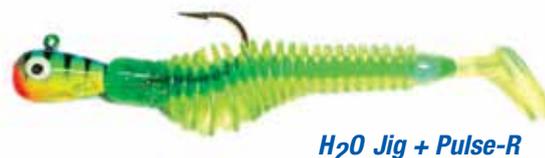
position the boat about 20 ft. from the edge and cast right into it. I want to snag up a little so that I can jiggle the rod tip to work the jig free from the weeds. This jigging movement will attract a bite which is usually a little tick...that's when you set the hook. As mentioned before, you can use live bait on this jig if you prefer.

Another option is to use a weedless jig, like the B-Fish-N Tackle Draggin' Jig. This jig has a fiber weedguard which keeps off the weeds and allows the jig to slip thru the thick stuff. Again, you can use live bait or plastic. I like the 1/16 oz.

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Kevin Willis (Giddy Up Guide Service in Northern Illinois) knows where the walleye are in June!

Draggin' Jig for heavy cover. Unlike bass fishing, where bass can be all the way into the thickest shallowest cover, I have found that the walleye prefer the edge and when the edge is

thick, use the Draggin' Jig.

You can rig the edge when the time is right, I like a Lindy Rig set-up with a light weight of 1/8th to 1/4 ounce a two foot leader or fluorocarbon and a jumbo leech or minnow on a number 6 hook. I'll use the Terrova on the bow of the Lund to pull me along the edge. When starting out the day, I'll set up the Lindy Rig in the rod holder and pitch my H20 jig into the weed edge...a deadly on-two punch!

When the wind is blowing hard into the weeds, it is a great time to fish them. Position your boat away from the edge and put the bow mount on anchor lock. You can also anchor up. Pitch your jigs into the weeds and work them as stated before. If the wind is so strong that your line bows and you can't see strikes, it's time for a slip bobber. A slip bobber is also great to use when the water is clear.

I'm not a fan of bobber fishing. I like a more aggressive approach. But that being said, I'll fish a slip bobber when the time is right. A slip bobber

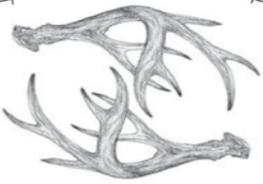
consists of a bobber, a slip knot and a stopper bead. It allows you to fish a variety of depths and works well with lively bait.

I'll start by sliding the knot, bead and bobber up my mono line and then tie on a 1/16th oz. H20 jig. This is the lightest jig B-Fish-N Tackle makes and light is best with a slip bobber. Then I'll add a few split shots up a few feet from my jig to prop the bobber into position. I'll figure the depth to set the bobber at by checking the depth at the weed edge. Then you tighten the knot, trim the ends, and cast it out about halfway to the edge. Keep feeding line until it floats right up to the edge.

When the wind has been blowing into the weed edge for a few days, the weed edge gets red hot! Monitoring a slip float or two slip floats when walleye are actively feeding is a lot of work and a lot of fun. Mix things up and give it a try! Fish the weed edge this month, it is where the walleye roam and it will make you a believer, too!

Walt Matan is the chief lure designer for B-Fish-N Tackle and Custom Jigs & Spins. For more information on walleye fishing, H20 and Draggin' Jigs as well as AuthentX plastic log on to www.bfishntackle.com or call 800-831-5535 for a FREE catalog.

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WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD

By Mike Roux • www.MikeRoux.com

As I put pen to paper to write this article, I find myself smiling from ear to ear. This is a brand-new story that fills my heart with pride, joy and a sense of encouragement. In these bleak times there are still ways to act and feel normal.

Last summer I asked my 11-year old Granddaughter, Makenzie if she would like to learn to shoot my crossbow and maybe go deer hunting next fall. She seemed to like that idea and we set up a plan for summer practice.

Shortly thereafter I got another idea and I asked her if she would like to learn to shoot my 20-gauge shotgun and go turkey hunting in the 2020 Youth Turkey Season. She thought for a while and agreed to try shooting the gun.

Mak's 8-year old brother Connor (CJ) was listening intently to this conversation. He approached me and asked if he could shoot the shotgun, too. So, on the first Saturday of March I grabbed some turkey targets and the 20-gauge and took these two to practice.

Mak shot first. I could tell she was not

thrilled. I asked her if she would like to try it again and she said, "Maybe later". And that was fine. CJ, however, was more than ready for his turn. The target was at 20-yards. He had paid close attention as I gave Makenzie the safety lecture and showed her how to use the gun.

CJ repeated my instructions word-for-word. His first shot was good, and he centered the pattern on the bird's neck. He shot several more times with equally impressive results. Mak then took another turn. I asked her if she liked it enough to try going turkey hunting. She very politely declined the invitation.

I turned and looked at CJ and he was grinning like it was Christmas morning. "Well big boy," I said as I walked toward him. "Do you want to try to shoot a turkey?" The query was followed immediately by a loud and excited "YES!!"

So, on the ride to set up our blind we talked about 2 things; First, I talked with Mak to make absolutely sure she was not interested. After reconfirming her decision, CJ and I began to formulate a plan. It was

difficult for me to discern which of us was the most excited.

Makenzie helped us get the blind up under my favorite turkey tree in my favorite turkey hunting spot in the world. The location of this place is not necessary to divulge. After our blind was set, we took a ride and I showed the kids the rest of the farm. CJ was soaking it up like a sponge.

Now some bad news. The forecast for the pending Saturday of the Youth Turkey Hunting Season was terrible. Rain, thunderstorms, flood warnings and high winds kept us out of the field.

The forecast for Sunday was only marginally better. No precipitation, but high winds over 20MPH. But we both needed to get out of the house, so I picked up my young partner about 7PM on Saturday and drove to spend the night with great friend John Caldwell. John's farm is only 15-minutes from my spot so by going there we could sleep an extra 45-minutes the next morning.

John welcomed us and spent an hour telling CJ all the turkey hunting stories about his 3 uncles who hunted on John's farm as they were growing up. CJ listened intently and asked a few questions along the way. I think it was good there any for both of them.

I woke Connor up at 4:30 on Sunday morning. He got ready really quickly and we headed out. As soon as we stepped outside it started to rain. There was no rain the forecast, which means nothing if it is raining. However, the rain stopped the second I stopped the truck.



Practice is the key to success for any young hunter. (Photo by Mike Roux)

With overcast skies it would be a slow sunrise, so we had a PBJ and chocolate milk while we waited. That gave me the opportunity to explain to CJ what awful conditions we had for his first day of hunting. We had 25MPH winds with 40MPH gusts. I told him how much turkeys hate the wind and that it would be almost impossible to hear a gobble or for a gobbler to hear our calls.

He was still enthusiastic so I told him we would make the most of our time together. We decided to make this morning a learning experience to expose him to as much turkey knowledge and on-the-job training as possible. I also stressed that this

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was supposed to be fun for him. I told him the minute he was no longer having fun that we could go. Our half-mile walk to the blind was windy and dark.

I got CJ set in the blind with his gun in its cradle pointing out the front window. I had already placed the decoys 15-yards in front of him. If things go like they have done dozens, yes dozens of time at this spot, his shot should come right at the strutting jake decoy...except for the wind.

There was no sunrise that morning. Instead the shades of gray just gradually kept getting lighter. A little before 7 I took out my box call and showed my partner how to make a series of hen yelps. After some minutes of instruction and demonstration I handed him the call. He did not do too badly at all.

Shortly thereafter, and to my delightful surprise, we heard a gobble from the hollow below us. "That's the first gobble I ever heard," CJ said excitedly. I told him to take the box and make some calls. For some reason that series of yelps was near to perfect. I was smiling.

The tom gobbled 3 more times from the same spot. I had no idea if he could hear us down there or not. CJ continued to call about every 10-minutes. He was doing really good and I was happy that he had at least HEARD a bird under these circumstances.

The next gobble we heard was MUCH closer. The bird was in the field with us. I peeked out the side window and saw him strutting about 80-yards out. "Make another call and then get on your gun," I whispered

to CJ. He knew the bird was close and he followed my instructions, along with taking off his right glove before getting on the gun.

I was filming so I got my gear ready to film over his shoulder. One more peek showed the tom had committed to the decoys. "He's coming," I told my gunner.

We were both ready, but the gobbler did not appear. "I don't see him." CJ whispered. "Me neither," I replied. So, I put the camera down and peeked again. The tom was at full strut 10-yards in front of the decoys. Because I had CJ set up to shoot out the front window the bird was too far to his left to see it.

I thought for sure the tom would come right to the jake decoy and confront it. It has worked that way dozens of times in the past dozen years. But not this time. The gobbler continued to strut in circles well within range, but not yet in sight of my hunter.

As I watched the bird lose interest he turned to walk away right by the right side of the blind. I told CJ to sit back and I quickly moved the gun rest 90-degrees, pointing the barrel out the door. CJ turned in his seat and got back down on his gun.

I peeked again quickly. The gobbler was 10-yards from the blind walking left to right. I had the gun pod between my legs as I sat back, I told CJ to shoot when he was ready.

"I can't see him," he said. I looked and as I sat back from my peek the flap of the door was laying right on his barrel. He could not even see his front sight. Holding the gun rest in my left hand I moved the flap with my right. "Shoot when you can," I said. Connor shot



The Good Lord willing this will be the first of many such photos with CJ and Grandpa Mike. (Photo by Mike Roux)

before the word "can" came out of my mouth.

I had my hands full in the blind. There is no video. I did not even get to watch the kill shot, but when I did get to look, I saw the gobbler flopping at what seemed like right outside the blind.

"Get out there!" I yelled. "Stand on his head!" I hollered as CJ passed me getting out of the blind. Then the celebration began. We did it under some of the worst turkey hunting on conditions imaginable.

So, the results of CJ Dietrich's first ever turkey hunt was a nice 2-year old gobbler weighing 24-pounds. He had a nine-inch beard and 1/2 inch spurs. I was impressed. But this little guy has a way to make even great times better. Within 5-minutes of shooting his first turkey, my little buddy



The smile says it all as CJ Dietrich poses with his first ever hunting trophy. (Photo by Grandpa Mike)

looked at me and asked, "Grandpa, is there a youth deer season, too?"

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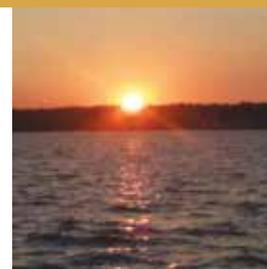
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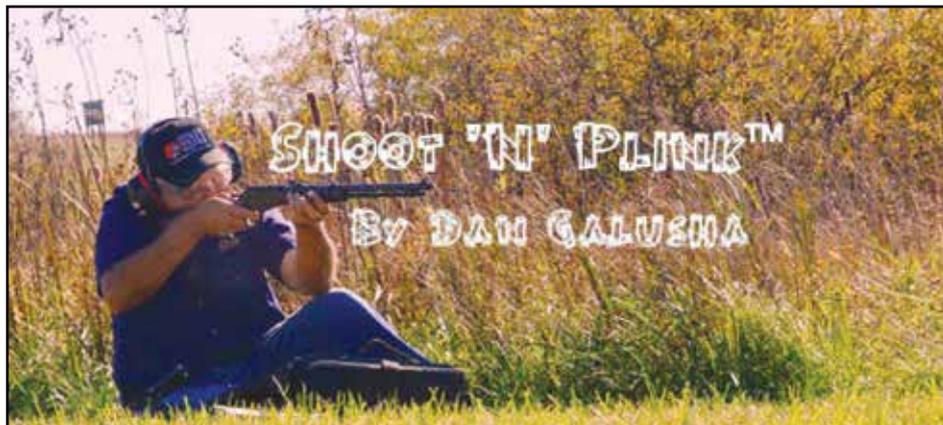


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For over 50-plus years one of the most popular 22 caliber firearms has been the Ruger 10/22. Now Umarex is producing the Ruger licensed airgun version of the great shooter.

The airgun has a 10 shot magazine, just like its firearm parent. It uses two 12-gram CO2 cartridges that go back-to-back in the butt stock to fire the .177 pellets.

While the stock is polymer the rest of the gun is metal, which makes it great for the drill and tapped area on top for mounting an actual Ruger rail. This is good so that something

like an Axeon Red Dot scope can be mounted to compensate for the non-adjustable sites.

The magazine loads very similar to the real firearm, but with the rotary type insert magazines that go inside the main "look alike" housing. It should be mentioned at this point that you could purchase extra magazines for about \$6 for a 2-pack. I definitely recommend this purchase so you don't have to stop and reload each pellet.

A trigger pull of 3 to 4 pounds is found when shooting in single action, but it is much heavier in double



Using "Kentucky Windage" to compensate for the non-adjustable sites, and RWS Hobby pellets, the Umarex Ruger 10/22 laid 9 of 10 rounds within the 2-inch black dot from a 10 meter distance.

action. This is one of the differences in that it is not semi-automatic as is the real firearm.

I did find that when pulling the bolt back for single action that it was sometimes very hard. It is uncertain as to if it is the same for all the guns, or that I have one with a slight problem.

Many airguns have a velocity rating that is not really what the shooter will find. However, this gun

hits it on the mark. Umarex says that it will fire between 600 and 650 fps. I used my Caldwell Chronograph and found it to be consistently within and around that velocity.

A Shoot 'N' Plink™ video was filmed on this gun. In fact, more than one, including a requested comparison with the Crosman 1077.

In the comparison I fired a 10-round magazine with each gun.

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An Axeon Red Dot scope added to the Umarex Ruger 10/22, by using an actual Ruger mounting rail, helped make placing several rounds in the middle of the 2-inch black dot and cardboard plinking target very easy from 10 meters out.

These magazines are somewhat similar, but not interchangeable. I used the regular open iron sights on the Crosman and Axeon Red Dot on the Umarex/Ruger. The groupings and accuracy were almost identical. All of these videos can be found on the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales/Shoot 'N' Plink You Tube channel at [www.](http://www.youtube.com/dansfishntales)

[youtube.com/dansfishntales](http://www.youtube.com/dansfishntales).

Another thing that people want to know is the amount of rounds that can be fired on the C02 cartridges. This is where it gets a little strange in that you can make a mistake by not tightening the cartridges enough to pierce the two cartridges. If this happens you will only get about 35

rounds. Also, it didn't seem to work as well with Crosman C02, but with its own Umarex brand cartridges it performed very well with firing 90 rounds and a good velocity. Another thing on tightening the cartridges is if tightened hard, the second one may become slightly stuck when unloading, which can cause a little convincing by lightly bumping the butt on the ground.

As the C02 starts to weaken stop shooting. If you don't, then there may be a jam, which will make it next to impossible to remove the magazine. If that does happen make sure there is a good ramrod available and be careful when using it to push the pellet back to avoid any damage.

My Ruger 10/22 is the carbine model with fiber optic sights. The Umarex version is like the full size Ruger.

I did find that I like the way the sights set up a little higher on the Umarex than my actual Ruger unit. However, as mentioned earlier, the Umarex sights are non-adjustable, and with the gun shooting low and

right it makes it almost necessary to add something like the Axeon Red Dot, unless you like using "Kentucky windage" to adjust your shots. Once adjusted in this way the gun is pretty much "dead on" target.

As for cost, the gun can be found for around \$140, but, as always, take a look for sales.

In summary, this is a good and fun-shooting air rifle that is very close to the actual firearm that it is replicating, and has an actual fps within the velocity advertised by the company. Just remember to make sure the C02 cartridges are tightened enough, and to add a drop of oil to each to help the sealing. Also, place a drop of pellet oil on the sealing gasket of the tightening bolt. It will help to get a Ruger rail for adding another sight – I recommend the red dot. It is one of those guns that should work for about any age or size of person, but remember that the trigger pull is a bit heavier when fired in double-action, and the single action cocking lever can be a bit hard to pull back on the first round.

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by: *Ted Nugent*



We call it *The Spirit of the Wild*, for more than obvious reasons, but the depth of spirit in the hunting community of America is more powerful than most people can imagine.

For more than 40 years, I have been contacted by the families of terminally ill sons and daughters to honor their last request in life to share a hunting or fishing campfire with their old Uncle Ted.

I will not even try to explain how on God's good green earth I could possibly qualify for such an honor, but nonetheless, we have never turned down such an amazing invite and consider every such campfire as the ultimate gift in life.

Recently, Shemane and I heard of a young seven year old neighbor, Gentry Doxter who had tragically died of cancer.

A fellow Texas hunter named Jimmy Bennett had taken Gentry on hunting and fishing trips during his last year of life through his amazing JMB Fishing Foundation charity, bringing forth the uniquely powerful

healing powers of nature and God's miraculous out of doors spirit.

Gentry's last request was to have a funeral procession of hunting trucks, fishing boats, motorcycles, law enforcement and military.

And that we did. The miles long procession included thousands of loving Americans of every stripe, dozens of law enforcement vehicles, light-a-flashing, roaring bikers and trucks pulling boats.

All along the many miles were camo clad families holding their rods and reels high in a brotherhood salute to Gentry and his heartbroke family.

It was moving beyond description.

Having experienced this heartbreaking moment so many times over the years, I am humbled to the core to be a part of this American Spirit of the Wild family.

On behalf of these great families, I wrote the following letter, not just to Gentry, but all those families who have had to deal with this heart-ripping tragedy in their lives.

Dear Gentry,

We did our best and hope you were pleased. As requested, hunters, fishermen, cops and military heroes from around Texas and beyond showed up to take part in your last parade. It was an honor that none of us will ever forget.

Seven years is not enough, but the Good Book says that none of us know how much time we have. It isn't really about how much time we have, but rather what we do with that time. The point of life is to make a difference, to hit a lick for what's right, to leave a positive mark for others to emulate. With your simple yet powerful request, Gentry, you did just that. You were every bit a trail blazer in the image of Daniel Boone and Fred Bear.

At seven years-old you reduced us old guys and gals to tears, shook us to our core because you had vision and wisdom beyond your young years. As we drove in your

honor parade you reminded us of what's truly important. We owe you so much more than a parade for that.

Your parade reminded us that it is the young people that we will leave the future of America's grand, proud, and tremendously successful heritage of hunting, fishing and trapping to. It is the young people who we will entrust to carry on, to do better than we did, to leave the wildground in better condition than when they inherited it. It is your peers, Gentry, that we must teach and encourage to carry on the torch of conservation, to cherish the wildthings, the soil and water.

Without young people to carry

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on there is no future for God's amazing and perfect conservation system that everyone benefits from. Our amazing conservation system literally hinges on those of us who hunt, fish, and trap.

We live in different times, Gentry. So many young boys and girls live with single parents who are doing their best to raise them but there is little time and money to introduce these youngsters to the Great Outdoors. That's where we, the very people you requested to send you off in a parade, need to step in and step up. Each of us must find a way to reach these young boys and girls and introduce them to Mother Nature who will provide them relief from the modern technological trappings, provide them untold heart-pounding excitement, and let them experience the splendor of the wildthings throughout their lives. It is the Great Outdoors that teaches us to be better, more disciplined, more respectful, and more appreciative. There are no gang members with hunting or fishing licenses in their wallets.

Many young people find enjoyment with computer games. We need to introduce them to the Great Outdoors where no computer game can ever match the heart-pounding splendor of watching an eagle gliding over a river, a wary whitetail buck sniffing the wind and inching closer, a bass striking a lure, a sun sinking below the horizon. You knew these things, Gentry. You were one of the lucky ones to have had family to baptize you into lap of Mother Nature.

We need to do more, Gentry. We must provide young people with better ground and more opportunity. It has never really been about the size of antlers or fish, but rather about lighting a flame for other young people. We must know that it isn't so much about leases that generate additional vital income for ranchers and farmers, but rather about leases that generate interest in young people who will carry the conservation torch forward for decades to come.

Say hello to my mom, dad, brother

John, Fred Bear, Dick Mauch and all those other Spirit bloodbrothers for me. Tell them that I will see them soon, that we will walk down the trails again. In the meantime, this fall I'm taking you, Gentry, hunting with me where we will stalk wary whitetails together. We're kindred

spirits of the wild things. In the wind you will be forever alive and with us. Let's go hunting.

Your Spirit Bloodbrother forever,
Ted Nugent and family
and American conservationists everywhere

TedNugent.com
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Atticus Redfearn with his first fish ever. Grandpa Mark goes fishing just about every day and has been filling the freezer with crappie. Thanks to ASO Southern IL Rep Joanna Gurley for sharing this great photo.

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SHADOWS

ON THE WATER AND IN THE WOODS

AN "IN-DEPTH" LOOK AT BASS BAITS

by Dave Shadow • davidsha@consolidated.net

If you are fortunate enough to get to fish lots of differing waters in remote parts of the country, you realize that twenty feet is not normally what many anglers would call "deep water."

I remember the first time that I backed my boat off the trailer at a western lake. I turned on the depth finder and it showed three hundred feet of water below the boat. I thought the depth finder was broken until I got very close to the bank and it began to read some of what I thought was "normal numbers." We here in east-central Illinois find that most of our smaller lakes run from fifteen to twenty-five feet in depth at the deepest spots. There are a few exceptions to that but we normally fish what most anglers call shallow water most of the time.

Our water clarity is also unique to many other parts of the country. Since we have a lot of agricultural run-off our water clarity gets to the degree that most other anglers would call "stained" even when we think it has cleared up nicely. The point of this is that the propaganda printed on the baits that come from the "big stores" doesn't really relate to our lakes and our fishing conditions. I was cruising around Shelbyville and a couple of other lakes this week, catching a bass now and then, when pondering the above I was inclined to do a bit of research. I had done these same tests years ago but it was time to refresh the results using some newer baits. Before getting into crank-bait qualities lets think about bass baits in general and where we use them.

I'd admit to being a shallow water fisherman when possible but am certainly willing to go deeper when it's not working. The shallow portions of our lakes have no use for the deep running crankbaits so what do we use there? If there are objects such as stumps, docks, brush etc, for the fish to relate to, a slow presentation with a plastic worm, brush hog, or jig and trailer is always a good choice. These emulate a food source well and are easily presented to the fish in an attractive way. If the fish are scattered or away from the structure and objects more water can be covered with a spinnerbait or vibrating jig since these are normally retrieved faster. Covering more water simply shows the lures to more fish eliciting more bites.

Now let's get to the "in-depth" thing concerning crankbaits. Just how deep does your crankbait run, what controls this depth and how can you tell? As I said before, the water is

usually stained so you can't visually tell how deep it's diving. Just read on the box it came in, right? Wrong! There are too many variables and the manufacturers lie a lot.

The first category we might examine, starting at the shallow end, is those marked "minus-one" or similar depth indications. I found these to be pretty accurate. They would run just below the surface and work well on schooling fish on points and flats.

The next category might include "jerk-baits" of several kinds. These dive to a preset depth. When allowed to sit still, some remain at that depth where others slowly rise toward the surface. The desired fishing depth can be controlled by allowing the bait to rise and observing the amount of rise in a given time. I found many will rise about one foot per second when allowed to stop between jerks and properly timed the jerk or sweep of the rod will put it back

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down to a consistent depth.

The real interesting ones are the crankbaits that are marked with larger diving claims.

By definition, a crankbait is a "lipped diving lure". The construction of a crank-bait has several characteristics that determine its ability to dive to consistent depths while running upright and retrieving straight and true. The location, size and angle of the diving lip on the front of the lure is foremost among these things. Many other factors control the depth it will dive to, including the length of your cast, rod tip position, retrieve speed, and line diameter. Unless you are trolling or making exceptionally long casts, I find that most of the lures run approximately 1/2 of the depth that they claim on the package. Example: a lure marked 20+ is probably capable of touching bottom at about 10 feet deep on a good portion of a long

cast. Similarly, one marked "10ft diver", may run well at five or six feet. Small diameter line will allow the lure to dive deeper since it reduces the water drag. Long casts get deeper since you are above the lure and constantly applying upward pressure. Retrieve speed must be experimented with since reel retrieve ratios differ.

Probably the best way to know how deep your crankbaits are running is to find a long tapering point and cast across it. Observe the depth of your cast angle and note when you feel the lure bumping on the bottom. Move up or down the point until you find or lose contact with the bottom. Try other lures and make notes of which lures actually run at what depths. Experiment with cast lengths and line diameters and you will soon know which lures to tie on for each circumstance. Now go catch some fish!

It's Faith, Family, and Fishin



Quentin Townsend is at it again. Here is his 161" 11 point that took a while to recover but finally he was able to put his hands on it. Thanks to dad Noah Townsend for sharing Quentin's journey.



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SUMMER BASS IN THE PRAIRIE STATE

Tactics for Illinois Bass in the Heat of Summer

By: Colby Simms with Ray Simms & Craig Fisher

Photos by: the Colby Simms Outdoors Team

www.ColbySimmsOutdoors.com

Summertime can mean different things in the world of the bass. In the northern United States and Canada it often means the best bass fishing of the year, while in the southern States and Mexico it can mean slower fishing, as waters warm far beyond the bass' favorite temps. Illinois is somewhat of a transition state it seems, for bass fishing. Some Illinois waters get very hot in the summer months, while others remain a little cooler. Some Illinois waters usually produce good bass fishing throughout this season while others slow significantly.

Regardless of what summer weather does to bass in the Prairie State, there are some fishing patterns that seem to be

more productive than others, on a great many waters, ways to take advantage of the best of what summer has to offer anglers. For the purposes of this article, I'll break patterns for summertime Illinois bass fishing down into two categories, shallow water patterns and deep water patterns.

*Shallow Water Bass

Many anglers immediately think of going deep for summertime bass. On some waters, this is in fact the best bet. But, for a great many Illinois lakes and rivers, especially those with plenty of weeds and oxygen, large numbers of big bass will remain shallow all summer long. In fact, we've caught big



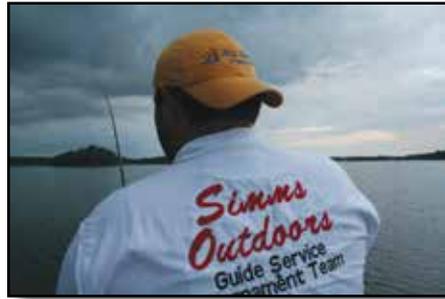
Multiple tournament championship title holder & Illinois guide Colby Simms displays a summer bass.

trophy caliber bass in just a foot or two of water, even what that water feels like the water found in a hot tub. As long as there's plenty of oxygen, some bass will hold shallow all summer. Moving waters hold lots of oxygen, and even relatively still lakes will have higher oxygen levels where any kind of creek flows in, even if the flow is low.

Often times, you'll have high oxygen across large flats found in the upper sections of big coves, with even tiny creeks coming in the back. Aquatic vegetation also produces oxygen as it grows, and so waters with plenty of weeds and grasses will also typically have high oxygen content in the areas of the lake where there's plenty of vegetation. Bass often hold in and near grass, as well as on stumps and broken rocks in areas with creeks or thick weeds nearby. In shallow waters during summer, fast aggressive presentations often shine. Small to medium sized spinnerbaits, topwaters and swim jigs paired with shad style swimbaits from around 1/4oz to 1/2oz are usually the best choice, especially for big bass.

***Deep Water Bass**

On waters where bass go deep in summer, a different set of tactics is often



Fishing TV personality & outdoor writer Colby Simms fights a summer bass in Illinois.

needed and specialized lures are best. Bass looking to escape the heat often move to deep structures, especially on waters without a lot of good vegetation. Top locations include points, bluff walls, humps, creek and river channels, and drop offs along steep shorelines or deep flats. Bass mostly use deep timber, logs and rocks in these places, but can school up and suspend in open water off these areas too. Long billed deep diving crank baits, heavy spinnerbaits, spoons and big football jigs from 3/4oz to 1 1/2oz are

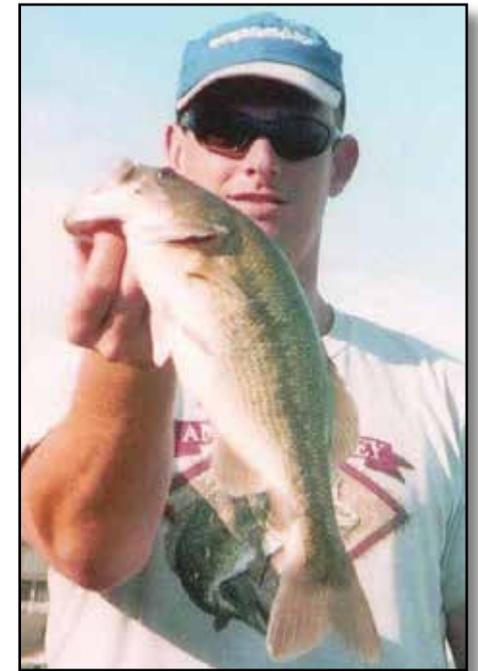


Internationally renowned fishing pro & media personality Ray Simms caught this big Illinois largemouth.

great for this deep water duty.

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Colby Simms Outdoors Pro Staffer Jim Lyle with a summertime spotted bass.

air filling our lungs. Breathe it in my friends, and, get out there...

COLBY SIMMS is a multiple muskie, bass and billfish 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 custom lures & tackle, professional promotions, media services, seminars, and guided trips & fishing vacations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico & Costa Rica at: www.ColbySimmsOutdoors.com or 618-521-0526 / 573-358-5948 or colbysimmsoutdoors@hotmail.com and follow them at: www.facebook.com/ColbySimmsSportFishingPro & www.facebook.com/ColbySimmsOutdoors.



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**By Bob Park, Owner/Maker
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Not only do I make spinnerbaits, but I use them more often than any other lure I own. Many times, I have heard people say that spinnerbaits are an "Idiot Bait", meaning they are easy to use because all you have to do is cast and wind them in. Nothing could be farther from the truth, as there are many different ways that a fisherman can use this amazing lure. Spinnerbaits are one of the most versatile type of lures that you can utilize when fishing for bass. There are several different

SPINNERBAIT TECHNIQUES

techniques and presentations that can be used when fishing a spinnerbait. Aside from the standard "**Chunk and Wind**" previously mentioned, which as a technique, can be used as a search method and will catch fish...But this month I will touch on a few of my favorite techniques.



"**Slow Rolling**" This presentation is probably the second most often used by fisherman. It is used when you want to fish the deeper ranges of water from 6 to 20 feet or deeper. Try to keep your lure as close to the bottom as possible and maintain a slow and steady retrieve so as to keep the blade(s) barely rotating while the lure is constantly moving at all times. Also

try to bump the bottom occasionally or hit any structure encountered on the retrieve. This technique works best with a single Colorado blade lure, but it can be used with tandems and double willows.

"**Waking or Bulging**" This technique can be a bit difficult to master and is best used around submerged standing timber, rip-rap, lay-downs, vegetation, drop-offs, docks or any type of structure when bass are very actively feeding. To accomplish this, just cast the lure and then reel it back just fast enough to create a bulge or wake on the surface of the water without actually breaking the top of the water with the lure.



"**Jigging**" This is a technique you will definitely want to try as it can be one of the most successful ways to use a spinnerbait you can use. It is very simple and is done by pitching the spinnerbait to your desired target and then after settling to the bottom, just lift the rod tip 2 or 3 times and let the lure fallback down. Reel in any slack and repeat all the way through the strike zone. It is important to keep tension on the line as the lure falls, since most strikes are on the fall rather than the lift. This is best used in any situation where you might use a bass jig and want to change up that presentation a bit!



"**Yo-Yo-ing**" This technique is similar to the jigging pattern except you are combining the slow roll and jigging

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together during the retrieve. After casting the lure and beginning your slow roll retrieve, periodically make a quick lift or jerk of the rod tip every 5 or 6 winds on the crank. Stop reeling and let the spinnerbait "flutter" down towards the bottom. Try to maintain as little amount of slack as possible and stay in contact with the lure so you can feel the strike when it happens, usually on the fall. Continue this action randomly all

the way back to the boat.

"**Dragging**" I have caught some of the biggest bass of my life while using this method. Simply work the spinnerbait much like you would a plastic worm or lizard. Cast the lure and let it fall to the bottom and start reeling with your rod tip at about the 8 or 9 o'clock position and slowly raise the tip to the 12 o'clock position (straight up). Reel up your slack and repeat the

action all the way through the strike zone. Again, always maintain some tension on the line to remain in contact with the lure for detecting those subtle pick-ups and strikes.

Although the use of a spinnerbait is only limited by your imagination, these are a few of the most effective ways I have found to use a spinnerbait and have proven themselves for me time and time again. Give them a

try and you may find that the biggest bass of your life could come with one of these techniques. There is much more to learn about using spinnerbaits such as colors, blade types and size, weights, etc. and we can touch on those things in future articles, but in the meantime take care, have fun, and good luck fishing! Until next month, good luck, good fishing and hope to see you on the water somewhere!

This deer was harvested by Sandy Allen, a 79 year old great grandmother who loves to hunt. It was harvested on October 25, 2019 with her Raven 20 Crossbow on here 98 acres in Edwardsville, IL. This deer was taken to Korte Meat Processing in Highland, IL and was 333 lbs hanging weight and 227 pounds after field dressing. In April 2019 Sandy harvest a black bear in Canada. She elk hunted in Heyden Colorado and has a passion for hunting and the outdoors. We would like to thank Sandy for sharing her story with ASO Magazine.



