

Sportsman Trails Sportsman Trails

Volume 41 Issue 8

Bass Division	2	President: Bill Blackburn	859-533-5543
Trails Update	3	Secretary: Robbie Mulcahy	859-421-5408
From the Chaplain	4	Treasurer: John Ruland	859-492-9719
Board of Directors	5		
Morgan's Meanderings	6		

President's Corner

By Bill Blackburn



The chickens have come home to roost. For many years, we [BGSL] kept our dues artificially low and spent our reserves until there are few reserves left. We have very little capital left for any emergencies or capital expenses for maintaining the League.

We have most of the equipment to maintain the League, but it is 20 years old. We upgraded our tractor, but mowers, hay balers, hay rakes, roads etc. are worn out. We must put aside some monies for capital expenses.

We have had possibly the most devastating series of events in our history. The safety of our ranges must be addressed. After much discus-

sion, the Board of Directors has elected a 3-pronged approach which utilizes range officers, baffles and new rules. All of this will be expensive.

We have projected an increase of 75% in our energy costs. Labor costs will be increased with the addition of full-time range officers. Insurance costs for workman's comp will be significantly increased.

An important decision will be made at the August general meeting with regard to our finances. Please be present to vote on the proposed dues increase.

Bill

BGSL Sportsman Trails—August 2008

Bass Division

I must start this article by apologizing for not keeping up my job for the last couple of months. I will try to give an overview of what has been going on in the club and from now on keep every thing more up to date.

This is a very complete year in the Club, and everyone seems to have a renewed spirit and a determination to win. No one seems to be fishing just for the fun of it, and they are all out to kick butt and win. It is really a fun year.

Our big bass pot, the one where the first fisherman who weighs in a fish over six pounds, has not been broken in about four and half years. Well Phillip Brinegar put an end to that at lake Barkley. He brought in the first six pounder in a long time and took home a cool \$ 1000.00 for his trouble. The very next tournament Sandy Jones did the same thing. All this time and then two people break it two tournaments in a row that is another \$1000.00. What are the chances of that? Well I have one better than that. June 27th, Herrington Lake, and Sandy Jones does it again! I think we are going to rename the Big Bass Pot, and change it to the Sandy Jones Income Supplement Fund. Sandy was a happy guy.

Phillip Brinegar has been in the points lead all season, but things are getting tighter and tighter. There are five or six fishermen on his heels and anything could happen. It will be interesting to see who holds up under the pressure.

We have several new guys in the club this year, and we are having great turnouts at every tournament, with 13 to 16 boats. The more fishermen you have, the more fun it is.

Our next tournament is again at Herrington Lake, on July 11. We will fish from 8:00 pm, until 2: am. If you are a BGSL member you are invited to come and join us. Just give any one in the Bass Division a call.

