

# MY FRIEND KIP

By Lynette Whorley

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I remember looking at some pictures a buddy at work had. It was around Christmas and he had pictures of his new house. As I glanced through the photos, I stopped and said, "who mounted those deer?" He said well his name is Kip and I asked for his phone number. A taxidermist is an important person to know. I thought to myself

that if I ever harvested a turkey or deer then maybe Kip could mount them for me. I always put the cart before the horse. I just can't help it.

I started looking around my living room for a place for a deer or turkey to go.



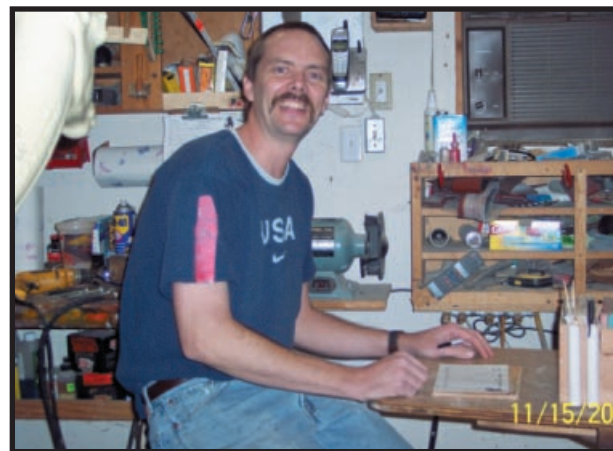
It was April 06 and I was blessed with a long beard turkey and I immediately called Kip.

He was a very popular fellow and I was afraid he would not take me so I made sure I said I had seen his work and was very impressed. Although that was true, I was thinking he would say he was too busy to take new work on. Instead, he said, come on out to the house and I will get your information on the kind of mount you want. I think I left the house within 5 minutes and was there in 25 minutes.

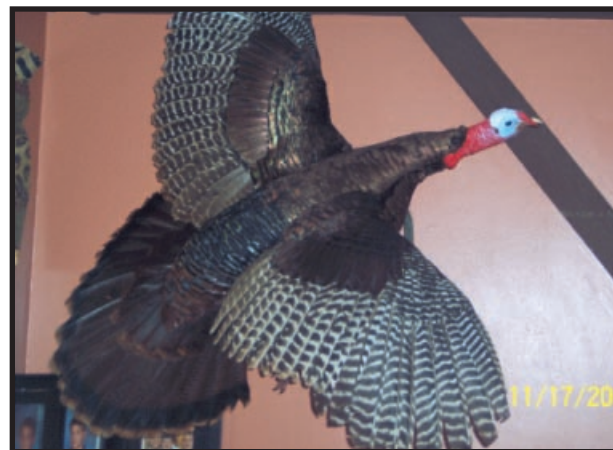
So, I am thinking I would say a few words and be on my way. Little did I know that man and his family would impact my life so much. Walking through the door of his shop was like a chocolate lover walking in a chocolate factory and seeing dark chocolate, milk chocolate, Candy with nuts, without, all the best chocolate has to offer. Instead this was my chocolate factory. I could have stayed all day. I breathed in as much memories as one could take just looking at the walls with mounts and thinking about what it would be like to have harvested different kinds of animals.

I introduced myself to Kip and the moment we shook hands it was a peace that came over me like you know you will be coming back and hopefully spend more time there. The funny thing was a week later I took my husband and son's turkeys to them as well. We were blessed that year and there was no way I could mount mine and not there's. Kip took my bird in that day and his wife wrote up a ticket. You just got this wonderful feeling that they were a close family.

On February 15th, 2007 I attended a hunting show and Kip was there. I introduced him to a few friends of mine and we looked at his mounts he had there at the show. I was so proud to call him



5 months later still receiving treatments and still working on his good days.



My Turkey he mounted during his most difficult times, yet he never complained.



