

BGSL Sportsman Trails



President's Corner Bill Blackburn Volume 42 Issue 3

- Special points of interest:**
- Time to enjoy the weather
 - Make sure your email address is current. A lot of reminders are sent out via BGSL BLAST
 - Check out the new website for Skeet and Sporting Clays. It looks great.

As we draw to the close of our fiscal year and the end of my term as president of BGSL, I think the fact that we are still utilizing and enjoying our club is no small feat. There have been many long hours, many emergency Board meetings, many urgent committee meetings and volunteer hours beyond number. It is impossible to name everyone who has contributed time and effort, but my special thanks to the following people:

John Ruland....unmatched intelligence, work ethic, and love for BGSL. Better council would be hard to find.

Robbie Mulcahy....Available for consultation and sage advice 24/7 in spite of his own frequent 16-18 hour days.


Clay Caudill.... Chairman of the range committee. Purveyor of knowledge with regard to single projectile shooting.

Brandon Ironmonger..... Range committee. Voice of reason in troubled times.

Ben Riffell.....The "glue" that makes it all work. He has continued to grow as Operations Manager.

Last, but certainly not least, Thanks to the members who have remained faithful to the Objects of our Constitution. You have endured range closures and increased dues, but our safety and our facility have dramatically improved.

Bill



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Important News

Division articles are needed for Sportsman Trails.

Please let us know scores, events and other happenings in your division. Or just send pictures

Spread the word and help your division grow

League Officers:
President Bill Blackburn 859-278-1486
Secretary Robbie Mulcahy 859-421-5408
Treasurer John Ruland 859-492-9719

Bluegrass Sportsman Trails



Bluegrass Sportsmen's League
2500 Handy's Bend Road
Wilmore, KY 40390-8029

Phone: 859-858-4060
Fax: 859-858-4060

Address label here

Welcome To The Bluegrass Sportsman's League

Directors At-Large:

Mike Kass 859-887-1742
Richard Gehlbach 859-269-6658
Terry Morgan 859-858-4360
Clay Caudill 859-433-9274
Tim Bickert 859-858-0911

Division Directors:

Archery Robert Burgess 859-351-2060
 Ken Maness 859-885-9443

Air Gun Steve Cox 859-263-8378
 Jamie Piotrowski 859-948-3321

Bass Walt Bowman 859-223-1572
 Rudy Tester 859-327-9398

Casting Dan Fister 859-948-3453
 Luann Johnson 502-839-1775

Kitchen Russ Steel 859-277-2672
 Dennis West 859-351-2977

Muzzle Loader

Harold Moore..... 859-748-5977
Ken Hahn 859-229-0750

Pistol

Brandon Ironmonger.. 859-879-6997
Tom Tryon 859-621-8118

Pointer & Setter

Craig Finney.....859-887-2157
Frank White.....859-885-9079

Rifle

Joe Jarrell 859-361-0509
Mike Niblett 859-887-2250

Skeet & Sporting Clays

Arv Applegate 859-533-0741
Colin Baker 859-396-6148

Trap

Bruce Sanders 859-219-9414
Tim Ore 859-223-6358

Past President

Greg Delabar 859-523-0250

BGSL Chaplain

Tom Cottingim 859-533-8896



Morgan's Meanderings

By Terry C. Morgan

I don't know what the national average would be if we were to try to estimate what percentage of the members of a non-profit organization actually volunteer to do things to promote the growth and welfare of the group but I would probably put the figure in our organization at less than one half of one percent. That would look something like this (0.40%). Now please don't get me wrong right off the bat. I know that most of our members have plenty on their plate

trying to keep house and home together, raising their children, showing interest in school programs, working odd hours, sometimes working more than one job, and after all, BGSL is just a recreational group and does not carry the priorities of emphasis that most of the above carry. I can go along with that. So, the point of this comment is that when we do find a member who can and is willing to put forth the effort to improve the club and benefit the rest of the members, I think they deserve some hero status. One of the problems in trying to laud heroes is that there are usually some unsung heroes backing the primary heroes up and quite often those backups do not get their share of the credit. I am sure that this will be the case in this report because I always manage to leave out some of those who are putting forth great effort in the background. My sincere thanks for their effort and also my sincere apology for not being able to give them the credit they deserve.

