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# On Wisconsin Outdoors



with the

## Dick Ellis Experts

- **Spring into Fun**  
OWO's tourism hosts show the way
- **Early Season Fishing**  
Tactics, places to entice the strikes  
Fishing guide says goodbye to mentor
- **Ramping it Up**  
Wild about finding, preparing onions
- **Wisconsin Wolf Photos Wanted**  
More snapshots of predator, prey
- **Deer Talk**  
The passing of a northern legend
- **From the OWO Gun Cabinet**  
A worthy centenarian  
Evolution in shotgun improvements
- **Election Integrity in Wisconsin**  
Ineligible voters should  
be everyone's focus



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Game fish are abundant in Northwest Wisconsin making it the perfect place for anglers to get out and enjoy time on area lakes.

The many inland lakes are known for walleye, panfish, bass, northern and Musky.

Be sure to check out Lake Superior for salmon and lake trout.



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SPOTLIGHT | KENOSHA

# Adventures Beyond The Expected

**A**dventure beyond the expected awaits in Southeastern Wisconsin. Plan a visit to Kenosha to enjoy outdoor recreation with the whole family. Tee off at one of the many golf courses in the area. Brighton Dale Links and Petrifying Springs offer park-settings and affordable rates. These courses are maintained by Kenosha County and offer a combined 63 holes of play. You can also try your hand at disc golf at one of the area's four courses. Disc golf is great for any age and is a great way to explore some beautiful parks. And speaking of parks, be sure to check out the Dream Playground where people of all ages and abilities can play.

Cast a line at an inland lake or on a Great Lake! Plan an outing with the Kenosha Charter Boat Association to head out on Lake Michigan where you will catch trout, salmon and more. The fleet is made up of more than a

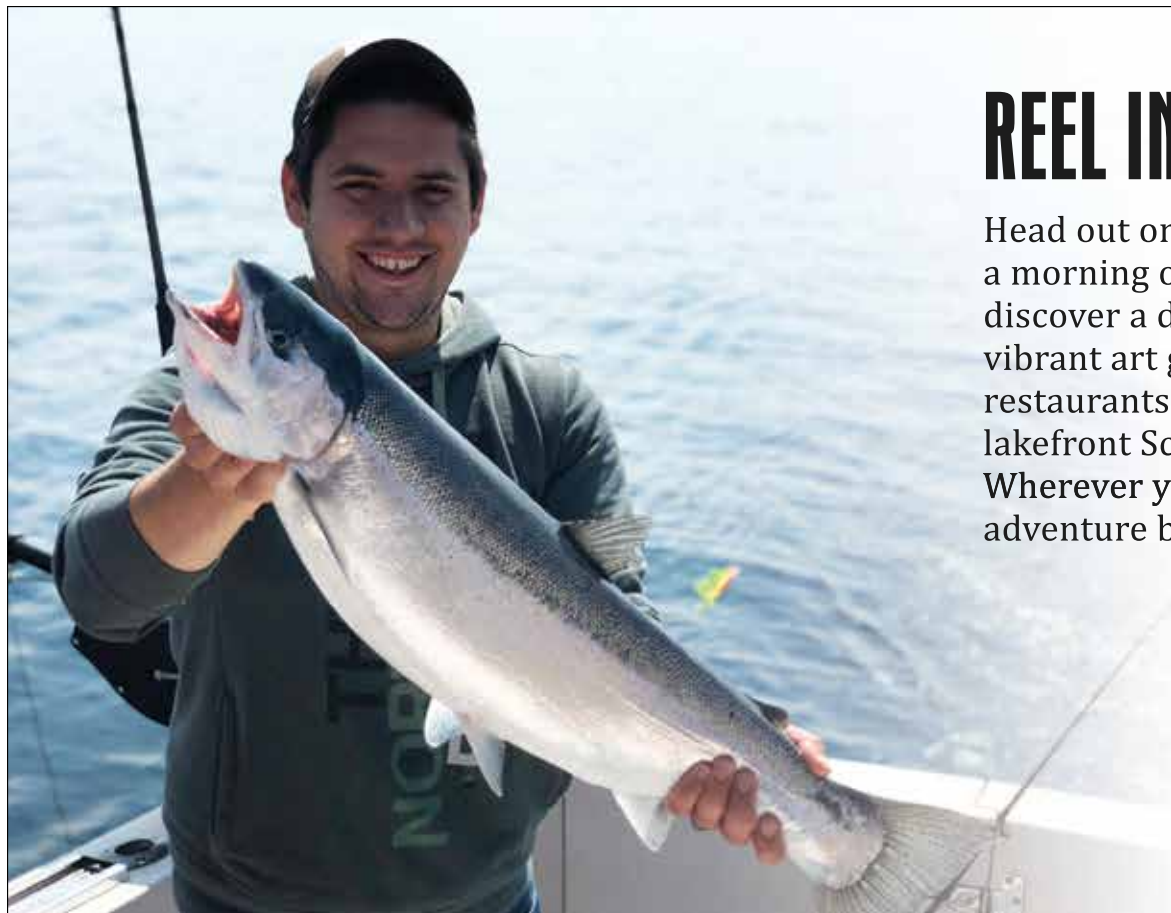


Water options are endless! You can rent duck-themed pedal boats, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards at the Kenosha Sailing Center.



Zipline, climb ladders, and balance your way through the treetops at Boundless Adventures in Kenosha.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## REEL IN THE MEMORIES.

Head out on the open waters of Lake Michigan for a morning of fishing and fun. Return to shore to discover a downtown filled with eclectic shops, vibrant art galleries, unique museums, and inviting restaurants. Ride an authentic streetcar, explore the lakefront Sculpture Walk, or even climb a lighthouse. Wherever your family's interests lie, Kenosha offers adventure beyond the expected.

Scan to explore Outdoor Recreation in Kenosha!



VISITKENOSHA.COM



DAVE FIDLIN

# Governor Dodge State Park

## Steeped in history, welcoming today's adventurer

Across its sprawling 5,270 acres of varied terrain, Governor Dodge State Park holds a number of unique distinctions within Wisconsin's broad network of green spaces. Of note, it is one of the state's largest parks.

Governor Dodge, located on the outskirts of Dodgeville on the southwest side of the state in Iowa County, is steeped in history and pays homage to a key person in Wisconsin's founding. The park is named after Henry Dodge, who served as governor of Wisconsin from 1845-1848, while the area still was a territory and prior to statehood.

The park itself was established exactly a century after Dodge left his governorship. The state acquired a 160-acre farmstead in 1948 and, over time, expanded the park's land mass through further acquisitions.

Today, Governor Dodge provides visitors with a variety of recreational offerings through its rolling, deep valleys, bluffs, steep

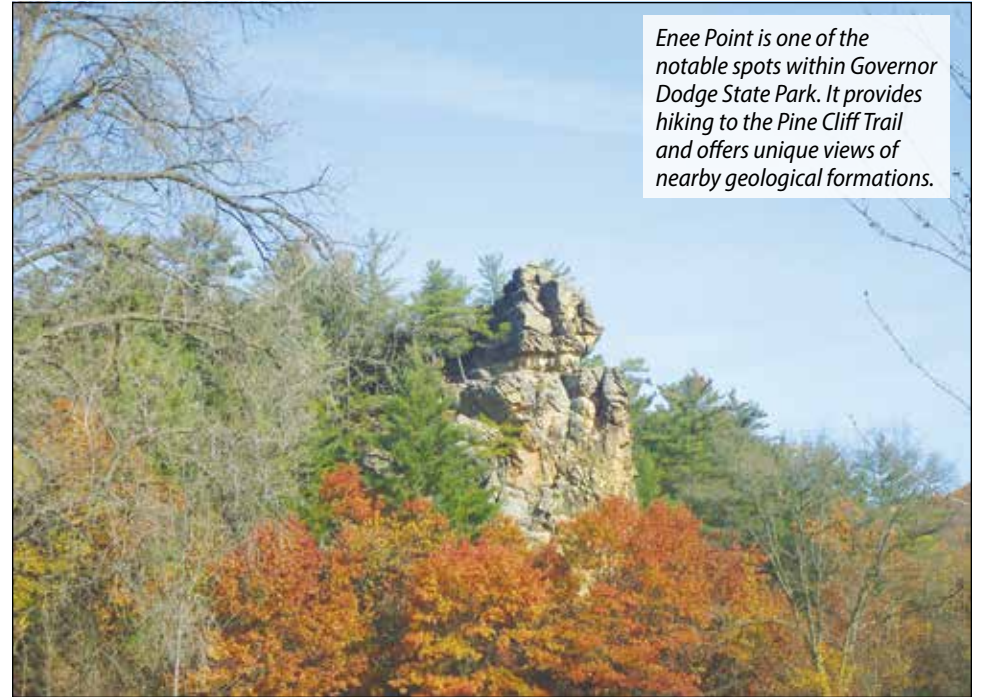
hills and disparate waterways. The park is host to such activities as biking, boating, canoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, off-road biking and swimming.

The park is an ideal spot for camping and picnicking for outdoor enthusiasts looking for a getaway. A total of 267 family campsites are available throughout the park, and some of them are open 12 months a year. The park also has special campsite accommodations for backpackers and horseback riders.

Over the years, through the different phased developments, Governor Dodge has been marked by its distinct natural features. Today, the park has two lakes - Cox Hollow and Twin Valley - in addition to the scenic Stephen's Falls waterfall.

The waterways are accompanied by acres of forest comprised mostly of hickory and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



Enee Point is one of the notable spots within Governor Dodge State Park. It provides hiking to the Pine Cliff Trail and offers unique views of nearby geological formations.

TOM CARPENTER

# Ramping it Up

## Wild about onions

During the spring season, I often don't know what to do with myself. Not because there is nothing to do. Just the opposite. There's too much!

Spring activities include turkey hunting in greening-up woods, alive with birdsong. Trout fishing on a clear creek, with the sound of riffing water to keep me company. Taking on joyful gardening chores in the warming soil. Foraging for morel mushrooms before full leaf-out happens.

By no accident, all those activities can result in good things to eat. But regarding that last point in my list of spring pursuits,

I am a poor to fair morel mushroom hunter at best. Perhaps that is why I love ramps so much.