Kip finished my 11/07 deer this week 5/08 and he is scheduled to go to the oncologist next week. Look at his full head of hair now...amazing!

"my Taxidermist." A few months later I remember so well thinking that I should be saving up some money so when he calls and says the turkeys are ready, I would have the money to get them out. That very June day, I had that thought and I remember walking to the mailbox to get the mail and saw a letter with his address in the return. I thought oh no, I must be behind on my bill, and I need to go pay him. My Dad just happened to be there on the driveway as I was reading the letter;

I stopped and could not believe what I was reading. Kip's wife Cindy had wrote a heartfelt letter about Kip having a rare form of cancer. Suddenly a lump came my throat and I felt bad for thinking it was about one thing and infact, he was facing a terrible time in his life. I remember crying trying to tell my Dad to pray for him. I kept the letter and read it over and over. I would take it to work and re-read and started a prayer chain. I e-mail many friends of mine in the hunting industry and said, please drop him a note and pray for him. I had heard back from a number of folks who were pro hunters who send e-mails and cards. It touched Kip and his family and I was moved. The power of prayer is the ultimate place you can lay a burden and watch the Lord take over.

Cindy began to send weekly updates on Kip until it got to hard to keep up. She gracefully said it was all life changing and would give God the glory each letter she wrote.

The good news is, that year from June 07 to November 07 not only did he take what he was given, he rose above and never gave up. I would stop in from time to time and there would always be someone there helping from his buddies in his shop, his wife, and even the Ups man or just a friend that would be there to just say hi. When I was blessed

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The good news is, that year from June 07 to November 07 not only did he take what he was given, he rose above and never gave up. I would stop in from time to time and there would always be someone there helping from his buddies in his shop, his wife, and even the Ups man or just a friend that would be there to just say hi. When I was blessed with a 9 point buck this past November 07, I practically raced to Kip's house. It was not a matter of could he mount the deer, it was like a honor for me to be able to give Kip the work because I knew he was a hunter and loved his work and if it kept coming, he would be there to work on it. Kip was not going to give up and he never stopped folks from bringing him their wildlife.

Holding back tears, I said here's some more work for you. His sweet wife gladly took it in and she was working on a rock fabrication for the base of a bobcat mount I believe and I thought then, she's a rock, working on a rock, and Kip was that animal standing proud on it. That was all I had to see. My eyes filled with tears as I stood there in appreciation of him and his wife. I completely felt a peace come over me like I have never felt. I took a picture of Kip at his station working and he laughed and said his hair was coming back slowly. I thanked them and got in my car and cried all the way home. Time is precious and I had new friends and new hope. I thank the Lord for Kip and his family. This story is for my friend who stands taller than anyone I know and who will never know how much his patience and faith has blessed my life. Who would have ever guessed that within 6 months, Kip had my deer mount ready. I see him this week and it just goes to show that you should never give up. His wife told me that he goes to the oncologist this month so I am asking for a complete recovery miracle if you could whisper Kip's name in your prayers it would be greatly appreciated by all.

God Bless you my friend, Kip.

## 2008 ILLINOIS WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS EVENT SCHEDULE

(OPEN TO FEMALES AGES 14 AND OLDER)

Once finalized, a registration form for each event will be posted on our website: [www.womenintheoutdoors.org](http://www.womenintheoutdoors.org)

**June 21, 2008 — (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Co-Hosted by: Shiloh Spurs Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation & the Henry White Experimental Farm

Henry White Experimental Farm — (located southwest of Belleville, IL on Hwy. 158) 4747 Centreville Ave. Millstadt, IL 62260

Event Coordinator: Susan Arnold — (618) 632-8014

E-mail: [arnolds4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arnolds4@sbcglobal.net)

Cost: \$40.00

Course offerings will include bedding plants, archery, basketweaving, scrapbooking, personal safety/home security, outdoor cooking/grilling/smoking/rubs, song bird habitat, tree ID, nature walk, canning, and wine tasting

**July 12, 2008 — (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Hosted by: Lincoln Trail Turkey Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Mill Creek Park — (located northwest of Marshall on the Clarksville Rd.)