One of my choices for Hero of the Month is going to be Tom Cottingim. I want to point out the spelling of his name; it is not "Cottingham". I should expect you to remember that Tom is our BGSL Chaplin and works pretty hard at the job but as in most cases, he is not well known by the general membership. Tom is one of those fellows that will say "yes" when he recognizes that something needs to be done and nobody will stand up to the plate and take responsibility for the task. Some of the aspects of Tom's character that make him a standout is that he is a true sportsman and never turns down a chance to further the cause of BGSL. I am not going to innumerate all the tasks that he does or is involved in here because his status as Hero at this time is based on something that happened on May 30th.



Tom was the driving force behind a special day that occurred in the life of BGSL. I don't know if this could be called the official title of the Event but I am going to call it the "HOW DO YOU DO THAT" day. He garnered a force of knowledgeable people to display their skills and share those skills with any others who would like to know more about how things might be done and what it takes to do it. Tom and his friend Rick Ruebling shared a table and

demonstrated and discussed all the aspects of Fly Tying. Dave Roberts, one of our casting team, demonstrated and discussed the aspects of Rod



Building. A representative from Evan's Firearms and Archery, John Gross, discussed procedures affiliated with cleaning a firearm and bore sighting it. Larry Allen and Ben Shelton did the honors concerning



flint knapping. Harold Black Powder crowd and his had some knives and cutlery Greg Becknell, David Maness filled out the Archery fletching, bow tuning and all Clay Caudill was present tools for centerfire reloading was pumping out reloaded



Moore represented the grandson, Ben Miller, on demonstration. Dunning and Ken booth with skills in aspects of archery. with samples and and Charlie Becknell shotshells at a high



rate of speed. Brandon Ironmonger stood ready to discuss all aspects of membership in BGSL.



I know I learned several new things that I had no knowledge of and I am sure many others did also. Thanks Tom for putting together such a nice day. I know the club members will want more of this once they become aware that we have a cadre of members who have these skills that they are willing to share. I know that new members quite often ask where they can get instruction.

Our second Hero of the month is LuAnn Johnson. LuAnn has taken on the task of turning what we used to call “Family Fun Days”, which was sponsored by the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, into “Outdoor Days”, which is sponsored by BGSL. Outdoor Days was a Week End of food, fun and family. Club members and guests had the opportunity to camp, eat meals (read big pig roast and breakfast), try out various venues to become familiar with them and socialize with people they have never met before. In addition to the folks who volunteered at the various venues I got a glance at Craig Phinney, Robert Burgess and past president Greg Delabar helping out with the food service. I enjoyed a great breakfast of sausage, biscuits and sweet milk gravy but they had other fare as well. I am sorry to say that other commitments kept me away from the pig roast, but if it was anything like the ones past, it was probably a hum dinger. LuAnn has put in a hugh amount of time into the Youth program and has sought many opportunities for the Youth Division to provide catering to the various Divisions and programs in order to raise additional funds for the very active youth program. As club members and outdoor enthusiasts we should be cognizant of the fact that if we do not encourage our youth in outdoor activities we will soon not have any outdoor activities at all. UNPLUG those kids from their regular diet of electronic activity and PLUG them into the outdoors. I know a lot of you will say that your kids enjoy the outdoors at their soccer, football, baseball, swimming and other such activities. While that is true and those sports take up a lot of the children’s spare time as well as the parents non-spare time, try to think of the long term. They will only be participating in those sports for a limited length of time whereas they can learn and enjoy the venues sponsored at BGSL all their hopefully long lives. One of the most common excuses I have heard when talking to members who are dropping their club membership is that they don’t have enough time and their kids are too young to participate at the club. Well, I know that is probably true in a few cases, but I also know that the response is more because of the pressure they feel in letting the children do whatever pleases them rather than trying to guide them in a way that will benefit them in the future.

Think about it.