



September 2018

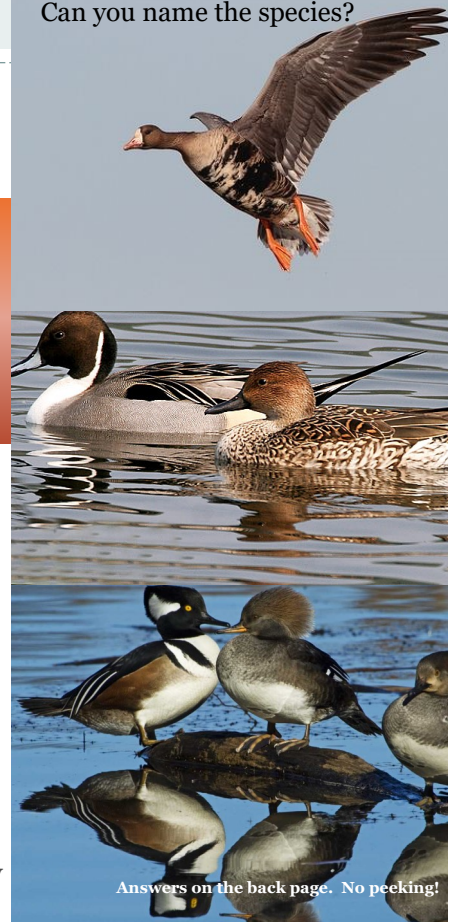
TEACH TABLET

Welcome to September! The change of season is full of anticipation. By now, you might be growing bored of grilled anything (which seemed so exciting in May) and your taste buds long for the foods of fall that pair so nicely with cool, crisp weather. Imagine a fall menu with savory soups, hearty chili, succulent stews, tender roasts to go with the freshly baked bread that feeds your very soul, but not yet! To drive down a country road and watch the combines bring in the harvest, but not yet. The feeling of being wrapped in a warm sweater while holding a mug of apple cider, but it's too warm for that. To sit by a campfire, soak up the heat that combats the chill, and watch the warm glow dance on the faces of those who encircle it with you, but not yet! Dreams of fall will have to wait until October or even November.

September is *just the beginning* of autumn. School is back in session yet plenty of warm days remain ahead and lots of sunlight to enjoy. The autumnal equinox or official start of fall is September 22nd, but the tastes, sounds & delicious smells of fall remain on hold. In the meantime, you might be enjoying the bounty of your garden (or at least the bumper crop from neighbors and friends).

While some people are busy in the kitchen, the hunters are busy checking gear and supplies; preparing for Opening Day of [insert hunting season of your choice]. If you've not been on Facebook, you should **like and follow** TEACH Outdoors. Smitty has been counting down the days until Opening Day of waterfowl season since July! We are proud to share those duck blind, field layout and tree stand pictures with one another and **hope you will share yours too**. Keep an eye out for those *extra special first hunt pictures* that we will be sharing of kids on their **FIRST** time in the field with TEACH Outdoors. We have **THREE** first time hunts on the calendar & we are proud to work with some great guides to make them possible. You will be missing out if you don't follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Take a moment to square that away and you'll be glad you did.

Can you name the species?



Answers on the back page. No peeking!

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THIS EDITION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Champion Caller Jordan Keil provides a personalized waterfowl hunting experience with an educational advantage. Visit www.reactionwaterfowl.com or call **320.237.1470** to book your hunt.

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IDNR HUNTER SAFETY COURSES:

Keep in mind for next year that TEACH Outdoors hosts **FREE Hunter Safety Classes**. This is a two day class that is taught by Jim Smith & Bob Wilkins, instructors certified through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

There isn't a minimum age to take the Hunter Safety class, but you do need to have a 6th grade reading level to be able to take the written test. You also need an adult who will stay with the student for the two day class. TEACH Outdoors provides lunch both days and is completely **FREE**. The classes fill up quickly so follow us on Facebook to register for our Spring session. Registration will likely open in April 2019. A great follow up class to Hunter Safety is **Learn to Hunt Your Intended Species**. In this class series, you will be able to get field experience with live shooting practice and learn how to use hunting blinds, calls and decoys.

