

Times Remembered
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Exciting Fishing

Days are getting longer and we are having a little more sunshine. Every day feels more like spring. Now is a good time to plan some day trips, week-end getaways and family vacations. Scenic beauty is just one of the things that makes Kentucky a great destination to fish and see different attractions, and landmarks.

Bob and I are planning some exciting fishing and kayaking this spring and summer, but we will have to work around Colton's baseball schedule.

One of our favorite places is the Mill Creek Lake at Natural Bridge State Park. Bob likes to fish for trout;

he has caught some nice ones. It is such a beautiful lake; so pristine and bordered by evergreens and sandstone cliffs. The lake offers good fishing and there are plenty other activities in the area; such as rock climbing, it is also the home of the Red River Gorge that is nationally known for rock climbing. There are chair lifts, zip lines, hiking, square dancing, camping and shopping to name a few; also there is a great pizza place called Miguel's.

Hemlock Lodge is a nice place to stay and a seafood buffet is offered the first Friday evening of the month. We see many of our Estill County friends enjoying the buffet.

Bob likes to fish and kayak the Elkhorn Creek in Scott County. Plus, that is where Colton, our grandson lives. Therefore, I love going to the Elkhorn. Bob fishes for small and large mouth bass, catfish and red-eyes. His largest catch was a 4 pound small mouth a few years ago. He also caught a 6 pound catfish.

He really enjoys kayaking and looking for wildlife as he glides along the water. He also likes hitting the small rapids for adrenaline rush. I'm not that brave yet; I like going forward in the kayak on flat water with plenty of room to stop. Maybe I'll get better

at kayaking this summer.

Tara once caught a good size small mouth bass that was 5 plus pounds but Coach Billy Hicks who was helping clean the fish they caught accidentally fileted it. Her jaw dropped because she was thinking of having it mounted.

During Spring Break in the early 90s, we took Tara and Bob's two nieces, Tina and Shannon to Watts Bar Lake fishing. The first day wasn't so fruitful. We caught a few crappie, but the next day was different; we got into a school of crappie and caught thirty or forty nice size crappie in about twenty minutes. What Luck! We had a fish fry for supper and brought some home for the freezer. The girls learned to clean fish for the first time. Getting kids outside helps get them ready for real life, which can be messy and fun. Family fishing is about more than the catch; it's about memories that last a lifetime.

Kentucky Game and Fish offers great opportunities in their FIN Program, which allows fishing in small neighborhood lakes. A list of lakes can be found at the KDFW website.

Salato Wildlife Center in Frankfort also offers excellent fishing opportunities with two large lakes that are stocked regularly. GO WET A LINE!!

Mistaking Super Glue for Lip Balm Can Leave You Speechless



America's Heartland
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Perhaps you heard about the fellow whose wife asked him to hand her the lip balm.

"I passed her Super Glue by mistake," he said. "She's still not talking to me."

Well, sometimes it's best not to do much talking anyway. At least that was the case for a fellow named Hezekiah, an Old Testament king who was known to share too much information on occasion.

When some folks came to visit Hezekiah from a neighboring country, he

not only told them about everything he owned, he also showed it all to them. That proved to be a really bad idea. They came back sometime later and stole pretty much everything of value that he had.

Hezekiah lacked discretion when it came to what he information he shared with others. It's a problem lots of people seem to have. I'm often amazed by what people share on Facebook, especially those who keep everyone posted about their whereabouts, even when they're three states away on vacation while their homes, filled with their valuable belongings, sits empty. When we tell the world we're on the trip, we should realize robbers may be listening, too.

We certainly don't need to tell everything to everyone. Hezekiah's experience shows why that's a bad idea. Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, except for Jesus, of course, had a great deal to say about discretion. His wise

counsel is recorded in the book of Proverbs.

First and foremost, perhaps, is this statement: "Discretion will protect you; understanding will watch over you" (Proverbs 2:11).

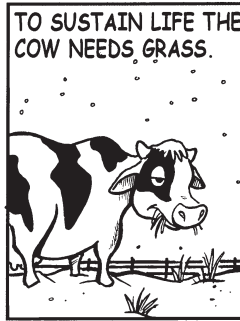
When we think of protection, we most often think of fences, or doors, or locks, or guns. Perhaps we don't always think immediately of discretion as a defense. But discretion will keep us out of unsafe places and unwise situations. It a very real sense it is a preventive.

Discretion will cause you to look closely at the label when your wife asks for lip balm. Discretion will keep you from giving her Super Glue by mistake. And discretion may mean you have ear plugs handy when that glue loses its strength and your wife is able to tell you just what she thinks of the mix up.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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