



Dream cabin

Christian Knoeller had this white pine cabin built last February. It has no electricity. It was built (off-site) by local workers, with hand tools. As Knoeller walks the trails on his property, he is usually accompanied by his three dogs, Yuki, Chelsea, and Coyote. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald



Cabin above the creek

Christian Knoeller is pictured inside his secluded cabin, one-third of a mile from his house. The cabin overlooks Deer Creek. Knoeller, an associate professor and poet, has two desks - one for scholarship and one for poetry. During the creating process, he hand-writes his poems. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Poet inspired by Carroll County landscape

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Christian Knoeller is a newcomer to Carroll County. He's only lived here since 1999. But he already appreciates its landscape, its history, and its people. Knoeller is an associate professor of English education at Purdue University. He and his wife, Julie, chose to make their home in rural Carroll County. They live in a Victorian home near Camden.

Their 15-acre property includes extensive woodland, meadow, and trails. Deer Creek runs for a third of a mile along their land.

Away from the house and nearer the creek, Knoeller had a cabin built last February. In this cabin, surrounded by wilderness, he writes poetry.

Thoreau had his Walden Pond, and Knoeller has his Deer Creek. When Knoeller writes about

Deer Creek, he calls it the river. It's all about perspective and perception. Knoeller says Deer Creek is inspiring with its raw and natural power and its gift of sustenance to wildlife and waterfowl. He said from his perspective, it's a river, and as a writer, it's part of his life.

Knoeller has been writing poems for 30 years, and they have been widely published. Since he moved to Indiana, he has written 200 poems.

"Of these, 66 are place-based pieces, connected directly to Carroll County," he said.

He writes about nature, history, real places and real people. His poems are narrative, descriptive, and lyrical. He said he has a special interest in Native American history, and that comes out in some of his poetry.

"Nature moves me," Knoeller said. "The hand of the Almighty is everywhere."

His Carroll County poems talk

about such things as the "song of the river rising," "stubble of corn rattling in fields after harvest," "timeless grape vine," and "a blue heron...icon of tranquility lumbering skyward."

Knoeller's sense of history comes into play in many of his poems. He said as he walks on the deer path or along the creek, or picks up artifacts at the edge of the fields, he can't help but think of earlier times and earlier people who inhabited the area. "A poem is a time travel device," he said. "You can see both ways at once."

He talks about this in his most recent poem, "Hoosier Histories:" "Here at the edge/ of our fields that yield biodiesel fuel/ these days, the stone age sleeps/ just beneath the surface, tools/ that would still skin a deer - in the right hands."

Some of the real places in Knoeller's poems are Adams Mill, Rockfield, Paint Creek

Cemetery, and the green bridge.

Knoeller writes about neighbors, multi-generation farmers, hunters, and woodcutters. He relates little slices of life, such as the poem about a neighbor whose combine caught fire and he sought Knoeller's help late at night.

Knoeller keeps a journal of things he observes. It might be something that piqued his curiosity, sparked his interest, or touched his emotions. He then further explores his discovery through poetry.

"Poetry comes naturally for me," Knoeller said. "It seems like a good vessel for the types of topics that interest me."

He says he writes the poems for a personal record of those serendipity moments and because he enjoys the creative process. Secondly, he said he writes poetry as a way of sharing his experiences with others.

"Readers can trace the same trail of discovery as the writer," he said.

Knoeller said he had his wanderlust years, pursuing a career in Alaska, California, Oregon, and

Wisconsin, and then he had a yearning for roots. He said here is where he plans to stay.

Knoeller said he lives in Carroll County and writes about Carroll County because of the "peacefulness here" and because of the "kindness of folks here."

"There is trust, good will, and caring here," he said. "It isn't like this everywhere."

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I love you all!
Sincerely,
Karen Sparks

Knoeller poem reading June 29

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Dr. Christian Knoeller of Camden will read some of his Carroll County-based poems at the kick-off event for Carroll County on the Same Page. The program will be June 29 at 7 p.m. at the Delphi Public Library.

Carroll County on the Same Page involves the whole county reading the same book, "Crow Lake" by Mary Lawson.

A series of public events will be held, each featuring a theme from the book.

The first event, on Thursday evening, will have the theme, "Capturing Carroll County: A Sense of Place."

Knoeller has written 66 place-based poems, connected directly to Carroll County.

He says he loves the Carroll

County landscape and is moved to write about it.

"I want that connection to place, and poetry gets me there," he said.

"Poetry expresses how this place speaks to me and through me."

Knoeller explains that "place" is more than one's surroundings. It includes people, their lifestyles, and a sense of community.

His Carroll County poems communicate his sense of place. Knoeller's poems are narrative and descriptive. They tell stories and paint pictures.

Hearing poems read aloud by the author adds an extra dimension to the written word. With the benefit of the poet's experiences and feelings, the words come alive. Knoeller also shares the background of some of his

poems, adding even more interest. Also, the lyrical aspect of a poem is brought out to its fullest when read by the author.

There are many ways to express a sense of place. Knoeller has chosen poetry. Other ways are through artwork, photography, prose, storytelling, etc.

County residents are encouraged to submit their own creative works to the Flora, Delphi, and Camden public libraries for a final exhibition in October. They may be brought to the poetry reading Thursday night or dropped off throughout the summer.

Other events in connection with Carroll County on the Same Page will be held on July 27, Aug. 9, Sept. 12, and Oct. 8. Four book discussions will be held in July. A brochure with details is available at all three libraries.

County shelters more cats than dogs in May

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Although the Carroll County Council insisted the 2006 Animal Control Ordinance be amended this year to exclude the sheltering of cats unless they were vicious or a nuisance, the trend to shelter more cats than dogs continues.

Carroll County Animal Control Officer Ed England reported that 29 cats and 21 dogs were impounded in May. Four of those animals were returned to their owners.

England responded to 37 animal-at-large calls, one animal-bite, two cruelty investigations

and five wildlife relocation calls. Six live-traps were loaned out in the same time period.

England responded to 51 calls in total. He logged 2,500 miles in the animal control van and used 121.4 gallons of fuel.

According to England's written report, 36 cats and 83 dogs were impounded in the first quarter of this year. But the number of cats jumped significantly in April. Thirty cats were impounded and 21 dogs during the month.

The county pays \$55 per dog per stay and \$40 per cat per stay for impoundment services, per contract with the county's shelter provider.

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