

**Wanderings  
from the  
Woods  
& Water**  
by **Jay  
Bicknell**  
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I want my coyote mounted that I shot with my rifle!" I have heard that several 1,000 times a day now.

Josh and I skinned the coyote out. It was fun spending time with my inquisitive 4-year-old. He asked me 1,000 questions about the coyote while we skinned it out. It was a blast, spending time with my little man Josh. The plan is to tan the hide and hang it up in his room. His new thing is, "Dad, I want to hang a coyote up in my room, I shot with my rifle and shoot another coyote!" I hear that 1,000 times a day! Josh is a persistent, driven and headstrong 4-year-old, and I can't wait until he gets big enough to go hunting. I sure am blessed to have this little blonde-headed, 4-year-old in my life! I will let Josh in on the coyote one day when he gets bigger.

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



Josh Bicknell and his coyote

## A Coyote For Josh

I went Saturday to check the five traps I had out. It was a stellar day of trapping for me! I ended up with 4 of 5 traps having critters in them. I caught a beaver, coyote, bobcat, and a possum. It was my first bobcat so I was super excited. The bobcat was awesome, but it was my little man Josh who made my day.

You see, Josh is my very persistent, headstrong, four-year-old son! When he wants to do something, he is in laser focus until it's done. He let me know often, he wanted to kill a coyote. "Dad I want to kill a coyote with my rifle!" I got that about 1,000 times a day from a persistent 4-year-old. I am not sure where he gets his persistent, headstrong ways (MOM)!

I had trapped a coyote ear-

lier in the day that gave me an idea! I took the coyote, planted him on a tree stump in the edge of woods about 150 yards from the house. I ran in, got Josh and told him I saw a coyote. I grabbed his rifle and we went out in the yard and I helped him take two shots at the coyote! Josh let me know, he thought he hit the coyote.

We went and checked, and yep, the coyote was dead. Josh was on cloud nine. He let me know by killing the coyote he had saved the baby calves. It was fun to see Josh excited about being a hunter. He told everybody about his coyote.

So, I thought I had solved the problem of hearing about 1,000 times a day from Josh that he wanted to kill a coyote with my rifle! Wrong! My persistent 4-year-old immediately started saying, "Dad,

## Kentucky Afield Outdoors: Winter cave surveys track bat population, health

by **KEVIN KELLY**  
Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife

Winter surveys to assess bat populations and monitor the spread of white-nose syndrome are underway in Kentucky and will continue for the next several weeks.

"This is a busy time of the year," said Brooke Hines, bat ecologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "Our goal is to get close to 100 caves done. If it's as cold as it's been, we will be able to do some counts into April."

There are thousands of caves in Kentucky and roughly half of the 15 species of bats found in the state find them hospitable for hibernating.

The hibernation period

ranges from late November through March, when bats are most susceptible to becoming infected with the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome.

"If we have a cave that we know has maybe 50 or more total bats in it we try to do a count to determine the status of the species and to also determine if it's white-nose positive," Hines said. "The only way we can do it right now is just to see it actively growing. Researchers believe that when you start to see visible infection it's probably been in the cave at least the winter before or was introduced to that cave at the beginning of that winter."

Named for the white fungus that develops on the muzzles, ears, wings and tails of affected bats, white-nose syndrome has been linked to the deaths of millions of bats of varying species. The fungus has spread to 23 states and five Canadian provinces since it was first discovered in New York in 2007, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Kentucky joined the list in 2011 after a little brown bat from a cave in Trigg County tested positive. To date, white-nose syndrome has been detected at more than 30 sites in 16 counties across the state, Hines said. New sites have been found this year in counties already documented to have white-nose syndrome, she said.

"We have disease issues in other species groups," said Sunni Carr, Wildlife Diversity Branch manager with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "But in my career this is biologically the most devastating and significant thing that we're going to work on. No doubt about it."

Kentucky was the first state to develop a response plan for white-nose syndrome, and did so before its arrival.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife works closely with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other agencies on local surveillance and monitoring. Local caving clubs assist by notifying the agencies of potentially infected sites and providing their expertise.

