

# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT *News*

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## HOW TO MONITOR A BOBCAT

I had the pleasure of meeting Tom Hardisky, a PA Game Commission biologist who is an expert on fur-bearing animals at the Susquehanna County Fed-



eration of Sportsman's Club's Banquet this Spring. Tom was the guest speaker this year and he shared about the Keystone State's animals, habitat, and possible future.

One of the most interesting points in the presentation was how a team of PA biologists gathered information on bobcats to determine if they had a population and survival rate that would warrant a more aggressive hunting and trapping season. Since

these and other predators really have no other animals to control their populations, it is critical for the PA Commission to know how sportsmen can keep the animal numbers in check.

Tom explained that female pregnant bobcats were live-trapped and collared with a radio transmitter. The transmitter allowed the biologist to monitor and keep track of the cat and observe where her den site was located. The crews knew that momma bobcats usually give birth to their kittens in brush piles. When they were born, the biologists had to look forward to climbing and squeezing into these dens to retrieve them. Chasing off the momma was probably easier than getting to the den!

When the kittens were retrieved, the biologist and veterinarians set up portable operating tables for a quick, sterile surgical process. The little fur balls, with

oversize claws and faces of fury, were put under and a small incision was made in the abdomen where a small radio transmitter was placed. These transmitter implants were a safe way to monitor the kittens, because they would naturally outgrow a collar and it could potentially strangle them.

The data collected from these surveys provided invaluable information to the Game Commission and allowed them to assess the population control factors of the PA bobcat. It was determined that the average size litter of kittens was 3.7 and close to 75% of these young cats survived to maturity.

Another topic presented by Tom was about the trapping tradition of North America and the role that the beaver had in the exploration of our continent and the eventual exploitation of this industrious aquatic mammal.

It was absolutely intriguing to realize that a "fashion statement" by King Charles of Eng-



land may have sparked the demand for the soft beaver felt for over 300 years. South America can trace its early exploration to the quest for gold. North America's exploration, development, and early commerce was built around the fur trade, especially beaver products.

By the 1600s, the top hat was considered a symbol of distinction in the royal courts of Europe. Since the beaver provided the absolute best felt, it was decreed that "nothing but beaver stuff or wool shall be used in the making of hats" (Alfred 1986). The beaver suffered near extinction in Europe and the world market, then turned to North America for skins and castoreum.

*Continued on page 2*



Eventually the competition that developed from the fur trade even lead to war! The significance of this animal's role in North America can not be underestimated.

*A very special thanks to Tom Hardisky of the PA Game Commission!*



*Trapper's hatchet and beaver felt hat displayed at the Antique Trappers Meeting.*



### *Here are some more interesting beaver facts:*

- Beavers were so important to the economy of New York City that two beavers appear on the city's official seal.
- Native Americans considered the beaver a "Holy Animal." The flesh was considered a delicacy, the fat to treat frostbite, and the castoreum was used for practically every human ailment.
- Only the hair from beaver pelts was used to make the felt for hats. A solution containing mercury, which causes a heavy metal poisoning to the nervous system and eventually insanity, was used to remove the hair from the skin by the hat maker. Thus the term – MAD HATTER!

## THE GREAT NORTHEAST CLASSIC



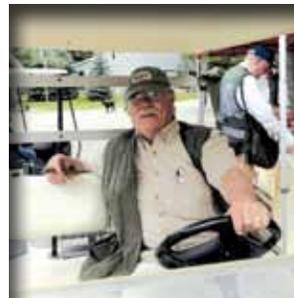
*This is a view of Hausmann's Hidden Hollow that you can't get from the road.*

*Tucked into the ridge* directly across from my mountain home is a hidden hollow. It's a perfect description for the Hausmann family's sporting clay range. Every year in early June there are three days that I know a side by side classic tournament is underway at Hausmann's Hidden Hollow. The echoing "Pow! Pow!" and "Wham! Wham!" of vintage double barrel shotguns is the telltale sound of the Great Northeast Classic taking place. Not everyone owns or will ever own some of the shotguns that are on display at the shoot (myself included) in that there are some there worth over \$80,000! But I do enjoy visiting the displays and talking to people from all over the United States who come to little old Friendsville for this event. RST, Ltd. Classic Shotshell Inc. is a main sponsor of the American side by side Classic.

—Ernie Hausmann



*Ernie Hausmann, owner of Hidden Hollow*



*Morris Baker, co-founder of RST, making the rounds*



*Mr. and Mrs. Alex Papp providing thousands of rounds of Classic Shot Shell for the shoot.*

# **NEW IMPROVED BUCK FORAGE OATS**



Dr. Krill explains the aggressive growth of Buck Forage Oat "Tillers" (Shoots).

Maybe there was no reason to improve it, but they did anyway! Pictured here is Dr. Krill at a test site for Buck Forage Products' new variety of oats. Only years of diligent research and breeding can ultimately give the consumer the best winter hardy whitetail deer approved forage oat. The sad fact is that our competition offers the varieties of oats that have either been rejected, unproven, or simply not bred for true whitetail forage.



Morgan Butler tells us how the deer do the "judging" at this stage of research. They judge by consuming what they like best!



## **New And Improved BUCK FORAGE OATS!**

Buck Forage is proud to announce the release of our new food plot oats seed variety, "BUCK"! This OAT is the first of its kind, the only oat ever developed, from start to finish, specifically for white-tailed deer preference.