*Allium tricoccum*, or ramps, are also known as wild onion, wild leek or spring onion. Whatever you call them, they are one of the first plants to sprout from the forest floor as spring approaches. This happens well before leaf-out kicks into gear. The plants, which are wide-leafed and deep-green, grow in patches. Patches might be the size of a kitchen table up to a house's footprint or more. Wherever their origin, ramps are wonderful to eat.

Spring foraging for ramps is easy and fun, with culinary delights the result. The author displays a light harvest of ramps in one of his favorite patches.

My favorite part is the bulb that grows below the ground. The taste is a combination of mild onion and garlic. The bulbs are perfect when prepared in any number of ways, but the following is one of my favorites.

\*Sauté gently in a little butter as a side dish to any meal (perhaps accompanying the aforementioned turkey or fish, maybe a burger from last fall's venison, or any other meat).

\*Feature in a light pasta sauce made with crushed tomatoes and chopped leek bulbs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



On Wisconsin  
*Outdoors*  
With the Dick Ellis Experts

HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL  
EXPLORE WISCONSIN

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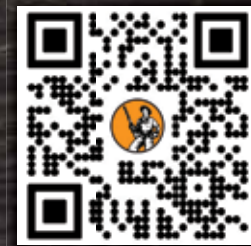
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**TOM MUELLER**

## Nugget

### One lucky dog

Well aware of my limited training experience and her lack of hunting lineage, I was determined to make my first retriever a capable hunting dog. "Nugget" was her name and although she was a pure-bred golden, she did not come from any hunting lineage and had no papers. But she was obedient and she could hunt and retrieve. Looking back, and reflecting on how she did that, I realized I taught her to do that by training her to do that.

I'm not exactly sure what triggered her hunting instincts. That could have been anything from taking her for walks in a field and by happenstance occasionally flushing a pheasant, chasing ducks from the cattails when we walked along the shore of a pond, or retrieving dummies shot from a Retriever-Trainer. Something just clicked when I exposed her to the retrieving and hunting game.

Although it was decades ago, I vividly remember her first hunting venture on the Mississippi River, quietly sitting in the canoe. But once the shooting started and ducks began plummeting to earth, she would take off, marking and making the retrieve like a seasoned pro.

During one especially memorable hunting trip in the Horicon Marsh, I recall her sitting patiently beside me in the blind, waiting for the call to action. When the

*Nugget during a canoe ride on her first Mississippi River duck hunt.*



excitement commenced, Nugget shot from the blind. Initially I could not fathom where she was headed. It was soon apparent that Nugget's focus was solely on ensuring that an unrecovered goose, still unseen from the blind, was returned to her master.

Chasing pheasants was another of Nugget's favorite pastimes. The more impenetrable the cover they sought, the more satisfaction she got from flushing them into the open.

Early on in my retriever training, a very knowledgeable trainer told me that "You never know what you got 'til you start working with it." Those words could have never been further from the truth with Nugget. 🐾

Tom's shares his knowledge teaching others how to train their retrievers at the Fox Valley Retriever Club. For more information, contact him at [winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com](mailto:winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com) or Facebook.

CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 4

\*Cook briefly before scrambling with eggs.

The leaves are also great to eat. While you won't make an entire salad out of them (they are just a little too oniony and garlicky for that), ramp leaves are wonderful as an accent within any salad. You can also cook ramp leaves lightly in just a few dabs of olive oil and a pat of butter as a side dish of cooked greens.

Ramps are easy to find. Just look for the bright green patches of plants on the forest floor. But it may take some miles of hiking to find a ramp patch. I have always found that oak woods and north-facing slopes are prime ramp country.

Like any wild delicacy, ramps can succumb to over-harvest. Treat the resource with respect. It takes seven years for a ramp to reach maturity! They reproduce from seeds, formed from tiny late-spring flowers that do not emerge until the plant's seventh year.

Use a trowel to dig up bulbs, but only take what you can use fresh in a meal or two. Count things out and only take one of every 10 or so plants in a patch. Leave the rest to grow, mature, reproduce, and be there next year for you and others. (You could also just cut a few leaves to eat from here and there; don't take all the leaves from one plant.)

You might not be able to eat all the leaves in one sitting (they amount to a lot more bulk than the bulbs will). Just store them dry, in a bag on the refrigerator, and they will keep a week to 10 days.

Ramp it up this spring! Foraging for these savory wonders is another great reason to get into Wisconsin's wonderful outdoors. 🐾

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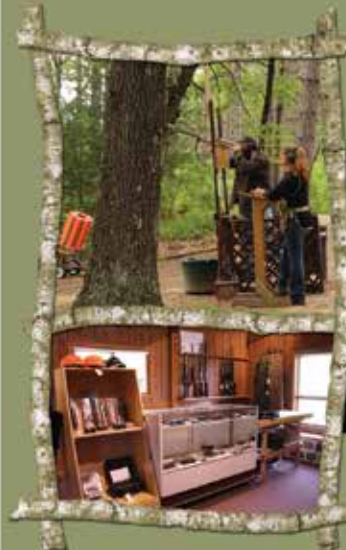
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SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND COUNTY

# 24/7/365...We Never Close

Ashland County, Wisconsin, and outdoor recreation go hand in hand! Here are some ideas that are NOT weather dependent. Waterfalls and hiking at Copper Falls State Park, Big Bay State Park, Morgan Falls, and St. Peter's Dome are all open year round! "Follow the Mural Brick Road" in Ashland County and see over 35 murals throughout the county. View the murals 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year . . . snow or shine!

Even though there is open water on parts of the Chequamegon Bay, the "Hot Pond" is always open to fish. There is a platform that one can use and the fish are biting. Check out these and many more ideas at [www.visitashland.com](http://www.visitashland.com)



## On The Cover

Another beautiful Spring walleye caught and released by Phil Schweik after a few quick photos. Schweik was working a fire-tiger Rapala Slab Rap in six feet of water on a Green Bay tributary.

Have you tried your local walleye run this spring?



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Congratulations to the successful applicants that received a 2024 bear harvest permit. We understand that more applicants applied for a harvest tag this year than any time in Wisconsin history.

Bob's Bear Bait has seen a lot of changes in the more than 15 years we have been in business. Hunters, for instance, are starting to scout late winter and early spring. Keep in mind when you're scouting to consider some of these subjects: Is there water nearby? Bedding area? Other bear sites? Cornfields? Most baiting is done in the heat of the summer, so keep in mind the distance you'll need to walk to your stand and under what weather conditions.

At Bob's Bear Bait, hunters can purchase quality bear bait that contains granolas, berries, nuts, grains, fruits and candies. In addition, we have icing, frosting and pie fillings, as well as peanut butter.

To help simplify your baiting needs, we have created a blend containing 10 to 12 different items that is a great spring and

summer bait that we call our Bear Mix.

August and early September is the time for nuts and peanut butter. Hunters often use peanut butter, nuts or trail mix as a stand-alone item this time of year. We made these bear treats more convenient by adding peanut butter and nuts to our Bear Mix, making it the truly all-in-one bait as you enter the hunting season. We also custom

blend any of these products to your liking.



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A sow watches over her three cubs in northwest Wisconsin. Sows with cubs are not legal game during the bear season. Photo submitted by Ron Klimcke.

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## KENOSHA, FROM PAGE 3

dozen boats with licensed captains and fully-equipped rigs – so all you have to do is show up! The crew will help you with everything from baiting a line to filleting your catch.

Water options are endless! At the Kenosha Sailing Center, you can rent duck-themed pedal boats, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards. Take these personal watercraft around the harbor for fun in the sun during the summer months. Sail Away Charters and Red Witch II offer Lake Michigan outings seasonally, as well. Relax by spending a few hours or an entire day on the water.

Get a different perspective when you visit Boundless Adventures. This aerial adventure park features nine different ropes courses with four levels of difficulty. You'll zipline, climb ladders, and balance your way through the

treetops. There is even an axe throwing range on site for more fun.

Plan a leg day! Take a walk with one of the many self-guided routes that encourages you to get your daily 10,000 steps in. Rent a bike at Total Cyclery and cruise the 150-plus miles of bike lanes and routes in Kenosha County, or take a spin around the oldest operating Velodrome in the country at Washington Park. Use those muscles to power the Lakeshore Pedal Tour trolley as you ride around Downtown Kenosha sipping your favorite adult beverages! Or, climb the Southport Lighthouse – it's 72 steps to the top for amazing views.

Learn more about outdoor recreation for the spring and summer at [VisitKenosha.com](http://VisitKenosha.com). No matter where your interests and skill levels lie, there is fun waiting in Kenosha.

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## SPOTLIGHT | OCONTO COUNTY

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ATV enthusiasts will be in heaven as they explore the diverse terrain. From winding forest trails to open fields and rugged hills, there is something for every level of rider. The county also offers guided ATV tours for those looking for a more structured experience. And with the warm summer weather, riders can take advantage of the numerous campgrounds and cabins along the trails for a truly immersive outdoor experience.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Oconto County is also a haven for water lovers. With numerous lakes to choose from, visitors can spend their days boating, fishing, and swimming. The crystal-clear waters of the lakes are perfect for kayaking and paddle boarding, while the abundance of fish make for a great day of fishing. And for those looking for a more relaxing experience, there are plenty of beaches and picnic areas to soak up the sun and enjoy a lakeside BBQ.

So whether you're an ATV enthusiast or a water lover, Oconto County has something for everyone to enjoy during the summer months. With its stunning natural beauty and endless outdoor activities, it's no wonder why this county is a top destination for those seeking an unforgettable summer adventure. 🌲

*Featuring stunning natural beauty and endless outdoor activities, Oconto County is a top destination for those seeking memorable summer adventures.*



# OCONTO COUNTY

If you're looking to escape to a destination that's full of color, history and endless opportunities for adventure, then Oconto County is the place for you! With nearly 1,000 miles of ATV/UTV and snowmobile trails, the Nicolet National Forest, and the Bay of Green Bay, Oconto County is every outdoor enthusiast's dream. Plus, a visit to the Beyer Home or Copper Culture State Park is perfect for families and history lovers alike. No matter which adventure you choose, Oconto County has a place for you!

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**DAN MOERICKE**

## An 'Up Nort' Report Feed the birds!

**M**y wife Kay loved birds. Every year we would drop hundreds of pounds of sunflower seeds through our feeders and the birds came in droves. Kay was passionate about making sure that the birds had a place to go for dinner during the winter months. Before she passed away last December, I promised her that I would continue to feed 'her' birds. I have been faithfully honoring that promise.