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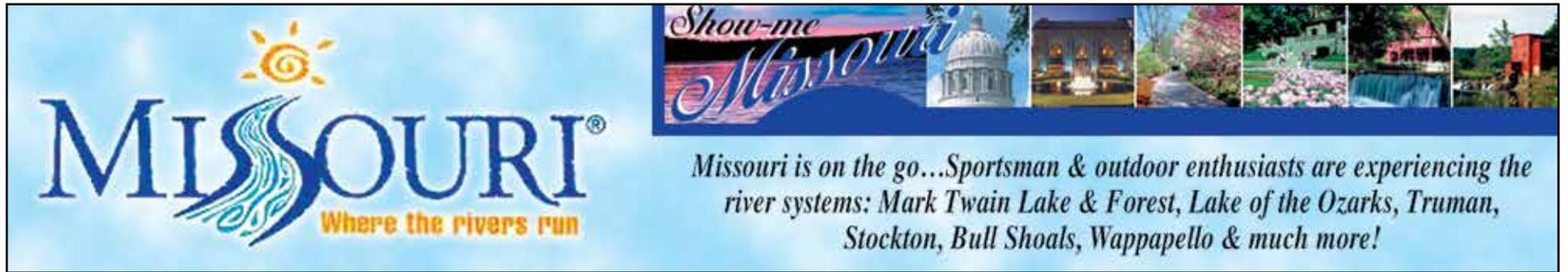
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MDC ENCOURAGES ANGLERS TO HARVEST CRAPPIE AT REED AREA LAKES IN LEE'S SUMMIT

By Bill Graham

Kansas City, MO – The spring crappie spawn is starting, enabling anglers to more easily catch the popular panfish near shore. Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) biologists are encouraging anglers to harvest a full 30-fish daily limit of crappie at lakes at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit. Crappie reproduce in large numbers and can become overpopulated in small waters.

All of the Reed Area lakes are overpopulated with crappie and provide a good fishing opportunity for anglers as spring unfolds, said Jake Colehour, MDC

fisheries management biologist.

"Overpopulation slows growth and results in a lot of smaller fish and not many big fish," Colehour said. "By harvesting the daily limit, anglers can help reduce the population density and improve the growth and size structure crappie at the Reed Area. This likely means harvesting a lot of fish around 8 inches long or smaller, even if those fish are smaller than you would normally keep."

MDC's Reed Area staff are hearing good reports about crappie fishing at Gopher Lake and Catclaw Lake. But nine of the 12

fishing lakes at the area have crappie, and this is a good time of year to catch them.

The Reed Area in Lee's Summit offers a close-to-home fishing opportunity on the southeast corner of the Kansas City metro area. For information about the area, including maps showing the lakes, roads and parking lots, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZxU>.

MDC encourages anglers to practice all safety measures that are recommended by health officials as precautions against the COVID-19 virus. That includes maintaining physical distancing at fishing lakes, parking lots, and hiking trails. Visitors are also asked to pick up all trash or discarded fishing line and place in the trash dumpster near the area entrance.

When anglers visit any MDC fishing lake,



they can check bulletin boards in parking lots for special creel and length limits or recommendations that apply for the lake. Information about fishing waters is also available for digital devices through MDC's free MO Fishing app at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJZ>. To learn more about crappie and catching them in Missouri lakes, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zhk>.

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MDC SAYS TRACK SUMMER BIRDS NEAR HOME FOR FUN AND LEARNING

By Bill Graham

Kansas City, MO – Songbirds are free to roam, and their travels take them beyond wild places to the trees, shrubs, and grasses they find in cities or near rural homes. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages people to get outside this summer and look for birds in their yards or neighborhood. Nuthatches and wrens will be looking in oaks and maples for insects to eat, or to carry back to a nest of young. Bluejays and bluebirds may be among the feathered visitors looking for food or nest sites. Robins enjoy pecking bugs out of a fresh-mowed lawn. People can simply enjoy listening to bird songs coming from the trees, or, they can use them as an educational tool, particularly for curious children.

Children learn by observation and thinking. Birds offer lessons in colors, numbers, geography, and biology. The lessons can be simple or complex, but a stimulation of wonder and curiosity is found in either approach. In times when people are sticking close to home, and children are getting restless in summer, birds await by simply stepping outside and listening or looking.

Simple birding tips:

- Start a birding journal. Use a school notebook, scratch pad, or stationary. Keep it handy. Children will note an adult's enthusiasm for the bird journal and follow their lead. Include all ages in spotting and watching birds.
- Once or twice a day go on bird-seeking expedition in the back yard, the front yard, or perhaps a walk on the sidewalk. Take the journal. Teach the young to watch for birds, or to listen for their songs.
- Ask questions, of yourself or those with you. How many different bird sounds can you hear? Where are they coming from? Can you see the bird or is it hidden by leaves? Is there a pair of binoculars of some sort in the household that would help spot them?

- If you see the bird, what is the color and the size? Do you think it is male or female? Can you identify the species? How many birds have you counted today? How many counted so far this summer?
- Being a simple birder is good enough. However, if you or a family member is interested, a wealth of information about birds is available online. If a species is determined, say a bluejay, are they migratory or residents, or both? If migrants, where do they go and when? What do they eat? For example, if that smallish red bird doesn't quite look like a cardinal. Perhaps it is a male summer tanager, one that spent the winter in Central America and is now feeding on bees and wasps in your backyard. If a female or immature male summer tanager is near, they will be a greenish yellow. Birds surprise with variety.
- Bird feeders and waterers will attract birds in summer as well as winter. But they are not essential, as summer birds will be finding natural foods.
- Early morning and sunset are the prime times for hearing and seeing songbirds. But any time of day the

curious feel like an outside trek is good enough. Don't forget to listen for owls at night, or to watch for raptors such as hawks and turkey vultures soaring high in the sky during the day. Count them on the journal list. You can count birds heard in your journal listings as well as those sighted, like noisy crows.

- Make some birding sorties a quiet time for listening and watching.

When people are still, nature's sounds and movement stand out.

- Have fun, birds are enjoying summer, you might as well join them.

For help in identifying birds, visit MDC's web page at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zhc>. Also, get general tips for birds and information about birds at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Zhp>.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers a useful website called All About Birds that includes photos, bird song recordings, and information about habitats, diets, and migrations. Visit the site at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZhG>.

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MDC SAYS NEW CRAPPIE REGULATION AT SMITHVILLE LAKE SHOWING GOOD RESULTS

By Bill Graham

Kansas City, MO – A new crappie length and creel limit regulation at Smithville Lake is off to a good start. Anglers can now harvest 30 crappie per day, but no more than 15 crappie can be longer than nine inches. Previously, anglers could only keep 15 crappie over nine inches.

The change is designed by Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) biologists to allow more adult black crappie undersized fish to be harvested while protecting the white crappie population. White crappie tend to grow faster and larger in Smithville Lake, while in past years large numbers of black crappie were stunted and not reaching the nine-inch length limit. The Missouri Conservation Commission approved the change in 2018, and this is the second spring when anglers will have a good chance to catch crappie as they move in close to shore to spawn.

Anglers harvested large numbers of black crappie once the regulation change was in place, said Eric Dennis, MDC fisheries management biologist. But also, fish population surveys at the lake last autumn showed increased average sizes for black crappie. With less competition for food, the black crappie may be growing faster because there are more bait fish available for them to eat and they have to exert less energy to get them.

"In October and November, they were showing off-the-chart growth," Dennis said.

MDC has 30 years of fish population survey data for comparisons. Prior to the change, through the years only 2 percent of the black crappie sampled in fall surveys were nine inches or longer, a size that provides good fillets for eating fish.

But last autumn, "it jumped to being 39 percent of the black crappie

were over nine inches," Dennis said. White crappie sizes improved, too.

MDC staff also checked anglers at the lake during the past year. They were catching plenty of black and white crappie, including good success this past winter fishing from the docks.

"Most people seem to be sticking to the regulations," Dennis said. "The people I talked to who were fishing were very positive. They were taking the black crappie, and an 8 and a half-inch fish has a nice fillet. I'm very anxious to see how this all plays out in the next couple of years."

White crappie have faint vertical bars on their sides as a color pattern. They have six dorsal fin spines. Black crappie are silvery with a color pattern on their sides that is mainly irregularly arranged dark speckles and blotches, not vertical bars. The dorsal fin has seven or eight spines. Both species are among Missouri's most popular panfish.



For more information and photos of black crappie, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Znz>. Photos and information about white crappie is at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZnK>.

MDC urges that anglers follow physical distancing guidelines recommended by health officials as a precaution against the COVID-19 virus, including at MDC boat ramps, parking lots, and fishing lakes.

For more information about fishing in Missouri, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/fishing>. Also, MDC's MO Fishing app allows anglers to use digital devices to check regulations, find places to fish, and even get GPS coordinates for sunken brush piles in lakes that attract fish. To download the app, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJZ>.

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CATCH CRAPPIE AND WALLEYE DEEP AT STOCKTON LAKE NOW

By Bill Cooper

The big Sea-Ark boat sat in 35 feet of water on Stockton Lake north of Springfield, Missouri. Damon Spurgeon and I fished eighth-ounce

jigs tipped with an earthworm for walleye. My rod tipped bounced noticeably, atypical of a walleye bite. After applying pressure on the fish, it felt heavy.

"Look at the size of that crappie," Damon yelled. Long and thick, the

silver and black fish appeared to be the largest I had caught in many years. It measured a solid 15-inches and obviously carried a belly full of eggs.

The enormous female crappie had been caught in roughly 30-foot of water, on the bottom among rocks where I had hoped to pick up a healthy walleye. I hoped to catch more of the fat crappie from that bank, but my hopes did not materialize. That one, big crappie had been a fluke of sorts.

We fished several banks with rock rubble, which is perfect habitat for walleye. Regardless, walleye fishing proved slow. Bites weren't uncommon, but walleye were being especially finicky and nipping at our worm jigs without fully taking the baits. However, the frustration of the walleye bite was offset by the occasional channel catfish, drum,

and big bluegill which ate our worm offerings.

We managed to squeak out 5 walleye between us, but abandoned the search to hunt for crappie. Tandem Fly Outfitters owner Kris Nelson runs three boats, all of which are equipped with the latest in boat electronics, which brings locating schools of fish into an all new arena. Additionally, the electronics are programed with literally hundreds of waypoints marking brush piles and other structure where crappie hang out.

Damon began searching the coves for large balls of shad and accompanying schools of crappie. It didn't take long to locate massive balls of each.

I was surprised to see how deep crappie were holding at Stockton Lake. Over the course of five days, we found schools from 16-to-35-foot down. Crappie at Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Lake had been flirting with depths as shallow as 18-inches for over a week. At those locations, the spawn had begun. However, crappie were continuing to run back and forth



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Twins, Paige and Jackson Kroncke age 4 with a nice mess of mushrooms on May 1st in Shelby County IL. Thanks to Bill Kroncke for sharing this photo with ASO Magazine.

from deeper water as weather patterns remained unstable, with cold spells popping up every few days.

High winds and cooler temperatures made it difficult to catch the crappie we were seeing on the electronics. The bite continued to be hit and miss as we moved to various locations around the lake, hoping to locate a hot school where we could catch several nice crappie from one school.

Our luck began to change when Spurgeon set up two 14-foot rods and two 10-foot rods for trolling deep-running crankbaits. The 3 1/2-inch shad imitators began to work as we trolled areas where the electronics showed massive schools of fish.

The longer rods were placed in holders on the sides of the boat, while the shorter rods protruded from the back of the boat giving it the look of a giant, four-legged water strider. Lines were set at various lengths to run the lures at various depths until

we determined which would catch the most fish.

Gradually we began to pick up a few crappie as we slowly trolled over contours of 30-35 feet of water. The graphs would light up with schools of fish and Damon and I would prepare to grab rods as strikes occurred. The trolling methods quickly proved to be our best technique to pick up good crappie and an occasional walleye.

Mornings proved to be the slowest periods of time to catch fish, often with feeding sprees occurring around noon as temperatures heated up. With the warming periods each day, winds also picked up producing heavy waves in most coves. The occasional cove that was sheltered from the wind became welcome reprieves from the gusty winds that often reached 25mph.

Damon had customers to guide a couple of days while I was a there. I tagged along to film and take photos. Although fishing was not fast paced, clients caught crappie and walleye steady enough to hold everyone's

attention. Too, everyone seemed especially happy to be on the water again, after the long Covid-19 virus shutdown.

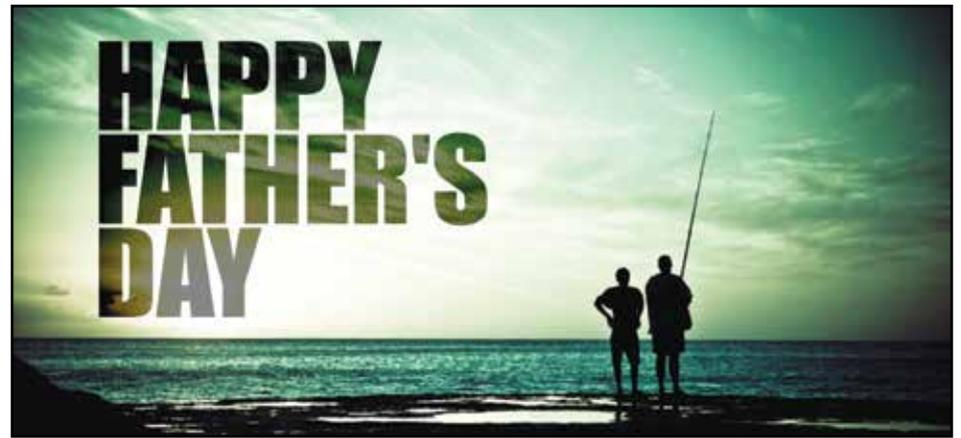
Steadily each day, crappie and walleye stacked up in the live well as Damon skillfully drove the boat over school after school of crappie hanging over deep brush-piles, as well locating open water schools on the electronics.

Photos of clients and their catches at the end of the day told the story of their successes. Big stringers of fat crappie and walleye promoted smiles indicative of good times on the waters of Stockton

lake with family and friends.

At the cleaning station, we discovered that most of the females held eggs that were not fully developed. It was obvious that the spawn was yet a week or two away. Stockton Lake is a deep, clear lake. Crappie may still be found in rather deep water when the spawn gets into full swing. Regardless, crappie fishing is sure to remain hot there for weeks to come.

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SEASONAL FOOD PLOTS FOR WHITETAILS

By Mark Kayser

Create a feed and forage plan with each season in mind, and then set the table for the deer on your property.

You seldom sit down in a restaurant and order without reading a menu first. Even if you're a regular your curiosity inspires a glimpse to see if anything new was added. Whitetails may not scan a menu in the same manner, but they definitely enjoy revisiting the best dining in the area. That's why it's vital you plan a great menu to attract repeat diners. Add to that importance is creating a menu, that when combined with native dishes, keeps drawing in whitetails 365 days a year.

Ryan Basinger serves as the wildlife consulting and hunting lease manager for Westervelt Wildlife Services. With more than 20 years of experience in whitetail property management and 35 years of whitetail hunting experience, Basinger understands the importance of planning a menu that whitetails will worship throughout the four seasons. Today, he consults across the entire range of whitetail deer to help clients meet their wildlife property goals. He wants to guarantee that no menu item is missing throughout the seasons.



Ryan Basinger (left) serves as the wildlife consulting and hunting lease manager for Westervelt Wildlife Services. With more than 20 years of experience in whitetail property management and 35 years of whitetail hunting experience, Basinger understands the importance of planning a menu whitetails will worship throughout all four seasons. By Mark Kayser

"From a quality hunting standpoint, having quality food sources available on your property year-round is critical to ensure deer spend more time on your property rather than on neighboring tracts searching for seasonal food sources," stresses Basinger. "This searching exposes bucks that you may be trying to protect or harvest yourself. Having quality, year-round food helps shrink home range size to maximize the amount of time spent on your property, which ultimately increases the likelihood of an encounter with one of your hit-list bucks."

Cordell Turner operates Circle Cross Outfitters in southwest Iowa and northwest Missouri. Despite his boyish looks, Turner has a keen eye for managing whitetail habitat after growing up in a farming family. He uses this farming background to manicure hunting properties and help others on the path to an outstanding wildlife haven.

"It's extremely important to have the necessary groceries on your property for a couple reasons including overall herd health first and foremost," says Turner. "It also holds deer on your property. If a nutrition component is missing the deer will be more willing to travel to find what they need and your overall herd could potentially be impacted in a negative way." Hunting may be the pinnacle danger for wandering whitetails, but don't overlook

the hidden threats that deer face daily if they expand their search for the best nutrition. Basinger points out that odds increase of them becoming an insurant statistic in an automobile collision, they could face predator meetings and individual health risks increase.

"Overall health and fitness declines, which can lead to reduced body weight, poor antler quality, reduced fawning rates, as well as susceptibility to disease," notes Basinger, describing the negatives of

roaming whitetails.

The overall health of the herd is the end goal for Basinger and Turner. Quality, year-round nutrition helps the deer herd reach and maintain its highest potential. That helps bucks develop the best possible racks and it boosts consistent reproductive success for the does in the herd. When the menu is right throughout the seasons, you'll ultimately be a satisfied hunter.

Spring Fare

Although early spring can be testing for whitetails coming out of a harsh winter, once the landscape takes on a green glow whitetails can quickly boost their health status. Both native vegetation and planted food plots can provide a quick uplift that's needed

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for whitetails to jumpstart antler growth, and to ensure fawn fetuses continue strong growth. For Basinger, naturally-occurring food sources play a vital role in this seasonal period.

"The primary component of a deer's diet is forbs, which are broadleaf herbaceous plants, not grasses," Basinger states. "During this time the lush, new growth is very palatable and nutritious in most regions of the country. The preferred species vary according to your region, but species like old field aster, beggar's lice, greenbrier, pokeweed, common ragweed and blackberry are preferred species of whitetails across much of their range."

Turner also inventories properties to see what Mother Nature will offer to secure an overall plan. He understands that even properties in his backyard can vary depending on their woodland or pasture makeup. Nevertheless, he looks for any fruit-bearing trees and whether ample shrubs, and saplings are available for deer to browse on buds. And although trees that have been hinge cut oftentimes are looked at as a winter food source, he views them as vitally important as deer wait for the spring surge of growth.

As native browse begins its green-up surge your food plots can also play an integral role in filling in any missing nutritional gaps, especially if your property lacks sufficient native browse. Of course, planted plot species only work if they have spring regenerative qualities with perennials as the main menu item.

"Overall, spring is generally not a nutritionally stressful time of year for deer because of the amount of food that is typically available after spring green up. However, with regard to planted crops that are available during the spring, the annual crops that are planted in the fall should be

performing at a very high level during spring due to increases in temperature and day length," says Basinger. "For optimal nutritional benefit plots have to be managed properly along the way through lime, fertilizer and weed management."

Annual crops planted in the fall that Basinger sees as great boosters in the spring include cereal grains, crimson clover, arrowleaf clover, frosty berseem clover, fixation balansa clover, plus others. Perennial species, such as various white clovers and chicory, also perform well in the spring according to Basinger.



Scheduling your menu to match or supplement available native browse helps deer maintain health, and reduces the chance of a targeted food source being overused in the summer months. It also helps deer stay on a property as hunting season nears.

Summer Delights

Whitetails finally receive a chance to breathe easy as summer blossoms. Even so you need to be aware of influencers that can sway nutritional needs and whitetail wandering. That's why Basinger stresses to evaluate environmental factors on your property. For instance, the amount of food available could be affected by habitat type such as closed-canopied woods that restrict sunlight versus more open habitats that promote sunlight to ground level. Basinger emphasizes that additional sunlight stimulates development of food and cover.

Weather factors can also manipulate nutrition and every year you face the same challenges as full-time farmers trying to grow commodities like Turner's family. Plus, if you do get a bumper food plot your target market can strip it clean with speed.

"It also depends on the timing and amount of rainfall that drives development of vegetation communities, as well as the density of the deer herd that can also influence what is available through browsing pressure," said Basinger. "In general, species will emerge and be available at different times, which is why species diversity is important. Once the forbs have been eaten up deer will shift to shrubs like sumac, vines such as wild grape and other woody browse that is within reach. Soft mast, such as blackberries and dewberries, also start becoming available."

In Turner's Iowa backyard summer becomes a sensory overload for most whitetails. He sees deer browsing on everything blooming with elms being a favorite, but deer definitely focus on the developing crops.

"You can't ignore the fact that whitetails will seek out the large

agricultural fields in the Midwest, including here in Iowa and Missouri," Turner said. "Green soybeans, immature corn and other crops that offer supple, young leaves along with tasteful, young grains are hard to compete with in the summer."

Some of your food plots will be maturing at this time of year while others could just be in the process of being planted. Scheduling your menu to match or supplement available native browse helps deer maintain health, and reduces the chance of a targeted food source being overused in the summer months. Browse, area croplands and your food plots make summer a good time to be a whitetail, but diversity allows everything to thrive.

Fall Foods

Although summer seems as food is in a never-ending supply, by late summer the menu could be challenged. It's important to foresee this shifting situation to ensure deer don't drift immediately before hunting season.

"By fall there typically isn't much quality browse left unless late summer rains have promoted some new

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Seasonal Food Plots ... cont.

growth," reveals Basinger. "Forbs are typically completely gone by fall or the late comers have bolted, and gone to seed which makes them much less attractive and palatable. There may be some shrubs and woody sprouts still holding on to some leaves that are still available, but by this time they have become hard, characterized by stems, less palatable and less attractive."

If you're fortunate to have mast on a property breathe a sigh of relief. In the fall, a deer's diet shifts heavily to acorns and other soft mast as they mature. Basinger notes that land managers should also scout for persimmons and wild grape as bonus mast for a whitetail attraction. Your food plots should also be maturing and pay attention to surrounding agricultural crops as they can pull deer to new nutrition and change patterns overnight.

"You really have to invest in scouting in the fall as food options change," Turner points out. "First and foremost, harvested crop fields can be a magnet since spilt grain is easy to access. Your planted food plots, such as standing soybeans and standing corn are also attractive at this time of year. Alfalfa, winter wheat, turnips, and radishes are also alluring, but whitetail tastes can change making ongoing scouting so important. My ideal hunting plots in the fall contain alfalfa, standing corn and standing beans."

As Turner noted, variety in your fall food plots helps draw deer in early to your property, hold them during hunting season and hopefully provide nutrition into the fall. That's also Basinger's goal while consulting with property managers. For an early-season attraction he recommends quick-growing cereal grains such as wheat, oats or triticale that germinate, and develop quickly. Other fast-growing options include clovers such as crimson, frosty berseem and balansa.

With the proper planning and planting any existing perennial clover, and chicory plots should also be producing well. As temperatures fall these will begin attracting deer says Basinger. Of course, he advises everyone to consult with an expert to meet your specific objectives for individual plots. Soil types, regional moisture and deer density define when, and how much

forage you need available.

Winter Grind

Regardless of whether your whitetail property resides in the wintry North or the dormant South, the winter menu options dwindle like pizza slices on all-you-can-eat buffet. This is when menu planning becomes critical. If your property has meager or no menu selections available, it can force deer to migrate or worse ... die. Fortunately, there are solutions to the unavailability of menu favorites after hunting season.

"There's not much for natural browse available after a couple hard frosts," warns Basinger. "There are some species like honeysuckle that will stay green in the South, as well as species like blackberry that may be growing beneath the protective canopy of pine plantations that can provide forage. In the North having young hardwood saplings can be important to get deer through the harsh winter. Deer will also use acorns until they are depleted."

Even though acorns can be a Godsend, Basinger has studied their production extensively and understands that acorn output varies annually. Some years are bumper crops while others produce very little. That's why he emphasizes the need for a planned food plot program to overcome glitches like poor acorn years.

Turner highlights the option of

corn and adds soybeans into the mix. Not only do they provide energy, but they have a positive characteristic land managers in the Snow Belt need to consider against other crop options. "Soybeans and corn are the ideal options during winter. Both of these sustain winter weather well because they stay above the line of snowfall in my area. Clover is also welcome and provides nutrition because it stays green throughout a lot of the winter months. Unfortunately, it can be hard to access with deep snow." To get the most bang from your property investment you need to play the role of a restaurant manager with a year-round mission. Plan a menu that meets the demands of area whitetails throughout the seasons and you'll be rewarded during the one season that

counts, the hunting season.



Regardless of whether your whitetail property resides in the wintry North or the dormant South, the winter menu options dwindle like pizza slices on all-you-can-eat buffet. This is when menu planning becomes critical and adding in nutrition such as turnips.



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Sidebar: The Most Important Season

Deciding on which nutritional food source to provide and manage varies by region. Surprisingly, Basinger educates many property managers that the most stressful season also varies by region. It's determined by the season that exposes deer to the most natural stress in a particular region. In the North, without question, winter can be the most stressful for whitetails.

"In general, this means late winter that includes heavy snow cover in the North and post-rut recovery through their range, but that changes as you move south," he said. "In late summer the South is hot, dry and demanding. With fawning and lactation requirements, does in particular have high energy demands. Thus ensuring good nutrition during these times can bridge the gap until conditions improve."

Consulting with a state biologist or a wildlife biologist consultant with a background like Basinger's is essential for proper regional planning. Simply following a standard guideline could jeopardize fawn health in a southerly location or neglecting winter needs could jeopardize the life of rut-weary bucks in the North. www.grandviewoutdoor.com



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WOO'S CORNER

BY WOO DAVES

LOVE THAT GRASS FISHING

I get a lot of e-mails this time of year on grass fishing and it can be very frustrating, but there is usually a way to catch fish in almost any grass situation. One thing, you can count on, if there is grass, there are bass. Bass will get super shallow in grass in hot weather especially in rivers with current. In small ponds and lakes bass tend to like edges and deeper water.

My favorite lure to start with is a frog. I usually start out with a Zoom Horny Toad and fish it like a buzz bait. I will attach two Bass Pro Shops' XPS wide 5/0 tube hooks together with a hitchhiker, screw the hitchhiker into the Horny Toad then position the hooks on each side of the body. This will give me a lot better hook up ratio to strikes. When I want a slow presentation with a frog I will use a Poppin'

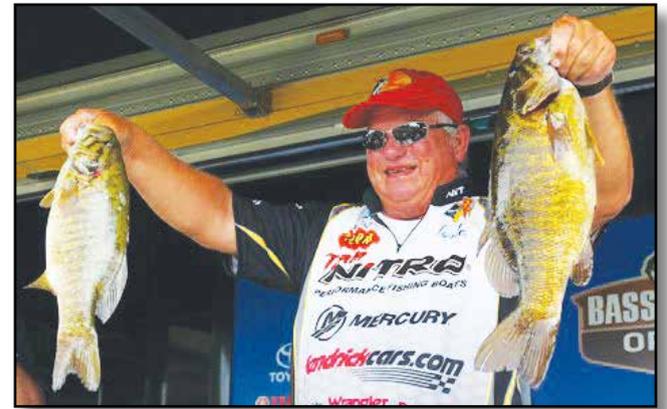
Furbit frog that is pre-rigged and has actual rabbit fur for a tail. I can let this frog sit for an eternity after popping it, to entice bites. I fish these lures on 20 lbs. premium Excel line. I don't ever fish top water on fluorocarbon line because it sinks and you lose that needed action. I fish these on a Johnny Morris Carbonlite 2 medium heavy 7 ft rod. I want plenty of backbone to get a good hook set.

Now if I'm fishing underwater grass say, 6 in. to 2 or 3 ft I will use a Zoom trick worm rigged on a 1/0 hook with Bass Pro Shops' 10 to 12 lbs. fluorocarbon line on an XPS Extreme 6'6" medium action spinning rod. Simply twitch along and wait for the strike. My second choice and especially if there are big bass in the area is to fish the Zoom Old Monster worm with a hook, no weight, 17 lbs. fluorocarbon line with a 7' heavy

action XPS rod. Again just kind of twitch along slowly and if you get a bite let the bass have it before setting the hook.

If you have a cloudy, rainy type day I want a more aggressive bait. I will take the skirt off a Chatter bait off and put a Zoom horny toad or Zoom fluke on and simply make long casts and a steady retrieve back. This is deadly in this kind of weather even if you only get it for a few minutes you can get well with a big bass in a hurry. Fish this rig on heavy tackle.

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Shops' Popper. My favorites are the Walker, Slim Dog, Z-Pop, and Bango lure. Top water fish can be finicky and you want to try poppers, spinnertail, and walking baits until you find what they like for the day. Some days they want the popper

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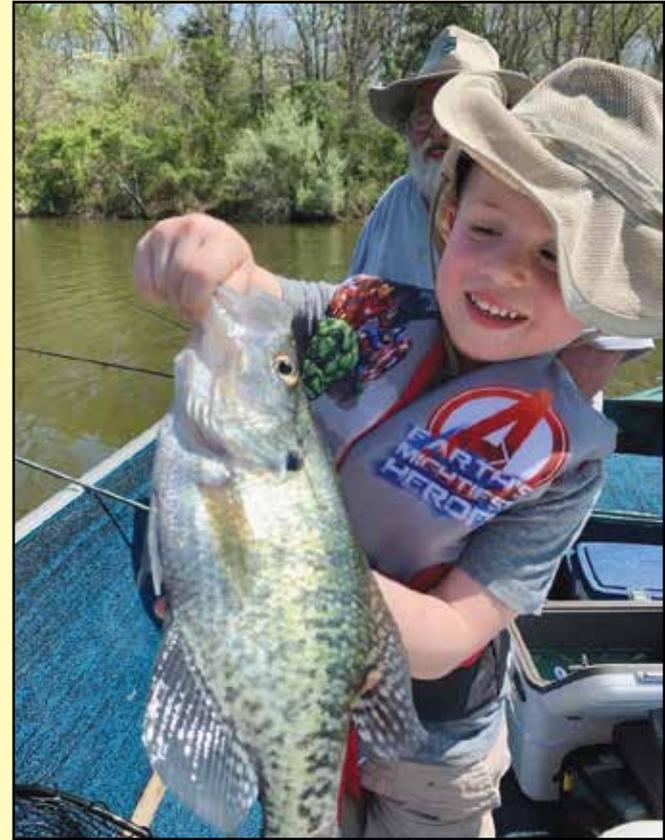
slow and other times they want it worked more erratic. The same techniques goes for the walking baits or prop bits. Fish these on a medium action Extreme rod with 14 to 17 lbs Excel line.

You also want to use buzz baits like the Bass Pro Shops' Lazer Eye and in lines like Uncle Bucks' buck tail skirt buzzer. I have found you need to change buzz bait sizes, that is if what you're using is not working. You can have the same exact conditions and one time the bass will want a small buzzbait say 1/8th oz. and the next time they want a 1/2 oz. Sometimes they want hardly any noise or commotion and next time they want a lot of ruckus.

Early morning and late evening are noted top water times, but believe me plenty of big bass are caught all day long on top water around grass. When you are out fishing in your Nitro boat, the main deal is to watch your depth finder and get just on the edge of the grass. Then cast ahead trying

to bring your bait right along the edge, especially if you can find points on the grass or holes in the grass. Another tip is to always have your trick worm by your side and if you get a boil and miss the fish, reel in fast and pick up the trick worm and try to cast right on the missed strike and let it dead fall. You can catch a lot of bass doing this. Any time during the day you get cloud cover pick up a top water lure. Top water lures catch big bass and a lot of times you have a small limit you can get a kicker with top water. Top water and grass equal bass and these strikes will get your heart beating like nothing else.

I want everyone to stay safe, it won't be long and you and your families will be out fishing. May God bless you and your family. Please take time to remember all the doctors, nurses, our troops and the police and thank them for their outstanding duty.



Phoenix Redfearn with his first fish of the season. He had a great day with his dad, Brad and his grandpa, Mark Redfearn at Crab Orchard Lake. Thanks to ASO Southern IL Rep Joanna Gurley for Sharing Phoenix's trophy.

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THE GIGGLER

By Daniel Vinovich

north, letting me know he was in tow with a hen, definitely not interested in anything I had to offer.

Day 2 had me sliding down ridge after ridge trying to gain access to the area not accessible by my truck because of the heavy rains the week before. I set up in a small clearing adjacent to a large stand of oaks on a ridge overlooking a large creek. Once again, the song birds started to greet the sunrise. I listened with anticipation of his first gobble. It never came. I was sure I was in his wheelhouse from the day before. Twenty-five minutes into shooting time, he fired, #S^#S@@, he was back in the roost I had hunted the day before. I shook my head, packed up and headed his way. He gobbled several times but always going away from me following hens. I was beginning to hate this bird. I took off on a steady pace through the muddy fields to try and cut him off before he crossed the line into the state ground. He never slowed moving away. I tried my best to out flank him with no success.