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## UNSELFISH INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Three members of the Susquehanna Branch Quality Deer Management need to be congratulated on an outstanding job of investing in the future of wildlife. Matt Sellers, Denise Sellers and Bob Wagner organized a Dunstan Chestnut tree sale that totally surpassed all expectations they may have had. As the sale progressed, they had to increase the order many times as landowners jumped at the chance to plant this worthy tree. The Dunstan Chestnut tree may take several years before its first crop of nuts may be noticed, but when these nuts produce, they will benefit a wide variety of animals. An added bonus to this great effort was

that several dozen chestnut trees were donated to the Pa. Game Commission for planting on state game lands. Another tree sale will be in the works for next year, and if you are interested in ordering, please contact the Sellers at [denisesellers@epix.net](mailto:denisesellers@epix.net). For more information on the Dunstan Chestnut tree, please contact the folks at Realtree Nursery. Special thanks to Bob Wallace at Realtree Nursery. For pictures and information on the Dunstan chestnut trees, visit Realtrees' website at [www.realtreenursery.com](http://www.realtreenursery.com) for more great history of the chestnut tree.

### THE MOST IMPORTANT TREE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The American Chestnut was the most important food and timber tree species in the Eastern hardwood forest. It was almost completely destroyed by a bark fungus accidentally introduced from the Orient in 1904. Within 40 years, over 30 million acres of chestnut trees were killed from Maine to Georgia and west to the Mississippi. This tragedy was the largest ecological disaster in American history.

The chestnut was an amazingly useful tree: its plentiful nuts were eaten by people and wildlife, its beautiful, rot-resistant lumber was used for everything from furniture to fence posts, and its tannin used in the tanning industry. The loss of the chestnut, at the time of the Great Depression, had a devastating effect on the people and wildlife of the Appalachian mountains. The economic loss from the chestnut's demise amounted to untold millions of dollars.

The American Chestnut was the primary food source tree for wildlife – deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, hogs – and produced literally a TON of mast or more per acre! Chestnuts were the favored food in the fall for game, because the sweet-tasting

nuts were high in protein, carbohydrate and had no bitter tasting tannins like acorns.

Chestnuts are favored by deer over all other nuts because of their taste and nutrition. They are high in carbohydrates (40%), contain 10% high quality protein and no bitter-tasting tannin.

Chestnut-fed pork is the sweetest pork there is. In Spain, hogs are raised on chestnuts because of the excellent flavored meat it produces. Estremaduran pork is an international delicacy. Venison from chestnut-fed deer tastes like corn-fed venison, without the gamey taste of deer that feed on bitter-tasting acorns.

We grow the Dunstan Chestnut, bred by noted plant breeder Dr. Robert Dunstan, because of its disease resistance and heavy annual crops of very large, sweet nuts. Dunstan Chestnuts have been grown for 30 years all over the US, in Zones 4-9 from Maine to Michigan and Illinois and south to Florida, without any trees ever dying from the blight (see "Testimonials"). In our field tests, deer readily choose chestnuts over acorns, and there are deer feeding in our orchard every night during harvest season.

Dunstan Chestnuts grow faster and bear sooner (in only 2-4 years) than oaks, have wide soil adaptability, have regular annual bearing (no skipped years like all oak species) and excellent production – 2,000+ lbs/acre or more. The tree pictured to the left was planted on the farm in 1984 and is over 50' tall with excellent timber form.



**Dr. Robert Dunstan**



Matt Sellers, Denise Sellers, and Bob Wagner prepare Dunstan Chestnut saplings for pick up.



## TIPS FROM TEXAS

**A**t our Spring meeting at Dr. Kroll's research center in Nacogdoches, Texas, Rob Hughes explains the importance of inoculating legumes. Rob is a land manager and wildlife biologist with the Sender Seed Co. in San Antonio, Texas.



Pictured here, Rob is mixing the powdered inoculants with Buck Forage Peas. He adds a little soda to make the inoculants stick to the seed. The inoculant is a living organism that is crucial for any legume to develop its root system for nitrogen fixation. Legumes essentially, through this process, take nitrogen from the atmosphere and add it to the soil. This again adds support to the practice of planting clover with chicory. The clover (a legume) is a chemical factory that produces the nitrogen that the chicory loves.

Each variety of legume requires its own type of inoculants. In other words, the inoculants for soybeans is not the same bacteria that is used for clover. A bag of inoculants

is very inexpensive and actually goes a long way. However, being a living organism, its shelf life is not very long. Keep this in mind if you are using carry over seed or legume seed that you are not sure of. It may have a germination tag, but there is no way of knowing the condition of the inoculants. In any case for a few dollars more, re-inoculate your seeds.



*Rob mixes a few ounces of soda to make the inoculant "stick" to the Buck Forage Peas.*

Another precaution in planting large seeds such as soybean or peas, is to do a germination test of your own. Seeds are sometimes made available through organizations and in most cases they are outdated seeds that cannot be legally sold. It's a very easy procedure to do your germination test. Count out 100 seeds and plant them in a warm, moist soil bed. Count the number of seeds that germinated. If 75 seeds germinated, this is a good indicator that you will need to plant 25% more seed to the recommended seed rate. Seed rates are very important to your success. Over seeding "crowds out" your plants and under seeding is going to allow lots of bare ground for weeds



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**Whitetail Institute's Arrest and Slay for Food Plot Grass and Weed Control**

Grasses and weeds can crowd out your carefully planted perennial food plots by competing with them for valuable space, nutrients and moisture. Arrest and Slay are the only two herbicides on the market that are packaged and specifically developed for food plots. Arrest is a herbicide that will control most grasses without harming clover, alfalfa, chicory or any W.I. perennial product. Slay is field-tested and proven effective for controlling broadleaf weeds in clover or alfalfa fields. Using the right herbicide can eliminate the need for replanting as often and ensure that your food plots have maximum longevity. Arrest and Slay have been thoroughly tested for use on food plots and either can be easily applied with a 4-wheeler or tractor sprayer.