One of the special places that she loved to go was the shelter on the Anvil Lake ski trail in the Nicolet National Forest. The birds there, while maybe not necessarily tame, are certainly more than comfortable with human visitors. Getting them to land on your hand is as simple as standing still and cupping a handful of sunflower seeds.

One of Kay's favorite things to do was to take the grandkids out to the shelter and watch the looks on their faces as the birds landed on their hands. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, Kay



*Whether you're a grandma or a granddaughter, feeding the birds is fun!*

or the kids. I enjoyed the experience, as well.

If you ever find yourself in the Eagle River area looking for something to do, I'd recommend a hike into the shelter on the Anvil Ski Trail. To get there, take highway 70 east for about seven miles out of Eagle River. Turn south on Military Road, go about one mile, and the parking area will be on your left. There is a \$5 daily fee for this area of the national forest, but in my case, my Senior National Parks Pass covers it.

It is an easy one mile walk to the shelter down a very well-marked trail. During a normal winter, the trail is a groomed cross country ski trail. There is also a separate snowshoe trail that leads to the shelter. The shelter is equipped with a fireplace and there is plenty of firewood supplied by the forest service. There are also a couple of picnic tables and an outhouse.

The last time we took the grandkids there, we could see nary



a bird when we arrived. We were momentarily afraid that we'd built up their expectations for nothing. But, after a few minutes and a few chickadee calls, the chickadees and nuthatches magically appeared. The kids loved it! I'm confident that you and your kids will too. Feed the birds!

Remember to bring some sunflower seeds. Just sayin! 🐦

Dan Moericke lives, fishes, and hunts in the Northwoods, occasionally actually catching a fish and tagging a buck. His wife Kay passed away on December 7, 2023 after a 2 1/2 year battle with cancer. The birds (and Dan) will never have a better friend.



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**BILL THORNLEY**

# Passing of a Northern Legend

## Massive albino buck dies of old age, leaves many memories

The call came in on a dark, rainy morning. It was Washburn County Highway Commissioner Brian Danielsen, but on that day he was calling as a home owner at A&H in the Burnett County Town of Scott.

“It’s the end of an era,” he said. “The King is dead. We found him this morning.”

For the past 14 or 15 years, the “King” had been a massive, majestic pure albino whitetail buck living in the area. His prime rack was thick, dark and numbered at least 12 points with a few stickers. He likely weighed in at over 240 pounds at his peak. He had been seen, photographed, admired and loved by many. But time even catches up with royalty.

“We don’t know his exact age,” said Brian as we walked out to see the old buck on that blustery morning. His pure white coat almost glowed as he lay motionless on a brown hillside within sight of the Danielsen home. The family spotted him often near the house.

“We know for sure he has been here since 2009 or 2010,” said Brian’s wife, Megan. “In his prime, he had a huge rack.”

“He was elusive enough,” said Brian, looking down at the old monarch with respect. “At least he didn’t get hit by a car. To look at him, you’d think he was just laying down. But he isn’t.”

Indeed, the buck looked almost peaceful. The leaves around him were not torn up as if he had struggled in his final moments. It appeared that the old boy had simply bedded down, gone to sleep, and never woke up.

He was thin, a shadow of the mighty buck he was in his prime. Time had taken a toll. The buck’s rack had shrunk to six points. When he was skinned out later, there was not an ounce of fat left on him. He only had one tooth left; the rest were worn away.

The buck lay on the side of a hill within view of the Danielsen home, where he could easily be seen. Had he gone another few feet over the top, he may not have been. The snowless winter conditions also helped. During a regular snowy winter, the buck likely would have blended in and not been found.

“He wasn’t dead long,” said Megan. “We left about 8:30 am, and he wasn’t there.”

“He was laying there when we came back about 11 am,” said Devin, Brian and Megan’s daughter.

“He is really something. Even his hooves are white,” said Brian. “We notified the DNR warden. We’ll save the carcass and hide.”

It was later decided to get a full body mount of the impressive animal. So in a way, he will live on.

“It is kind of sad,” said Brian. “Everybody out here knew about him.”

At least he didn’t get killed by a speeding car or shot by a poacher. He wasn’t taken down by coyotes or a pack of dogs. He made an impact and lived a long, long life. And he died peacefully and with a lot of dignity, just as he lived.

“Salute, big fella,” I said as we left.

The King is dead. But his memory will live on for a long, long time in the Town of Scott and beyond. 🍷



MOULTRIECAM 08 NOV 2018 08:49 am  
Many area people were familiar with the big white buck, and a lot of pictures were taken of him. This trail cam photo from 2018 shows the buck in better days. Photo courtesy of Rick Hanson.



## Road America 2024 SCHEDULE

**MAY 17-19**  
SVRA Vintage  
Festival Weekend

**MAY 31-JUNE 2**  
MotoAmerica Superbikes  
& Vintage MotoFest

**JUNE 6-9**  
NTT INDYCAR SERIES  
XPEL Grand Prix  
at Road America

**JUNE 21-23**  
WeatherTech Chicago  
Region SCCA  
June Sprints

**JUNE 28-30**  
Trans Am Speed Tour

**JULY 11-14**  
WeatherTech International  
Challenge  
with Brian Redman

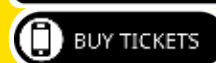
**JULY 26-28**  
GRIDLIFE Music &  
Motorsports Festival

**AUGUST 1-4**  
IMSA SportsCar Weekend

**AUGUST 16-18**  
Fanatec GT  
World Challenge

**SEPTEMBER 13-15**  
Ariens Art on Wheels  
Weekend  
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**OCTOBER 4-6**  
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DICK ELLIS

# Seeking Wolf Photos

## OWO's informal census continues

On Wisconsin Outdoors' informal wolf census continues. Please send your trail cam photos of wolves in Wisconsin to: [wolves@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:wolves@onwisconsinoutdoors.com). List the county where the photos were taken, the date, and verify the number of wolves visible in each photo. Your name will not be published.

OWO publishers do not believe the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) population estimate that place wolf numbers in Wisconsin at 1007 animals during the winter of 2022/23. We do believe that an unmanaged wolf population in the state directly correlates with a severely declining deer hunting experience particularly in the north country. We believe that the decline in our Wisconsin tradition will magnify further as individual wolves and wolf packs continue to expand to create an increasingly out-of-balance predator/prey ratio.

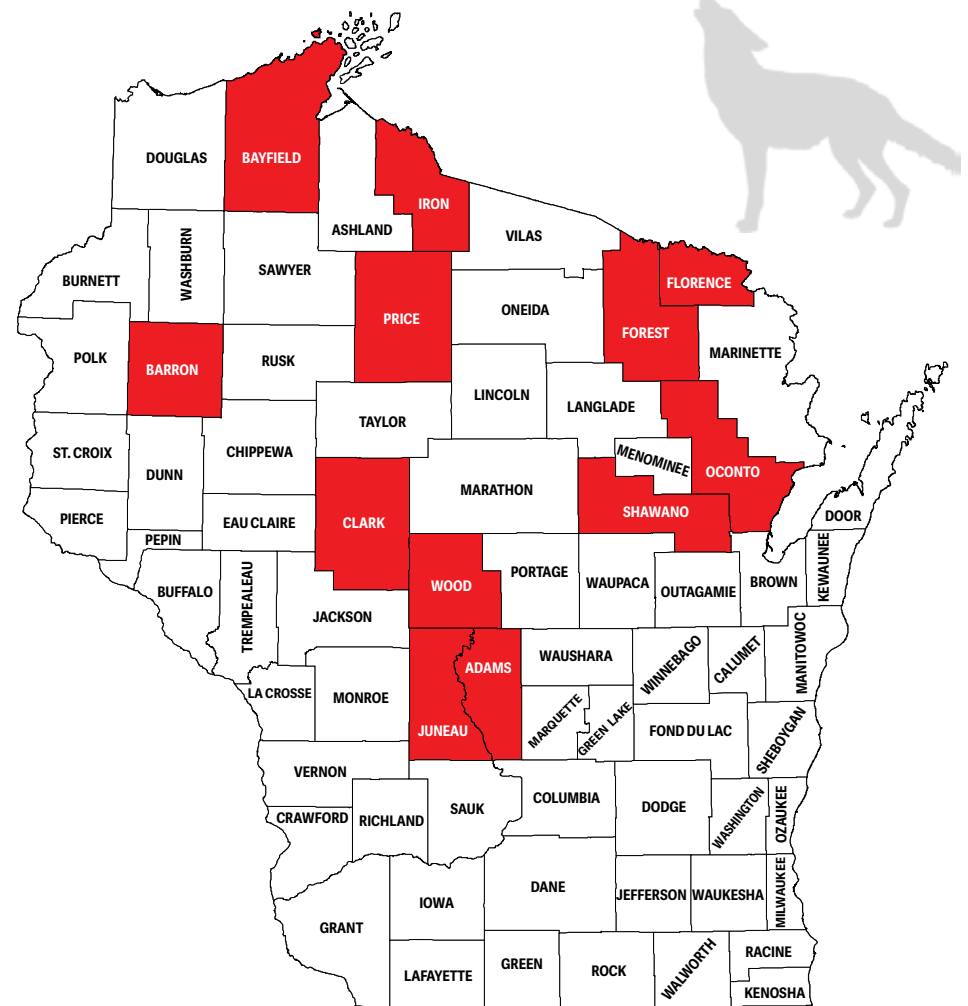
By the numbers, since OWO asked for your trail cam photos of wolves we have received 17 photos from readers and published since January, 2024. The shots include a total of 50 wolves scattered over 12 counties; Bayfield, Barron, Iron,



4-21-2023 Juneau County 1 Wolf

Price, Clark, Wood, Adams, Juneau, Florence, Forest, Oconto and Shawano. In our ongoing project, red on the adjacent Wisconsin map will represent counties from which we have received wolf photos.

To date, using the state mark of approximately 1000 wolves, with 17



CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

DICK ELLIS

# Predator Myths

## Is wolf or man the most efficient tool for Wisconsin deer management?

This trail cam photo from Forest County submitted by an OWO reader shows a wolf taking down a fawn. Each wolf will take the equivalent of 20 adult deer annually.

