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# On Wisconsin *Outdoors*

With the Dick Ellis Experts

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Photo By Dick Ellis

■ Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Travel & Outdoor Humor ■

**PREMIER ISSUE**



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# On The Trapline With Arnie Groehler

## Two Ugly Coyotes Square Off

By Arnie Groehler

Every year it seems as though the urban sprawl marching west from Milwaukee is slowly squeezing my trapline to death. Areas that were once large tracts of weeds and open land are now being swallowed up by new development. There is not a single place on my trapline where I can stop, look around, and not see some sort of human activity.

I am envious of my fellow Alaskan trappers who tell me stories about traplines, of not seeing any other human footprints from late fall until spring ice break-up. While I worry about trying to avoid human contact with my trap sets, their concerns are much more primal. Grizzly bear attacks, week long blizzards, or falling through the ice in negative 40-degree weather are what concerns them. They think that I am crazy for trying to trap in and amongst suburbia. They would much rather face the harsh elements of a wilderness setting than have to deal with the "rat race" that comes with people.



The homefires are burning as we await Arnie Groehler's return from Iraq.

Along with urban sprawl comes the inevitable no trespassing signs and new town ordinances banning hunting or trapping. Such was the fate of one of my favorite farms. I had trapped on this farm for more than thirty years, becoming close friends

with the farmer and his wife. Unfortunately, a few years later the farmer passed away and his wife died a month after that. The farm remained empty for a few months until their daughter from Chicago moved in. I stopped by that fall to get

.....  
*"Trapping coyotes is never easy and trapping a trap-shy alpha male is perhaps the ultimate trapping challenge..."*  
 .....



Coyotes won't be so happy to see Arnie again.

trapping permission. The lady told me she did not approve of trapping and would not let anyone on her land. I thanked her for her time and left one of my business cards just in

*Continued on page 5*

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

## Freedom Fighters First

They come and they go don't they, just as they have for 231 years. Because they do, we can come and go exactly as we please. Anywhere, any time. Any lake, any field, any stream, any woods.

I said a final goodbye to my father one year ago. Shot down in a P-47 over Italy in 1944, prisoner of war, he was the last of five brothers from Wisconsin Rapids who fought in World War II. One has rested under a white cross in Belgium for six decades.

This November, I'll see Lou "Rocket" Rochat again, up from Texas and hopefully Danny Rager of Indiana at our deer camp in Boulder Junction. Those two Vietnam cobra pilots made a decision to land in the

face of likely death and pull my shot up brother Steve Ellis from his shot up helicopter in 1970. Because they did, Steve has been hunting and fishing Wisconsin now over 35 "bonus" years.

Steve in turn introduced his three little brothers, and his two sons and now his grandsons to these Wisconsin fields of dreams. Funny how the actions and sacrifices of the freedom fighters since the revolution have opened so many doors for the rest of us. Even as their own doors too often close.

Rocket needs his deer stand placed close to the cabin. His leg was blown off by a 50-caliber round two weeks after he and Rager saved my brother. 1.4 million never made it home at all, since the days when red



Dick Ellis, Publisher

coats were targets instead of deer hunting attire.

And now, where is Arnie Groehler? I met the soft spoken

trapper on the ice of Big Muskego Lake five years ago. Arnold was targeting muskrats. I was there for a story that I initiated. Trappers don't like journalists. When was the last time you read a positive article on trapping in a big newspaper?

The introduction between writer and skeptical trapper took on a bit of humor. Despite bitter cold that January morning, Big Muskego had springs and weak spots near the cattails stands. My dog Blue went through and I had to go get him. It wasn't dangerous, just waist deep. But the ice broke on me of course and then I tossed Blue out and rolled out

*Continued on page 5*



# A Taste For Turtle

## Snapper Trapper Hunts For Lunch

By Andrea Elverman

Nearly 10 years ago I was lucky enough to be invited by acquaintances to a wild game feast at the Silver Lake Sportsman's Club in Kenosha. There was a little bit of everything for the adventurous palate — roasted wild turkey, squirrel, wild boar and a variety of salads to accompany the feast. The item I found most delicious was the roasted snapper turtle.

I was never invited back to the game feast. I like to think it's because we drifted apart from our circles of friends. Or was it the four heaping helpings of Snappy I enjoyed? Regardless, I was hooked on turtle meat and hadn't a clue how to get my own. Therefore, I started doing what I do best...obsessing. I looked up information about snapping turtles, talked to people who once trapped, made endless notes, and called the

Wisconsin DNR for any other tidbit they could share. I spent days sitting at the edges of swamps, staring. Finally, I secured permission with several landowners for my new adventure.

The great day of turtle trapping arrived. It is legal to trap snappers in Wisconsin from July 15 through November 30. In the spring, they are mating and laying eggs, often on the roadside gravel. Protected during recent seasons with shell slot limits and rebounding since the days of over-harvest threatened snapper numbers, they should never be taken during this vulnerable nesting period.

After acquiring three hoop traps and chest waders, I was ready. I packed up chicken livers and fish heads for bait and made my way to the first pond. I had practiced putting up the hoop trap in my yard enough times that setting it up in the swamp was a breeze. The bait was in the



Snapper trapper Andrea Elverman wins another battle.

legal, their shells measuring between 12 and 16 inches from top to bottom. Two of the snappers were 16 pounds, one was 11 pounds, and the big daddy was 24 pounds. Mission accomplished. I was the Master Turtle Trapper. I marched with authority to the truck and loaded the precious cargo.

After showing every friend, relative and passing jogger my quarry, I was homebound with my bale of turtles (a group of turtles is technically a bale).

None of these four glorious turtles ever made it to the dinner table. I put them in my yard and for three days, they were looked upon lovingly and fed a diet of chicken livers and hot dogs. I just didn't have the heart that summer. On the fourth day, I let them all go, thanking each one of them for the best adventure ever. Very soon though, this polite hostess and her palate would remember a night long ago at a wild game feast.

Very soon, this new turtle trapper would learn to use the butcher's knife.

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traps. It was time to wait.

The traps were set at dusk and are required to be checked daily. Admittedly, I was scared, so Fearless Husband came along for backup. We checked the first two traps but they were empty. We added fresh bait before heading off to my last trap. As I stood over the last trap looking down into the water all I could see were the large pond stones. Something was wrong. I needed a better spot. What a bummer. This trap would have to be relocated. While grabbing the stakes and pulling the hoops, something happened. One of the huge pond stones turned up its head and looked at my foot! The hair on the back of my neck stood up. I was paralyzed by fear. As I slowly stepped back from the trap unable to breathe, my eyes started working properly. There were four snapping turtles in that trap! Not one of them was small.

Nearly an hour went by before we had them all untangled and on the shore. The cautious work involved was intense. There were snapping jaws everywhere, and if they weren't snapping at each other, or me, they were just snapping. It worked out well with the help of Fearless Husband. All four snappers were

## On Wisconsin Outdoors

With the Dick Ellis Experts

**Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Travel  
and Outdoor Humor**

### PUBLISHER/EDITOR:

Dick Ellis  
[ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

### ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:

Karen Cluppert  
[ads@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:ads@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

### PRODUCTION DIRECTOR:

Maureen Splitgerber  
[prod@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:prod@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

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**On The Trapline...** (Continued from page 3)

case she should ever change her mind. There was much sadness in my thoughts as I drove out the long gravel driveway for perhaps the last time.

A few years passed. I wondered how many new coyotes and raccoons had moved in, living in their island of refuge. One night, when I arrived home, my wife told me a lady had called with some coyote problems. I looked at the number and knew immediately that it was the old farm. Evidently a pack of coyotes had moved in and had killed several of the lady's sheep. The next day I stopped out to assess the situation. She gave me a tour of the pasture which included the body of a freshly killed sheep. It was a classic coyote kill, bite marks to the nose, face, throat and hindquarters. The coyote took several bites out of the sheep until it was disabled, and then ate a large chunk out of its hindquarter. This may seem cruel to some, but it's just the way coyotes do business. You need to understand that Mother Nature is neither kind, humane nor politically correct.

The lady told me there were six coyotes at the start, but another trapper had come out and trapped five. After two weeks of trying to catch the alpha male, he gave up, and recommended that she give me a call. I knew the other trapper well; he was

a former student of mine. As a Wisconsin Trapper Education Instructor I have taught quite a few students, but this guy had stood out. He was not a youngster just starting out, but rather an experienced hunter in his mid-thirties. He had already taken several trophy deer and bear and was looking for a new challenge. The fact that he was able to catch five of the coyotes proved I had taught him well. Trapping coyotes is never easy, and trapping a trap-shy alpha male is perhaps the ultimate trapping challenge. This job would require the skills of a master trapper.


I set out about a dozen traps. Post sets, flat sets, blind sets and every other type of coyote set. If this coyote moved, I fully expected to catch him. The next morning I checked the traps—all empty, and so it went for several days. I knew this coyote would not approach my trap sets until all traces of human scent had disappeared. On the fifth day the coyote made his presence known. He had found a few of my trapsets, pawed a trench up to the traps, flipped them over, snapped 'em and left a pile of droppings on top. That was his way of telling me what he thought of my trapping ability. This battle was now getting personal. Every morning the lady would ask me if I had caught the coyote yet. I tried to explain to her that this coyote

would take some time to catch. As the days went by, she was losing patience, and even questioned if I knew how to catch coyotes. That hurt. I needed to catch this coyote quickly.

