

Notes to Consider...

Man-at-Arms: Favorite Rifle Cartridges

By G.S. Morris — 05 June 2017



America came a little closer to being “Great Again” when I went into a local Wal-Mart recently and found multiple boxes of Remington Golden Bullet 525 count .22 Long Rifle (.22 LR) cartridges available. It had been over four years since I had gone into Sportsman’s Warehouse at Lexington immediately after the Mau Mau re-election and purchased ten boxes; a purchase which garnered a surprised look from the gun counter clerk. “You watch,” was my reply. Indeed, the virtual extinction of .22 LR we’ve all experienced over the last four years is Exhibit A in the case of the .22 LR being the “King of Rifle Cartridges.” If you had to hoard ammunition, you had better hoard the best.

Dating to the late 1800s, the .22 LR is a descendent of the “parlor loads” popularized in France for indoor marksmanship practice. The cartridge’s projectile is typically 40 grains in weight with a velocity of a little over 1,000 feet per second (fps). As the .22s continue to reappear, the shooter may choose from a dizzying array of loads from high volume makers such as Winchester, and the aforementioned Remington, as well as the Mexican firm Aguila; mid-priced defense and hunting loads from CCI; and top of the line bullseye competition rounds from British maker Eley.

The .22 LR is the optimum cartridge for teaching the fundamentals of marksmanship (and most importantly, *responsibility*) to your children; enjoying the greatest of all American participant sports...Plinking; filling the camp stew pot with a Ruger 10/22; and isn’t to be sneezed at as a self-defense round (I recommend CCI Mini-Mag solids). As the late/great Walt Rauch once wryly answered to a question about the effectiveness of small caliber defensive guns: “No one wants to leak.”

Long live the King of the Cartridges!

Next Week: The .243 Winchester Cartridge

On this night seventy-three years ago, young men boarded planes, gliders, and ships to visit death upon this nation’s enemies. We will always live in their shadows.

Yards to Paradise Landscaping

Gardening in the Forest

By Max Phelps

Permaculture became a new word in the dictionary not that long ago. By combining permanent and agriculture, using perennials (trees are perennials, too) and self-propagating plants and animals, organic gardening has taken a new step—working with nature, not against it. Can you garden in the forest? Can you create a low-input backyard forest that will yield a sustainable harvest, including fruits and nuts, provide shade and wildlife habitat, and even possibly firewood/timber? A garden forest can be an Eden paradise.

Gardeners typically think of tilling the soil, buying new plants each spring, and doing it all over again the next year.

Anytime you have to buy new plants or seeds, buy fertilizers to enable the process to continue, it isn’t very sustainable over the long haul. Our ancient ancestors often were hunter-gatherers. More recently, farming consisted of raising your vegetables, maybe your grain, your beef, pork and poultry, collecting eggs from your own chickens. Part of that process was returning the litter or manure from the work horses or mules or oxen back to the fields. Another part of the scenario was harvesting food and storing for winter, and saving seed for next season’s plantings. Such self-sufficiency was part of my life as a child. It’s becoming popular again, as a hobby at least, even if nobody actually wants to give up their tv or smart phone, their tractor or riding mower, and especially not their running water and electricity.

Cropping the forest, making the most of your woods, seems like a very sensible thing to consider. You don’t need to be an ecological freak to grow some food in the woods, or create a little forest garden in your yard.

Now moving past theory and daydreaming, what can we do in our landscape that will be environmentally friendly and at the same time provide us some things we can eat or otherwise use?

Fruits. We can naturally grow pawpaws, currants, elderberries, honeyberries, wild blueberries, persimmons, mulberries, and perhaps apples and pears, too. But there are so many other fruits, depending on your climate, that are possible to grow at home.

Nuts. Black walnuts is a natural. Hickory nuts, hazelnuts, beech-nuts, are a few that will work. Even white oak trees produce edible acorns, for you, for deer, for wild turkeys, and many other critters. (The squirrels may leave your bird feeders alone if you have a natural banquet of nuts for them—on second thought, the trees may become your bird feeders too as they produce things the birds will help themselves to.)

Many minor or niche items such as mushrooms and herbs can be grown in the woods, or in your backyard.

And, yes, among your landscaping plants.

Sure, you can plant a Bradford pear or a red maple. But why not consider an apple and a sugar maple or sweet birch instead. (There are even newer apple cultivars that are disease free, have red or pink blossoms, and reddish bronze or purplish leaves—with edible fruit as the bonus.) Instead of the snowball bush that has no fruit, why not do the kind that does have fruit? For that spirea or burning bush, why not substitute a honeyberry or blueberry bush?

The point to take away is that you can grow edibles in the yard with a low amount of input, while having shade and curb appeal at the same time. Paradise not only has water, it has food. May your yard become more like a paradise and less like a piece of real estate you must mow every week for seven months of they year, with nothing in return.

The author is a landscaper. Feedback welcome: www.rockcastles.net

Inspirational Thoughts Into God’s Word

By Lynetta Hunter

Battling the Philistines was nothing new for the Israelites, and by the hand of God prevailed in times past. They knew the places to encamp, how to have each other’s back, and how to use their entrusted armory.

(1 Samuel 17) When Goliath stepped out with a personal challenge to them, Saul realized this was a different kind of battle. Even with God on their side, they stood there in dismay and fear for forty days, not knowing what to do. Forty days of not accomplishing anything, other than letting the enemy see their fear and watching life pass them by. The organized Philistine army was invading Israel’s territory, little by little, and they didn’t know how to stop them.