20482 N. Park Entrance Rd. Marshall, IL 62441

Event Coordinator: Diana Collier — (217) 279-3652

Cost: \$45.00; \$35.00 (if registered by June 23rd)

Course offerings will include outdoor cooking, home remedies, ATV safety, shotgunning, self defense, basic handgun, stained glass making, canoeing, outdoor photography, knot tying, nature hike/outdoor survival, history of Mill Creek Lake by pontoon, and archery

**July 26, 2008 — (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**

Hosted by: White Oaks Women in the Outdoors Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Lake Springfield/Bridgeview Park Bldg. — (located south of Springfield, IL just off I-55) 149 N. Lakewood Dr. Chatham, IL 62629



**Women in the OUTDOORS**  
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

Cindy Spillman, Women's Regional Coordinator  
(618) 586-5191 • [cswito@hughes.net](mailto:cswito@hughes.net)  
[www.womenintheoutdoors.org](http://www.womenintheoutdoors.org)

Event Coordinator: Jeanine Garner — (217) 638-5157

E-mail: [jneens@ctitech.com](mailto:jneens@ctitech.com)

Cost: \$50.00; \$40.00 (if registered by July 12th)

"Ladies on the Lake" — specialized fishing/boating event including classes in basic boating safety & handling, trailer maneuvering/maintenance, bass fishing from a boat, bowfishing, gear selection, knot tying, outdoor cooking, and canoeing.

**August 2, 2008 — (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Hosted by: Lawrence Co. Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Red Hills State Park — (located between Olney & Lawrenceville, IL on Hwy. 50) Sumner, IL 62466

Event Coordinator: Amber Scherer — (618) 392-7141, Ext. 3

E-mail: [amber.scherer@il.nacdn.net](mailto:amber.scherer@il.nacdn.net)

Cost: \$50.00; \$40.00 (if registered by July 18th)

Course offerings will include basic auto maintenance, outdoor cooking, fly fishing, landscaping, ATV safety, plant propagation, horsemanship/trail ride, basketweaving, nature crafting, canoeing, and shotgunning

**August 16, 2008 — (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Hosted by: DeWitt Co. Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Hulvey's Farm — (located east of Clinton just north of Hwy. 10)  
1373 / 718N White Oaks Rd. Clinton, IL 61727  
Event Coordinator: Karen Halicki — (217) 794-5508

E-mail: [halicki3@prairiein.net](mailto:halicki3@prairiein.net)

Cost: \$50.00; \$45.00 (if registered by August 2nd)

Course offerings will include primitive living, basic handgun, archery, outdoor cooking, birdwatching/butterflies, shotgunning, muzzleloader, gardening for wildlife, wreathmaking, glass bead making, modern camping, outdoor photography, tomahawk/knife throwing, turkey hunting/calling, make a gourd birdhouse

**August 23, 2008 — (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Hosted by: Women of the Wabash Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Beall Woods State Park — (located south of Mt. Carmel on Rt. 1)

9285 Beall Woods Ave. Mt. Carmel, IL 62463

Event Coordinator: Jacque Hallam — (618) 302-0109

E-mail: [hallam0722@yahoo.com](mailto:hallam0722@yahoo.com)

Cost: \$45.00; \$40.00 (if registered by August 2nd)

Course offerings: To be determined

**August 23, 2008 — (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Hosted by: Big Sandy Spurs Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Chillicothe Sportsman's Club — (located north of Peoria, IL on Hwy. 29)

Route 29, Box 13 Chillicothe, IL 61523

Event Coordinator: Maria Geiger — (309) 274-6823

E-mail: [tomaria@mchsi.com](mailto:tomaria@mchsi.com)

Cost: \$50.00; \$40.00 (if registered by August 9th)

Course offerings: To be determined



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