I decided to try a different approach. Rather than hoping to hide my traps from the coyote's keen senses, I would attempt a more subtle plan. At one of the trapsets I set the trap, then placed it upside down in the trap bed. I lightly covered it with dirt, and then sprayed the area with a good dose of female coyote urine.

The next morning as I approached the set, there were several crows making a ruckus in a nearby tree. I knew that I had caught the coyote. As I walked up to him I could see he was caught firmly by both front feet. My plan had worked. He had dug up the trap, flipped it over, stomped on it and was caught. Looking him over, I was surprised to see that he was a rather small, scarred, mangy looking coyote. My immediate thought was this is ONE UGLY COYOTE! I won't even get five bucks for his pelt. After dispatching him, I removed him from the trap and looked him over. This coyote had lived a rough life. His ears were shredded from countless fights with dogs and other coyotes. There was a long scar running diagonally across his back, no doubt a close call

with a 12-gauge slug during a previous deer season. Most of his teeth were missing or worn down to nubs. The longer I looked him over, the more he reminded me of myself. The hairs around his nose were gray just like the color of my hair. His knee joints were swollen and gnarled kinda like the arthritis in my legs. This was one old veteran coyote. He was trying to survive in a world that viewed him with disdain. He was wanted dead or alive, preferably dead.

In many ways we trappers are viewed much like the coyotes we trap, living in a world increasingly set against us. Your average "urban dweller" does not understand things like the balance of nature, and how hunters or trappers help keep animal populations under control. When these folks hear the words "trapper" or "hunter" all they see is just "ONE UGLY COYOTE." Educating the public with the truth about hunting or trapping will be a monumental task. But educate the public we must, for they ultimately will decide our future. 

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*Arnold Groehler is a Wisconsin trapper education instructor. When not serving his country, he serves as the Director of the North American Fur Auction.*

**On Wisconsin Outdoors...** (Continued from page 3)

and then we went to look for Arnie.

By the time I made the half-mile walk I was carrying about 30 pounds of new ice on my stiff wool pants and Blue had those big ice balls hanging from his butt hair. I think Arnie must have seen me coming and thought, "Yep, that's exactly how I thought he'd look."

We talked straight on the ice about trapping and hunting and the imperative need for ethics if any of it is to last and Arnie caught his rats. I don't trap. It's not in my make-up. But Arnie taught me a lot out on that ice about culling surplus fur-bearing populations, like any other species of wildlife, before very bad things happen like starvation and in this case, cannibalism.

And he pulled a mink out of a tunnel entrance that was invading the hut with thoughts of another easy muskrat meal. Instead, the mink met a quick death in Arnie's trap. Maybe

animals don't feel fear, or emotions. But think about the last thoughts of a muskrat when out of the entrance water inside his nice warm hut comes a vicious and hungry mink.

There's a lot of non-Disney type brutality in the wild, including that which we cannot see. I wrote the story, entitled "The Frozen Jungle". Arnie came to trust me and, like so many of my sources of expertise, we became friends. Arnie knows that I am a defender of hunting, including trapping, a defender of the First and Second Amendments. And a defender of the American serviceman and woman.

Maybe it's because I think any 10-year-old today in America relying on big media for a vision of the military, or the hunter, or anyone who carries a firearm has a vision that's not very admirable. Maybe it's because my own vision of the American serv-

iceman is one of courage and performance in the face of danger despite his fear as he strives to do good things.


But maybe it's because I have done nothing myself to earn these precious freedoms that allow us to go where we want and when we want, that my battles defending our rights have been fought with the pen. That's necessary. Just not very dangerous.

Now where is Arnie Groehler, one reporter's trapping expert? Arnie is in Iraq, like so many other mostly young Wisconsin heroes, doing what he has been asked to do despite having had done his duty decades before in the Special Forces.

And where is Arnie Groehler's column in this first issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*? Arnie is first. Not because trapping is the most popular outdoor activity with the most participants. Not because Arnie is the most

talented writer within these pages, although he has some great stories to tell. But because Arnie Groehler, representing all the Wisconsin service men and women, earned the first spot.

You will enjoy the rest of these experts too. If you're wondering what an "Ellis Expert" is, he is an expert, who during my 15 years as a syndicated columnist writing 750 columns from the field, have allowed me to join them on their journeys; to listen, to watch, to learn and to write.

They're worth knowing. Let the introductions begin. 

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*Dick Ellis publishes "On Wisconsin Outdoors." He writes a syndicated outdoor column from the field carried weekly in 55 Wisconsin and Illinois newspapers. Check out [www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com](http://www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com).*



# Figuring Out The Pattern When Time On The Water Is Short

By John Kubiak

**L**ike many reading this, I am a weekend warrior, a part-time musky fisherman. Unlike the pros, we may only get a few opportunities to fish during any given season. When dealing with a short window of time, it's crucial to try to figure out the feeding pattern quickly, so you can spend your time working areas holding fish. This article contains information I've learned over the past several years. I hope it will help you dial into the pattern quickly and capitalize on when and where the muskies are feeding. Once you find the pattern, you can more often than not turn a fishless day into a multiple fish day.

One good way to figure out the pattern if you have a multi-day trip planned is trial and error. You need to diversify your approach to see what's working. A recent trip to Northern Wisconsin illustrates my point very clearly. I had a six-day trip planned



*This 48-inch musky was caught, photographed with a timer and released by the author while row trolling over schools of ciscoes in northern Wisconsin.*

.....  
*"More often than not, if there is one fish in an area, it is there for a reason, and there are likely to be more fish there as well..."*  
 .....

just prior to the 4th of July. It was a family trip, so I knew I would not be able to fish 12 hours a day like I would if I were on a trip in Canada. The first few days I was able to put in five to six hours on the water each day. I had six lakes on my target list of where I wanted to fish. I had a multi-pronged attack planned using both casting and row trolling methods.

I began by using the "run and gun" approach during low light periods either before sunrise or after sunset. I was casting search lures like buck tails and top waters over the tops of shallow structure like weed beds and rock bars. This is an effective way to start because you can fish fast and it's easy to see if a fish is following a buck tail or surface bait. I tried this approach on three different lakes on the first day and did not raise a fish.

The next method I tried was row trolling over open water during the middle of the day. Many times, the

muskies will suspend over deep water in the heat of the day during summer to escape the penetration of the sun's rays. I generally will troll with three lines during the day. I use deep-diving crank baits like Depth Raiders and Hookers, and minnow baits like Jakes or Grandmas in different patterns that vary in depth from eight to 20 feet. I will use one bait in a perch pattern, one in a sucker pattern, and one in ciscoe pattern. Once you find a depth and a pattern that works, stick with it. Fishing open water can also be done by casting. I tried this method on two different lakes during day number two of the trip, and still did not have any action.

My third approach was row trolling during low light. During low light I like to use black baits because they offer the best silhouette. I only troll two lines at this time because it's too difficult to run three when it's dark. This is the method that paid off. During the next four days I hooked



*This 44-inch musky was caught and released on Pewaukee Lake using information attained from local fishermen.*


nine muskies and caught eight of them that ranged from 38-48 inch. All fish were on either a night shiner Depth Raider or a black perch Jake. I realized the muskies were following schools of ciscoes that were coming up out of deep water to feed on the surface. The muskies were suspended in deep water and picking off the ciscoes as they came to the surface. I was row trolling through these schools, and my baits were evidently in the strike zone. After I caught the first fish, I continued

to fish the same baits, at the same speed, in the same area. More often than not, if there is one fish in an area, it is there for a reason, and there are likely to be more fish there as well.

Another good way to figure out the pattern if you are just heading out for the day is getting advice from local fisherman. Lake Link has a website that posts fishing reports daily and it's a good source of information. I also like to stop in at the local bait shop to see what the latest trends are. Recently I had planned a Tuesday evening fishing trip on Pewaukee Lake. I spoke to a few locals, and checked the Lake Link website. People were having success trolling crank baits in the 15-20

foot range in the main lake area. I used this method and caught a 44 inch musky after being on the water for just one hour. I had not been fishing on Pewaukee for more than two months, but because I did my homework I was able to score very quickly.

I like to keep a fishing journal in which I keep track of important information such as date, time, water temperature, moon phase, baits used, fish caught, etc. This way if I discover a pattern, I can repeat it when there are similar conditions. I also use reels with line counters when trolling. I will vary the amount of line I have out until I find what works. Once I find what works, it's easy to repeat because I know exactly how much line was out.

Trial and error, and talking to the locals are two great ways to figure out the current musky pattern. Don't get caught in a rut. If what you are doing is not working, try something different until you find what works. And once you have some success, keep doing the same thing until the muskies tell you differently. 

*John Kubiak is an avid musky fisherman who fishes when he can. He has 85 fish up to 48 inches caught and released.*

# Fall-In To The Chance Of A Lifetime

## Need To Feed Means Fall Opportunity

By Dennis Radloff

With so many variables involved in trying to target and pattern any species of fish, there are many theories surrounding some of the top tactics when it comes to musky fishing. There is one element you can count on, though, to deliver some of the greatest opportunities and it's a simple four letter word ... "FALL."