David was a young boy who was to his brothers, a “nobody”, but to God he was a warrior at heart who knew the real battle of fighting for survival. God placed him in the middle of a war zone to end this strategic battle that could only be won by his knowledge and experience.

When the enemy, Goliath, stepped out to provoke and threaten like all the mornings before, he was expecting the same result, which was to see Gods people whimper and back down in confusion. Instead, he faced a warrior who understood the power of God with a love for Gods people. The “status quo” of battles in times past couldn’t bring them victory this time. Swords wasn’t needed for that battle, a stone was. Hand to hand combat would have destroyed them, but God showed David how to fight from a distance.

There are spiritual battles taking place today that can’t be won by weapons used in times past. “Goliaths” are stepping out to challenge Gods people, leaving them in fear and dismay because they’ve never fought these kinds of demons before. In order to win, there has to be “David’s”, who are willing to fight against all odds, change the course of the battle, and fight in the name of the Lord, even if it is different than anything that’s ever been done before.

Kentucky Afield Outdoors: Two Good Options for Early Summer Fishing

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 1, 2017) – June is one of the best months for outside activities such as fishing. However, many predator species, such as largemouth bass, have already completed their annual reproductive ritual and kind of sulk through June.

It can be a tough month for fishing in lakes and reservoirs, but two options will produce fishing that compares to the marvelous weather.

Largemouth Bass in Farm Ponds:

June is a transitional month for largemouth bass in our larger lakes, but the confined nature of a farm pond ups the odds in the angler’s favor.

“You can catch largemouth bass all summer in a farm pond,” said Jeff Ross, assistant director of fisheries for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Successful summer largemouth bass fishing in farm ponds is all about timing and changing approaches as the day progresses. Wake up early enough that dew soaks your shoes as you walk to the pond.

Old school topwater lures such as the Hula Popper or a Jitterbug in the bullfrog color draw vicious strikes when slowly worked along the edge of vegetation in the low light of early morning.

As the sun rises, switch to fishing a weightless 7-inch ribbon-tailed worm in the junebug color. “Bass hold tight to cover during the middle of the day on a farm pond,” Ross said. “Fish the shady side of the pond if there is one.”

The weightless ribbon-tailed worm slowly falls through the cover attracting largemouth bass snuggled deeply in it. If the pond has no cover, fish the worm slowly along any weedlines or under any floating vegetation.

As day fades into night, the topwater bite again comes into play. Anglers also catch many farm pond bass in the dark on a 1/4-ounce black spinnerbait with a round Colorado blade.

Fish the spinnerbait just above bottom and let the Colorado blade thump. Hold on tight as largemouth bass often savage this presentation.

Channel Catfish:

Channel catfish spawn in Kentucky mainly in June. “They are cavity spawners,” Ross said. “You often find them near riprap or chunk rock.”

Riprap consists of cantaloupe-sized rock used to protect the face of dams, bridge abutments and marinas from erosion caused by the pounding of waves. A 3/8-ounce slip-sinker rig with a 4/0 circle hook is a good choice for catfish when fished on or near riprap or areas of chunk rock lining the banks.

A slip-sinker rig consists of an 18-inch fluorocarbon or monofilament leader with the circle hook on one end. Tie the other end of the leader to a barrel swivel. After threading the main line coming from your rod through an egg sinker followed by a glass bead, tie the main line to the open loop of the barrel swivel.

A circle hook prevents gut hooking catfish. Resist the temptation to set the hook, simply reel in slack line until you feel the catfish swimming and keep your rod tip high. The catfish will hook itself in the side of the mouth with a circle hook.

“Hot dogs, shrimp, chicken liver or beef liver, channel catfish will eat practically anything,” Ross said. “I like chicken liver best for channels.”

Ross also said any cavity near a root wad or stump also holds channel catfish in June on our lakes and reservoirs.

The many creeks coursing through Kentucky hold surprising numbers of channel catfish. Those with rocky bottoms and water at least chest deep are best.

Undercut banks are key to finding channel catfish in streams. Use a slip-sinker rig with enough weight to hold it in place in current. Use a 3/0 circle hook with a piece of cleaning sponge impaled on it.

Drop the sponge into a tub of commercially made stink bait, also called dip bait, and push it to the bottom with a stick. Hold it there to soak up as much of the smelly dip bait as the sponge can hold and cast it to an undercut bank. The sponge emits a plume of funk downstream that channel catfish follow back to the sponge and eat it.

You can also use chicken livers, nightcrawlers or rancid cheese for this presentation, but the dip bait sponge is hard to beat in a stream. You will catch many 16- to 21-inch long channel catfish in streams, perfect size for a dinner. Channel catfish from a cool stream offer fantastic table fare.

June is a wonderful month weather wise, but a transition time as predator fish move into their summer locations. Farm pond largemouth bass and channel catfish provide excellent sport during this month.

Ride for the Cure This Saturday

Sat., June 10, 10 a.m.: Ride for the Cure

Richmond Motorsports (RMS) behind Cracker Barrel.

\$15 per rider and \$10 per passenger.

Includes silent auction, chapter challenge and a scenic, escorted ride.

Lunch provided. Pre-register at RMS or register at 10 a.m. on the 10th.

Ride begins at 11:30. All proceeds benefit Hospice Care Plus.

Contact Patsy Bennett at RMS for more info: 623-5900.