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SPOTLIGHT | FORT ATKINSON



A Whole Lot of Everything

Nestled in the heart of Jefferson County, between the bustling cities of Madison and Milwaukee, Fort Atkinson invites travelers with its charm and diverse array of attractions. Known as a quintessential getaway for outdoor enthusiasts and culture seekers alike, this town boasts a rich tapestry of natural beauty, historical landmarks, and vibrant community events.

Throughout the year, Fort Atkinson comes alive with vibrant community events that showcase its spirited atmosphere. The annual Fourth of July Glow Run 5k, hosted by FortHealthCare and the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce, illuminates the streets with radiant attire, culminating in a festive glow party. In August, the Rhapsody Live Music Festival and Lemonade Day extravaganza bring together locals and visitors alike for a day filled with music, entrepreneurship, and community spirit.

Lemonade Day not only provides young entrepreneurs with a platform to showcase their talents, but also serves as an educational opportunity. Meanwhile, the Rhapsody Live Free Music Festival offers a diverse lineup of local artists, ensuring entertainment for all ages.

For those craving adventure, Fort Atkinson offers a myriad of options to commune with

the great outdoors. Rock River and Bark River present ample opportunities for kayaking, boating, and leisurely riverside exploration. Meanwhile, the Glacial River Bike Path goes right through the heart of the city, inviting cyclists and pedestrians to soak in the scenic beauty. Lake Koshkonong, the state's eighth largest lake, attracts visitors southwest of Fort Atkinson. Nearby parks like Dorothy Carnes Park and Bark River Nature Park offer serene escapes for outdoor enthusiasts.

For those with a passion for literature, Fort Atkinson proudly claims Lorine Niedecker, a renowned poet, as its own. The town also boasts the iconic Fireside Dinner Theatre, which has entertained audiences for nearly six decades with its captivating performances and delicious meals. Visitors can further explore the town's history and culture at the Hoard Historical Museum or enjoy a stroll along the scenic riverwalk, lined with unique shops and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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DENNY MURAWSKA

Nutty Faces

The true nature of things

Numbers and patterns go hand in hand in the realm of nature. Slice apples and many other fruits the right way, and you will see a clear star pattern. Count petals, and you may find they come in multiples of three, four, and five. In fact, half of the flowering plants on Earth evolved to have flower parts in threes or multiples of three. These are the monocots like iris, lilies and tulips. The other division of flowering plants has flower parts in fours or fives and multiples of those numbers. Apple blossoms and daisies are examples.

It is human nature to look for patterns in our world and try to make sense of them. We ascribe shapes to clouds and rock formations that remind us of familiar objects. The spirals of snail shells and the pattern at the base of pine cones are products of Fibonacci numbers, which can only be divided by one and themselves. Follow these further, and enter the strange world of fractals, and even the God equation. It is all numbers and patterns.

The patterns I show here are from black walnut shells that have been sawed into slices. If you see faces, congratulations, you are human. Turn them one way and you have a broad smile. Spin, and you have a cat? If you have ever collected these common Wisconsin nuts, you know they can stain. Nutcrackers do not work on them as they are much too hard. However, any nuts you can dig out are very, very tasty. Slicing these nuts into thin sections is challenging. I bought those shown online, and it is worth the effort.

Parents and teachers, you can have fun introducing your kids to these. Adults, enjoy what you have never seen. Set down the “smart” phones for a moment, and revel in the nature of reality. 🍂



STUART WILKE

Forgotten Wisconsin

The War Eagle of Company C

Wisconsin's most famous Civil War figure was not a soldier. He was an American Bald Eagle named “Old Abe.” He was a symbol of the United States and like his namesake, President Abraham Lincoln, fought for the preservation of the Union.

Old Abe's service began when he was captured near the south fork of the Flambeau River, now a part of the Chequamegon National Forest, in the spring of 1861 by Chief Sky of the Flambeau Band of Ojibwe Indians. Chief Sky spent hours cutting down a tree in order to capture a young eaglet in its nest. He kept the eagle for several months before bringing it with him by canoe with furs and other items to sell in Jim Falls. There, he traded Old Abe to Daniel McCann for a bushel of corn.

McCann's eagle soon grew to become a large, voracious eater that was expensive to feed. Not long after purchasing the eagle, McCann brought him to Eau Claire where volunteers were being recruited to serve in the Eau Claire Badgers in the war against the secessionists. McCann offered the eagle to Seth Pierce, one of the Badger company's founders, for \$2.50. Pierce accepted and the bird was in the army now.

Pierce named the eagle “Old Abe,” after President Abraham Lincoln. Old Abe was made the company's mascot, a decorative 10-foot perch in the shape of a shield was constructed for him and he was assigned a caretaker. Company C trained for several weeks in Madison, where Abe became a local celebrity and Company C became part of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment assigned to the Army of the Mississippi.

The Eighth Wisconsin and Abe first saw combat in October at the Battle of Fredricktown. Both served credibly. His caretaker bore him in battle and Old Abe would scream and flap his wings in encouragement as the Eighth Wisconsin fought. Abe would see action in 36 more battles,



Old Abe of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He was the most famous mascot of the Civil War.

including Corinth and Vicksburg. During his service, the eagle was recognized by the likes of General Grant and General Sherman, who would tip their hats to the bird when they encountered him. Old Abe would scream and flap his wings in response.

Old Abe is perhaps most famous for his service during the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi, in 1862. According to eagle bearer David McLain, “May 9 we had a hard battle at Farmington (near Corinth), Mississippi where our eagle showed his grit by spreading his wings and screaming through the smoke and roar of battle.” So inspirational was Old Abe to Wisconsin troops, that Confederate officers directed their men to shoot and kill him on sight.

In the aftermath of the siege, Old Abe enjoyed several months of relative freedom, entertaining and annoying his Eighth Wisconsin comrades. Having free rein of the

camp, Abe occupied his time chasing large insects, stealing food, attacking laundry, playing catch with minie balls, and getting drunk from unattended liquor.

After completing his three-year enlistment, Old Abe returned to Wisconsin where he was designated a “War Relic” by the state and provided with a two bedroom “apartment” at the Capitol, complete with bathtub and caretaker.

During his post-war career, Old Abe made many appearances at charitable events and Grand Army of the Republic reunions. He was never an especially sociable bird (he actually killed another eagle roommate), but he loved his Eighth Wisconsin comrades. He is said to have recognized them at reunions with displays of affection.

Old Abe passed in 1881 and monuments to his courage can be found throughout Wisconsin. 🍂

Contact Stuart at submissions@wisconsinoutdoors.com.

On Wisconsin
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With the Dick Ellis Experts

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EXPLORE WISCONSIN

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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 STREET CAR TUESDAY FUN RACING OUTLINE	12 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 CLASSES	26 IMPORT WARS
27 Memorial Day Fun Racing IMPORT WARS	28 CLOSED on Tuesday	29 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	30 Slicks and Drag Radials ... Fun-Racing	31 Fun Racing & Bikes MSDRS		

June

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing	2 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing
	4 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	5 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	6 Slicks and Drag Radials ... Fun-Racing	7 Fun Racing & Bikes	8 STREET CAR TUESDAY FUN RACING OUTLINE	9 FORD FUN DAY
	11 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	12 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	13 SICK SUMMER & L.D STOP ... Fun-Racing	14 Fun Racing & Bikes MSDRS	15 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing	16 BRACKETS All Classes & Jrs Fun Racing IRONMAN
	18 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	19 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	20 Slicks and Drag Radials ... Fun-Racing	21 Fun Racing & Bikes	22 FUN RACING for EVERYONE	23 IMPORT WARS
	25 Street Car Tuesday Fun-Racing	26 FUN RACING + Ladies Night	27 Slicks and Drag Radials ... Fun-Racing	28 OUT-A-SIGHT DRAGS	29 OUT-A-SIGHT DRAGS	30 CHEVY SUNDAY

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DENNY MURAWSKA

Mountain Bike Dropper Seat Posts

A key to safe and easy riding for the aging outdoor enthusiast

I joined the ranks of mountain bike enthusiasts relatively late in life. It was on a trip with my young son near Clam Lake that we first decided to rent mountain bikes and explore single lane trails. I never realized that with the right gearing one could glide along these pathways with such effortless bliss. Pedaling past a hidden lake with the shadows of big bass cruising made the sport even more enticing for this longtime angler.



It was not long before I purchased some bikes for each of us. Those purple Treks did at times visit real mountain trails in Colorado, but for the most part, they provided needed exercise and fresh air right here in Wisconsin. I had never been instructed in all the fine points of riding. These were bikes. We all knew how to ride them. Right?

Wrong. My age is now well past mandatory retirement. Electric bikes with big, fat, off-road grinders (tires) caught my attention. I have one now, with a big fat engine and a big fat seat for my moderately oversized rear end. I could not wait to get on this beast and tackle all manner of terrain. Until a problem arose. At close to eighty pounds, this was not the aluminum bike I could swing around. I found I could not throw my leg over the seat, even in its lowest position. I should have bought a step-through frame, except I could not fathom boonie bogging on a girlie bike.

Many solutions were forwarded by an internet group for electric bike owners over sixty. Mounting from a curb looked doable, but on the trails, it would have to be a rock or stump. Someone suggested a seat dropper post. This is a lever actuated device that will raise or lower your seat as you ride. No stopping! While investigating this clever gadget, I discovered that seat height adjustment is critical to avoid accidents, particularly when going downhill. We all know legs should be almost fully extended to reach pedals for efficient riding. However, when going up and down hills, your body height changes the center of gravity. Picture your body weight five feet above your seat. Then imagine hitting even a small bump going downhill. Rider goes forward over the handlebars. It is called a header. A lower rider position results in a favorable center of gravity and lessens the chance of a dreaded forward launch.

Seat dropper posts have made off road cycling safe and more pleasant. They can be easily installed on your bike, and are not expensive. I want to get in all the outdoor excursions on my trail devouring machine as I can before a winch is needed for me to mount my pony. This innovation gets it done.

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SPOTLIGHT | RACINE COUNTY

A Place to Play

Summertime in Racine County is pretty great but summertime in the OUTDOORS in Racine County is extraordinary. Every community offers an adventure. The hardest part is choosing which to experience every day!

The City of Racine lines the shore of Lake Michigan and provides everything you need for a fun summer day. Check out North Beach and its 50 acres of nearly-white sand. Stop with the kids at Kids Cove, an interactive playground located at one end of North Beach. Or walk the Lake Michigan Pathway in the opposite direction and end up at the Racine Zoo. The Chartroom restaurant is newly renovated, located right on the water, and features amazing food. If you have a little time to plan ahead, reach out to First In Fishing Charters and plan a day catching salmon on Lake Michigan. For all those who love to fish and haven't tried it in Racine yet, you are missing out!



Racine County has miles of biking and walking trails. The Pike River Pathway in Mount Pleasant is perfectly paved for bikers (and walkers) who want to get out and experience a trail bursting with nature. You can hop off the trail and check out the brand new Campus Park. The park includes pickleball courts, a big playground, a splash pad and a huge band shell. Keep an eye out for the brand new Mount Pleasant Music Series



Summertime outdoors in Racine County is filled with fun and adventure.

coming to Campus Park this summer on select Tuesday nights.

Our Western communities offer more time on the water. The Fox River in Waterford is the perfect drop-in spot for you and your kayak. With several launches as you head south, you can make the trip as long or short as you'd like. But the views are stunning no matter where you start and stop. Burlington is not only home to the Brown's Lake Aquaducks water ski teams (shows are every Thursday from Memorial Day through Labor Day), but you can also find some incredible fishing on the

banks of the White River. Bring your boat to one of Burlington's lakes and I promise it will be a day well-spent.

And don't forget that any outdoor activity is better with a Kringle - Racine is the home of the Wisconsin State Pastry!

Come for a day, an evening or a weekend. No matter what time you have, we have time for YOU. Welcome to Racine County!

For more information, stop by the Visit Racine County Visitor Center (14015 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant) or visit www.visitracinecounty.com.

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CAPTAIN LEE HAASCH

Spring Into Algoma Lake Michigan's king salmon and trout capital

We may never see another winter like 2024. Record highs and so little snow that one would think we were in Alabama rather than Wisconsin. All this means that King Salmon action out of Algoma will most likely be very early this year. Expect to see reports of big kings showing up early to mid-May with tail-dancing steelhead hanging in the mix along with some trophy Lake Trout filling out the coolers. May and June are known to be the drag-screaming months of exciting salmon and trout action and this year, with a record-setting mild winter, expect lots of bait and bigger kings for the season.

Early spring weather will also bring spring flowers, lots of birds for the bird watchers and an abundance of outdoor activities for hiking, horseback riding and bicycling enthusiasts. The Ahnapee Trail runs thru Algoma and is part of the Ice Age Trail System. Meticulously groomed, this trail runs 20 miles north to Sturgeon Bay and connects west and south all parts of Kewaunee County. This popular, well used trail system features spectacular countryside views.

Early spring weather will make even better what has already started to be a fantastic open water start on the Ahnapee River. This river is a favorite for trout and pike fishermen and if this spring is any indication, the river appears full of hard fighting and tasty trout, pike and bass. And soon kayakers will be paddling the pristine 10 miles winding through the countryside to Forestville



Springtime laketrout caught in the shallows on light tackle offer anglers a trophy opportunity like this 22-pound beauty Capt. Trevor holds before a quick release.

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and back with some picnic rest stops along the way.

Springtime in Algoma is special and this lakeshore community has a little of everything to offer the outdoor enthusiasts. We are looking forward to a wide open 2024 and our summer line up of fishing tournaments, festivals, car shows and musical events are booked. We invite you to visit us. This quaint little lakeside community has it all, especially when it comes to fishing!

Experience the great fishing opportunities that Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma. For charter information and fishing reports, visit www.FishAlgoma.com. A list of events can be found on the Algoma Chamber of Commerce website at www.Algoma.org.

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

Capt. Lee Haasch is a charter captain out of Algoma. He has over 50 years of Great Lakes fishing experience and has been instructing anglers for over 35 years with educational seminars and articles in outdoor publications.

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

Springtime is Primetime Catching largemouth bass in the shallows

Early summer is the most productive time to catch a trophy largemouth bass when they are spawning in shallow water. My favorite presentation is a stick worm, which is very easy to use. For a good chance at success, try a four- or five-inch length worm. The least amount of action will allow the bait to perform better.