Every year fall brings the opportunity that all musky anglers seek and that's "big fish." Why so much hype about fall fishing? What makes it so much better than the rest of the season? Let's take a look at how nature and elements work together, setting the perfect stage for a crack at the fish of a lifetime!

While we are a few weeks away from hitting a full "fall pattern," the stage is already getting set with our main target, the big females. As we

head into September the mature females already have a fully developed set of egg sacks, and while they are still hard and far from spawn, they are at an important stage of development which will begin to spark the need for more food. As these egg sacks continue to mature, the female fish will begin seeking the extra nutrition necessary to nourish and develop what will become next spring's spawn. The key factor here is these fish will begin target main lake schools of suspended bait fish, and they will follow this food source wherever it goes.

The next sure factor you can count on is that upcoming shorter days and longer nights are sure to start dropping the water temperatures into a steady decline. As water temps continue to drop, you can be sure to find open water schools of baitfish returning to main-lake structures, shallow bays, shallow flats, and tribu-

tary bays or rivers. Knowing what the baitfish are doing in a body of water and finding where they are will consistently create a pattern to finding some big muskies nearby. The big females will relate to this moving forage base and follow it wherever it goes, creating your opportunity of a lifetime. Fall baitfish migrations will always draw muskies, especially some of the big open water giants that are generally hard to find throughout the rest of the season.

Start locating your open water schools of baitfish now and watch where they go when the water temps start to drop and you are sure to find some of the biggest muskies in the lake!



Dennis Radloff client Mike Scharf of West Allis prepares to release a 50-inch musky taken from the Fox River at Green Bay in October of 2006.

Captain Dennis Radloff owns and operates Sterling Guide Service. He guides on the waters of Green Bay and southeast Wisconsin seven days a week April through November. Contact him at [www.sterlingmusky.com](http://www.sterlingmusky.com), 262.443.9993.

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# Wisconsin's Best Kept Secret

## River Fishing Means Quality, Quantity, Diversity

By Phil Schweik

**H**ow would you like to go out fishing and have the opportunity to target walleye, bass, panfish and musky all in the same day, on the same body of water, fishing the same spots? Consider this: Several outings last year, Hooksetter's clients boated walleyes, bass, panfish, catfish, northern pike and musky. These aren't outings that last several days but are just a few to eight hour trips. Several of these fish were real trophies. Where can you have action like this?

The Wisconsin River System!

The Wisconsin River and its backwaters of Central Wisconsin. The impoundments that make up the Wisconsin River system hold some of the most fantastic fishing in the country. Last year alone my clients and I put over 80 muskies in the boat with several of the fish right at that magical 50-inch mark. We had walleyes that would stretch the tape up to and over that always-sought-after 30-inch mark. And, bass with comparative frequency at four, five and even six pounds. What if I said those fish are smallmouth bass? That is correct—20, 21, and 22 inch smallies.



*The author prepares to release a 50-inch musky back into the Wisconsin River with the beautiful birch background of October reinforcing the idea that fishing and fall scenery are good reasons to visit central Wisconsin.*

If that's not your game and you just want to relax and target panfish, we can load you up on enough eight to ten-inch gills to make anyone excited. For night owls we can and do target the always ravenous channel cat. If you have never hooked into one of these feisty night prowlers, hang on. These bad cats will test your strength.

Right now as we enter our fall season you can count on lunker walleyes. We found feisty bronze backs that will amaze you with their




*The author's wife, Rhonda Schweik, with a legitimate 17-inch Wisconsin River crappie.*

aerobic displays. For musky addicts, we successfully target the master of this system with proven fall lures and techniques. Who knows? You could be the next one to put a 40 pounder in the boat. We've done it before!

Fishing season literally never ends here in Central Wisconsin. With the Wisconsin River and its impoundments open to most gamefish year round, we can offer exciting fishing 365

days a year. We target Lake Wausau, Halfmoon Lake, Lake DuBay, and countless miles of river system that are very navigable and make up thousands of acres of prime fishing areas.

For both the angler looking for that week long vacation and the fisherman on a weekend get away, we are very close. Gas prices are soaring. Your trip to usual northern destinations or even Canada might just be too far, and too expensive. Here in Central Wisconsin we are only four hours from Chicago. With plenty of lodging and first class restaurants available we will surpass everyone's expectations for comfort and enjoyment, both on and off the water.

Obviously, Central Wisconsin and the river system have everything a person needs to make for a successful and pleasurable fishing vacation. Vacation with us and I can promise you this: Once you have been to the Wausau-Stevens Point area, it will be your return destination for years to come. 

*Phil Schweik, HOOKSETTERS FISHING SERVICES 715.693.5843 [www.hooksetters.biz](http://www.hooksetters.biz)*

# Early Fall on the Madison Chain

## Pre-turnover Means Great Musky, Walleye Fishing

By A.J. Dellinger

**S**eptember and October are premier times for musky and walleye fishing. Pre-turnover conditions on Lake Monona, Wingra, and Waubesa provide for some of the best musky fishing of the season due to cooling temperatures and water clarity. In past years, the pattern seems to show that rocky points with ample weed cover produce the best musky action. This action can be seen best on the wind-blown side of the lake. Man-made structures such as bridges or boat landing areas can also prove to be effective locations to pursue pre-turnover




*The change of Fall mean increased walleye and musky action on the Madison Chain.*

muskies. Bait choices this time of the year can be numerous, but some of the common choices include: buck tails, like cow girls and eagles tails in a black and orange combination; jerk baits like Suicks, Reef Hogs; musky-sized

spinner baits in 1.75-2.5 ounce sizes; and Top Water baits like Hog Wobblers, Water Choppers and Jackpots, which can prove to be the most productive when water hits the 60 degree mark.

Walleye action can be best seen on Lake Waubesa and Mendota, two lakes which continue to produce bountifully year after year. It is typical during this time of year for walleyes to come back to the weed beds and prefer areas with rocks and deep water nearby. These areas are most active when a 10-15 mph wind is present and blowing into them. Due to clear water conditions during this time of year, fluorocarbon line in 6-8 lb. test is preferred, however 6 lb.

seems to work the best. Slip bobbers tipped with minnows are commonly used throughout the fall season. Crank baits also work well during this period. Jig colors to use include but are not limited to purple and black, as well as two-tone. As for live baits, leaches and minnows are popular choices. However when the temperature starts dropping, minnows are the safe bet. 

*For more information on Early Fall on the Madison Chain, or any fishing questions you may have, contact D&S Bait, Tackle and Archery, LLC by phone at 608.241.4225 or on the web at [www.dsibait.com](http://www.dsibait.com).*



# Seeing The Light

## Crappies Fall To Nocturnal Tactics

By Terry Bitz

There we were: three fishermen in a boat on a Kenosha County lake. Despite the fact that it was a holiday weekend, there were only two other boats on the lake. As they say, timing is everything. In this case, the time was everything.

My watch said it was 11:00 pm. ...

Doug Kloet of Doug Kloet Guide Service had called me the previous week, saying that a good night-time crappie bite was going on and asking me to join him on a late-night fishing outing.

Kloet is a muskie lure builder who resides in Kenosha. He is also a fishing guide who targets local lakes. While his true love is chasing muskie, he also fishes and guides for other species.

So I found myself with Kloet and his six-year old nephew Caleb Johnson of Zion, Illinois, riding out onto a local lake after sunset. While we were motoring out to begin our evening of fishing, other boats were coming from the opposite direction, ending their day.

Kloet predicted that by 10:00 pm the lake would be almost devoid of any fishing boats. "This is an untapped resource," he said in reference to the lack of people who target crappies at night.

"The daytime crappie bite is best during the spring when the fish are shallow; however, that only lasts for a couple of weeks before they relocate

to deeper water," he said. Kloet motored us to a spot that had a depth of about 20 feet and began preparations. He secured the boat by using anchors on both the bow and stern to prevent drifting.

"Basically you want to find the deepest of the deep weed edge and work just off of it," he said. "That can be anywhere from 18 to 25 feet deep depending on the lake."

He then took a propane lantern, lit it and suspended it several feet away from the boat just above the water by mounting it on a horizontal pole. While the lantern does provide light to see by, its real purpose is to draw in fish. The light causes different species to show up, from the tiniest of minnows to eventually (hopefully) predator fish such as crappie.

Within minutes of Kloet turning on the lantern, there were hundreds of tiny minnows circling underneath. A short time later we noticed slightly larger minnows circling under those first tiny minnows, and 20 minutes after that, a fish species about three inches long also joined the party.

There are many rigging choices for this kind of fishing. Kloet often uses a double jig system with two jig heads on the fishing line, one suspended below the other. We were using 1/32-ounce jigs with small fathead minnows for bait. The method was very simple. We lowered the rig down about 10 feet, then slowly jiggled it up and down waiting for the fish to hit. If there were no



Guide Doug Kloet finds isolation and crappies in the dark of night.

takers, we adjusted the line depth either shallower or deeper until the fish bit.