Think critically when you listen to or read information from organizations like Sierra Club-Wisconsin Chapter, Wisconsin Greenfire, Humane Society of the United States, or DNR regarding the need for more wolves on our landscape. The wolf is often labeled as a necessary tool to ensure the health of Wisconsin's ecosystem by, for example, culling the deer herd of weak animals with disease like CWD, or removing excessive numbers of deer harmful to forests.

Ask yourself if a wolf, the ultimate opportunist predator, will pass on fawns or vulnerable bear cubs to take down a deer with CWD. Watch the video that On Wisconsin Outdoors will repost on our homepage of two wolves

taking down a large adult buck. You will watch the death struggle typical to a wolf kill, and listen to the agonizing wailing of the prey prior to succumbing to the inevitable.

That is how wolves are made. The wolf, a beautiful animal with the hunting instincts necessary to survive harsh environments is to be admired for many reasons and welcome in Wisconsin in proper balance. He is a reliable predator. He is not an efficient or humane predator. Man is both, with the ability to immediately drop a deer with a well-placed round, and the logic to not take a shot unless the immediate kill is probable.

The wolf needs to be managed so that scientific, numbers-based management is not smothered by a "social science" survey approach that puts as much credence with animal rights activists and people scattered throughout the world as a family in Bayfield County or a rancher in Barron



11-30-2019 Forest County Wolf Killing Deer in Progress

County. Or, hunters that traditionally hunt those areas of Wisconsin and support businesses there where deer numbers are now declining.

All of the attributes associated with the need for more wolves on Wisconsin's landscape in fact, can be better achieved by man. And it is the Wisconsin hunter too, that should be afforded the opportunity to have venison in the freezer come November. 🐾

## ELLIS, FROM PAGE 14

snapshots taken over an approximately 16 percent of Wisconsin's 72 counties, we have in theory captured approximately five percent of the DNR's estimated population. The photo contributions represent only a literal snapshot of the vast territory within each of the 12 counties, with the large majority of northern and central Wisconsin counties from verified wolf strongholds not yet contributing a single photo to our informal survey.

Did our readers to date capture five percent of the state wolf population from 17 tree mounts, or are wolf numbers grossly underestimated?

Thank you for sending your trail cam photos of wolves, and for informing friends, local sports shop owners, shooting clubs or other possible sources that OWO is asking for photos that will help verify or challenge state population estimates. Healthy, science-based wildlife management is only possible with accurate numbers of predator and prey serving as the foundation for decisions.

Help us verify truth in numbers. Wherever it leads us. 📷



9-18-2023 Bayfield County 11 Wolves



Wolf With Bear Cub 2017



11-28-2023 Iron County 2 Wolves



2-24-2022 Eastern Adams County 1 Wolf



1-25-2024 Clark County 1 Wolf



7-8-2019 Wood County 6 Wolves



10-18-2023 Oconto County 1 Wolf

## DEAN PAVLETICH

## Grayer Pastures Return to Iowa means big buck payoff for Wisconsin hunter

After a 22-year absence, I returned to deer hunt the family farm in southwest Iowa. For more than 45 years, I've been an avid Wisconsin deer hunter, but after hunting four counties in Wisconsin during 2023 bow, gun and muzzleloader seasons and only seeing four deer, it was time to give Iowa a try.

Non-resident Iowa licenses are expensive, but worth it. Opening morning, I saw 26 deer, including eight bucks. At a distance of 100 yards and fielding a shotgun with only iron sights, the deer were too far away. I adjusted my shotgun's sights that evening, but missed a big buck at 65 yards the following day. I passed on a number of

bucks over the next five days.

The fifth afternoon hunt brought another opportunity. I almost didn't shoot with the image of the buck missed still in my head, but the shot was well placed even with the iron sights. There will be a scope on my shotgun going forward, but I'm happy now that I made the decision to squeeze the trigger.

I'm not sure where or if I'll hunt in Wisconsin in 2024. But seeing deer, hunting with my brothers-in-law and visiting family members made the Iowa hunt a great experience. No more 22-year waits! I can't wait for next season. 📷



After an earlier miss and some hunter's restraint on the trigger, Dean Pavletich of Mukwonago took this beautiful 11-point Iowa buck with shotgun and iron sights.

**DICK ELLIS**

## Wolf, Deer Bills Advance

### Wisconsin lawmakers seek to protect hunting heritage

Wisconsin's federal and state lawmakers have been active moving forward with legislation that would permanently remove the gray wolf from the list of federal endangered species and protect deer numbers in the northern forest zone for several years with the intent of giving the herd opportunity to recover from severe decline.

Wisconsin Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's (CO-03) legislation to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee. H.R. 764, the Trust the Science Act, would permanently remove the gray wolf from the list of federal endangered species and restore authority to control the gray wolf population back to state lawmakers and state wildlife officials. The next step would be for the Trust the Science Act to have a full vote in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Activists endanger the Endangered Species Act by not removing species, like the gray wolf, when they have recovered," said Congressman Tiffany. "It's a scientific fact that the gray wolf population has met and exceeded recovery goals, and it's time to celebrate this success by returning wolf management back to where it belongs, in states' hands."

Groups that have supported the Trust the Science Act in the 117th Congress or the 118th Congress include, but are not limited to: BigGame Forever, Hunter Nation, IOTR-International Order of T. Roosevelt, Mid States Wool Growers Association, Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, National Rifle Association (NRA), Safari Club International (SCI), Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Western Caucus, Wisconsin Cattleman's Association, and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

The full text of the Trust the Science Act is available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/764/text?s=1&r=17>. Email Tiffany at [tiffany@gmail.com](mailto:tiffany@gmail.com) or connect with Tiffany's Wausau, Wisconsin office at 715-298-9344.

From Wisconsin, Assembly Bill 1030, which regulates deer hunting in the Northern Forest Zone in an effort to protect severely declining deer numbers, passed the Assembly on February 22nd and is now in the Senate. Wisconsin Representative Chanz Green (R-Grandview) and Wisconsin Senator Romaine Robert Quinn (R-Cameron) introduced the legislation in January. The bill would prohibit the DNR from establishing a hunting season for antlerless deer in the Northern Forest Zone and would prohibit the DNR from issuing more than two antlered tags per person in the Northern Forest Zone. Restrictions would last four years, following which the DNR could assess the deer population in the Northern Forest Zone.

"Deer Hunting has been a tradition for generations in Northern Wisconsin. But those traditions have been thrown by the wayside because the population has been decreasing for years," said Rep. Green. "We want future generations to enjoy the tradition of hunting in Northern Wisconsin and this bill is a good start to make that happen."

"We have heard from hundreds of constituents at multiple listening sessions about the poor deer season this year," said Sen. Quinn. "Although there are many issues we will continue to debate within the hunting community, there is a clear consensus that we must act now to save and improve our deer herd, and this bill is a critical first step."

Senate Bill 139, which would require the DNR to put a population goal in their wolf management plan, passed the Assembly and Senate and is now on the Governor's desk.

"Every successful management plan has a set goal, and even though the Wisconsin DNR has worked with the public in establishing their current wolf management plan, it does not have a set population goal," said Green, referencing strong support from constituents for the legislation. "This bill would require the DNR to establish a wolf population goal. How the DNR gets to that goal is entirely up to them." 🐾


**Explore Wisconsin**

SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY



## ATV Rally And More, More, More is Worth Planning For!

Grab your gear and come on up to Hurley! With the warmth of spring already on the way, it's time to start thinking about the ATV Rally happening in May! This year, we're adding more, more, more! More raffles, more prizes, and more fun!

We've kept the classics: The Poker Run, the ATV Parade, and of course, the MUD PIT! Come on out and join us for a whole weekend of fun on Memorial Weekend, from May 23 - 26. Interested? Give us a call or send an email at (715)-561-4334, or [hurley@hurleywi.com](mailto:hurley@hurleywi.com). We hope to see you soon!



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SPOTLIGHT | LANGLADE COUNTY



# Stay on The Go in The County of Trails

With so many “hidden gems” to explore and adventures to be had, it’s easy to “Stay on The Go in Langlade County, the County of Trails!”

Want to explore the county fast? Try an ATV or UTV. With over 100 miles of ATV/UTV trails, in addition to many ATV/UTV routes, viewing natural wonders is very easy. These routes wind through Langlade County towns where you can find rest stops, restaurants and gas stations, allowing you to stay on the go.

Interested in exploring on bikes? Check out the county’s mountain biking trails. With five different trails comprising nearly 50 miles, bikers of all skill levels can experience the thrill of mountain biking!

Need a refreshing stop? Consider water sports! Langlade County is home to over 760 quiet lakes and the rushing Wolf River, creating the best whitewater rivers in the Midwest.

It’s nearly impossible to trek every trail in one day, but don’t worry, we have you covered. There are hotels, cabins and campgrounds spread throughout the county allowing you to “Come for the Day and Stay the Night.”

We invite you to come, make memories, and see why Langlade County is called “The County of Trails!” Plan your escape at [countyoftrails.org](http://countyoftrails.org).



With five different trails comprising nearly 50 miles, bikers of all skill levels can experience the thrill of Langlade County mountain biking.



## Come for the Trails, Stay the Night



[www.CountyOfTrails.org](http://www.CountyOfTrails.org)



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## Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

# St. Patty's Celebration And All The Fixings

Kick your St. Patrick's Day vibes into high gear with the annual Shamrock Shuffle on Saturday, March 16, in Prairie du Chien. This 5K, 3.1-mile fun run/walk is held at Hoffman Hall, 1600 S. Wacouta Avenue in Prairie du Chien. Registration begins at 7 am and the race starts at 7:45 am.



After the race, reward yourself and head downtown to Blackhawk Avenue where more Irish festivities will be underway at Prairie du Chien's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, led by St. Patrick himself and followed by parade royalty.

Bagpipers will lead the parade and provide several Irish tunes during the parade and will amuse Irish music lovers at several sponsored businesses throughout the day. Many area businesses will be serving corned beef and cabbage, green beer, and other Irish specialties. After lunch, check out all the retail specials at any of our area businesses. 🍀

For more information on upcoming events in Prairie du Chien, visit the Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce website at [prairieduchien.org](http://prairieduchien.org) or contact 800-731-1673.



## Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | PLATTEVILLE

# Reach New Heights, Dig Our Mines

Platteville is the home of the world's largest letter 'M' and pairs a rich mining history with bountiful recreation. Explore our museums, trails, streams, parks, art and more.

Ascend the 290 stairs at the World's Largest 'M' and you'll dig the tri-state view. Blaze trails by ATV, bike or foot and tap into the Driftless beauty of Southwest Wisconsin. Dig a little deeper with a tour of a lead-zinc mine at the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. Find authentic details in a tour of the Mitchell-Rountree Stone Cottage, once home to prominent Platteville families. Both of these historic venues are available annually to view from May through October.

Uncover a wealth of dining and shopping prospects in Platteville's historic downtown and explore mining-themed artwork that vividly recounts the community's story. 🍀

For details, visit [platteville.com](http://platteville.com) or stop by the Wisconsin Welcome Center at 275 W. Bus. Hwy. 151.



SPOTLIGHT | CITY OF MARINETTE



## Experience Our Spring Walleye Pilgrimage!

Embark on an angler's dream during the Spring walleye pilgrimage in Marinette, where the thrill rivals the famed running of the bulls in Spain. Picture this: the Menominee River teeming with massive trophy walleye, creating an adventure etched in your memory.

March to April marks the prime time for the Marinette walleye run, a spectacle that draws fishing enthusiasts from far and wide. Fuel your anticipation by starting your day at one of Marinette's local bait shops, where the insiders will share invaluable tips on landing the elusive lunger.

As you venture out onto the Menominee River, you'll discover why Marinette is hailed as the ultimate destination for Spring walleye fishing. With five convenient boat launch sites, you can navigate the river's beauty from any point below the dam. And fear not if you're without a boat, because fishing offshore in Marinette is not just an alternative – it's an experience that might

just surpass the joy of being on a boat.

Cap off your exhilarating day by heading to one of Marinette's local microbrew pubs, where you can unwind and share the stories of your fishing adventures with your tribe. This isn't just a fishing trip; it's an experience filled with great friends, great fishing, and the promise of creating GREAT MEMORIES! It's the essence of spring walleye fishing in Fish City, Marinette.

Immerse yourself in the thrill of the Marinette walleye run – a testament to nature's wonders, where each cast promises the possibility of a trophy-sized adventure. Your journey awaits, offering a fishing escapade like no other in the heart of Wisconsin's outdoor paradise. 🎣

For more information, head to [www.fishonmarinette.com](http://www.fishonmarinette.com) or contact the Marinette Welcome Center at 715-732-4333. Get ready to reel in the excitement and make Marinette your ultimate Spring fishing destination!



## CATCH FISH LIKE A PRO MARINETTE





Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

## Modern Shotshell Wads Making all the difference

I recently came across an article from a 1950 issue of Time magazine about an 18-year-old lady trapshooter named Joan Pfluger who broke 100 straight targets. The article stated she shot better than 98% of the other shooters at the Grand National that year. Her score was so impressive that her picture was featured in the article about the event. Nowadays, we have a number of high school trapshooters who break 100 straight birds every year. One of the big reasons for this is our modern shotgun ammunition.

Sure, adjustable stocks and improved chokes help, but our shotshells are significantly better than 1950s offerings. In 1964 Remington patented the Power Piston one-piece plastic wad for loading shotshells. A year later in 1965, Winchester introduced the now famous AA wad. This simple piece of molded plastic accomplished three things: it sealed the gases from the burned powder and cushioned the shot charge from deforming on set back. Set back is the sudden acceleration from 0 fps to 1,200 fps, which can deform the shot. Third, the plastic cup that holds the shot protected it from being scrubbed against and deforming in the barrel.

Research found immediate improvements in velocity and in patterns by about 10 percent. Plastic hulls that didn't swell in high humidity were another improvement. The ammunition companies benefited from faster, efficient loading and the shooting public benefited from faster, better patterning shells. It was truly a win-win situation.

Today there are even specialty wads for buckshot and other long-range loads with air



Improvements in wads and other materials have greatly increased the effectiveness of shotguns.

brakes that deploy when the wad clears the barrel. Specialty wads for slugs include some with a nylon ball that centers the lead slug in the shotgun bore for accuracy.

Before this, after loading the powder into the shell, you needed a "nitro card," a thin piece of treated paper or cardboard that covered the powder. Then a thick fiber wad or two was inserted, then the shot was added, and then yet another piece of paper or cardboard called an over shot card. After that, the shell was finally crimped shut. The thick fiber wads did not provide a great gas seal for the burned powder gases, with some blowby. I like old paper hulled shotgun shells from the 1950s as much as the next guy, but most will pattern horribly compared to modern shells. 🦋

**Back in the 1980s**, some inexpensive shotgun shells were imported from Poland. Pawam Olympic shells were less than \$40 for a 10-box case and featured a paper case and fiber wads. Quality control must not have been a priority, as some kicked like magnum hunting loads, while others were on the light side. What was remarkable was the smell after firing the shells. The wads were rumored to have been made with compressed animal hair from tanneries.

STUART WILKE

## A Worthy Centenarian Nearly 125 years and counting

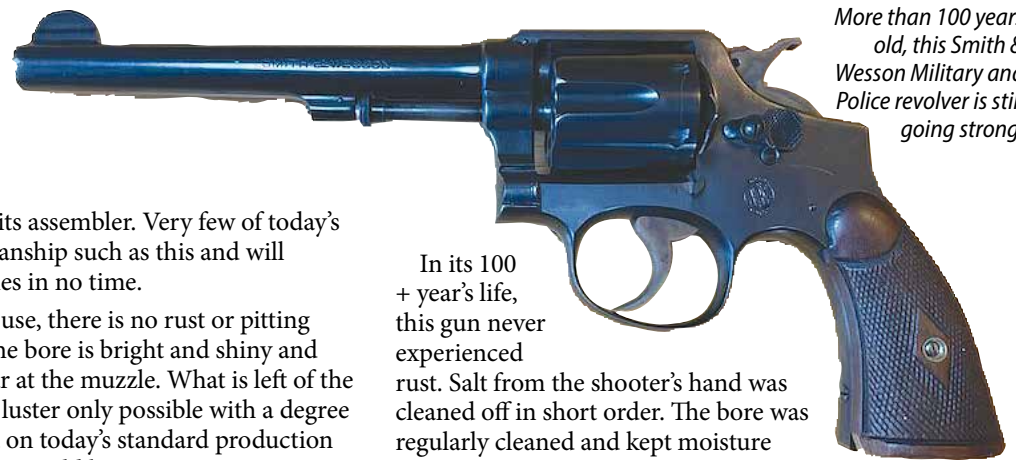
Properly cared for, a quality firearm can provide generations of service. The Smith & Wesson Military and Police revolver featured in this article is one such gun. Made in 1920 and totally functional, it is a testament to craftsmanship and pride of ownership. This centenarian was no pampered pet that spent its life resting, unfired, in its original box, complete with paperwork. No, it was loose in the wild. A serious collector wouldn't give it a second look because it has nowhere near the magical 95 percent of its original finish intact that they demand. There's also little interest in Smith & Wesson Military and Police (M&P) revolvers among collectors, although there should be.

Whomever owned this revolver used it and used it a lot. The original wooden grips are worn and the back strap is devoid of finish. The lack of finish extends to the frame. Finish wear like this is the result of being shot often. For it to be worn to this extent, it must have fired thousands of rounds of the .38 Special ammunition that it was chambered for. Yet it barely has a turn line around its cylinder, which is a testament to its design, the tight tolerances for which it

was held and the skill of its assembler. Very few of today's revolvers exhibit craftsmanship such as this and will develop cylinder turn lines in no time.

Despite many years of use, there is no rust or pitting anywhere on this gun. The bore is bright and shiny and there is just a hint of wear at the muzzle. What is left of the blued metal finish is of a luster only possible with a degree of polishing rarely found on today's standard production firearms. A finish like this would be too time consuming and expensive to mass produce today.

The condition of this gun is a reflection of its owner or owners. How many times it crossed hands, let alone was shot, is lost to history. One thing we do know is how it was preserved in such remarkable condition: This gun was cleaned soon after each use and was kept in a dry environment. Salt from skin perspiration, moisture and humidity are a gun's worst enemies. Left unattended, a firearm will quickly begin to rust. If left unchecked, the rust will penetrate the finish and corrode the metal that will eventually leave irreparable pits.



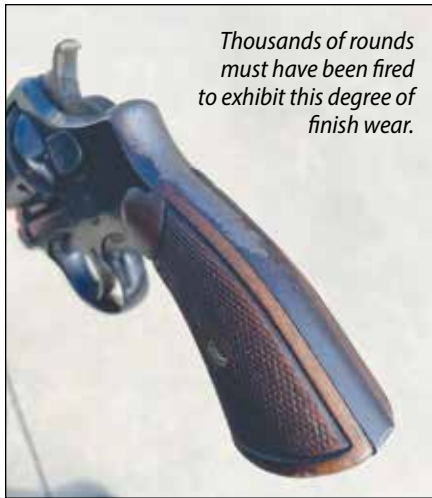
More than 100 years old, this Smith & Wesson Military and Police revolver is still going strong.

In its 100 + year's life, this gun never experienced

rust. Salt from the shooter's hand was cleaned off in short order. The bore was regularly cleaned and kept moisture free. If corrosive ammunition was ever shot, then the salt residue it left behind never caused corrosion because the gun was immediately cleaned. Without a doubt, the gun was kept oiled as yet another means to preserve its condition.

The S & W Military and Police revolver debuted in 1899. During World War II hundreds of thousands of them, named the "Victory Model," were produced for the Allies. In the 1950s the gun was renamed the Model 10. Throughout much of its existence, it experienced very few revisions and for decades was the choice of police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



*Thousands of rounds must have been fired to exhibit this degree of finish wear.*

**WILKE, FROM PAGE 20**

departments throughout the world.

Many S&Ws, like the Model 19 and K22 built on the same “K” frame platform as the M&P but with more features, have become costly collectors’ items. Not so the M&P, which can still be found at reasonable prices and is worthy of collecting. Properly cared for, an M&P will last lifetimes. 🗨️

Connect with Stuart at [stuart@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:stuart@onwisconsinoutdoors.com). or [submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

**FIDLIN, FROM PAGE 4**

oak trees and adorned with the various sandstone bluff outcroppings that are commonly displayed in this particular region of Wisconsin. Enee Point provides spectators with generous views of the park, and beyond.

