



# THE TEACH TABLET

Volume 1/ Issue 1

## GIRL SCOUTS BECOME WOOD DUCK CONSERVATIONISTS

On April 22 & 23, 2017, Girl Scout Troops from Will and Kendall Counties camped out at Camp River Trails in Sheridan, IL. TEACH OUTDOORS was invited to join the fun and show the girls how using power tools and wood glue combats the effects of habitat loss for the beautiful wood duck. More on page 4.

*Below: wood duck*



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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TEACH Outdoors has a summer planned with lots of opportunities to get kids outdoors and into nature! See our calendar on the back page of this issue or you can always find the latest event information on our website at [www.TeachOutdoor.org](http://www.TeachOutdoor.org). All our events are FREE but some locations require pre-registration. Questions are always welcome at [info@TeachOutdoors.org](mailto:info@TeachOutdoors.org).

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*“...seeing their face light up the first time they hear themselves “talk like a duck.” Page 2*

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## TEACH OUTDOORS PARTNERS WITH A LOCAL SCHOOL TO HOST A FAMILY FISHING EVENT

Grand Prairie Elementary school invited TEACH Outdoors to their second annual family fishing event because they needed the volunteers. A few parents decided to host the event for the first time last year and knew they could expect a bigger crowd this time around. Will County Forrest Preserve District has a lake on Black Road that is great for a family fishing outing. With a pavillion, convenient parking and bathrooms located nearby, it's a great little place to take kids fishing for the first time. Little sun fish and blue gill are in abundance and the lake is full of large mouth bass. You can watch turtles sun themselves, great blue heron and snowy egrets fish for their lunch, and see the wildflowers in bloom. Add friends, hot dogs for lunch and bait and loaner poles and you have yourself a great Saturday! Thank you TEACH Outdoors for helping untangle fishing line, retrieve swallowed hooks and providing prizes and raffles to add to the fun of the day. Congratulation to Nicholas Wingerter on catching a 15 inch bass and Mya Broadway for catching 16 fish throughout the day. Special thanks to Vince Radaker for adopting another family and showing them the ropes like a true sportsman.



*Smitty is cold & talking like a duck.*

Want to share your love of the outdoors with kids?

**THEN JOIN US!**

For volunteer sign up, visit [www.TeachOutdoors.org](http://www.TeachOutdoors.org) or call Smitty at 815-341-4001.

It's tons of fun & rewarding too. You don't have to be an expert to help, just willing and available.

## EVER WONDER HOW TEACH OUTDOORS BEGAN?

In an interview with founder Jim "Smitty" Smith, founder of TEACH Outdoors.

I grew up in McLeansboro, IL, the only son of an outdoorsman. My father taught me the importance of conservation, how to be a responsible hunter, and to respect the great outdoors from the time I was young boy. After graduating from high school in 1985 I joined the United States Air Force. After the Air Force I got married and shortly thereafter my wife and I became parents. We raised our daughter with the same love of the outdoors that we share.

In my free time, I enjoy duck and goose hunting with friends in Illinois, Arkansas and Missouri. I am currently President of TEACH Outdoors, Inc. NFP where the mission is to get children outside, pass along outdoor values, and teach the conservation and ethics of being an outdoorsman. I saw that parents needed help getting their kids off electronics and into nature, especially if they didn't come from a family that was active outside. That's how it all started. I am proud to have my family working with me on this mission teaching families how much fun you can have outside!

I truly enjoy being a Buck Gardner Pro Staffer, teaching children of all ages how to use the duck calls, giving them their first Mallard Magic and seeing their face light up the first time they hear themselves "talk like a duck."

**EVER WONDER, "WHAT DOES "T.E.A.C.H." STAND FOR?"**

**THE ACRONYM MEANS:**

**TRADITION  
EDUCATION  
ADVENTURE  
CONSERVATION &  
HABITAT**

**OUR MISSION IS TO GET KIDS OUTDOORS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN TO FISH, CAMP, HUNT & PROTECT NATURE BY OFFERING FREE PROGRAMS TO ALL CHILDREN.**

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 17, 2017  
Saturday

Fishing Derby & Wood Duck Seminar  
Woodsmoke Ranch in Seneca, IL

Registration Information:

Contact [info@teachoutdoors.org](mailto:info@teachoutdoors.org)  
All participants who are not members of Woodsmoke Ranch in Seneca, IL must pre-register. Registration is open now and will close on Wednesday, June 10, 2017.

July 29, 2017  
Saturday

Fishing Derby & Conservation Day  
Woodsmoke Ranch in Seneca-Registration required  
Hot Dog Lunch, Duck Calling Lessons & Contest

August 5, 2017  
Saturday  
Seminar

Neighborhood Fest at First Baptist Church in Morris  
Minnow Racing, William Tell Archery, Wood Duck

Aug. 23-27, 2017

Will County Fair in Peotone (open to close daily)  
Membership Drive, Information Booth, Minnow Racing, Wood Duck Seminars, and Raffles

October 1, 2017  
Sunday

Grundy County Corn Festival Parade at 2:00 in Morris





First fish photos to the right. Below, granddaughter and grandpa fish together. Top left, father and son fishing. Center left, TEACH volunteers Mackenzie and Amanda go to measure a large mouth. Bottom right, three generations fishing together at Grand Prairie's event.



*Congratulations to our friends at B & S Firearms in Morris on your anniversary in your new location! We wish you a fantastic year ahead & thank you for all you do to support the TEACH Outdoors mission & the community. Visit them on Facebook today or stop by & say THANK YOU to Chad & Tim!*





### *Girl Scouts Wood Duck Conservation (continued)*

Throughout the morning, each of the twelve troops made their own wood duck box and learned how the boxes help the nesting wood ducks. Basically, wood ducks need a cavity in which to nest, and an adjacent wetland habitat that contains some trees, shrubs, or dense herbaceous vegetation that provide aquatic insects for ducklings. Generally, if there is food available but natural tree cavities are sparse, then the wood ducks make good use of nest boxes.

After lunch, Bob and Smitty gave a duck calling seminar and took the girls from kazooing to calling with their Buck Gardner calls. After a contest and lots of laughs, the Girl Scouts are ready to call in ducks so they can watch them land on the water and interact with the ducks in the habitat the scouts learned to protect. Camp River Trails has a sign that says, "Camp Built by Cookies." It was the pleasure of TEACH Outdoors to spend the day with the girls. They were generous to thank us with Girl Scout cookies and Bass Pro gift cards so we can buy more fishing poles for our upcoming fishing derbies. We thank you for the invite. We had tons of fun.



**THE GIRL SCOUTS WILL ALSO BE FEATURED IN THE JUNE EDITION OF OUTDOOR NEWS! CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS ON TAKING PART IN THE TEACH OUTDOORS, INC NFP WOOD DUCK CHALLENGE AND BECOMING CHAMPIONS FOR THE WOOD DUCK!**