While we did have a couple of hits right away on the minnows, it took about an hour for the crappies to start biting. Kloet was getting all the fish. I couldn't get a bite. So after about 30 minutes, he changed the hair jigs I was using to the same orange and yellow jigs that were successful for him. A short time later Mr. Papermouth introduced himself to my offerings and I started reeling

in fish too.

I wouldn't describe the action as fast and furious, but we never encountered any long slow period once the fish started biting. At one point we did have crappies coming in rapid succession shortly before midnight. This was capped off by Kloet landing two fish at one time with one fish on each jig.

Unfortunately, Kloet's nephew ran out of gas shortly before the fish started biting. One minute he was fishing with us and the next, he was softly snoozing with his baseball cap covering his face like a veteran of the outdoors. Though he tried, Kloet was unsuccessful in rousing the future diehard fisherman from his slumber when the fish started biting.

Considering the lack of boats on the lake, most fishermen were probably like Caleb: fast asleep and dreaming of fishing. While the fish may have been biting in those fishermen's dreams, Kloet and I were actually out there catching fish under a starlit sky.

WB

Doug Kloet, owner of Musky Magic Tackle and Doug Kloet Guide Service, guides clients for muskie on Silver Lake in Kenosha County and the Fox Chain of Lakes in Illinois. He is a multi-species guide on Geneva Lake and Delavan Lake in Walworth County. Kloet can be contacted by phone at 262.605.8247 or email at [dkloet@muskymagictackle.com](mailto:dkloet@muskymagictackle.com). His website is [www.muskymagictackle.com](http://www.muskymagictackle.com).



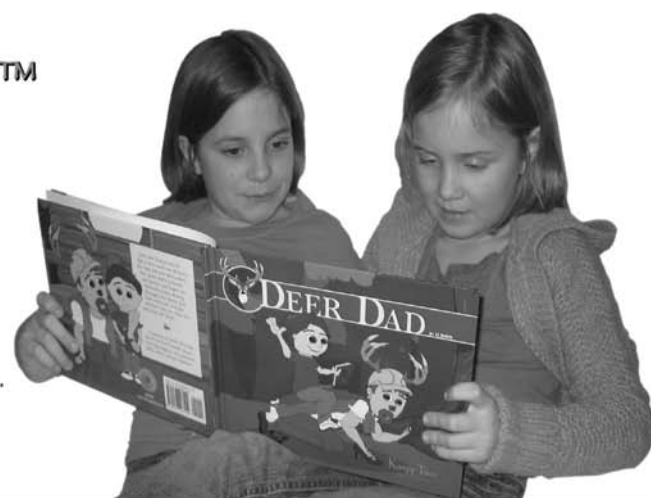
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# The King And I

## Chinook Bite Hot On Lake Michigan

By Dick Ellis

Under the power of twin 454 Merc Cruisers, the Wolf Pack moved further from the Sheboygan River hunting for an edge: capture just the right combination of speed, depth and lure presentation and the main-card, heavy weight bouts of Lake Michigan would follow. The Wolf Pack was on the prowl. Kings salmon would soon be on the run.

Three miles off the river mouth over 80 feet of water, retired Wisconsin conservation warden Roy Kalmerton took the cue from son Pat on the deck below and throttled back from the skipper's chair to let the 38-foot Wellcraft Cozumel settle to a crawl. Both Chinook (Kings) and steelhead (Great Lakes rainbow) would be active. Finding just the right speed had been the most crucial link to a consistent bite.

"Fishing has been very good," said Roy Kalmerton as first mate Greg Schoemer began to help set a variety of Dodger and Fly combinations below. "We're seeing great bait fish production and big schools of alewife. That forage for the sport fish was our main concern after questions were raised in 2005 about too many salmon and not enough food. But the DNR is saying that the alewife hatch was good and we're seeing it ourselves with the big clouds of bait fish on the graphs."

Chinook and coho salmon and rainbows, he said, had cooperated with recreational anglers and charter boats working from the Sheboygan harbor throughout early summer. More lake trout were also taken by Wolf Pack Adventures by early July than during all of 2005. Fishing by mid-July had turned as scorching hot as the weather.

"Believe me, we're going to get our six-man limit many times over," Pat Kalmerton said. "And if we see another alewife hatch or two like we're seeing this year, we will be seeing 30-pound Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan again."

On board the big boat were Lori and Taylor Ellis, friends Valerie and Charlie Koch and their daughter Mackenzie. Electing to catch rays

instead of fish, Lori and Val would not purchase licenses. 12-year-olds Mack and Tae didn't require licenses and would handle rod duties. Charlie and I would badger the crew with questions and take photos. And that crew, despite the sun hanging high in the sky, would find the fish.

Although early morning and late afternoon are always best on the big pond, we had offered to take a two-hour mid-day hunt so that "reel" clients could be entertained in prime time. Our own real intent was to capture a story rather than a limit.

The Kalmertons (Captain Jerrad makes three) have looked for innovative ways to invite entire families or

.....

*"One thing we've noticed, if you aren't going the right speed you will not catch fish..."*

.....

corporate groups to Sheboygan, including individuals who may not have a keen interest in charter fishing. Wolf Pack Adventures includes a package that in alliance with



Early morning sunrise on Lake Michigan is one of many reasons anglers chase salmon and trout.



Charter crews often take care of novices or business parties on Lake Michigan. Experienced anglers in smaller boats often choose to take care of themselves.

Harborside Development, Blue Harbor Water Park and The Bull Golf Course located at Pinehurst Farms, offers guests all or a portion of charter fishing, water park passes, condo lodging, world class golf, shoreline cruises and much more at discounted prices. (For details see contact information at conclusion of column.)

Over prime water, the crew began to display a variety of dodger and fly and dodger and streamer combinations in green, purple and black. Varying speeds between 2.2 and 2.7 miles per hour, the Wolf Pack adopted a weaving course that would cause lures depending on boat placement to increase and decrease speeds and allow the skippers to detect any preference from the sport fish. They would adapt lure type and speed accordingly if one presentation began to receive more strikes.

"One thing we've noticed: if you aren't going the right speed you will not catch fish," said Captain Roy. "It can't be too fast and it can't be too slow. The presentation of the bait has to be life-like and just a little adjustment can make a big difference."

It's seeking the difference, Captain Pat said, that often makes the difference. The Wolf Pack took the large Chinook salmon at 24 pounds and the large brown trout at 21 pounds respectively in 2005 and 2006 Sheboygan Coho derby tournaments.

And the crew works season-long with bait manufacturers to test and tweak lures and offer suggestions for improvement. Everyday work translates to everyday fun for clients.

Thursday the crew zeroed in on 2.2 mph as optimum speed with flies, and Taylor Ellis landed a noon-hour steelhead to break the ice. Mackenzie Koch didn't have to wait long on-deck and had an extended wrestling match with a big King before winning a unanimous decision with a little bit of help from Taylor.

In a late August interview, the Captains Kalmerton said the Wolf Pack was finding consistent limits every time out. Kings and rainbows remain aggressive.

"We're always trying to think of ways to be better," said Captain Pat. "If it starts out as just an idea that gives us an edge, that's just all the better. We're not going out there repeating the same things if they're not working. We want people to catch fish."

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** For more information on Wolf Pack Adventure's charter fishing services or package information on fishing, Harborside Villa lodging, Blue Harbor water park passes and golfing at the Jack Nicklaus signature course The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, contact [www.wolfpackadventures.com](http://www.wolfpackadventures.com) or 920.918.9653.



# An Outdoorsman's Companion

## Sheboygan Fishing Showcased In Women's Derby

*Editor's Note: Usually Deborah Chamberlain, a self-proclaimed non-outdoors woman, is seeking activities for wives, girlfriends and family in different parts of Wisconsin where sportsmen in the house may be hunting or fishing. On this trip, quite by accident, she ran into a fishing tournament exclusively for women in Sheboygan. Deb stepped in to see what it was all about....*

By Debbie Chamberlain

My sister and I got up at 4:30 a.m., poured cups of steaming coffee and went out on the deck of our exquisite Harborside Villa to observe the early-morning activities carried out by misty figures below. Short bursts of laughter escaped from one of the docked boats, perhaps left-over partyers from the previous night. Shadowy figures moved about, setting up tents, pulling out boxes. Quiet snippets of conversation floated over to the veranda.

As the sun rose, the dock came alive with people and noise. Captains and first mates made their way to their charter boats to test lines, clean decks, and get ready for their day on Lake Michigan. Participants ready for the 31st Annual Powder Puff Fishing Derby in Sheboygan, Wisconsin joined them -- women only; the rules said no more than one man was allowed onboard.

We made our way along the river, pointing out the creative boat names: Happy Hooker, Rood Dawg, Pro-Fish-N-Sea. We met Capt. Roy Kalmerton of Wolf Pack Adventures at The Wharf, a bait and tackle shop where the day's events would take place. He graciously offered to be our day's guide, describing the history of the derby, offering to motor us out to check on the progress of the catch during the six-hour competition, and introducing us to the contestants.