Largemouth will spawn in May or early June when the water temperatures reach 65 to 68 degrees in shallow waters on hard sandy bottoms. These locations can be in shallow bays or in channels in the lake. Females will lay eggs in a saucer shaped nest constructed by the male. Usually, the nests are in one to five feet of water. The bass then guard the nest from predators. During this period, the stick worm will entice a lot of active largemouth bass.

The equipment one needs to fish this lure is a standard medium heavy or heavy spinning rod with a fast action tip. The fishing pole is teamed with a medium sized spinning reel. I always use a braided fishing line in 15-pound test with an 18-inch fluorocarbon leader when fishing the stick worm. The line has more visibility than a monofilament line. Braided line can float, which allows you to detect subtle bites by the line movement. A braided line provides a great feel that allows you to easily detect when a fish picks up the bait. In addition, you will have a more powerful hook-set since the line does not stretch. A better hook-set means more fish in the boat. Braided line does have one drawback; it's difficult to fish in high wind because bait can't sink naturally down the water column.

There are two basic rigs for the stick worm. The first is the Texas rig where you run the point of a 2/0 offset hook a half inch down the center of the bait. You bring the hook through the bait and hide it back through the plastic. Doing this makes the presentation completely weedless. The second option, and my favorite, is wacky rigging. Basically, run the hook straight through the middle of the stick worm. The hook choice is an octopus hook, size number two. Both methods are fished weightless, meaning no sinker. Doing this is more effective as the lure floats down the water column more naturally and the ends wiggle, enticing the largemouth bass to strike.

Now that we are equipped, the next step is the retrieve. Make long casts toward the spawning areas and let the bait fall for five to 10 seconds; then twitch the bait a couple of times. More than 50 percent of the strikes will come on the initial fall. Work the bait back to the boat by reeling slowly and raising the rod tip three to four inches while jiggling it. As a rule, I will only work the bait about halfway to the boat and then will recast. Though I concentrate on the spawning beds of the bass, there are plenty of pre- and post-spawning fish cruising around so making multiple casts in an area can yield multiple fish.

Early summer is the best time to catch both quality and quantity of largemouth bass. Some days you will catch so many your arm will be sore and your thumb will be raw from the teeth. 🐟

Dave Duwe owns and operates Dave Duwe's guide service featuring the lakes of Southeastern Wisconsin. Dave can be reached at 262-728-8063, call or text.

Quality spawning largemouth.



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MAY 31-JUNE 2
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& Vintage MotoFest

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XPEL Grand Prix
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JUNE 21-23
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June Sprints

JUNE 28-30
Trans Am Speed Tour

JULY 11-14
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Challenge
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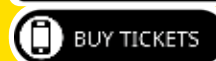
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**PHIL SCHWEIK**

Targeting Post-Spawn Walleyes

Springing forward to a better bite

Every spring thousands of anglers take to Wisconsin rivers in pursuit of spawning walleyes. Walleyes can be very plentiful at this time of the year and easier to catch than other times. I actually like to target post spawn walleyes as much, if not more, than the walleye during the spring spawning run. If you know where to look for them and how to target them, they can be just as easy, if not easier, to target and catch.

Post-spawn walleyes typically tend to move from their spawning grounds and head to calmer and warmer water. A lot of the time they travel towards deeper portions of the river or to some secluded shallow water location outside of any major current.

When it comes to walleyes in general, I have two rules. The fish you typically find in the deeper sections of the river are normally your smaller undersized walleyes. These are walleyes that I believe are staging up in numbers for safety and because they really don't know where to go yet. Your larger, eater-sized walleyes and trophy fish won't be with this group. There is too much competition for food, and they have learned that there are much better, easier locations to find food and suitable cover.

If you are looking for keeper-sized walleyes and maybe a trophy fish after the spring spawn, you need to think outside the box and start thinking about locations that have the warmest water and least amount of current. These locations may be areas that are off the main river channel or in a slough that has little or no current. Depth isn't an issue as these fish are very shallow and in less than three feet of water. Most of the time my boat is in four feet of water or less, and I am casting toward the shoreline.

When it comes to tackling post-spawn walleyes, I tend to use a variety of baits from a jig and plastic to a jig and minnow combination, but on days when they are really active or if I am in search mode and want to cover water, I like throwing crankbaits like Rapalas.

Honestly, if there was a time of the year that I like most for walleye fishing, it might just be this time of the year. Things are warming up; the fish are biting, and I typically have these locations all to myself. 🐟

Phil Schweik | Hooksetters Guide Service | web: www.hooksetters.biz | Phone: 715-693-5843



Tom Rodgers with a nice walleye.

TOM LUBA

Targeting Early Angling Action

A five-minute guide to finding, catching fish

May and June are two of fishing's best months because fish are on the feed. Northern pike spawn first when water temperatures reach around 40 degrees. Next come walleye at 43; perch at 45; smallmouth bass at 55; largemouth bass at 60; and finally crappie and bluegill between 65 and 75 degrees. Simply put, water temperature controls spawning activity.

The size of the water is critical in your timing for success. Small weedy lakes warm fast and are the best early choices. Bass may not have spawned by early May, yet northerns can be feeding heavily.

Walleye also have a tendency to seek emergent weeds after spawning following baitfish into the warmer water. A light jig and minnow in the early weeds is a top tactic. Spoons can also trigger bites when ripped through the weeds.

Tube jigs are always a good way to tackle early smallmouth when they are near hard bottom spawning areas. Largemouth

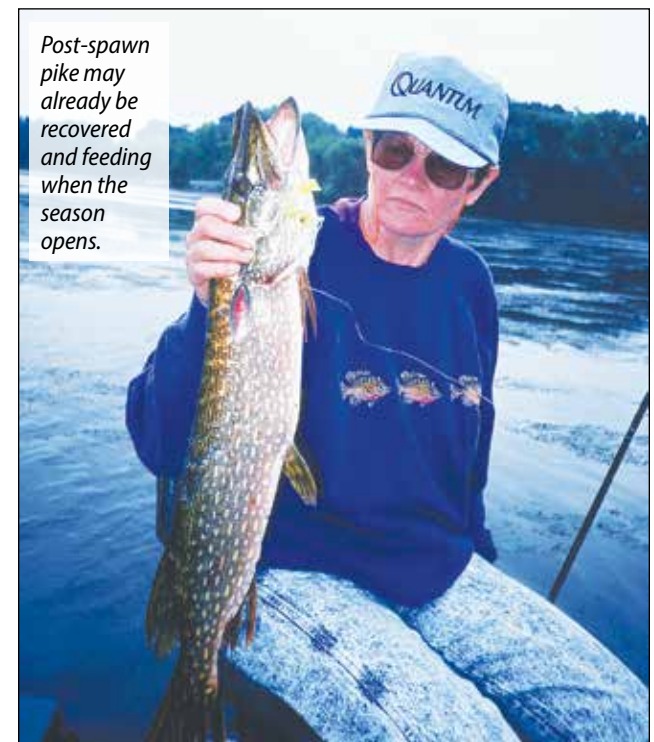
like early weeds, especially near cover like laydowns. With the entire season now catch-and-release for bass, you can fish bass early, but can't keep them until the actual season opener.

Good largemouth approaches include spinnerbaits that flash, like the double-bladed Stanley Vibra shaft, which has thicker wire near the lead head and thinner where the blades spin. It provides more vibration as well as flash to call the fish, so it works two ways.

When the largemouth move shallower, look for trees, rock and logs near spawning sites. That's time for skirted bass jigs, tipped with scented bait, which helps draw the fish, especially in cooler water. Smallmouth will also take a jig, sometimes a little smaller one than the largemouth. I like black/blue for largemouth and green pumpkin for smallies.

If largemouth are in the weeds, rig a regular Senko stick worm Texas-style so it slides through cover. Downsizing

Post-spawn pike may already be recovered and feeding when the season opens.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

Shop Till You Drop... While He Goes Fishing

With a backdrop of daffodils and crocus flowers everywhere, and an unending chorus of birds around you, there is much to do on the Mississippi River Coast of Wisconsin.

Fishing News It is crazy busy at the Ferryville Boat Launch. Perch are biting big time. Bait shops like Ferryville Cheese/Gas Station and Joe Blow's (formerly Cheapo Depot) have their stock of bait and tackle ready to meet your needs, when you need it. That also goes for what you need in the cooler for snacks and sandwiches.

World Spring International Bird Migration Day and Hike - May 11 This annual event brings you to Sugar Creek Bluff with expert birders to help you appreciate the many species of birds that use this magnificent Mississippi River Flyway. Make your reservation now to join this adventure by connecting online at www.mississippivalleyconcerency.org. The Hike starts at 7 am, Sugar Creek Bluff on North Buck Creek Road, Ferryville.

Rummage Along the River 70 Mile Garage Sale - May 17 & 18 Things are going to be bigger and better than ever with easy travel through Stoddard and Genoa, De Soto, Ferryville, Lynxville, Mt. Sterling and Seneca. By the time you read this, the Blackhawk Bridge from Lansing, Iowa, will be open and traffic flowing in a stream to Wisconsin. No road construction, no detours, but a guarantee of lots of great buys and shopping.

Expect super items for sale as usual. Boats, lawn mowers, hunting and fishing gear just begin to touch on the merchandise. More collectables and antiques, too, this year. Toys, kids' play sets, clothing from Mega to Mini sizes will be out for you to buy. Check out the silverware, pots and pans (set up your college kids now for that new apartment). Furniture, Amish quilts, crafts galore...and on and on and on.

You will find sales at the local parks in Stoddard, Genoa, De Soto and Ferryville. Big sale at the Ferryville Community Center and De Soto Community Center. Food in each community and porta potties in more villages and parks.

Advice: Book a place to stay NOW. Do not wait. You will love the Mississippi River Coast of Wisconsin. People come back again AND again. Our "Welcome Mat" is out, and we hope to see you soon. 🍷



LUBA, FROM PAGE 12

to a four-inch Senko is also a good bait for spring smallmouth. Black with Blue Flake for largemouth, white with silver for smallmouth on the Senkos. It's also good to have some smaller versions of your best jigs to offer when a cold front moves through. A 3/16 ounce version of the jig fits the bill.

June prods walleyes to deeper humps and points, where they can be had with jigs and crawlers or a slip bobber set up with leeches. And be sure to try a surface bait for June largemouth, like a Pop-R, in the areas the fish used for spawning. Largemouth love surface lures for a short period in early June, generally referred to as the summer peak. Hit it right and you can have fantastic surface action for a week or two.

Crappie and bluegill spawn around shallow cover and weeds, the same areas largemouth may use. Warm, stable weather is the time for four-pound test with small hooks and weights rigged on a slip bobber set up with worms or crawler pieces. If you are catching small fish, move out deeper; larger fish may hold out from the spawning area until conditions are right.

May and June can provide a lot of choices. Pick your favorites and give them a try. 🍷



Located in the southwest corner of the state, **Mineral Point** is on the **Cheese Country Trail**. It's a stunning **47-mile ATV route** that offers a unique and picturesque way to explore the countryside. Passing through dairy country and farms that supply milk for Wisconsin's renowned cheese, this trail is a favorite among **ATV and UTV riders**, as well as mountain bikes and hikers.

As you ride the trail, you'll see why we're known as the **Dairyland State**. Visit **Hook's Cheese in Mineral Point** for award-winning cheeses and their oh-so-good squeaky curds! Enjoy our local taverns for drinks and burgers, and stay in historic hotels right along the trail for a **weekend getaway**.



Visit www.mineralpoint.com for questions.



A Place for All Seasons

May 17-18

Rummage along the River
8 AM-4 PM.

70 miles of garage sales of antiques and bargains. Along Hwy. 35 in Stoddard, Genoa, Victory, De Soto, Ferryville, Lynxville, Seneca, and Mt. Sterling.



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May 18

Ferryville Farmers Market
Every Saturday thru October 28th
Sugar Creek Park, Hwy 35.

June 12

Chautauqua Summer Series.
6:30 pm. Ferryville Village Hall.

July 10

Chautauqua Summer Series.
6:30 pm. Ferryville Village Hall.

July 27

River Bluff Daze.
Ferryville Village Hall and Sugar Creek Park

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | **HAYWARD LAKES**

Festivals, Fish And Fun!

Hayward Lakes area will celebrate the 74th Musky Festival this year from June 21 - 23. This annual small-town festival draws crowds from near and far to celebrate Hayward's history of World Record musky catches. The Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce does a phenomenal job of putting on this event. There is a full slate of activities for the weekend, including a fishing contest, sidewalk sales, a handmade art and craft show, carnival rides, food, refreshments, live entertainment, and much more. The weekend concludes with a 5K or 10K walk/run event in the morning and the grand parade in the afternoon.

The Musky Festival is a great kickoff to summer and brings the small community of Hayward out to socialize, volunteer, and share this tradition with the younger generation. Each year a logo design is chosen for apparel and buttons. It is always amazing to hear from folks who have a Musky Fest T-shirt collection

and are anxious to get their hands on the current year's design. Festival weekend tends to be a popular time to hold class reunions; each year it is not uncommon to see groups of Hayward High School alumni gathered in the evenings at the street dance, catching up after time apart.

One longstanding tradition of the Musky Festival is the Queen's Scholarship Program. Throughout the past 74 years, the program has grown from a beauty/talent type pageant to focus more on community volunteerism and interviewing skills. My singular "claim to fame" is the year that I was selected to represent the Hayward Area as the 1993 Musky Festival Queen. Not only did this opportunity offer a fun summer filled with parades at neighboring town festivals, but it also provided me with a chance to be an ambassador for our community that I love so much. Since returning three years ago to live in Hayward full-time, I now sit on the Queen



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A throwback to 1993 when author, Mindy Simons, was crowned Musky Festival Queen.

Scholarship Committee and get to have a hand in planning and executing the event that is near and dear to my heart. It is wonderful meeting new representatives who are eager to volunteer and promote the Hayward Area.

If you haven't been to our Musky Festival, I would encourage you to plan a visit to the Hayward Area during June 21 - 23. Catch the world record fun!

