

Highlights of Steve's Career

- Dec. 20, 1971: joined Blade staff, general assignment reporter; beats — environment, Great Lakes, health.
- Summer, 1978: assigned to regional news bureau, based in Bowling Green, covering region, agriculture, small towns, rural life, natural resources.
- June, 1982: added twice-weekly outdoors columns to bureau duties following retirement of Outdoors Editor Lou Klewer.
- November, 1983: named full-time outdoors editor by Paul Block, Jr., co-publisher of The Blade, with a directive to "go all over the world and do The Blade some good."



Six-pound smallmouth bass, 2010.



Ditchdigging roadside litter, 1997.

THE OUTDOORS PAGE

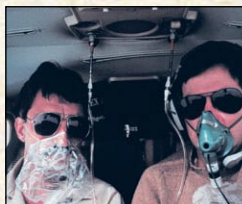
A career of travel and STORY TELLING

Highlights of Steve's travels:



■ March, 1984 – First arctic trip, Ungava Bay and Torngat Mountains of northern Quebec/Labrador below Baffin Island; camping and hunting in winter with Inuit people of George River.

■ May, 1984 – First Maumee River canoe traverse from Fort Wayne to Toledo.
 ■ January, 1985 – Peru, down into Amazon River into rain forests then to high Andes/Cuzco-Urubamba River-Machu Picchu.
 ■ May, 1985 – Canoe traverse of Sandusky River to Sandusky Bay.



■ June, 1986 – Single-engine aircraft flight with Rex Damschroder from Fostoria, to Nairobi, Kenya, crossing North Atlantic and Sahara Desert.

■ July, 1986 – Team member, Greenland Peregrine Falcon Survey, banding falcons in fjords and mountain cliffs of southwest Greenland.
 ■ January, 1987 – Australia and Tasmania, covering color for America's Cup sailing races and Outback adventures.
 ■ Mid 1987 – Elected a fellow of the Explorers' Club, New York City.



■ December, 1987 – China, member of Toledo Zoo research team investigating status of giant panda preliminary to loan of panda pair to zoo by Chinese government; carried Explorers' Club Expedition Flag 140 to remote mountain research station.

■ May, 1988 – Return to China to accompany panda pair from Wolong Reserve in southwest China to Toledo.
 ■ July, August, 1988 – Fishing remote Churchill River, Saskatchewan; diverted en route back to Toledo to Yellowstone National Park to cover historic wildfires.
 ■ July, 1989 – North Slope, Alaska, wilderness exploring to assess wildlife impact of proposed drilling on arctic coastal plain along Beaufort Sea; also traversed Gulf of Alaska/Prince William Sound to assess historic Exxon Valdez spill.

■ January, 1990 – Publication of first book, *Reflections on a Summer Storm*, a collection of nature essays.
 ■ August, 1991 – Yellowstone revisited, to capture recovery of western pine forests from devastating fires three years prior.
 ■ March, 1992 – Joined bareboat sailing crew to sail British Virgin Islands of Caribbean.



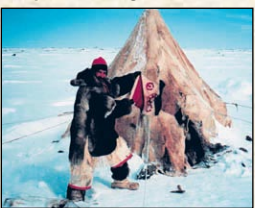
■ May, 1992 – Traveled to Mauritius and Madagascar with zoo authorities assessing rare, unique species of these Indian Ocean islands off southeast Africa.
 ■ June, 1993 – Costa Rica, Pacific Ocean

big-game fishing off Tamarindo for sailfish, marlin; plus climbing in mountain rain forests.
 ■ August, 1994 – Joined zoo research safari to Zimbabwe, including a canoe trip on Zambezi River, Mana Pools region, and descent of valley of Victoria Falls.

■ September, 1994 – Publication of second book, *Starwalking with Sarah*, collection of essays.

■ April, 1995 – Mosquito Coast, Honduras, big-game fishing for snook, tarpon in coastal rivers.

■ September, 1995 – Czech Republic, hunting of stag and wild boar; inducted into Czech Republic Jaegermeisters' Guild.



■ April, 1997 – Expedition to Barren Grounds of Canadian arctic, Northwest Territories/Nunavut, to detail lives of Ahearmiut people,

inland Inuits dependent on caribou rather than marine mammals; carried Explorers' Club Expedition Flag 140 for second time.

■ May, 1997 – Fly fishing for tarpon, bonefish, in Gulf of Mexico flats off Belize.

■ March, 1998 – Extended trip to India, Nepal, to investigate status of tigers.

■ October, 1999 – Trophy bass fishing, Lake Huites, Mexico.

■ March, 2000 – Coverage of annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Alaska, Anchorage to Nome.

