Trapper Arne's Crayfish Newsletter for November 2011



MY BOOK ABOUT CRAYFISH CATCH-ING

Books impress me. Ever since I was in knee pants or a student in school or college, people who wrote books I placed on a special pedestal. They were there to be respected and admired.

So, one day, it occurred to me that I probably had enough written crayfish material on my computer to also write a book. To be placed on that coveted pedestal of book writers to be admired by people who read books. At least those who read books about crayfish.

And that's why I started the laborious task of gathering enough written material to lay the foundation for a book. That was about four years ago, and ever so often, when my spirit so moved me, I sat down by the computer, opened Windows WORD and pecked away. I soon found that the best time for writing was in the mornings, before the mind gets too cluttered with other problems of the day. Which of course reminded me of what several writers already had advised; set aside some time each morning for writing, and stick to that schedule.

So I did, and as time went by, slowly, but surely, a book about crayfish catching and cooking and eating started taking form. I went way back in my life to dig up bits and pieces of crayfish memory from the earliest days. And the more I kept

digging in my memories gray cells for crayfish information, the more I realized that I had actually had several interesting accounts with these crustaceans, more than I realized.

So I pecked away. Of course, during the crayfish season months, June, July and August, there was little time left for adding additions to my book. I was just plain too busy building and selling crayfish traps. The book had to sit on my computer's hard drive and wait, hoping it would not be accidentally erased or otherwise digitally assaulted in ways too common to contemplate.

For a while I was concerned with what I would call the book. As it was written about cravfish, that word came foremost to mind. But I realized that most people, in this country at least, know this delectable critter by the name crawfish. Some even call it crawdad and an assortment of other endearments. I finally decided to stick with the biological preference of crayfish. I did add a subtitle, though, adding the line 'or as some people call it, crawfish'. I am also well aware of the problem that the word cravfish means something totally different to people south of the equator. That's where they refer to lobsters as cravfish while cravfish may be called yabbies. And then, also, I had to bear in mind that crayfish really are not fish...

So one day, after a spurt of typing and digging into my saved annals about crayfish catching around Arizona, I finally settled for the title **Crayfish Catching**. By Trapper Arne. Also knows as Arne P. Koch. And my book was finished. Of course, there is always more to tell.

I had decided to write the e-book on Windows Word. But there are many other ways of creating books. There is also Word Perfect. You can also peck it out on Notepad or Publisher and maybe even Page-Maker. Lately I have found a new word processor program called Open Office. That program has the advantage of easily converting files to the PDF format, which is the preferred format for e-books.

Then what? If you have written a book, what do you do with it? Publish it? Well, why not? But where and how? Printing books is expensive and few publishers will publish a book by a neophyte writer at the drop of a manuscript. You could 'self publish' it, of course, but even that type of printing would cost a mint of coins.

Then The Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing came to my rescue. As both my wife and I enjoy our own personal kindles, the offer from Kindle Direct Publishing fit into my plans just fine. Now I could self publish my e-book without ruining my bank account.

Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) is a beautiful thing. You can <u>self-publish your</u> <u>books</u> on the Amazon Kindle Store, and your book will be available on Kindle devices and <u>Kindle apps for iPad</u>, iPhone, iPod touch, PC, Mac, Blackberry, and Android-based devices. KDP even lets you self-publish books in multiple countries and languages, including English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian, and specify pricing in US Dollars, Pounds Sterling, and Euros. I'll stick to US Dollars, though. (Who would buy an English book about crayfish in Portugal anyway?)

After a few days of fighting the mysterious gobbledygook of computereze, I finally understood what they wanted me to do to upload the book. So I did it, and lo and behold, now my book CRAYFISH CATCHING is listed as one of the many thousands of books available from Amazon's Kindle store.

But I do understand that most people have not yet evolved into Kindle readers. So for those of you who are in that group, I have developed a way to purchase the book without going to Amazon and their kindles. If you go to my web site (trapperarne.com) and check its front page right hand column, you will find how to get the book simply by clicking on the icon BUY NOW. My accounting program PayPal will cleverly charge you 9.99 from your credit card, and when returning you to my website, I will download the book **CRAYFISH CATCHING right into your** computer's cyberspace lap, i.e. in the folder MY DOCUMENTS where you can read it using your Adobe Reader. Now you can learn how I learned about the best crayfish traps, productive trot lines, the best cravfish bait and how to enjoy eating crayfish as frozen dinners during winter months.

You can also go to my web site's ORDER HERE menu and get the book there together with other e-Books that I will shortly add to that page. But that's another story.

Trapper Arne