By Mindy Simons, Assistant Director, Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau.



onwisconsinoutdoors.com



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CHARLES P. ALBRECHT

Charles P. Albrecht, CIMA®, CRC®
Managing Director – Investments


Maximizing Your Financial Future: Reasons to Review Your Annuities

Annuities, often hailed for their stability and promise of lifelong income, are potentially valuable assets in any retirement plan. However, the notion that annuities are “set-and-forget” investments can lead to missed opportunities and potential pitfalls. Regularly reviewing your annuities is important to ensure they remain aligned with your financial objectives, adapting to changes in market conditions, personal circumstances, and regulatory shifts. Here are some reasons why a periodic review is essential for maximizing the benefits of your annuities:

- 1. Evolving Financial Goals:** Whether you're approaching retirement, planning for a major life event, or adjusting your investment strategy, your annuities must reflect these changes. Regular reviews allow you to reassess your annuities' contribution to your financial objectives and make necessary adjustments to stay on track.
- 2. Market Dynamics:** Annuities come with various investment options, each susceptible to market fluctuations. Regular review enables you to evaluate the performance of your chosen investment options, seize opportunities, and mitigate risks in response to changing market conditions. It ensures that your annuities remain optimized for your long-term financial well-being.
- 3. Personal Circumstances:** Life events, such as marriage, divorce, the birth of children, or the passing of loved ones, can impact your financial situation. Reviewing your annuities allows you to adapt to these changes, ensuring that beneficiary designations, coverage levels, and additional features like long-term care riders align with your current circumstances and needs.
- 4. Fee Analysis:** Annuities often come with an array of fees, including maintenance fees, investment management fees, and surrender charges. These fees can eat into your returns over time. Periodic review helps you assess the fee structure of your annuities and explore cost-effective options that offer comparable benefits, thereby optimizing your overall financial outcome.
- 5. Tax Considerations:** Annuities offer tax-deferred growth, but their tax implications can vary depending on factors such as your tax bracket and withdrawal timing. Reviewing your annuities allows you to evaluate the tax implications and explore strategies for maximizing tax efficiency. This may involve considering tax-free exchanges or adjusting withdrawal strategies to minimize tax liabilities.
- 6. Policy Updates:** Insurance companies periodically update their annuity products to incorporate new features or adapt to regulatory changes. Reviewing your annuities keeps you informed about any policy updates or enhancements that could benefit your financial situation. It also provides an opportunity to explore whether exchanging or upgrading existing annuity contracts makes sense to capitalize on these improvements.

In conclusion, regular review of your annuities is essential for ensuring they remain a valuable component of your retirement plan. By staying proactive and informed, you can adapt your annuities to changes in your financial goals, market conditions, and personal circumstances. Remember to consult with a financial advisor to guide you through the review process and make informed decisions tailored to your individual needs and objectives. With diligent oversight, your annuities can continue to support your financial well-being and provide the security you desire in retirement.

Every investor's situation is unique and you should consider your investment goals, risk tolerance and time horizon before making any investment. Prior to making an investment decision, please consult with your financial advisor about your individual situation. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional.

The foregoing information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that it is accurate or complete, it is not a statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision, and it does not constitute a recommendation. Any opinions are those of Charles P. Albrecht and not necessarily those of Raymond James. 



SPOTLIGHT | KENOSHA



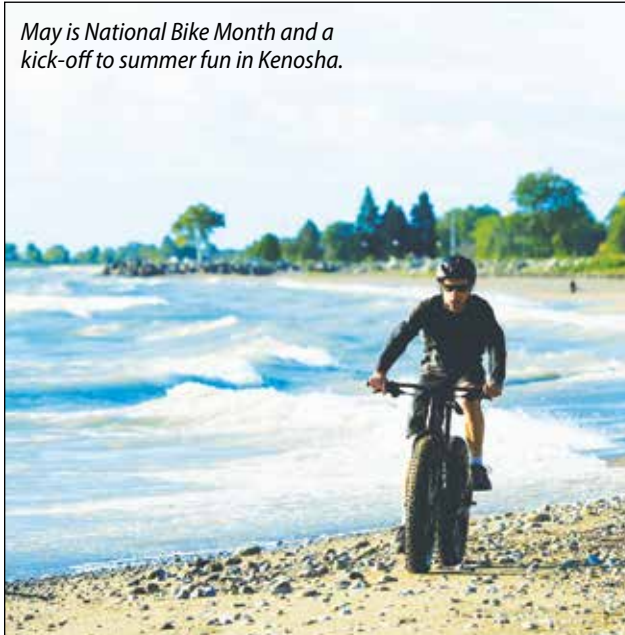
We Are The Place to Celebrate National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, and it's also the kick-off to summer fun in Kenosha. May marks the season when markets move outdoors, flowers are in bloom, and outdoor dining returns. It's a great time to visit Southeastern Wisconsin.

Bring your wheels or head to Total Cyclery to rent a bike while in K-town. Traveling by bicycle is a great way to explore things at your own pace and a little more closely. It is impossible to ignore the natural beauty that awaits cyclists in the area when traveling the more than 150 miles of dedicated bike lanes and signed routes in Kenosha County. The Kenosha County Bike Trail, Pike Bike Trail, and mountain bike trails at Silver Lake Park are just some of the spaces to explore. Fat Tire bikers can also enjoy riding the five beaches along Lake Michigan.

If you're feeling competitive, gather your friends and take a spin around the Washington Park Velodrome. This is the nation's oldest operating track of its kind, opened in 1927. During the summer months, weeknight races are held. Recreational riders can cruise around any time the track is not in use at their own discretion.

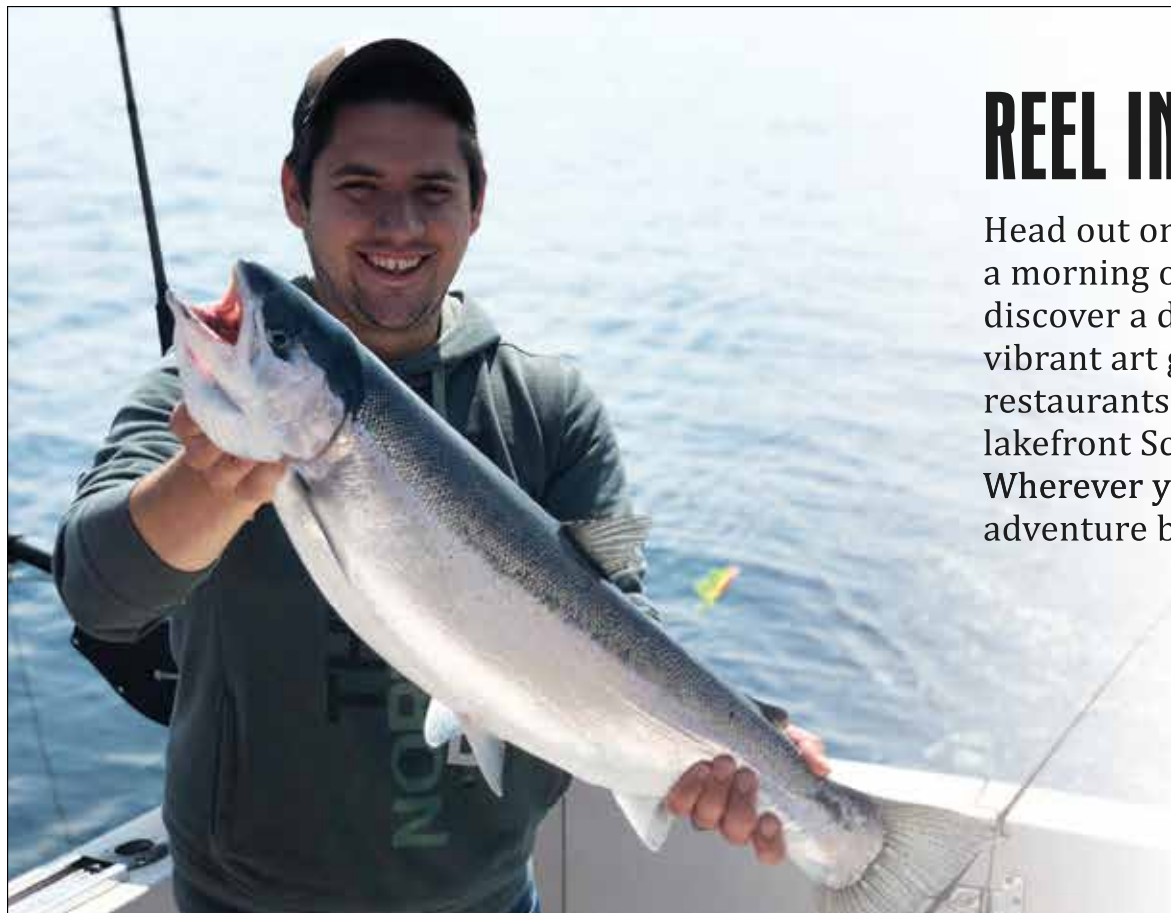
May is National Bike Month and a kick-off to summer fun in Kenosha.



Beyond the trails and the track, you can explore four historic districts, the Sculpture Walk - Harbor Park, five museums, two lighthouses, a charming downtown district with shops, and incredible outdoor dining destinations. You'll find that the Kenosha area is well-equipped with bike racks, a bike service shop with their own mobile unit, and plenty of marked bike lanes. Later in the summer, several spaces offer live outdoor music, and biking to these events is a wonderful way to spend a summer night.

There are more ways to pedal around Kenosha, too! Climb aboard the Lakeshore Pedal Tour – a multi-passenger, open-air, pedal-powered trolley – that serves as a party wagon! The car can accommodate about a dozen riders to visit various beverage establishments in Downtown Kenosha while enjoying fresh air, music, and fun. Or, grab your kids, your dog, or your pals and get on a duck! Yes, a duck! Duck-shaped pedal boats are available for rent at the Kenosha Community Sailing Center to circle the harbor. Boats seat up to four passengers, and dogs are welcome. Life vests are provided. 🐥

Kick your summer into gear when you go to VisitKenosha.com to request your FREE Visitors Guide to start planning your getaway today!



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





SPOTLIGHT | CITY OF MARINETTE



The Small Town Brimming With Big Adventures

Gather your friends, family, or tribe for a kayaking expedition that will make lasting memories. Launch into an unforgettable journey along the serene waters of the Menominee River in Marinette, where every paddle stroke unveils a new adventure waiting to be discovered.

Begin your expedition at the Menekaunee Kayak launch site, a welcoming starting point endorsed for accessibility by the ADA. Regardless of your skill level, this launch site sets the perfect stage for your aquatic escapade. As you glide into the river, be greeted by the majestic sight of the Menominee Indian Nation's monument, a towering 15-foot wooden bear marking the historic birthplace of the Menominee Nation. Set out slightly before sunrise to witness the breathtaking spectacle of the sun painting the bay of Green Bay with hues of gold and orange, a sight that promises to linger forever in your memory.



SHARING MEMORIES & UNFORGETTABLE

ADVENTURES

KAYAKING IN MARINETTE

Continue your adventure towards the iconic Menominee Lighthouse, a venerable structure steeped in 147 years of maritime history. From the water, its weathered facade whispers tales of a bygone era, where logging and trapping communities thrived along these shores. Viewing this landmark from the perspective of the bay of Green Bay offers a truly unparalleled experience, one that will leave an indelible mark on your soul.

Journey further upstream, where the waters of the Menominee River guide you alongside the imposing presence of US Naval Combat ships, a testament to Marinette's legacy as a hub for shipbuilding excellence. Marvel at the craftsmanship of the Littoral Combat ships crafted by Fincatieri Marinette Marine, renowned worldwide for their unparalleled quality and precision.

Arrive at historic Stephenson Island, a

veritable treasure trove of local lore and rich heritage. Immerse yourself in Marinette's storied past as you explore the Historical Logging Museum, which chronicles the lives of trailblazers like Queen Marinette, Isaac Stephenson, and Robert Chaviler. Admire Civil War monuments and intricate metal art crafted by skilled local artisans, each piece a testament to Marinette's vibrant cultural tapestry. You will also see an original homestead cabin from the Evancheck family, one of Marinette's earliest settlers.

Conclude your expedition by unwinding at one of Marinette's charming local breweries, spirit houses, or wineries, where you can recount your remarkable journey over a glass of fine wine, a pint of craft beer, or unique mixed drink. In Marinette, a small-town brimming with big adventures, every moment is an opportunity to create cherished memories that will last a lifetime. 🍷

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SPOTLIGHT | ELKHORN



Saturdays on The Square Kicks Off Your Fun

Warm weather means that gardens are blooming and the farmers markets are coming! Be sure to visit Downtown Elkhorn for the Saturday on the Square fresh market that kicks off on May 25 and runs through August 31. Saturdays on the Square is open from 9 am-1 pm where you can enjoy a variety of vendors from local artisans to area farmers with their fresh picked produce and hand cut flowers. Local honey, baked goods and beautiful handmade pottery can all be found in Elkhorn at Saturdays on the Square.

Locals and day trippers alike love to celebrate the spring and summer season at the Apple Barn Orchard and Winery. Visit the 40-acre farm and stroll the orchard, pick through the strawberry patch and don't forget to swing through the wine room for daily tastings. The gift shop is stocked with seasonal gifts, quaint merch and tasty cheeses.

Stop by the neighbors, Duesterbeck's Brewing Company (located one mile down the road) and check out the newly built barn brewery where you can enjoy

live music and a variety of freshly brewed flights and taps.

Elkhorn is waiting for you to explore its outdoor amenities this spring and summer. Fishing, hiking, mountain biking and a quick round of nine all await you right here in Elkhorn. Check out Alpine Valley Resort and Evergreen Golf Club for all your golfing needs.

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. Come see for yourself at #53121FORFUN

HEAD TO TOWN FOR...

- Spring Food Truck Festival - May 18
- Antique Flea Markets - May 19, June 30, August 11 & Sept 29
- Elkhorn Ribfest July 10 - 14
- Elkhorn Truck & Shuck - July 27

For the full calendar of events go to visitelkhorn.com



Visit



Go to www.merrillchamber.org to plan your next visit!

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | SPARTA



Your New Favorite Destination

Come visit scenic Sparta, nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of western Wisconsin. Once known for the healing powers of the local artesian springs, Sparta is now recognized as the “Bicycling Capital of America.” Sparta has the first rail bed to be converted to bike trails. It is a Rails to Trails Paradise of 101 miles! The tunnels, the landscape, the wildlife, and the beautiful scenery are worth coming for all year long.

The Elroy-Sparta State Trail is open for all types of recreation. Walking, skiing, fat tire bike riding, biking, of course, and even snowmobiling are some of the various activities that the trail sees.

Throw your line into Perch Lake for a little fishing or find a local fish fry at some of our favorite places. Go on your first trout fishing excursion and try to catch a tagged trout between Memorial Day and Labor Day for your chance to win a prize.

As the temperatures warm and nature comes back to us, the bluffs light up with every shade of green. The days are longer and the sun gets warmer. Ride your motorcycle along the winding roads through the driftless hills and valleys all while taking in the sights and sounds of Western Wisconsin. If you are staying in town, jump in your UTV and cruise the streets of Sparta hitting all of our local favorite spots. Hit the many ATV/UTV trails that can be found in and around Sparta and throughout Monroe County.