Day 3 found me set up in his roost area. I did not want to bump him, so I had entered the area an hour before sunrise. I set up on a hillside in the middle of the roost. Once again, daybreak came slowly. I waited, scanning the treetops, hoping to catch some movement of him as he started to strut in the treetops. Suddenly, a gobble fired from the trees

across the flooded creek. I picked up my binoculars and scanned the area, Sure as #&%&, he was strutting high in the treetops across the creek. I tried to entice him with my sultry calls of luv from my glass slate call. He gobbled at every slide of the striker. I worked on him for 15 minutes. About that time, hens started dropping from the tree all around me like acorns falling in the fall. They were in the treetops on my side of the creek. Every one of them glided through the treetops and landed at the foot of the oak he was strutting in. He slowly parachuted from the canopy to the ground to the waiting hens. He continued to gobble but his tone sounded off, more like a small child

giggling at my attempts to coax him across the flooded creek. He proceeded up the ridge away from me giggling at me as he went. Twenty minutes or so later, the timber fell silent. I pulled the set and walked down to the swollen creek. I looked for a way to cross but there was none. I found a deer crossing 150 yards down stream and marked it with a decoy bag, hanging it in a tree. I had crossed in this area in years past. The ripple on top of the water told me it was a shallow spot. With no time left that morning, I left with high hopes of a pre-daybreak crossing the next morning. I wanted this bird bad. "Nothing laughs at me," I thought to myself as I climbed the ridge headed back to my truck.

It was a typical Illinois morning, wet and cold. The wind had blown all night with storm after storm for the last week. I did not have a chance to scout any birds and had high hopes they were using the roost from years past. I set the decoys about 30 yards away and tucked myself into a small brush pile where I had killed numerous birds in past seasons. I folded the seat down on my RedHead turkey vest and proceeded to lay out the wide arrangement of calls on the decoy bag. Daybreak was slow to materialize as the song birds started to sing. The cloud cover was breaking up and the wind had laid. It looked like a perfect morning to catch a good gobble drying out on the field edge I was set up on. I sat and waited for the first gobble wishing I had the big cigar I had so hastily left in the truck. Daybreak grew steadily over the next 20 minutes with no gobbles. I wondered where the group of toms had gone, the ones I had watched feeding in that very field during the muzzleloader season last fall. There were 5 big long beards in that bunch, one that looked like it was dragging the ground. I sat in my orange thinking I will see you fellas next spring. Forty-five minutes had passed. The dark morning had grown into full a beautiful sunrise, but still no sound of a tom in the roost. I stood up and gathered my calls and decoys, and proceeded across the muddy field to the roost area. I was about halfway across the field when he lit up with a gobble. He was not in my tried and true roost but 3 fields over to the north. I closed my eyes and went to the mental map I kept in my head trying to pinpoint what area he might be in. I turned and headed that way, running and setting up every 200 yards or so trying to get him to fire off another time. He lit out one more gobble heading farther

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Day 4 found me entering the timber well before daybreak. I slowly worked my way down the ridge, stopping to scan the treetops against the grey sky looking for the silhouette of birds roosting in the old oaks above me. There was no sign of the hens or him that I could see. I located the decoy bag I had left the day before marking the crossing in the flooded creek. I slowly removed it from the tree putting the hen decoy back into its place and tossing it over my shoulder. I preceded down the bank ever so slowly trying not to make any noise or movement to alarm the pack of birds using the roost. Step after step I made my way down, carefully testing my foothold as I went. I proceeded with my first step into the creek, a solid bottom with the water 4 inches below my boot tops. I smiled as I thought this is not going to be so bad. A second step followed with the same results. With 12 feet left to go, I slid my lead foot toward the opposite bank. I placed my weight on it and leaned forward. There was no bottom, but I was already committed. The cold water filled my boot as I leapt forward. Fighting my way across, the second boot was now full. I hesitated for a second. I thought to myself, "I am already wet, so go for it."

MISTAKE!! I was now up to my waist. The stock and receiver of my Benelli were under water. I pushed forward. Mistake #2! The turkey vest was now full. I staggered as the cold went up my spine. Next step, I'm soaked. The decoy was floating and the gun was half submerged as I clawed my way up the opposite bank. I was soaked, freezing but not swimming. I laid there in a wet pile of exposed tree roots. Morning came shortly after. I had not moved in fear of spooking the roosting birds. Once again, the scenario from the day before unfolded. The tom gobbled a mere 40 yards from my beaching. The hens responded and away he went giggling all the way like he had watched the whole creek crossing cluster unfold before his watchful eyes. With legs numb and teeth chattering, I re-entered the creek and proceeded back toward my truck. Wet, cold, and highly pissed off, I sat with the heater on full blow.

Back at my house, I plotted a way to take this henned up giggling tom down. My mind raced with different case scenarios as I hung my wet gear in the tree outside my garage. I was not going to kill him by acting like a hot hen. He already had several he was servicing with him in every tree around his roost.



Would you look at the softball size head on that old bird

I was going to have to bring the hens to me. I went into the basement and pulled out my Full Strut Gobbler decoy. I had reworked this decoy a few years before with a set of dried turkey wings bolted to the sides and a fan from a mature tom taken years before. He looked good. I also grabbed a half strut jake decoy as well and headed back up the steps. Back on my computer, I brought up a satellite

map of the farm I was on and zoomed into the roost area. There was a finger of field not more than 60 yards from the area he was in on the other side of the creek. I knew this area well as I have a stand on its edge, but how the hell was I going to get to it.

The next morning had my alarm going off at 2:30 am. Cup of coffee in hand, I pulled from the drive and headed

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The Giggler ... continued

to the farm. I arrived an hour and a half before daybreak, put on my waders, loaded the flock of decoys and my Benelli on my back and headed downstream a quarter of a mile to a 4-wheeler crossing. I made it across the creek still dry as I stripped off the waders and put on my new set of Cabela's boots. I worked my way up the ridge to the little finger field with a half hour to spare before daybreak. I set the decoys up in what I hoped was in plane sight of the hens that were roosting along the creek. One hen decoy, a half strut jake and the full strut modified tom. They looked good, even for my standards. I laid out an aluminum slate and 2 gobbler calls. I placed the diaphragm hen call in my mouth and waited for daybreak. The first bird I heard was a hen. She yelped ever so softly from the top of an oak along the creek. I answered with a soft yelp of my own. A few minutes later, she yelped again. He answered with a gobble. I gobbled back at the pair. It fell silent for a couple minutes. I think they were freaked out that there was another suiter close by. Five minutes passed. The treetops were alive with chatter from the hens and gobbler. I started hammering them with yelps from the mouth call and thunderous gobbles from the shaker, mixing in a jake gobbler or two for good measure. The screaming match was in full force. I hit them with a cackling call imitating a bird flying down, followed by as much calling as one person could manage, gobbles followed by yelps, gobbles, jake gobbles, yelps. Then they started dropping from the heavens on my side of the creek. I kept up the racket, not giving them a chance to think, hoping they would react. More gobbles, yelps. With the hens worked into a frenzy, I picked up the aluminum call and started a high-pitched fighting purr. Again, I yelped, gobbled, all the time running the fighting purr with the striker! The first bird in was a giant old hen. Her yelps sounded so coarse you would have thought she smoked a pack of cigarettes a day. She headed quickly to my walking hen decoy and started to peck its head. Another hen emerged and then another. They were all hammering my hen decoy. It looked like a tether ball match. One would hit her sending the decoy spinning one direction and then the other would hit it sending the decoy other direction. I kept up the fighting purrs, yelps and gobbles. The street fight was in full force when I saw the white head emerge from the timber edge. As soon as he cleared, he went into full strut. I could hear his wings pounding the ground as he headed towards the jake decoy. Out of strut, he thumped the jake decoy with a force so hard it sent it spinning off the stake. He then went back into full strut and headed towards my modified tom decoy. I shouldered the Benelli and let go a 2 oz. load of #5's. The recoil rocked me as the load exited the Indian Creek choke. Time stood still for that moment as the shot string proceeded to the target. The big tom exploded with



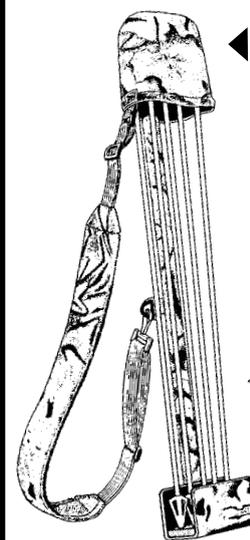
Big Ole Tom that gave me fits

a snowstorm of feathers as the load connected. The hens jumped and looked at their fallen Bo. As fast as they came, they slipped back into the timber. I unloaded the Benelli and pocketed the remaining 2 shells. I stood and located the spent shell, lifting it to my nose, smelling the scent of victory. The smell of the spent powder took me back to my childhood hunting squirrels with my father along the Spoon river. That smell is one of the fondest memories from my youth, and I cherish every hunting round fired after every well-placed shot. I approached the tom, rolled him over and looked at the 1 1/4 inch hooks. He had to be around 25 or 26 pounds. His 11 1/4 inch beard was as thick as a paint brush. He was a true trophy. I will never forget these days of one of the hardest chess matches I have ever played. A big S#\$\$ grin was on my face even through the long ordeal of crossing the creek and making the trek back to the truck. I hope that as I get older and my body starts to fail that this is one of the memories that always pops in my head when the nurse says, go to your happy place, the procedure will be over in a minute.

I have high hopes that all of you have fared well during this national crisis. The early guide season for ice out muskies went off without a hitch before the state mandatory shut down. We boated a good number of muskies with the biggest at around 43 inches. The DNR shut down most of the lakes we fish so unfortunately, we never had a chance to fish the post spawn in April and May. I may take a few trips if the water temps stay below 76 degrees, when and if the DNR reopens the sites. You can contact me at trolling@mtco.com or by calling 309-267-8309.

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2020 LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS AT THE ISRA RANGE

ISRA Marksmanship League

The Marksmanship League opens its 2020 season NIOW, concludes in October with various other dates thru summer and fall, concluding the day of finals on October 18th. Competitor classes include: juniors, women, men and seniors. This is a timed shooting league and based on the Lewis System. Fee is \$5 per class, per match. Contact John Barone at 708.205.2799 or email jabclays@att.net

ISRA .22 Rimfire Steel Challenge

The .22 Rimfire Steel Challenge League is designed for beginners but can accommodate any shooter wishing to improve their skills. This league starts now and ends in September, with finals in October. Contact: Ron Coursey at 708.935.7177 or email deputygolf@sbcglobal.net

ISRA Benchrest League

The Bench Rest League starts Now and runs thru October 7th every Wednesday. The league meets on Range 4 from 8am until dusk or when finished for the day. The League shoots center fire and rim fire bolt action rifles. This league is for people that love extreme accuracy. New shooters are welcome. Contact Jim Stearns at 815.458.2474 or email jms597@comcast.net or Mark Lincoln at 630.460.0241 or email lincolnmark308@gmail.com.

ISRA Bullseye League

The Bullseye League meets on Ranges 1 & 2, once a month on Sundays, from Now thru October. First Line starts at 8am SHARP and the last line is called at 1:30pm. Firearms used are any .22 or Centerfire (CF) pistols; bring 2 magazines, appropriate ammo. Fees are \$2.50 per match or \$10.00 for 4 matches with 5th scorecard free. New Shooters are welcome and get their first match free. Contact Rita Siwinski at 708.479.5134 or ritas@isra.org or Jeff Battaglia at 708.614.1628 or email jeffb@isra.org

ISRA Combat Pistol League/3 Gun League

The Combat Pistol League/3 Gun League meets on the first Sunday of every month Now thru November on Ranges 9, 10, & 11. Shooting starts promptly at 8am. Generally, rifles and pistols are shot, but shotguns are used occasionally. Competitors can shoot pistol matches, 3 gun matches or both. This league is open to the public. It is an excellent league for those interested in self-defense. New shooters are welcome. Contact John Newman at 815.954.8389 or email combatpistolleague@gmail.com

ISRA F-Class High Power Rifle League fired at 300 yds.

The F-Class 300 Yard Rifle League meets on Wednesdays Now through September on Range 3, from 8:00am to 7:30pm. Open to public. Contact Tom Jurgens at 815.573.3041 or email jurgens914@comcast.net

ISRA F-Class Smallbore Rifle League

The Smallbore League meets on range 5 every Thursday, Now thru September from 2pm until dusk. Only .22 Rimfire Rifles are used. Smallbore was started in the 1870's & is one of the most challenging shooting sports. New shooters welcome. Contact James Miller at 815.268.4411 or jamesandkaymiller@att.net

ISRA Summer Glock League

Summer Glock League meets on Range 11 on the last Sunday in June, July and August at 8:30am.

ISRA Springfield League

The Springfield League meets on Range 11 on June 21st, July 19th and August 16th beginning at 8:30am and ending at noon. Rain date is 9/20/2020. Limited to Springfield Armory XD, XDM, 1911s, and concealed carry division subcompact models, using Springfield targets. This is an intermediate league designed to help shooters learn to change magazines during shooting and drawing from the holster. New shooters are welcome. Contact Tony Jacobazzi at 630.918.1631 or email tjacobazzi@comcast.net

ISRA Tuesday Night Irregular Rifle League

The TNIRL shoots NRA sanctioned High Power rifle matches on Range 3 Tuesday afternoons starting Now and ending in October. There is a relay at noon for those free earlier in the day; otherwise the league starts at 5:30pm.

A light barbecue dinner is provided after each evening's match. See the flyer available on the ISRA calendar listing for Tuesdays during the season. Contact Bryan Coyle by email at TNIRLeague@gmail.com

ISRA Paper & Steel League

The Paper & Steel League is designed for those who want to improve their shooting skills. A variety of scenarios and drills are used to help shooters achieve better accuracy. This league uses any center-fire handgun.

Contact Jeff Davis 708.476.3257.

ISRA Military Benchrest Rifle League

The Military Rifle League starts in June and goes through September from 3:00pm until dusk on Range 5. The League is for people who enjoy shooting M1's, 1903 Springfield's, Enfield P17's, M1A's, AR15's and so on but can't because of physical limitations. It is a 100 yard match shot from the bench. A match will be 30 shots, consisting of a 10 shot slow fire and two 10 shot rapid fire strings. One string will be 2 minutes and the other a minute and a half.

We will shoot this on a traditional Army "A" target, also known as a "5V" target. There is an initial registration fee of \$10 and then each match will be \$5. Contact Richard Pearson at 815.635.3198 or email executive@isra.org.

ISRA Scout Rifle League

The Scout Rifle League starts in June and ends in September on Range 5. The league is for both experienced and new shooters. There will be two relays; the first relay begins at 3:30pm and the second begins at 4:30pm. There is an initial registration fee of \$10 and then each match will be \$5. Contact Richard Pearson at 815.635.3198 or email executive@isra.org or Laura Hack at 815.635.3198 or email laura@isra.org.

ISRA Headquarters

PO Box 637, Chatsworth, IL 60921

Phone: (815) 635-3198 Fax (815) 635-3723

Email: member@isra.org



A DAY REMEMBERED!

By: David Herschelman

did not budge toward my ambush! In fact, after no hen appeared he drifted away from my hillside ambush site to the East and was gone! Why did I not attempt to climb higher on the hillside for an opportunity to see him strutting his stuff was burning a hole in my stomach. This bird would occupy my mind for six hunts. Over half of these trip he was closer than fifty yards but always evading my chance to end his days!

Hunting my farm on the south end of Schuyler County, a similar Gobbler obviously related to the one described earlier (they must have been brothers)! Both would

not walk across my living room to get a closer look at my decoys and my calling would always send both in the opposite direction! Both were exceedingly vocal on the Roost but after hitting the ground were silent! Now into May with no bird to show for my efforts – was this to be the year of the skunk? My confidence shot, I would not believe the sun rose in the east and set in the west unless having seen it happen! Rather than drifting off to hunt a more receptive bird, I stubbornly chased these two but the end of the season was approaching fast! One positive was the number of antler sheds found while turkey

As the Eastern sky lightened, a resounding gobble broke the then chorus of Whippoorwill's announcing their presence! This bird was close and very vocal on the roost. Rather than set up in the field edge next to the ridge where he sounded, his luring gobble broke my will to sit tight and a stalk was initiated.

The leaves underfoot were moist and the deer trail was clean but advancing on a Roosted Gobbler is usually bad medicine as the advantage is with the elevated bird with better vision, no leafing cover, hearing and the sixth sense – noticing the change in the sounds of the woods! His position on the highest ridge in the County was perfect. The steep hillside with a beaver pond in the valley to the Southwest further strengthened his bivouac site choice for his nighttime rest! Edging along the hillside, my advance was yielding results as now I was close just below his line of sight. With the wind from the Southwest – he should fly into it as he glides to the ground, putting him only yards from my position! As if on cue, he hit the ground and immediately strutted back and forth just over my line of sight! Probably a mistake but a few light tree calls were made enticing him to venture over to peer over the hillside putting him at the end of my new Benelli shotguns' front bead!

Earlier this morning, my daughter gave birth to my second granddaughter, Mycaiah Jaymes Herschelman, all was well in my world and with my new shotgun ready to tally the first bird of the season, I was eagerly confident. The bird chose to maintain his strutting position and announce his willingness to date with vociferous gobbling! He



Happy Hunter with Bronzeback

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hunting was a new record!

After taking time from my turkey hunting ventures to visit my Mother on Mothers' day, I was back in the woods in southern Schuyler County on Monday, May 11. This day twenty-four years earlier, my father passed away while working in the field on his Indiana farm pulling young sapling trees with his old 450 International – he was found along side of the running tractor but he was gone! I was turkey hunting this date twenty-four years earlier with no success and was completely exhausted both mentally and physically when the phone call notifying me of the days' events came! This was and remains to the present, the worst day of my life! Although the tears still fall occasionally as I watch the sun rise, smell freshly plowed soil and hear the birds of the field sing – I thank the Lord for my father and can only give thanks to him posthumously!

Early before light, as approaching the top of the wooded bluff overlooking the big valley to the east, a gobbler caught my attention.



Wilbur Herschelmann with Lauran Herschelmann

Silently and quickly stalking to the sounds' location halfway down the hillside on the west side of the valley, the bird has positioned himself perfectly and with the wind he would fly down toward the clean hillside in the woods. As daylight came – I could see him gobble each time a far off crow cawed! My position was set. Any further advance would spook the bird. Waiting and waiting until finally he drifted to the ground but far enough away that only half of his upper profile was visible to me over the hillside! The anticipation was intense as he immediately moved quickly along the hillside to the north



Old Bronzeback and Happy Hunter

– my gun followed and as he walked between two trees, a clear shot was offered but only for a short time – the sound of the gun shocked me! The bird disappeared! After running to the location of the shot my bird had indeed succumbed to the charge! A happier and more grateful Turkey Hunter could not be found in all of



Lauren and Baby Mycaiah Herschelmann

North America!
After giving thanks for my bird and the love and protection afforded me by my father, the promise was made to do the same for my family and little new granddaughter. My walk back toting my bird would forever put a new positive memory on this date for the future!

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By Dan Galusba
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WHAT'S IN A HEAD

Years ago, about the only plain lead head jig that could be found were a round head. These days there are all sorts of lead head jig designs and hook sizes – one for every task, fish species and type of lure, or so it seems.

In my case I can get by with about five types in three brands – B-Fish-N (Precision H20), TTI-Blakemore (Road Runner standard, Casey's and No Bling), and J-Mac (small plain shank/no keeper barb). Yes, I still will

use a standard round head from time to time with different size hooks, and the J-Mac mentioned is a very small round head.

For a long time, I used the Bull Dog round head because I was able to have a larger hook on a smaller weight head, which is still a problem to find with many. This is one reason I use the Casey's Runner head, as it has a nice size hook that works with the Natural Forage Baits' Swim Bait, Lil'



Finger jigging a Natural Forage Baits' Lil' Killer on a B-Fish-N H20 jig head over submerged weed beds helped take this nice bass.

Killer and Jerk Shad; and B-Fish-N Authentx Pulse-R, Moxi and Ribb-Finn that I use when wanting to simulate bait fish.

B-Fish-N's H20 head is my all around "go to" jig head. I use it in about every size, and for a large variety of soft plastic lures, including



A NFB T-Shad rigged on a round head, bare shank J-Mac jig, and drifted with the wind under a float can be deadly on suspended crappie.

plastic worms in all sizes. They are also my first choice when using my "finger jigging" technique on minnow/shad type bodies like the T-Shad. Part of the reason I like these so much is the wire keeper collar. These collars not only hold a soft plastic secure and longer, but they don't split them out

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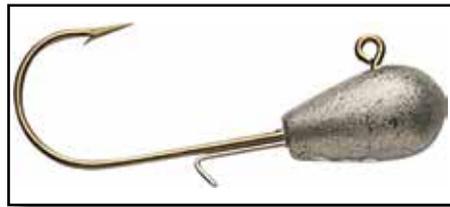
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like the lead collars. I hope that one day these will be offered in a model with a larger 2/0 hook, and keep the other for smaller finesse worms, panfish and walleye.

Next is the variety of Road Runner heads. The standard head is used with the smaller or thinner shad bodies like the Lil' Killer, curl tail grubs, and other such bodies where a larger hook is not necessary. For the larger shad bodies, and fatter curl tail grubs I'll go to the Casey's Head with a larger hook. Last is the No Bling, which is a new addition to the Road Runner lineup that does not have a blade and is found with "glow" colors. It still has the Seahorse head, but with a rounded nose. I'll use these for about everything where I want to bounce over structure, and not get the blade tangled in weeds. This includes lures such as the NFB Mad Craw that works best in bottom contact. As with the B-Fish-N heads I also hope that at some point the No Bling will be available with a 2/0 hook.

When I want to use a very small body, such as a Power Bait Honey Worm, for panfish, and not want



A plain lead B-Fish-N Precision H20 jig head.

it to split, then I'll go with a J-Mac "no keeper/plain shank" jig head. These come in very small sizes that can also be used for ice fishing. I will use the ones with number 8 and 4 hooks. These are perfect in any panfish situation where you want to use Power Bait or other very small jig body, and not having them split. They will slide down the shank as the body gets worn, especially with the Power and Gulp Baits, but by then the body is normally wiped out anyway.

Here is a trick that you can use with the B-Fish-N and J-Mac heads to add more attraction with a product like Kick'N Bass. The reason I didn't say the Road Runners is that they have the thicker lead collars. Take a small piece of cloth or thin slice of foam or sponge and slide it on to the shank



The new Blakemore "glow" colored No Bling jig head.

before installing the body. Push it all the way to the head. When applying the attractant it will not only be on the lures body, but be held longer with the cloth/foam/sponge. You may even think of something else that would work better. This will also work if placing the foam/sponge on the shank and sliding it inside of a tube, which will work with the Road Runner head, mainly the No Bling for tubes. This will not only hold the scent, but also add some substance to the tube when the fish grabs it.

To me colors for jig heads are not always a big thing, other than when you might want something that glows. Otherwise I can get by with a plain lead or black. The addition of white and chartreuse are also nice at some points to use for matching or contrast.



A Casey's Runner Head with larger hook and blade than the standard Road Runner head.

A head that fits a good selection of baits properly, swims well, sets upright on the bottom, and bumps over different types of structure are all-important. That is why I've selected the ones that have been discussed in this article.

Trying a variety of lead heads to find the ones that work best with the different types of fishing is a key to success in this type of fishing. So, take a look at the variety and reasons why I have selected it, and use this to help build your selection.

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This report represents some events the OLE handled over the weeks of December 1 - 15, 2019; however, it does not include all actions taken by the Office of Law Enforcement.

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

HENRY COUNTY

CPO Posateri and Trainee were working firearm deer season and checked a hunter in the field. The deer he had in the back of the UTV was untagged and his FOID card was revoked. The hunter was issued multiple citations, the deer was seized, the gun and ammunition were seized.

JODAVIESS COUNTY

CPO Hoftender and Sgt. Petreikis were on patrol in Jo Daviess County. CPO Hoftender stopped the squad to go speak to a hunter who

was preparing his blind for the next shotgun season. While speaking with the man it was discovered he had killed two deer and one of the deer was not checked in. Upon further investigation, the hunter was found to be in possession of an illegally taken deer, failed to report it, and never tagged it. He also had salt blocks behind his residence. The deer head was seized as evidence and the hunter was cited for illegal possession. He was issued warnings for his other violations. CPO Hoftender and CPO Klemme returned to the residence to get further information about another rack that was discovered on the property. After leaving the residence, the hunter later called CPO Hoftender and asked her returned. The subject explained he had also taken that deer illegally. He was cited again for illegal possession and the head was seized.

CPO Hoftender and CPO Peecher assisted CPO Doescher with a Ginseng Dealer Inspection. The Ginseng Dealer was cited for failure to maintain records. He had been purchasing ginseng since 2014 as a Dealer and never kept records.

MERCER COUNTY

CPO McKune investigated an illegal dumping of deer carcasses case which led to multiple violations being discovered. The investigation led to an unlawful possession of a 9-point buck harvested during a previous year's firearm deer season. A 9-point buck mount was seized. Violations included unlawful possession of a whitetail deer, failure to tag immediately upon kill, illegal dumping of deer carcasses and the use of another's tag x2. CPO McKune also made an arrest on a suspended driver and issued a civil citation as well.

District 6 – Sgt. Phil Wire (Counties: Boone,

Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Putnam & Winnebago)

BOONE COUNTY

While on patrol, CPO Stanbary located a vehicle parked near Hormel Ponds in Bureau Junction during the firearm season. The CPO located a man exiting state ground wearing blaze orange, a deer stand and a firearm. The hunter admitted hunting on state land, which is prohibited at this location, for years and admitted shooting 2 deer during the 2018 season at the same location. The hunter was issued citations for hunting without permission and unlawful attempt to hunt whitetail deer. Multiple warnings were issued for the illegal 2018 activities. The hunter has an upcoming court date in Bureau County.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

CPO ALT received a Target Illinois Poacher Complaint from Springfield regarding two individuals who were observed unlawfully shooting a bedding 10 pt. Whitetail Buck Deer and Doe from a side-by-side ATV on property without permission. The individuals were then observed loading both deer w/o tagging before driving out of the field onto the roadway and to a nearby residence. CPO ALT arrived at the suspect residence w/in 2 hours of the incident occurrence and minutes of receiving the T.I.P. Report. A mud-covered ATV was observed parked in the front yard with muddy tracks in the road leading out of the field towards that residence. The man who answered the knock at the door was an individual who had been arrested multiple times by department officials in past years for deer poaching. The subject, who appeared intoxicated, refused to answer

questions or cooperate with the investigation. CPO ALT obtained physical evidence of the poaching incident corroborating witness written statements, photographic line-up evidence to confirm suspect identities(s), and corroborating deer check station harvest records. Charges are pending Illinois State Police Crime Lab analysis of physical evidence recovered and state's attorney review for approval of charges.

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

FULTON COUNTY

CPO Thompson and CPOT Roundcount responded to a complaint of alleged hunting without permission. A landowner hunting his property said he heard shots coming from nearby his property line and suspected trespassing. CPOs patrolled on foot into the area and spoke with a hunter who had been hunting near the location of the shots. The man claimed he and a hunting partner each shot a doe that morning from a ground blind. The man said they recovered his partners doe but the other had run on to the neighbor. CPOs accompanied the man to the location of the blind. Upon evaluating the story and the evidence, CPOs uncovered issues with the man's claim of harvesting the deer on his land. CPOs located not only one but two freshly killed does on the neighboring landowner's property. The man confessed to having shot the second deer on the neighboring landowner's property without permission. CPOs issued a citation for hunting without permission and written warnings for additional violations. Venison from the deer was recovered and



Nolan McIntyre of Washington with his first Turkey taken in Fulton County. Thanks to Shae Birkey for sharing this great photo.

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Police ... continued

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Northeast Zone – Captain Jed Whitchurch District 2 – Sgt. Eric Schreiber (Counties: Kane, Lake & McHenry)

MCHENRY COUNTY

CPOs Tom Davis and Chris Winters cited four waterfowl hunters for hunting with the aid of bait. Upon inspection of the hunting area there were approximately 55 husked ears of corn placed within a 20 foot radius of the pit blind. The hunters were also issued written warnings for failure to maintain separate bag limits.

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

KANKAKEE COUNTY

CPO Farber and CPOT Iaffaldano discovered a heavily baited property with multiple tree stands, box blinds, ground blinds, and trail cameras prior to the second firearm deer season. The property was checked daily until two hunters appeared. After waiting for the hunters to get to their blinds, they were confronted and the following violations were observed: No possession of hunting license, No habitat stamp, No blaze orange cap/vest, Unplugged shotgun, Buckshot, and hunting over bait. 7 Citations and 1 Warning were given to both hunters combined.

Central Zone – Captain Laura Petreikis and Captain Jed Whitchurch District 9 – Sgt. Eric Myers (Counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin, Pike & Schuyler)

ADAMS COUNTY

CPO Blazinic issued the following citations for the 1st and 2nd firearm deer season in Adams County. Unlawfully feeding whitetail deer, Failure to wear blaze orange cap, Firearm deer hunting over baited area, Unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, unlawfully firearm deer hunting w/o a valid firearm deer permit, unlawfully firearm deer hunting w/o a hunting license, Unlawful transportation of an uncased gun in a vehicle. CPO Blazinic seized 2 shotguns and responded to a gunshot wound hunting accident.

CALHOUN COUNTY

CPO Michael Goetten stopped a vehicle occupied by two Alabama hunters. They were in possession of a buck tagged with a permit issued to a resident acquaintance. One of the hunters admitted to harvesting the buck

and tagging it with the resident's tag. Three citations were issued and the buck was seized. CPO Michael Goetten stopped a vehicle occupied by two Georgia hunters. CPO Goetten identified them and recognized their information from an active investigation into non-resident landowner permit fraud. It was confirmed a step child of a landowner lived in a different state than the landowner. He changed his last name to match the landowner's last name and completed an application claiming to reside with the landowner. Enforcement action is pending further investigation.

JERSEY COUNTY

CPO Michael Goetten was walking private property searching for illegal hunting activity. He discovered a large dead buck suspected to have been shot the firearm deer season. He photographed the buck and maintain GPS coordinates of the location discovered concerned a legal hunter may have been unable to locate and recover the harvest. In the following days, CPO Goetten identified the hunters leasing the property. One of the hunters claimed to have shot a large buck during the first firearm deer season. He was unsuccessful in recovering the buck. He sent CPO Goetten trail camera photographs of the

buck he had shot. CPO Goetten confirmed the trail camera photographs were the same buck discovered. After confirming the hunter was legally firearm deer hunting in Illinois and had harvested no other bucks, CPO Goetten provided the hunter with the location the buck had been discovered and authorized him to tag the buck with his firearm deer permit. The hunter was exceptionally excited with the opportunity to claim his buck.

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

CASS COUNTY

CPO Wahlbrink investigated a hunting without permission complaint in Cass County. CPO Wahlbrink seized four trail cameras and a ground blind on the property at the request of the landowner. A search warrant for the cameras was obtained and executed. The violator was discovered and cited for hunting without permission.

Sgt. Gilmer and CPO Wahlbrink discovered deer parts in a trashcan outside of a residence in Chandlerville. The home owner was interviewed, and a confession was obtained. The owner admitted to taking a deer with a cross bow at Jim Edgar Panther Creek

(JEPC) while his hunting privileges were suspended. He also admitted to stealing two trail cameras and a tripod stand from JEPC. His crossbow and the stolen items were seized, and he was cited for his offenses.

MASON COUNTY

CPO Wahlbrink investigated a theft/hunting without permission complaint in Mason County. The complainant stated someone was hunting without permission on the property and had stolen multiple SD cards from his trail cameras over the past year. The suspect was identified and interviewed. He provided 12 SD cards to CPO Wahlbrink who returned them to the owner and took appropriate enforcement action.

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

EDGAR COUNTY

CPO Hyatt investigated a case of hunter harassment where an individual had been hanging aluminum pie pans on a hunter's deer blind.

MOULTRIE COUNTY

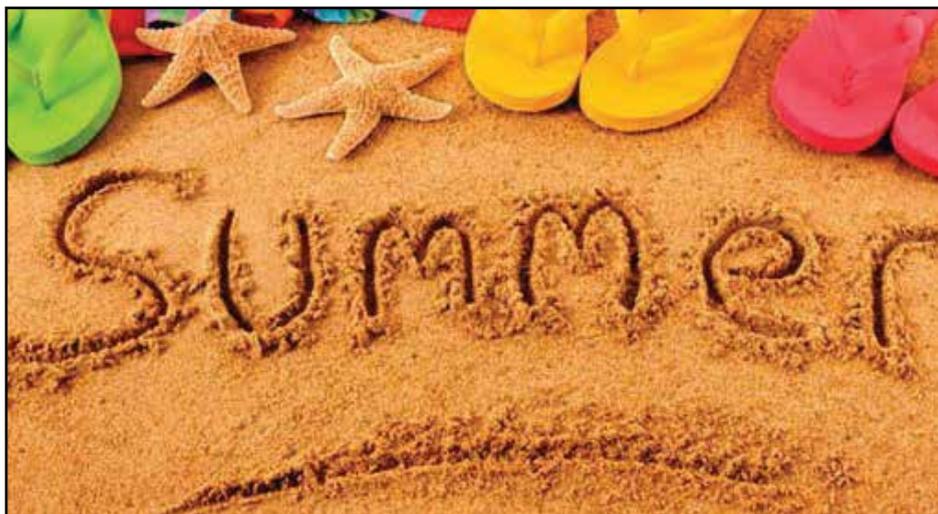
CPO Moody cited a Decatur man on the Wildlife Management Area. The man admitted to killing a six-point buck and a



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ten-point buck on the opening day of the first firearm season and using other people's permits to tag them. The man received citations and multiple warnings.