# WILDERNESS SURVIVAL EVENT AT SALT SPRINGS

by LIZ HOLBERT

**O**n a beautiful weekend towards the end of April, when spring was kicking into full swing, the final event of Susquehanna County Reads: *The Hunger Games*, took place. The "Reads" committee put together a program of events based on the book by Suzanne Collins. In *The Hunger Games*, a post-apocalyptic North America is separated into twelve districts where each district is in charge of a certain

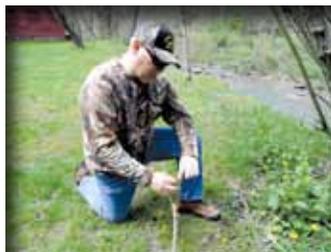
industry to serve the Capitol. To remind the districts of their rebellion in a previous attempt at revolt, every year, two teenagers are required to fight to the death in the Hunger Games. Suzanne Collins' book is a well-written cautionary tale about greed, tyranny, and an invasive media. And with the release of the movie at the end of March, Collins' tale has taken the world by storm. The influence of the book has trickled down into some surprising avenues! The world of wildlife management and wilderness sports has been hugely affected by the rise in popularity of *The Hunger Games*. In the book, the main character is required to provide for her family and does so through the means of ar-

chery, trapping, and basic knowledge of survival skills and edible plants. Because of the importance of archery to the story, Sportsman's shops all over the country have not been able to keep archery supplies on their shelves. People of all ages are starting to show interest in a long-forgotten sport and art form. At the Wilderness Survival Event at Salt Springs, readers in the County Reads program had the opportunity to experience three elements of survival as were used in *The Hunger Games*. Mark Thomas, camp manager of Camp Iroquoia, led an archery demonstration, allowing attendees to try their hand at the sport. Ed Price, of the District 9 trapper's association, had a large display of specimens set up, as well as a display of easy traps that one might need to build in a survival situation. Kristen Battle of the Girl Scouts presented as



*Jen Ivens shoots a bow for the first time and gets hooked on the sport of archery!*

well – a seminar on how to survive from a few basic everyday items, explaining their importance in a survival situation. The event was well-attended and everyone enjoyed themselves in the beautiful weather. A crowd of readers and a crowd of sportsmen rarely come to the same event, but it was encouraging to see the two mix, as readers learned more about the art of wilderness sportsmanship and sportsmen learned about the ability of life to imitate art.



*Ed Price set a snare.*

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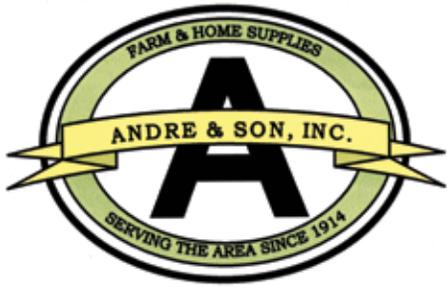
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## BROTHERS BAG BIRDS

By DONNA SALKO

As the early morning sun broke over the landscape, two Urian brothers lay asleep in their beds. Although it was the first day of the youth mentored hunt, their dad, Kevin, was guiding the young winner of the NWTF Hunt of a Lifetime on another property, miles away. All that changed with one quick phone call.

It was 7:30 in the morning and the winner of the special hunt downed her bird at 6:15 AM. That hunt was over but the morning was not. Kevin called his wife, Donna, to announce that he was coming home to hunt with his boys and



he was bringing Grand National Junior Champion caller Hunter Wallis with him. Donna immediately woke, dressed and fed the boys, Bryce age 10 and Luke, 8. She



glanced up the hill from the kitchen window to see a Tom, in full strut, with three hens in the horse pasture. Kevin and Hunter arrived with Jason, a videographer tagging along to capture the event. They hurriedly picked up the boys, the 20-gauge and the .410 and headed up the hill to where Donna previously spotted the birds.

Just below the crest of the hill, Kevin motioned the group to stay out of sight while he scouted the area with binoculars. Then while Hunter set out the Avian decoys, the remaining party kept out of sight. Hunter paired with Bryce while Luke went with his dad. More than one gobbler answered Hunter's call from the edge of the hayfield out of sight of their pursuers. Each call made by Hunter was wildly answered indicating the birds were approaching with determination. The Toms went quiet. A few moments later, Kevin and Luke picked

out the sounds of drumming and spitting. Kevin took the safe off the .410 instructing Luke to wait for the head to appear. One more call from Hunter and the gobbler perked up. Head up, bird down! The victory was announced by phone to Donna who joined



the group to take photos. She advised the hunters that the neighbor had called reporting three strutters behind her barn. Donna took Luke back to the house as the rest made their way through the woods to the neighboring farm.

One call from Hunter located the birds on a distant ridge at the other end of the pasture. The group quickly crossed the pasture. Once again Hunter set out the decoys and called. Four gobblers answered and approached. Once again father and son waited and once again the sound of the shotgun rang through the air and a bird was



downed. It was the first bird for both Bryce and Luke. Both birds weighed 18 pounds. Luke's bird had a 9¼ inch beard and ¾ inch spurs. Bryce's bird measured 8½ inches with spurs measuring ¾ inch. Kevin's "Proud Father" smile was immeasurable!

