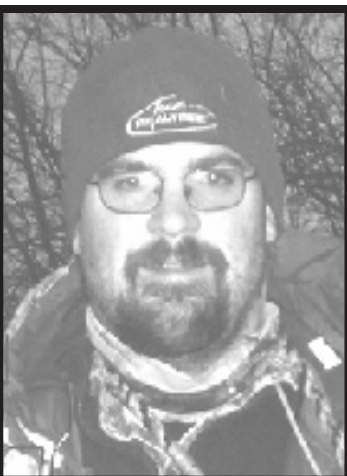


**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water**

**by Jay
Bicknell**
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Why I Hunt

On occasion I find myself with writers block! This week I don't really have writers block, but rather have 3 or 4 stories brewing in my head. I just can't seem to get them out

chance I got! I did just that, I hunted every chance I could! I got to hunt with a retired sniper who brought some awesome toys - thermal imagery technology, night vision goggles, and a few sweet weapons. I got to hunt with my old hunting buddies. I got to hunt with my 5-year-old! Out of six days, I hunted five of them! I called in three coyotes and never got a shot, and killed one wood duck! Even though not a lot of killing took place, I sure had a great time! So why do I hunt?

Its 6am and I'm headed out the door with every piece of warm clothing on that I can find. The thermometer reads 10 degrees and there is 4 inches of snow on the ground. My brother-in-law and I are going to try to trick some coyotes into giving up.

When I step out of the door into the cold and snow, some questions comes to mind. Why do I hunt? Why do I leave the comforts of a warm bed? Why do I lose sleep?

I could tell you the reason I hunt is because it feeds my family. We do love wild game on the dinner plate, but we have a grocery store about six minutes from the house, so if I did not hunt we wouldn't starve.

I could tell you the reason I hunt is because it is important to wildlife management. As a Biologist I know hunting is a very important part of healthy wildlife populations. Without hunting there would be detrimental effects on wildlife and habitat.

I could tell you the reason I hunt is because hunting gear and hunting licenses I buy are very important to wildlife management. The money that hunters spend on gear and license sales goes to all wildlife, not just game animals. The money goes to help everything from a small bat to a big Elk via the Pittman-Robison Act. Hunters pay for all wildlife.

The three reasons I just stated are important to me, but it is not why I hunt!



White Socks -- Chris Conrad took this doe with four white socks with a bow.

So why do I hunt? The reason I hunt is because of the blissful silence. The silence that is so loud that it is deafening is what I love. The woods are a break from all the noise that surrounds my life. It's where you can get a lot of thinking done with out a cell phone ringing to interrupt your thoughts.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of the sunrise. It's always a treat to see the absolute beauty of the sunrise. I love how the sunrise awakes the sleeping forest. All of the creatures that stir during the day start moving to and fro in the morning sun.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of the nervous anticipation before opening day. It never fails the day before a season comes in; I get butterflies from the excitement and I can't sleep the night before just thinking about it. It's like a kid waiting on Christmas morning.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because it is an investment in my kids. The best hunt

of my life was with my little girl and I hope to pass the love of the outdoors to her and my boys. They say take your kid hunting and you won't have to hunt your kid. I want my kids to know the natural high of hunting and being in the outdoors.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of the friendships. Some my best friends are my hunting buddies. Through hunting I have made friends from Oklahoma to New York.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of good old hunting dogs and the prospect of a new puppy. There is nothing better than an awesome retrieve by a duck dog, a solid point from a bird dog, the cry of a good hound, or the potential a new puppy is showing.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because I get to see Gods wonderful creation up close and personal. The time I spend in the woods helps me to grow in my walk with the Lord. The outdoors is a classroom to Gods teachings.

Some people don't understand about why we hunt, they think it is all about the kill, but I beg to differ.

Hunting is not about the kill, but rather all the things that come along with living the outdoor lifestyle. Hunting has influenced my spirituality and my career choices. It all started when my dad took me hunting as a little guy. So get a kid out hunting because you never know, you could be influencing the next director of Fish and Wildlife.

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation.

Spotlight on Young Hunters and Anglers!

The future of hunting and fishing are in the hands of the youth! If you've got a young hunter or angler with a picture of the harvest, please email it to <jbicknell@maximumdraw.com>. I want to put them in the spotlight. Please give me a brief story about the picture! The Who, What, When and Where about the youth on the picture! Thank You

This is a reprint of Jay because of computer failure.

6 injured in Sunday wreck

Continued from Page 1

The deputy's report states that one of the three was transported to the hospital, and the other two were taken by private vehicle.

Gross' Volkswagon had to be towed from the scene. Begley's vehicle was driveable but sustained damages to its rear.

Four-Wheeler Is Stolen

A 4-four wheeler was reported stolen by Raymond Alcorn of South Winn Avenue, Irvine.

He told Deputy Randy Farthing the 4-wheeler was taken early Saturday morning from 1293 South Irvine Road.

It was an olive green colored 2010 Honda Rancher valued at \$4,000.

Deputy Farthing has entered the 4-wheeler into the NCIC.

Four more file locally

Four more have filed to run for county elections and another attorney has filed to run for Circuit Judge of the 23rd district.

James Thacker, a democrat, is the first candidate to file for County Judge Executive. Thacker was a former deputy county judge executive for a few years when his father-in-law, Dwight Arvin, was judge executive.

Coroner Tony Murphy has filed for re-election. Murphy is a republican.

Jeff Hix, a democrat, has filed for re-election as Estill Property Valuation Administrator (PVA).

Floyd Edmonson, constable in the second district, has filed for re-election. Edmonson is a democrat. District 2 includes the West Irvine, Drowning Creek, Red Lick, and Cedar Grove precincts.

The filing deadline is January 28 in the office of County Clerk Sherry L. Fox, except for non-partisan candidates in school board races and the Ravenna Council.

Thomas J. Smith filed with the Secretary of State's office to file to run for Circuit Judge of the 23rd Judicial District, which includes Estill, Lee, and Owsley counties.

Smith gave his address as a P.O. Box in Irvine. Irvine attorney Michael Dean had filed earlier to run for circuit judge. Candidates for judges are non-partisan.

Letters to Santa,

There's still time for children ages 0 to 12 to send a letter to Santa. Just write the message below and be sure we receive it no later than Monday, December 16th order that it can be published in our special Christmas Edition on Wednesday, December 18th But hurry! Santa can't wait much longer!



Dear Santa,

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

**Mail Santa Letters to: The Estill County Tribune
6135 Winchester Road, Irvine, KY 40336
or send by e-mail to <News@EstillTribune.Com>**

Santa's Little Angels

For kids ages 0 to 17 To be published in color Wed., Dec. 25th Just send by mail or bring any size, quality photo (disk preferred)

no later than Friday, Dec. 20th

\$10⁰⁰

Photos may be Emailed

But payment must be made by Dec. 14th



CODY SMITH

**Son of Jake and Melinda Smith
We Love You, Merry Christmas!
Grandparents: Ralph & Millie**

Child's Name _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Six word message _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

**Mail early or bring with \$10 payment by Friday, December 20th
The Estill County Tribune, 6135 Winchester Road,
Irvine KY 40336**