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# Wildlife Week will urge public to save our wetlands



Bill Wood

The National Wildlife Federation has designated March 14-20 as National Wildlife Week with Bing Crosby as national chairman. This year the theme is "Save Our Wetlands" to point out to the public that the nation's wetlands are shrinking at an alarming rate.

Wetlands are marshes, swamps, river estuaries, stream bottomlands, farm ponds and prairie potholes. Wetlands are the homes of a myriad of fur bearers, waterfowl, shore birds, song birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and even lowly crustaceans. When the wetlands go, the homes of all these forms of wildlife go with it.

At the recent International Waterfowl Symposium in St. Louis, Tom Kimball, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation, pointed out that the greatest threat to waterfowl is the constant and irretrievable loss of wetlands. He told those present that of the continent's original 127 million acres of wetlands, there are only 82 million left.

Two large projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers promises the loss of several thousand acres of these valuable wetlands. The Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota will eliminate 1,100 individual marshes, some of the best waterfowl nesting grounds left in this country, while the Cache River-Bayou deView project in Arkansas will eliminate the wintering habitat for one fourth of the Mississippi Flyway mallard population.

If the loss of wetlands continues unabated we may in our lifetimes see the day when many species of wildlife become reduced to the endangered status, not because of the hunter's guns as out anti-hunting opponents would have the public believe, but because of the loss of the wetlands, which the wildlife must have to survive.

## *Fudoli wins again*

Word has just come from Litchfield that former resident Jim Fudoli, now an Arkansas bass fishing guide, has racked up another big win in tournament bass fishing. Fudoli, who lives in Mountain Home, Ark., topped a field of 118 other bass fishermen to take first place in the Winter Bass-O-Thon on Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes.

The tourney consists of four rounds held each month, November through February, with two held on each of the lakes. This makes the second year in a row that Fudoli has come in with the top poundage. His total for this year was 115 pounds 2½ ounces, with the closest competitor checking in 101 pounds 14 ounces. The win netted him a new bass boat, motor, trailer, and accessories as well as $500 in cash.

Fudoli also was featured in an article in the BASS Magazine in which he tells fishermen his night bass fishing methods which have proven so productive. So if you want to catch a mess of those Arkansas hawg bass you might do well to look Jim up.

## *Coho salmon time near*

Coho salmon fishing time on Lake Michigan is not far off and now is a good time to book a charter in order to get the dates you want. The best of the spring fishing can be found at Michigan City, Ind., and mid-April to mid-May is the time to hit them.

The fishing can be fabulous up there at that time of the year as Ed Mahoney, Jay Griswold and I found last spring when we came home with limits of fine cohos. The small spring jacks are not loaded with PCB as the larger fall fish are and make fine eating, whether fried, broiled or boiled and made into salmon salad.

You can take your own rig up there as they have a fine launching ramp. I would not recommend anything smaller than an 18-footer. Lake Michigan can really kick up her heels at that time of the year and anything smaller is not safe.

There are several charter boats operating out of Michigan City and they are captained by men who have the know-how to put you into fish. Last spring while fishing with Capt. Dick Schapanski on his boat "Happy Daze" the three of us boated our limit in about three hours. Anyone interested in booking a charter can drop me a line and I will be glad to put you in touch with one of the boats.

## *Odds and ends*

The 31st National Field Archery Association Championship Tournament will be held at the Fabyan Forest Preserve south of Geneva on July 26-30. The tourney is being co-sponsored by the Fox River Valley Pleasure Driveway and Park District, Aurora, and the Kane County Forest Preserve Commission, Geneva.

This will be the third time that Illinois has been selected for the national tournament. An estimated 1,000 archers from throughout the country, including Hawaii and Alaska are expected to take part in the event.

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