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## JAKES HUNT OF A LIFETIME

By DONNA SALKO

No one could have predicted or imagined the success of the Jakes Hunt of a Lifetime sponsored by the NWTF and the Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter. All the elements were in place. Still, the outcome was much more than the sum of the parts. Two years ago, the Northern Counties Full Fan Chapter volunteered to host the event. For the entirety of 2011, the hunt was advertised and talked about at every NWTF event across Pennsylvania. One lucky young hunter would win the hunt; the other would be the highest bidder at auction. Tressa Harlan, 14, of Ridgway, PA, and Stephanie Nehrig, 16, of Homer City, PA, were the two young hunters who would be coming to our area to try for a wild Eastern turkey. Locally, the two year Grand National Junior Champion turkey caller and member of the elite turkey caller team for Zink Calls, Hunter Wallis, Greenfield Township, agreed to volunteer his time



and skill to the event. Walter Bingaman, one of the state's Regional Directors, was also on hand to assist the Chapter. Behind the scenes, days prior to the arrival of the hunting guests, Ken Bannon and Kevin Urian scouted area and put up blinds. Walt Bingaman and Jeff Wallis aided in the two blind setup on the 1800-acre Salko property. With all systems in place, the two families arrived on Friday afternoon for a meet and greet cookout hosted by Greg and Donna Salko. Board members Jim Dovin, Kevin Urian, Ken Bannon with Donna Salko grilled and served while the girls and their families mingled and fished. Hunter Wallis guided the girls in some late evening roosting. Morning came all too quickly, but hot coffee, bacon, sausage and eggs with biscuits at 4:00 AM got everyone on the move. The strategy was for Tressa, her dad, Hunter, Kevin and Jason the videographer to use the blind setup at Salkos. Stephanie, her dad, Kenny and Walt would go to the farm of Mark Lopatofsky. Donna and Jeff would clean up breakfast and set up for lunch. Down on the grass road on the Salko property, Hunter began his soft calling just at daybreak. Everyone was at full alert when the call was answered. They heard the flydown! Hunter continued his calling. In a very short time, three jakes and

a gobbler appeared cresting a small hill on the grass road. The older bird was more hesitant, but with coaxing from Hunter Wallis, all four came running to the decoys. The hunt was over by 6:15 AM with Tressa proudly posing for photos with her first ever turkey, a 14 pound jake. Meanwhile, at the Lopatofsky farm, fog covered most of the area, yet as Walt and Kenny called, eight large gobblers



Back: Tressa Harlan, Hunter Wallis, Stephanie Nehrig,  
Front: Luke and Bruce Urian

immerged through the smoky landscape to check out the decoys. Stephanie was ready, Walt was doing video and although the first shot did not down the bird, Stephanie's trap shooting experience kicked in and she scored a 20 lb. tom with a 9½ inch beard and 7/8 inch spurs. It was 8:30 AM! With so much of the morning left, Hunter, Kevin and Jason hurried to Urian homestead where Kevin's two young sons were getting ready for their first hunt. By the time the morning was over and with Hunter's expert calling, Luke, 8, and Bryce, 10, both bagged their first-ever turkeys. Both birds weighed in at 18 pounds with Luke's bird sporting a 9¼" beard while Bryce's bird measured in at 8¾". Four completely amazing hunts on the first day of the youth hunt season! The entire crowd feasted on wild turkey soup at Salko's while stories were exchanged and numerous photos were taken. The afternoon was taken up with the cleaning of harvested birds and video analysis of the hunts. Dinner at the Waymart Hotel finished the day and exhausted hunters, guests, and board members, now all friends, enjoyed each other's company.

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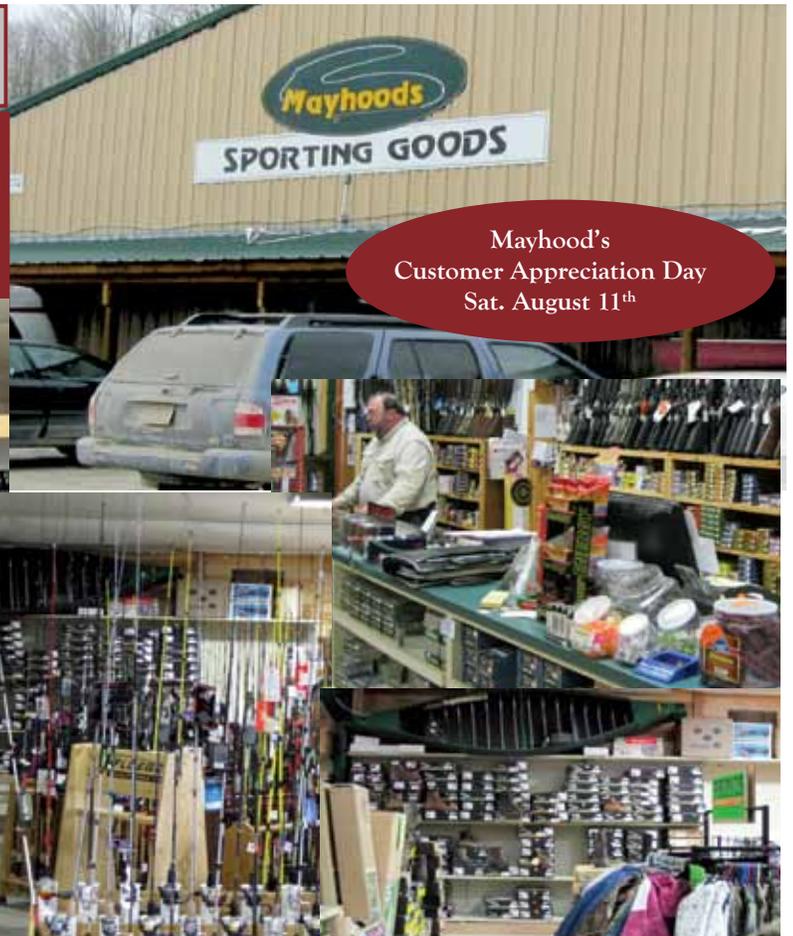
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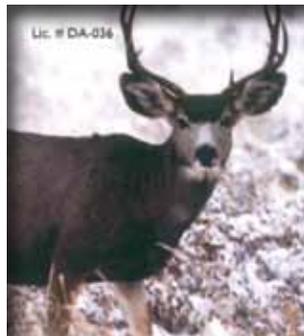
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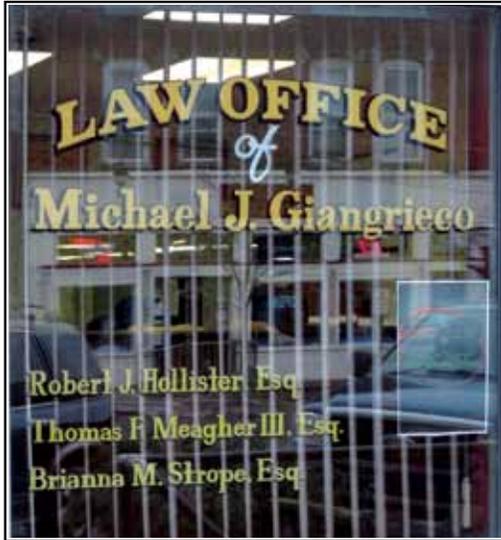
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## GVEMS STAFFERS HELP LOCAL VETS

