

## Water: Good, Bad, Necessary

Recently, the first family of the outdoors took a “staycation” in Hot Springs. I was attending class at the Arkansas School of Math and Science when I received a call that my awning on my camper aka “ITO on the Road” was damaged. It was located at the KOA campground just outside of town. So, immediately I was thinking broken windows, damaged fiberglass, and blue tarps of course. You’ve always heard the saying, “you have to take the bad with the good”, well my wife and daughter were coming down at the end of the week to join me to research information for Into The Outdoors on Big Country 107.3 and take in one of our favorite Arkansas destinations.

As I approached the campsite, the awning was beyond repair; however, the rest of the camper was in good shape. There were no broken windows, a small amount of fiberglass damage (nothing that a little duct tape bandage couldn’t solve), and some caulking in some areas to prevent any further damage. In other words, I wasn’t going to have to pull out and destroy the rest of my week with my family. The folks at the KOA campground were great in helping me dismantle the awning and cut it up into pieces small enough to fit in my Smith Chevrolet, four door, Z-71 pick-up. Thanks to great sponsors such as Smith Chevrolet and AirCare of Greenwood for helping “ITO on the Road” stay on the road and keep the outdoor news coming to the readers of the Greenwood Tradition and listeners of Into The Outdoors on Big Country 107.3. I later found out that it had come up a powerful rain storm and the water pooled up on the awning and broke it down and tore it away from the camper. Rule #1, never leave your awning out while you are away. I’m sure some of you have already learned this valuable lesson.

So, as you can see, water can be bad in such instances. However, we needed the rain so I’m fine with it. Can you remember when Jaws, the shark movie came out? People were afraid to go swimming in lakes such as Blue Mountain. To the best of my knowledge, no sharks have ever been found at Blue Mountain Lake. I have heard of sharks swimming up the Mississippi into the Arkansas River, and the Petit Jean River is a tributary of the Arkansas River. Water is not really bad or good, but it is necessary. Just ask our cattle ranchers. You can debate the order of importance of air, sun, water, and soil, but water is the lifeblood of our bodies. Conserve it, and remember that there is really a limited supply of it. On a recent trip to Table Rock Lake it was water that provided enjoyment from swimming, tubing, and the sheer cooling of your body that made the day enjoyable. The coming of the water park at Ben Geren with the lazy river will definitely be a destination that the first family of the outdoors wants to make reservations for. I want to respectfully request my season pass from our County Judge, Mr. David Hudson now.

Hot Springs is a local destination that Mr. Outdoors has been to several times. This time however he was prepared to bring back a few samples of the fountain of youth. The bicyclist there fills their water bottles all the time because of all the minerals the water possesses, hence the fountain of youth. I was loaded for bear this time. I would always forget to take any water containers to bring back to friends and loved ones. I had been saving milk jugs for some time in order to bring back some of this treasure. That is what I told our six year old daughter after we went to the Mid-America Science Museum to see the pirate’s exhibit in Hot Springs. Oh, by the way, we got to see a twenty dollar gold piece from 1865 worth about \$20,000 now. We also had our old time photo taken at Garters and Guns down on Central Avenue. We were passed due on a family photo, so I figured that this would count. One last word on hot

verses cold water from Hot Springs, the cold water is just hot water that has been cooled through a treatment process. The water is free from several public fountains throughout town and there are no additives such as chlorine. It is all natural spring water free for the taking. That reminds me of a land grab famous of a state nearby.

Water is necessary for life. Flooding has always helped to recharge the land so that the soil would have enough nutrients to grow things. It must be respected and used wisely. Remember that we can't fool Mother Nature. Did you know that farmers were actually told that their land would never flood again when the dams were built? I love to fish on the Arkansas River. What do you think would happen if I didn't respect the awesome power the water has? Bill Copher has said many times that, "we live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. We are surrounded by beautiful bodies of water to enjoy". I have to agree with him. We are very blessed and fortunate to live here. Just ask anybody from north central and west Texas, right Sam Mooneyham?

Into The Outdoors is about everything outdoors, not just hunting and fishing. It can be heard on Big Country 107.3 every Saturday morning at five and nine and Sunday mornings at seven. If you would like a remote at your business, guest speaker, or emcee with Mr. Outdoors, Jim Reynolds please request at 479-629-1791 or e-mail at [mroutdoorsjimreynolds@yahoo.com](mailto:mroutdoorsjimreynolds@yahoo.com). Mr. Outdoors also books striper fishing trips on Lake Ouachita and sells portable buildings and awnings. Support local businesses and let Jim help produce your audio or video commercials too.