Amanda, a first-time participant, explained that she thought the derby sounded like something fun to do while her husband was working. Tracy was "reeled in" by Judy, a participant the previous year. She was back again, remembering her success when she was the "first to



Wolf Pack Adventures and almost 80 other boats in the annual Powder Puff Derby at Sheboygan teach women of all ages how to fish. Here Taylor Ellis and Mackenzie Koch fight another big King.

take a line" in 2006, working for more than a half-hour to land her fish.

"My legs and arms were just shaking," Tracy said with a laugh, her eyes sparkling at the memory.

Darcy called her experience "exhilarating." Another participant said she returned because "it's good to see a man working -- for once!" during the post-fishing weigh-in that lasts for hours.

Captain Roy drove us to the breakwater in preparation for the Coast Guard's official 6:00 a.m. start. One young man with bowed back carted four huge, almost-touching-the-ground fish slung over his shoulders, their silvery skins glistening in the sun. A lone fisherman was only a silhouette on the dock, while little tents dotted the pier farther out.

Soon, the flotilla came into view. We watched them proceed slowly through the channel, then run to the end of the retaining wall as the captains shifted the engines into high gear to ride the choppy, slate-grey water edged with white foam. A new morning with the sun a red orb in the sky soon took on a dusting of fog. Capt. Roy started to take us out to make contact with some of the participants but as we passed through the channel, the mist quickly became thick clouds that forced us back.


At The Wharf, I talked with

Brenda Powers and Teri Strub from Safe Harbor, the beneficiary of the proceeds of the day's fishing event. Safe Harbor is an organization that provides services to victims of domestic violence, most of whom are women and children. Brenda and Teri described the derby as a way for women to help women and an opportunity for women to try something new with mostly just other women around.

When I asked about the name "Powder Puff" and described how one man seemed to dismiss the tour-

name with a limp-wristed gesture and a question -- "Who puts on the worms?" -- neither Brenda nor Teri was offended. They said "powder puff" was just a phrase, one that clearly does not reflect the kind of strength and tenacity the winning 21.25-pound King salmon would command.

During weigh-in, the long line of fisherwomen and crews alternately shoved and pulled bulky coolers while they stood in the re-appearing sun to wait their turn for a fish-and-folks photo op and weigh-in. With 78 boats and 299 women, 570 fish were caught in a combination of rainbow, browns, lake trout, Kings and Cohos -- for a total of 4,821.68 pounds. Try landing that with a limp wrist!

The 31st Annual Powder Puff Fishing Derby in Sheboygan. Another success...for women only. 

**Acknowledgements:** Many thanks to John Schwarz of Harborside Villas ([www.harborsidevillas.com](http://www.harborsidevillas.com)), Capt. Roy Kalmerton and First Mate Sammy ([www.wolfpackadventures.com](http://www.wolfpackadventures.com)), Denny Moyer of the Chamber of Commerce ([moyer@sheboygan.org](mailto:moyer@sheboygan.org)), the Powder Puff Derby ([www.the-wharf.biz/2007PPDerby.pdf](http://www.the-wharf.biz/2007PPDerby.pdf)), and others who made our stay memorable.



First mate Greg Schoemer hefts another Sheboygan King wrestled into submission by Mackenzie Koch and Taylor Ellis with Wolf Pack Adventures.



# Autumn Feedbag

## Walleye Frenzy Certain With Dropping Temperatures

By Paul Mueller

When the nights begin to turn cool in early autumn, walleye action heats up on the massive bay of Green Bay. From the reefs off Door County north to the famous Bay de Noc of Michigan, the walleye feedbag is on. Mother Nature gives walleye anglers a once-a-year gift in early fall. The biology behind it is simple. The water temperature has just passed its highest point, driving the cold-blooded metabolism of the walleye to its peak. The need to feed is driven higher by the beginning of production of the females' eggs. Combine the need to eat with the depletion of eating-size bait fish (due to growth and being preyed on all year), and the result is an aggressive feeding pattern. Let's see how to make the best of this situation....

First, you need a significant amount of patience. Mobile, aggressive walleyes combined with frightened bait fish will put these fish on

the constant move. Here today and gone tomorrow is a reality. Start where you caught fish yesterday but be ready to move from spot to spot all day long if the fish aren't where you left them the day before. I target rock reefs in anywhere from 15 to 30 feet of water. There are hundreds of them between Door County and Bay de Noc; you need to be prepared to fish them all if necessary. When targeting a spot, I break the water column into thirds (top third, middle third and bottom third). I plan to run at least one bait in each of those thirds until I find the pattern of the day. Once I catch fish at one depth, I move most of my baits to that depth. It may change day to day, even hour to hour. Fish on the bottom may suspend or vice versa. Be prepared to adapt to change and you will be successful.

At this time of year, both crawler harnesses and crank baits will work. Depth of your presentation will be more



Paul Mueller clients with typical Green Bay walleyes.

important than type or color; but the latter may mean the difference between a 10- and a 20-fish day. That is why I start with what worked yesterday, but don't get frustrated if it doesn't work today. Keep moving and changing until you run into fish. Be patient and the payoff will be big in both size and numbers.

Fishing remains great through the fall.



Paul Mueller is a U.S.C.G. Master Captain. To book a trip with him call 262.490.7621 or e-mail walleyefever@wi.rr.com.



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# Upland Game, Waterfowl Forecasts

## Bright Skies On The Horizon

By Dick Ellis

Wisconsin upland game birds continue to show increased population numbers with expectations high for excellent fall seasons. Wild pheasants, ruffed grouse and fall turkey opportunities should be very good. Stocked pheasants from the state game farm at Poynette will be increased over 2006 with the facility running at near full potential.

Despite the extended drought over much of Wisconsin, very good nesting conditions over much of the country and Canada mean Wisconsin waterfowlers can expect a good season. The highlight is an unprecedented two bird daily limit for canvas-back during the entire 60 day season.

### MOURNING DOVE

Wisconsin's fifth dove hunting season runs Sept 1 - Oct 30. Approximately 15,000 to 20,000 dove hunters are expected to take to the field at some point during the season. According to Migratory Bird Ecologist Kent Van Horn, the 10 year "population trend," indicates a four to six percent increase in Wisconsin dove population.

Van Horn said 400 million birds make up the United States population. The national harvest for 2005 was 22 million. Nineteen million doves were harvested in 2006.

"It's the most abundant game bird in the United States," Van Horn said. "Forty states have a dove hunting season. About 15,000 people here harvest about 100,000 birds. It's a different kind of hunt with good harvest opportunity. There's not



15 bird daily limits, warm weather make mourning dove season appealing.

much equipment required and it's not physically difficult. It's a good introduction to hunting."

The biggest news regarding mourning dove hunting is a proposal that would require the use of non-toxic shot for doves if hunting on DNR land. The state is seeking public comment. If a recommendation is sent to the Natural Resources Board seeking adoption, the regulation could be in place for the 2008 season.

### RUFFED GROUSE

Ruffed grouse numbers, according to DNR Upland Game Ecologist Scott Hull said, are "definitely on an upswing of the 10-year population cycle" with spring drumming counts up 12 percent statewide on the heels of a 26 percent increase in 2006. Northern regions of the state, which hold the



Grouse cyclical population continues to rise entering 2007 season

most prime grouse habitat in the state and draw by far the most hunters, showed a 17 percent increase according to drumming counts.

"We'll have to get the crystal ball out but the population should peak again in 2009 or 2010," said Hull. "Each peak in recent years has not quite reached as high of numbers as the previous peak. We're watching that with our fingers crossed. That decline is most likely a function of habitat; the loss of timber harvest and the corresponding loss of the aspen that is desirable for ruffed grouse."

Annual state surveying of upland game hunters showed that 99,000 grouse hunters in 2006 logging approximately 756,000 days in the field

harvested 384,000 birds. During the last peak, in 1999, the total harvest was approximately 768,000. Grouse hunters in 2007 should be aware of one major change regarding hunting zones. The three Wisconsin zones guiding hunter regulations and season lengths over many years have been consolidated to two zones. Zone A now combines the northern and southwest zones. Zone B is now defined by the southeast.

The Zone A grouse season begins September 15 and concludes January 31 with a daily bag of five birds. Zone B begins October 20 and concludes December 8 with a daily bag of two birds. Possession limit for each zone is twice the daily bag.

### WOODCOCK

Over the last 30+ years, the woodcock population across its range in the Midwest and northeast U.S. has shown a steady decline primarily related to changes in forest habitat. However, in Wisconsin, this decline appears to have leveled off with no significant change over the last 10 years. Interest in pursuing the "timber doodle" throughout the forests of Wisconsin remains high with over 19,000 woodcock hunters spending 72,000 days in the field in 2006. Wisconsin ranks second in the nation for woodcock harvest at almost 43,000 birds. Overall, hunters should expect to see woodcock numbers similar to the last few years and depending on the weather, should enjoy a good fall.

Woodcock season runs from Sept. 22 to Nov. 5, with a daily bag of 3 birds.

### EARLY GOOSE

Van Horn said a comparative look at Wisconsin goose harvest numbers reveals just how effective the early season hunt targeting locally bred Giant birds has become. In 15 days, hunters targeting just local birds took one-third of the total harvest of migratory geese during seasons running from September into January.