Laceyville, PA – Staff from Greater Valley EMS joined Hunts for Healing in Laceyville, PA, to provide service to our American War Veterans last month. Greater Valley EMTs Colby Holbert and CPR Coordinator Jeff Rosenheck traveled to Laceyville to work with more than twenty dedicated volunteers who work with the wounded soldiers to provide complimentary First Aid, CPR, and AED training. The March 11th training was provided to better prepare the volunteers for potential injury while participating in outdoor activities with veterans.

Hunts for Healing, founded in February 2009, provides quality care, compassion, and respect for wounded soldiers who defend our country by sharing their love of the great outdoors. Veterans who have successfully completed a mental and physical evaluation are empowered to participate in outdoor programs including hunter safety, clay target shooting, fishing, camping, and upland and small game hunting.

Participants in the Hunts for Healing program include soldiers returning from military missions in Iraq and Afghanistan who have lost limbs, vision, or hearing, have imbedded shrapnel or flesh burns, head injuries, and other trauma as a result of combat. Volunteer guides, mentors, and trained field dogs provide an opportunity for these American



Colby Holbert (far left) and Jeff Rosenheck (far right)

heroes to participate in physical, emotional, and spiritual healing, away from the sights and sounds of hospitals.

Greater Valley EMS looks forward to continuing this partnership with Hunts for Healing in the future by providing continued training. Those interested in working with the Hunts for Healing project can visit their website at [huntsforhealing.org](http://huntsforhealing.org). Greater Valley EMS, dedicated to providing expert community education, also provides regular First Aid, CPR, and AED courses, which can be found at [gvems.org](http://gvems.org). For further questions regarding GVEMS, CPR training, and the new partnership with Hunts for Healing, contact Jeff Rosenheck at [rosenheck\\_jeff@gvems.org](mailto:rosenheck_jeff@gvems.org).



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# Lyme Disease Awareness



*Beware of believable but untrue information about tick removal. Recently there have been all kinds of claims about easy tick removal and an almost dismissive attitude about Lyme disease. But if you or your loved ones spend much time outdoors, please read this article by a young woman whose dreams of becoming a doctor and whose health was destroyed by this disease. She presents factual information and her story.*

Visit [www.freewebs.com/lymeandautism](http://www.freewebs.com/lymeandautism) for more information.

## OUR STORY

*Who would have ever thought that time spent in the garden I loved so dearly would have caused us all so much pain...*

I have always been a person who loves the outdoors. I have always spent as much time in my yard as I could. So, when I was pregnant with my third child, it was no different. During my first trimester, I spent a considerable amount of time working in my garden at our suburban home near Albany, NY. I don't remember a tick bite. I never had the "bulls-eye" rash. I just remember waking up one morning with extremely swollen glands in the right side of my neck, believing that I was going to come down with something, and then it just went away.

A few weeks after that, I had become increasingly fatigued and everything seemed to ache. I dismissed it as just pregnancy symptoms

and never gave it a second thought. Then one morning I woke up with what I thought was a pinched nerve in the right side of my back. I was about fourteen weeks pregnant at the time. I had a strange, tingling sensation that extended down my leg. I was told to lie down and rest, which I did. The tingling began to progress to all four extremities. The next day I began to lose fine motor function in my hands. I immediately went to the ER at a local hospital and was admitted to the neurology unit with suspected Guillian-Barre. During my time there, my symptoms progressed to include numbness in all four extremities, face, and abdomen, tachycardia (fast heart rate), unsteady gait and balance difficulties, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), and a plethora of other bizarre symptoms. Around this time, my parent's (who were also my neighbors), dog

was diagnosed with Lyme disease. I was convinced that I had Lyme disease, but none of the physicians felt that my symptoms were consistent with Lyme. Despite my strange symptoms, my tests all came back relatively normal. I did have one positive Lyme ELISA and one equivocal ELISA and a slightly abnormal white blood cell count, but my MRI, lumbar puncture, and nerve conduction studies were all normal. The Western Blot eventually came back negative.