Submitted by: John Lingenfelter

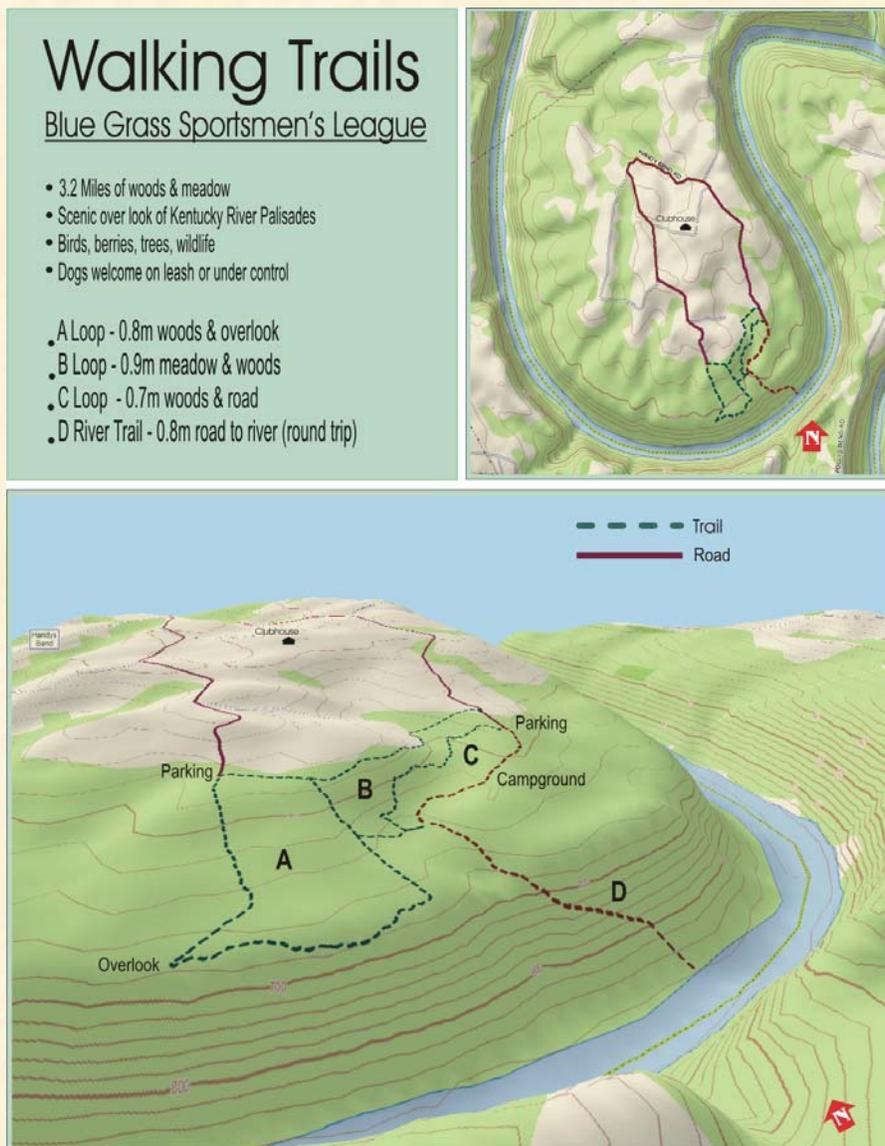
BGSL Sportsman Trails—August 2008

Trails Update

The winter and early spring wind storms left some large tree falls over the trails. With volunteer help, and some tractor work, the trails have been cleared and bush-hogged on the upper levels, but not to the river walk to date.

You may have missed the spring wild flower blooming, but still some blossoms about, and the birds are singing - come enjoy the trails and send us your comments - any volunteers would be welcome. J

The trail map and contact information is on the website and be printed for use. Or, contact John Ruland at bgsrluland@earthlink.net





From the BGSL Chaplain

By Rev. Tom Cottingim

There was a young man who had a great deal of ambition and who wanted to be the very best at whatever he did. He was intelligent, strong and healthy and not afraid of hard work. The young man lived in a rural area without a great deal of job opportunities, but after a short while he found a job as a lumberjack. This pleased the young man very much; the job paid very well and he liked the physical work. Not only that, but all the other lumberjacks he would be working with were older and not as strong as he was. He knew it would be no time at all until he was the very best lumberjack. People from all over would hear about his skill and surely an even better job would become available to him. Nothing could stop him now.

The first day on the job the young man was sent out to work next to the oldest lumberjack on the crew. He was sure his success would start that very day; he would cut down more trees than would the old man. The young man worked very hard all day, but when evening came the old man had felled one more tree than him. "That's okay," thought the young man, "I have the hang of it now. Tomorrow I will beat him!"

The next day the young man was on the job early and he worked as hard as he could. At quitting time, however, the old man had beaten him by two trees. "That can't be!" he thought, "I will show him tomorrow!"

Daylight the next morning found the young man already chopping a tree and he worked half an hour past quitting time. When he came back to the camp he learned the old man had this time topped him by four trees. The young man did not sleep well that night and arrived at work tired the next morning at sunrise. He struggled to keep going and did not stop until nearly dark. Again, bad news greeted him: he was six trees behind. "I can do this if I just set my mind to it," thought the young man.