Visit the Deke Slayton Memorial Space and Bicycle Museum while in town or head over to Memorial Park to find the municipal swimming pool, ball diamonds, tennis courts, hockey arena, playgrounds, and sheltered picnic areas. Fishing, canoeing, and kayaking on Beaver

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47



Come on over and Sample Sparta, Wisconsin, the Bicycling Capital of America. Ride the historic Elroy-Sparta Trail, milk a cow during Butterfest, or fish along the La Crosse River with over 22 miles of Class II Trout Streams. Grab a chair and relax during our Wednesday night Concerts in the Park or take a motorcycle ride throughout our Driftless Region. C'mon—we dare you.

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | SHEBOYGAN FALLS



Preserving Our Heritage

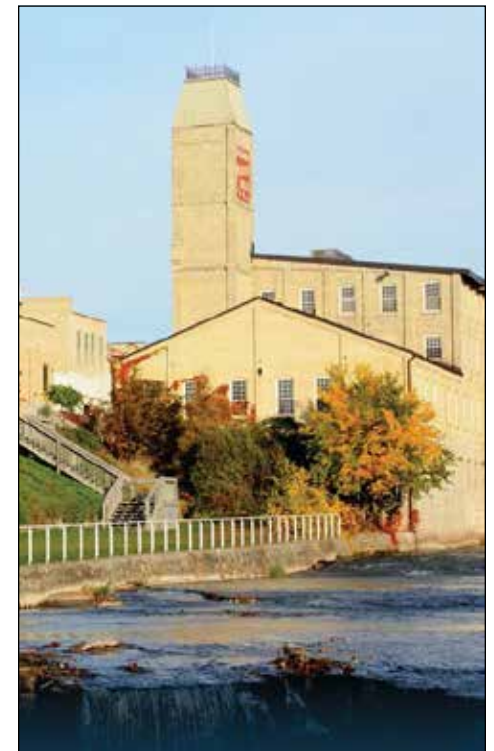
Nestled by the scenic falls of the Sheboygan River, Sheboygan Falls boasts two historical districts, both recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. Celebrating 35 years as a pioneering Wisconsin Main Street community, our town is deeply committed to preserving our heritage. More than 50 structures have been meticulously restored to their original architectural grandeur. Embark on a self-guided tour through these historic districts to learn more about the buildings and the people. In 1995, Sheboygan Falls proudly clinched The Great American Main Street Award, an esteemed accolade bestowed upon just five communities annually nationwide.

Sheboygan Falls thrives with flourishing businesses and abundant employment prospects. Our educational institutions are steadfast in fostering student success, and newcomers will discover an array of modern or vintage homes that suit their preferences.

Whether your enjoyment leans towards serene riverside strolls or showcasing your classic car, we've got you covered. Explore Sheboygan Falls and immerse yourself in our complimentary summer concert series every second and fourth Wednesday evening in June, July and August. Indulge in delectable fare from food trucks and local eateries while relishing live music—everything you need for a splendid summer evening.

Join us for the renowned Ducktona 500 Family Festival Antique Car and Boat Show on the first Sunday in July—an event that promises entertainment for all ages. Revel in the abundance of fun, food, classic cars, and live musical performances. Later, engage in the excitement as your chosen duck races down the Sheboygan River. Ensure you secure your tickets early, as our duck sales are swift.

In mid-October, we stand in solidarity with the fight against breast or any cancer. Our annual Ladies Nite Out is an evening



dedicated to pampering, delectable cuisine, beverages, and delightful treats for all the ladies, accompanied by engaging raffles. All proceeds contribute to the Sheboygan County Cancer Care Fund, with donations exceeding \$13,800 to date. Don't miss out—preorder your tote bag filled with goodies before they're gone.

Return on the first Saturday in December for our Main Street Memories Christmas celebration and parade. Enjoy plentiful sales for your holiday shopping needs and numerous free activities for children. Delight in a meal from one of our exceptional restaurants and stay for the holiday parade culminating in the Community Christmas Tree lighting.

With its restored historic charm, diverse dining experiences, and specialized shops, Sheboygan Falls beckons as your next Wisconsin road trip destination!

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Step back in time and explore the rich history of Sheboygan Falls with our captivating walking tour. Immerse yourself in the stories that have shaped this charming city, all while strolling through its picturesque streets and taking in the stunning architecture of bygone eras.

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We've been wanting to
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Chamber-Main Street 2024 Events

Ducktona™ Family Festival & Car Show
July 7

Summer Concert Series
June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24, August 14 & 28

Ladies Nite Out
October 17

Main Street Memories
December 7

**SHOP
EAT
ENJOY
STAY**



SheboyganFalls.org • 920-467-6206 • chambermst@sheboyganfalls.org



Cambria Friesland Events

June 18-August 20 (Tuesday evenings) Friesland Community Band Concerts and Pie Social 7:30-9:00 pm - Friesland Village Square

June 19 & July 17 Cambria Community Nights - Tarrant Park, Cambria

June 22 Friesland Firemen's Chicken BBQ - Friesland Fire Station

Month of July The Dump Bar & Grill 50th celebration, Cambria

July 4th Friesland 4th of July Celebration, Friesland Village Square



FOR MORE INFORMATION & DETAILS VISIT
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FORT ATKINSON, *FROM PAGE 3*
eateries.

With its blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and vibrant community spirit, Fort Atkinson stands as a beacon of Wisconsin

hospitality - a destination where memories are made with experiences cherished for a lifetime. Fort Atkinson offers an unforgettable retreat for travelers seeking to discover the best of Wisconsin's heartland. 🍷



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | CAMBRIA - FRIESLAND AREA



Midwest Wisconsin, American Traditions

Nestled in the heart of Columbia County, the neighboring communities of Cambria and Friesland beckon with unassuming charm. These quiet corners of Wisconsin are home to lush woodlands, fertile farmland, and a sense of community that transcends

Every Tuesday evening throughout the summer, Friesland hosts a cherished tradition - a century-old band concert. As the sun is dipping below the horizon, the air is alive with melodies of old-fashioned and patriotic tunes played by the Friesland Community Band. Local groups offer homemade pies ready to serve with a delicious scoop of ice cream. Neighbors and outsiders gather around the Village Square to carry on this American tradition.

On the Fourth of July, the Friesland sky ignites with a spectacular fireworks display. Patriotic songs resonate as families gather to join in an evening of wholesome fun. Food, games, and music make it a full evening of celebration.

As summer wanes, Cambria steps into

the spotlight with special evenings in June, July, and August with community activities in Tarrant Park, featuring live music and special events for the children. Park Days is held on the first weekend in August with a kickoff of the softball tournament. The parade winds down the local streets on Saturday morning. In the park, the aroma of a chicken BBQ mingles with the laughter of children darting between the games. The sound of live music is heard throughout the park while softball games continue throughout the weekend.

Be sure and stop by The Dump Bar & Grill, voted the home of one of the best burgers in the state. Mojoz Saloon offers great cuisine, and a great weekend breakfast can be found at Mad Makz. All of these fine establishments are located in downtown Cambria.

We welcome you to our quiet communities to attend our festivals, taste our pies, and dance to our live music. Take a moment to enjoy our scenic roads, parks, and woodlands. Welcome to Midwest Wisconsin! 🍷





Where Art And Nature Meet

Spring Green is tucked away in Southwestern Wisconsin along the Wisconsin River. We are known as the gateway to the Driftless Area and our community is also known as the River Valley. The River Valley communities are in the heart of the Driftless Area. This region's peculiar terrain is due to its having escaped glaciation in the last glacier period, as well as the one before that. The gorgeous, sculptured landscape is seen nowhere else in the Upper Midwest and was sculpted at least a half million years earlier than anything else around it.

The views are breathtaking with rolling hills and high bluffs that overlook the Wisconsin River Valley. It will sure delight all that choose to stop and take in the view.

The River Valley is home to a dynamic and spirited art community. We are fortunate to be the host to many artists' events throughout the year including the Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair, held the last weekend in June and the Fall Art Tour in October. Each event draws visitors from all over the country.

Our River Valley community is extremely proud to be the home to many attractions including three world-renowned attractions: House on the Rock, American Players Theatre and the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Taliesin. Each attraction brings thousands of visitors to our area, and we hope that those visitors find their way into our many unique shops, galleries, cheese factories, restaurants, locally owned motels, and campgrounds along with many bed and breakfasts. The River Valley is a perfect place for a day trip or a weekend adventure. We have something for everyone!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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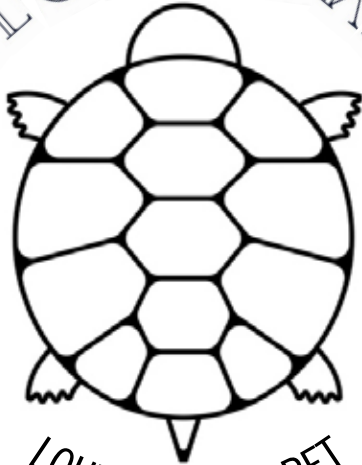
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DAVE FIDLIN

Governor Nelson State Park

A bounty of beautiful attractions

Dane County's Governor Nelson State Park has been noted for a bounty of beautiful attractions. An across-the-lake glimpse of the state capitol is one of the most cited features, but there are a number of other seemingly unobtrusive attractions that are also worthy of appreciation.

Governor Nelson is located on the outskirts of Waunakee in suburban Madison, technically in the Town of Westport. The 422-acre park site offers visitors a range of recreational activities within its waterways, wooded enclaves and vast prairie restoration areas.

The park has been noted over the years for its commitment to natural preservation, which is a fitting nod to Gaylord Nelson, the longtime Wisconsin politician the venue honors.

Nelson held disparate political offices over a 32-year period of time, including roles as a Wisconsin Senator and a U.S. Senator in Washington, D.C. He also assumed the role of the state's 35th governor during a 4-year stint, from 1959 to 1963.

In his later years in public office, as U.S. Senator, Nelson played a pivotal role in creating Earth Day, which was first recognized in 1970 and has been commonly recognized across the U.S. each April in the decades since the inaugural event.

Another anecdotal historical tidbit can be traced to a portion of the park site, albeit in an era preceding Governor Nelson's founding. Wisconsin-born Orson Welles — an early innovator of film, radio and theater — was known to attend a summer boys' camp in his youth on a portion of the existing grounds.

Ironically, Governor Nelson is one of only a few within the official Wisconsin State Parks system not to offer camping accommodations. But the site has been a popular spot since its establishment in 1975 for visitors opting to stroll the landscape.

The north shore of Lake Mendota rests alongside the park, which makes the infamous view of the state capitol in Downtown Madison possible on a clear day. Thanks to the richly resourced waterway, visitors can enjoy swimming, boating and fishing at the park.

Governor Nelson also has been deemed a pet friendly park — with a specially designated swimming area for four-footed companions in place to boot.

Perhaps one of the more unsung attributes of Governor Nelson State Park are the features situated away from the Lake Mendota shore. Over the years, preservationists have worked to restore oak woodlands, mesic and wet prairies and savanna, which are situated among a total of 8.4 miles of trails. Wildflower enthusiasts will marvel at the vast array of varieties available.

Picnicking is a great way to pause and enjoy the park. Designated areas, with a dedicated shelter, are a part of the park landscape. Grills are available, though park staffers do not allow open fires at any time, regardless of time of year or weather conditions.

Governor Nelson State Park is open year-round, from 6 am to 11 pm daily. For up-to-date announcements on the site, visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' website. 📍



Governor Nelson State Park, near Waunakee, offers a number of amenities, including a vast restored prairie that offers serene views in the warmer months as wild flowers and other plants are in full bloom.

SPRING GREEN, FROM PAGE 23

What really makes the River Valley so special is the communities. Arena, Lone Rock, Plain and Spring Green are each, in themselves, diverse and distinctive. Each has their own identity but when you talk about the River Valley as a whole, the communities unite and become one. They stand together proudly and are dedicated to helping neighbors and welcoming visitors.

Whether you are visiting or moving to our River Valley community, we hope you feel welcome and find your experiences extraordinary and memorable. 📍

For more information, please check out our website at www.springgreen.com or give us a call at 608-588-2054. We look forward to hosting your next adventure!

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SPOTLIGHT | MAUSTON



Naturally Connected

Nestled halfway between Minneapolis and Chicago on I-90/94 at Exit 69, Mauston invites visitors to be “Naturally Connected.” You will be pleasantly surprised by the many ways to enjoy the ever-changing spring season. You will find a wide array of overnight accommodations, shops, and ample outdoor recreation. You won’t want to miss the locally roasted coffee, great microbrewery, winery, or art co-op.

The Mauston area in Juneau County offers county parks, state parks, and a National Wildlife Refuge. Nearly all of Juneau County’s lettered highways and Mauston city streets are open to UTVs. Find roads and trails through pine forests, past stunning bluffs, and picturesque farmland. An insider tip: the Necedah Wildlife Refuge offers a free natural museum that is great for rainy days.

If you are looking to get out on the water, you’re in luck! Lake Decora offers great fishing,

and Castle Rock Lake is a great place to explore and make new friends. The region is also dotted with small waterways, many winding through seemingly untouched countryside.

Just passing through? Be sure to grab a sandwich at our local deli and then head to the spacious fenced dog park to let your pup stretch and play.

Don’t miss Mauston’s Fourth of July celebration with Festival Foods Fireworks scheduled for Friday, July 5. Start your celebration with family fun, kids activities, food, music, and drinks at Veterans Park, and cap it all with an amazing fireworks display.

Whether seeking tranquility, adventure, or community spirit, Mauston invites you to experience the best of the Midwest. Come for the adventure, stay for the charm - discover why the Greater Mauston Area truly is small town living at its finest. 🍷



Whether seeking tranquility, adventure, or community spirit, Mauston invites you to experience the best of the Midwest. Photo Credit: Todd M. Galbrecht, TMG Photography.

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SPOTLIGHT | CEDARBURG



A Must Visit For The Southeast Wisconsin Explorer

Cedarburg is a charming town located 20 miles north of Milwaukee, settled in the 1840s on tranquil Cedar Creek. This small community is a must for anyone exploring southeastern Wisconsin.