Anyone visiting Governor Dodge will be in good company. A variety of animals call the park home, among them beavers, gray and red foxes, muskrats, raccoons, white-tailed deer and woodchucks. Additionally, more than 150 species of birds have been spotted throughout the park.

Governor Dodge shines a spotlight on Wisconsin’s beauty and natural habitat, regardless of the season. The park has gained notoriety for generations of recreational enthusiasts for its full range of amenities.

As is the case with all state parks in Wisconsin, motorists are required to purchase a vehicle admission sticker to enter the grounds. Additional fees also are assessed for using campsites and renting boats. 🗨️



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SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD LAKES



## Natural Connections-Common Loons

With a dozen sets of eyes scanning the water, it took us almost no time at all to spot the family of loons.

A little cheer went up from the pontoon boat when we finally got a clear look at the fuzzy chick paddling around behind their parents. Since this was the first Loon Pontoon Tour on Lake Owen of 2023, the chick was as much a surprise to me as to the participants on this Cable Natural History Museum program.

I pegged this little fuzzball with the big brown eyes at about two weeks old, even though the chick was swimming independently behind Mom and Dad and not riding on a safe, warm back. Zooming in on that cute little beak, I happened to get the tail end of an adult loon in the photo, too. Below all those snazzy black and white feathers and quicksilver waves, there were some other, more unusual colors: this loon was wearing leg bands!

Bird banding is an old, if not ancient, practice, but loon banding has only been possible since 1988. The unique colors on these leg bands tell us that this loon was banded in 2003 as a chick on Turtle Flambeau Flowage. Now he has raised at least a few chicks of his own in this bay of Lake Owen.

Observers using binoculars or zoom lenses can identify banded loons as individuals. This has allowed researchers to determine that loon pairs split their parenting duties roughly 50/50. Males choose the nest site and females build the nest and lay the one or two eggs. After that, loon parents share the incubating, feeding, babysitting, and “hunter education” duties pretty equally. It is a pleasure to watch loon parents caring for their chicks. Join me on a Loon Pontoon Tour and get a closer look! Simply visit the Calendar of Events on our

website at [haywardlakes.com/activity/cable-natural-history-museum-2/](http://haywardlakes.com/activity/cable-natural-history-museum-2/) after April 1 to register.

Interestingly, despite this dedication to their chicks, loons do not mate for life. They are more loyal to their territory than their partner. If a new, stronger male fights and wins in a territorial battle, the resident

female will stay with the new guy. Likewise, the resident male will stick around if a female intruder wins a territorial battle. In nature, good parenting does not always fit our culture’s ideals! But it must work for that species, or they wouldn’t be alive today. 📷

By Emily Stone, Naturalist/Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum.

*Below those snazzy black and white feathers and quicksilver waves, this loon was wearing leg bands from 2003.*



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**PHIL SCHWEIK**

## Where Are The Big Walleyes?

### Guide offers a "small school" education

**A**cross Wisconsin, fishing enthusiasts are scratching their heads and wondering what happened to all the big walleye. Granted, fish in the 12- to 14-inch range are common and the occasional 15- to 16-inch fish can be found, but truly noteworthy examples; those big fish, are scarce.

Thankfully the solution to this puzzle is fairly simple. Stop targeting the same local community hole time after time! A change in venue may yield far more satisfactory results.

When it comes to catching legal-sized and bigger walleye, first take a hard look at your fishing strategy. Large walleyes are predatory fish and, generally speaking, loners. They tend to travel and stage on their own or in very small schools. Conversely, their smaller, undersized brethren prefer large groups and travel together. This is primarily a survival tactic; their modus operandi is to find "safety in numbers."

Enjoying life at the top of the food chain, larger walleyes don't agonize over how to avoid being eaten. They can

concentrate on eating and where best to find edibles. Their smaller brethren at the bottom of the chain congregate in large groups to avoid getting eaten. Less chance of being noticed when you're surrounded by similar, and numerous, items on the menu. With that fact established, when you are only catching small walleyes, think outside the same dining room box and try a few different restaurants, as it were. For the most part, the larger walleyes will not be bunched up at the kiddie table with the young'uns, preferring more mature company, if any at all.

Consider this: when most anglers head out in the spring, they target walleyes in the deeper, slower moving holes in the river system. Are they going to catch fish? Probably. Are they the ones you want? Probably not. Most of the time, only the smaller, undersized walleyes are the ones staging in the deeper holes in the river. If you want to target big walleyes, don't target small walleye holding areas.



Consider searching different venues, including shallower water locations perhaps with structure or a current break. You may be surprised to find that this simple change will put you on water where some of the largest walleyes in the system live.

You won't be catching 50 to 100 fish a day like you might in the deeper pools. But you are more than likely going to catch some nice fish and maybe even one worthy of wall display. 🎣

**DENNIS RADLOFF**

## Making a Difference

### Fishing guide says goodbye to mentor, friend

**M**y life's journey has brought many amazing opportunities ranging from being a father, serving our country in the United States Air Force, working in the substance use services field, and my current occupation working on state level strategy responses to the overdose epidemic.

Throughout this journey, one common factor rings true; I have never accomplished anything good in life on my own. This includes being encouraged and supported as I entered the most memorable time of my life. I touch on these experiences that I'm very grateful for only to offer context to what I most wanted to share.

For many years, it was my privilege to be a fishing guide. Fishing had been a calling since childhood but I never imagined I would be in a position to teach and lead other anglers as a career. Many people provided the support essential to first entering the field as a guide, and then striving to achieve my best every day on the water. One person tops the list.

Dave Kahler, owner and operator of Dave's Turf & Marine in Watertown, Wisconsin, was that man in my life. As a young man, I purchased my first new boat from Dave and

his amazing team. It was a modest 16-foot Grumman with a 25 HP tiller outboard; just enough to take two people fishing and begin guiding on the local lakes of Waukesha County. Within a year of launching the guide business, Dave helped me upgrade to a bigger motor, and the year after that to an 18-foot, fully-equipped Princecraft. From that day forward I was a Pro Staffer for Dave's Turf & Marine.

Backed by Dave and his wife Leni and the tremendous Dave's Turf team, the world of fishing was my oyster.

When I was told Dave passed away recently, I was flooded with all of the memories and all of the ways that Dave enabled me to reach for my best. Dave was more than a "boat dealer." He was a mentor, a father figure, a teacher, and above all a dear friend. What I will always remember most about Dave is that he made me feel supported, capable, empowered, and that anything was possible every step of the way. He believed in me, trusted me, and always treated me with kindness. Any success and accomplishment I experienced was a credit to having Dave in my life. He will always be in my heart, wherever the rest of this journey takes me.



Dennis Radloff and Dave Kahler with some Lake Michigan super perch caught off the Milwaukee Lakefront in 2005. Photo by Dick Ellis.

I wanted to share with the world a small glimpse of the difference one person can make in someone's life and the impact just one person can have. I wish I had one more moment to share with Dave to be sure he knew just how grateful I have been and always will be for what he gave and shared with me.

I love you with all my heart, Dave. Thank you for helping me have the time of my life.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



**TOM LUBA**

# Ready, Set, Go Fish!

## Early angling opportunities and tactics

**F**rozen lakes and rivers are thawing and where there's open water, there's fish. Open water makes its first appearance on rivers, but walleye are already taking advantage of the change of season. These fish spawn at water temperatures of around 43 degrees and move upriver even under the ice. They are especially attracted to dams.

When fishing for walleye, look for current breaks near deeper water, especially if you can anchor nearby. Start with a jig and minnow that can reach where current edge and slack water meet. A second method is drifting along those edges and vertical jigging. In both cases the key is hitting bottom. Anchored, lighter jigs work. Drifting may call for more weight to ensure bottom contact.

Brighter colors are good bets on stained water. An unpainted head can be more natural and enticing on clearer waters.

Watching other anglers can provide hints on anchoring or drifting. If drifting, pay attention to bottom, as isolated snags or rock can group walleye. Dams get more attention, with fish having to move up, then back after spawning. Don't overlook shore areas. Fishing barges for angler use usually mean that there is reachable structure close by. Moving upstream, they'll utilize the slacker current side. For traveling back downriver, the current provides easier relocation. Later March and early April can be prime dates. While most rivers are segmented by dams, on veins like the Wolf, the fish spawn in marshes. Fishing



*Check small, shallow lakes first that warm faster. Sunshine and rising water temperatures can make for great fishing memories in April.*

downstream from them can produce great results.

The DNR has recently changed bass rules to offer catch and release fishing year-round. You can't actually harvest them until the May opener.

Small, shallow waters warm quicker. Wood can be a key structure early, and weeds are usually close behind. Check out those that fit the bill in early April, but remember, prevailing weather determines fish activity.

Stay with medium spinning equipment and about 10-pound test line for walleye. I

go to bait-casting and stronger test line for bass. Bass usually are in clearer water, so 100 percent fluorocarbon line is particularly effective. If you fish bass with monofilament, it pays to rig a fluorocarbon leader, which is almost invisible underwater. Most rivers have color, so you can get by with mono.

I like a black/blue quarter ounce bass jig with green pumpkin as an alternative shade. For a jig trailer, use maximum scent plastics with a creature hawg or a power chunk on the back works. Scents that release in the water can translate into more bites. A five-

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 27*

would jump at any chance to add another story to a weekly syndicated column I was expected to file from the field every week for Wisconsin newspapers.

We pried Dave away from his desk one sunny morning in April two decades ago. Dave caught a much deserved break. Dennis was the captain and I clearly remember him leading us away from a tight group of too many boats to a spot all our own. Dennis would catch the fish. I would catch the story, and the photos.

We ended up with a limit of five super perch each. We ended up with a boatload of fun (a Princecraft full specifically). And

we ended up with another memory for the Dave Kahler file. Dennis isn't the only one who will miss Dave. I will miss the way he met me personally and professionally. Dave and Leni and Dave's Turf were one of OWO's first advertisers. They never wavered, ever. It was a handshake deal and on we would go.

"How are you doing Dave?" I would say, to the same slow, simple, deep and steady response over 20 years. "I'm doing great!"

Yes you were. It's what great men do. Goodbye Dave. I'll miss you too.