The day before my discharge, I began to experience terrible head and neck pain and the left side of my body had begun to twitch and move involuntarily. I was still discharged and returned home. A day after my discharge, I was back in the ER. I had begun vomiting and was unable to eat or stand upright due to the pain in my

*continued on next page*

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## OUR STORY CONTINUED

head and neck. I had lost ten pounds in less than a week and the left side of my body was still twitching uncontrollably. They ran more labs at the ER, which showed mild hypoglycemia, but were otherwise normal. I was told that there was nothing medically wrong with me and that I should “see someone to evaluate my level of stress.” I was discharged from the ER and sent home. Less than 24 hours after that trip to the ER, I found myself sitting in the ER at a different hospital. My symptoms had continued to progress and I was becoming increasingly ill. My OB admitted me to the hospital for hyperemesis. I was given IV fluids and round the clock demerol and phenergan. I was given one dose of IV rocephin because of the possibility of Lyme, but that was not continued. I was stabilized and sent home after a few days.

Things seemed to settle down a bit after that. I was still tired and everything ached and my feet were numb, but the most severe symptoms had dissipated. I was still convinced that I had Lyme disease, but no one would listen to what I had to say. I had an old prescription for amoxicillin, so I began taking it. Within a few days, I began to feel better, but that was short lived. After about a week on the amoxicillin, I began to have severe abdominal pain. Afraid that I was causing more harm than good and frightened for the well-being of my baby, I stopped the medication. The abdominal pain was gone, but my symptoms were back.

Not long after that, I saw an infectious disease doctor for possible Lyme disease. He ran a number of tests, including additional Lyme tests. My Western Blot was “negative,” but showed one reactive IgM band at the 23kd location. (I have since learned that this is considered to be equivocal by many Lyme-literate doctors.) The lab also only listed the bands included in the CDC’s diagnostic criteria, so I do not know if I had a response to any of the other bands. I did have an elevated ASO titer and was misdiagnosed with acute rheumatic fever and placed on low dose prophylactic penicillin therapy. Life was quiet for a while.

In December of 2004, I delivered my third

child – a beautiful and healthy baby boy. Other than being very jaundiced for the first two months of his life, he appeared to be perfectly normal. After his delivery, I went to see a rheumatologist because I was still experiencing significant joint pain. He ran more Lyme tests, which were, of course, negative. He also told me that there was no way that I had acute rheumatic fever. He informed me that I “had as much muscle tone as someone who had been bedridden” and that I should “lose weight, exercise, and come back to see him in a year.” Needless to say, that was the last time I saw that doctor. Since I no longer had the diagnosis of acute rheumatic fever, I discontinued the penicillin.

That June I found out that I was pregnant again. That was the beginning of a terrible turn in my health. I began experiencing severe abdominal pain and diarrhea, tinnitus, major balance difficulties, spontaneous bleeding in my fingers, low B12 levels, headaches, increased joint pain and fatigue, attacks of severe hypoglycemia, syncope, hair loss, strange visual disturbances, joint deformity in my hands, severe “brain fog,” forgetfulness and word finding difficulty, and many, many more strange symptoms. I couldn’t remember what side of my car the gas tank was on, how to put the words together to say “chocolate milk,” and even spaced out when I was driving and forgot where I was or where I was going. I was 27 years old at the time. I was evaluated for possible multiple sclerosis, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis. My tests all came back negative and my symptoms continued to progress. I spent a considerable part of my pregnancy on methylprednisolone (a steroid) and had monthly level two ultrasounds. I had to withdraw from my classes and quit working. I was barely able to take care of my children or myself. It was a terrible time in my life.

In January 2006, my daughter was born, beautiful and healthy. My symptoms never went away and I spent the next few months trying to continue with school at night, studying for the MCAT, and taking care of my children during the day, all while fighting against my body and doctors who refused to listen.

By that summer, I had gotten to the point that I was convinced that I would end up on disability for the rest of my

life, or perhaps even worse. I had seen just about every type of specialist that exists to no avail. I finally saw a very kind immunology and allergy physician in Albany. After performing a number of tests, he concluded that I might have hidden Lyme disease and should go see a physician in Boston who specialized in the disease. I attempted to contact the doctor several times, but never received a call back. Desperate, I once again began self-medicating with some leftover amoxicillin that I had. The response was nothing short of miraculous. Within a few days, my mind began to clear. But, along with that, the pain in my body began to change. Instead of the intense aching, the pain became “cleaner and sharper” and the pain in my head and neck that I had experienced two years prior in the hospital returned. I was experiencing a Herxheimer reaction, which is a worsening of symptoms caused by the release of toxins by the dying bacteria. I eventually went to see my primary care physician who agreed with my self-diagnosis and began prescribing the medication for me. I was finally, after more than two years, diagnosed and being treated for Lyme disease.

Around this same time, my son began to display alarming developmental delays. He was started in Early Intervention when he was 18-months-old and began speech therapy and special education and later physical therapy. He had global developmental delays and hypotonia (low muscle tone). He developed reflux. He was irritable and would often scream out at night as if he were in pain, but no one could explain why. By the age of two, he could not even say “mama” and had begun to socially withdraw. His therapist would come to the house to work with him and he would lie on the floor and close his eyes. He refused to communicate with them in any way. I came across a study on Columbia’s Lyme Research site and began to wonder. The study was looking at the prevalence of a Lyme induced Autism-like syndrome. The children showed developmental delays consistent with Autism symptoms, but when they were treated with antibiotics, they began to get better. Convinced that this was the root of my son’s problems, I took him to see a pediatric infectious disease doctor at the local hospital. She informed me that not only did congenital

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Species	Seasons	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
 ALL SPECIES OF TROUT AND SALMON  Additional regulations may apply- see Trout Regulations-page 9-20	Regional Opening Day of Trout Season* - April 2 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 5 (only 18 southeastern PA counties) Regular Season - April 16 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 5	7 inches	5-streams, lakes and ponds (combined species)
	Extended Season: Approved trout waters and all waters downstream of approved trout waters. Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 and Sept. 6 through Dec. 31	7 inches	3 (combined species)
			