Cedarburg is famous for its diverse shopping experience, ranging from clothing boutiques to galleries, confectioneries, and gift shops. The historic downtown district, which is just a 15-minute walk from end to end, is a treasure trove of restored and preserved buildings from the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Cedarburg Visitor Center and History Museum, located across the street from the Hilgen-Schroeder Grist Mill, offers a glimpse of Cedarburg's past. After strolling down Washington Avenue, indulge in delicious food at any of the numerous restaurants, including those at the Cedar Creek Settlement, a restored woolen mill, housing shops, artist studios, and the Cedar Creek Winery.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find plenty of activities during the warmer months. Cedar Creek Park offers trails along the water for walking and biking, a playground for kids, and an open-air stage that hosts Summer Sounds, a free concert series on Friday nights June through August. The Ozaukee Interurban trail, which runs right through downtown Cedarburg across an old railway bridge, provides 30 miles of scenic hiking and biking.

Cedarburg is well known for its many festivals and events, including the Strawberry Festival in June, featuring food, drinks, entertainment, and crafts. Other highlights include a family-friendly beer garden hosted by the Cedarburg Art Museum, the Ozaukee Night Market at the Cedarburg Cultural Center, and the Maxwell Street Days flea market at Firemen's Park. Paint Cedarburg, a plein air painting festival and Wisconsin's largest gathering of artists, takes place in early June.

Whether you are visiting for shopping, history, festivals, or the outdoors, there is something for everyone to experience in Cedarburg. For information on events and attractions, visit our website at Cedarburg.org and follow us on social media at @ExperienceCedarburg.



SPOTLIGHT | OZAUKEE COUNTY



Small in Size, Big On Character, Beauty And The Great Outdoors

Ozaukee County may be small in size, but it's big on character, beauty and outdoor activities. Located just north of Milwaukee, Ozaukee County boasts stunning bluff views of Lake Michigan and ample opportunities to enjoy its unspoiled shoreline, beaches, and quaint vibrant communities. The 30-mile paved Ozaukee Interurban Trail runs the length of the county. Visitors can easily bike from one community to the next, with conveniently located stops along the route.

Waterways also run throughout the county, offering great outlets for boaters and kayakers. Local organization Treasures of Oz offers information on kayak and canoe trips on their website, with maps and photos to assist with navigation, water levels and flow. If you're ready for a deep sea adventure, catch a charter out of historic Port Washington! Half day and full day fishing trips are available, and you can celebrate your haul of salmon or trout with a stroll around this quaint harbor town, shopping and enjoying dinner at a lakeside brewery or restaurant.

Speaking of walkable downtowns, Cedarburg and Grafton are also on the historic registry, and boast popular restaurants, pubs, wineries, breweries, shops, galleries, museums and historical sites. Cedarburg's downtown historic district's main street teems with boutique shops and restaurants, a 1930s movie theater, and two beautifully restored mills that paint a beautiful backdrop for any visit. Grafton's self-guided Paramount Blues walking tour takes visitors past significant spots where some of the country's most influential blues voices once gathered to record their music.

From Mequon and Thiensville on the south to rural Belgium (home of beautiful Harrington Beach State Park) on the north, Ozaukee County offers something for everyone. To plan a visit or to book a stay in one of our many hotels, B&Bs or historic inns, visit ozaukeetourism.com. For an interactive map of the Interurban bike trail, visit interurbantrail.com. Discover the magic of Oz!



Rachael Bilyk on the Interurban



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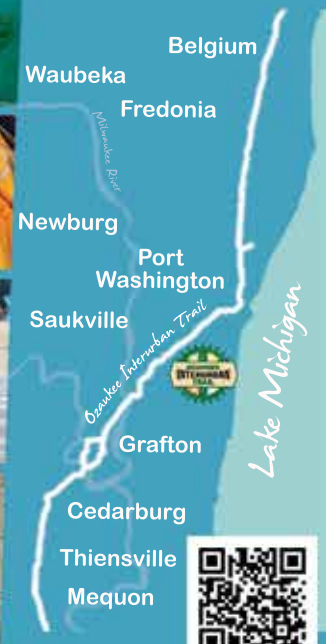
Ozaukee

Smallest County, Biggest Treasures

Discover Cozy Restaurants, Year-Round Outdoor Experiences, Nature Preserves, Family Activities and More Along the Ozaukee Interurban Trail!



Just north of Milwaukee, Ozaukee County is home to some of Wisconsin's most beautiful cities and four-season treasures. Our natural areas and 30-mile paved Interurban Trail offer great outdoor fun, from biking, hiking, walking and birding to snowshoeing and skiing. Our friendly towns are a perfect place to spend the day or a getaway with friends and family!



For more information about events in Ozaukee County, visit ozaukeetourism.com
+ interurbantrail.com + 800-403-9898



SPOTLIGHT | ADAMS COUNTY



Let The Adventure Begin

Explore the heart of Central Wisconsin in Adams County, where every season brings a new adventure. From outdoor thrills to cultural delights, our welcoming community has it all.

Whether you're hiking through vibrant forests in the spring, enjoying water sports on pristine lakes in the summer, marveling at the colorful foliage in the fall, or embracing snowy landscapes in the winter, Adams County promises endless excitement. No matter when you visit, you'll discover a treasure trove of activities to make memories that last a lifetime. Come experience the magic of Adams County, where every season is a reason to celebrate!

Join us for our First Annual Food Truck Festival on Saturday, June 15, kicking off at 9 am at the Adams County Airport (2016A 11 Ave, Friendship). At our newest event, indulge in delicious delights from numerous food trucks, explore craft vendors, and enjoy activities throughout the day. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to savor culinary delights and experience aviation excitement all in one place!

There is something all year round in Adams County. From our golf courses, water sports, and a variety of winter activities, there is something for everyone. Pack your clubs, lace up your hiking boots, or grab a good book – whatever your adventure style, Adams County awaits! Let the beauty of our landscapes and the warmth of our community ignite your spirit for exploration.

Whether you're chasing birdies on the green, trekking through scenic trails, or simply unwinding with a captivating read amidst nature's embrace, your next great adventure starts right here in Adams County. Let's make memories that will last a lifetime! 🍷



Adams County

There is something all year round in Adams County. From our golf courses, water sports, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and so much more there is something for everyone to be able to experience Adams County!

www.visitadamscountywi.com

OCONTO COUNTY

Adventure Awaits

Explore the trails of Oconto County on your UTV! With hundreds of miles of scenic trails, Oconto County is the perfect destination for UTV enthusiasts. Enjoy the beautiful views and fresh air as you ride through the forests and open fields. Come experience the thrill of UTVing in Oconto County!

Order a free visitor guide and map today at www.OcontoCounty.org



Explore Wisconsin
SPOTLIGHT | **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN**

Visiting Made Easy

The Prairie du Chien Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center officially opens for the season on Wednesday, May 1. The center will be open seven days a week to help visitors explore the Prairie du Chien area. Visitors to Prairie du Chien are invited to stop in for all their tourism needs. The newly remodeled Welcome Center has statewide, regional and local tourism information and is located at 211 S. Main Street.

If you are planning a trip to the area and would like to start putting together your itinerary, contact the Prairie du Chien Travel Center at 608-326-2241 and request our 64-page travel guide. For more information, visit our website at prairieduchien.org.

Annual Prairie Villa Rendezvous: June 13-16

Prairie du Chien was one of Wisconsin's main fur trading hubs during the 1840s. Life during that era will be celebrated and recreated during the largest re-enactment rendezvous in the Midwest. The event is free and open to the public. The Prairie Villa Rendezvous will be held along the Mississippi River on St. Feriole Island.

The Prairie du Chien Fire Fighter Association will be serving Buffalo Burgers throughout the day.

Flea Market: June 14 - 16

Featuring over 200 vendors, the Flea Market will take place along the Mississippi River on St. Feriole Island from 9 am to 5 pm.



Prairie du Chien

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Explore Wisconsin
SPOTLIGHT | **TURTLE LAKE**

The Place to Stay, While You Play

Located at the crossroads of US Highways 8 and 63, Turtle Lake is the gateway to your quick trip up North. Whether you'd like to relax in the fresh air and great outdoors or get out to socialize and stay active, we have it all in Turtle Lake! Our hotels and campgrounds offer easy access to the ATV/UTV trails of Barron or Polk County and a great spot to launch your next adventure.



Turtle Lake is the place to stay while you play!

We are located snugly in the middle of numerous lakes for outdoor water recreation. Fishing, kayaking, and simply relaxing in the fresh air are all within your reach. You can also enjoy plenty of night life with fun gaming action and live music every weekend. Turtle Lake is the place to stay while you play!

Throughout the year, Turtle Lake offers a wide variety of events. The first weekend in April, enjoy a complete dinner featuring deep fried smelt. This annual event hosted by the American Legion supports their local Veterans' programs. The St. Croix Chippewa Tribe hosts an elaborate contest pow-wow that is held at the Ma'koode Arena with hundreds of participants, Native American jewelry, vendors and food trucks. Venture Downtown's Summer Solstice Celebration in June includes food trucks, sidewalk art and craft show vendors. July features the Turtle Lake Inter-County Free Fair followed by Cars and Crafts in the Park in August.

With opportunities to fish, shop, camp, bike, kayak, gamble, and enjoy our scenic trails and rustic roads, everyone can find something they love in Turtle Lake.



Visit Turtle Lake
The Place to Stay While you Play!

On the crossroads of US Highway 8 and US Highway 63, Turtle Lake is the natural choice. Whether you'd like to relax in the fresh air and great outdoors or get out to socialize and stay active. We have it all in Northwestern Wisconsin. With lovely hotels and all sorts of accommodations, Turtle Lake is the place to stay while you play.

For more information:
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www.turtlelakewi.com



SPOTLIGHT | LANGLADE COUNTY



Stay on The Go in The County of Trails

Langlade County is a hidden gem for summer travelers seeking outdoor adventures and natural beauty. From pristine lakes for fishing and watersports to lush forests perfect for hiking, biking, and ATV/UTVing, the County of Trails offers a diverse range of opportunities to explore the great outdoors.

Explore the scenic wonderland of Langlade County on your ATV or UTV with over 106 miles of trails weaving through its breathtaking forests. Traverse through the natural beauty of Langlade County as the trails wind through its picturesque landscapes, offering an unforgettable adventure. Connect seamlessly through various road routes, immersing yourself in the heart of Wisconsin's great outdoors.

Another highlight is the Wolf River, known for its renowned whitewater rafting/kayaking and fly fishing.

For those looking to relax, Langlade County also has charming small towns like Antigo, Elcho, Pickerel, Pearson, and White Lake, where visitors can enjoy local restaurants, events, and shops.

Nature enthusiasts can visit the Jack Lake Recreation Area,

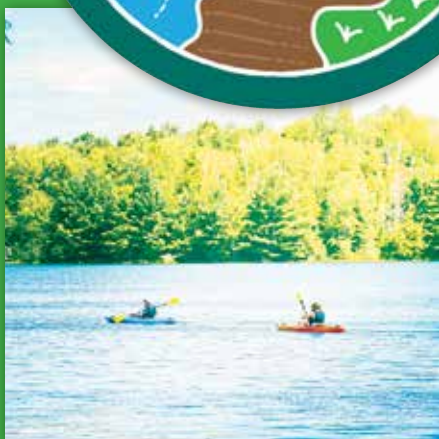
CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a history buff, or a family looking for a fun summer getaway, Langlade County has something to offer everyone.



Come for the Trails, Stay the Night



www.CountyOfTrails.org

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | PLATTEVILLE



Mining Heritage And Great Outdoors Will Pull You Back

EXPLORE OUR MINING HERITAGE

The home of the state's first mining school is now an engineering educational hub known as the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The college's mining roots also led to the creation of the World's Largest 'M', which stands for 'mining', on a mound approximately five miles from the campus. The 'M' is a public recreation area with 290 stairs (and three viewing platforms) to the top, where you have a spectacular view of the tri-state area and an opportunity to hike through the woods for a closer look at the mound's geology. At UW-Platteville's Homecoming each fall, the 'M' is lit and a spectacular fireworks display is cast overhead.

Platteville's mining heritage is best showcased by descending into the Bevans Mine as part of a tour through The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. There you will see the conditions miners faced as they hunted for lead and zinc in Southwest Wisconsin. Across

town, a historic home - the Mitchell-Rountree Stone Cottage - has been carefully preserved to showcase a founding family's way of life. Both museums are open for tours from May through October each year.

GET ACTIVE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Platteville has taken pride in providing a variety of outdoor recreation options. The Platteville Community Arboretum's David Canny Rountree Branch Trail is three miles of paved and lit non-motorized recreation trail open to the public year-round. The trail follows the Rountree Branch, a very scenic Class I trout stream, and features artwork, gardens, outdoor gym, bike repair stations and educational kiosks. Fat tire bike trails as well as cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobile trails are all available in the community. It connects to the paved seven-mile Mound View State Trail to Belmont.

And if you are ready to "Tee up" for another great golf season, Platteville and the

surrounding area have several scenic golf courses to try out. Test your swing at all of the Grant County golf courses and see where your game has the best results! Choose from Birchwood, in Kieler; Cole Acres, in Cuba City; Hickory Grove, in Fennimore; Lancaster Country Club, in Lancaster; or Platteville

Golf and Country Club in Platteville. Check with the individual locations for green fees, golf lessons, equipment rental, and general information.

To learn more, visit www.platteville.com or call the Platteville Regional Chamber and Wisconsin Welcome Center at 608-348-8888.

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The "Ultimate" Wisconsin waterfall book
445 Wisconsin Waterfalls

Most sites show a color photograph. Each site has estimate of falls height. Each site has detailed route instructions from the nearest town or landmark. Also included are a few rapids and spillways we found interesting. (Certain sites on private land, Indian land, and sites not yet visited may have incomplete data!)

Each site is plotted on a county map. Each site lists GPS coordinates. Each site has a walking difficulty score and walking time from the parking lot.

This book has **twice** as many waterfall sites as any other Wisconsin waterfall book in publication. **PLUS** our companion website has color video with sound of most sites!

Travel Guide by Bob Schneider

Bob Schneider, after 9 years of research, has released his **2024 Wisconsin Waterfalls Travel Guide...** over 60,000 miles of travel, 500+ miles walking, fell in a few creeks, encountered a few bears, a few ticks and rope climbed cliffs to get a better picture! The 152 page spiral bound book shows **445 waterfalls** (more than twice as many falls found in any other publication). The book lays flat even when folded back on itself. Each falls is plotted on a county map, has a color picture, its GPS location, a listing of the falls height, walking distance to the falls, driving directions to the site, and many other features!

