

**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water**
by Jay
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A New Baby And A Squirrel Hunt For Mom

If you noticed last week, I did not have a column! I have a great excuse: "nesting wife"!

With a new baby girl coming into the world on August 13, Momma had me on "cleaning, moving, cleaning, and cleaning some more

patrol!"

The Saturday before the baby got here I asked my wife if she minded if I took a 45-minute nap, and the answer I got was one of those laughs!! I knew that meant not to mess with momma!! So, I cleaned, cleaned and cleaned where I just cleaned!! With that being said, I completely forgot to turn my column in until I read email from Tracy while at the hospital awaiting the arrival of number 5!

We arrived at the hospital early for a planned C-section scheduled for 9 am. At 9:41 a.m., Bethany Maye Bicknell came into the world! It was at that minute all the butterflies showed up! I know it's number five, but still a tiny little baby can be scary!!!

After a few days in the hospital, we made it home

late Thursday night! Friday morning came with little to no sleep! I sure can feel my age this round! I used to think sleep was over rated, but after these last few days my beliefs on sleep have changed!

Last Saturday was opening day of squirrel season! My two boys were fired up about going! We planned on going early Saturday morning, but due to lack of sleep we didn't make it out till late. I am pretty sure my two boys could break an anvil! So, the squirrel hunt was more for mom than the boys! It got the boys out of the house for a little while so mom could have a little bit of peace!

I can't talk about my boys and not mention my girls! My Brinley girl who is 2 wants to kiss the baby all the time and tell everyone it's her baby! Then my eldest girl, Bailey, who is 10, has stepped up and been the little mommy! She has helped with taking care of two crazy boys, one little diva, and a new baby sister!

If none of what I have wrote makes sense, well my excuse is LACK of sleep! People hear I have five kids from the age of ten to newborn and their first words are, YOU ARE CRAZY!!! I will quote Phil Robinson the "Duck Commander" I am HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY!!! God has blessed me with five miracles!!!!

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation! Yes, miracles really do happen!!



ABOVE: Josh and Jake Bicknell squirrel hunting on the opener!
BELOW: Bethany Maye Bicknell with her first duck call!!



**Birding
BITS** BY
Cindy Brook

Birdseed Tips

1. Freeze seed for a full 24 hours to kill bugs, moths and other creepy-crawly things and their eggs.
2. Use hulled sunflower hearts or chips to avoid messy hulls and sprouts under your feeders.
3. Don't stockpile. Seed that sits around for long periods of time can attract bugs, moths, even rats. Keep it fresh!

E-mail: birdingbits@cflr.com
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