By Jim Smith

August was a very busy month for TEACH Outdoors and we had a lot of fun outside.

This month started with participating in the annual Neighborhood Fest with the First Baptist Church in Morris on Saturday, August 4th. This year TEACH Outdoors provided bat box building and bat habitat education along with duck calling, and everyone's favorite...archery! TEACH Outdoors was very fortunate to have championship goose caller Brian Malone on hand to show his calling skills at this event. It was a great day "making a joyful noise" calling ducks and geese. Archery was a hit once again this year. I would like to send a big shout out and thank you to Brian Malone, Brian Russell and Dave Oeschlager for sharing your archery expertise with the kids and teaching them proper technique in archery. Also, thank you to Pastor Steve and the First Baptist Church of Morris for a great day outside with kids and their families.

The next event was held on August 11th at The Center in Custer Park. Pizza and drinks were served compliments of TEACH Outdoors for lunch and another class received their hunter safety certifications! This was the final IDNR Hunter Safety class weekend for TEACH Outdoors for this year. It has been a great year for IDNR Hunter Safety at The Center!

Good luck in the field this season kids! Remember: **KEEP YOUR BOOGER HOOK OFF THE BOOM SWITCH UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO BRING THE HEAT!**

On August 19th Orange Crush participated and competed in a youth shooting sports tournament that was the very first of its kind. Jack at X-Line Shotgun Club and Bob Wilkins worked endless hours to get this put together. I would like to thank both these men for their commitment to youth shooting sports. Most youth trapshooting teams shoot at a range and enter their scores into a national database, never meeting their opponents in person. The team participating in this event at X-Line were all present at the club and shot together as teams. In addition, individual shooter scores were also being tracked. At the end of the tournament awards were presented in two categories, high school and junior high for individual awards and team awards. I am proud to announce the Orange Crush members who received individual awards were Cole Haynes, receiving the highest score for high school division and Mackenzie Wilkins received third place in the junior high division after a shoot out. Mackenzie took her place at the line during the shoot out and made her team and coaches proud as she beat the young man from another school in the shoot out. Orange Crush Jr. High shooting team received third place overall in

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE & YOUTH TEAM SHOOTING COMPETITION

the competition! Congratulations Orange Crush! You kids have had an amazing first season and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for each of you! Congratulations Head Coach Bob Wilkins on a great season and THANK YOU BOB for making the goal of having a youth shooting sports a reality! Your hard work and dedication is amazing!

August 22nd-26th was one of our favorite fundraisers at The Will County Fair. Volunteers of TEACH Outdoors volunteered for 355 1/4 hours at the fair selling raffle tickets, handing out information about TEACH Outdoors, and once again this year myself and Bob Wilkins had a great time representing Buck Gardner Calls as Pro Staff teaching kids how to use a Mallard Magic call. One of my favorite noises at the fair is hearing the kids off in the distance blowing their duck calls.

This year we had a free raffle to help build our email data base. Anyone who was interested in receiving information about TEACH Outdoors, receiving a newsletter or staying up to date on coming event provided their email address on an index card and placed it in the raffle drum. The prize came from a very generous private donor who donated a bicycle to be raffled at the Will County Fair. Email addresses were gathered by the hundreds and the winner of the bicycle was Brittany M. of Beecher, Illinois.

TEACH Outdoors was blessed by a very generous donation from Mr. Greg Baker at Baker Electric being a Generac Generator. The crowds were in awe of the donation and everyone wanted to be a winner. It was a great way to get people to stop at the booth and to get to know more people in the community and we thank you, Greg Baker and Baker Electric, for your continued support of the mission of TEACH Outdoors. The winner of the generator was Linda B. of Minooka, Illinois.