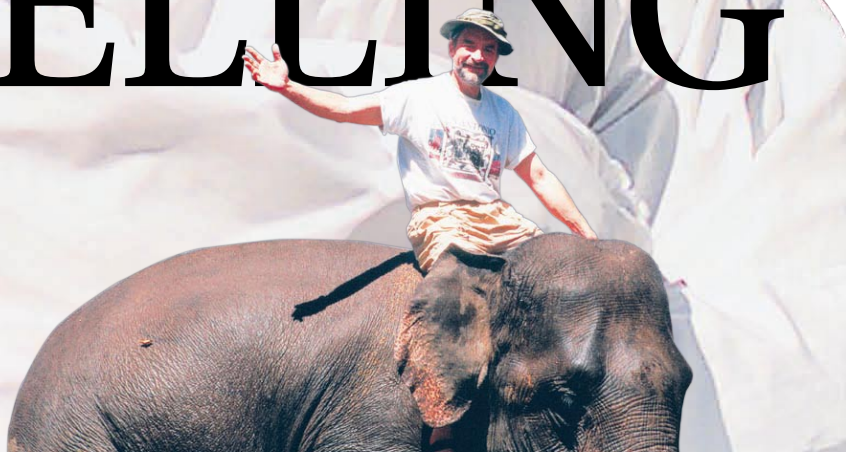
■ January, 2007 – Deck hand, Leeward Islands leg, Caribbean, of Trans-Atlantic sailing circuit with Rex Damschroder on Golden Eagle, a 32-foot sailboat.

■ June, 2007 – Rejoined Golden Eagle as deck hand, Chesapeake Bay to Atlantic Coast via inland waterways, then up coast to New York harbor, Hudson River to Erie Canal.

■ January, 2009 – Alone in the wilderness, 17 days in a remote cabin in the Porcupine Mountains, upper peninsula, Michigan; travel by snowshoe, 85 miles; no telephone or power or motorized transport.



■ June, 2011 – Second traverse by canoe of Maumee River, "Fort to Port" in four days, some 72,000 paddle strokes.



Outdoors Editor Steve Pollick leaves a legacy of adventure

By STEVE POLLICK and JEFF BASTING

It has been a wild ride, literally and figuratively, these nearly 30 years as The Blade's outdoors editor, a unique, adventure-filled career that included setting foot in 35 countries, large and small, and usually freezing or roasting depending on the latitude and climate.

Looking back, it seems as though I was wearing the proverbial seven league boots to cover so much ground some years.

But pinch me, it really happened, those hectic globetrotting years, though now, at retirement age, I wonder where the energy came from.

There were some dicey moments — a couple of elephant charges while on foot in the Zimbabwean bush, a hair-raising charge by an enraged bull hippopotamus while canoeing the Zambezi River (a very close call), flying in that little airplane across the Saharan amid violent civil war in 1986, a couple of long slides down mountainsides here and there. And those are just for starters. May be a book in there, somewhere, what?

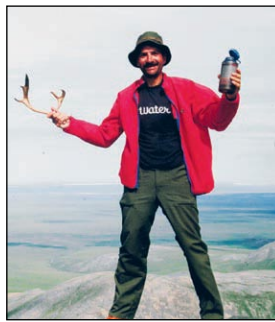
And there was the food, or what passed for it in local culture. Fried mopane worms (Africa), live grubs (Australia), fresh-caught piranha (Amazon), and other stuff best left undescribed. Lest I seem ungrateful, it always was consumed with gusto and a smile, no matter what. And I lived.

I got a real kick out of helping elephant handlers wash elephants on a blistering afternoon in a river in the tigerlands of north-central India, and their rewarding my good sportsmanship by allowing a solo ride, bareback, on one of their pachyderms, right down the river. (In bush shorts it is like riding on a pin cushion.) Being knighted into the Jaegermeisters' Guild of the Czech Republic was an honor, and a little afternoon target practice with blowguns with the boys of the Yagua tribe deep in the Peruvian Amazon was a treat.

In between and among other larger-than-life adventures were oh so many more here in the United States and Canada, including plenty right at or near home. Hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, birding, canoeing. Some of what I consider my most thoughtful writing came right from Muskellunge Creek bottom, right behind the house, or alone in a winter wilderness cabin in Michigan's wintry western upper peninsula.

In truth, it would take, well, 30 years, to take it all in and tell about it. Which is what I have tried to do, actually. To play on the trademark song crooned by the late, great Bob Hope, thanks for the memories. It has been a distinct pleasure and my great good fortune to be able to share them. All the best, outdoors, to you.

Contact Steve Pollick at: spollick@theblade.com or 419-724-6068.



North Slope, Alaska, 1989.



Czech Republic, jaegermeister, 1995.



Porcupine Mountains, 2009.



Target practice, Yagua blowguns, Amazon, 1985.