Tired and irritable, the young man only lasted until lunch time the following day. He went to locate the old man. He found him relaxed under the shade of a tree, leisurely eating his lunch. With desperation in his voice he said to him, "What am I doing wrong? I am younger and stronger than you! Why can't I beat you?"

The old man poured a little more coffee from his thermos bottle, sipped it slowly and looked at the young man, "Son, you have to take time to sharpen your axe."

"But I don't have *time!*" exclaimed the young man.

The young man was smart, but not wise enough to learn the obvious truth. How about you? Do you take time to sharpen *your* axe? Whether or not we think we have time to restore ourselves, the human body cannot continue to function without proper rest. The human mind, as well, must be rested to be productive. In the New Testament, Jesus himself would withdraw from his ministry to rest and to pray. He taught his disciples to do the same. He knew the importance of restoring ones self.

Rest from our labors, or sharpening our axes, is a *must*. Failing to do so will eat away at our ability to be good workers, parents, friends... you get the idea. But, let me ask again, *do you?* Do you take time out? Just how you sharpen your axe is a matter of what works for you. But, I believe we need a little time each day, a little more time each week, and certainly, some bigger chunks of time each year. I hope you will keep your axe sharp. See you at the club.

Blessings,

Tom

BGSL Board of Directors

-----BOARD OF DIRECTORS-----

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Morgan's Meanderings

By Terry C. Morgan

My guess is that if you would take an official poll of the crowd at the recent BGSL Fish Fry, you would get some that would say that it was better this year, than last and others that would say it was better last year than this. In all cases, you would find out that it doesn't really matter that much because both of them were great. I was lucky to get a picture of the ladies that were frying the fish and they looked might charm-



ing in their demure outfits even though it was pretty hot in that kitchen. The real concern, however, is not which year was best but the concern is what I discovered about some of the folks attending this fish fest.

You probably don't recall that last year I arrived a little late and had to stand in line for over an hour while I watched all those dry gulchers from the Muzzleloader Division (who had been first in line) shoveling fish and corn down their gullets like they had never eaten out in public before. Well, this year I decided to just turn the tables on those guys and see if I could not get in line early myself. I arrived a little early and turned in my ticket money and as I ap-

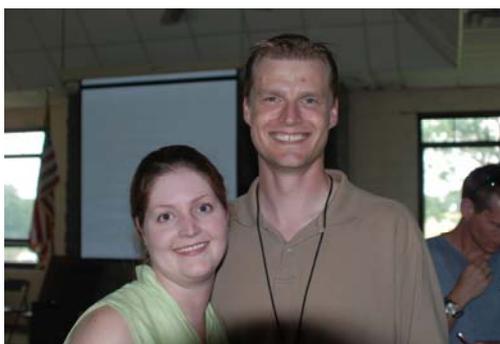


proached the outdoor seating area I saw Archie Hillard, the lead dog in this race, seated in a position so that when the head cook gave the signal that serving would start, he could head for the door to the clubhouse and be first in line. Using my clever "photographer disguise ploy" I positioned myself in between Archie and the door as if I was going to take a picture of himself and his demure spouse. About that time the head

chef, Russ Steele, announced supper and I high tailed it toward the door in front of Archie (who was making a desperate attempt to outrun me) but seeing as how I am very fleet of foot (for the first 10 seconds), I beat him handily and became the first in line. Now, this did not set too well with Archie and I could tell by the beady look in his eyes that I had better stay on my toes. As most of you know, the first stop is at the table where you trade your ticket for a coupon with the door prize number on it. Now pay attention here because this is where things start going awry.

