

Jim Casada Outdoors

Special Late-Month Supplement to July 2012 Newsletter

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For me, the height of summer has always been a time of intense reading. I realize that most folks think of the depths of winter, a comfortable easy chair, and maybe a cheery blaze in the fireplace as the logical setting for a session with a good book, and there's certainly nothing wrong with that. Yet the same case can be made for the peak of summer heat, when humidity soars and just being outside after 9:00 a.m. or before dusk, at least in my part of the world, takes your breath away and leaves you soaked within minutes. Accordingly, that consideration, along with a variety of related developments, has led me to produce a newsletter, somewhat shorter than the normal first of the month versions, devoted to summer reading.

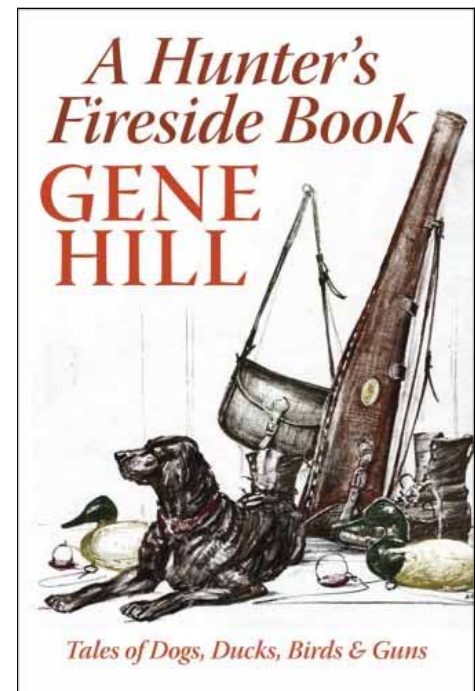
The related developments include some problems with my July newsletter. My webmaster had some e-mail account issues, and chances are a goodly number of you never received it. If so, you can access the July newsletter, along with others back over the years, in the site's archives. Just click on the [Archives](#) link at the bottom of my home page, and you'll be in business.

Also, I've recently acquired and catalogued a whole bunch of books which might make for fine summer reading or nice additions to your collection. They will all go into the lists available on my Web site soon, but you get first crack at them:

- [Turkey List](#)
- [African Classics](#)
- [Special Items](#)
- [Derrydale Press](#)
- [Bargain Books](#)

As for my own reading, it is so eclectic as to be difficult to define. In the last two weeks I've read the two most recent C. J. Box novels featuring Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett, a trio of David Baldacci thrillers, a delightful book given to me by a friend about life in the mountains of Arkansas in yesteryear (Jim Liles' *Old Folks Talking*), a

book for boys set in the mountains of western North Carolina where I grew up (James F. Crook's *Jack in the Mountains*), John C. Duval's *The Adventures of Big Foot Wallace*, and a new collection of turkey tales from John Weber, *Hot Toms & Saucy Hens*. Throw in Alston Chase's ringing denunciation of mindless bureaucratic bungling by National Park Service officials in *Playing God in Yellowstone* and Andrew Vietze's *Becoming Teddy Roosevelt: How a Maine Guide Inspired America's 26th President*, and you get an idea of what I've been doing. As is probably obvious from the number of books mentioned, I'm a fast reader. I'll also note, contrarian that I often am, that I have a bone to pick with the author of the last book mentioned. Roosevelt did not like to be called "Teddy," and any author of a work on him should know better.



From the **Bargain Books** listing, Gene Hill's *A Hunter's Fireside Book* is available for just \$20. Hill is one of the greats, and all of his finely crafted little pieces are gems.

I've also been doing some reading of another sort. Along with some other folks long associated with *Sporting Classics* magazine, I'm in the process of trying to come up with a dozen or so of the greatest hunting and gun stories of all time. Obviously choices of this sort are highly subjective, but if you have a piece which has really captured your soul, whether by a famous writer or a relative unknown, [I'd love to know about it](#). The final selections will go into a special edition of the magazine.

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