The annual firearm raffle at the Will County Fair was a success thanks to the village of Peotone for the raffle license, the Will County Fair for the opportunity to raffle firearms, and B&S Firearms, for being our FFI, and servicing all of our firearm needs. This year TEACH Outdoors raffled a Henry Big Boy Classic and an American Wester Arm Longhorn .45 colt hand gun. The patrons of the fair loved these firearms and it was exciting hearing all the stories that came along with the people passing by about their family's firearms collections, trap shooting, conceal carry, etc. The winner of the firearms raffle was Nick B.

September is here and the calendar is very exciting. On Friday September 7 we head to Minnesota for a youth hunt with Reaction Waterfowl. Stay tuned for photos of these first time goose hunters in the field. On Sunday September 9th from 10 to 2 we are hosting a basic archery class at Woodsmoke Ranch in Seneca, IL and will be serving lunch.

The Grundy County Corn Festival begins on September 26th and on September 29th TEACH Outdoors is providing Crackerbox Derby cars for kids to race in the Grundy County Corn Festival Crackerbox Derby. We are excited to offer the opportunity to drive in the derby in a free car to local kids in the community from ages K through 8. Not everyone has the funds or time to build a crackerbox derby car. This is our way of helping kids get to experience a crackerbox derby without the expense of building the car. Good luck racers! Don't forget your helmet, Corn Festival Button and most importantly...your need for SPEED!

The Corn Festival parade is on Sunday, September 30 and steps off at 2. Look and listen for the TEACH Outdoors float in the parade. We are proud to be spotlighting our youth shooting sports teams in this years parade! If you are interested in walking or riding in the parade with TEACH Outdoors, send me an email at Smitty@TEACHOutdoors.org. The more the merrier.

WILL COUNTY FAIR WINNERS!

Congratulations to all the 4-H show participants and winners who worked hard before and during the Will County Fair in Peotone August 22nd –26th.

Congratulations are also in order for the winners of the TEACH Outdoors raffles. Nick B. won the Henry Big Boy Classic and American Western Arms Longhorn six shooter. Linda B. of Minooka won the Generac 9 kw Guardian Series automatic home generator. A new mountain bike found a new home with Brittney M.

We thank everyone who supported the mission of getting kids outdoors by purchasing raffle tickets at the Will County Fair! You are all winners in our book!

UPCOMING EVENTS—SUMMER 2018

September 9th-TEACH Outdoors Youth Shooting Sports Basic Archery Class at Woodsmoke Ranch, Seneca, 10 am—2 pm

September 23rd-Going Batty from 2-4pm at Joliet Public Library Black Road Branch. To register for this free event, visit www.jolietlibrary.org.

September 29th– Crackerbox car Derby at Grundy County Corn Festival 7:30 am—noon. To register, contact sarahboth3@gmail.com

September 30th– Grundy County Corn Festival Parade. Downtown Morris. 2—4 pm. If you or your child would like to ride with TEACH Outdoors, email Smitty@TEACHOutdoors.org

For the most up to date event list, visit us online: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & www.TEACHOutdoors.org!

AT EVERY EVENT, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH:

- Set up & Pack up
- Registration
- Photography
- Serving lunch
- Activities of all kinds

If you are able to help a little or a lot, just let us know!





This is the nose of the new TEACH trailer. This allows us to be *mobile* for all events and have our equipment ready to roll! We thank the B&S Firearms, Builders United, Will County Farm Bureau, Hardcore, Bone Collectors, and Woodsmoke Ranch. Thank you for keeping TEACH Outdoors moving!

APPLICANTS WANTED

Did you know that TEACH



Outdoors

has been offering \$500 scholarships to high school graduates since 2016?

We also have a very special scholarship offer for 2019 called the *Joyce Betz Memorial Scholarship*.

To apply, visit:

www.TEACHOutdoors.org
to download the application.



X-Line Youth TEAM Shooting Competition Winners:



Cole Haynes: Overall High Score in High School Division



Mackenzie Wilkins: 3rd Place in Junior High Division

T.E.A.C.H. SNAPSHOTS...more pictures online at www.TeachOutdoors.org, Facebook page & Instagram.



First Baptist Neighborhood Fest, X-Line Youth Shooting Sports Competition & Will County Fair.
Thanks to all our volunteers! We can't *TEACH* without you!