For more information and where you can see and buy a copy of the book, see our dealer list at www.waterfallswisconsin.com/dealers.htm
Bob Schneider, Miriah Systems LLC, Onalaska, Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | BARABOO



Big Top Parade is Just The Start

Be sure to catch Baraboo's signature event – the Big Top Parade – June 8. And while you're in town, enjoy a hike at Devil's Lake and a stroll down the Baraboo Riverwalk!

Circus entertainment's universal appeal will be on display as the Big Top Parade returns to the streets of downtown Baraboo.

Historic wagons, exotic animals, marching bands and community floats will delight children of all ages along the parade route. Each entry will observe the parade's "Blast Off" theme, which also is the theme of Circus World's 2024 big top show.

"This year's parade will be out of this world," said Nanci Cafilisch, co-chair of the Big Top Parade organizing committee. "Here in the Ringling Brothers' hometown, we love celebrating our legacy every summer."

The parade will step off at 11 am, June 8, anchoring a weekend full of circus-themed fun.

"It's a thrill to showcase Circus World's unparalleled collection of wagons in our parade," said George Althoff, Executive Director of the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce. "I can't wait to see the floats our sponsors and community groups add to the fun."

The weekend-long circus celebration will start Thursday evening with Concerts on the Square. The Al. Ringling Theatre will present entertainment throughout the weekend. On Saturday morning, acrobats, aerialists and clowns will entertain the crowd downtown before the parade begins. After the parade, all are encouraged to visit Circus World and see the "Blast Off" big top show at 1:15 and 3:30 pm.

"We are over the moon, we're so excited about this summer's show," said Scott O'Donnell,

COME FOR THE PARADE

CIRCUS PARADE
JUNE 8

BARABOO.COM

DEVIL'S LAKE



STAY FOR THE OUTDOOR FUN

DISCOVER REAL

BARABOO



Executive Director of Circus World.
"We are ready for liftoff!"

Watch for updates on this summer's parade and related events at bigtopparade.com.

In addition to circus fun, the Baraboo Area offers opportunities for outdoor adventurers. Devil's Lake poses challenges for hikers, climbers and paddlers. It's no wonder that it's Wisconsin's No. 1 state park!

The Baraboo Riverwalk enjoys diverse uses, as well. This three-mile paved path along the river connects several city parks and is a favorite of cyclists, anglers, joggers and dog walkers.

For pre-built itineraries and a calendar of events, visit baraboo.com.

Ben Bromley

Marketing & Tourism Coordinator
Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (608) 356-8333

Fax: (608) 356-8422

Address: 600 W Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 442, Baraboo, WI 53913

Website: baraboo.com

Email: MemberRelations@BarabooChamber.com

Cityofbaraboo.com

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DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report Springtime Scouting

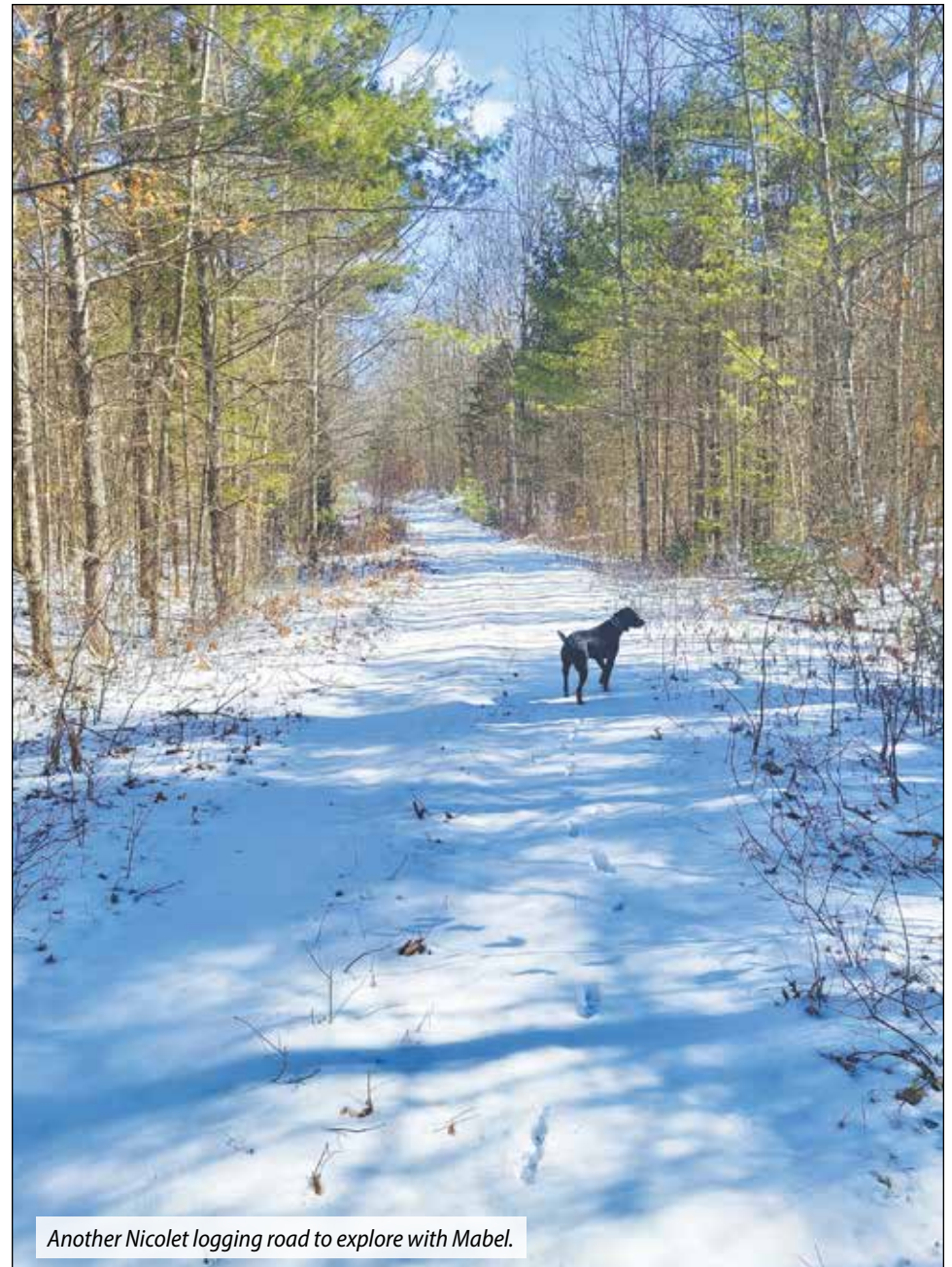
It was a most unusual winter, indeed. Little snow, snowmobile trails and sledding hills that never opened, early ice out, ice back on, warm, cold, you name it. So, what to do when the ice is melting, but open water fishing is not yet a realistic option? One answer is to spend some time in the woods scouting for the fall deer season and/or the spring turkey season.

Fortunately for me, there are thousands of acres of national forest and county lands to explore in the Northwoods. And my young dog Mabel is always up for a hike in the woods. With very little snow, hiking was easy and the woods looked exactly like they did last fall. Spotting deer sign was easy, assuming I found an area where there actually were some

deer.


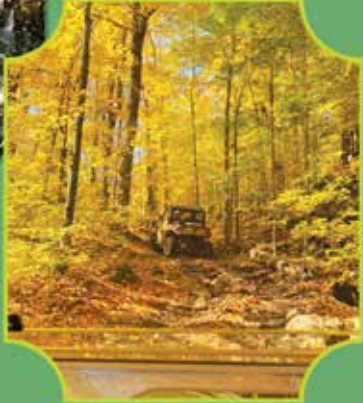
There are a lot of positives about doing your scouting in the springtime. Number one, the deer are still off in their winter haunts so you're not spooking them out of the area. If they were there last fall, they'll most likely be back once summer comes. Another plus, no bugs to deal with. Nor are there any people. In all my scouting this spring, I only encountered two other guys doing the same.

My goal is to hit at least one trail/logging road per week that I've never been on before. There are lots to choose from. Sometimes, the venture pays off with promising new areas to hunt. Sometimes, it's just a nice walk in the woods. If I walk three miles, then I'm sure that Mabel runs 20. She sleeps well after our



Another Nicolet logging road to explore with Mabel.

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scouting trips.

Until I'm able to get the boat in the water, Mabel and I will be checking out the deer sign in the Nicolet National Forest and the Vilas/

Oneida county forests. Hopefully, we'll find the place where I'll shoot my next buck or turkey. If nothing else, we'll get a lot of good exercise. Just sayin! 🐾

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BOB'S BEAR BAIT

Choosing Your Stand Site, Bait And Scents

Wisconsin's 2024 black bear season is right around the corner and hopefully you have picked out your stand sites. When choosing your stand sites, consider this list of items: wind, water, bedding and feeding areas; the proximity of other hunters; and the ease of getting to and from the site.

Some hunters say that the best part of bear hunting is choosing the bait, but it can also be the trickiest. Our Wisconsin bears are no dumpster divers. They want it all and they want the best. Bears are constantly on the move trying to find the best, quick, and easy meals, because every summer bears need to put on weight.

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Don't be afraid to change up the bait by adding a sweet topping - the stickier and stinkier the better. The stickiness will assure that the bears track it all through the forest, spreading the scent and bringing other bears in as well.

Stinkiest? Well, if your bait doesn't have any kind of aroma, the next best thing is to add scent each and every



time you enter your site. Scent lures can be the key to success because they can attract many different bears throughout the season. Word has it that bears can smell up to 18 miles away, so don't stop at just using bait. Be sure to use a scent and make the best of your season.

Keep in mind that once the season starts, bear bait sells fast. Stay up-to-date with our latest news and sales by following us on Facebook. You can see our bear bait selection, locations, and operating hours at our website: Bobsbearbait.com.

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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, videos, or hand-held camera shots of wolves in Wisconsin to: 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. 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. Attacks on domestic pets and livestock, also will continue to increase.

By the numbers, since OWO asked for your trail cam photos of wolves, we have now published 23 photos from readers since January, 2024. This includes with this issue an additional six photos and 30 wolves from seven additional counties not previously represented with photos: Douglas, Polk, Ashland, Oneida, Marathon, and Marinette. The shots now include a total of 80 wolves scattered over 18 counties; Previously, we had published photos of 50 wolves collectively captured in photos received from Bayfield, Barron, Iron, 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.

OWO will err toward the minimum number of wolves submitted by readers. For example, the Oneida County still shot of six wolves was taken from a submitted video with 12 - 14 wolves. In the Ashland County photo we named "Where's Waldo Wolf?" at OWO, we count nine wolves with help from a magnifying glass on the submitted jpeg. Others count 11 wolves.

To date, using the state mark of approximately 1000 wolves, with 23 snapshots taken over 25% of Wisconsin's 72 counties, we have in theory captured approximately 8% of the DNR's estimated population. The photo contributions represent only a literal snapshot of the vast territory within each of the 18 counties, with the large majority of Wisconsin counties not yet contributing a single photo to our informal survey. We're confident they will.

Did our readers to date capture more than 8% of the state wolf population from 23 tree mounts, videos, or handheld cameras, or are wolf numbers grossly underestimated?

Thank you for sending your trail cam photos of wolves, and for informing friends, local sports shop owners,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43



10-22-23 Polk County four wolves.



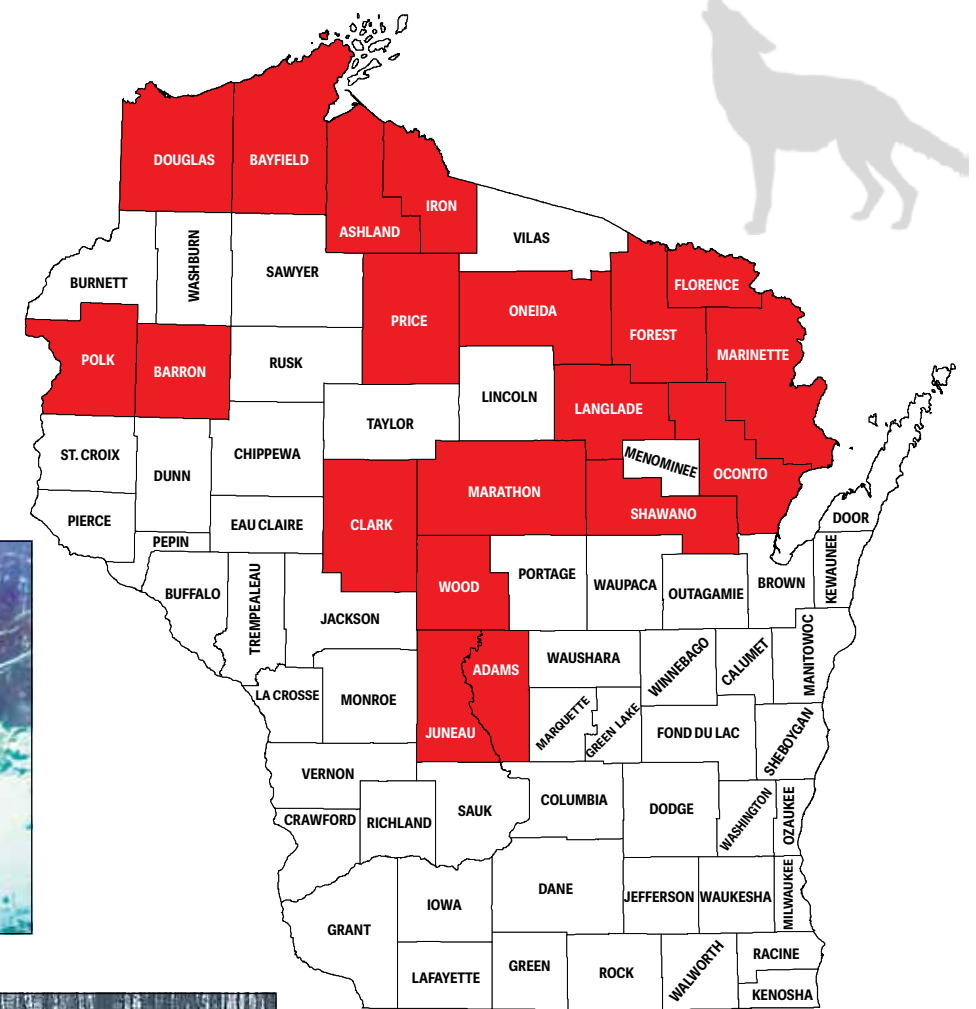
3-5-24 Oneida County six wolves.



2-11-24 Marinette County one wolf.



11-20-23 Ashland County nine wolves.



4-21-23 Marathon County two wolves entering Wausau.



1-3-21 Douglas County six wolves.



12-6-23 Langlade County two wolves.



