

# Jim Casada Outdoors

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### Special Supplemental January 2013 Newsletter

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It's cold as (you supply the word or words which come to mind, since it seems no matter where one lives there are similes related to both heat and cold) here. The first real winter we've had, and I for one welcome it because it reduces the numbers of bothersome insects in the spring not to mention dealing with wasps and yellow jackets in meaningful fashion. It's a great time for books and reading, along with things like browsing catalogs or going to sporting shows and exhibitions.

I can remember, from boyhood, the considerable joy we all experienced when a new Sears & Roebuck catalog arrived, and it would be the source over avid browsing, wishful thinking, and once in a while an actual order, right through the fall and winter. For example, my first shotgun, a little 20 gauge Savage Model 220A 20 gauge, choked tighter than the Pope's purse strings and with the kick of a healthy mule, came from that source. I still have it.

How our world has changed. You can't order a gun through the mail or even the Internet any more without jumping through lots of hoops, most of them of a federal nature, and I fear it is only going to get worse. Thankfully I don't live in New York. I don't even own a platform rifle of any kind, but they have valid uses in my view and I've enjoyed shooting them on occasion. Incidentally, one of the biggest sports shows in the country, held in Harrisburg, Pa., has banned AR-15s and similar guns at this year's show. Even worse, the NSSF is supporting this stance and I've heard rumors the NRA plans to go along as well. Enough of that though, if I keep it up I'll be wasting steam going out of my ears which is needed for internal heat.

Turning to better things, elsewhere in this special supplement you'll find some interesting news about **a new book commentary I'll be doing a couple of times a week for "Sporting Classics Daily."** I hope those of you who hunt and

#### Jim Casada Becomes Book Expert for *Sporting Classics Daily*

Jim Casada is a familiar name among the circles of outdoorsmen and women who have been reading good sporting literature for the past few decades. He has written more than 3,500 magazine and newspaper articles on hunting, fishing, firearms, conservation and other outdoor-related topics, as well as several books.

For those of you who don't know Jim, he was born in Bryson City, North Carolina, where he spent a boyhood replete with hunting and fishing adventures. After receiving his B.A. in history from King College and an M.A. in British history from Virginia Tech, Jim earned his Ph. D. in British imperial history from Vanderbilt University. Upon retiring from a distinguished career as a professor at Winthrop College, he devoted himself full-time to outdoor communications.

When I came to *Sporting Classics*, Jim was one of the first (outside of the office) to welcome me aboard. I'd read his words for years as they continuously fueled my dream of working in this field. Much like Jim, I wore out copies of outdoor magazines and books when I wasn't roaming the hardwoods of southern Tennessee.

Through phone conversations and e-mails, we communicated until meeting in person this past fall. He and his wife Ann welcomed me into their world with open arms. Five minutes after shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries, Jim taught me how to turn a cocktail straw into

fish, and that's a lot of you, will [check it out](#).

Also, feel free to ask questions that you think might be of general interest. I may not write about them in the newsletter but I do intend to try and answer everyone. After all, Jack O'Connor found time to do just that, by mail no less, when he was Gun Editor at *Outdoor Life* over all those years.

Beyond that, I wanted to let the turkey hunters among you know that I'll be at the [National Wild Turkey Federation convention in Nashville for the whole time \(Feb. 15-17\)](#), and I'd love to see anyone who plans to attend. If you want a book or books I'd be glad to bring them along as well. Just let me know what you are interested in by e-mail and we'll set up a time and place to meet (a couple of folks have kindly agreed to let me use their booths as a place to make connections if needs be). Also, I've got an extensive list of "one-of-a-kind" turkey books along with a number of special offerings. If you would like to look at the list, [just e-mail me](#) and I'll send it along.

a turkey call – the same style as a wingbone. *This isn't bad company*, I thought. Later we shared our love for music with guitar in hand and a little added courage to belt the high notes. Our connection has only grown stronger since.

So, it is without further adieu that I'd like to introduce Jim Casada as the *Sporting Classics Daily* book expert. From Africana to upland game, Jim will provide a wide range of timeless classics for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy and cherish in the years to come.



The weekend before I'm in Nashville I'll be in Winston-Salem, N.C., at the [Fly Fishing Show](#). If you are a fan of the long rod and whistling line and live in the Carolinas, by all means put it on your calendar. I'll have a booth, do a couple of seminars on both Saturday and Sunday, and be there every minute. I hope to see some of you and we can talk trout and think about the joys of spring.

For now, that about wraps it up. Stephen Hunter has a new Bob Lee Swagger book out, *The Third Bullet* (about the Kennedy assassination) which came today. I look forward to snuggling down, maybe with a bit of anti-snake bite medicine to ward off the cold, and get a running start on it. If you haven't read Hunter, incidentally, I recommend him. Sometime in the next few days I'll also make my annual Jan./Feb. visit to *The Old Man and the Boy*. There's a book that never palls.

Finally, just to let you know what is preoccupying much of my time right now, I've finally decided to bite a very big bullet and write a biography of Archibald Rutledge. I've already edited and compiled five anthologies of his writings (all but one are available through the Web site), and I've studied his career for decades. He was a very complex character, accomplished as a poet and an outdoor writer, a first-rate naturalist, a gifted teacher, an avid horticulturist, a hunter for the ages, and a source of controversy on several occasions. Moreover, he wrote well upwards of 50 books and thousands of poems and articles and almost certainly ranks as the most prolific sporting scribe of the last century. I've got my work cut out for me in a lot of ways, but as is always the case when getting started on a book, it's exciting. If you want to be put on the "notify" list when the biography is finished, [just let me know](#).

That's it for now—time for a book, some warm cover, and relaxation. Hope to hear from many of you, and let me know what you think about "Sporting Classics Daily" if you [subscribe](#) (it's free, just like this newsletter).

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