



**Times Remembered**  
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## August Doings

Over the course of my lifetime, I think it is fair to say that my relationship with the month of August has been of a decidedly mixed nature. As a kid, the situation was one of love-hate. I loved the lazy days the month brought, with katydids playing their tunes like there was no tomorrow, and Joe Pye weeds beginning to bloom and attract tiger swallowtails. Also, I loved going squirrel hunting with my Dad. It was something I

looked forward to every year in August.

August also brought the harvesting of tobacco; the farmer's cash crop in those days, but I hated working in tobacco, suckering and cutting it. The hot, humid August afternoons were nearly unbearable. You could hardly breathe with tobacco over your head while suckering. I would be covered in hot sticky gum on my hands and clothes. The smell literally made me sick. Thankfully, I never smoked; it smelled so bad.

But other times I loved getting up early in the morning. Mornings are a great time in nature; everything is so still except maybe for a squirrel squawking or birds singing. It's so relaxing to be in the woods.

I remember getting up very early on many mornings to accompany Dad squirrel hunting. If we didn't hunt on our farm, we went to Crooked Creek where my Dad grew up and hunted on the old home place. Also, several other friends and family allowed

Dad to hunt on their farms.

I remember one particular hunt when we started out on Grandma's place on Hinton's Branch. The farm was nestled on a ridge top with hills up and down, and it had some hollers and gullies too. I believe we covered every one of them. I remember we didn't do much good on Granny's place so we ventured across to Uncle Ray's place and then past Uncle Anse's woods.

Next we approached the old schoolhouse hill, (where my Mom and Dad lived in the 1930s with my two oldest sisters). Then on across the hill onto the John Cox's line to Darrell Winkler's place. This is the farm that my Grandpa Rice Garrett owned previously and it is where my mother grew up. Grandpa sold the farm and moved to town to be near his invalid mother, Grandma Lilly Garrett.

On Grandpa's old place atop of the hill behind the barn is where we encountered a passel of squirrels. Dad knew where a big hickory was; so we headed straight to that tree and sure enough

there were two red fox squirrels cutting on hickory nuts. We sat down and waited and waited and listened. That's the part I don't like about squirrel hunting; waiting, listening and being quiet. You could hear a pin drop, it was so quiet. Then all at once, I heard Dad fire; POW! POW! he got both of them. We went a little further and there were more squirrels cutting in a beech tree. We hit the jackpot; he killed three or four more. We could have killed more, but there was a limit of six that you could kill.

Dad was happy; I was happy too... to actually head toward the road to go home. We must have walked twenty miles. We came out of the woods and walked down the hill and through Darrell Winkler's farm to the road. The house and farm is still a beautiful place. I often wish my Grandfather had never sold it.

Squirrel season opened last Saturday, the 15th of August. Hope everyone gets out and enjoys squirrel hunting; make some memories with your kids!!

## Estill Co. Library Virtual Book Club

The Estill County Public Library will be hosting our first Virtual Book Club meeting on September 8 at 3:30 via Zoom. Please contact Lesa Ledford, Adult Services for more information at 606-723-3030 or go to our Facebook page for the link to register.

## Poetry Challenge

The Estill County Public Library will be hosting an eight week Poetry Challenge beginning on August 31. The challenges will be released each Monday and you will have a week to submit your poetry. For more information please contact Lesa Ledford, Adult Services for more information at 606-723-3030 or go to our Facebook page to the link to register and receive more information.

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