DICK ELLIS

Will Wolf Attacks on Domestic Pets Increase?

Loss of family dog leaves owners questioning management

The night of March 5, 2024 near Ashland Wisconsin, Julie Brilla let her 11-year-old labrador retriever, Cassi, out of the home to do her business. Within minutes, her husband John Brilla heard the dog bark in the backyard and Julie went to the door to let Cassi back in. There was no answer from the dog and she was nowhere to be seen.

They immediately called their son-in-law, Greg Martinsen, who arrived within 10 minutes on his Polaris ranger. What Greg found he described as “horrific.”

“The lab was lying dead and steaming in the field 100 feet from their house,” he wrote. “The dog was split wide open and the wolves had started eating her. I know there will be questions on whether it was truly wolves. I can say with 100 percent certainty it was.”

That fact was verified when the family took Cassi to Ashland, Martinsen said, and met with Ethan Rossing, a wolf specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Rossing completed an examination confirming the wolf attack. This follows confirmed wolf attacks on pets, livestock and sporting dogs annually in Wisconsin where wolves are listed as endangered and not hunted, and recent DNR wolf management practices opposed by many. DNR wolf population estimates are widely challenged as below reality, with the negative consequences already evident for hunters and largely undetermined for residents over much of Wisconsin.

“This experience should be seen as an eye opener for anyone with pets,” Martinsen said. “This didn’t happen in the middle of the national forest. This happened in their backyard. These wolves knew what they were doing and they made quick work of the family dog. Please take the time to call your state and federal legislators and demand some management of these killing machines. Thank you to Ethan Rossing from the USDA and Game Warden Phillip Brown for your professionalism during this tragic incident.”

“Some would say that this land is the wolf’s domain, but when they take a beloved, loyal companion, 50 feet from my house, they’re encroaching on my domain,” Julie Brilla wrote to OWO. “This was not a humane death. It was horrific. The deer population is way down in our area also, with many sightings of wolves. Hopefully, something can be done to better manage the wolf population, so we don’t have more of these terrible tragedies. Thank you.” 🐾



Cassi, an 11-year-old Labrador Retriever and family dog owned by Julie and John Brilla, was killed by wolves near Ashland after being briefly let out of the family home the night of February 5. The graphic photo is used per request of the owners who want other pet owners to be aware of the danger posed by wolves.

DICK ELLIS

Truth in Numbers

The pursuit of hard wolf facts

According to Laurie Groskopf, who has served on various wolf committees representing wildlife and agriculture in the quest for accurate wolf population numbers, it appears that pet depredations or harassment are on the increase in 2024. Wolf conflicts posted on the DNR website span 2019 – 2024.

This year, there have been five pet dog predations or harassments reported and one pet miniature donkey mortality. This compares to a maximum in 2021 of three to this date, with the other years on the list showing one or two pet-wolf conflicts through April 5. She said there have been fewer hunting dog mortalities due to poor hunting or training conditions to date in 2024.

Rarely does DNR judge wolf conflicts as threats to human safety, a label which could result in lethal removal of wolves even when listed as an endangered species as is the case currently. DNR solicits tracking volunteers to assist with wolf population estimates. Groskopf is a volunteer tracker in three units, and noted the difficulty this winter in that endeavor due to the lack of snow.

“But on the days when I did track, I never had such an easy time finding wolf tracks,” she said. “It was incredible how many wolves were out there.



Submitted by a resident of northern Wisconsin, these photos show one deer carcass in a campground during the winter of 2022. Five local deer were killed. A recurring theme, he said, is highly successful deer hunters in the same area who have not taken a shot in the last 10 years.



Sent by a resident of Bayfield County, a pack of at least three wolves feed on a cow kill.

If the estimate is done correctly, and there may be more issues than usual because of the lack of snow, I believe it will show more wolves than previous years. They really need to expand the sources to detect wolf presence. Relying almost exclusively on ground tracking is not effective when wolf populations are this large and widespread.”

“These ground tracking surveys are very expensive since there are fewer volunteers like me, and most of the tracking is being done by paid DNR staff. The whole idea was to save money, yet get a better estimate. Neither of these goals have happened.”

For the Wisconsin Wolf Facts communication group, Groskopf said she is keeping track of each probable or confirmed wolf conflict, and sending USDA wildlife service reports to a number of contacts representing sporting and agricultural groups. Anyone suspecting a wolf conflict or harassment, Groskopf said, should immediately contact USDA Wildlife Services and leave a message. Connect with the USDA Northern Region at 1-800-228-1368. In southern or Central WI, call 1-800-433-0663. These numbers are only available for in-state calling. An investigator should contact the complainant within 48 hours. Take pictures and preserve the evidence if possible. Remove dead animals to an area where they will not be further fed on by predators.

An instant alert system also exists to notify people by email or text message about wolf conflicts. To find the two notification lists, click on the red envelope at the bottom of the DNR homepage where it states, “Updates.” A long list of notifications is available. Look for livestock depredation notification under the heading of “Announcements and News.” This list quickly sends notifications of livestock and pet conflicts

Publisher Note: The following letter from a Bayfield County deer hunter Bill Olson can be read in its entirety online at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com under Outdoor News and Deer Hunting.

The Decline of Our Heritage

Perspectives of a Northern Wisconsin hunter

The date is Saturday, November 18, 2023 and the time is 11 am. I have just returned from an opening day Wisconsin deer hunt in Northern Bayfield County, to our cabin on Siskowit Lake about four miles south of Cornucopia, Wisconsin. Today marks my 58th year of hunting from this cabin, our “camp” established by my father shortly after he returned from World War II with the help of his father.

Family and friends who have enjoyed this traditional Thanksgiving week hunt over decades continue to make new memories that add to a wonderful history where new, young, hunters join older ones and the wondrous heritage continues. Over the years, the techniques and equipment have changed, and the quantities of the deer herd have gone both up and down. Older hunters have certainly seen this and are well aware of these fluctuations.

However, I am concerned about several things we are seeing in the field and how we now approach hunting. Technology, baiting, access to land, management principles, wolf populations, severe winter indexes, female deer quotas only begin to touch on these concerns. Can young hunters perceive hunting as a quality experience if they don't see a deer, let alone register one?



Better days. In the 1980s, Olson camp hunters capture a photo on Siskowit Lake with deer taken during the November gun season. Like many throughout Wisconsin, Bayfield County hunters hope tradition and heritage can be passed down despite a continued decline in deer numbers and the overall hunting experience.

It is noteworthy that at noon on opening day, most of our 15 hunters had checked in and we had seen a total of three deer. We are covering approximately a 12-mile radius from

where I write. The lack of deer sightings is not based on warm weather, lack of snow, waxing moon, rutting deer or any other factor. The deer are not here. We all utilize cameras

that hunt 24 hours per day. My son spent 60-hours primarily bow hunting to see one small doe from a stand that has historically provided many deer over many years.

It is now January 10, 2024. The sentiment from so many other hunting groups that I have talked with is consistent with our own, and they are all voicing the same concerns; the season was again horrendous, and deer numbers virtually non-existent. Since the gun season, I have spent significant time driving back roads in our unique territory, often following snowfalls. Baiting deer with corn is done, and any expectation of seeing tracks as in the past as deer move to find food sources is not to be. Wolf tracks, not deer, tell the story of what lives here.

Many people who love this area have significant investments in cabins. Of many reasons to be here, handing down our rich tradition of deer hunting remains prominent. We are not collectively angry. But we do know the people of Wisconsin can manage a better product. This is our heritage, from businesses that welcome and depend on the hunter, to our families and friends who appreciate venison on the plate.

Let's see what we can accomplish together.

BILL OLSON 🍷

PRESS RELEASE

Rep. Tiffany's Bipartisan Bill to Delist the Gray Wolf Passes the House

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's (CO-03) bipartisan legislation to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed the U.S. House by a vote of 209-205. H.R. 764, the Trust the Science Act, would remove the gray wolf from the list of federal endangered species, ensure that action is not subject to judicial review, and restore authority back to state lawmakers and state wildlife officials to control the gray wolf population.

“The science is clear; the gray wolf has met and exceeded recovery goals. Today's House passage represents an important first step towards restoring local control over the skyrocketing gray wolf population in Wisconsin. I will continue to fight to get this

legislation through the U.S. Senate to protect livestock and pets from brutal wolf attacks,” said Congressman Tiffany.

Background:

There have been numerous gray wolf attacks in Wisconsin's Seventh District over the last few years. You can view some examples here, here, and here (warning of graphic content). The Trust the Science Act requires the Secretary of Interior to reissue the 2020 Department of the Interior final rule that delisted gray wolves in the lower 48 United States and ensures that the reissuance of the final rule will not be subject to judicial review by activist judges like the California judge who vacated the rule in 2020 and unilaterally relisted the gray wolf by judicial fiat.

In 2020, the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted

the gray wolf in the lower 48 United States through a process that included the best science and data available. At over 6,000 wolves at the time of delisting, the gray wolf has been the latest Endangered Species Act success story with significant population recoveries in the Rocky Mountains and western Great Lakes regions. However, despite ample scientific evidence of the gray wolf's recovery, a California judge unilaterally relisted the gray wolf under the ESA in 2022.

24 Members of Congress cosponsored Rep. Tiffany and Rep. Boebert's Trust the Science Act, including the entire Wisconsin Republican Congressional Delegation.

Groups that have supported the Trust the Science Act in the 117th Congress or the 118th Congress include: Alaska Farm Bureau Federation, BigGame Forever, Colorado

Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Livestock Association, Colorado Wool Growers Association, House Committee on Natural Resources Republicans, Hunter Nation, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, 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), New Mexico Wool Growers Inc., Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Safari Club International (SCI), Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Washington Farm Bureau, Washington State Hunter Heritage Council, Western Caucus, Wisconsin Cattleman's Association, and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

TOM CARPENTER

Late Season Blowhards

Waking up those stubborn May gobblers

Wisconsin's turkey season runs through May 31 and as the month goes on, more and more hunters hang up their camouflage. The weather is warmer. The bugs start to come out. There is fishing to be had. And calling is ineffective because the birds aren't much interested in breeding anymore anyway, right?

Wrong. Gobblers still want action. But sometimes you need to fire them up. Calling a lot, and calling hard, is fun. So put some aggressive calling in your arsenal. Here are six times you should try hitting it hard to convince a tom to come in.

Big Wind Big winds can blow in a Wisconsin May. It's an unsettled month. No matter how good their hearing, turkeys are just not going to notice soft calling in a hard wind. Get out a long box call and make loud, aggressive strokes. Pop in a simple, easy-to-blow diaphragm call and give it all you can. Peg-and-slates have little effect in a strong blow, but glass or aluminum pots do better. Loud calling may sound bad, but so do real turkey hens most of the time.

Gobbler Group Satellites Gobblers often stay in groups, right through May. These small flocks are notoriously tough to call, especially if dominant birds are keeping satellite toms in their place. Excited, persistent calling can sometimes persuade a secondary gobbler to break rank and



Put some aggressive calling in your arsenal.

sneak in via the back door or to come back later and find you on his own. Tip: Try gobbling at especially persnickety groups, and you might attract the whole gang to come in.

Hen Troubles Hens give turkey hunters fits because gobblers won't leave the girls, and that's true right up through the end

of the season. So connive the girls to come in. The trick is getting sassy so the boss hen calls back and then giving her a heavy dose of mimicking mockery and loud lip. Get her talking and she just might come on over with a gobbler in tow.

Tom on a String When aggressive calling gets a bird's attention and gets him coming, keep the concert going. That's what turned him on, so don't stop. It's tempting to try and get coy. But you may be better off sticking with the approach that got you in business in the first place.

Mid-Morning Stroll When you're out trolling for a mid-morning May gobbler, combine stealth in movement with loud, aggressive calling. You need that shock factor to get a gobbler to sound off. Stop and cutt, yelp or cackle often. And only do it in places where you can drop down and set up quickly if you elicit a response.

Hail Mary Birds If a gobbler starts drifting away, call hard and loud to see if you can turn him. What's to lose? Try switching calls – from box to diaphragm, for example – to change up and find a sound that resonates. It's like a Hail Mary in football: You won't have a chance if you don't get bold. My hunting journals tell me it works once every few seasons, but it does produce birds I wouldn't have shot had I been a calling wallflower or given up. 🦃

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JOHN ELLIS

Election Integrity in Wisconsin-Part Six

Only verifiable elections are legitimate

Wisconsin must have a verifiable election in November, so everyone knows the results are legitimate. But as of this writing a verifiable election is not possible in our state, because there are well over 2.9 million ineligible voters on the Wisconsin Elections Commission's (WEC) statewide registration list.

The millions of ineligible voters provide an enormous source for unverifiable illegally cast ballots, and a few dishonest people with access to the list can deny the will of all Wisconsin voters. This is without question Wisconsin's biggest, and most obvious, election integrity problem.

The Republican legislators responsible for allowing this are Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (608-237-9163), Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (608-266-2056), and all of the rank-and-file assemblymen and senators who have remained silent on the issue (To find out how to contact your state legislators, go to legis.wisconsin.gov).

Robin Vos and Devin LeMahieu are the leaders of the Republicans, who control Wisconsin's Assembly and Senate. As the lawmakers of our state, they have the power to legislate the removal of all ineligible voters from the WEC's list. This would immediately make Wisconsin's election results verifiable by removing the source of unverifiable illegally cast ballots. It would guarantee that only verifiable eligible voters are participating in Wisconsin's elections.

Here's how the millions of ineligible voters are calculated.

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

$7.5 - 4.6 = 2.9$ million ineligible voters.

The 2.9 million are all ineligible because they exceed the number of adults living in Wisconsin. Further, because it's not possible for 100% of adults living in Wisconsin to be registered **and** eligible to vote, **2.9 million is a minimum number**. The actual number of ineligible voters on the WEC's list is significantly higher than 2.9 million, and probably closer to 4 million.

Why ineligible voters should be everyone's first election integrity priority.

Wisconsin has many election integrity problems that have to be corrected, but we need to prioritize the order we correct them.

Only the removal of all ineligible voters from the WEC's registration list will immediately make Wisconsin's election results verifiable, by removing the source of unverifiable illegally cast ballots. It will guarantee that only verifiable eligible voters are participating in Wisconsin's elections.

This is why ineligible voters should be everyone's first election integrity priority, and the first topic of discussions on election integrity **everywhere**. Between family members and friends, within patriot groups, and on conservative radio.

By focusing on, and unifying around, the WEC's millions of ineligible voters, we'll be able to force the Republicans to legislate their removal through public pressure. Only after they're removed will Wisconsin's election results be legitimate, because they'll be verifiable.