"As soon as we found out it was significant, we have been on board on both a regional and national level," Carr said. "We are supporting research within the state. A lot of the folks that have the capacity to do the high-tech research don't have the field resource. They'll call us and say, 'We're interested in being able to swab this cave or get these samples or take these hair samples or blood samples from these animals. Can you help us

get the materials so that we can do the work?'" That's where we come in. We can help them facilitate their projects."

The fungus takes hold during hibernation and can linger on cave walls and sediment.

A bat suppresses its immune system while in winter torpor, and the fungus thrives until the extreme irritation rouses it to groom. Affected bats may then move closer to the cave entrance in an attempt to cool their body temperatures and induce torpor again, Hines said.

"When they start rousing more, they start burning through more fat reserves," she said. "Then, they start arousing in January or February instead of March and April. They come out into the landscape and they're either dying of exposure or starvation."

White-nose syndrome presents no threat to people, pets or livestock but a bat die-off could have a significant and noticeable impact.

Bats play a unique role ecologically. They can eat their weight of insects in a single night and also pollinate plants. Their loss would be felt by farmers and consumers alike, Hines said.

Three federally-endangered bat species call Kentucky home: the Indiana, gray and Virginia big-eared.

The little brown, northern long-ear and tri-colored bats could be listed in the next few years, Hines said.

Virginia big-eared and gray bats have shown resistance to white-nose syndrome in studies, Hines said.

"They're starting to look at what makes those bats so much different," she said. "Is it just because those bats are bigger or is there something on their skin that doesn't allow this fungus to become as irritable to them as others?"

Bat movement is considered the leading cause of the spread of white-nose syndrome, but there is evidence to suggest people may be contributing by accidentally spreading the fungal spores. U.S. Fish and Wildlife advises avoiding contact with potentially affected sites, equipment or bats and cleaning and disinfecting caving gear. More information about decontamination protocols and white-nose syndrome can be found online at [www.whitenosesyndrome.org](http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org).

"Once something blips off the radar, this is not Jurassic Park, you can't get it back," Carr said. "When you're in biology, we're the last group to give up hope. We've got to figure something out."

## Hunting season for coyotes at night, opened February 1

A new regulation allows hunters to use lights to hunt coyotes at night in Kentucky from Feb. 1 through May 31 in permissible areas.

Hunters may take coyotes either during the day or at night year-round in Kentucky. However, lights may only be used at night during the upcoming season.

Hunters should be aware of the different regulations which apply to coyote hunting during the day or the night.

During the day, coyote hunters may use shotguns, rifles, bows, crossbows or air guns with a minimum size of .22 caliber. At night, however, the only firearm a hunter may use is a shotgun. Night hunters must use shells which contain more than one projectile.

Several federal areas are closed to night coyote hunting. These include Land Between The Lakes in western Kentucky; Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in southeastern Kentucky; and the Daniel Boone National Forest in eastern Kentucky.

The Boone forest closure includes certain properties owned by the federal government but managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. These include Beaver Creek, Cane Creek, Redbird, Mill Creek and Pioneer Weapons wildlife management areas (WMAs).

State-owned WMAs are open for night coyote hunting. Night hunting of coyotes is allowed on private and other properties with the permission of the landowner, as long as there are no local ordinances prohibiting the discharge of firearms in the area.

Hunters may not spotlight and shoot coyotes from a vehicle. People may not use a vehicle's headlights or a light plugged into a vehicle for hunting. Lights that are used for hunting may be any color.

Regulations allow hunters to use decoys, mouth calls and electronic calls to lure coyotes. Unless license exempt, hunters must have a valid hunting license to take coyotes.

## Stickeler's Answer

### Stickelers Answer

The answer is **426 cubes**.

The cubes without any paint on them would number 3 x 7 x 14, or 294 cubes at the core of the block. 720-294 = 426 cubes with paint on at least one face. There always are two fewer cubes on each dimension (3, 7 and 14 compared with the original dimensions of 5, 9 and 16) that are buried inside.

### Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 12

# The Estill County Tribune

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