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

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

CLINTON COUNTY

CPO Macias was on a routine deer enforcement patrol when he came upon a hunter wearing orange flagging him down. The CPO met the hunter on a dirt road that led to a private forested area. The hunter told the CPO that there were trespassers on his land at the moment and he needed assistance. The CPO followed the well worn tracks on the dirt road; he came upon a four-door sedan that was stuck in the mud. Inside were two females asleep and covered up with a blanket. The CPO awoke them from their slumber and had them step outside, they were obviously not hunters but they admitted to trespassing and getting lost the night before. When asked why they did not call a friend or 911 they said because they do not have a phone. The CPO noticed two different license plates on the vehicle; the plates came back to two different vehicles. A check in the police database of the two women revealed they each had separate arrest warrants in the county. Both women received several citations to include driving while suspended, trespassing, registration violations, and no insurance.

MONROE COUNTY

CPO Schachner was foot patrolling a block of timber the day prior to gun deer season when he heard a gunshot. CPO Schachner located a poacher deer hunting with a scoped shotgun loaded with deer slugs. Additional searching revealed a second poacher just shot an 8-point buck with a scoped 30.06 rifle on property he did not have permission to hunt. They were also hunting with the aid of bait and one poacher did not have a hunting license nor habitat stamp. One poacher received four warnings and 3 tickets for gun deer hunting out of season and baiting deer and possession of freshly killed deer during closed season. The other poacher was cited for gun deer hunting out of season and hunting with aid of bait, and a warning. Both firearms were seized, the deer was seized and donated to charity and 3 salt blocks and 15 gallons of corn were seized/disposed.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

CPO Buhnerkempe received an anonymous tip about an unlawfully taken 10-point buck killed near Irvington, IL. An investigation of the tip resulted in further intelligence leading to probable cause for search warrants. Search warrants were obtained on December 4, 2019 and the warrants were executed at approximately 4:45PM that day. Six CPOs carried out the warrant execution with assistance from the Washington County Sheriff's Department and Irvington Police Department. The search warrants resulted in the discovery of the 10-point buck as well as 4 additional unlawfully taken bucks located on the property. The 10-point buck was located whole and not field dressed. All the

meat from the deer was spoiled and rotting. An unlawfully possessed bobcat was located in a freezer in an outbuilding. In addition to the wildlife offenses, CPOs also located numerous methamphetamine pipes and evidence of meth distribution. Two firearms and large quantities of various calibers of ammunition were located and seized due to the subjects revoked FOID status. A GMC Denali SUV, crossbow, and numerous trail cameras were also seized. A total of 63 items of evidence were documented and seized from the property. The subject has been charged with multiple felony wildlife, drug, and weapon offenses in addition to numerous misdemeanor wildlife offenses. This investigation is still ongoing and additional charges may be added at a later date.

District 14 – Sgt. Jeff Cariens (Counties: Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Pope, Saline & White)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CPO Williams and CPOT Alvarez-Gerbino checked a pheasant hunter returning to his vehicle at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. The hunter had been the subject of complaints

regarding taking too many pheasants during the controlled pheasant hunts. The hunter had 3 pheasants, (limit 2) in his game bag and a fourth concealed under the front bumper of their truck. The pheasants were seized and a citation issued.

CPOs Folden, Williams and CPOT Alvarez-Gerbino worked a fishing boat suspected of catching over the legal limit of crappie at Rend Lake. Upon return to shore it was found the 3 fishermen had taken 43 fish over 10" and a total of 73 fish, with an additional 15 "given away" on the water, bringing the total catch to 88. Citations were issued to each of the fishermen. CPO Folden issued citations to three fishermen for unlawfully taking over limits of crappie on Rend Lake. All of the fishermen unlawfully took too many fish greater than 10."

JEFFERSON COUNTY

CPO Jourdan cited a South Carolina resident for killing an 8-point buck with a valid deer permit. The man said the deer was taken with a bow. After examining the wound, it was discovered the deer was shot with a 20-gauge shotgun.



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CPO Jourdan encountered numerous Waterfowl violations at Rend Lake. Those included unlawful take over the daily limit of Hen Mallards, possession of lead shot shells, unlawful gifting of Waterfowl in the field, and no valid hunting license.

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

CLAY COUNTY

CPO Smith recently walked a wooded area and found a mineral block of bait. CPO Smith drove by the wooded area several times and did not observe any vehicles there. On the 3rd day of the 2nd firearm season, CPO Smith observed a vehicle sitting at the entrance to the property. CPO Smith walked into the property a few hundred yards and observed a hunter sitting in a tree stand. CPO Smith identified himself to the hunter and told him to come down, and continued walking to the bait spot where he observed another hunter hunting within 20 yards of the bait. CPO Smith checked both hunter's credentials. CPO Smith explained to them that the entire area is baited and cannot be hunted until 10 days after bait removed. CPO Smith issued one citation to each hunter for hunting deer over bait, one citation to one hunter for feeding deer, and a WW for failing to complete deer permit. CPO Smith conducted a follow up investigation of a dove hunting complaint that occurred October 4, 2019. The original complaint was not forwarded to CPO Smith

until recently. On October 4, a dove hunter was witnessed by complainant shoot a dove off a high line in the middle of town. CPO Smith interviewed the suspect and was able to determine through confession that the allegations were true. CPO Smith issued 1 citation for shooting a firearm along/across the roadway, 1 citation for hunting without permission, and 2 WW for hunting on the roadway and shooting less than 100 yards away from a dwelling.

FAYETTE COUNTY

CPO Roper was conducting a nighttime wildlife patrol when he observed a vehicle use its headlights to attempt to shine deer. CPO Roper followed the vehicle and observed it use its headlights to shine deer another time. CPO Roper conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was found to have a loaded uncased muzzleloader in the passenger seat of the truck, and a loaded uncased shotgun in the back seat of the truck. CPO Roper placed the driver under arrest and transported him to the Fayette County Jail. The driver was issued 4 citations and 1 warning.

CPO Roper was on patrol in Fayette County when he observed a vehicle parked in a wooded area. CPO Roper heard two shots while checking the vehicle. CPO Observed a hunter begin looking for a deer. CPO Roper Initiated a hunter compliance check on the hunter at this time. CPO Roper discovered the hunter did not possess a valid hunting license, the hunter did not have his deer permits on his person, his deer permits were unsigned, and the hunter did not possess an FOID card. CPO Issued the hunter

one citation, and two written warnings. CPO Roper transferred the firearm for the individual and released it to an individual with a valid FOID card.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

CPO Taylor observed 3 hunters riding a UTV on a roadway during shotgun deer season with no blaze orange and 3 untagged deer in the bed of the UTV one subject admitted to killing the 3 deer. Multiple Citations were issued to the subject that killed the deer and the other 2 hunters received citations for not wearing blaze orange during shotgun deer season and the 3 deer were seized and the meat was donated

WABASH COUNTY

CPO Taylor received a complaint from site superintendent of Beal Wood SP that two men were digging ginseng on the park. CPO Taylor contacted two subjects and each subject was issued two citations a piece for trespass to harvest ginseng and destruction of vegetation in a nature preserve.

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

JACKSON COUNTY

CPO Lewis issued two citations for unlawful possession of a rifle during the firearm deer season. The subjects were shooting at targets with their .556 rifles. They did not have a safe back stop behind their targets and hunters in the adjacent Kinkaid State Fish and Wildlife Area were complaining of bullets ricocheting by them.

JOHNSON COUNTY

While on patrol in Johnson County, CPOs

Teas and Johnson pulled in a deer camp and located an untagged deer rack on the ground and an untagged deer head in the back of a truck. The owner of the property was later located on an ATV and was discovered to have been hunting without blaze orange. The subject admitting to killing the deer located in the back of the truck during archery season but never tagging it or checking it in. He stated he had found the other set of antlers dead during first season. The subject was issued three citations, two warnings, and both sets of antlers were seized.

PERRY COUNTY

CPO Lewis investigated a complaint of a man shooting at a deer with a firearm the day following the first firearm season. CPO Lewis located the subject who was in possession of a .243 caliber rifle. He denied shooting at the deer, but he had shot at a crow that was in a nearby tree. The shooter also confessed to being a convicted felon and added that he knew he was not supposed to be in possession of a firearm. CPO Lewis arrested and transported the suspect to the Perry County Jail. He was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, attempting to take a migratory game bird with a rifle, and hunting without permission.

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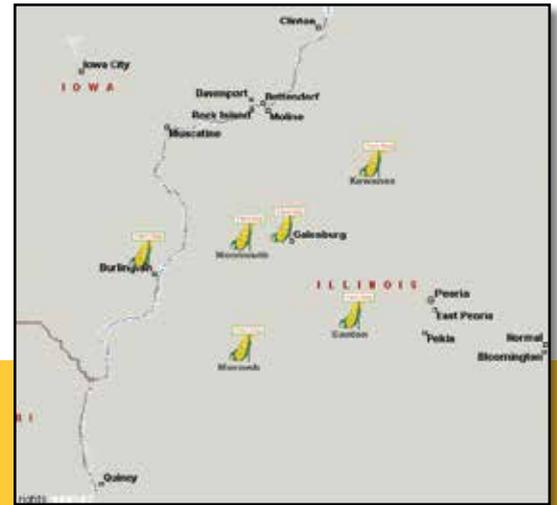
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EVEN A SHOTGUN SHOULD SHOOT STRAIGHT

Shooters probably believe factories strive for accuracy in rifles produced and the same reasoning extends to shotguns, but most shooters take on faith for shotguns but rifles are verified on paper. Evidently the makers take advantage and neglect precision alignment of shotgun barrels and choke tubes, just because some shooters deduce that having spread to the pattern negates testing point of impact. There are secondary aspects that will be discussed involving shortcomings that can be improved with a sighting aid.

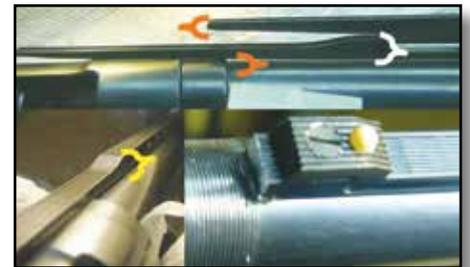
The goal here of improving choke alignment started over 35 years ago

from the amazingly bad example of a barrel hitting 11" high at 19 yards for the shooter i.e. basically two feet high at 40 yards for a duck gun. The shooter had been struggling with his new barrel/shell combination since steel shot use had just become mandatory in the Midwest flyway zone. Even with such miserable luck he failed to realize the factory error until he had the wrong bird fall from a flock, the clue it was not him losing ability to shoot on target. He stated he couldn't believe that his favorite gunmaker produced a bad barrel, so any failure and season of discouragement was all on him up to that moment.

Precision machining is presumed in a manufacturing environment of modern choke installations, though it does take more effort to later fix typical misalignment by gunsmithing. For the shooter that seeks improved results, correcting alignment error requires cutting off the sloppy installation to install a precision choke hole. Reworking the existing choke hole is normally not feasible due to the barrel wall having insufficient room to allow enlarging to an alternative choke style, if even available, and most likely any chokes used for that situation would be strictly custom made. Some factory barrels have sufficient material to have the same pattern choke installed when cut off, but there are barrels externally tapered to reduce weight behind the larger diameter section for the choke hole. Those barrels may be insufficient for identical replacement when cut, but can have an alternate custom hole.

Other situations can occur to cause shotgun point of impact to not be in the desired location for the shooting situation. For instance, plenty of hunting and target shooting can

benefit from higher impact, such as in TRAP shooting with rising targets and shooters using a lofted shot, and similarly beneficial in hunting birds that flush in a rising motion before veering away in a horizontal bearing. Using a gun that shoots low or even 50/50 can prove to be frustrating in such conditions. Plain or non-ribbed barrels can have slight adjustment by curving the barrel with an induced gradual bend to correct the impact. Ribbed barrels can sometimes be adjusted up with a bit of bend, but the type of rib determines the method or adjustment alternatives: changing the face position on the stock or altering the bead location and height are the most common.



Here are several views combined to illustrate those points. The top image

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has 2 ribs set atop a frame and barrel, with the orange brackets showing the height is close on the back of the top rib (#1) and the barrel drop from the frame (#2). The white bracket shows the higher raised section near the end of the ramp on the second rib, also seen at the yellow bracket just below in an angled view. This raised section adjusts eye alignment and is more eye-catching than a straight slope when compared to the top rib. If the maximum height is the same on both ribs, if shifted rear on the stepped rib it makes a higher rear sight (that is the shooter's eye) position for influencing point of impact. Going the other way with the last image, the taller front sight at the rib end will lower impact compared to a short bead in the same location by dropping the front when the sight picture is achieved.

Installations of the earliest choke devices like the Poly-choke and CUTTS have been done for nearly a century, and with those items being larger than the barrel (most single barrels had no rib in those early days) the shooter sighting over the device had the impact pointing down compared to the original barrel

orientation. Curving the barrel slightly upward at the front portion was done to remedy the offset, and slight tweaking could move any direction error to center as close as practical for the desired impact. Truly amazing to find out how much better the outcome can be when the gun hits where the shooter prefers that it points.

Attachable sighting devices on shotguns meant to improve hit probability started from simple and adjustable rifle style sights to a before-it's-time head-up sight called the Nydar, later refined to modern red-dot designs such as an early version called the Weaver Quik-Point to the latest Burris Fastfire. As long as the barrel and choking device are fairly well aligned, an adjustable and improved sighting device may make results even more consistent. If a choke alignment is offset, the pattern will be degraded by additional damage to one side of the lead shot column from hit interference, and steel shot (etc.) patterns can be similarly affected.

If there is a situation that requires a sighting aid, where to mount is determined best by certain factors such as is the barrel a solid

mount or interchangeable, the eye relief (if relevant) for an optical device, and options for removing/attaching without altering the zero. An interchangeable barrel set might have the sight attached to one barrel and remain fixed and aligned with barrel change instead of removing the sight from a mount attached to the frame independent of the barrel, especially if there is some incidental movement possible on the barrel/frame alignment while assembled. This can be checked by manual manipulation to ascertain if likely to cause significant error. The situation where it is most likely to make an unwelcome level of difference is with longer range slug shooting, not with any normal shot pattern use.

When mounting a sighting device or aid, the position above the bore line should be considered. See-thru scope rings (seen on many deer rifles) create an artificially high scope position (coupled with limited access iron sights) requiring a raised-head position to use the primary sight, the scope. That will never provide the fast

and most consistent eye alignment compared to a more conventional scope position on top of the frame with normal height rings, so attend to practical details at least as much as the "what-if" possibilities, and then make the best choice for your situation.



Here we can see the practical outcome of adjusting the impact on the barrel with the block front sight seen previously. The impact was high with the rib in place (high rear sight) and a short front sight, so downward adjustment at the front (raising the front sight) could accomplish what was desired, and it might be worthy to note that there are alternatives to change the front sight height even more, if necessary. The shots are from different distances so that's why the first is a bit torn; the other is from almost twice the distance.

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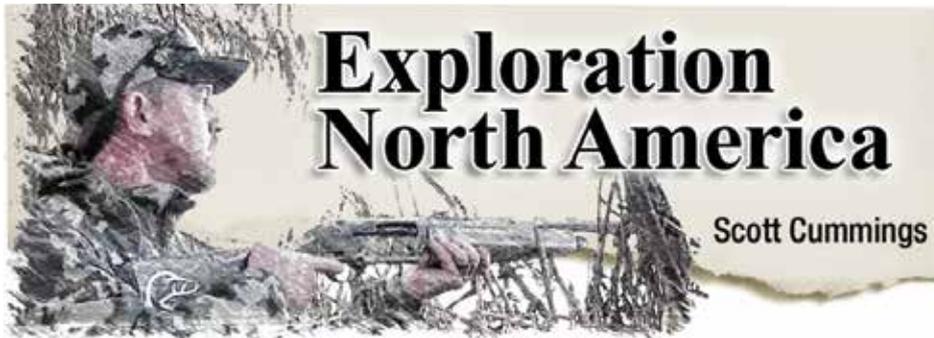
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THE WINKELMAN WAY

Two Rockford city kids finding their way into the country, the Winkelman's marriage to dogs is almost as long as their relationship itself. A sportsman himself, Joe grew up around hunting dogs and admired his uncle's sought-after plot hounds for their ability to tree animals down around Salem, Illinois. Daisy can't remember a time she didn't have a passion for pups.

In the early 1990's they acquired a Golden Retriever and later a German Shorthaired Pointer. It wasn't long until others wanted a shot at purchasing one of their good-looking pups. And while Joe was still a full-time mechanic, the breeding business

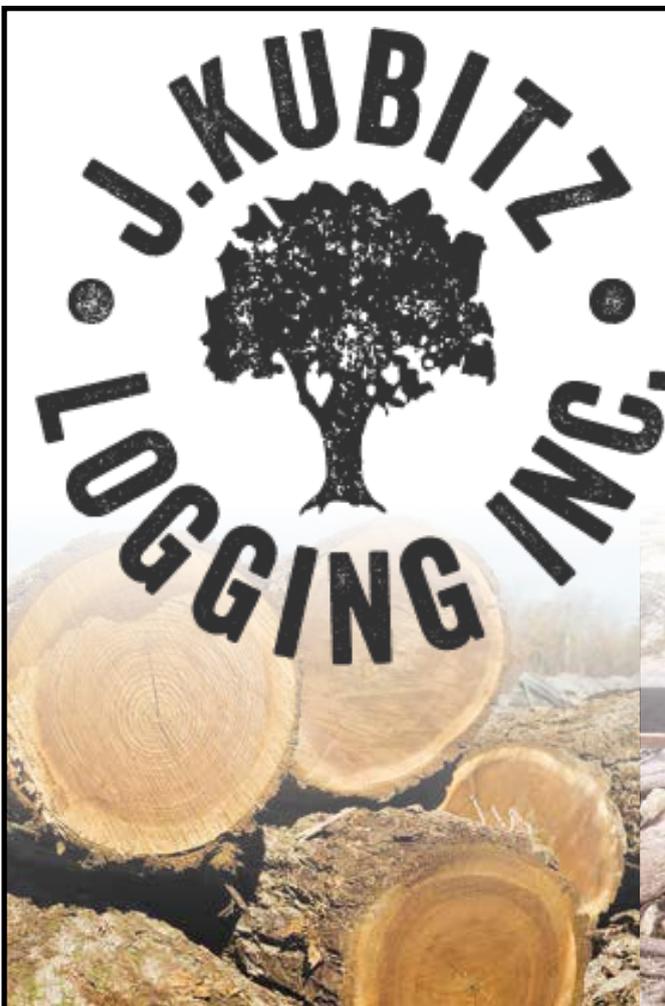
evolved. Winkelman's Gun Dogs now has a thirty-year history.

Joe finally retired from auto repair in 2018 to focus solely on breeding and training. All along, his wife Daisy had the stamina for everyday dog care and handling all calls and customers. "It's a chore to keep up but there's no other place I'd rather be," she tells me. "Two of our three kids work for us and one is a Vet-tech so that really helps."

Today they raise Brittany Spaniels, Golden Retrievers, Labradors, and Vizslas. But German Shorthaired Pointers are their calling card with full German and American mix pedigrees in white, roan and liver, and liver and white ticked



Winkelman's Gun Dogs owners Joe and Daisy Winkelman with prized sire Nitro.



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colorings. Not as common, I even saw a black GSP kenneled. "As our breeding evolved so did folk's desires for color variations. We try to offer a nice selection," says Joe.

A seasoned hunter, I've never owned a gun dog. So, a five-hour drive from Fort Wayne, Indiana seemed worth it when making an investment of this nature. I selected my 'started' GSP pup, Stohon (named in honor of my late mother's maiden name), from a combined two litters of playful rascals. He was 16 weeks at the time.

Joe guided me on what to look for as we put him through some basic training and retrieving commands. "Stohon's confident yet affectionate demeanor are trademarks of his champion-bred parents, sire "Nitro" Running Wild and dam Roll Tide "Kelly". The list of accolades is long so don't be fooled by the puppy play," assures Winkelman. "I can tell he'll flip the switch when he's in the field, just like his daddy."

Some of the AKC titles in Nitro's bloodlines include: Dual Champion (DC), National Gun Dog Champion (NGDC), Field Champion (FC), Amateur Field Champion (AFC), and Nation Amateur Field Champion (NAFC). "Nitro gets compliments every event we take him too. He's a strong competitor and even better hunter in the field," Joe grins.

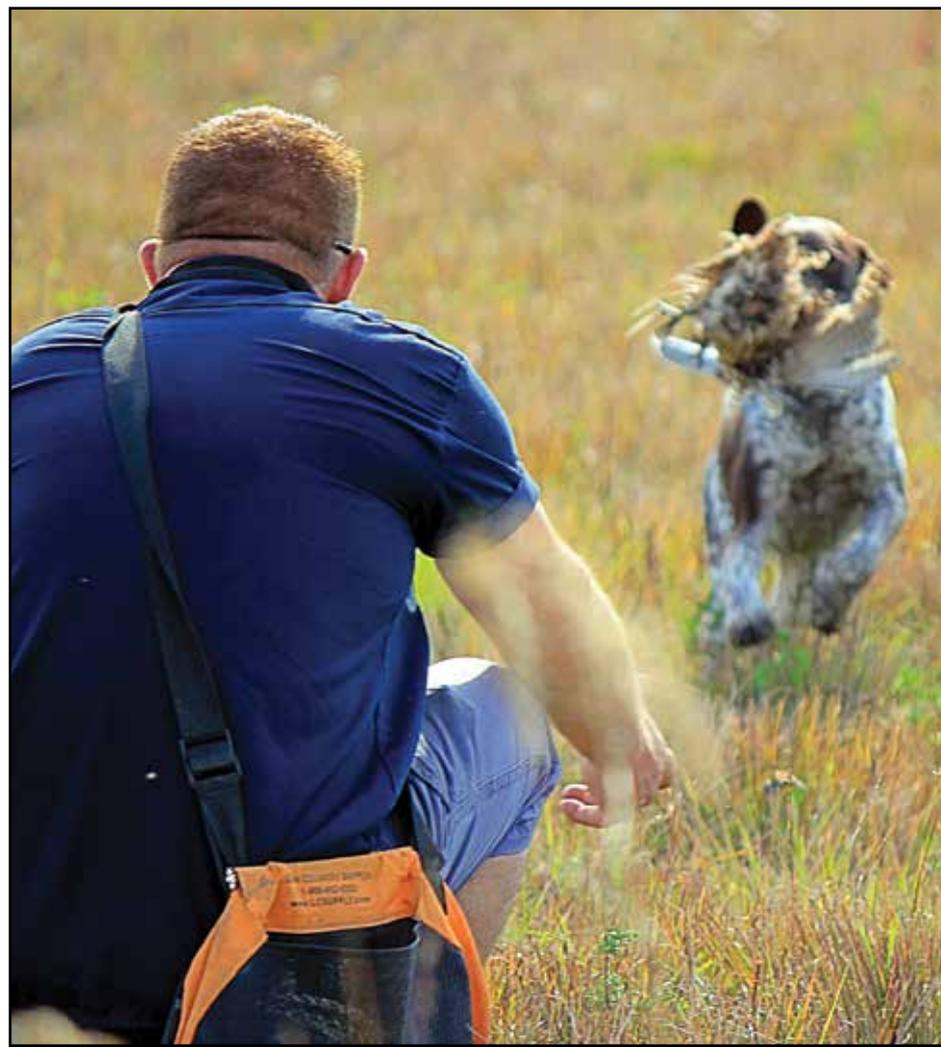
5 Reasons the Winkelman Way Pays Off:

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4. **Nutrition and Vet Care** are key considerations in selecting a healthy pup. Winkelmans only use quality feed and treats and all their breeds will pass the vet checklists for deworming and all necessary shots. A 12-month health guarantee will assure you made the right choice.

5 **Veteran Trainer** Joe Winkelman understands how to train his dogs in relation to their breed and maturity timelines. He can also have your dog 'finished' or 'hunt-ready' for an additional fee.

As an outdoors writer, I owe my readership a fair story backed by trustworthy facts. After all, this is an investment. I did my research on many breeders before giving them a call and I am not disappointed. In upcoming articles, I plan to update you with Stohon's progress as he matures and trains to be the upland champ he was bred to be. Stay tuned, and if you're thinking about venturing down the gun dog path reach out to me, or better yet **Daisy Winkelman in Rockford, Illinois at 815-871-8687. winkelmansgundogs.com**.

Scott Cummings is an avid sportsman, educator, and nationally published freelance outdoors writer and photographer. National Wild Turkey Federation and Wildlife Forever named him their 2013, 2014 Conservation Educator of the Year for his work in and out of the classroom.



Joe works year-round training 'started' and 'finished' gun dogs.



Sired by Nitro, Stohon Roan is a welcomed addition to the ASO author's household



BAI NEWS

by Ed DeVries

WHAT A WAY TO START THE SEASON!

Like everything else our states shutdown orders have caused many changes to the BAI schedule. All March, April, May and June shoots had to be cancelled due to the 10-person limit. In addition, many of the IDNR parks and boat ramps have been closed making access limited.

We will reschedule as soon as we can and hope to have some

events yet in 2020. But until then we still have many fun activities and contests for all bowfishers to enjoy! Check out Bowfishing Association Of Illinois Facebook group and public pages for information. Here are a few online and virtual activities we offer!

BAI YOUTH BOWFISHER OF THE YEAR

Post up vids of the kids weighing their fish and post them to our page to see who will be the 2020 Youth Bowfisher of the Year! We will have some great prizes for the kids and some nice awards as well. BAI Officer Jason Suchomski runs the contest and



can be reached thru our page if you have any questions.

BAI OFFICERS BOWFISHER OF THE YEAR

2020 will be our 14th year running the online Bowfisher of the Year contest and this year's prize is a complete bowfishing set up. We already have quite a few entries but there is still plenty of time to become the Bowfisher of 2020!



Contact Mike Faller thru our pages for more info or email baibowfishing@yahoo.com.

BAI'S INNERLOC INVASIVE NUMBERS COMPETITION

Our monthly invasive numbers competition is a hit with all bowfishers! Take a pic of your invasive species and enter them on our page. Mike Faller does a great job keeping track of each participants entries running



Kevin Dougherty caught this 29 inch 9lb 4oz walleye on 4lb test line and an ultra light rod with a 1/32 oz jig on Roger Mann's Lake in Fulton County. Thanks for sharing with ASO Magazine.



Bill Pascal with a 12lb Northern Pike caught in Fulton County. Thanks to Roger Mann for sharing this great photo.



the contest. The winner each month will get a complete Innerloc grappler arrow AND we have a drawing for all participants each month for other great prizes.

BAI VIRTUAL SHOOTS

Unfortunately, we can't get together, but we can still enjoy some fun competitions virtually! Participants go live on Facebook as they weigh their fish taken on each shoot date. All entry fees are paid thru PayPal and are paid out 100% thru paypal to the winners. No, it is not the same as getting together for a shoot and food but until restrictions are lifted it's all we have. So have some fun with the BAI!

MAY BOWFISHING REPORTS

Bowfishing has really picked up over the past couple weeks, especially in southern Illinois. The Crider Crew has been slamming good sizes Asian carp and taken some excellent grass carp in flooded areas off the rivers.

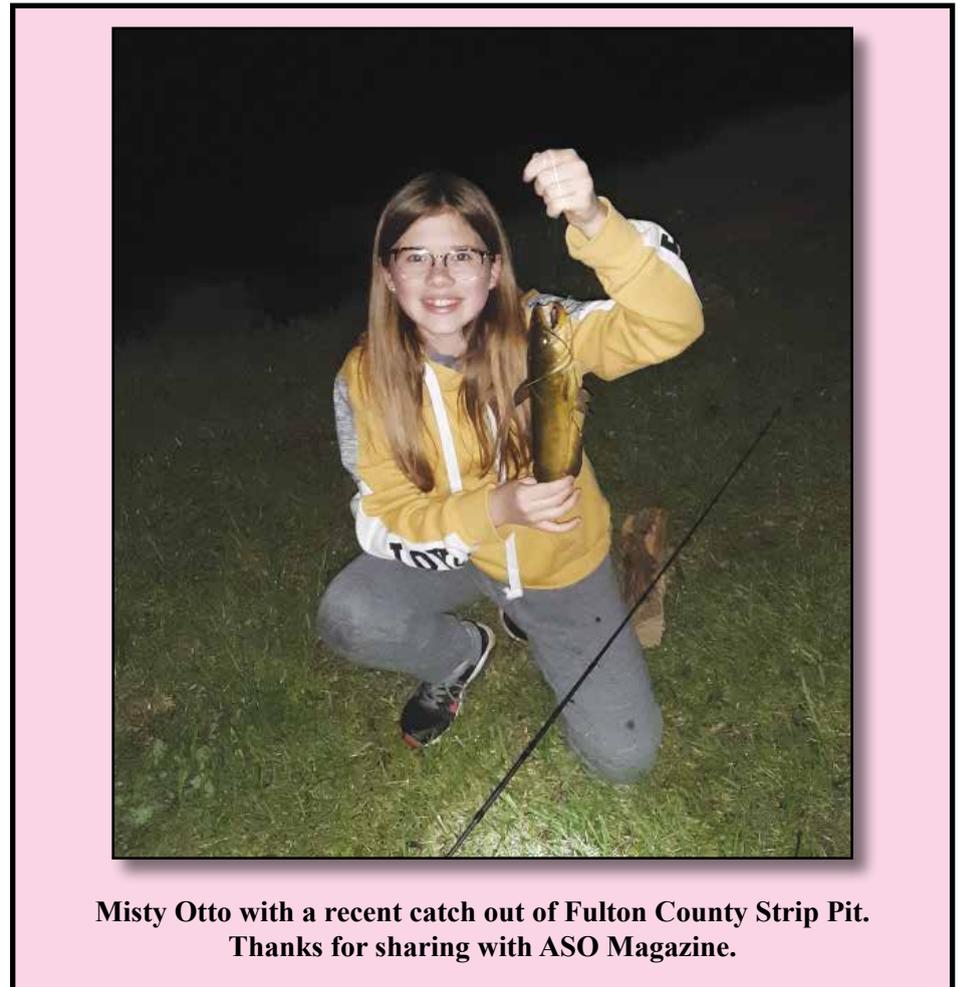
Pat Frisbie and son Landon have been putting a hurtin on the gar and big congratulations to Landon on his new personal best longnose. Landon took the fish while shore bowfishing and it weighed 19lbs 3oz. Tyler Bahan and Evan Fries have been doing pretty in central Illinois but again, night bowfishing is restricted in

many central Illinois lakes including Clinton. Our May cold snap really slowed the bowfishing mid-month, but before its passing some nice silvers and grass carp were being taken. Ryan Aichele and Trustan Justice have been

single handedly removing all invasive common carp from the DesPlaines River and have won the Invasive Numbers Competition in April and May. The Desplaines has been very good all winter with some real big carp being removed and recently bigheads are being taken.

That's about it for this month!

Stay healthy everyone but get out and BOWFISH! The outdoors is safe and a great place to forget about what is going on in our state for a while. There is no better stress reliever than watching a sunrise while sticking a few fish. Better days are coming both on the water and in the world so be positive and see you next month!



Misty Otto with a recent catch out of Fulton County Strip Pit. Thanks for sharing with ASO Magazine.

JOHN DEERE

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TO KNOW ME BETTER

by Dan Gapen, Sr.

To know the man Dan Gapen, Sr. better (the top river angler) Adventure Sports Outdoors would like you, our reader, to read this Foreword out of his latest book, "A WILDERNESS LIFE as I LIVED IT." This writing best describes who Dan is and where his heart is.

The Editor

FOREWORD

DEVASTATION OF OUR LAND, some will say. **PROGRESS**, others will retort. No matter what it's called, this destruction of our environment and dissipation of native races is a fact...a happening occurring in our day and time...a product of the 21st century. The far north, considered by many to contain Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories of Canada, is slowly but surely being stripped of its wilderness aura.