As I bent over to sign my name and phone number on the coupon, that devil Archie hollered out that he did not need any old door prize coupon and slipped right by me to grab first place in line and get the first fish. Now this rascal was so dedicated to being first in line that he abandoned his loved ones (that would be Jeannete, his wife) and left her to fend for herself in the throng. Well, I took my defeat in stride and enjoyed my fish dinner, but I learned a great lesson in this: Those Muzzleloaders are great shots and fun to be around, but do not get in between them and their food. I probably ought to mention that not one of the rest of that clan did anything to discourage Archie or admonish him in any way. Conversely, they were cheering him on to victory and when they had all been seated at dinner they were all smiles and seemed to be delighted that Archie had trounced me in such an underhanded fashion. I could have just slapped them.

Last month I mentioned that we



have hired a new Range Master named Jim Gaddis. Here is a picture of Jim and his wife Julianna. They are Wilmore residents and Jim is already hard at work on the ranges. Julianna is employed at the Jessamine County Public Library. Commencing on July 23rd, Jim will be reinforced by another new employee named Matt (I think). I have not had a chance to meet Matt yet. We are making great strides in getting the ranges back into some semblance of normality.

Now here is a topic that always makes warm, fuzzy feelings crawl up and down your spine. **DUES INCREASES!** Okay, there, I said it. I think I have heard every whine and moan and groan that could be uttered on this subject so I am not too interested in hearing them again, ad nauseam. You know, if you were honest with yourself you would probably admit that BGSL has never kept up with the cost of living and other inflation factors since the club was started. Even at a level of \$200 per year we are nowhere near what the real value of a membership should be. This club is such a bargain that most people cannot realize it. I know there are going to be few that say that

they are going to quit if we raise the dues and I sincerely hope that those people stop and give some really solid thinking time to that threat. Look at it this way. This is only a \$6 per month increase over the present rate and if you cannot afford that, you evidently do not drive an automobile. I know as well as anyone that any kind of increase in our personal budgets is a matter of concern, but if you buy the groceries for your family or pay any of the bills, you surely notice that everything you buy costs considerably more today than it did two years ago and the cost of operating an organization such as BGSL is not immune from this inflation. Many of us on fixed incomes get to enjoy having the government fiddle with the interest rates and keep reducing our income while everything else continues to rise in cost. It is very difficult to continue to absorb these increases over which you have no control and you pretty soon have to make some hard decisions. I would be willing to bet that a very high percentage of you have either added a cell phone to your cadre of communicating devices or maybe even given up your old home phone in favor of a cell phone. Have you noticed all the extra fees and taxes that they have managed to add onto your bill because of the "deregulation" brought about by the government? If you decide that this is the straw that broke the camel's back and you don't want to pay another \$6 per month for the privilege of belonging to a club like BGSL, then that is your decision to make. But please keep in mind that if you do not approve this increase, you are just hastening the inevitable and one of these days you won't have to worry about any more pesky requests for dues increases because there won't be anything there to request it of you. You know there are going to be those that start debating why we don't do more with volunteers. Have you been involved in any volunteering lately? We see the same old faces, We have been seeking volunteers to help seal the main clubhouse walls and cannot get enough people to help. We ask for volunteers to help with the youth and cannot get enough help. We seek volunteers to staff the ranges to make them more available and cannot get enough help. Please don't take up the membership's time with that tired argument. There is a certain percentage of the membership that would like to see us let the 1500 acres turn into a forest, or jungle or whatever it would become if left to grow wild. Thank goodness, that it is a very small percentage. John Ruland, our current Treasurer, has put in a lot of time and effort in trying to analyze and prognosticate our income and expenses. Those of you who ask inane questions like "what does the club do with all its money" and "ask the President what he has done with all of our money" are probably the people who never come to club meetings and/or attend a board meeting. John does a good job of explaining what is going on with our finances at every general meeting and board meeting and there are no secrets about where the money goes. Neither are there any conspiracies going on that are being kept secret. I hope you will see fit to come to the club meeting and and voice your opinion about the issues. Also I would appreciate it if you would stop by the Muzzleloader table and give Archie a good hard stare.