BASS-LAKES Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted  Additional regulations may apply- see page 5	Jan. 1 through April 15 and Nov. 1 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
	April 16 through June 17 	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)</b>	
	June 18 through Oct. 31	12 inches	6 (combined species)
BASS-RIVERS AND STREAMS Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted  Additional regulations may apply- see page 5	Jan. 1 through April 15 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
	April 16 through June 17 	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)</b>	
	June 18 through Sept. 30	12 inches	6 (combined species)
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge**	Open year-round	40 inches	1 (combined species)
Pickereel**		18 inches	4
Northern Pike**		24 inches	2 (combined species)
Walleye and Saugeye (Hybrids)	Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 7 through Dec. 31	15 inches	6
Sauger		12 inches	6
American Shad ***	Open year-round	No minimum	3
American Shad	Open year-round - Lehigh River, Schuylkill River**** and tributaries	No minimum	1
American Shad, Alewife, Blueback Herring	<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND Susquehanna River and tributaries</b>		
Hickory Shad ***	<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND</b>		
Herring, Gizzard Shad ***	Open year-round	No minimum	50 (combined species)
American Eel	Open year-round	8 inches	50
Striped Bass and Striped Bass/ White Bass Hybrids	Open year-round	20 inches	2 (combined species)
Sunfish, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Crappies, Catfish, Rock Bass, Suckers, Carp, White Bass and other gamefish not otherwise listed Additional regulations may apply- see Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations-page 25	Open year-round	No minimum	50 (combined species)
Baitfish/Fishbait (except Mudpugs and Mussels/Clams)	Open year-round	No minimum	50 (combined species)
American Eel (as Baitfish)	Open year-round	6 to 8 inches	50
Mudpugs (Dragonfly Nymphs)	Open year-round	No minimum	Unlimited if taken from lakes, ponds, swamps and adjacent areas. 50 per day if taken from moving waters (rivers and streams)
Mussels/Clams	<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND</b>		
Paddlefish	<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND</b>		



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## A WORD TO THE WISE

By Ken Bach

I should start this story by saying, "Do as I say, not as I did!"

A year ago in February, my son and I drove to the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show. We talked to a representative for "Mirage Outfitters" and signed up for a Caribou hunt in late September early October. It was a hunt I'd dreamed about going on since I was a kid. I've wanted to witness the migration firsthand and since I'd seen hunts with "Mirage" on TV many times, I assumed it would be a good outfit to go with for my first guided hunt.



We elected to drive up to the main lodge and see some new country. The border crossing was quick and easy and the traffic that was bad was in Ottawa. The trip from home took 25 hours. There were only two gas stations in the last ten hours of the drive. The last four hours was on a good gravel road. We arrived at the main lodge the evening before our scheduled fly out to the hunting area. There were only two people present when we got there. The receptionist asked us if we wanted to eat and a guy we presumed to be the cook through some leftovers in the microwave for us. Turned out he was the owner, Luke, but never introduced himself.

In their brochure it was suggested that you arrive a day early with the room cost to be one hundred dollars. We later found out they meant one hundred dollars and about fifty dollars for breakfast and last night's leftovers each.

Just before leaving the lodge we were informed that there were no caribou in the camp area. Talk about a big surprise! When the float plane arrived to take us out to the hunting area, the group getting off told us to get our "wallets out" and that the hunt sucked!

We flew in a 1957 Otter and the 210-mile trip to the north was pleasant. The landing and take offs were as smooth as silk. We landed at a camp the guide called a \_ \_ \_ \_ hole. Use your imagination why. There were six displeased hunters already there in one of the shacks. We did have showers and hot running water, some of which ran under us from the cook's shack next door. Our bathroom door was half a shower curtain that was too short and too narrow for the opening. I'm sure the guys on the bunks less than two feet away would have preferred a real door while the toilet was in use.

There were two guides for twelve hunters, not one guide for three hunters as promised. For two days we explored on our own and it was obvious there were no caribou in the area. When we signed up they made it sound like they would fly you out to the caribou if there were none in the first area. We found out that the group they flew into the herds a few

days prior to our arrival were charged \$1600 USD each for the fly out! Not at all what was discussed.

The twelve of us in camp bargained for less than half of that price but no one was happy with the deal. Everyone was led to believe that one flight out was included in the package. The six hunters in the other shack flew out the day before we were to hunt and returned to camp before dark with some rather unimpressive racks, not all were successful.

Our main interest was in shooting with our bows but since the hunt was run so poorly we used our 270's instead. I killed two double shovel bulls and my son also got two bulls. Of the seven hunters, we took twelve animals. My son packed five caribou back to the plane plus the heads and capes. I helped the guide butcher five animals and packed one back for an older guy. We were told later that most guys don't help the guides.

The lack of preparation was apparent as they only had three backpacks and only two guides. Our racks were supposed to remain whole since we were not flying commercially. The boss insisted they be split and then crammed all kinds of garbage and us into the Otter for the trip back to the main lodge the following day. This was one day short of the length of the hunt we were promised.

There were two boats to fish out of but both had bad leaks and only one motor would run.

Looking back on the whole trip I should have gotten recent references. Of the 18 or so hunters that I talked to, there wasn't one satisfied customer. If you plan a guided hunt it would be wise to do some research. Our guide said that a lot of what we had seen on TV was far from the way things really happen. I'm sure all the big name people that hunt those outdoor shows get a different level of service than the average hunter.

On our drive home we saw wolves, bears, lynx, silver fox and a fisher which made the trip much more interesting. If anyone reading this plans a guided hunt, make sure to do your research before putting any money down.