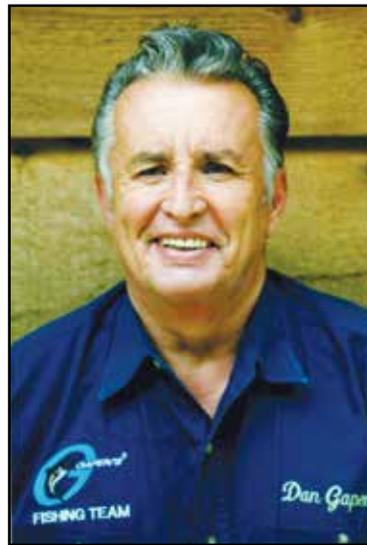
To those who have never known the lonesome awe that befalls a body when looking out across miles of Arctic tundra from high atop a sand esker, it matters little. One cannot imagine the puny minuteness a person feels in this vast and awesome wilderness. To those of us who have been privileged to encounter such an experience, it shall never fade until our time on earth passes. Only one such enrichment regarding where man's place in nature is meant to be, governs his outlook on life all the rest of one's days.

Many class the northern Rockies, bushland of Ontario, canoe country of Minnesota, or the vast regions of

Canada's prairie provinces their northern goal. Far northern oil and mineral exploration in Canada's Northwest Territories is often too far away to matter...so far away it doesn't seem this destruction will affect anything.

Not so!

It does matter! It matters greatly. Man's right to exist in the fashion he has become accustomed to over the past decades is on the line. The sub-Arctic and Arctic are North America's last remaining pure wilderness areas. But, alas, this land's virginity is slowly being ruptured by greedy oilmen in whirling helicopters and land-



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coveting mineral experts with their onslaught of devastating machinery. As you read these lines, "the happening" is in full tilt...towards destruction of our land resources, the likes of which man has never seen. Once complete these resources will have vanished forever.

As a writer, I'm reminded of a statement my dear friend, Ernie Leuenberger of Nakina, Ontario, once said as the two of us waited patiently for the easterly wind-driven fog off James Bay to lift.

"Dan, we are seeing this land as the Indians long ago saw it. We will never

see it quite this way again. Progress is upon us...the land is changing ... and not for the good ... not good for the land or its native people."

At that moment, a family of snow geese appeared and disappeared through the white mass a few yards above our heads. They were working south, their jabbering following long after their disappearance. The geese's intrusion into Ernie's comments seemed fitting.

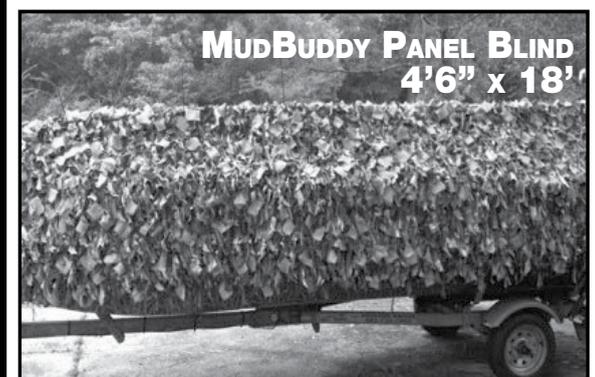
In the north, a generation of native people have seen an eon of lifestyle vanish. So complete has the intrusion of white man's ways and comforts been

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that complete races of native people are not more.

Yes, the Inuit are gone. Their crossbows never again will be drawn against the swift, sure-footed barrenland caribou. Their stone tent rings are now curiosity objects for those passing through.

In 1956 Canadian government officials saw fit to move the remaining twenty-nine survivors of this race to a presumably better life along the Hudson Bay's west coast. It is estimated that these native people numbered nearly 5,000 in the early 1900's. The move was made for humanitarian purposes, we were told.

Today the coastal Eskimos are grouped together in tacky, squat housing, now exposed to all the ill winds that blow from their protector, the white man. Huddled and isolated away from their natural environment, these Eskimos have efficiently been maneuvered into a "die-off" dead end. Captivated by materialism and influenced by greed, this race is slowly fading away. The trappings of modern society are taking their toll. The coastal Eskimo will soon be no more, his ivory walrus spear a part of history ... his sealskin canoe and dogsled

replaced by four-wheeled dune buggies and computer games. Prognosis ... extinction!

Like all endangered species, tribes of the far north are slowly disappearing. Their disappearance comes from similar reasons ... habitat restriction, pollution, exploitation of natural resources, and man's inevitable need to fulfill his greedy desire for lust of money and power.

Some will say that loss of certain humanculturesisbutatransitionofevents in evolution and history of a creature called Homosapiens. Such reasoning may be true and understandable, but with the disappearance of each culture, a bit of our earth's environment dies ... and with this loss of environment, a bit of our outdoor life disappears.

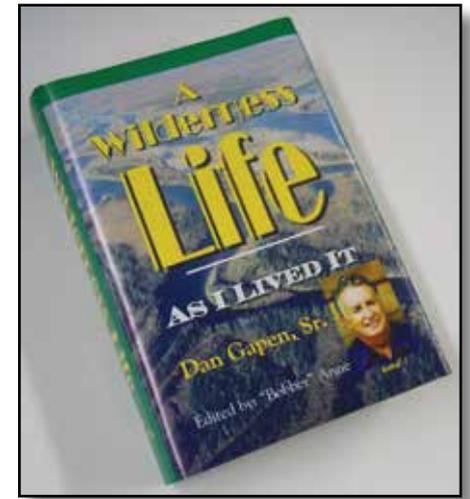
You may ask, "Why?"

The answer is simple. When man forces native tribes from their land for any reason, the breakdown of their culture begins. It can be as simple as the introduction of religion or the working of trade goods. Whatever the method, the end results are the transmission of greed in the form of development. This development can be the penetration of roads into the bush county, the mining of ore, drilling for petroleum or the

harvesting of timber. Great sums of money, are the end result of such moves.

Having moved resistance from the land, these rapers are then able to do with the land what they will. This is the answer to the question of why a loss of environment and outdoor life occurs. Whenever modern man disturbs nature via any of these actions, the environment is changed. With the coming of the development, human population encroachment begins and seldom stops until the resource is consumed. This reaction causes the loss of water, woods, and natural species. In turn, fishing, hunting and outdoor experiences fade in quality and meaning. Such happenings can be compared to the growth of cancer cells in the human body. Once started, they rapidly eat up the good tissue around them. The same can be said of our wilderness once the cells of man's greed begin, it will envelope all.

There is one irony to this happening that seldom is brought out. As destruction of our wilderness places occurs, the length of time needed generally spans number of years. In so doing, a generation or two of people are encompassed in the process. Results in thought pattern, for those considering



damages done, is likewise lengthened out and often weakened. Thus the results of encroachment are easily justified. Those willing to fight the onslaught of man's creeping greed upon the land generally end in frustration and failure. Too strong are the men who wish to covet the land. Money is power. By the time twenty years pass, new faces take the place of those who came before and what was once wilderness without man now becomes a wilderness with man. The new generation, having never seen the old, thinks what it has before them is normal. Alas ... deterioration has set in. Time and thoughtless men are

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To Know Me Better ... cont.

now the custodians of our native land's erosion.

This writer made his last trek into Canada's wilderness Northwest Territories in 2010 prior to this book's publication. It was just one of the many over the prior forty years. It was the most startling of all. So great was the change, that there were times when my stomach rebelled at some sights. Hundreds of aircraft skittered hither and yon across the tundra ... their purpose not definable by their actions. Colorful camps dotted the shoreline along many of the area's deep, crystal green lakes. Here, mineral and petroleum base camps had been set up. Tin cans, cigarette wrappers, old shoes, and bits of plastic were found periodically scattered about the land, a true sign that man had come. Not a man who cared, but one who had come to rape this land of its riches. In so doing, native habitat would suffer and the wilderness would begin to crumble. That chain reaction, so often seen in other places and other lands, had begun.

For those who wish only to know the status of fishing, the report is

excellent. Fisheries throughout river basins of Northwest Territories had not suffered a bit. That, however, will take time ... possibly a period of fifty years or less. With a short summer season, crowded with mosquitoes and black flies, advancement of man will be slightly curtailed, but considering the delicate nature of the Arctic land, we may see deterioration not come at a faster rate than in other places.

I have observed that a snowmobile that rides the Arctic moss, during the first snows of fall, leaves a track for years hence. Destruction of the tundra mosses is easily done and regrowth takes years in coming. If such a fact is true, it is inconceivable what the ripping gouge of a bulldozer will do to such a delicate land.

Yes, the fishing is good and will continue to be so for at least a generation of time. Fish growth is extremely slow in Arctic waters. A twenty-pound lake trout is often forty years old or more. The tundra is big, so big that even man will be hard pressed to covet its entirety in the near future. But, it has started, and unless men with far-ranging thinking come to power, this land will disappear to pollution, development, and the demand

for energy needs. It is this result which will see the loss of fishing.

If it is the intent of you, my reader, to venture forth into Arctic rivers in pursuit of the vast numbers of fishes, do so with the future of this land at stake. Each and every one of you can contribute to its salvation. Though your act seems small, your contribution, when joined by others may be big. Your help could be an act that causes the extension of this area's wilderness fishery ... an extension that could someday see your great-grandchild fishing the graveled banks of the mighty Thelon River.

Release of forty-year-old fish, collection of all garbage, use of barbless hooks, refraining from burning three-foot, one-hundred-year-old trees, and a general regard for the land and water are required by the intruder. This land is a gift to treasure, not to misuse. Give it the respect it deserves. To follow such rules will gladden the heart and continue this land's very life.

It is as my friend once said, "We will never see it quite this way ever again."

That may be true. Intent in this foreword is to make my readers astutely aware of the critical position much of our wilderness land now lies in. It is not,

however, meant to bring complete loss of hope regarding these lands. There is a chance that we and generations to come can turn such wrongdoing around and preserve these lands.

Greed and power may be progress, but they fail to bring many the peace of mind so badly needed in a world where war is a constant way of life and polluting corporations wreak hell on our natural world. Only the peaceful recluse of a wild land such as the northern tundra can sooth this ill. If we should lose these lands, surely man will become more maddened than he already is. For our own preservation such native wilderness must be preserved.

So, my fellow man, go forward, read my manuscript, take my advice, heed my words. In this book is the world I came from, the world I love, and the world that has brought me full circle in this thing called "LIFE."

If you are further interested: To obtain a copy of Dan's latest 700-plus page manuscript go to Gapen's website www.gapen.com or call toll free at 877-623-2099 or send \$35.00 to Dan Gapen Sr. at 17910 - 87th Ave, Becker, MN., 55308.



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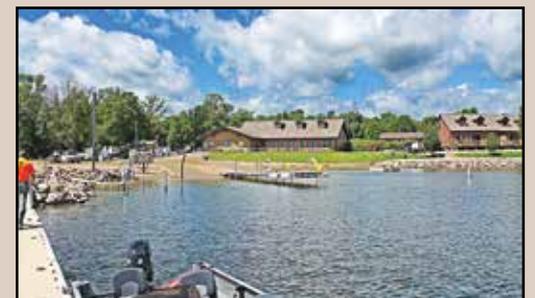


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RECORD NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE DISCOVERING FISHING

Forestville, WI - Something very strange is happening across the country involving teens and fishing. Though some speculate it may be a result of COVID-19, or perhaps distance learning about angling education, or possibly even Saturday morning television shows about teens catching fish, one thing is clear... today's teens are suddenly going fishing in record-breaking numbers.

For instance, in one week, the Minnesota DNR sold a record 13,369 fishing licenses into resident teens 16 and 17 years old. Compared to sluggish historic growth, that's 99% higher than a year ago for the same period. And it appears that these teens may well be driving up angling numbers across the board. In fact, Minnesota fishing license sales overall shot up 44% to 362,000. That's 110,000 more fishing licenses sold this spring than over the same period in 2019.

Perhaps Minnesota is simply an odd blip and angling statistics radar? It doesn't appear so. The trend is spreading nationally. In Vermont, fishing license sales have soared 62%. In nearby Wisconsin, sales are up 29%. In South Carolina, sales of resident freshwater licenses have risen by 20%. And in Kansas, license sales are up about 15%. Tennessee so far has sold 697,418 hunting-fishing licenses this year...an increase

of more than 100,000 from 2019. In some places the reopening of fishing from COVID-19 restrictions impacted sales. For instance, after Gov. Jay Inslee announced a partial reopening of activities including fishing on April 27, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reported \$300,000 of fishing license sales in a single day.

"It's likely a combination of things that have never occurred before at the same time", says Pat Neu, President of the Future Angler Foundation (FAF). "A lot of local, regional and national programs have been targeted at getting kids fishing in recent years. Maybe the influences of COVID-19 created a tipping point that finally caused teens to grab fishing gear and hit the water this spring. What's even more amazing is the increases we are seeing are not even counting kids younger than 16 who don't need a license in most states. New distance learning and television shows are likely part of the mix too. Here in Wisconsin, Getting Families Fishing television shows blanket the state on a dozen stations, and nationally the distribution network for the series can reach into over 150 million homes across the country, including numerous PBS stations. Add to the mix the growth of distance learning during this pandemic and it's not surprising that we are experiencing a number of things that have never



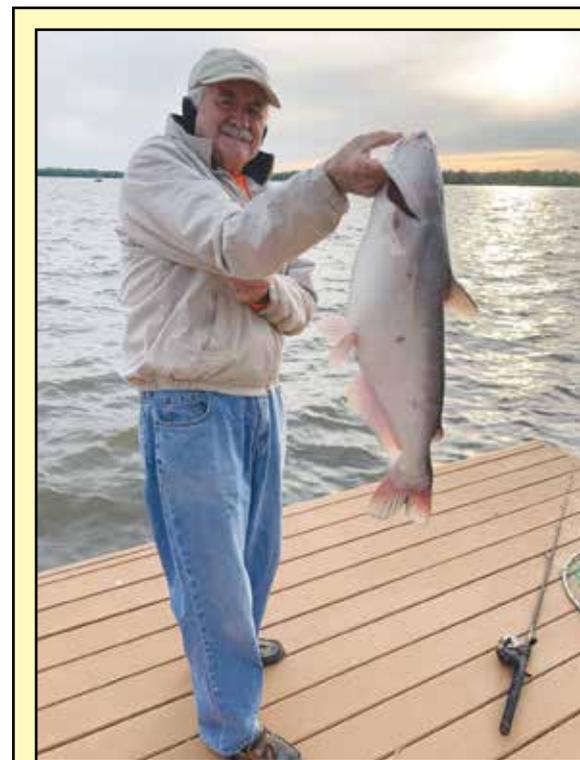
occurred before at the same time... some bad like COVID, some good like all these teens discovering fishing."

The FAF's digital production partner "Into the Outdoors" Education Network is seeing tremendous growth in their viewership metrics for the "Getting Families Fishing" (GFF) Series they produced in conjunction with the FAF over the past two years. Dan Bertalan, Director for the GFF Series said, "We produce all kinds of educational and science content but it was the interest in our kids fishing shows blended with aquatic education that helped us get into the national network of PBS affiliates. In that past few months, we've more than doubled our national viewing audience where each show is viewed by over 500,000 on broadcast television. And that's not even counting the 150 million we can also reach with our 12 national digital channels. We owe a lot to the FAF and Pat Neu for working so closely with us to create the perfect storm that has

generated viewers for the series and ultimately new anglers."

The entire series of "Getting Families Fishing" videos and corresponding educational curriculum can be found on the "Into the Outdoors" Education Network website at www.intotheoutdoors.org/aquatic-angling-science-1/.

The Future Angler Foundation (FAF) is an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation formed in April of 2012. The FAF's mission is to "Create New Anglers" through its support of angler education events hosted by passionate, knowledgeable volunteers throughout the U.S. and through its "Getting Families Fishing" initiative, a series of free source digital educational programs developed to engage young anglers as they educate them about angling in an exciting, informative, and effective manner. More information about the FAF can be found on line at www.futureangler.org

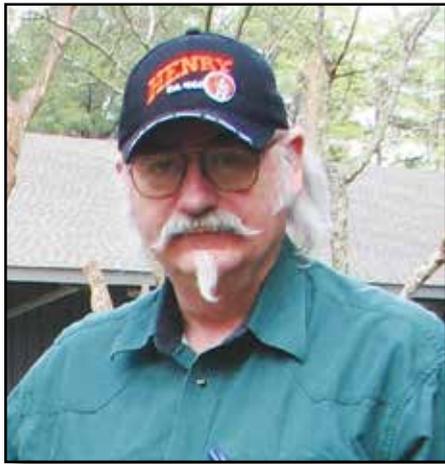


ASO friend Rich Wagoner from Springfield IL with a nice catfish caught off of his dock on Lake Springfield. Thanks for sharing with ASO Magazine.

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THE INVESTMENT

By John Simeone

I suppose I will remember not to make my Deer ground blind out of Golden Rod next year. Never the less I managed two deer while coughing and sneezing, embarrassing to no one but myself, damn allergies are aggravating. I will have a better blind next year as my New Years resolution.

Spring then settled in and Turkey Season was a bust. Oh, we saw plenty of wild hogs but only one distant gobbler lent to our ears in what is considered the finest Turkey area in Louisiana. Well it used to be, but huge sounders of hogs have wiped out turkey nests, while regulations on Wildlife Management Areas keep hunters limited to rimfire rifles and shotguns with small shot, when Deer Season isn't in play. This has made the WMAs a breeding paradise for the pigs that are no longer managed by Deer Hunters. As far as the Pandemic, it was hardly noticeable, living in the



The intent look on Youth Hunter Connor, concentration that extends to other things.

"The Old Man knew pretty near close to everything." Robert Ruark's "The Old Man and the Boy"



Its difficult not to run into wild hogs on just about any WMA in Louisiana. The 22 magnum is the most powerful thing you can carry if it's not Deer Season with a gun. This one charged us while squirrel hunting.

woods is natural social distancing.

Back about 10 years ago Louisiana initiated a push for more individuals to go hunting and fishing. The crossbow was legalized for use during the

regular archery season (I did a lot of work on that one) along with new laws concerning Primitive Rifles and Shotguns (Single Shots with hammers) for a special season. Other regulations were passed for youth hunters and honorably discharged veterans that really made my day. My observations saw good in this but now it was going to be up to Parents and Mentors to invest their time to the next generation of Adventure Sports Outdoors.

Among the new regulations was a Spring Squirrel Season. The limit is only 3 with 9 for a freezer possession limit. I told Connor, my Rent a Kid, "You shootem you clean them."



My Golden Shinobi Cat, Miko, didn't practice Social Distancing during this time of strife. I suppose I should be glad the father isn't an Armadillo.

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A Henry Rifle limit, I really like that gun.

The Spring Squirrel Season is not popular as Cajun Folk are generally terrified of snakes and rightfully so. If you mention the season to a local hunter most don't even know we have a season (as they never read the regulation book) then snakes are mentioned. I remember taking a big fox squirrel on the first opening day and decided to have it mounted. The Taxidermist told me the animal was taken out of season but took



I looked up for Squirrels, then I looked down, too close to move I lowered the rifle and shot. It wasn't posed I had the camera around my neck by chance. "The Headless Copperhead"

the squirrel and my fifty bucks. The regulation book was in the truck and I didn't feel like an argument. Of course, he turned me in thinking he was going to get a reward from operation game thief. Instead the game warden busted him on a few items he wasn't supposed to have in his freezer. I never got my Squirrel or my fifty bucks.

Now Connor has become a dyed in the wool hunter and shooter. He is my top karate kid just turning 13, while he helps out with my other kids and has been titled "Sempie" or older brother. Considering all my kids are handpicked they are all very serious about their training. Their



"Hey Red, your not going to believe this, now he has another Henry and a Ruger 10/22!"

favorite karate game is to just choose sides and fight. For a workout they carry a big fence post around and they have affectionately named it crussification. They actually like it and ask for more. I have been teaching this since 1974.

Back to the hunt. Connor took a liking to my Yildiz 410 double and said it was a relief from the 3 1/2 inch 12 ga turkey gun. We were going out behind



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the house not far and in that area the shots are close, and I didn't want to send a 22 bullet into the stratosphere. Number 4 shot in the 3 inch 410 is good to about 25 yards. Smaller shot will just ruin more meat.

I found going on a WMA means watching the nest busters at work as they follow each other through the woods shooting the same nest over and over. You don't see that during the Spring Season as most just don't go. It gives me a chance to use my 22 magnum. I carry the magnum due to the wild hogs that may or may not, run right over you.

To set up squirrels for the 22 long

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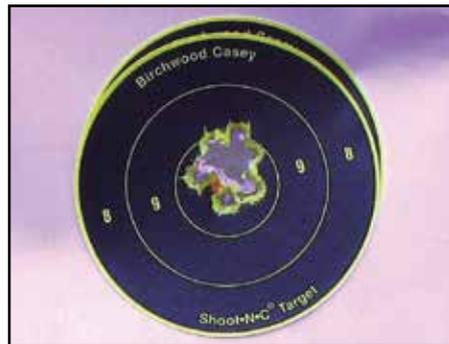
The Yildiz 410 Double works real good. rifle and air rifle, I use a bait station for a backstop safety measure. That way you get a clean chance for a proper head shot.

Everyone knows I love the 22 rifle and I have more than a few. The most accurate in my collection is the CZ-452, this one has won 20 World Squirrel Rifle Championships in 13 years in different divisions. The Ruger 77/22 is another extremely accurate Squirrel Rifle.

My recent tests with the Ruger 10/22 right out of the box along with the Henry Frontier and Pump rifle found all three to be a lot more accurate than I thought. They have all scored the classic head shot as the season continues.



My father Frank, learned how to shoot with a rifle like this at Coney Island, that was 100 years ago. A Henry Pump 22 is a jewel of a Squirrel Rifle.



A 15 shot 25 yard group shows the consistent accuracy of a Henry Frontier 22. This Squirrel hunters preferred ammo is CCI Subsonic Hollow Point.

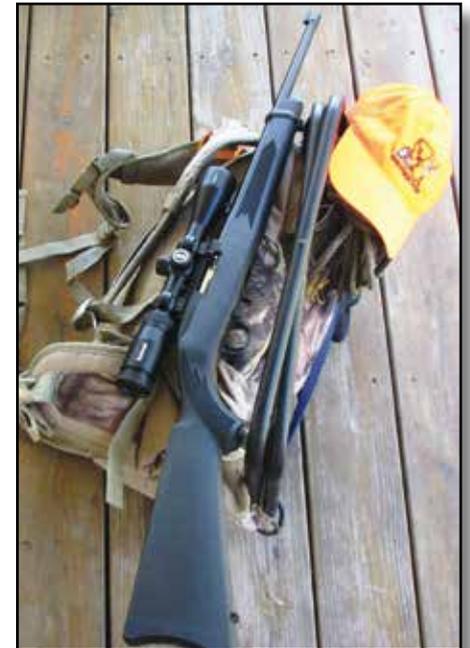
I am reminded of my first Squirrel hunt with my Dad back in Arkansas, oh

so many years ago. We had a dog named Inky a little Black terrier dog of no known pedigree but lot of personality. He didn't like squirrels at all and stayed treed most of the time in the yard when he wasn't being a lap dog in the house. Country dogs are multitask oriented.

I was intent on shooting a squirrel and when the time came it took me 7 shots as I was aiming at his tail. I finally got one in and received the right of passage of a hunter. Connor is getting that experience now, certainly a photogenetic young man, I wonder if he knows how many outdoor readers will see this.

Spring season isn't much different in technique, you can call them, bait stand them, still hunt or with a dog. As far as foliage is concerned, it's always green in some spot in Louisiana, so a squirrel up a tree is able to hide in plain sight while most hunters prefer a shotgun. Being a rifleman, in order to gain cool points with the 22 I use the bait stand method, its slow and may take all day to get the limit, but head shots equal bragging rights as well as more meat on the table.

One thing you will find kids will listen when hunting and fishing. There are a lot of things to talk about two



A 15 shot 25 yard group shows the consistent accuracy of a Henry Frontier 22. This Squirrel hunters preferred ammo is CCI Subsonic Hollow Point.

and from the intended quarry, a place where the old man appears to actually know everything but learns a few things himself in the process. Connor learned an old hunters saying, "When the tailgate drops the B.S. stops." It seems like I heard that from an old man when I was 13.....Pass it on.

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HUNTING WITH MY GRANDSON

By Grandpa Chad Enzeroth, Warsaw, IL

This little man is such a joy to be in the woods with. He never complains and is always ready for the next adventure. He's Trace Harris my grandson and such a trooper. He's one heck of a little hunter to boot. Well yesterday we went to the timber in search of the unpredictable turkey. As our first setup didn't go as planned and the Tom skirted around us, we went to plan B. We sat down made a couple calls and immediately had three birds answer. Well about 45 minutes later and they hadn't moved, the little guy was wondering about his patience. Then it wasn't long and they were right beside us. Well not coming in quite they way we really wanted it still all worked out well. They came to where he could get his shot and wow was he excited to have gotten a 25 1/2 pound Tom turkey. It was a great hunt and one we will never forget. It went through my mind when he was there rustling with that old Tom that in that same exact spot my boy and his uncle Wyatt killed his first Tom when he was that same age of 8 years old. What memories for me as a dad and grandpa to have those two boys succeed the way they do. Congrats Trace Harris on a great bird and even greater hunt.



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MORE TIME TO PREPARE

by Marlene Odahlen-Hinz
marleneasomag@gmail.com

Years ago a fellow hunter said he puts dried leaves or a pine branch in with his clothes when he's finished with the hunting season. He said his process was easier and simpler than going through all the steps I did to treat my clothes. Well, when he opened those tubs the next year every piece was moldy. Even when leaves seem dry they still contain moisture, as do pine needles and twigs. In an airtight container, they break down causing mold to form. Needless to say, after that experience he was much more interested in what I used to treat my clothes.

These "tamers" fight odor and absorb moisture, which I really like. Putting one in each of my tote helps to maintain the odor free space. BUT, deodorizing my boots has always been a concern. Slipping one of these "tamers" into each boot takes care not only of the smell but also the moisture from my sweaty feet. I use them when I come in from hunting and then in the morning when I head out to my stand I just slip the "tamers" into a zip-lock back to extended their life.

Suddenly this spring I found I had an unwelcomed amount of free time on my hands due to Covid-19. I decided to take advantage of this unexpected "sheltering" at home to start some of my fall hunting season prepping.

One of the easiest tasks to tackle is to sort through and treat my hunting clothes with Scent Killer detergent. I generally wait until the week before hunting season opens to do this chore and then find myself frustrated because I can't remember what I did with my favorite face mask or where I stashed those lightweight gloves I like to wear during the early season.

I always ask myself the same thing, "Why didn't I start this sooner." Well, this year I could and hopefully it would encourage me to make this prep work as regular as my spring-cleaning is to start. Actually what would be even better would be if I did these tasks right when hunting season concludes, but that would make too much sense. I usually just pack everything away without a second thought of taking inventory to what pieces need extra laundering, replacement or repair. That would be too efficient and make too much sense.

One thing I always do seem to get done right after season ends is to check the Wildlife Research web site to see what new products they have available for the next opener. This year I wasn't disappointed because they have Tote Tamers™. This item is a set of 2 deodorizing discs that can be used in several ways.

I'm a stickler about treating all my hunting clothes with Scent Killer detergent when laundering them and using the company's fabric sheets in the dryer. I then generously spray them with Scent Killer making sure each piece is thoroughly dry before packing them away in my airtight tubs.

My backpack is the one piece of equipment (besides my bow) that I take with me all the time but which gets severely neglected. I toss it in the back of the truck; I let it sit on the garage floor while I try to organize my other gear before heading out to hunt; I may even throw it on the kitchen counter when I need to add a few snacks—all while contaminating it with odors and smells. Maybe at the beginning of the season I will take everything out of the pack and wipe down every call, knife and container. Then I spray the interior and exterior with Scent Killer—but after that is done I forget about continuing to treat it. This year I'll be putting one of these round containers in my pack and know that it will absorb odors from the facemask, gloves and other small items I stuff inside to carry afield.

I am well on my way to make the



DON'T put pine branches or dry leaves in with your treated clothes. Mold and decay will form in the airtight containers.

fall hunting season a little less stressful by dealing with my camo gear. Now I can turn my attention to honing my shooting skills.

Until next month, don't forget to take you daughter, granddaughter or niece bowhunting.

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Quail and Upland Game Alliance (QUGA) has you covered for Habitat projects this Spring! As featured in FarmWeek, and RFD Radio, QUGA continues to have funding assistance available from the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources Habitat and Pheasant Grants Funds for NEW and EXISTING Plantings. This goal of these grant funds is to create high quality habitat for all upland wildlife. Financial assistance is available to landowners/producers who are interested in converting existing stands of fescue and brome throughout Illinois into a native stand of grasses and wildflowers.

A 75% incentive payment is available to convert fescue or brome to a qualified prairie grass and forb area.

Quail and Upland Game Alliance (QUGA) Habitat team and/or Individual Landowners/Producers will spray these acres with one and one-half quart of glyphosate per acre twice. Planting prairie grasses in these acres and forbs. The grasses and forbs must have an approved diverse mix of all three blooming periods and at least one milkweed. QUGA has a grant approved mix available.

Please contact QUGA with any questions you may have!

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- Habitat Stamp project acres, native grass and forb plantings on regular and NEW CRP areas!
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- Mid-Management incentive payments for strip disking, prescribed burns, strip spraying and interseeding.
- \$50 an acre available for invasive species control.
- SAFE acres enrolled, NEW sign-up, \$120 per acre.

- Qualifying 2020 Illinois Seed Program, PLS seed mixes available or send QUGA your custom mix for a quote.
- Planting Assistance available. IDNR Grant Funded Habitat Specialist.