There are two different populations of Canada geese present in Wisconsin during the later regular fall hunting season. A population of slightly smaller birds nests in northern Ontario along the coast of Hudson

Bay before migrating through Wisconsin and other midwestern states. Called the Mississippi Valley Population, results from the most current banding data indicate that half of Wisconsin's regular goose season harvest consists of MVP birds.

Another population, called Giant resident Canada geese, nests in Wisconsin and is the target of early season gunners. With an evolution of the early season including expansion of territory from exclusively a southeast activity to a statewide hunt and corresponding increase in participating hunters, 20,000 geese were harvested in 2006 prior to September 15. That compared to 62,000 migratory geese taken last year after September 15 collectively in the Horicon, Collins and Exterior Zones

"Part of the goal of the early hunt is to target geese born here as opposed to northern Ontario birds that migrate through," Van Horn said. "The season not only provides hunting opportunities but it's been helpful in controlling Canada geese locally."

Because the Conservation Patron License holders are given the early season hunt as part of the package, he said it was difficult to determine how many hunters participate statewide. But he did say participation is probably high. 85,000 Wisconsin residents hunt waterfowl annually, which is almost without exception the second or third highest participation rate in the country behind Texas. Minnesota vies perennially with Wisconsin for the second or third spot.

He encouraged hunters in the early season to approach the hunt differently than in the regular seasons. Food sources, roosting areas, and flight patterns will drastically change with the arrival of migrating birds and cut crops later in the season.

"Look in different places," he said. "Look for large grassy areas with adjacent water. Think outside the box."

The statewide 2007 early season runs from September 1 though September 15 with a daily bag of five geese.

### PHEASANT

According to Hull, 58,000 "put and take" pheasants raised at the state



game farm in Poynette specifically to provide hunting opportunities will be stocked on 71 public hunting grounds statewide throughout the 2007 season. That represents a 6,000 bird increase over 2006 and represents the Poynette facility operating at virtually full capacity.

The Day Old chick program also continues, which allows Wisconsin sportsman's groups to raise and ultimately release for hunting opportunities pheasants taken from the game farm just after hatching. A condition for eligibility to the program means interested organizations must open property where the pheasants are released to the general public for hunting. Call Poynette Game Farm Director Bob Nack for more information at 608-635-8120.

With most spring crowing survey numbers statewide still not compiled, annual mail carrier surveys and anecdotal evidence including more reported sightings of birds and broods point to increasing numbers. The northeast mail carrier route surveys, which literally means mail personnel count the number of birds they encounter while on route, show a 22 percent increase over 2006.

"I think our wild pheasant population is in good shape," said Hull. "This year is the first year that a stamp will be required statewide for all pheasant hunters. The stamp used to be required only in our core pheasant range which was a "U" shaped area more in central Wisconsin."

"We requested the statewide stamp in response to the legislature mandating that 60 percent of the stamp funds will be used to finance the game farm. Since the farm benefits properties and hunters statewide,

## 2007 WISCONSIN WATERFOWL SEASONS

**Early Sept. Canada goose season:**  
**Dates:** Sept. 1-15.  
**Bag:** Daily bag of five geese.  
**Other:** Hunters must purchase a \$3 early season permit, and they must report their goose harvests by calling 1-800-99GOOSE.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT**  
**Dates:** Sept. 15 - 16.  
**Bag:** Regular season bag limits apply except for Canada geese (see below)  
**Note:** The youth waterfowl hunt straddles the early and the regular goose seasons. Thus, youth will have to possess an early goose season permit if hunting on Sept 15th, and a regular season permit if hunting geese on the 16th in the Exterior, Horicon or Collins Zones  
*\*The daily bag for Canada geese on Sept 15 is the same as the early season (5 geese) and the daily bag on Sept 16 is the same as the regular season (2 geese, regardless of zone).*

**DUCKS**  
**Dates:** Northern Zone: Sept. 22 - Nov. 20; Southern Zone: Sept. 29 - Oct. 7, Oct. 13- Dec. 2  
**Bag:** Daily bag of six ducks, not to include more than four mallards of which only one may be a hen, two wood ducks,

one black duck, two redheads, two scaup, one pintail (60 days), two canvasbacks (60 days). In addition, five mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. Coot daily bag is 15

**CANADA GEESE**  
**Dates:**  
*Exterior Zone North:* Sept. 16 - Dec. 9  
*Exterior Zone South:* Sept 16 - Oct 7 and Oct 13- Dec 14  
*Mississippi River Subzone:* Sept. 29 - Oct. 7 and Oct. 13 - Dec. 27.  
**Bag:** Daily bag of two geese.  
**Note:** Wisconsin is entering a 5-year stable season trial period for the regular Canada goose season. The quota system has been eliminated during this time. This means that there will be no early closure in the Exterior Canada goose zone, and hunters will enjoy 85 days of goose hunting with 2 birds per day for the full 85 days. Canada goose harvests in the Exterior zone must still be reported to the 1-800-99GOOSE line.  
*Horicon Zone:*  
 Periods 1 and 2: Sept 16 - Oct 26  
 Periods 3 and 4: Oct 27 - Dec 16  
**Bag:** Daily bag of two, six tags per hunter.

*Collins Zone:*  
 Period 1: Sept. 16 - Sept. 30  
 Period 2: Oct. 1 - Oct. 21  
 Period 3: Oct. 22 - Nov. 16  
**Bag:** Daily bag of two, six tags per hunter

**OTHER GEESE**

**LIGHT GEESE (SNOW, BLUE AND ROSS) AND BRANT**  
**Dates:** Seasons are the same as for the Canada goose zones and subzones.  
**Bag:** Daily bag limit 1 brant and 10 light geese

**WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**  
**Dates:** same as for the Canada goose exterior zones and Collins subzone  
 Horicon Zone is Sept 22- Dec 16  
**Bag:** Daily bag limit, 1 white-fronted goose.

**OTHER CHANGES FOR 2007**  
 Horicon Zone: Hunters may place decoys and shoot at birds that are within the 75 yard Horicon Refuge boundary, provided the hunter is outside this boundary.  
 Additional season information and maps showing zones and tables with daily legal shooting hour times are available on the Waterfowl in Wisconsin page of the DNR Web site or contact a local DNR Service Center or wildlife biologist.

this is a way to fund the Poynette operation while still maintaining the level of funding that has gone to the wild birds through habitat work."

The state no longer plants wild birds, he said, but established habitat in many regions of the state and past stocking to prime the pump in those regions continue to pay great dividends. Dane, Rock, Green counties in the south, St. Croix, Price, and parts of Polk counties in the northwest, Jefferson, Dodge and Columbia closer to the southeast and Brown, Outagamie, and Shawano Counties in the northeast offer diverse examples of counties where hunters can find good wild bird opportunities relatively close

to home, regardless of where home is.

The 2007 Wisconsin pheasant season begins at noon on October 20 and runs through December 31. Wild pheasant hunters may harvest one rooster per day only October 20 and 21. The bag changes to two roosters daily from October 22 through the end of the season with four in possession. Hunters on state properties stocked with birds from the Poynette Game Farm may harvest either hens or roosters but must follow statewide bag regulations and must purchase state harvest stickers to be affixed to the leg of all pheasants killed.

### FALL TURKEY

94,000 wild turkey hunting permits are available for the fall season running from September 15 through November 15. Hunters must have applied and received fall permits in one of the spring turkey management units or purchased available tags until the allotted permits are depleted through the Internet, over the phone, at service centers or applicable stores like Walmart. Those over-the-counter permits go on sale statewide at 10:00 a.m. September 6.

Unlike the fall season where only Gobblers and juvenile Toms, or Jakes are legal targets, hunters may harvest hens in fall. Last year, 12,033 birds were registered by Wisconsin fall turkey hunters for a 15 percent success rate. That compares with 52,428

gobblers harvested during the spring season of 2007. That 25.1 hunter success rate was achieved by approximately 205,000 hunters snapping up almost all of 206,925 available permits.

"The fall season is not as popular as the spring season and that is in line with the trend across the Midwest and the plains states," said Hull. "But the fall season is an important management tool that helps us control numbers. The hunters get more options with hens. We want to give the hunters as liberal a season as possible and provide a quality hunt. Last year we set a harvest record and everything is pointing to a very good season again in 2007."

### WATERFOWL

Waterfowl hunters will have a full 60-day Wisconsin duck hunting season, the longest allowed under federal guidelines, following action taken by the state Natural Resources Board at its meeting August 15 in Bayfield.

The board approved a 2007 Wisconsin waterfowl season structure that includes an increase in the canvasback duck bag from one to two birds, elimination of the early closure provision for the Exterior zone of the Regular Canada goose season, inclusion of a split in the southern zone of the Exterior for Canada goose hunting and again expanded opening day shooting hours beginning at 9 a.m. instead of noon as in previous years.



Wild pheasants numbers are up and the Poynette Game Farm stocking raised birds on 71 public hunting grounds is running at full potential.





Wisconsin duck hunters received an unprecedented two-canvasback-daily bag limit for the entire 2007 season.

