

## Notes to Consider...

Arts & Leisure:

The Shooting Sports, Single Action Shooting Society (SASS)

By G.S. Morris — 28 January 2019



Sometime in the early 1990s, at Hooten Old Town...

Me: "Ralph. I read where out West, there's a new shooting competition in which contestants shoot steel targets against the clock using a pistol caliber lever action carbine; a '97 Winchester or "coach" double barreled shotgun; and a pair of single action revolvers."

Ralph: "Won't nothing ever come of that."

The above conversation was the genesis of SASS' connection with Hooten Old Town (home of the Kentucky SASS State Championship for over a decade). Originally organized in 1980s California as a way for a group of friends and IPSC competitors to use the "cowboy" guns they'd grown up watching in western films; by the first decade of the twenty-first century, SASS membership had rocketed to the upper stratosphere of America's "action" shooting sports.

Many USPSA or IDPA shooters dismiss SASS' rather large steel targets shot at fairly close range as having no redeeming, "real world" value. I disagree.

Having competed in nearly all the action shooting sports, I can say without reservation SASS matches will demand of you more "thinking" and shooting than any of the other firearms related games. One should not discount the practical utility of being able to correctly engage targets in challenging sequences. All other action shooting sports require no more complicated problem solving than placing two shots upon each target as they appear.

SASS shooters are also famous for not taking themselves too seriously, as far as mistakes they may make (not to imply Cooper's Four Rules of Gun Safety aren't strictly enforced) throughout the course of the day or any equipment glitches which can raise their head when using tools which sometimes may be better than a century old. "The Cowboy Way" is more than just a cliché among SASS competitors.

Next Week: IDPA

*Shane Morris is a retired soldier and teacher. You may contact him at [sigm11@yahoo.com](mailto:sigm11@yahoo.com)*

## KSP Encourages Drivers to Prepare for Winter

Story submitted by KSP Trooper Robert Purdy, Post 7 Richmond

FRANKFORT, Ky. — With the possibility of wintery weather moving into the Commonwealth this week, the Kentucky State Police (KSP) is cautioning motorists to be prepared for hazardous driving conditions.

"Winter driving can present formidable challenges including sleet, snow, slick roads, freezing temperatures and reduced visibility," says KSP spokesman Sergeant Josh Lawson. "It can be a deadly combination if you're not prepared."

KSP reported that slippery roads were the contributing factor in 12,772 crashes and 69 highway deaths in 2017.

Lawson says the agency relies heavily on its social media platforms to get pertinent information to citizens when winter weather hits the Commonwealth.

"We have had great success using Twitter, Facebook and the KSP Mobile App to share winter weather updates," notes Lawson. "We encourage drivers to download our free mobile app so they will have real time traffic updates when planning winter travel."

To meet the challenges of the upcoming winter driving season, KSP reminds drivers to plan ahead, make sure all passengers are properly restrained, drive defensively and ensure their vehicle is properly maintained to handle the effects of cold temperatures.

### Other safe winter travel tips include:

- Check road and weather conditions before you leave by visiting <https://transportation.ky.gov/sites/GoKY/home> an online traffic, roadway information and weather portal operated by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. It's user friendly and offers real-time information that is updated every two minutes.
- Call 511 or 1-866-737-3767 for latest road/traffic conditions.
- Refrain from calling 911 for road or weather conditions due to high call volume. Dispatch centers need the lines open to assist callers who have emergencies.
- Reduce speed in wintery conditions.
- Leave early — allow more travel time; expect delays.
- Increase distance between vehicles — the ability to stop is significantly affected on snow covered or icy roadways
- Clear all windows on your vehicle prior to travel — having unobstructed vision is vital to avoid running off of the road or having a collision.
- Ensure your windshield washer fluid is full and that you use an anti-ice solution.
- Turn on your vehicle's headlights. Remove any dirt, mud or snow.
- Use caution on bridges and overpasses as they are susceptible to freezing before roadways.
- Avoid using cruise control which can cause a vehicle's wheels to continue turning on a slippery surface when speed needs to be decreased.
- Ensure your vehicle has a full tank of gas in the event you are stranded for an extended period of time.
- Charge your cellular phone prior to departure.
- Always dress warmly and keep a blanket in the vehicle.
- Carry a winter survival kit that includes items such as blankets, a first-aid kit, a can and waterproof matches (to melt snow for water), windshield scraper, booster cables, road maps, tool kit, bag of sand or cat litter (to pour on ice or snow for added traction), collapsible shovel, flashlight and extra batteries.

KSP is also requesting travelers to observe for stranded motorists. If you see or suspect that someone is stranded, contact KSP at 1-800-222-5555.

If you get stranded, staying in your vehicle is often the safest choice, says Lawson, who offers these added tips:

- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna as a signal to rescuers.
- Move anything you need from the trunk into the passenger area.
- Wrap your entire body, including your head, in blankets, or extra clothing.
- Stay awake. You will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems.
- Run the motor (and heater) for about 10 minutes per hour, opening one window slightly to let air in. Make sure that snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe as this will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to improve your circulation and stay warmer.
- Do not eat un-melted snow. It will lower your body temperature.

"We ask everyone to please remember to be patient," says Lawson. "Bad weather often produces an unusually high volume of requests for service. Plus, the capabilities of first responders are limited, which increases response time."

## Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

Controversy has always been an issue between people, and will continue to be. Each society group believes strongly that their way is the right way and don't understand why it's so hard for everyone else not to see the "truth". Falsity is only falsity to the one who doesn't believe in the conviction or topic. Conflicting matters often bring about hate, anger, or hurtful judgments, which is not at all what Jesus taught or Gods ways portrayed.

(Is. 1:17, 61:8, Micah 6:8, Ps. 106:3) In scripture, justice is the theological way that God administered fairness. Jesus continued the teaching of righteous judgment, whether by initiating a successful debate (Mt. 18:15) or separating from the culture that goes against Christianity (2 Co. 6:14-17).

Equal rights is one of the greatest constitutional laws in American history, yet doesn't stop the fights, conflicts, and hateful clashes, that doesn't change anything anyway except for further the distance between equality.

To most people, it shouldn't be that God be disrespected, unacknowledged, or mocked, but He is. Churches and places of worship should be considered sacred and holy, but many of them are not. Immoral lifestyles shouldn't be allowed to be seen as acceptable through the pulpits and widespread media, but they are. (Mt. 13:24) Jesus explained that falseness and deception in Christianity will always be, until the time of separation, and that hateful disputes and harsh judgments only hurt more than they help.

## Yards to Paradise

### Reviving an Old Overgrown Yard

By Max Phelps

A tired mess of a landscape seems to be noticed in fall and winter; actually, anytime there are bare areas, unsightly areas, and no blooms or greenery. As colors fade, leaves fall and are raked up or blow away, you can see your yard for what it is. And if you're disappointed, what are some things you can do to improve the looks and function of your landscape?

How many trees do you have? Are they old, perhaps even unsafe? How about shrubs? Are they crowded and too thick—or are they getting dead limbs and appearing ratty? Are your junipers and other needled evergreen shrubs getting leggy or ugly? (I've noticed some big garden centers pushing high dollar evergreens on homeowners with shady locations. They have their interests in mind, not yours...unless it's azaleas, rhododendrons and large leaved evergreens which are good in shade.)

Roses? Are you tired of diseases and thorns? How about other perennials—perennials are less work than annuals, but more trouble than shrubs or trees.

Then, could you use some large spots of color in summer? If so, maybe a few annuals should be added to your mix of landscaping. A bed of petunias, marigolds, snapdragons or begonias can lift a drab spot and transform it to lovely. Violas or pansies can beautify in winter.

How about bulbs? If you want spring blooming tulips or daffodils or hyacinths and such, you must plant them in the fall. (Oh, I suppose you could pay more and buy and plant them when they are in bloom at your local garden center in the spring.)

If you place looks run down, but you don't know what to do, maybe you could get some advice from either friends or experts or even your neighbors. Good neighbors will give you hints that make your place look sharper, for it makes their place and the neighborhood look nicer. Paying a landscaper a consultation fee to walk and advise may also be money well spent, if the fee is reasonable.

For some, you like your yard. You just need to do some trimming that has been neglected. Cutting back some shrubs will encourage fresh looking new growth. Removing seed heads is always a question: should I cut them when they quit blooming, or leave them and hope they have seeds for the birds and other wildlife? The trees you planted several years ago may have limbs that brush the house, or hit you in the face every time you mow the lawn—trimming can help with this, as well as encourage more top growth and let in more light underneath.

Speaking of underneath bigger trees. It will be dry, as big trees take a lot of moisture. But the area under trees that have had their lower limbs cut off can be a whole new planting area that you never thought of in your original landscaping. (Just add some loose soil, and plant things that don't have to be watered all the time.)

Mulching is always a quick way to improve looks instantly. Hardwood, pine, pine straw, cedar, cypress...any mulch that holds moisture and also decomposes and becomes nutrient rich soil for your plants over time is a good mulch. Pebbles and stones can be good mulch for certain trees and in xeriscapes with plants such as cactus. (For the general landscape, I do not actually recommend rock or pebbles. I also don't recommend colored mulch—it screams "look at me" instead of the plants and flowers in the landscape.

Older trees often have killed out the grass underneath them. Do you need to remove some trees? Or are there groundcover plants that would look better than lawn anyhow? Maybe you are tired of grass and daylilies and would rather grow some hosta and hellebores instead anyway? Then the new woody area may be just the ticket to success with these and other shade-loving plants.

Is there an eroding slope? Which would be best, a terraced area with a retaining wall and dirt behind it to plant in, or some groundcover plants to impede the eroding soil? And, how about seating? Chairs, stones, walls, benches, a swing in a tree might all be possibilities.

Maybe the sidewalk or drive are breaking up? Do you need some new hardscaping? Just planting a few new things isn't going to remedy a bad layout or poorly draining yards or broken concrete. Some new or improved hardscaping may be needed.

If your yard has just about everything, then perhaps you need seating? Or, you need the sounds of water, wind chimes, the smell of a firepit or fireplace burning?

Reviving a tired landscape can involve many of these items, and various others I've not thought to mention today. Pulling out or trimming or changing—not every yard has to be completely torn out, but some may. I shall hope to have given my readers something to think about during the chilly days ahead.

The author is a landscaper; contact [rockcastles@gmail.com](mailto:rockcastles@gmail.com) or [www.rockcastles.net](http://www.rockcastles.net)