Applications are available online at www.quga.org or by calling Jerry Johnson, QUGA Regional Director 812.536.2272 or email bobwhite@psci.net

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Little Bluestem 0.085 PLS	Bergamot 0.031 PLS
Side Oats Grama 0.110 PLS	Purple Coneflower 0.054 PLS
June Grass 0.015 PLS	Woman's Tobacco 0.002 PLS
Tall Dropseed 0.045 PLS	Hoary Vervain 0.009 PLS
Sand Lovegrass 0.014 PLS	Slender Mountain Mint 0.012 PLS
	Blackeyed Susan 0.055 PLS
	Lance Leaved Coreopsis 0.041 PLS
	Greyheaded Coneflower 0.007 PLS
	White Wild Indigo 0.002 PLS
	False Sunflower 0.021 PLS
	Partridge Pea 0.079 PLS
	Purple Prairie Clover 0.190 PLS

» \$97.00 per acre

MIX TWO Dry Mesic

327 Interseeding Pollinator Forb only Less than 5%
327 Interseeding Diverse Forb only Less than 5%
327 Interseeding Diverse Forb only Greater than 5% and Forb Less than 5%

FORBS (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Alumroot 0.001 PLS	Slender Mountain Mint 0.012 PLS
Golden Ragwort 0.006 PLS	Blackeyed Susan 0.055 PLS
Illinois Bundleflower 0.400 PLS	Lance Leaved Coreopsis 0.041 PLS
Showy Ticktrefoil 0.010 PLS	Greyheaded Coneflower 0.007 PLS
Smooth Aster 0.009 PLS	White Wild Indigo 0.002 PLS
Bergamot 0.031 PLS	False Sunflower 0.021 PLS
Purple Coneflower 0.054 PLS	Partridge Pea 0.079 PLS
Woman's Tobacco 0.002 PLS	Purple Prairie Clover 0.190 PLS
Hoary Vervain 0.009 PLS	

» \$93.00 per acre

MIX THREE Dry Mesic

327 Interseeding Pollinator Forb only Greater than 5%
643 Interseeding Rare and Declining Forb Only All Slopes

FORBS (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Alumroot 0.001 PLS	Slender Mountain Mint 0.024 PLS
Golden Ragwort 0.011 PLS	Blackeyed Susan 0.110 PLS
Illinois Bundleflower 0.800 PLS	Lance Leaved Coreopsis 0.082 PLS
Showy Ticktrefoil 0.020 PLS	Greyheaded Coneflower 0.014 PLS
Smooth Aster 0.019 PLS	White Wild Indigo 0.003 PLS
Bergamot 0.062 PLS	False Sunflower 0.042 PLS
Purple Coneflower 0.110 PLS	Partridge Pea 0.160 PLS
Woman's Tobacco 0.003 PLS	Purple Prairie Clover 0.380 PLS
Hoary Vervain 0.018 PLS	

» \$139.00 per acre

MIX FOUR Dry Mesic

327 Full Seeding Pollinator Grass and Forb Less than 5%
327 Interseeding Pollinator Grass and Forb Greater than 5%
643 Full Seeding Rare and Declining All Slopes
643 Interseeding Rare and Declining Grass and Forb All Slopes

GRASSES (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Little Bluestem 0.170 PLS	Bergamot 0.062 PLS
Side Oats Grama 0.230 PLS	Purple Coneflower 0.110 PLS
June Grass 0.030 PLS	Woman's Tobacco 0.003 PLS
Tall Dropseed 0.091 PLS	Hoary Vervain 0.018 PLS
Sand Lovegrass 0.028 PLS	Slender Mountain Mint 0.024 PLS
	Blackeyed Susan 0.110 PLS
	Lance Leaved Coreopsis 0.082 PLS
	Greyheaded Coneflower 0.014 PLS
	White Wild Indigo 0.003 PLS
	False Sunflower 0.042 PLS
	Partridge Pea 0.160 PLS
	Purple Prairie Clover 0.380 PLS

» \$149.00 per acre

MIX FIVE Dry Mesic

327 Full Seeding Pollinator Grass and Forb Greater than 5%

GRASSES (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Little Bluestem 0.340 PLS	Bergamot 0.120 PLS
Side Oats Grama 0.460 PLS	Purple Coneflower 0.210 PLS
June Grass 0.059 PLS	Woman's Tobacco 0.006 PLS
Tall Dropseed 0.180 PLS	Hoary Vervain 0.036 PLS
Sand Lovegrass 0.056 PLS	Slender Mountain Mint 0.048 PLS
	Blackeyed Susan 0.220 PLS
	Lance Leaved Coreopsis 0.160 PLS
	Greyheaded Coneflower 0.028 PLS
	White Wild Indigo 0.006 PLS
	False Sunflower 0.084 PLS
	Partridge Pea 0.320 PLS
	Purple Prairie Clover 0.770 PLS

» \$265.00 per acre

MIX SIX Dry Mesic

327 Full Seeding Diverse Grass and Forb stand All Slopes
327 Interseeding Diverse Grass and Forb stand All Slopes

GRASSES (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Little Bluestem 1.020 PLS	Bergamot 0.021 PLS
Side Oats Grama 1.380 PLS	Purple Coneflower 0.035 PLS
June Grass 0.180 PLS	Woman's Tobacco 0.001 PLS
Tall Dropseed 0.540 PLS	Hoary Vervain 0.006 PLS
Sand Lovegrass 0.170 PLS	Slender Mountain Mint 0.008 PLS
	Blackeyed Susan 0.037 PLS
	Lance Leaved Coreopsis 0.027 PLS
	Greyheaded Coneflower 0.005 PLS
	White Wild Indigo 0.001 PLS
	False Sunflower 0.014 PLS
	Partridge Pea 0.053 PLS
	Purple Prairie Clover 0.130 PLS

» \$126.00 per acre

MIX SEVEN WET

327 Interseeding Pollinator Grass and Forb Greater than 5%

GRASSES (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Shallow Sedge 0.057 PLS	Lance-Leaved Goldenrod 0.001 PLS
Fox Sedge 0.034 PLS	Cardinal Flower 0.001 PLS
Soft Rush 0.001 PLS	Water Horehound 0.021 PLS
Fowl Manna Grass 0.014 PLS	Boneset 0.019 PLS
Rice Cut Grass 0.020 PLS	Blue Vervain 0.029 PLS
	Purple Meadow Rue 0.037 PLS
	Browneyed Susan 0.078 PLS
	Virginia Mountain Mint 0.012 PLS
	Blue Flag 0.410 PLS
	Missouri Ironweed 0.019 PLS

» \$245.00 per acre

MIX EIGHT WET

327 Interseeding Pollinator Forb only Less than 5%
327 Interseeding Diverse Forb only Less than 5%
643 Interseeding Rare and Declining Forb Only All Slopes

FORBS (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Meadow Anemone 0.051 PLS	Blue Vervain 0.029 PLS
Showy Tickseed 0.160 PLS	Purple Meadow Rue 0.037 PLS
New England Aster 0.041 PLS	Browneyed Susan 0.078 PLS
Lance-Leaved Goldenrod 0.001 PLS	Virginia Mountain Mint 0.012 PLS
Cardinal Flower 0.001 PLS	Blue Flag 0.410 PLS
Water Horehound 0.021 PLS	Missouri Ironweed 0.019 PLS
Boneset 0.019 PLS	

» \$235.00 per acre

MIX NINE WET

327 Full Seeding Pollinator Grass and Forb Less than 5%
643 Full Seeding Rare and Declining All Slopes
643 Interseeding Rare and Declining Grass and Forb All Slopes

GRASSES (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Shallow Sedge 0.110 PLS	Lance-Leaved Goldenrod 0.002 PLS
Fox Sedge 0.067 PLS	Cardinal Flower 0.002 PLS
Soft Rush 0.003 PLS	Water Horehound 0.042 PLS
Fowl Manna Grass 0.027 PLS	Boneset 0.037 PLS
Rice Cut Grass 0.040 PLS	Blue Vervain 0.059 PLS
	Purple Meadow Rue 0.074 PLS
	Browneyed Susan 0.160 PLS
	Virginia Mountain Mint 0.025 PLS
	Blue Flag 0.820 PLS
	Missouri Ironweed 0.037 PLS

» \$359.00 per acre

MIX TEN WET

327 Full Seeding Diverse Grass and Forb Less than 5%
327 Interseeding Diverse Grass and Forb Less than 5%

GRASSES (PLS lb/ac)	FORBS (PLS lb/ac)
Shallow Sedge 0.450 PLS	Lance-Leaved Goldenrod 0.001 PLS
Fox Sedge 0.400 PLS	Cardinal Flower 0.001 PLS
Soft Rush 0.022 PLS	Water Horehound 0.014 PLS
Fowl Manna Grass 0.160 PLS	Boneset 0.013 PLS
Rice Cut Grass 0.160 PLS	Blue Vervain 0.020 PLS
	Purple Meadow Rue 0.025 PLS
	Browneyed Susan 0.052 PLS
	Virginia Mountain Mint 0.008 PLS
	Blue Flag 0.270 PLS
	Missouri Ironweed 0.012 PLS

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THE STRATEGY OF WHOA TRAINING

by Dave Molyneaux

The very basics of training a pointing dog is to have a dog that will stop when he scents a bird from a distance away. You don't want to have the pup sneak in for a closer look, nor rush in and give chase in an attempt to catch it. This not only results in a frustrating day with the birds seemingly flushed out of the country. It is also extremely dangerous for your Fido as it jumps up into the line of gun fire or is lost giving chase. You also want to have a set of brakes on your pup if it

confronts a deer, rabbit in the course of hunting in the field.

Training a pointing dog to achieve the ability to stop promptly and not make any forward movements is called "whoa training". Depending on your pup's energy level, temperament, and softness, will decide as to which of the following methods you use.

Professional trainers use four basic approaches all of which are geared to handle the animal's ability to handle pressure and attention span. It is wise

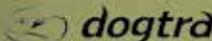




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to have at your disposal knowledge of various avenues that can be taken should shut down or boredom becomes an issue.

If you are working with a pup that has the characteristic of being sensitive, soft, and very submissive, then teaching to whoa is best handled in conjunction with heeling. This requires two leashes attached to your dog at the same time. The longer of the two is snapped to the 'D ring' on the collar, run down the back, and wrapped once around the waist. This is referred to as a flank hitch in dog training. The other leash is also attached to the dog's collar, and handled as a normal lead you use to walk your pup. Your pups shorter lead will be in your left hand (assuming the dog is heeling on your left side) like you normally walk your dog. The longer leash or rope will drape behind you and be held in your right hand.

Now, what we want to accomplish at the end of this lesson, is to quietly command our dog to stop by saying "whoa", and the hand signal to stop, as that of a cop stopping traffic. And also be able to walk around the pup without him moving.

The concept of the flank hitch is to apply a slight discomfort to the pup's abdominal muscles. His reaction will cause the muscle group to tighten without any pain. It's simple, when his Abs are tightened, he is restricted from moving his hind legs. He simply can't move them, so in respect we are teaching him to be a body builder. The longer he tightens his Abs the longer he isn't able to move. Try this on yourself by standing up and tighten your stomach muscles as tight as you can. At the same time, attempt to walk, and you will notice for yourself, your legs can't move.

So, as we walk your pup, the process is to spontaneously lightly jerk the rope in your right hand and immediately release tension, putting slack in the rope. Your pup will instantly stop at which you will reassure the command by leaning forward and giving the hand signal to stop (you have given a correction and then a reward.) Step around or a few feet away, then resume holding the rope and lead so you can continue walking. After a few yards continue to repeat the sequence again. It is important to know that the flank hitch must be pulled as close to 90 degrees to the body for

the best results. You don't want to pull forward for that will encourage the pup to walk, when you are training him to stop and freeze all motion.

Little by little use the flank hitch less and less. You want to be able to hold your hand up, quietly say "whoa", and the pup should stop on his own. The objective is to allow you to walk around and a few yards away from the standing dog.

There is a very common method of whoa training that is geared toward the dog with a more normal temperament. This is the implementation of the whoa post. It is simply a stake in the ground and a check cord. The nice thing about this method is that it has very minimum of intimidation or vocalization. The advantage to this method over the heeling style is the pup doesn't tend to use the handler as a sense of security and crutch. Occasionally resulting in a pup that will whoa but is difficult to step away from and wants to have a tendency to follow you for security.

The check cord has one end tied to the whoa post and the other is attached to the dogs waist as a flank hitch, then snapped to the collar. A leash is also snapped to the collar as well. To train

by this method you simply walk the pup away from the stake, eventually running out of rope on the check cord. Continue walking to the point where there is a tug felt on the leash. What actually happened was the check cord tightened around the waist. At this moment release the tension on your leash and motion with your hand to stop. This hand signal is important to install in your training program from the very beginning. For the day will come when walking in on a point you will not want to say a word, simply a single hand signal is all that is needed to solidify a point.

To this point nothing has been stated as to how to release your pup from the whoa command, where he is not to move till commanded to do so. In basic training it is advised to not allow any movement till two release commands are given. By teaching the dog to wait for two different cues, he is forced into achieving patience rather than breaking point. This is also the procedure to instructing the pup to relocate, ...a method of pin pointing a more precise location of a bird, without

Continued on page 79

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THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CHRONIC LYME DISEASE

By Gretchen Hoffer Farb

I didn't realize it at the time, but a split-second faint while stepping onto a bus in 2000 would become a turning point in life. I was 25 years old and suddenly found myself weak, lethargic, and unwell — and, unlike most others in their 20s, I couldn't shake it.

16 years, hundreds of doctor appointments, and what feels like thousands of questions later, I finally have an explanation for why I could not recover from those feelings of malaise. 16 years later, my way of life changed because it was affirmed that I was living with Chronic Lyme Disease (CLD).

To understand what it is like to live with CLD, you must first understand what it is. Lyme Disease is transferred from a tick carrying a bacteria called *Borrelia Burgdorferi*.

Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans.

CLD is not formally recognized by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and is not well understood by the medical community. So while I expected that I would be met with feelings of relief and understanding after being given a term to define my condition, my diagnosis left me with far more questions than answers. In the 19 years since my fainting episode and the three years since my diagnosis, I have had to make significant lifestyle changes to manage my symptoms and disease. I have now spent half my life fighting what sometimes feels like a losing battle. I am constantly seeking understanding, awareness, expertise, and care in an area of medicine where



even the breakthroughs seem to produce more questions than answers.

Day after day, doctor visit after doctor visit, I have almost become numb to explaining my diagnosis to others. I have lost track of how many doctors have been unable to provide answers, how many friends cannot comprehend my diagnosis despite my attempts to explain, and how many colleagues question why my desk is empty from time to time. The fact of the matter is: CLD is not that simple. In an effort to provide some education and

color to this commonly misunderstood disease, I present to you this, an open letter about my experience living with Chronic Lyme Disease:

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CHRONIC LYME DISEASE

1) It could take years to get a proper diagnosis.

You may already know that Lyme Disease is notoriously difficult to diagnose using conventional



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techniques and the variety of symptoms that patients can present with.

If you ask about the accuracy of Lyme Disease detection, you will get a variety of answers. Some physicians say a positive test result cannot be obtained until antibodies to fight Lyme Disease bacteria have developed, about 4 to 6 weeks after the initial infection. Others say that these tests may never show as positive given the nature of the Lyme disease bacteria, and its ability to "hide" from the bloodstream and stow away in our brains, joints, and other places.

My experience perfectly illustrates how difficult it is to obtain a diagnosis for Lyme Disease. You may be wondering what happened between 2000, when I fainted stepping on to that bus, and 2015, when I was finally diagnosed with CLD. In 2000, it was determined that my symptoms were a result of an autoimmune disorder called Graves' Disease. For 15 years, every symptom I've had, whether it aligned with common symptoms of Graves' or not, was blamed on this diagnosis.

I visited countless doctors trying to explain what I knew: Graves' was not the answer. Despite my attempts, it seemed each doctor grew more persistent than the last in convincing me that I the symptoms I experienced were the result of Graves'. I was told to make lifestyle changes and to be prepared for how difficult it would be to have children, based on this diagnosis.

What I now know for a fact is that my symptoms are due to Chronic Lyme Disease. To be honest, I never suspected it was Lymes Disease, so it was hard to believe the diagnosis of CLD when it was finally made. By January of 2017, I was presented

with indisputable evidence. A doctor I visited showed me what my blood looked like under a microscope, and it was clear as day — it appeared as if tiny bugs were crawling around my blood stream. While this experience may sound terrifying to some people, I finally knew I had the proper diagnosis.

2) Chronic Lyme Disease is a lifelong, uphill battle. It is not well understood, it comes with debilitating symptoms, and it requires a special type of physician to treat.

The number of people diagnosed with Lyme Disease each year in the United States is around 300,000. The number of those that suffer from Chronic Lyme Disease is estimated to be between 5 and 30 percent of total Lyme Disease cases, which is to say that it is not fully understood how many people are impacted by CLD. Despite this, people like me are living with this disease, and the oftentimes debilitating symptoms that come with it.

People living with CLD experience a wide array of symptoms, from insomnia, food and exercise sensitivities, extreme exhaustion, caffeine, sugar, and dairy. For me, it has felt like pushing myself one way or the other too far on any given day can throw my body completely out of whack. Now consider that despite these debilitating symptoms, CLD patients access to doctors who can help them combat these symptoms is limited.

Insurance won't cover it. Those of us who have the resources to pursue the right care, seek out "Lyme Literate" Physicians, or "LLMDs." But finding a trustworthy LLMD can be difficult, because there simply aren't that many

of them. In the event that patients can identify an LLMD close to home with expertise in treating Lyme Disease, it can easily become cost prohibitive to follow up with that doctor. Initial consultations range from \$800 to \$2,000, with each follow-up visit costing anywhere between \$300 - \$500. For many people, even an initial consult can price them out of obtaining treatment.

3) Chronic Lyme Disease Deserves More Attention and Awareness.

With thousands of people estimated to be living with CLD, and the increasing number of Lyme Disease cases every year, it's clear that more answers are needed from the medical community. Beyond that, I believe it is more important than ever that our communities raise awareness and direct attention and focus to Chronic Lyme Disease.

The diagnosis of CLD has deeply affected my mental health, my wellbeing, and my quality of life. It has also impacted by husband, children, family, and colleagues — and so much more. I still live every

day with the intensity of symptoms of CLD, and it is likely that I will have further health complications as I age because of this diagnosis. I cannot tell you how much easier all of this would be if I felt my disease was truly understood by my community and society as a whole.

For those wondering how they can help, a strong start would be simply listening to and believing in these patients with CLD — and knowing that it is a reality for many, even if you don't agree with the facts. It has been four years since my diagnosis, and now, I'm ready to speak up, speak out, and be an advocate for the Chronic Lyme Disease community. I hope you will join me in doing the same.

Gretchen Hoffer Farb is the Chief Financial Officer of Hoffer Plastics Corporation, a leading global supplier of tight-tolerance, custom injection molded parts. Hoffer Plastics supplies a wide range of customers around the world, including several Fortune 500 companies. In 2019, Farb was named Notable Women in Finance by Crain's Chicago.

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WATERFOWL 2020



FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES CANCEL WATERFOWL BREEDING AND HABITAT SURVEY



Officials will use long-term data to predict spring 2020 waterfowl abundance

MEMPHIS, TN – May 6, 2020 – For the first time in its 65-year history, the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey has been cancelled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and state partners due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The USFWS and CWS also cancelled participation in the American Woodcock Singing-ground Survey, Mid-continent Population Sandhill Crane Survey, and Arctic Goose Banding Program. The U.S. Geological Survey cancelled the North American Breeding Bird Survey, data from which is also important in monitoring bird abundance and regulating harvest of some species.

The May survey has been successfully completed every year since 1955 and its data used to estimate breeding population size and inform harvest management decisions for many waterfowl species.

Cancellation of these surveys will create a one-year gap in the record of waterfowl

population estimates. The USFWS, in consultation with the Flyway Councils, will use long-term data from spring/summer monitoring for these species to make regulatory harvest management decisions.

"Decisions to cancel the May survey and other migratory bird monitoring this spring were based on our priority of protecting the health and safety of the American public, our partners and our employees," said Ken Richkus, Chief of the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management.

Duck season regulations are based on the status of mallards in the Mississippi, Central and Pacific Flyways and on the status of four species (green-winged teal, common goldeneye, wood duck and ring-necked duck) in the Atlantic Flyway.

Because of recent changes in how harvest regulations are set, survey cancellations will not affect the 2020-21 hunting season. Proposed regulations for the 2020-21 season were based on population and habitat conditions from the 2019 breeding season and are making their way

through the approval process.

For the 2021-2022 general duck seasons, Richkus said the USFWS will use the long-term data and models to predict 2020 spring abundances of ducks and habitat conditions in place of the spring 2020 data. The results from these predictions will be combined with the existing harvest strategies to determine appropriate levels of harvest for the 2021-2022 season.

Current travel restrictions in Canada, unless modified, may also affect many goose banding program efforts and surveys as well as high latitude duck banding stations this summer.

"These surveys are the bedrock of effective harvest management in North America and have helped sustain waterfowl populations and abundant hunting opportunities for over 60 years," said Ducks Unlimited Chief Conservation Officer Karen Waldrop. "Although we will miss the anticipation and excitement that comes with the annual release of the May survey results, we don't expect the cancellation of surveys to impact seasons and bag limits for the majority of species.

The combination of healthy, robust waterfowl populations and our long-term experience with these data, gives us faith that the waterfowl management community can project populations with a high level of certainty."

To get the latest info from the USFWS on the survey cancellation, click here. Be sure to follow DU's newest Twitter feed – @DUNews1937 – to get the most up-to-date news from Ducks Unlimited.

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 14.5 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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DU JOINS FORCES TO PROMOTE #RESPONSIBLERECREATION

MEMPHIS, TN – May 11, 2020 – Ducks Unlimited (DU) has joined forces with other leading conservation organizations to spearhead #ResponsibleRecreation – a media campaign encouraging Americans to enjoy outdoor recreation while adhering to proper COVID-19 safety protocols.

In addition to DU, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and the Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies are leading the effort.

Whether participating in hunting, fishing, shooting sports or numerous other outdoor activities, the conservation community sees the #ResponsibleRecreation campaign as a safe and constructive way to encourage individuals and families to get outside and enjoy the outdoors as a means to cope with the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to advocating safe outdoor etiquette, the campaign also encourages Americans to take advantage of the numerous opportunities this country offers to recreate on public lands, waters and parks.

“In a time of global sheltering in place, what better opportunity is there to get your family outdoors,” said DU CEO Adam Putnam. “On the water, in the woods or in your own backyard, Ducks Unlimited and our volunteers are strongly encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors. Being in nature is good for the soul, it’s good for your mental health and it’s good for everyone to connect with nature.”

Guidelines the campaign seeks to establish while practicing #ResponsibleRecreation are in line with the Center for Disease Prevention and Control and include maintaining proper social distancing and adhering to best practices to avoid COVID-19. While many of the organizations involved in spearheading campaign have their own interests — hunting, fishing or shooting sports — it is important to note that #ResponsibleRecreation seeks to



engage all who are enjoying the outdoors safely and responsibly.

Additionally, the campaign is

encouraging all outdoor enthusiasts to visit www.responsible-recreation.org and sign the #ResponsibleRecreation

pledge, then share their pursuits by using the hashtag #ResponsibleRecreation on the social media channel of their choice.

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Strategy of Whoa Training ... cont.

flushing it. The most common physical cue we use is a sharp tap on the dogs left shoulder along with a verbal command. It doesn't matter what word is said but, for instruction we will say "okay". Now, how loud and what pitch you speak makes a world of difference in how fast the pup will move toward the bird. You want the dog to move as cautious as possible, and only take a few steps before being commanded to stop. The louder you speak (or higher pitch) the harder the animal will charge forward, which is what you don't want.

The check cord is a fine piece of equipment, but it's difficult to replace the e-collar when properly used. For whoa training it is attached around the waist with the probes against the flank area. It is best advised to fasten the e-collar to pup along with the check cord. This will enable the pup to accustom itself to the extra sensation of the collar wrapped around the waist, while using the check cord. To find out what setting to use on your transmitter begin with your lowest setting. It is mandatory to use only the nick/momentary function and not the continuous. Tap the button and watch

the flank area of the dog for a slight twitch, and no discomfort. This will be the number setting that you'll be using to whoa the pup.

While you are in the process of whoaing your pup with the check cord introduce the sensation of the e-collar. It will feel different so expect a bit of confusion at first. Use it intermittently along with the check cord in training. Work toward weaning yourself off using the check cord all together. Before you completely stop use a shorter lead attached to the dog along with the collar. This way the dog will believe the rope is still commanding when it is now the e-collar around the waist.

Many owners seem to omit the last step in whoa training which in return, comes back to haunt them in the end. Up to this point you have a reliable pup who will stop on your request. Now is the time to go to a field with no birds or any distractions. It is advisable to have your e-collar attached to the flank of your pup for the first few trips to the field. You are trying to achieve a very fast and crisp stop when the whoa command is given. Make sure your pup is under motion at a rapid gait when you wish to put on the brakes. As soon as you see the dog come a stop,

IMMEDIATELY give your release command in an energetic and happy manor. Don't hesitate to clap your hands and give lots of praise. Many owners want to enjoy observing the dog standing motionless for a period of time. This is a mistake at this point in training and is not recommended. Many of those dogs will resent being tortured standing on whoa for a while, and become soft losing their intensity, often sitting or lying down. Continue this exercise till the pup is relaxed with your request to stop briefly and move on with confidence.

Now is the time to put it all together expecting perfection under stressful bird work. With the e-collar still around the flank (in case you need it), go to the field with a wing clipped pigeon in your pocket. Again, as previously rehearsed work your dog across the field and this time throw the bird into the air allowing it to flutter out for a ways. It's obvious you want your pup to see the pigeon flying and institute stopping your pup on the flush.

It is always advisable if there is any doubt your pup will blow up and be tempted to chase the bird, use the check cord and flank hitch as a reprimand. The rope will stop the forward motion abruptly whereas an e-collar may cause confusion and misunderstanding. Institute the e-collar.

Once there seems to be steadiness on the flush, this is a great time to

introduce the sound of gun fire. If this is your pup's first experience with hearing a gun shot, be sure there is some distance between the dog and the report. You can always work closer as your dog gains experience. But, having the first initial gun blast too close to your pup will likely cause irreversible damage.

It cannot be emphasized enough to get your pup into lots of birds. This requires lots of encouragement making every experience happy-happy. If the pup happens to catch a bird...so what. Or, if he happens to give chase to a bird, don't come down on the young dog. But, to get most intensity possible in your points, make every effort to get the pup absolutely bird crazy. This will go a long ways in preventing apprehension and shutdown in the event of receiving too much pressure during training.

The finished product is a trained dog that stops under pressure, understands the objective, and enjoys his job. Use this bird to your advantage, when sending your dog in for the retrieve. Whoa and stop 2 -3 times briefly in route to the bird, confirming you now have a reliable obedient hunting dog that is trustworthy.

There are other methods of whoa training such as using the table, barrel method, platform, and the buddy stick. Each of these has an advantage and a disadvantage, which we will discuss in future articles.



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LAKE MICHIGAN'S SALMON & TROUT BOOM

by Tom Berg

Late spring and early summer is an exciting time on Lake Michigan. Giant schools of coho salmon still roam the nearshore reaches and are beginning to move offshore, providing unbeatable action for the anglers who keep tabs on them. Lake trout, steelhead and brown trout cruise at various levels of the water column, and increasing numbers of chinook salmon appear, too. Trollers never know exactly what to expect when they head for the lake at this time of year.

Earlier in the year (March and April), most of the fishing action on Lake Michigan takes place very close to shore. The warm water found in harbors, shipping channels, industrial discharge sites and other spots attracts large numbers of brown trout and coho salmon, and hardy cold-weather fishermen are quick to follow.

As the spring progresses, shad and alewives enter the shallows to spawn in the harbors and along the beaches. The salmon and trout that were already close to shore take advantage of this handy food source, and when the baitfish finish spawning and head for their offshore haunts again, they are shadowed by schools of salmon.

Weather, water temperature, baitfish movements and other factors all determine how quickly the cohos move offshore. In some years, large schools of cohos stop several miles offshore and stay there for extended periods. Once they are found by trollers, limit catches can be made every day that the weather allows.

Although many of those trips are mostly a coho bite, in other areas the traditional mixed-bag catch is in full swing. Cohos and a few steelhead can be caught near the surface and down to 20 feet or so, the occasional chinook come from down deep, and lakera can be scattered everywhere in between. At this time of year, limit catches are no longer restricted to cohos only.

Offshore Trolling Tactics

Trolling during the transitional late-spring/early summer period is best accomplished by covering a variety of depths. Of course, anglers without downriggers can still catch fish, just as anglers without planer boards and dipsy divers can. But to maximize your catch and to fish as effectively as possible, you should cover all the bases.

Since most of the fish (cohos) are near the surface, it is smart to set several shallow running surface lines. Some fishermen use small inline planer boards

on each flatline that they set, setting two or three lines on each side of the boat and staggering them so that they don't get tangled. When a fish hits, the individual planer board is tripped, and it slides down the line to a snap swivel or sinker a few feet above the lure. Then the fish is fought to the boat.

Other anglers use large side planer boards that are let out on each side of the boat, and are attached with a strong tether line. Flatlines are let out 50 feet or so behind the boat, then attached to the tether cord with a sliding clip. Three lines can easily be staggered down the tether line for each planer board, which allows full coverage of the surface zone. When a fish hits one of these lines, the clip releases the line and the angler can

fight the fish without the encumbrance of an inline board.

Shallow running crankbaits and dodger & fly rigs are set on all of these high lines, and since they target fish in the top layer of water cohos are the most likely fish to hit them. Don't be surprised, however, if a 15 pound steelhead smashes a bright red crankbait meant for a coho and peels a hundred yards of line off the reel. Steelies inhabit the top layer of water, too!

In addition to the planer board lines, offshore fishermen make extensive use of dipsy diver disks in the search for slightly deeper fish. These diving disks can be set to pull a lure deep, or set to pull a lure shallower but farther out to the side of the boat. Dodgers & flies, spoons, and slender stickbaits are



June is a great time to get out on Lake Michigan for some awesome salmon and trout action. Here the author is holding a nice lake trout (left) and coho salmon (right). Photo courtesy of Tom Berg

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all productive when set behind a dipsy diver.

Another tool of the offshore angler is the use of lead-core line. Lead-core line is exactly what it sounds like: fishing line with a core made of lead wire. Since lead is heavy, it sinks fast. Typical lead-core line is colored, and every 10 yards the color changes to something else. That allows the fisherman to know how much line has been let out (or how many 'colors' are out). Lead-core line sinks about five feet per color when trolling at around two mph. Lead-core line is usually used on flatlines.

Downriggers cover the final frontier in the search for offshore salmon and trout. They can be set right at the bottom, halfway down, or anywhere between the surface and the lake's floor. Typically, one or two downriggers are set near the bottom, and the rest are staggered at various mid-range depths.

Although all five species of salmon

and trout can be caught on downriggers in June, the deepest downriggers are likely to catch lake trout and chinook (king) salmon. Lakers and kings both love to hang near the bottom, and they also suspend at varying depths between the bottom and the middle of the water column. Spoons and dodger & fly combos are the most popular rigs for downriggers.

Steelhead also cruise the mid-depths, and that is the most likely place to find a free-roaming brown trout, too. But you never know. Cohos are often caught halfway down, too. Sometimes a coho that should be near the surface is even caught on a bottom-bouncing rod in 100 feet of water, right after a lake trout was caught on the same lure at the same depth! It always pays to experiment and to present lures in as many depths as possible.

No matter where you fish, the month June often produce some of the best multi-species angling of the year

for Lake Michigan fishermen. Whether you are a coho fanatic or love to catch lakers, brown trout and steelhead, this is the prime time to be out on the water.

Keep an eye on the weather and head for the salmon fishing grounds. The action doesn't get much better than this!



Another nice fish comes aboard on a beautiful June morning.
Photo by Tom Berg.



Big Lake trout are common catches at this time of year when you head offshore. Steve Berg from Burnettsville caught this nice laker.
Photo by Tom Berg



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HIGGY'S STAND

By Don Higgins

THE ILLINOIS COVID-19 - CWD CONNECTION



Let me start by asking a question – Do you think the Illinois state government has over-reacted to the current covid-19 situation? I believe most people think so. Illinois residents are facing orders that are the most restrictive of any state in the union and in many cases these orders make no sense at all. For example, Illinois allows liquor stores, abortion clinics and giant retail stores to remain open while shutting down churches and small businesses. Illinois has taken the most extreme position of any state on this issue and numerous details of the Illinois approach make absolutely no sense at all.

My personal opinion is that covid-19 is a “political disease” used by far-left politicians to advance their agenda. The “cure” is certainly worse than the illness for 99.99% of Americans. The scare-data that we were being fed when covid-19 first hit just never materialized and with each passing day more and more people realize that we were duped. I am going to stop here without going into the politics of covid-19 any further but suffice it to say that we have faced multiple other health issues that were far worse than covid-19 without any interaction from our government to curtail our freedoms.

So let's look at another disease that affects whitetail deer, CWD, and take a look at some similarities. CWD is a disease spread by prions and to my knowledge has no relationship with covid-19, a virus. However when one looks at how various states have addressed CWD, Illinois has once again taken the most extreme and radical approach just as with covid-19. No other state has approached CWD with measures as extreme as those taken by Illinois and just as with covid-19 many of those measures make absolutely no sense at all.

Management of CWD in Illinois includes the absurd approach of exterminating every last deer living within a 2 mile radius of a location where a deer is found to have CWD. This extermination takes place within these numerous

locations for a period of 5 years at taxpayer expense. This is largely done after dark with sharp-shooters using high-powered rifles shooting deer over piles of bait. What makes this policy so ridiculous is that the same “experts” promoting this extermination plan agree that the CWD prion can live in the soil for decades and the fact that deer will routinely move over areas much larger than 2 miles. These taxpayer funded 5-year kill fests are nothing more than a feel-good regulation and an opportunity to employ more state workers. So what happens at the end of 5 years? And will we eventually be exterminating deer across the entire state? This approach makes no more sense than telling a citizen that they can go to Wal-Mart but they cannot go to church or they can go kill their baby but they cannot get a haircut. This is but one example of Illinois absurd approach to managing CWD.

The government over-reach exposed by covid-19 is really nothing new in Illinois. Covid-19 has just help expose the lunacy of Illinois politics to the world. Illinois citizens are the most over-taxed and over-regulated of any state. Not surprisingly, Illinois is also losing population faster than any other state as its citizens flee to states governed by freedom loving Americans.

If you don't like the loss of freedoms brought on by your government, you better do something about it sooner rather than later. We are past the point of worrying about “our kids future” and instead are dealing with our own future! This November is your opportunity to remove a lot of corrupt anti-American freedom-hating politicians. I recently heard a couple of figures that bother me; more than 50% of Christians and more than 50% of outdoors enthusiasts do not vote. This is unacceptable! All that is required for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing. We are seeing that firsthand. Make sure that you get to the voting booth on November 3 and be sure to take every eligible voter in your family with you. Communism sold to the gullible as socialism is knocking at the door.



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A NEW PRESCRIPTION PROVEN TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH

By Dru Hauter

Coming home from a hard day at work and being greeted by my dog immediately lifts my spirits and makes me feel loved and connected. I have never experienced my dog show indifference to my return. She makes me feel like the conquering hero returning to my castle! Dogs have earned the position of man's best friend. Most of us dog lovers already know why life is better with a dog. But is that knowledge based on our dog loving bias or just a feeling? In fact, there is medical proof from scientific studies that human-dog relationship is actually good for both physical and emotional health.

Dogs decrease stress and anxiety. Aaron Katcher from the University of Pennsylvania and Alan Beck from Purdue University found with a study from the

1980's that playing with a dog or petting a familiar dog lowers blood pressure and heart rate. They found that breathing slows, muscle tension relaxes and that the blood level of chemicals released by stress actually was lowered. These findings were noted even in patients taking blood pressure medication.

Dogs are good for your heart. The proven reduction of stress chemicals may be the reason dog owners have less heart disease. The "American Journal of Cardiology" published data from a study of 369 heart attack patients a year after their release from the hospital following a heart attack. They found that dog owners had a higher rate of survival than non-pet owners. I have prescribed aspirin, Beta Blockers, Cholesterol meds, and an exercise program following a heart attack because of their proven benefits of longevity. I think owning a dog may be my new prescription to improve longevity and quality of life in patients with cardiovascular disease.