The board also adopted a statewide nontoxic shot requirement when hunting rail, snipe and moorhens beginning in 2007 and directed that hunters use nontoxic shot when hunting mourning doves on DNR lands beginning in 2008.

"Wisconsin waterfowlers should have a good hunting season," said

Kent Van Horn, Department of Natural Resources migratory game bird ecologist. "Overall, populations of waterfowl game species are healthy and abundant."

"We are, however, experiencing some very dry conditions in many areas and as always, hunters who do the early legwork, seeking out the potholes and backwaters that still have decent water levels and securing landowner permissions, will be the ones filling their bags."

Each year, state, provincial and federal biologists from the United States and Canada cooperatively review spring waterfowl breeding surveys across North America and other biological and social data. State biologists provide season recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which in turn establishes a season framework, or sideboards, within which states can establish their waterfowl hunting seasons. Wisconsin wildlife managers conducted a series of hearings around the state in early August to gather hunter comments on the season proposal approved by the Natural Resources Board.

## TWO CANVASBACK DAILY BAG UNPRECEDENTED

The work of Wisconsin's migratory bird experts on a federal level had direct influence on an unprecedented canvasback season in 2007 that will include a two bird daily limit all season long. According to Migratory Game Bird Ecologist Kent Van Horn, federal spring surveying showed 865,000 breeding cans, the best numbers for the "King of Ducks" in 50 years.


The survey does not reflect much higher "can" numbers that will be in the fall migration flights, and moved Van Horn and Wisconsin migratory bird expert Tom Hauge to solicit support from other states around the country to change federal bag limitations. Because of alarmingly low canvasback numbers in past decades, federal regulations restricted state seasons to one bird daily, partially closed seasons within a season, or complete closure. Hauge works as a representative for Wisconsin and other Mississippi flyway states in working with United States Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS) in setting migratory bird regulations.

"We would have had a maximum 60 day season with one bird daily in the

bag," Van Horn said, noting that breeding numbers and projected fall flight numbers offered significantly more leeway while still ensuring a safe harvest. "Tom and I saw the numbers, and we put out the word across the nation to collectively ask for two cans in the bag. We really pushed the data in e-mails."

The work translated into the large majority of states supporting the increase. A few states, he said, declined to support the increased harvest because they were not comfortable moving "outside of precedence."

During this interview with Van Horn August 3, word came in from Washington D.C., where Hauge was personally negotiating with federal decision makers that the USFWS would support the increased bag for the Mississippi, Atlantic, and Pacific Flyway states. The Central Flyway states that includes territory from the Dakotas south to Texas will not be eligible because they entered last year into an experimental federal harvest agreement that carries through the 2008 season.

"We saw the numbers," Van Horn said. "And we had the advantage of having Tom sitting at the table in Washington." 



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# DNR: Deer Numbers Above Goals

## Reinstating October Hunt Likely

By Debbie Munson Badini

After three years of mild winter weather conditions, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has estimated that the state's deer population has grown to nearly two million, which is good news for the state's hunters but a tough reality for wildlife managers charged with getting the deer herd under control.

"In this state, the population of white-tailed deer is very abundant, with a projected population of between 1.6 and 1.8 million, so we look forward to a great fall of hunting with lots of opportunities for success," said DNR big game ecologist Keith Warnke. "But deer are still wily and no easier to hunt just because of the high numbers. And there needs to be a heavy harvest this year to get the deer population within management goals."

During the 2006 season, the DNR asked hunters to aim for a harvest ratio of two antlerless deer for every one buck to help level off deer population growth. But in the majority of the state, those numbers did not come in, Warnke said.

"Moving the deer herd toward our goal is a difficult process, and it will take several seasons to get there," he explained. "At times it seems like a never-ending process, but with the dedicated conservationists and hunters we have in this state, and the hunting opportunities that are available, I know it can happen."

Until that time, Warnke said he believes the answer will be reinstating the October antlerless hunt in 2008. "Most areas of the state were far below our goal of a 2:1 ratio, so I would predict the October hunt will be back in 2008, coupled with the December hunt, which I actually think would be a good thing, since it gives hunters more opportunities to hunt," Warnke said.

"But there are some hunters who don't want to see that October hunt again, so they should know what it will take to avoid it." This season, that will mean taking more than two antlerless deer per buck harvested.

"Though it's not possible to say



*Big bucks and fast recoveries make up part of the deer hunter's dream.*

how many total antlerless deer need to be harvested statewide to meet our population goals—because that number depends on how many bucks are tagged—a good way to look at it is to say, on the local level, each camp or hunting party should keep their hunting ratio above two antlerless deer to one buck. That's pretty simple," Warnke said. More specifically, he added, the state is hoping to average 2.2 to 2.4 antlerless deer per one buck harvested statewide.

### PRESSURE ON IN NORTH

While mild winter weather has some effect on the survival of deer throughout the state, Warnke said weather has a more obvious impact in the northern part of the state where cold temperatures and deep snow usually work to naturally curb the survival rate of fawns and does.

With three consecutive mild winters, deer density in northern hunting units that have been threatened with Earn-a-Buck and Herd Control status in recent years could rapidly increase, putting additional pressure on northern-unit hunters to meet state harvest ratio goals or deal with more

intensive harvest units in 2008.

For hunters to gain an advantage toward filling their tags and meeting the state's management goals, Warnke recommended that hunters start scouting prime hunting spots now and securing permission from landowners to hunt on private land where necessary.

"Make no mistake, there are a lot of deer out there, but they will be just as difficult to hunt this year as any other year. Putting in the work ahead of time, scouting and identifying travel routes, can mean a more successful hunt," Warnke said. "Though we can say there are more deer in the northern part of the state, the density can vary greatly within a hunting unit and even within a square mile or 40-acre patch, which means that scouting before applying to hunt in a particular unit is important."

"Besides, I find that walking the woods, looking for signs, getting to know the behavior of the animals, and making connections with private landowners is a very fulfilling part of the hunt," he added. "Just be careful not to spook the deer, or what was a good spot will not be good come opening day."

### DRY WEATHER ANOTHER FACTOR

In the northern third of the state, the extremely dry weather will be an

additional element hunters need to factor in when scouting hunting locations.

Due to lack of rain for most of the summer, and if dry weather continues into fall, hunters will need to pick hunting spots near sources of year-round standing or running water, or along game runways that lead to water, Warnke explained. Two things to look for while scouting include deer coming to water to drink, and spots where deer have been feeding on aquatic plants, which become an important part of the species' diet when terrestrial foliage is dried out or in short supply.

Hunters can also do some virtual scouting by looking at deer density maps provided on the DNR's website. The maps show how many deer are estimated per hunting unit during the previous fall hunting season and where the deer spent the winter, along with the buck harvest density from last year. Download and view the maps at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/HUNT/DEER/maps.htm>

*Debbie Munson Badini is a writer, photographer and avid outdoorswoman based in Marquette, Mich. Contact her at [debbie.munson.badini@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.munson.badini@gmail.com).*

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# Changes On The Winds

## Goose Hunters Adapt With Early Season

By John Volkman

A by-the-numbers glance at the calendar tells us that fall doesn't officially begin until Sept 21st, but to a Wisconsin goose hunter, Sept 1st marks not only the opening of the state's early goose season but an end to the summer. Although many hunters may have their air conditioning on high as they head to the field for the first hunt of the year, the first morning of the early goose season means fall has arrived and the first flock of decoying birds is all the proof they need.

The popularity of Wisconsin's early goose season continues to increase as huntable populations now occur statewide, while hunter participation and harvest numbers steadily increase. During the 2006 early season, 4,668 goose hunters harvested a total of 20,034 geese, a new record for the 15 day season.

Even though the early season lasts only 15 days, goose numbers, habits and patterns change dramatically in many parts of the state as the season progresses. Goose hunters who are able to identify and adapt to these changes can take advantage of some of the best goose hunting of the year.

Often times, opening day hunts can be extremely predictable. Lots of young, gullible birds can make for fast and furious hunts, although I have been amazed at the wariness some of the birds have exhibited on several opening mornings. More than likely these wary flocks are lead by residents who have endured hunting pressure for many years and figured out how to survive.

During the first seven days of the season, scouting is of utmost importance as birds tend to use the few available fields that are harvested early. You need to keep in mind that resident geese will often change roost locations abruptly—shortly before the season opens and immediately after—for seemingly no reason. Many times the new roost will be miles away, voiding an area previously chock full of birds. Be sure to check for movements such as these before wasting a morning or afternoon watching empty skies. Hunting the "X" is the preferred method



A hunter nestles in among a September decoy spread to await the arrival of local Canadas during the early season.

during these initial days. Calling is less important than concealment and being where the birds want to be, more so at this stage than any other.

Often, the majority of the geese in a particular area will all be using the same field. Time and again, "refuge" fields will fill up as hunting pressure educates birds, making hunting in the surrounding area very frustrating. Without the option of hunting the "X," setting up in between the roost and the hot field may be your only option. The same method can be deployed when other

non-breeding birds will begin to move back into the state. These birds are commonly called "Molt Migrants." These are birds either too young to breed or adults birds that had failed nesting attempts. The birds can come from all points of the compass, but generally the majority return from areas north of Wisconsin that attract and hold large numbers of geese for the summer while the birds complete the process of replacing their flight feathers, rendering them flightless for a period of time. All geese go through this molt. Around the same time, the leading edge of the MVP

north as early as Sept 9th. More typically, waterfowlers can expect to see large flights show up around the 14th or 15th. High pressure, with clear skies and any wind with a little north in it can add up to great hunting during the last days of the early season.