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. 🗳️

JOHN ELLIS

Conservative radio you can trust

Two conservative radio hosts that Wisconsin listeners can trust are **Joe Giganti** and **Steve Schroeder**. They will keep you informed on all election integrity problems and can be heard by tuning in, or livestreaming, WTAQ (1360AM, 97.5FM) out of Green Bay.

Giganti hosts ***The Regular Joe Show***, a syndicated show that airs weekdays from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. and Schroeder hosts ***The Schroeder Show***, on Saturdays from 12:00 to 3:00 P.M. Because they're honest, Giganti and Schroeder have separated themselves from the pretenders. 🗳️



JOHN ELLIS

The False Narrative

Is Wisconsin divided, or united?

A false narrative has been created that Wisconsin is a deeply divided state, with election results that are always decided by razor thin margins. The narrative is intended to condition us to expect another close election this year, and to accept an unbelievable result before it occurs.

It will allow the Republicans, who are doing nothing to remove millions of ineligible voters from the Wisconsin Elections Commission's (WEC) registration list, to pretend Wisconsin's November election result is legitimate as thousands of unverifiable illegal ballots are cast.

The unbelievable election result we are being conditioned to accept, is Joe Biden defeating Donald Trump in Wisconsin.

But how divided we are as a state cannot be known until all ineligible voters are removed from the WEC's list and our elections are verifiable.

Only then will we find out how divided, or united, Wisconsin actually is. 🗳️

Editorials are the opinions of the OWO Publishers and do not reflect the opinions of our advertisers or contributing professionals.

Seeking Conflict Where None Exists?

DNR, Attorney General Kaul invest time, money protecting tribal spearing

The adjacent letter to all Wisconsin state senators or representatives by Steve Ellis of Junction City (OWO Publishers' brother) is in response to a DNR Office of Communications media release sent March 8 entitled, "2024 Ojibwe Spring Fishing Season Starting Soon - Wisconsinites reminded of Protected Tribal Right to Fish." The DNR communication in its entirety and the Ellis letter is also posted on our website at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com under Outdoor News and Inland Fishing. In part, the release states:

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds Wisconsinites of the protected tribal right to fish in certain Wisconsin waterways and the legal consequences they could face if found interfering with that right during the

upcoming Ojibwe spring fishing season.

"The Wisconsin DNR fully supports Ojibwe sovereignty and treaty rights," said DNR Deputy Secretary Steven Little. "We encourage tribal citizens to get out and exercise their treaty rights. Likewise, we remind the public that it is illegal to interfere with this right and have zero tolerance for harassment."

Each tribal fishing season, tribal citizens harvest using various methods, including spearing and netting. The harvest usually begins shortly after the ice melts, typically by mid-April. This year, the season is expected to begin earlier due to the mild winter Wisconsin has experienced. The tribal harvest is not a date-regulated activity, and as a result, there is neither an open nor closed season. The DNR collaborates with the Ojibwe tribes to uphold these tribal rights.

"Tribal citizens must be able to exercise their right to hunt, fish, and gather in the Ceded Territories safely," said Attorney General Josh Kaul. "If there is any unlawful interference with these rights, please contact local law enforcement or the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)."

The release also includes perspectives of tribal leadership prior to providing perspectives of the state of Wisconsin under sub-headlines:

TRIBAL RIGHTS

INTERFERING WITH TRIBAL RIGHTS

WISCONSIN'S HATE CRIME PROVISIONS

REPORTING TRIBAL RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT

The release concludes:

If you have witnessed or been subject to infringement of tribal rights to hunt, fish and gather that is active and involves physical harassment or a verbal threat of physical harm, report that to local law enforcement immediately by calling 911.

If the threat has passed, please contact local law enforcement at the non-emergency number. Call or text the confidential DNR Tip Hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR, as soon as possible to make a report of the event.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) also recommends reporting any instances of infringement in order to maintain a record and provide appropriate follow up. Call GLIFWC Enforcement at 715-685-2113 to document an incident. 🐾

An Open Letter to All Wisconsin State Senators And Representatives

March 11, 2024

Dear State Senator or Representative,

The 2024 DNR "News Release" concerning the upcoming Ojibwe Spring Spearing season is not a news release. It is a threatening notice to every Wisconsin resident who is not a tribal member.

Since I have no interest (and never have had) in interfering with this annual event, I do not appreciate my government officials threatening me with consequences for activities I have no intention of performing.

To the best of my knowledge, there has been no more than one (1) such event, performed by one (1) drunken individual, in the past 10 or more years.

This is an inappropriate message, delivered annually by the DNR, and it should be stopped by you.

The DNR has destroyed walleye fishing and deer hunting in the northern half of

our state with its inappropriate focus on the "woke" instead of an appropriate focus on the resources.

Isn't it a lawmaker's duty to ensure that agencies like the DNR do the job that was contemplated when the agency was formed?

This agency is failing spectacularly in the management of walleye and deer populations, and this annual "News Release" is a perfect example of the failure.

An appropriate news release would contain no threats, and it would have no mention of what the DNR "fully supports" or doesn't. The DNR has it backwards - the DNR doesn't tell us what it supports - it asks us what WE support.

Please. No more threats from the DNR.

Thank you,

Steven Ellis

Junction City, Wisconsin 🐾

WOLF FACTS, FROM PAGE 39

caused by wolves. The second instant notification can be found under the heading, "Wildlife Management." Click on Gray Wolf Depredation Alert. This alert sends out information regarding hunting dog/wolf conflicts on public lands.

Generally, people within a four-mile radius of wolf conflicts should take extra precautions to avoid wolves. Wolf pack territories on average are 65 square miles. This advice may not be valid for lone wolves or dispersing packs.

Seeking "strength in numbers" Groskopf looks for truth by pursuing facts and intends to write informational pieces for the farm organization newsletters. "Unfortunately, many farmers do not belong to any organization, although they should," she said. "With calving season coming up, these phone numbers can give livestock producers some information that may assist them in preventing problems as well." 🐾

WOLF PHOTOS, FROM PAGE 38

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. 🐾



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DICK ELLIS

American Enemies

A time to turn away. A time to turn and face.

Those of us blessed to have been born to, and raised by men who by necessity defended America and survived to talk about it may not have heard about the most graphic memories until our fathers were in the twilight of life. A generation of WWII combat veterans mostly gone now became known for more than extraordinary courage but later, for not always being eager to share their experiences. A story my father told after being shot down as a fighter pilot, severely injured and taken prisoner after three days on the run evading German soldiers leads to the real story here; to remember the fallen.

Following capture, Lt. Don Ellis stood under guard before a German officer. Lt. Ellis had broken ribs and his hands were severely burned, the result of being shot down and bailing from the cockpit of a P-47 engulfed in flames during a strafing run in Italy on October 4, 1944. The officer asked about his injuries. The 24-year-old American pilot raised both hands, which he described graphically to his sons as “raw Wieners” with no finger nails and smelling of severely burnt flesh, and responded that he would lose his hands if he wasn’t given medical help.

The officer said he would receive help only in exchange for information he wanted regarding the American airfield. Instead, Lt. Ellis remained silent and turned away, after which he was given immediate medical attention. Ultimately, he would lose one finger and gnarled hands would not prevent extraordinary work as an engineer throughout his life.

A more difficult loss than physical pain would come with his release from Stalag 7A; the Red Cross during a search for his eldest brother informed him that Tank Commander Lt. Charles Ellis had been killed on November 30, 1944, less than two months after the younger brother had been shot down. One



Lt. Don Ellis of Wisconsin Rapids

of six Ellis brothers from Wisconsin Rapids to serve during the war, Charles, would lose his life near the village of Kleinau, Germany, graphically detailed by a survivor of the tank battle and found online decades later by a nephew.

“In an attempt to flank the village, Lt. Ellis’ tank slid into a bomb crater with four feet of water and flipped over,” writes Mike Kunnen in “Tanks in a Mine Field” which graphically details many men from the platoon killed and wounded by enemy fire over one day. “Lt Ellis was crushed to death attempting to jump clear. The gunner, Arnold Lien, drown while Sgt. Oberdan Arizzi tried to talk driver Stewart and bow gunner Hullet out through the escape hatch on the bottom of the tank. Both Got out.”

It is right now on this Memorial Day to remember stories like these passed down over 248 years in gratitude to those



Americans killed in Europe await a final resting place.

who died for our freedoms. It is also right to understand that those freedoms are not ours now to give away, but our most precious gift and obligation to protect and pass on to American generations yet to be.

It is right too, if we can find the courage, to know when to turn away from an enemy. And, because we must now as a nation find the courage, when to recognize a new enemy and face it. 🇺🇸

On The Cover



The founding fathers believed their own freedom and more importantly freedoms to be passed down to generations following were worth dying for. 25,000 patriots lost their lives in America’s war for independence. Now, another Memorial Day looms, allowing us to officially “honor and mourn” more than one million military men and women who have died in the service of their country.

Prominent on the Great Seal of the United States, the founders chose the eagle, America’s symbol of strength and power clutching the banner inscribed with the term E Pluribus Unum; from many, one. In its talons, the eagle holds both the olive branch, and 13 arrows prepared to defend liberty. Always, the eagle is turned to the olive branch, signifying a preference for peace.

It is right that the Eagle adorns the cover of our May-June issue.



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DICK ELLIS

The Enemy of Freedom

Media lies and omission

The Republican National Convention takes place in Milwaukee July 15 -18 to nominate the RNC presidential candidate for the November, 2024 election. With the nation's eyes on Wisconsin, here's a look back at media convention coverage of each party in 2020 to determine what we can expect.

What do Jack Brewer, Burgess Owen, Kim Klacik, Vernon Jones, Clarence Owen, and Alice Marie Johnson have in common? Are they all black Americans? Yes. Are they members of the same party? No. Are they supporters of Donald Trump? Yes, and more perhaps, than you are a Packer fan, as reflected in keynote speeches each person delivered at the 2020 RNC convention. And the tie that binds these leaders together is not a word of their extraordinary accolades on

Trump's work for blacks over four years as President was printed in Wisconsin's largest daily newspaper, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (MJS).

Prior to the conventions Gannett, the nation's largest print and online news source including USA TODAY, the Journal Sentinel, and more than 260 daily news organizations, announced the ongoing hiring of minority reporters to expand the number of journalists in a concerted effort to cover issues related to race and identity, social justice and equality. In an MJS column published between the 2020 DNC and RNC conventions, Editor George Stanley announced plans for the Wisconsin papers to fall in line.

MJS reporters Bill Glauber, Patrick Marley and Mary Spicuzza covered each convention.

Over four days of DNC coverage, the reporters injected only 4.5 print column inches (measured by rule) favorable to republicans. RNC coverage over four nights injected 50 inches of DNC-favorable copy, or 12 times the positive coverage afforded Trump's convention. The reporters freely omitted, embellished, contradicted, and editorialized.

In a September 11, 2020 electronic statement to the MJS audience, Editor Stanley said, "We're navigating a time when propaganda fills the air, when a pandemic brings fear and uncertainty, when armed gunmen appear at protests against racial injustice...."

"...Through it all," he continued, "our reporters follow the evidence, interview eyewitnesses, research documents, attend

hearings and check the veracity of statements with one goal: To deliver the most accurate, truthful, and thorough account of news and events most important to the people of Wisconsin."

We disagree. Our reporting above is a snapshot of 40-pages of biased Gannett media coverage that will be made available in its entirety to the reader in these months approaching the November election. But Gannett is not alone, as evidenced by OWO's 4000 hours of investigative reporting targeting all media not dedicated to delivering the truth.

The First Amendment is a gift to protect the people. Media lies and omission protects corrupt government. 🗣️



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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Targeting Great Causes When the shooting sports shine

The 21st Great Cancer Shoot Out will be held on Saturday, July 27, at Wern Valley Sportman's Club. My cousin Jim and I attended with our sons last year and shot sporties to help support cancer research. Wern always has challenging courses, and knowing you're donating to a good cause makes the outing just that much more worthwhile. Wern Valley breaks up their Sporting Clays range into four courses for the event and also has two courses to shoot a 25-target flurry.

Last year over 1,000 people attended the event. Great food and beverages are available on site, along with door prize drawings, auctions, and live music on Saturday night. I suggest getting there early if shooting on Saturday. Entire families from kids in strollers

to old guys like me accompanied the clays shooters. The event defined family fun! Bring sunscreen, water, and (if you reload) a bag for scooping up once fired empties. I think I'm still reloading Remington cases I gathered last year.

My maternal grandmother passed away from breast cancer at age 55, so I consider any legitimate fundraiser for cancer research a good cause. Several other family members have had close calls, so yes, for me it's personal. I support the Shoot Out 100 percent. For more information on the event, please contact Wern Valley Sportsman's Club at 262-968-2400 or go to www.wernvalley.com.

Boxhorn Big Muskego Gun club also has a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47

Over 1,000 people participated in the Great Cancer Shoot Out. Prize drawings, food and live music added to the fun. Photo by Jim Stresing.



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SPARTA, FROM PAGE 20

Creek, Perch Lake and the La Crosse River are some local favorite things to do. Find yourself at River Run, our three-star rated municipal course by Golf Digest.

If you are a foodie at heart, Sparta has many shops and eateries that you can sink your teeth into. From ramen and steak to home brewed sodas, fresh sushi plates to being introduced to your new favorite pulled pork and mac and cheese dish, there is something to delight your every taste bud.

Let Sparta be your next favorite destination location. With so much to do, where do you even start? Call the Sparta Area Chamber of Commerce at 608-269-4123 and let them help you plan your stay.

STRESING, FROM PAGE 46

long history of hosting charitable fund raisers. They also help fund raise for the Cudahy Packers High School trap team. Details were not available before my deadline, but there are events planned for this summer. For event details contact Boxhorn at 414-529-2529.

The Mayville Gun Club also helps support local high school trapshooting. Mayville features my favorite sporting clays course. They host an annual Santa Shoot on December 14. Featuring trap, skeet and clays shooting, raffles and a lunch, the event benefits local charities. Mayville has also hosted fund raisers for local folks who suffered catastrophic injuries. Contact Mayville Gun Club at 920-387-9996 for more details. The Safari Club International Sporting Clays Fundraiser Shoot will take place at 9 am on July 13 at Wern Valley Sportsman's Club.

We need to let people know what we have known all along: The shooting sports are safe family fun. Fund raising for good causes, like those above, help our communities and provide a positive message. Check with your local trap range or gun club to see if they are hosting any fund raising or charity events.



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