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On Point



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were found to be more likely to engage in moderate physical activity than non-dog owners by a Canadian Study. They found that dog owners walk an average of 300 minutes of walking a week while non-dog owners walk an average of 168 minutes a week. Exercise is important to increase longevity. A study to show



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that dogs increase longevity was done at the Uppsala University in Sweden and published in "Scientific Reports." Sweden records ownership of dogs and all visits to hospitals in a national data base. The study followed 3.4 million people ages 40-80 that had no history of heart disease at the start of the study in 2001. These people were followed for 12 years. The study found that the dog owners had a decreased risk of death from cardiovascular disease. Owning a dog was even found to decrease the risk of death from all causes. This outcome was true even for smokers, obese patients, and patients of lower socioeconomic status. This study found that the dogs originally bred for hunting demonstrated the greatest protection from heart disease and death. This was thought to be due to the greater need for exercising these breeds of dogs.

Dogs make us more social. Dogs help us get outdoors whether it is a long walk or just a quick bathroom break for our dog. Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University found that people who have dogs feel more connected in their human relationships and their communities. Teenagers were found to be more confident and empathetic when they grew up with a dog in the house.

Dogs decrease our medical costs. Dog ownership decreases visits to the doctor for minor health problems. The use of prescription meds decreases with a dog around. Nursing homes have been using dogs for therapy for quite a while. This pet therapy has been shown to decrease the overall cost of caring for nursing home patients and also provides companionship. Conversation increases and verbal interaction increases when a dog is present. This has had a very positive effect in special care units like Alzheimer's units. Nursing home residents are more social and more likely to attend activity sessions when a dog is present. Other studies have suggested that growing up with a dog in the house can decrease allergies and asthma in children. Dogs in the house provide immune-boosting benefits for adults as well.

Dogs make you appear more attractive. A study conducted in the United Kingdom surveyed 700 people: 60 percent said that owning a dog can make a person seem more attractive, and 85 percent said that people seem more approachable when they're with a dog. This can be a relationship starter like we see in movies and lead to living together. People who live alone have a higher risk for early death than those that live with other people. But, people who live alone with a dog have a 33% reduced risk of death and an 11%

decreased risk of cardiovascular disease than those that live alone without a dog.

Dogs make us happy. A study in Japan in 2009 found that just staring into your dog's eyes raises your level of oxytocin, also known as the "love hormone." Other studies have shown that owning a dog can alleviate depression, and this is especially true for older adults. As social ties loosen and family members live farther apart from each other, seniors are at risk of becoming isolated and lonely, which is a cause of depression. Research studied people 60 years and older who didn't live with a human companion, but had a pet. Their likelihood of being diagnosed with depression was one-quarter as likely as non-pet owners.

Dogs have truly earned the title Man's Best Friend. Dogs have been medically proven to improve longevity and health. They have been proven to decrease depression and to decrease medical costs. I practice evidence based medicine and try to make my treatment decisions on the basis of proven medical evidence. So, here is your prescription for a proven medical treatment.

Dru Hauter, MD is an avid outdoorsman and a native of Central Illinois. He is the physician at Central Illinois Direct Care in Lincoln, Illinois and can be reached through his website cidirectcare.com at drdru@cidirectcare.com or 217.632.6236.



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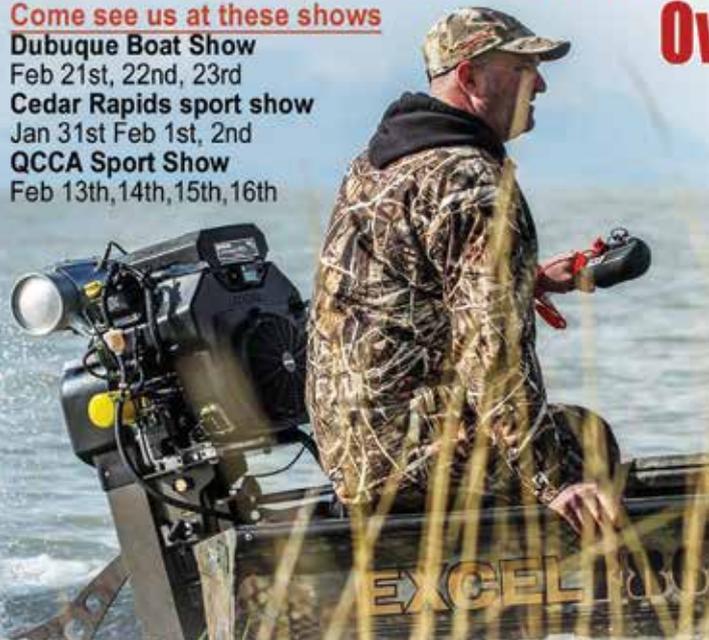
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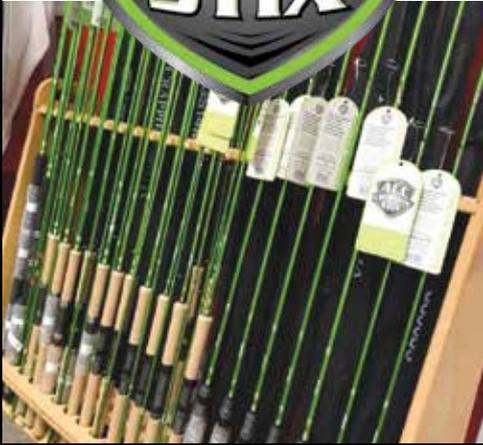
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SUMMER PATTERNS FOR LAKE SHELBYVILLE

Crappie have almost all spawned out and have been retreating to deeper water to recover from the recent spawn. Crappie will travel from their spawning grounds out to 12-15 feet of water and will hold on structures near drop-offs and secondary points. Crappie remain in large schools now and are aggressively searching for baitfish. Minnows are a terrific option for bait now because the first shad hatch is approaching. The crappie gorge themselves on the minnows to recover from the past months activity during the spawn. Slip-corks are a terrific technique to catch crappie now because they can be spooky after the spawn. Once you have marked your structure by throwing a marker buoy out, a slip-cork allows you to back away from the designated target and fish it

without spooking any fish. Vertical jigging in standing timber can produce great numbers and that is where to find the bigger fish now. Water temperature is key to holding big schools of fish so always be mindful of the depth and water temperature when you find active fish, so you can calculate your next move from there. Manmade structures, such as bridges, are also areas that crappie hold near. Crappie use shade from bridges as cover and also use the shade for temperature relief, just like us humans do. Casting near and around bridges is fantastic for crappie and the lightweight tackle makes it an awesome tussle when you hook into that SLAB!!! Trolling points and river channel edges are other areas to locate crappie now. The key to fishing crappie now is to first hunt them, then how you

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choose to catch them is your personal preference.

Walleye action is here and picking up for the summer!!! The lake level had started out high for the spring and that only enhanced the walleye fishing. Windblown vegetation that is standing in water is a primary feeding ground for the walleye now. Bait options now can range from minnows, leeches or nightcrawlers when fishing shallow for walleye. Early mornings are the best time to target shorelines because the

walleye will finish their nightly hunts in the vegetation, looking for easy prey in the shallower water columns. Using live bait with a slow methodical presentation, during this time is beneficial. Many times I use just ¼ or ½ a nightcrawler, that way the natural blood scent helps the walleye find your bait. For artificial bait options, I suggest shad raps or shallow running crankbaits. Rocky bottoms or shallow flats are perfect areas to cast or troll baits to locate walleye at this time.

Cloud cover can be an ideal scenario for afternoon fishing because the walleye are more active in darker conditions. Lastly, during this time, once I have located the fish with my electronics I use slip-corks with a full nightcrawler suspended a foot off the bottom. Hook the nightcrawler in the exact middle allowing both ends of the worm to hang freely. Often times walleye can detect a hook and strip the bait off without being caught and the middle hook placement on the worm

will catch you more fish!!!

In closing, I would like to thank each and every client that had to reschedule due to the restrictions placed by the state. Health and safety is paramount at England Expeditions Inc. and I look forward to seeing everyone as soon as possible. To book a trip call (217)-520-3653 or visit englandexpeditions.com CATCHING MEMORIES ONE FISH AT A TIME!!!

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FISHING CENTRAL ILLINOIS WITH REAG'S GUIDE SERVICE

By Reagan Smith

Hello again, friends. It has been a while since I have sat down to write an article due to COVID-19. I'd like to begin by saying that I hope everyone is doing well and is staying safe. I will try to not make this very political and try to stick with fishing for the most part. This has been a rough year for me as my guide season starts up full force usually in March and goes solid through June and then again August through January. As many of you know, all State lakes, parks and campgrounds were shut down and when reopened only some of them were to be reopened. I was fortunate enough that

Clinton Lake was able to reopen on May 1st as I guide on that lake all spring. But losing all of those trips March through end of April and now only being able to have two people per boat has been a real kick below the belt to me, my family and my business this year. This global pandemic is being handled different ways by different states and some maybe better than others. I am happy to be able to still be healthy and that I have been able to get back to guiding in May. I was excited to be able to still fish Lake Springfield during the shutdown, but they passed a rule that I was not able to have anyone in my boat that was not in

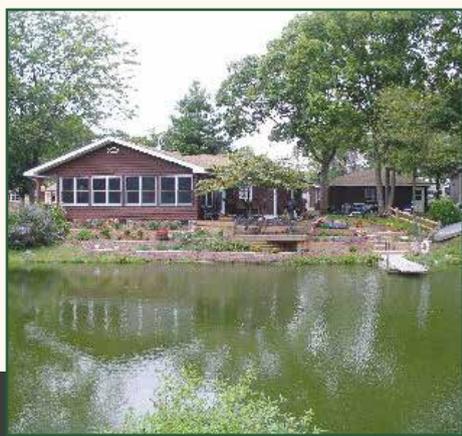


my same household. Then I was not able to collect unemployment as being self-employed, they just kept saying to wait. So, I decided I am kind of stuck here, I might as well enjoy this time with my wife, daughter and son and keep fishing to just myself on Lake Springfield or small farm ponds, etc. The time passed slowly, and I was beginning to wonder if I would ever be able to guide at all this Spring. Then it happened, Clinton was to be opened May 1st and I have been out almost everyday doing trips. Ones I had on my schedule and trying to reschedule as many as I can. I look forward to when I can have more than just one person on the boat with me. I am all about making memories with families and loved ones on the water.

I do not say all of this to complain or look for sympathy. I am telling you my life as it has gone so far through this pandemic. Looking at so many other



small businesses struggling, closing the doors for good is heart breaking and prayers are going out to everyone involved in these circumstances. I live in the small town of Tremont, Illinois and I am a small town guy, I do not enjoy going to the big cities and listening to cars and trains and sirens all the time, I enjoy sitting outside and having a fire and going fishing. It breaks my heart to



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see so many people laid off, or having to work in hospitals, grocery stores, fast food whatever is essential and wear masks and gloves all day and still make the same amount of money. I am thankful we have all of these people out here doing their jobs, and looking at everything going on, I consider myself blessed still!

I was and am still excited that the lakes that were closed or are still closed are having a Spring where they were not touched and that gives these fish time to spawn in peace and maybe get a little dumber and bite our baits more once they all open back up! For me, Clinton is going well right now. Spawn is coming to an end and we will begin the post spawn process of catching fish a bit deeper water by casting jigs, vertical jigging, maybe still deep slip bobbers simply because it's just fun. It does not matter the age I am, I still enjoy watching a bobber go down. Since May when it opened up, the the males were up shallow and I was not catching many females, now more females are being caught with eggs about to drop so I assume by the time you have read this article, but the spawn will nearly be over, but the fishing is still fun. I plan to continue guiding daily with one person as long as I have the client base to do so and hoping



it opens up to more so we can start targeting white bass on Lake Springfield this summer and then in early fall, back to crappie. I sincerely appreciate all the people still coming out even though I am only allowed to take out one customer. With out awesome customers supporting me and my family, I would not be able to do this as a full-time career. Just know you are appreciated and even through this pandemic, emails and phone calls are still coming in weekly with more customers wanting to get out. I don't take that for granted, I am blessed! The post spawn pattern is not too difficult, they just tend to move a bit deeper from where they spawned and like to rest a bit and then start eating again before it gets too hot. White bass will start moving out

of the creeks and rivers where they have finished spawning at the end of May and working their way back to main lake. I think the white bass is what I'm most excited about. I love white bass fishing and getting families out or people who have never caught such a fun freshwater schooling fish. It is my worst addiction next to fishing in general. White bass in summer and fall months putting the feed bag on and chowing down on blade baits and Charlie brewer slider grubs sliders and three to four inch twister tail grubs. Catching them vertical jigging with any of those baits, casting or even drop shooting is just an absolute blast! I guess I am just longing more for normalcy again in the boat. I look forward to taking my wife and kids out

and not just one person in the boat.

Thanks for listening to my scatter-brained article. Get outside, go fishing and enjoy yourself! It is shaping up to be a beautiful summer, pandemic or not, we make the decision to have fun! We might have to follow two per boat rules and eat our favorite local restaurants food in the car, but we decide if we have fun. Go out there and take it! As always, I can be reached at 309-642-8106 or centralilcrappieguide.com – I would love to hear from you anytime.

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2020 ILLINOIS YOUTH TURKEY SEASON FROM THE IDNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES:

Youth turkey hunters harvested a preliminary total of 1,744 birds during the 2020 Illinois Youth Turkey Season, a record harvest total. In 2019, a total of 1,392 turkeys were taken. The previous record total was in 2017 when 1,531 turkeys were harvested. The dates for this year's season were March 28-29 and April 4-5. This year, a total of 5,433 youth turkey permits were issued, compared to 4,994 in 2019. The top five counties for harvest during this year's youth season were Jefferson (69), Marion (61), Randolph (51), Pike (49), and Fayette (48).

COUNTY	2020	2019
ADAMS	30	27
ALEXANDER	18	13
BOND	19	17
BOONE	7	8
BROWN	15	15
BUREAU	15	19
CALHOUN	32	21
CARROLL	7	6
CASS	21	24
CHAMPAIGN	6	2
CHRISTIAN	2	4
CLARK	23	18
CLAY	38	22
CLINTON	18	10
COLES	4	3
CRAWFORD	29	21
CUMBERLAND	4	5
DEKALB	0	2
DEWITT	4	4
EDGAR	8	0
EDWARDS	14	10

EFFINGHAM	25	18
FAYETTE	48	45
FORD	0	1
FRANKLIN	33	21
FULTON	36	32
GALLATIN/HARDIN	25	18
GREENE	10	16
GRUNDY	3	4
HAMILTON	43	31
HANCOCK	35	32
HENDERSON	10	11
HENRY	19	17
IROQUOIS	8	13
JACKSON	32	21
JASPER	17	12
JEFFERSON	69	43
JERSEY	17	17
JO DAVIESS	29	32
JOHNSON	21	20
KANKAKEE	2	6
KENDALL	0	2
KNOX	19	29

LAKE	0	1
LASALLE	7	6
LAWRENCE	15	9
LEE	10	9
LIVINGSTON	4	2
LOGAN	8	2
MACON	6	1
MACOUPIN	42	32
MADISON	23	21
MARION	61	36
MARSHALL/PUTNAM	14	9
MASON	7	13
MASSAC	10	7
MCDONOUGH	7	10
MCHENRY	9	13
MCLEAN	8	5
MENARD	15	11
MERCER	31	29
MONROE	25	12
MONTGOMERY	21	17
MORGAN	17	10
MOULTRIE	6	1
OGLE	10	15

PEORIA	15	10
PERRY	25	21
PIKE	49	42
POPE	20	10
PULASKI	18	19
RANDOLPH	51	39
RICHLAND	21	14
ROCK ISLAND	15	13
SALINE	24	15
SANGAMON	16	15
SCHUYLER	16	13
SCOTT	6	5
SHELBY	25	19
ST CLAIR	22	23
STARK	1	2
STEPHENSON	18	18
TAZEWELL	8	4
UNION	40	25
VERMILION	5	7
WABASH	6	3
WARREN	8	7
WASHINGTON	14	8
WAYNE	35	24
WHITE	29	15
WHITESIDE	10	10
WILL	7	4
WILLIAMSON	36	25
WINNEBAGO	17	14
WOODFORD	16	5
GRAND TOTAL	1744	1392



The Mordhorst Family out for a day of fishing in Central Illinois. Matt, Grace, Noah and Addison had a great time catching some bluegill for dinner. Thanks for sharing with ASO Magazine.



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SUMMER HEAT

By Thane Hunt

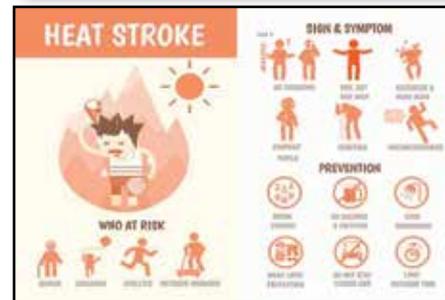
We have had a cool rainy spring this year. With summer on the way and with the restriction in place from Coronavirus outdoor activities that distance us from others will be great escapes for many of us this summer. The heat can be dangerous while doing outdoor activities from hiking, camping, fishing, or shooting. Those with disabilities can be at an even higher risk. Due to the changes our body's experience as persons with disabilities we are more at risk for heat related health problems. The body regulates its temperatures with less efficiency as before the disability was developed. This puts those with disabilities at a greater risk for dehydration and exhaustion. Your risks increase if you take medications for heart disease and blood pressure that alter salt and fluid in your body. These medications along with heat can lead to dehydration if you are not careful. Our bodies do not tend to shed heat as they did prior to developing a disability, persons with disabilities tend to sweat less and this leads to a decrease in the loss of body heat. Due to medicine taken by those with disabilities they don't always realize they are thirsty or dehydrated. Some danger during the heat include:

- Slow down and take breaks when engaging in any physical activity. If you take regular outdoor walks or are planning activities outdoors, do so during cooler parts of the day – early morning or evening hours.
- Stay hydrated. Carry water with you if outside and drink water or juice continuously during the day. Avoid caffeine and alcohol as they will increase the problem of dehydration.
- Eat smaller, more frequent meals. Good selections would be sandwiches, salads, fresh fruit, and vegetables.
- Stay cool. Have at least one air-conditioned room if possible. If not, stay in the cooler parts of the home, usually a lower level. Keep shades or curtains pulled over sunny windows.
- Use of ceiling and portable fans, as well as hand-held fans will be helpful.
- Stay in the shade and wear a wide-brimmed hat or use an umbrella. Wear light-colored and lightweight clothes.
- Use the cooling centers that are available in your area on very hot days in the summer.
- Use a U/V skin protection lotion or spray.

- Talk with your healthcare provider how your medical conditions and medication may affect your ability to manage extreme heat and humidity.
- Be alert for these signs and symptoms: rapid heartbeat, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, headache, chest pain, fatigue, clammy skin, mental changes or breathing problems. If you notice these or any other symptoms, seek medical attention immediately. If you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a senior and lives alone, please check on them regularly, especially during times of extreme heat.

Pay close attention for these signs and symptoms: rapid heartbeat, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, headache, chest pain, fatigue, clammy skin, mental changes or breathing problems. Should you experience one or more of these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately. Please check on family, friends, or neighbors on a regular basis while doing outdoor activities. If there is severe weather or extreme heat, please

limit your time outdoors. Remember that while being outside is can be great fun we have to make sure to be aware of the dangers of the heat. If you would like to share your story or outdoor adventures, please contact me at 309-338-0990 or at huntsgungetaway@gmail.com. Train Hard and Stay Safe. Thane



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NO SPEED TRAPS IN MACON, JUST A BULLET TRAP!

By Lawdog Dago Dom & Shortcake (Dominic & Kathy Visione)

Not that we are encouraging folks to violate traffic laws, but the one "trap" in Macon, Illinois is a good one.

The Bullet Trap was the brainchild of retired ADM airplane pilot Dan Cooley. Dan was born and raised in Decatur, and had an idea. Since the State of Illinois was dragged kicking and screaming into court, and told by a federal judge to start a concealed carry program, Dan figured those folks would need a place to train and practice. And buy guns and stuff. And he was right.

Macon was chosen as the site by extensive market research, census data, and economic demographics. That sounds really good, but it was actually negotiated by Dan and the owner of a chicken broasting building

that was up for sale. After a few beers at the Whit's End (also great food, by the way), the two agreed on a price and The Bullet Trap moved from concept to reality in August 2011.

Starting any new business means wading through regulations, zoning, local ordinances, etc. But a business that sells guns, with an indoor range? You can easily double or triple your homework. Dan was in for a refreshing surprise. The City of Macon, and the County, were super receptive to his business. "They worked with me all the way," Dan said, "I can't say enough good things about them." Macon County Sheriff (at the time) Tom Schneider, was also very helpful.

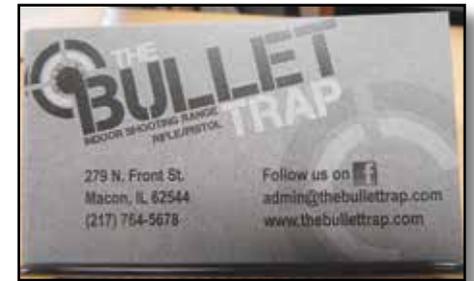
I have no doubt the cooperation came from the way Dan presents



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himself. He is a very sincere and honest person. He wants to be a good neighbor to the community, and works hard to that end. For example, when the plans for the indoor range were gearing up, he realized there was a home that would be close to the range exterior. Dan went to visit the neighbor to discuss his plans and see what concerns he would have. The neighbor knew something was going on with all the construction workers around (hard to keep a secret in downtown Macon). When Dan told him of the indoor range, the man breathed a sigh of relief. He was worried it would be a "Gentleman's Club." With Dan's promise that he would insulate for sound, the neighbor was on board.

As range use increased, there was a demand for range time on



The Bullet Trap info

Sundays. The schedule at that time was Monday through Saturday. But Dan, good neighbor that he is, went to area churches to see if they would object to his opening on Sundays. They had no issues, and Sunday at the range was on! Keep in mind that he did not have to approach any of these people for permission by law. But here is where some old school common sense and courtesy mean a lot. With much of mainstream media looking for any reason to bash gun owners, you can bet these folks have nothing but positive comments about The Bullet Trap.

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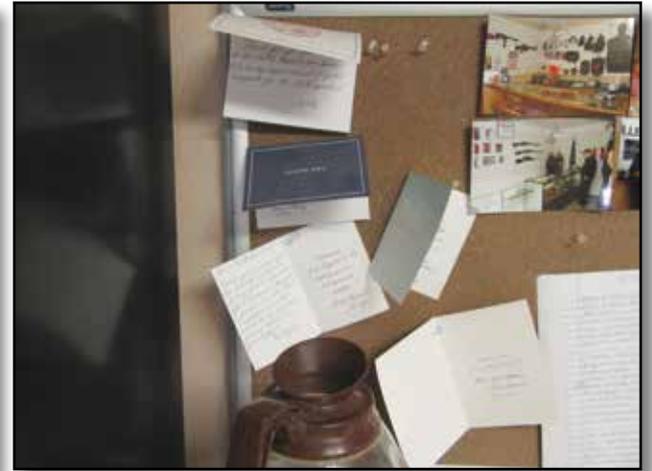
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When customers send "thank you" cards, you are doing something right!

The Bullet Trap, as a local business, supports other local businesses. Dan's banker is in the next block, The Whit's End for a great lunch or dinner, and his t-shirt printer is just outside of Macon. Dan said Macon County State's Attorney Jay Scott is great to work with, and is always there if he has a question or a concern. Dan also supports student projects at Meridian High School and Mount Zion High School, and

some local fundraisers. And Macon County is a Second Amendment Sanctuary County.

As you face the front of the Bullet Trap, the large building on the left is the Training Center. Here are classrooms for CCL, Advanced Pistol and the video simulator. The simulator has a total of 410 programs, divided by a recreational package and a law enforcement package.

The difference is that the law enforcement package allows an operator to change the scenarios ending. There are 4 Glock pistols that can be used individually, or up to 4 shooters at once. You can rent the simulator for parties, with 20 being the maximum. Bring in food and refreshments, but NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

Dan does ask that you respect social distancing in the facility until

the COVID-19 dust settles. With the increase in gun sales, Dan figures 30 to 40% are first time buyers. With that, Dan says that his obligation is to educate and train FIRST. Then we can talk about buying. There are rental guns available for the 8 lane indoor range. There is an outdoor range just outside of town near Dalton City.

Dan has been married to Paula for 20 years, and they have a son

continued on page 103



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• ANTHONY REGNIER •

WHERE THE "ADDICTION" STARTED...MY MOTHER

We all have what we call "an addiction" towards angling, but of all the species I have fished for there is only one that drives me as crazy as this one. I have spent hours upon hours in some of the roughest and unappealing weather known to man- from fishing in 104 degree heat last year on Lake Saint Clair to finishing up last winter in 27 degree days for a high. We go out for 16-18 hour days, sometimes with no action, wake up and go out and do it again without thinking twice about it. You love and hate this fish at the same time, but you just can't quite the hunt for them. I cannot tell you the first bluegill I caught or the first bass, catfish, or crappie. I can tell you minute for minute though when I caught my first one of these fish. I can tell you the bait, the time, the weather, the rod, the

reel, even the barometric pressure. This fish has many names and nicknames, but we call it the musky.

You might be interested why I bring up my beloved fish specie, well... after May typically they are finished with spawn and are becoming more active again on average. I do not even fish for them during their spawn time just so they can do their routine without interruptions. Well, I have a reason why I wanted to bring this topic up. Let's go back to August 2000 to explain.

My family has made a tradition of going to northern Wisconsin for a family vacation the first week of August for my entire lifetime even to this day with my generation of kids. Back in the year 2000 though was the vacation that stands out among all of

them. It started out as all of them do tons of sun, swimming, tubing, and grilling out. We had a 14ft Alumacraft that was provided by our landlords of the house we rented. This thing has been around the world a few times and been thru a few wars. Some say it was the lifeboat carried by the mayflower on its voyage to find new land. For Christmas a few years prior, I received a transom mounted trolling motor that I used for the week to putt back and forth from my fishing spots. I really thought I was king of the sea with that bomber.

A few years prior to the year 2000 vacation, I grew a fascination for the fish that would later run my life. I visited a local bait shop in the town by where we stayed. It was there I met a guy by the name of Rollie. Some of you might have guessed it, I was at Rollie and Helen's Musky shop just south of Minocqua, Wisconsin. The huge lures that lined all the aisles intrigued me. I mean seriously there was something in the water I just was swimming an hour ago that would eat



something like that! After I browsed the aisles for probably more than an hour, I decided to spend some of my summer mowing money on two lures. The first one being a Musky Buster Double Stomper topwater bait. The other was a Mepp's pink bucktail (reason I chose pink was it was my favorite jig color.) After a brief talk with Rollie the owner giving me some tips on spots and times, he gave me the Mepp's bait for free. I couldn't believe it why would anyone care about an eight-year-old angler buying two baits? Many years later even though Rollie has since passed on his lesson lives on thru me. The importance of passing down the sport we love to the youth. If we don't the sport will slowly fade away and die.

As most musky anglers will tell you the serious addiction doesn't start

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until you catch your first one, then it's all out the window from there. Well a few years later after striking out quite a few times, I wasn't about ready to give up. It was Wednesday of our trip with only half of the trip to go. There was a nice storm front building in the distance, and I knew it was time to hit the water. I knew I had a few hours before the rains were set to arrive. I got my big series Zebco with 10lb test, a wire leader, and a Musky Buster Double Stomper topwater lure tied to it. My mother, who always liked chaperoning me out for the evening, jumped into the boat and we set course to a cove that was about 500 yards from our house. Once arriving to the spot, we fished until we could see the storm front off in the distance and knew it was bearing down on us. I kept telling her one more cast about 20 times until that fateful cast was thrown, the one that was going to change my life forever!

I started to retrieve the bait when all of a sudden the bait got exploded on by a fish. As you can imagine with a Zebco with 10lb test I thought I hooked Jaws. After a lengthy battle and a few failed netting attempts, I was staring at the fish that was going to change my direction of angling forever. It measured only 30 inches, but I wouldn't trade that fish for even my current PB. Why? That 30-inch fish instilled in me the confidence I needed to push on and feel like I was making the right choices in my pursuit of these fish. Also, with help from the adrenaline of the battle, the catch and the release, a true musky obsessed addict was born that very day.

You still may be asking yourself, "so why bring this story up after May is over?" Most people probably couldn't guess who was fishing with me for my two first musky I successfully caught. Believe it or not it was my mother. It's not because my



father wasn't an angler, because he's a very avid panfish/ walleye angler. He has been a trooper on many occasions coming with me musky fishing even though I know it isn't his forte. My mom I guess was my lucky charm when it came to the "Skis". She has fished with me on quite a few occasions and has been one of my biggest fans when I became a guide. Even though one of your parents isn't as big into your hobbies as the other, doesn't mean some of the stuff they teach you won't overlap into it. My mother always taught me to be patient, optimistic, ambitious and a thinker. If

you ask me those 4 qualities are some of the biggest qualities of being a good fisherman!

Many years later I am blessed to say I have married the love of my life and we have since had two sons (Joseph age 2 and Benjamin age 5 months). My wonderful wife Colleen is very supportive to making sure our family is an outdoors family. I just pray my sons have a story like mine that even after 20 years it still brings a smile to their face! Happy Mother's Day to my Mother Linda Regnier and my wife Colleen Regnier! Thanks for being my biggest fans!!!



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8 SIMPLE AND EASY LANDSCAPING IDEAS FOR PEOPLE WHO HATE YARD WORK

By Houselogic

Yards are meant for fun times - not chores.



Image: 1001Pallets

The point of having your own yard is to enjoy it, not be a slave to it. These easy landscaping ideas will give you

more time for outdoor leisure instead of mowing and weeding.

#1: USE ROCKS FOR INTERESTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES



Image: JPM Landscape and Design

Grass doesn't grow on rocks. Besides stating the obvious, what that really means is that they're the perfect, versatile tool for creating a low-maintenance outdoor space. Use them to create walkways, or group them together to form decorative outcroppings.

You can even lay out stones to be ornamental dry creek beds. Small yards, especially in desert

climates, can be completely rocked over, or you can use them as strategically placed accents.

And if you've got spots that are constantly wet, they're great for keeping mud (and mosquitoes!) under control because they'll help the water run off instead of collecting.

#2: ADD A RAIN GARDEN IF YOU'VE GOT A SOGGY SPOT



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14 RALEIGH AVE., MACKINAW, IL 61755 - \$206,500
Take a look at this 1-owner home! Neutral colors; 6-panel doors throughout. Lots of privacy with a lot on each side (included with this property). No backyard neighbors. Entry and living room are 2-story. Informal dining room floor is made from wood from these lots. Bright master bedroom with skylight and master bath. All 3 bedrooms are upstairs. Nice deck overlooking the wooded backyard. Unfinished walk-out basement to complete to your liking. 12x20 shed. Taxes reflect all 3 lots. HOA fees listed include \$67/year lake stocking fee and an annual lot fee of \$249.36/lot. Golf carts/ranger-type vehicles allowed in the subdivision. Come and view this property!

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Image: Rain Dog Designs LLC

A rain garden is kind of a mini-wetland that reduces storm-water runoff. And done right, they're almost maintenance free because they require no mowing, no watering, and little weeding.

They make much prettier focal points than soggy grass, too.

Rain gardens are fairly easy to create, using gravel, sand, and native plants. The idea is to slow down rainwater so less of it goes into the sewer system, and more is used to nourish plant life.

#3: DIY THE EASIEST DECK EVER



Image: Alexi Politis at Seeking Alexi

Decks do require some maintenance, but you don't have to mow 'em every weekend, that's for sure. And a platform deck — no steps, no railings — is the easiest of all to build.

"There are lots of dense hardwoods like ipe and cedar, redwood, and composites that last a long time and are very low-maintenance," says Tomi Landis, president of Landis Garden Design in Washington, D.C.

While you're dreaming of your new deck, think about this: How you will use it?

No Deck?

Adding one would be wise. Most decks recoup 80% of the cost when

you sell.

"Will you be using it in the morning while having coffee?" Landis asks. "If so, it should be oriented to the east. If it's mainly for dining out in the evening and having cocktails, it should be facing west." But be sure shade is available in the hotter months.

#4: SWITCH TO TALL GRASS THAT NEVER NEEDS MOWING



Image: Carol Heffernan

Not all grass is created equal. Tall grasses, like switchgrass, bluestem, muhly, and fountaingrass, all grow fast and require very little TLC. Nor do they ever get mowed.

"Native grasses are a great solution to a lot of landscaping problems," Landis says. They soak up lots of water and provide an organic privacy screen while trimming your mowing time.

