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Outdoors—

Hoosier Fish, Game Program to Get \$214,000

Director of Department Previewing Projects To Be Undertaken When Funds Are Available

By MARO WAGGENER

Indiana's fish and game program is due for a \$214,000 "shot in the arm" within the next few days—just as soon as state funds become available for matching Pittman-Robertson money which has been earmarked for the Hoosier state.

It takes \$1 of state funds to collect \$3 of federal funds and the resulting money can be expended for research, land acquisition and development which is definitely related to the fish and game program. The \$161,015.67 balance to Indiana's credit in Washington represents this state's share of the federal tax on guns and ammunition.

Assemble Projects

Anticipating final action within the next few days on setting up the state's part of the joint fund, Don Hughes, director of fish and game, is reviewing projects which can be undertaken with the federal-state fund when it becomes available.

The \$214,000 will not begin to stretch over all the projects which have been listed as desirable but it will enable the fish and game division to step up its activities and undertake some of the things which conservationists have been agitating.

Rains Slow Fishing

Just when local anglers were ready to swarm around lakes and streams for a week end of fishing the weatherman tipped the bucket again. Streams in most parts of the state are high and muddy with little fishing in prospect for several more days.

It is not expected that the high waters will have a harmful effect as there had been no reports of fish nesting yet in Marion County streams. There is some question as to the effect of the flood waters on the trout which had been planted in local streams early last week.

Parks Are Readied

Opening of the state parks for the 1948 season is moving northward with the spring. Shelter houses, group camps and other facilities are being prepared for

Pheasants Are Laying

Another sign of spring was reported today from the state game farms—the pheasants have started to lay and it won't be long before sufficient eggs will be ready for loading the incubators. Quail are expected to start laying within a short time.

State fish hatcheries also are getting the feel of spring and the breeding stock of bass, bluegills, etc., will be moved from the holding ponds into the breeding ponds within a short time. The hatcheries will be operated at full scale this year.

Casters to Compete

The Indiana State Indoor Casting Tourney, postponed from last week, is scheduled at Tomlinson Hall on Sunday with the first event, a 1/4-oz. accuracy contest for men, women and juniors, starting at 10 a. m. A 1/2-oz. accuracy contest for men, women and juniors is scheduled at 1 o'clock with a team event at 3 o'clock.

The meet is sponsored by the Smith-Hassler Co. and is being conducted by the Indianapolis Casting Club. Trophies and prizes are offered individual winners in addition to team awards.

Schedule Tree Planting

Members of the Bell Telephone Club plan to observe Arbor Day on Apr. 24 by planting 3000 seedling white and Virginia pine trees on their 104-acre headquarters in southern

Ben Davis Organizes Girl Softball Teams

Four girl softball teams have been organized at Ben Davis High School by Mrs. Kathleen Shaw and Gordon Harker.

Captains of the teams are Phyllis Gregory, Helen Stegmoller, Joan Armbrust and Mary Lou Rhodes.

Janet Colber and Kathleen Irrgang led the high honor roll for the first grading period with a total of 18 1/2 points. Seventy-seven students were named on the high honor roll and 90 were on the regular honor roll.

YOUNG BANDITS GET \$3

Fred Quinn, 60, of 2516 N. Oxford St., reported to police last night that two young men jumped on his back after he got off a streetcar near his home and took \$3 from him.

Johnson County. The club's new publication suggests that the place qualified men in key positions of the conservation department in that state has been made good and the governor has pledged removal of the entire department from the field of politics.

The club, which is shooting for 300 members, has a 12-acre artificial lake under construction and is to have rifle and trap shooting ranges along with a clubhouse and picnic facilities. S. B. VanArsdale is president and W. R. Vest, secretary.

Odds and Ends

The annual meet of the Central States Fox Chasers' Association is being held in the Pike County state forest Apr. 20-23, with 600 members and visitors expected to camp out during the meet.

A campaign pledge of Massachusetts' Gov. Robert Bradford to place qualified men in key positions of the conservation department in that state has been made good and the governor has pledged removal of the entire department from the field of politics.

Big game animals increased in number by 25 per cent from 1943 to 1946 in the United States, according to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Michigan led, trailed by Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

The Lake County Federation of Clubs has asked the conservation department for early construction of a modern hotel at Dunes state park. A new hotel at the Dunes park already is on the department's schedule.

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