*My friend,  
Marge Vollmer,  
wanted to share her*

**"PROUD MOM"  
moment...**

*Her son Joel's  
first turkey!  
18 lbs 9" beard  
1" spurs.*



**OUR STORY CONTINUED**

Lyme not exist, but there was no way that I had Lyme disease. We left her office very quickly.

I began researching pediatric Lyme disease further and found Dr. Charles Ray Jones in New Haven, CT. I immediately scheduled an appointment with him. I took my son to see Dr. Jones and he started him on amoxicillin. The response was once again, miraculous.

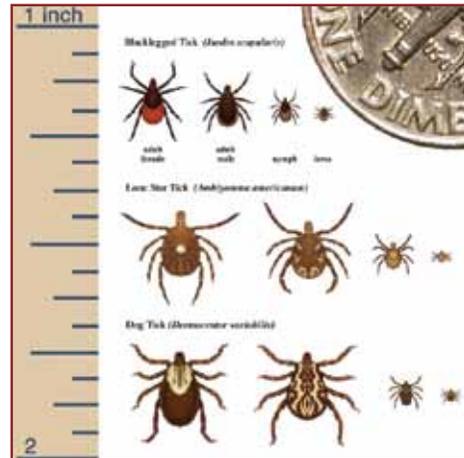
My son went from being completely non-verbal, almost non-testable, and most likely heading towards an Autism diagnosis, to virtually normal. We noticed a change almost immediately. It has only been about three months since he started his antibiotics and he now no

longer qualifies for Early Intervention services. His language, which had showed profound delays, is now within normal limits. He smiles and laughs and hugs us. He is just a different child now.

So, this is our story, our truth. I know that there are others out there with similar stories. Until more research is conducted and the disease is better understood, there will be even more who suffer. These past few years have been a powerful learning experience for me. My hope now is to spread the word about the tragedy of Lyme disease. We are in the midst of an epidemic caused by a bacteria more sophisticated than our current technology and a disease that most doctors don't understand. I know that there are countless people out there suffering the

way that we did; that are told that they are "crazy" or who simply have their symptoms dismissed as nonsense. I cannot be silent about our experience and can only hope than I can alert enough people about this disease so that they may not suffer the way that we did. Please,

send this site to everyone you know. Educate yourselves. Ask questions. Don't ever doubt yourself. Don't ever give up for fighting for what you believe. If I had given up or had not had the strength to fight and question everything, my children and I would have faced a very grim fate. I know that we would not be where we are today. So, please, don't ever give up fighting and help me to spread the word.



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## DEER-VEHICLE COLLISION STUDY

by  
Jim Stickles



**A** primary concern among deer hunters, wildlife managers, and motorists is deer-vehicle collisions (DVCs). In the U.S., DVCs account for approximately 1.5 million accidents totaling over \$1 billion in damages and claiming the lives of approximately 200 people each year. Pennsylvania annually ranks among the top five states when it comes to numbers of DVCs.

As many of you know, I recently moved to Georgia to work on getting my Master's degree. My research involves capturing 25 deer and monitoring their movements along a major highway for a year. We will then modify the right-of-way fence by adding an outrigger that is angled at 45 degrees away from the roadway, which should prevent deer from accessing the highway, thus reducing DVCs. Trial studies have shown this fence design to reduce deer crossing events by 90%! However, if deer do gain access to the highway, this design works as a 1-way barrier so deer can jump the fence back to safety.



This design is not new or revolutionary. In fact, it was inspired by something similar used along I-80 in Pennsylvania in the late 1970s. Research conducted in PA concluded that as long as the fence was properly maintained, it did a good job at preventing deer from accessing the highway. However, technology for monitoring deer in the 1970s was not nearly as sophisticated as it is today. In the 1970s, research was limited to the winter and early spring because researchers used tracks in the snow to determine if deer had successfully crossed the fence. This meant that the researchers did not examine deer crossing events during a time period when crossing events were most likely to occur.

DVCs are highest in the fall season; specifically, an increase in DVCs starts in October, peaks in November, and declines in December. It is no coincidence that the largest peak for annual DVCs occurs during the rut. Rutting activity provides strong motivation for deer to cross roads. Another



smaller peak in DVCs occurs in the spring when vegetation along roadways first becomes available after winter dormancy, providing a succulent and nutritious food source after months of feeding on low nutrition browse. Also in the spring, deer are attracted to remnant salt deposited along the road's edge from winter ice control.

In my study, I will be using GPS collars that take a location once every hour for two years giving us about a year of data both before and after the fence has been modified. Additionally, my study area has at least one large culvert where deer can pass safely under the highway. By monitoring the culvert with a trail camera before and after the fence has been modified, we should be able to determine if the design funnels deer to places where we want them to cross rather than crossing anywhere they please.

In terms of deer mortality, hunters are the #1 cause of mortality of adult deer in PA, but DVCs are #2. Approximately 100,000 DVCs occur in Pennsylvania each year. Figuring out how to reduce DVCs will help save lives, prevent property damage, and ensure there are more deer out there for us to observe and hunt. Fencing might be a solution in areas that

meet specific criteria, but fencing requires regular maintenance. The best way to reduce DVCs is to control deer populations in problem areas. For wildlife managers, this typically means figuring out how to



Jim Stickles with a deer fitted with a GPS collar and ear tags

effectively manage deer herds in suburban areas. Suburban areas typically have limited hunting access, high deer densities, and high traffic volume, which is the perfect set of conditions for DVCs to occur. However, suburban deer management is a topic for another day. For now, please drive carefully, and try to avoid becoming a DVC statistic.

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