How to use tall grasses in your landscaping:

- Group along a fence line.
- Group into geometric patterns in your yard for a clean look.
- Go more random for a more natural look.

The most maintenance you'll do with these is cut them back in late fall. They dry up in the fall, which sends some of those glorious long leaves flying across your yard. But they can be used as (free!) mulch or ignored. They'll do no harm.

#5: CREATE PATHWAYS TO REDUCE HIGH-MAINTENANCE GRASS

Like the rocks above, pavers (sometimes called "steppers") are



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Image: Val Lonergan/zenshmen!

decorative stones used to create pathways that need little or no care.

"A stepper in a natural shape looks really great in a lot of contexts," Landis says. Traditional house styles like bungalows, colonials, and Victorians tend to go well with more natural pavers, like flagstone.

If your house is more on the modern side, opt for some rectangular or square pavers.

#6: GO FOR FAKE GRASS — NO ONE WILL KNOW (SERIOUSLY)

Some purists might consider fake grass to be over the line, but the newer faux turf doesn't make your yard look like a putt-putt course, nor does it get so hot it burns your feet like the fake



Image: John Riha for HouseLogic

turf in your parents' day.

"It's great for somebody with no time on their hands," says Doug DeLuca, founder of Federal Stone and Brick in Sterling, Virginia. "It comes like a roll of carpet, you set a bed for it with gravel, then use sod staples to hold it down."

It doesn't need to be cut, watered or fertilized, and pets can't kill it.

#7: PLANT YOUR OWN MINI FOREST IF YOU GET LOTS OF RAIN

Where there are trees there shall be no grass. But there will be shade, and that's a plus for picnicking and lawn-chair lounging.

"Trees can soak up a lot of



Image: RDM Architecture

rainwater," Landis says, and therefore, need a lot of water. Consider your local climate, as soaking up water can be good or bad. Do you need to sop up excess water? Is the yard already too dry?

Keep in mind that native trees are less maintenance because they're adapted to your area.

#8: USE OBJECTS TO ADD COLOR- INSTEAD OF FLOWERS

Color is the secret to a stunning yard, but that doesn't mean you need to plant a garden full of labor-



Image: DesignFix

intensive dahlias.

It means choosing bright pots, benches, bird baths, Adirondack chairs — anything that just sits there and looks lovely while you pour the cocktails.

The options are as numerous as the Pinterest search results for "yard art" (which is somewhere between 5,000 and infinity).

And if you decide to pop some colorful flowers into your colorful pots, what could be better a better backdrop to your finally-realized cocktail party?

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3 HANDSOME SOLUTIONS TO HANDLE OUTDOOR CLUTTER

By HouseLogic

No need to stash it all in the garage. Here's how to create tidy storage in your yard.



"That can go in the garage" is a common solution to just about anything outdoorsy that needs a home. Instead, think outside the garage. These ideas are great for decluttering your garage — and they'll pay dividends when it comes time to sell. Because clutter never increases a home's selling price.

#1 Tuck Storage Under Your Deck



An elegant solution if you've got a deck that sits up fairly high. You can tuck loads of outdoor tools and equipment under it. Even add doors to help keep things out of sight. A perfect solution to decluttering your garage.

Adding one would be wise. Most decks recoup 80% of the cost when you sell.

One caveat: This type of storage will protect items from the heat and sun, but not from moisture, so unless

you add a ceiling to your under-deck shed, only store things that can handle some wet.

If your deck lacks height: try storage drawers instead.

Store pool equipment, folding deck chairs, yard games, and coolers within easy reach, and you'll hardly break your outdoor-happiness zen when you need to grab something.

#2 Build a Fence With Built-Ins



#3 Add a Purpose-Built Shed



This pup's family obviously loves biking and campfires — and they've got just the right size and configured shed to store the bikes and wood efficiently.

Maximize your outdoor space by noodling on your storage pain points, then building something to fit your purpose. You'll get rid of the clutter, and you'll prevent some pre-fab shed from taking up too much space and becoming yet another place where clutter accumulates.



1875 Knox Rd 900 E., Galesburg, IL 61401
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Several outbuildings with infinite use potential and picturesque views unlike any other. An impressive 7000 square feet of living space with this 5BR 4BA ranch home. Showcasing a gourmet kitchen equipped with granite counter tops and birch cabinets, a second full kitchen, a commercial grade security system, sky lights, stunning authentic hardwood floors, and a prominent master suite with a cedar lined walk in closet.

PENDING



206 Stockdale Lane, Abingdon, IL 61410 - \$139,000
 MLS # CA999677

Character galore and a significant amount of living space make this 4BR 2BA the home for you! Featuring plenty of updates such as a kitchen and bathroom remodel, newer appliances, new water heater and newer lower level carpet. A grand family room great for gathering by the warm wood burning fireplace and the sizable eat in kitchen with loads of cabinet space. Beautifully landscaped fenced in yard, additional detached garage with electricity, fine deck, a patio and mature shade trees.



1127 Knox Rd 2400 N., Oneida, IL 61467
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2082 62nd St., Monmouth, IL 61462
\$108,000
 MLS #CA999558

Enjoy the tranquil outdoors with this charming 3BR 2BA ranch home. Properly placed in a stunning country setting with Peach and Apple trees and grape vines. Main floor living with the potential for additional space in the walk out basement. Many conveniences offered here with a water softener, hot water heat, newer windows, an above ground pool, heated garage and an impressive deck great for enjoying the serene atmosphere



216 N. Shore Place, Dahinda, IL 61428
\$160,000
 MLS #CA999417

Perfect for part time or permanent residence on beautiful Spoon Lake. This captivating 3+BR 1BA lake house offers numerous upgrades with it's custom kitchen, gorgeous hardwood floors, newer plumbing, desired solid surface counters and Levolor blinds throughout. A nature lovers dream with stunning lake views and access, boating with a boat launch nearby, fishing, camping and swimming in Oak Run Lake Community!



656 210th Ave., Monmouth, IL 61462 - \$94,900
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Appealing 2BR 1BA bungalow with a country feel located just outside of town! Providing a great deal of character such as built in shelves and detailed moldings. The outdoors showcase a stunning backdrop and a great place for entertaining! The big red barn perfect for storing animals, lawn equipment and everything in between and offers an outstanding loft space complete with new flooring. The massive 2 car garage is perfect for housing most over sized pick up trucks and more.



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VISITING THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

By Rich Creason

After many decades of traveling this country hunting, fishing, metal detecting, camping, and much more, it was recently brought to my attention that I had missed some important activities along the way. Our grandson, Benjamin, became very interested in the Civil War. He has a collection of buttons, bullets, buckles, money, and other items from that era. He has formed these into a 4-H collection which has taken Champion ribbons at the Fort Wayne 4-H fair. He and his family have visited dozens of Civil War battlefields, and monuments, and now he has expanded his interest to viewing many of our National Monuments in Washington.

Last year, at the end of eight grade, his class was taking a trip to Washington, D.C. His teacher, a former Marine, used his influence to arrange an unheard of offer from his contacts to allow four of his students to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. His class was tasked with writing an essay telling what they knew about the Tomb and why they wanted to be picked to be one of the four to lay the wreath at this hallowed site.

This honor is usually awarded only to a few VIP's. Below is his winning essay.

Washington D.C. Essay

Written by: Benjamin Jacob Marques

The history of the tomb starts on the 4th day of March, in the year 1921, when Congress approved the burial of an unknown, American, World War I soldier in the plaza of the Memorial Amphitheatre. But, it was most well known to have come to be what it is today, on the 11th day of November (Veterans Day), in the year 1921. On this day, Warren Gamaliel Harding was having a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery for the Unknown Soldier. Prior to burial, the soldier had been placed in the Capitol Rotunda, after being transported to the United States from France on the USS Olympia. On the 3rd day of August, in the year 1956, President Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower signed a bill to pay tribute to an unknown veteran from World War II and the Korean War. The unknown soldiers were selected in 1958 and brought back on the USS Canberra. Both



Four Students arrive at Tomb for wreath laying ceremony.

arrived in Washington D.C. on the 28th day of May in the year of 1958, where they were taken to the Capitol Rotunda and then buried alongside the Unknown Soldier from World War I on the 30th day of May, still in the year 1958. One final Unknown Soldier was chosen in the Vietnam War. President Ronald Wilson Reagan awarded the Medal of Honor to the Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam War on the 28th day of May, in the year 1984, just before the burial of the soldier.

Over the grave of the unknown soldier of World War I is a marble sarcophagus, which on the East side (The side facing Washington D.C.) has three sculpted Greek figures which represent Peace, Victory, and Valor. Also on the sarcophagus are

six wreaths, which represent the six major campaigns of World War I as well as the words: "Here rests in honored an American soldier know but to God." West of the sarcophagus are the graves of the unknown soldiers from the other three wars. All three have marble grave markers that are level with the surrounding plaza. The marker of the Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War was replaced after the soldier was identified as 1st Lieutenant Michael Joseph Blassie, who was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam and removed. The crypt still remains empty after a decision to leave it empty. The new marker over the crypt reads: "Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975."

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

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not only is a memorial to the soldiers who eternally rest there, but also as a memorial to the other soldiers who fought in U.S. wars, especially those who died in the line of duty. The tomb especially symbolizes the other unknown soldiers who died and were never identified that should also be remembered for their service to the country. The tomb symbolizes the remembrance of those who serve our country, that deserve our utmost honor, respect, dignity, and above all, thanks. These people died so that others in our country wouldn't have to. This symbolizes some of the most respected and thanked people who deserve all of the respect that they receive, and then some.

The soldiers that guard the tomb are Sentinels, the best soldiers of the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) which is headquartered in Fort Myer, Virginia. To be eligible to guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a soldier must pass a two-week trial process. Soldiers become Sentinels in a ceremony and then join Company E. There is also a height requirement, which is 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet 4 inches for men, and for women, they must be between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet 2 inches tall. During their two-week trial, soldiers must memorize seven pages of history and learn 300 veteran graves. They must learn how to change guards and be able to perform it. To get their silver badge, they must get more than a 95 percent on a test that tests them over everything they learned. The

badge is temporary, until a guard has served nine months, upon which, they will receive another silver badge, which can be worn on a military uniform for the rest of one's military career. The Old Guard is really the oldest, starting to protect our country in the year 1784 and is still going strong.

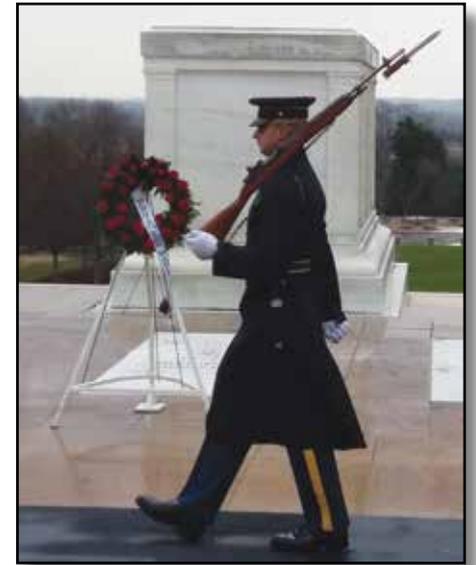
To lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier would mean the world to me. I have been very privileged to do some very amazing things in my life, but this would top it all off, as this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, that not many people have the chance to do. Being there is already cool enough but if I was chosen to place a wreath, this would be the biggest and most important thing that I have ever done and it would leave me speechless if I was chosen. The wreath laying ceremonies are the most important ceremonies that take place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and normally, wreaths are placed only by important national or state figures and mostly on special occasions. If I was one of the students chosen to lay the wreath, I would do it with the most energy and respect than I have ever done anything in my entire life.

I have many veterans in my family that I would be honoring if I were to lay



Two Girls placing wreath on easel at Tomb of Unknown Soldier.

a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. My grandpa wasn't in the military but he worked a while as a guard for a jail. My great grandpa was a World War II veteran who served in an Indiana Regiment. He was on the island when the photograph of the Americans raising the flag on Iwo Jima was taken, which is something cool that a lot of people can brag (In a good way) about. Not only would I be serving them, but I would also be serving my family and everyone who has died or is currently serving. I also have some other family members who served in the military and one who served in the police. Even though most of the family members mentioned are dead, I'm sure that they still feel touched by what I did if I was to lay the wreath.



Guard in front of Tomb with wreath behind him.

Laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier would mean a lot to me and my family members. It is a very special experience that few people get the chance to do. The tomb is a sacred place and would be the coolest thing I've ever done.

Not a bad story written by a 13 year old. It's also great to know that some of our younger generation still appreciate our history and the sacrifices made by the military to preserve our way of life.

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



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Lake activities are a great way to enjoy Branson. Water sports are available on each of Branson's great lakes, where guests can swim, water ski, wakeboard, tube, boat, sail, scuba dive, Jet Ski, parasail, ride a hydro-bike, paddleboarding, kayak, canoe and fish.

There are more species of fish to catch in Branson than anywhere else. Choose from rainbow trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Kentucky bass, striped bass, white bass, rock bass, catfish, crappie, walleye, yellow perch, four species of sunfish and even the historic paddlefish. Unfamiliar with fishing in Branson? Book a guided fishing trip through one of the many guide services on any lake. Want to get some physical activity in? Branson has more than 200 miles of miles of trails with varying lengths offering natural views of water, woods and wildlife.

Table Rock Lake has nearly 800 miles of shoreline and is one of Missouri's top fishing destinations. Marina's offer boat and equipment rentals, or bring your own, as there are multiple public and privately-owned locations to access the lake. Want to relax on the lake? Enjoy a lunch or dinner cruise and show aboard the Showboat Branson Belle or take a cruise on the Spirit of America catamaran.

Lake Taneycomo's water comes from the bottom of Table Rock Lake, making it a cold-water lake perfect for trout fishing. The pristine, clear, water is stocked annually with approximately 750,000 rainbow trout, making it a world-class trout fishery. The state record brown trout came from these waters and many believe the next world record is swimming around right now in Taneycomo's waters. This lake is also perfect for kayaking and there are plenty of resorts and other lodging along its banks.

Branson also offers plenty of family-oriented RV Parks and Campgrounds near and around the lakes. Spend quality time together with the comforts of a full-service RV site or unplug and reconnect with the family at a campground near one of the beautiful lakes. Prefer something more upscale? Stay in a log cabin, resort, lodge or hotel, the options are unlimited.

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In addition to all the outdoor opportunities in the Branson area, visit Silver Dollar City theme park, nature parks, waterparks or museums and aquariums in the area. Have a great meal at one of the many restaurants or take in a dinner show. Play a round of golf on your choice of 10 world-class golf courses or have fun at one of the many miniature golf courses.

Branson is one of the leading entertainment cities in America, with over 100 shows playing throughout the year there are more seats than Broadway in Branson. It is a truly remarkable city with so much to offer. There is always something to fill your days with lots of

fun-packed activities. Or, just come to relax and recharge your body and soul away from home.

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No Speed Traps in Macon... cont.

and three daughters. Paula retired from a successful real estate career, but still does some realty work. Dan says they have a deal, he doesn't help her sell houses and she doesn't help him sell guns. Fair enough. Dan has seen a dramatic increase in female shooters that just keeps growing, which he sees as a very positive movement. Dan also added that new female shooters seem to acquire skills quicker than new male shooters (sorry guys).

The Bullet Trap is also a Glock Blue Label Program Dealer, and has recently become a Taylor's Uberti Dealer! If you like 19th Century "cowboy" style guns, Taylor's sells some of the best in the business. So if your need that state of the art 21st century firearm, or something with an old west flavor, they are all here. Dan Cooley and his staff will make sure that any and all of your firearm needs are properly met.



Can you ever have enough Rugers? Owner Dan Cooley shows Lawdog how easy the new Mark IV disassembles for cleaning. Big improvement!



Every gun shop gets an odd trade now and then. This is an Ithaca single shot 12 gauge that uses a lever action to open the breach. Not sure how this would work in a Cowboy match, but it would be interesting!



Shortcake doing some Glock n Roll on the simulator. She did really good!



Dan is also a licensed consumer grade fireworks seller. With most big displays being cancelled, you may need to check this out.

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WHAT IS A TRAPPER TO DO

By Neal Graves, President of the Illinois Trappers Association

With the Covid-19 stuff going on, now is the time to get ready for next year's trapping season. What can we do now? I am glad you ask. Let's start by fixing traps. Anything from tuning your traps to fixing triggers, dogs, and springs. Also now is a good time to dip or paint your traps. It's also a good time to try to hone out trapping skills by trapping some bait. Moles and shrews are moving around, and it makes it a great time to catch some and grind them up or just freeze whole for yote and fox baits. It is also a great time to go catch some fish and make some fish bait up. As well as start making some beaver oils and fish oils as well as mouse or mole oils. Also as we are all out there going fishing and hunting turkey and mushrooms it is a great time to do some prospecting for the season coming up. Also is a great time to study up on the fur markets. If you are reading some of the fur market reports in some of the other outdoor mags. Some of that info is 1 to 3 months old. This may not be good as the fur market can and does change overnight Even can change hourly some days. I will give you two places to start looking for info the rest is on you to do some work on the markets. 1st fur harvesters and 2nd Groenewald fur and wool company in Foreston Illinois. Good luck to all and stay safe also please remember to take a kid to the outdoors.

TRAPPING LURE AND BAITS

It is such a rush to catch an animal on a lure or bait that you make up. A lot of us say it is to hard or I do not know what I need to do. Well now is a great time to start making some lure and baits up for next year. I will give so lure and baits that you can make real cheap and you will be surprised at how good a lure maker you are. Let us start by talking a little bit about bait and lure makings. If you want a great bait or lure you must use a great lure or bait makings you can go to

the store but the stuff you will pick up there to use is so watered down. For best results get the good stuff. I get mine from two places 1st is Kaatz bros trapping supply's in Savanna IL and 2nd is from F and T trading post in Alpena MI. There are a lot of other places to get you stuff but this is where I get mine because I know it is not watered down and is clean and pure. I also can get all my supply's like bottles and jars as well as books and tapes on lure making. They also have a list of what each bottle of stuff is good for. Here is a couple of things to get you started.

MOUSE OIL

All you need is 5 or 6 mice, 1 small rock, the toe out of an old pair of panty hose, peanut or Vegetable oil, and 1 jar.

Start by catch 5 or 6 mice. Use fresh not frozen. Then put the mice in the panty hose with a rock and place in a jar. Then cover the mice with the oil so that no parts of the mice are exposed to air. If exposed to air will draw fly's and maggots. Place the lid back on jar and set in a sunny area outside and let the mice rot down. When mice are rotted down pore into a jar and pitch the mice, panty hose, rock and all. Depends on the weather as to how long this will take. 2 to 4 weeks normally. If you do not want to catch the mice then go to pet store and buy the mice.

This oil will be good for Fox and Yote's.

OILS AND WHAT THEY ARE GOOD FOR:

- COONS = apple, strawberry, loganberry, melon, persimmon, banana, grape, blackberry, vanilla, blue berry, cherry, mint, poplar bud, anise, acorn, sweetcorn, sweet flag, honey oil, rhodium, smoke, almond, fig, sweet birch, ambrette musk, amberggris
- MINK = amberggris
- SKUNK = banana
- BEAVER= ambrette musk, sweet



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- birch, bergamont, honey oil, rhodium, sweet flag, sweetcorn, anise, poplar bud, apple, persimmon, vanilla, cherry, castorium
- K-9 = asafetida, cheese, lavage, valerian, skunk essence, persimmon,
 - BOBCAT = cat nip, valerian, asafetida
 - RED FOX = cheese, smoke, asafetida, lavage, valerian, honey oil, skunk essence, ambrette, persimmon
 - GROUND HOG = strawberry, melon, apple,
 - GRAY FOX = grape, black berry, blue berry, persimmon
 - RATS = strawberry, apple, melon, persimmon, vanilla, cherry, carrot, mint, poplar bud, anise, sweet corn, sweet flag, rhodium, almond, sweet birch, ambrette
 - BEAR = fig, almond, smoke, honey oil, acorn, straw berry, loganberry, black berry, blue berry,
 - NUTRIA = rhodium
 - DEER = acorn, apple, vanilla
 - TONQUIN = all animals
 - AMBERGRIS = most predators
 - BERGAMONT = most animals

Some easy lures and baits to make for beginners or pros:

Muskrat lure

- 1 oz carrot oil
- 15 oz. glycerin

Coon trailing scent

- 1 oz. peppermint
- 4 oz. Everclear
- 11 oz. Glycerin

Coon bait (put in bowl and mix well)

- 4 oz. molasses
- 1 gal. ground fish
- 32 oz. salt
- 4 oz. shellfish oil
- 2oz. smoke
- 4 oz. glycerin

Skunk lure

- 1 oz. banana oil
- 1/4 oz grape oil
- 16 oz. glycerin

Coon lure

- 16 oz. honey
- 1/2 oz. beaver caster
- 1/2 oz. rat musk
- 10 drops anise oil



Gary Zwicky with a couple Irish Acres Crappie caught from shore. Thanks to Mike O'Bryan with Remax Traders Unlimited Commercial for sending us this great photo. Call Mike for all of your commercial real estate needs at 309-635-8901.



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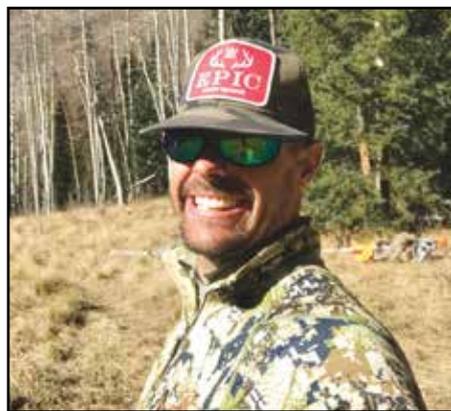
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IS IT FISHING OR HUNTING?

By Shawn Stafford - Owner, Hunting Fit • www.Huntingfit.com

ticket was purchased.

I had honestly forgotten about the raffle and was out of touch with reality (or at least cell service) at my fishing cabin during Memorial Day Weekend. When I got back to civilization (or a mile or two from the cabin) I saw a post similar to the one that prompted me to purchase the ticket notifying the world that I had won the trip. I had dabbled as a kid with some very rudimentary equipment, suffered from a miserable solo attempt to try it as an adult, and in general had little idea what bowfishing was really all about. This however was going to be a new experience in the hand of some seasoned bowfishers and my primal engine was firing!

One really special aspect of this trip was that my brother was going to be joining me on the journey. We certainly don't get to see each other as often as we would like so aside from the fact I had made a donation to worthy cause, was going to meet some very good people, experience a new hunting adventure, I would also get to spend some quality time

with my brother. Life is good! After a scare from a last minute emergency call in from work my brother showed up at my house grinning ear to ear and ready to see if we could get lucky in Kentucky and shoot some fish. The three hour trip flew by as we talked and caught up and discussed how we thought the night was going to pan out.

First order of business was to pick up our fishing license at the local bait shop in Eddyville, KY. I have to admit it was a pretty fancy bait shop in comparison to what I'm accustomed to, but they were quite inviting and more than happy to accommodate our needs. Those needs initially were for two 1-day fishing licenses but quickly changed to two 7-day licenses and a pair of \$10 camouflage sunglasses. Let's just say my brother is quite the free spirit and the fact that the only thing he forgot was a pair of shades was a spectacular performance on his part in relative terms. Luckily as they were completing the paperwork for my license I double checked that it would be valid for 24 hours rather than



Brothers shared an exciting trip bowfishing in Kentucky. The shooting was plentiful and fast paced. It turned out to be a great way to spend a hot summer evening.

"Why Not? It's for a good cause." With that comment to myself and the click of a mouse button my bowfishing adventure had begun. Due to my website (HuntingFit.com) I have a large quantity hunting and fishing related social media I get exposed to and also get to bestow on others. It's a fantastic way to share experiences and gather useful information related to my outdoors passions. It just so happened I saw a post from the Bluegrass Adventures Team selling raffle tickets to support a youth program revolving around getting kids outside and involved in hunting and fishing. Who could say no to that? Top it off with the fact that the raffle winner would receive a bowfishing excursion in Western Kentucky and my

the actual calendar day. Had I purchased the 1-day license it would have expired at 11:59 that evening and I would have missed out on some serious excitement. Looking back at the trip I still laugh when we told our would be hosts we got the 7-day license so we could fish past midnight. They found that humorous and nonchalantly told us we would have been fine with a 1-day. Ultimately, they were wrong, which was good for us.

When pulling into the hotel parking lot to meet the Bluegrass Adventures Team we were thrilled to see two fishing rigs sitting in the parking lot. They were just as I had envisioned



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with platforms, railing, lights, the full gamut! After discussing the evenings plan, we set off to fish the convergence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. It had been years since I had been out on a big river and sights and smells were just as I remembered. They claimed the water was relatively clear and should be great for spotting fish. Mind you, if you're not from my part of Mid-West your definition of clear will definitely be different. We have a lot of mud, clay, and agriculture runoff around so the fact that we could see 2-3 below the water is actually pretty good.

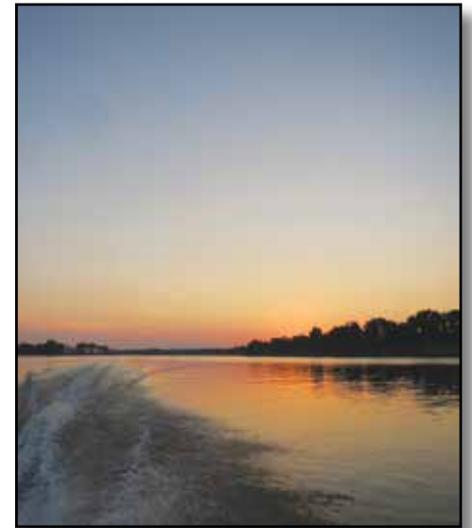
The sun was hot, and the temps were in the 90's so needless to say we sweating our butts off before long. We cruised the banks while periodically checking the middle of the river looking for our primary targets, silver, and big head carp. The mood was light and at one point the radio started blasting tunes and there may have even been a little dancing going on. The fish were few, but it gave me a chance to get accustomed to my recurve, reel, and heavy fiberglass arrow. With this setup, and as I believe is the case most of the time when bowfishing, the shooting is more instinctive than when hunting furred game. After a few missed shots

I began to get a feel for the process and felt that I may have a chance. If you've ever bowfished then you know that you actually aim below your target due to the bending or refracting of light by the water. So, in other words the fish is lower in the water than what you are actually seeing. Armed with this knowledge and a little practice I my brother and I were feeling pretty good about things.

After an hour or two at our first destination the team decided that there had to be more opportunities elsewhere along the river. They convinced us that the fishing would be better and with evening approaching we motored back to the launch to load up and hit a second spot. Following along the winding Kentucky roads we wondered where these less traveled blacktops would take us. I was surprised as we weaved through hardwood flats, bottom grounds, and ag fields when out of nowhere a paved parking lot and concrete ramp appeared. How you would ever find this unless you were previously introduced to this special spot I have no idea. With dusk approaching we untrailerred the boats and staged a group picture before heading out to see what the night may hold for us. One of my favorite parts



The authors brother shows off his trophy...albeit a slimy, ugly, stinky trophy!



Sunsets over some of America's finest rivers are just one of the many perks of Summertime bowfishing.

of the trip was the sunset ride along the Tennessee River. The view was one that you dream about and there just seemed to be a peacefulness settling on the water. We sat in the middle of the river talking, rehydrating, and grabbing a snack before what we hoped would be a frantic non-stop evening of fish shooting.

Just as night was upon us, we dropped the trolling motor and stealthily moved along the banks. In the waning light numerous "pods" were

pointed out and we were told this is what to look for. So, with eyes peeled and fingers on the strings our attention was directed downward towards the water. We did not cruise with lights on the whole time rather, periodically the "stomp light" was activated and you were responsible for feverishly locating a fish and shooting before it spooked. The fishing didn't start off at the pace we were hoping, and I was beginning to really doubt my shooting abilities after

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Is it Fishing or Hunting? ... cont.

blowing the opportunities I was given. We remained positive and each time the lights came on and a fish was sighted it was like being a kid on Christmas morning! Whenever the darkness was interrupted you would not know what may greet you. It could be a gar, buffalo, silver or big head. That was part of the wonder and excitement.

My brother and I were having a fantastic time doing our best to arrow any fish we could. Although apparently the fishing was still pretty poor, we were extremely entertained even though we were yet to succeed at boating a fish between the two of us. One of the young ladies who was assisting on the trip finally broke the fishless streak and boated a tiny, tiny gar. I emphasize tiny not to belittle the accomplishment but more to complement her abilities. This fish couldn't have been much larger around than the arrow. How she ever hit it I'll never know. Enthusiasm peaked again and a few fish actually started making their way into the boat.

Then we finally hit the motherload. There was some water intake machinery for one of the industrial plants along the river. It left about a 15' gap between

its platform and the bank. Our guide carefully maneuvered the boat into the gap where we were greeted with literally 100's of gar! Oh, it was on at this point! Arrows were smoking we were shooting so much and so fast. I had never experienced anything like this in my life. Finally, I hit pay dirt with my first fish. It was a smaller gar but a trophy to me nonetheless. I was ecstatic to have finally broke the ice and taken my first fish with a bow. Honestly, some may not think much of the achievement, but it was for sure a moment I won't forget. After countless arrows the fish finally wised up and it was time for us to move on. From that point forward there wasn't much of a break in the action. The gar were out in full force this evening and we were in a target rich environment. It was so action packed from this point forward that it was tough to even stop and take a much needed drink for fear of missing a shot.

I cannot emphasize enough how fun this actually was. It was like nothing I had done before. I was probably less than a 5% success rate on my shots but for some strange reason it didn't really matter. Oh ya, and you know how I mentioned at the beginning of the story about how it was doubtful we would be out past midnight? It was 2 AM! We had at least passing shots

at the most popular fish but were yet to hit one of those big pods we were anxiously hoping for. That all changed when we ducked into a small tributary in hopes some fish had slipped into the backwater. As we entered the creek we were almost instantaneously met with our first silver of the night that would join us for the duration of the boat ride. From that point we were in silver carp heaven. Each time the stomp light came on carp were present and arrows projected through the air. My hit percentage began to steadily increase and what I thought was a memorable and fun trip got elevated to a new level. These fish were everywhere, and we were doing our best to boat as many as possible.

One truly defining moment of the trip was after a shot at an unsuspecting fish the water erupted! It absolutely began boiling with silver carp. In my life I have never seen this. They were jumping in every direction. Several must have seen how entertaining it was because they decided to join us in the boat flipping and flopping just like a fish out of water (Ok, I couldn't resist!). Chaos does not do justice in describing the anarchy that taking place. We boated fish after fish nearly filling a 55-gallon drum. This was what we were expected to experience and live it



A night of shooting yielded a considerable haul of invasive fish. While I doubt we put a dent in the population it felt good to rid the ecosystem of unwelcome pests.

we did. Finally, the tributary turned into a trickle and we had to turn back. There were a few stragglers remaining on the way out just to give us a few more last shots to cap off the night. However, it was 4 AM and time for the show to come to an end. As we pointed the boat back towards the ramp, we reflected on how fortunate we were and what a memory we had been blessed with.

My brother and I talked of the trip the entire time home the next day. This was our first real bowfishing hunt and we can't wait to go again. If you've never tried it, I highly recommend giving it a go. If you have half the adventure that we did you won't be disappointed.

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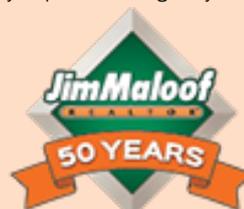
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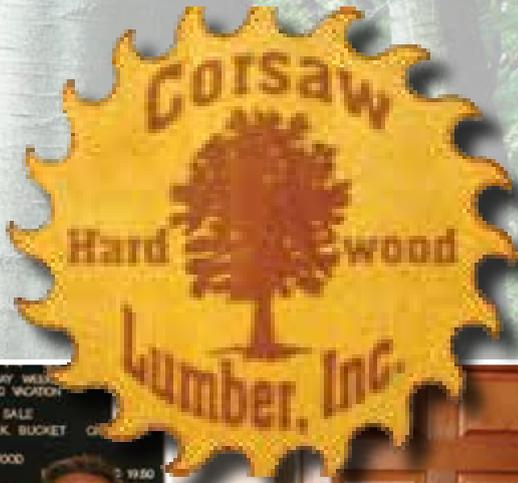
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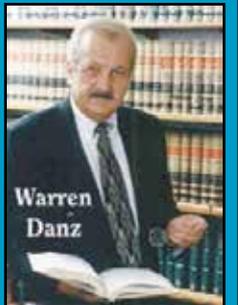
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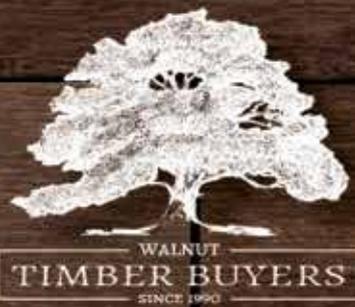


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