Dick Ellis 🍷

**RADLOFF, FROM PAGE 24**

### **Publisher's Sidebar:**

Goodbye Dave.

If a picture is worth 1000 words the photo with this story written by Dennis Radloff at least tells one good chapter in a very good book. In 2005, big perch were biting off of the Milwaukee Lakefront. As usual, though, Dave Kahler and his wife Leni, were working long, hard hours taking good care of their customers at Dave's Turf & Marine in Watertown. Dennis rarely had a day off as a guide with a reputation for finding fish, mostly muskies. And I

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**CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE****A Pitch For Bait***Double your fishing pleasure with a worm, minnow arsenal*

As a longtime fishing guide, I've learned that live bait almost always out-fishes artificial lures. Artificial bait certainly has its time and place, but many times my clients are novice anglers and live bait offers them more opportunities to reel in fish. My two favorite live baits are minnows (everything from fatheads to suckers) and nightcrawlers.

When the fish are hungry and biting, it's important to have an adequate supply of healthy bait on hand. As a rule, I use nightcrawlers during the summer months when water temperatures are between 65 and 80 degrees. Nightcrawlers prefer to be cool and out of the sun. I keep mine in a

refrigerator and when I'm heading out to fish, they go into a cooler with some ice packs.

Fishing nightcrawlers is relatively easy; either a bobber or a split-shot rig are good choices. My favorite is the spit-shot rig. The presentation is very basic: a single hook with a split-shot sinker positioned 18 to 24 inches above the hook. Increase the weight of the sinker when fishing in deeper water. Try round split-shots in weedy conditions; the wings on other sinkers tend to get caught up in the weeds. The trick to fishing nightcrawlers is that when you get a strike, you need to give the fish time to eat the bait.

This is accomplished by free-spooling the line until you set the hook. You'll need to do some experimenting; some days you can set the hook almost immediately, other days it may be a 10- to 15- second delay. I have caught everything on nightcrawlers from 40-pound carp to a 44-inch musky.

When water temperatures are cool, minnows are my bait of choice. For me that is usually from January through May and again in October through December. I find that increasing the size of the minnows as the season progresses results in more



CONTINUED ON PAGE 27 *Double the fun with live bait.*


**Explore Wisconsin**

SPOTLIGHT | **ALGOMA**



## Springtime Lake Michigan Awakens After Mild Winter



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**SPRINGTIME IN ALGOMA**  
Spring is upon us and along with the beautiful birds and flowers that return, the world class, open water fishing that this area is famous for, and our hiking and biking trails that we have. Algoma is open for business! We look forward to our many summer events like:

- Kewaunee-Door Salmon Tournament
- Shanty Days Festival
- Soar on the Shore - Kite Fest
- Wet Whistle Wine Fest
- Car Show

Watch for more upcoming information on these and other events.



After an unusually mild winter, Algoma is anticipating a very early start to the 2024 open water fishing season. The fun kicks off during March and April with notable appearances by tail-dancing steelheads in the streams. Seasoned anglers can expect to catch and release their limit.

Have you ever experienced a steelhead (rainbow trout) smack your bait, bend your pole in half and scream out drag on your reel as it speeds downstream in the rapids? If you haven't, this should be near the top of your spring things to do. There are few outdoor activities more exhilarating than doing battle with a 12-pound steelhead on light tackle.

Lake Michigan's shoreline is a fishing hot spot in early spring. Giant brown and trophy lake trout will be cruising the shallows, feeding on gobies, and giving anglers on shore and off lots of opportunities to cash in on some very tasty trout. Anglers trolling with light tackle and stick baits in 12- to 25-foot of water will find plenty of chances to catch huge fish. Those on shore will enjoy similar opportunities using light spinning rods and small spoons at Lake Michigan access areas near creek mouths. Battling trophy-size fish while standing waist deep in Lake Michigan is a thrill not to be missed.

Algoma is looking forward to a wide-open 2024. Fishing tournaments, festivals, car shows and musical events are already booked. We look forward to seeing you.

From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 3, good luck and good fishing. 

Lee Haasch is an Algoma charter captain with over 50 years of Great Lakes fishing experience. He's been writing articles and giving seminars on fishing for over 35 years. For charter information or fishing reports, connect with Capt. Lee at fishalgoma.com, 888-966-3474 or 920-255-0604.



*The stocky features of the brown trout are how they earned the nickname of "Football." Capt. Trevor Haasch hefts a 15-pound brown trout, caught off Algoma in early spring.*

LUBA, FROM PAGE 25

inch stenko stick worm in black with a blue flake as a solid backup can work well. If fish are tight and in weeds, the stick worms can slip nicely through the cover and attract bites.

If the fish aren't shallow, moving out to the first cover or depth change can work. Fish should be staging at 50 or so degrees and some should be moving up. Depending on the depth, I use a bigger jig or rig it weedless on a sinker with a 3/0 wide gap hook.

If live bait is your choice, you can also use the stand-by lindy rig deeper. Be aware that it can be tougher to keep live bait on the hook in cover. As always, check the fishing regulations for the waters you fish. Then enjoy the season. 🎣

DUWE, FROM PAGE 26

catches.

Like nightcrawlers, minnows need to be kept cool and out of the sun. You can easily kill a minnow by taking it from a warm bait bucket of water and casting it into a cold lake. Temper the minnow bucket water temperature to match that of the lake. You can cool the water with ice or add some lake water to your minnow bucket to adjust the temperature, but take your time so the minnows can adjust. Minnows also need a lot of aeration, so place a small bubbler in your bait bucket.

I hook minnows two different ways. First is running the hook through both lips from the bottom up. The second is hooking it by the dorsal fin, making sure you don't hit any internal organs. If your minnow becomes lethargic, it's time to replace it.

In spring I like to fish minnows under a float. This is an effective tactic because the fish are in shallows and one can suspend the bait over structure. Later in the fall, work the minnow deeper in the water column. A split shot rig works well here. Don't wait too long to set the hook. If you do, the fish often swallows the hook, making catch and release a difficult proposition.

Whether minnows or nightcrawlers, live bait will almost always catch more fish than an artificial lure. As a general rule, let the water temperature dictate your live bait choice. 🎣

Dave Duwe owns and operates Dave Duwe's Guide Service featuring the lakes of Walworth County. He can be reached at 262-728-8063.

 **Explore Wisconsin**  
SPOTLIGHT | ELKHORN



## Golf, Trails And Dining Will Bring You Back For More

The snow is melting and we're getting ready for SPRING! Swing through Elkhorn for a round of nine, 18 or 27 at Evergreen Golf Club. You may not be able to hit the slopes at Alpine Valley, but you can still enjoy the beautiful scenery from the edge of your golf cart or the seat of your bike. Check out their eight miles of mountain bike trail that winds through woodlands, wetlands and valleys. Enjoy all levels of hiking through the gorgeous Kettle Moraine just 10 miles north of Elkhorn. Take in the beautiful scenery throughout the Kettle along with neighboring preserves and parks in the Elkhorn area.



Outdoor fun can work up an appetite and leave you parched. Nothing beats a flight of locally crafted beer along with a giant pretzel baked to share. Stop by Duesterbeck's Brewing Company and check out the newly built barn brewery where you can check out live music, trivia nights, boutique shopping and amazing flavors on tap!

Whether you choose to navigate on four wheels or two, there's always great shopping and eating to celebrate in Elkhorn. No matter what time of year, there is always something unique and fun to enjoy with friends and family.

Stop by Duesterbeck's Brewing Company in Elkhorn and check out the new brewery, live music, trivia nights, boutique shopping and amazing flavors on tap!

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	9 Pay Sectors Entry & Fun-Race 4 Free	10 Pay Sectors Entry & Fun-Race 4 Free	11 Pay Sectors Entry & Fun-Race 4 Free	12 Pay Sectors Entry & Fun-Race 4 Free	13 Pay Sectors Entry & Fun-Race 4 Free	14 Pay Sectors Entry & Fun-Race 4 Free
	16 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	17 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	18 Slicks and Drag Radials Fun-Racing	19 Fun Racing & Bikes	20 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing	21 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing
	23 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	24 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	25 Slicks and Drag Radials Fun-Racing	26 Fun Racing & Bikes	27 FUN RACING for EVERYONE	28 IMPORT WARS
	30 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing					

*May*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	2 Slicks and Drag Radials Fun-Racing	3 Fun Racing & Bikes	4 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing	5 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing	
	7 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	8 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	9 Slicks and Drag Radials Fun-Racing	10 Fun Racing & Bikes	11 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY CLOSED	
	14 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	15 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	16 Slicks and Drag Radials Fun-Racing	17 Fun Racing & Bikes	18 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing	19 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing
	21 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	22 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	23 Slicks and Drag Radials Fun-Racing	24 Fun Racing & Bikes	25 MEMORIAL WEEKEND CLASSICS	26 IMPORT WARS
27 Memorial Day Fun Races IMPORT WARS	28 CLOSED on Tuesday	29 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	30 Slicks and Drag Radials Fun-Racing	31 Fun Racing & Bikes		

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SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

# Ferryville – Spring – Mississippi River Coast of Wisconsin

You have got to love spending your time on Wisconsin's Great River Road and, especially, Ferryville. What is there to do? Are you kidding?

Fishing, hiking, birding – whatever your interest - book a vacation rental and connect with things you love to do. (Need info? [www.visitferryville.com](http://www.visitferryville.com)) Two things make Ferryville rock in the spring of 2024: Opening of Fishing Season and Rummage Along the River 70 Mile Garage Sale.

Fishing has been great and the Ferryville Boat Launch is open to the public. Hop in your boat and set out to great fishing areas. Or fish off-shore or from the dock for sunfish, walleye, bass and more. Forgot bait? No problem! Stop by Joe Blow's or Ferryville Cheese and get what you need. Low on snacks? How

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



Todd Lensing with his catch.



## A Place for All Seasons

**May 11**

**World Spring Bird Migration Hike**  
Meet at the trailhead of Sugar Creek Bluff Natural Area at 7 AM. Reservations are required through Mississippi Valley Conservancy's website. MVC and Ferryville host this hike led by expert birders.

**May 17-18**

**Rummage Along the River**  
70 miles of garage sales of antiques and bargains. Along Hwy. 35 in Stoddard, Genoa, Victory, De Soto, Ferryville, Lynxville, Seneca, and Mt. Sterling. 8 AM-4 PM.

**May 18**

**Ferryville Farmers Market**  
Every Saturday thru October 12th  
Sugar Creek Park, Hwy 35.



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**JOHN ELLIS**

# Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory-Part Three



On Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO) is running a continuing series on the damage being done by Chippewa tribal spearing, to the walleye population in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory.

**"Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory; The real reason for their population decline"** was published in our March/April, 2023 issue. It used math and biology to expose the Wisconsin DNR and Chippewa Tribal Leaders as being responsible for the removal of a calculated 13,418,237 **"keeper walleyes"** (fish weighing between 1 ¾ and 2 pounds) from Ceded Territory lakes since 1985. The removal of the fish averaged 40,538 walleyes per lake.

**"Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory-Part Two"** was published in our May/June, 2023 issue. It exposed that while only Chippewa tribal members (about 1% of the Wisconsin population) have participated in spearing Ceded Territory walleyes, all residents of Wisconsin have been helping to subsidize their destruction by paying the tribes to restock them. It also explained that the restocking is an exercise in futility because there is no substitute for the lost natural reproduction of the speared fish.

When Part Two was published, OWO reported that the DNR had paid the **Sokaogon Mole Lake Tribal Fish Hatchery**



Another fat spring walleye caught on the Wisconsin River near Stevens Point by Ronald Hall, left, and John Niko.

\$327,478.00 for walleye restocking between 2020 and 2022. Since April 11, 2023, OWO has had an open records request for the amounts paid to the tribes going back to 2013. As of this writing the DNR has not provided us with the information.

Both articles can be viewed in archived issues at [onwisconsinoutdoors.com](http://onwisconsinoutdoors.com).

## Part Three-The impact of 2023 spearing

It takes roughly 1,000,000 walleye eggs to produce 125 **"keeper walleyes"**. These are fish that weigh between 1 ¾ and 2 pounds. The average egg drop per walleye during spawning is 85,000 eggs. This means that it takes 12 female walleyes to produce 125 keeper walleyes. \* The math rounded to the nearest number is;

$$1,000,000 \div 85,000 = 12 \text{ female walleyes.}$$

According to the Wisconsin DNR the number of walleyes speared in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory in 2023 was 27,460. Conservatively, ten percent of those were females or 2,746. \*\* The math is;

$$27,460 \times .10 = 2,746 \text{ female walleyes speared.}$$

Because of the 2,746 female walleyes speared, 28,604 keeper walleyes will never hatch. The math is;

$$2,746 \div 12 \times 125 = 28,604 \text{ keeper walleyes}$$

that will never hatch.

Because a 50/50 male to female ratio is the norm in nature, if half of the 28,604 keeper walleyes that will never hatch were females that only spawn once, we have an additional 148,979 keeper walleyes that will never hatch. The math is;

$$28,604 \div 2 \div 12 \times 125 = 148,979 \text{ keeper walleyes that will never hatch.}$$

Because it takes a female walleye 4 to 5 years to reach maturity, and the average age of walleyes in Wisconsin is 7 years, we can conservatively assume 2 spawning years or an additional 148,979 keeper walleyes that will never hatch.

## The total impact of the 2023 Tribal Spearing Season.

1. 27,460 walleyes were directly removed from the lakes as they tried to reproduce. 2,746 were females.
2. 28,604 keeper walleyes will never hatch because of the females speared.
3. 148,979 keeper walleyes will never hatch because of the loss of one spawning year.
4. 148,979 keeper walleyes will never hatch because of the loss of a second spawning year.

Added in total, 354,022 keeper walleyes (1 ¾ to 2 pounds) were removed from the Ceded Territory by the 2023 Tribal Spearing Season.



One common theme rings true for walleye anglers north, south, east and west of Wisconsin's Ceded Territory. Despite fishing pressure, for example light on Canadian lakes and heavy on state rivers during the spring runs, walleyes grow bigger and in far greater numbers than in waters where spearing is allowed. Roger Mayer caught and released these fish in 2024 on a central Wisconsin lake.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



Tim Tautges with a stringer of healthy male walleyes caught in late April on the Wolf River near New London.

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**JOHN ELLIS**

## Election Integrity in Wisconsin-Part Five

### *Why removing all ineligible voters from the WEC's list should be everyone's first priority*

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) has **a minimum of 2.9 million ineligible voters** on its statewide registration list. The millions of ineligible voters have made Wisconsin's elections **unverifiable**; as long as they remain, they provide an enormous source for unverifiable illegally cast ballots.

**The 2.9 million ineligible voters are calculated like this:**

The WEC hides more than 7.5 million total voters in a little-known website called **Badger Voters** ([badgervoters.wi.gov](http://badgervoters.wi.gov)). But according to the 2020 United States Census, there are only 4.6 million adults living in Wisconsin. The math to calculate ineligible voters is:

$$7.5 - 4.6 = 2.9 \text{ million ineligible voters.}$$

The 2.9 million are all ineligible because they exceed the number of adults living in Wisconsin. 2.9 million is the

minimum number, because it's not possible for 100% of adults living in Wisconsin to be registered and eligible to vote. The actual number of ineligible voters on the WEC's list is significantly higher than 2.9 million.

**Removing all ineligible voters from the WEC's list will immediately make Wisconsin's elections verifiable, by removing the source of unverifiable illegally cast ballots.**

Wisconsin has numerous election integrity problems, and it's easy to get confused trying to decide which one should be corrected first. But **only** the removal of all ineligible voters from the WEC's list will guarantee a verifiable election on November 5th. This is why removing all of the WEC's ineligible voters should be everyone's first priority.

In practice, this means that the WEC's ineligible voters must become the major topic of discussion on election integrity, *everywhere*. Between family members and friends, radio hosts and their audiences, within

patriot organizations, and between all of us and our state Republican legislators.

By making ineligible voters our primary focus, we will be able to bring maximum public pressure for the removal of those voters on the Republicans responsible for allowing them to be on the WEC's list in the first place.

**Those Republicans include Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (608-237-9163), Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (608-266-2056), Chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, Brian Schimming (608-257-4765), and all of the rank-and-file Republicans who have remained silent on this issue.**

Please make removing all ineligible voters from the WEC's list your first priority, teach others why they should do the same, and share this article with everyone you can.



**JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER**

## Who Are the Real Extremists?


From now until the election, we can expect the Democratic attack machine, aided by the dishonest media, to try to convince the American people that those who will vote to return Donald Trump to the Presidency are a cult of extremists who have been mesmerized by the Devil incarnate. They warn that democracy itself is on the line. Democracy is, in fact, on the line and extremism is a matter of perspective.

- Extremism is allowing more than 7 million illegal migrants to cross our southern border, infiltrating and disrupting cities and towns across the country.
- Extremism is denouncing serious attention to the verifiability and integrity of our elections as voter suppression.
- Extremism is pushing the lie that people can choose their gender, change their gender, or choose to be no gender at all.
- Extremism is censoring the right of free speech and making the government the arbiter of misinformation.

- Extremism is allowing Iran-backed terrorists to attack our military personnel more than 150 times without a meaningful response.
- Extremism is burdening citizens with excessive cost and regulation in homage to the greatest, unprovable theory ever put forth: that humans can control the course of climate change.
- Extremism is allowing our beautiful cities all across the nation to become havens of crime, homelessness, and decay.
- Extremism is sinking billions of dollars into our schools but failing to educate the significant majority of children in the fundamentals they need to succeed.
- Extremism is government mandates trampling on our individual liberty.
- Extremism is burdening hardworking American taxpayers with debt that belongs to students.
- Extremism is seeking to divide us based on meaningless differences while ignoring our greatest unifying bond –

We are Americans.

- Extremism is weaponizing the government to destroy political opponents.
- Extremism is a thirst for power so great that a demented and feeble old man would not be protected from the humiliation of running for President long after being fit to serve.

Make America Great Again (MAGA for short) is an ideal rallying cry for the many millions of Americans who eagerly await the day they will return Donald Trump to the Oval Office to begin the work of reclaiming our freedom, reestablishing our position of strength in the world, exposing, and disrupting, the corruption in Washington DC, and making the long trek back to a country that values truth and personal responsibility. We are not a cult. We are freedom loving Americans. We are not extremists but we do intend to defeat those who are. 

Source: The Beglinger Blast, February 18, 2024  
Beglinger for Wisconsin, [contact@beglingerforwisconsin.com](mailto:contact@beglingerforwisconsin.com)

**JOHN ELLIS, FROM PAGE 29**

The damage done to Wisconsin's Ceded Territory walleyes by one spearing season is easily proven using math and biology. As long as DNR and Chippewa Tribal Leaders ignore this, and continue abusing the resource, walleyes there will continue to be decimated.

\*Walleye Tactics, Tips and Tales. Mark Strand. North American Fishing Club.

\*\*According to the DNR, only 21,120 of the 27,460 walleyes speared were examined for sex. Of those, 12.4% were females. OWO conservatively used 10% for our calculations. 🐟



*John Kubiak heads to Canada at least once annually where the walleye fishing is "100 times better" than found on his home waters of the Manitowish chain in northern Wisconsin, and he finds fish like this.*

**FERRYVILLE, FROM PAGE 28**

about Ferryville Cheese, Swing Inn or The Wooden Nickel to take care of food and beverages?

Rummage Along the River 70 Mile Garage Sale is a huge event that attracts travelers from far and wide ([www.rummagealongtheriver.com](http://www.rummagealongtheriver.com)). The route spans Highway 35, "The All-American Great River Road," from Stoddard to Lynxville, including Seneca and Mt. Sterling on ridge-road Highway 27. Dates: May 17-18, 8 am - 4 pm each day. This is a popular event, so book your reservations now and enjoy bargain hunting, great food, and adult beverages.

International Bird Migration Day is May 11 on Sugar Creek Bluff. Starts at 7 am with experts who know birds and bird calls. You're on the Mississippi River Flyway and you'll see rare birds traveling through to northern locations where they will nest, lay eggs and raise their young. Swans and pelicans are returning. Warblers will be plentiful. Bring binoculars.

Farmers Market starts in Ferryville every Saturday, May 18 - Oct. 28 at Sugar Creek Park, Highway 35. Plan on a great time and make memories in "Ferryville - A Place for all Seasons." 🐟

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