For the past 10 years our group has had great success setting up "blind" for these migrating flights. The shooting has been fast enough that we look forward to it with "opening day" anticipation, paying particular attention to weather forecasts leading up to the final days of the early season. Using a large spread of decoys in a highly visible stubble field coupled with aggressive calling can fill limits of birds in locations that haven't had a goose in them all season. These geese are extremely callable at this time of year and bringing birds down from high altitudes can be exciting and actually easier than you might think.

Goose hunters that learn to adapt to the changes that take place from start to finish of Wisconsin's early goose season can enjoy some of the best hunting of the fall, all before it "officially" starts.



*"During the first seven days of the season, scouting is of utmost importance as birds tend to use the few available fields that are harvested early..."*

hunters are set up where the birds want to be. During the first few days of the early season this tactic can be hit or miss. When dealing with locally raised resident geese, trying to pull birds away from their intended destination can be a major challenge. By setting up your spread to be as visible as possible under the flightline, coupled with good calling and flawless blind concealment, you can tip the odds in your favor and turn a tough situation into a successful hunt.

As the early goose season moves into the second week, things can change virtually overnight. Generally,

population returns to Wisconsin after spending the breeding season near the shores of Hudson Bay.

As always, weather can have a huge effect on the timing of these flights. In most years, hunters can expect to start seeing small flights of new geese arriving daily as the season progresses into the second week. Peak migration days tend to be those ushering in both big and small cold fronts. In 2006, a large cold front brought big numbers of new birds in several days ahead of schedule. Many hunters reported large flocks of high flying migrating birds coming from the

John Volkman of Neenah, Wisconsin is an outdoor/hunting product manufacturers sales rep for Mike Wiek Sales, covering Wisconsin. He is a three time Wisconsin goose calling champion, avid waterfowler, fisherman and big game hunter. Contact him at [jvolkman1@new.rr.com](mailto:jvolkman1@new.rr.com).



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# Wings Of Change

## Peregrine Falcon Welcomed To Northern Wisconsin

By Jeff Peters

**M**ellen, Wis. – The world's fastest bird—with air speeds exceeding 200 miles per hour—may once again take flight over northern Wisconsin thanks to the efforts of Mellen Public School science teacher Seth Foreman.

A licensed falconer since age 19, Foreman earned the right to care for and work with this rare bird by submitting a successful proposal to a retiring peregrine falcon breeder in Montana.

"I was granted this falcon for the primary purpose of education," said Foreman, 34, who has taught both the grade and high school science program at Mellen for the past five years.

"I was encouraged by the donor, Bob Hollister, to fly this bird for falconry or use it as a breeder. I also aim to use this bird to educate students as much as possible. It's amazing how attentively students listen to what you're teaching when you have a falcon sitting on your fist," he said.

The thought of having the once native Peregrine falcon, still listed as endangered in Wisconsin, soaring over the Mellen area after an absence of several decades, has the entire school talking about their newest feathered friend—aptly named Aerial.

Making her first-ever appearance in front of the 26 students in Melinda Colver's fifth-grade class, Aerial passed the students' inspection with flying colors.

"It was really amazing to have the fastest animal in the world right in our own classroom," said 10-year-old Brea Campy, who gave Aerial a well-earned A+.

An inspired William Lee, 11, who was able to gently touch Aerial's feathers and feel her feet and talons, said, "It was the most incredible thing I ever saw."

Jeany Neibauer, 11, was equally thrilled at the bird's commanding performance. "I couldn't believe how beautiful it was when she spread her wings," she said.

Kalyssa Henri, 11, gave a perfect 4.0 grade to both Aerial and her future science teacher. "The presenta-



Mellen science teacher Seth Foreman and Aerial.

tion was better than great – it was awesome great," she said.

Fifth-grade teacher Melinda Colver said having the bird is a definite asset to the school's curriculum. "Not only is the factual information interesting, but it was wonderful for the students to get a look at other people's interests," she said.

"The kind of passion and dedication it takes to train a bird of prey, and even endure injuries along the way, is inspiring and may help the kids discover their own unique set of interests."

For Seth Foreman, handling a peregrine falcon is both an honor and a life-long dream come true. "Falconry is a very demanding sport. It requires your time every day whether you feel like it or not," he said, adding, "A falconer must always put the needs of his bird above his own. Having the stamina for this is the true test of falconry. In addition, a falconer is part hunter, part veterinarian, and part behavioral psychologist."

In short, it is a whole lot of work each and every day. The daily routine includes feeding the 16-year-old Aerial an assortment of quality wild game including duck, pheasant, grouse and quail.

Aerial also needs a continual supply of fresh water, daily exercise, access to sun and protection from the elements. Foreman said training

methods vary, but the common denominator in all methods is one word – TRUST.


"The falconer must earn the trust

of the bird," he said. "Without it a falcon will fly away and never come back. I use a lot of the behavioral techniques pioneered by behavioral psychologist B.F. Skinner. This essentially implies the use of positive reinforcers to shape desired behaviors, and a removal of positive reinforcers to extinguish unwanted behaviors."

"You can never scold or punish a raptor the way you might a dog or cat," said Foreman, who learned his early falconry skills from his father Mark Foreman of Milwaukee. "They simply will not tolerate that type of treatment."


This work needs to be done before Foreman can reach one of his ultimate goals for Aerial, to breed her and establish an eyrie (falcon nest) on the roof of the Mellen School, the highest building in the immediate area.

*Continued on page 29*



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# Silvertips

## Following The Tracks Of Experience

By Dick Henske

**I**t amazes me how many older guys love the gun hunt. They wait all year for the nine-day hunt, but it's a time when the deer they love to hunt and see are not behaving naturally due to the heavy pre-hunt and hunting activities.

Bowhunting lasts almost four months, an unlimited opportunity to experience this beautiful animal. And there are more bonuses for being outdoors, like seeing a great variety of birds and other animals.

Archery sales increased 5% last year and archery kills were up 6%. This year's bow kill will probably reach 80,000 deer.

Once you take up this sport and all that it means, you'll eventually find that gun hunting will be less of a challenge; you'll have an edge that develops from months of deer and forest encounters.

Want to begin? Borrow or buy a



*Dick Henske practices what he preaches even outside the states. This bull, and another taken by son, Steve Henske of Stevens Point, fell to a single arrow in Newfoundland, Canada in 2004.*

good bow. I suggest a light, short bow set up with 85% let off. It should be tuned and set up by a shop or someone that knows the ins and outs. I suggest a string loop attached to the bow string for short bows with their sharp draw angles. Purchase a release that pulls from this loop and then your wrist to save those arthritic fingers and give you more power to pull. Add a lighted pin sight combined with a peep sight. Complete your set-up with a quality rest. All bows shoot great when they are set up right. I put stick-on fleece wherever an arrow makes a noise on the bow.

Bows have adjustable pound increments. Make sure you pull at a low enough weight so you can draw from any position and situation. I have an old junk bow in the basement that I pull each time I work out; and work out you must if you want to keep your flexibility, strength and balance. I have reduced my pull weight as I have gotten older and

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find that all of my lung shots still go completely through the deer.

Bow quivers and arrows add weight to your bow. I use a back quiver; carry three hunting arrows and one practice arrow. I hang the quiver in or near my stand, but seldom have I gone to it for an additional arrow. I cover the broadheads with a one inch piece of heater hose to help keep my quiver from getting cut up, keeping the razors sharp and for safety.

Quality arrows are important. I like small diameter carbon arrows, feather-vane fitted with quality razor insert broadheads. They penetrate and are reusable—deadly. I'm not a fan of mechanical heads. I've had angled shots that kept the blades from opening properly. They sounded great to me for bears, but I have found razor-sharp 100 grain broadheads give me better blood trail results.

**PRACTICE!** Once your bow is sighted in, it will shoot deadly accurate. I use an empty corn bag stuffed with clothes for a target. Once you can group shots in a six inch circle at 20-30 yards you are ready.

Now get into the woods! I go out in spring before tick season, and pick

out, brush out, plan out stands for fall. You can use a ground blind if you can't climb; just make sure you are down wind. I still use tree stands, but I do not go too high. I use high land spots if possible and never go up more than 10 or 12 feet. I use extra cushions to adjust seat height to prevent knee pain. Tie yourself in! I always doze off. It feels great

I also bring along a lightweight face mask to hide my white beard; a small jackknife (that's all you need to gut a deer), a mini flashlight, rubber gloves, a compass, and a drag rope which is attached to my quiver. The total set-up is very light and very portable.

There are hundreds of magazine articles to tell you how to go on from here. Here are a few of my "success" suggestions; remember, I live in the far north and am 72 years old.

- ✓ Use trails and scrapes—hunt community scrapes and converging trails.
- ✓ Entry to and exit from your stand or blind is a priority. Never cross the trail or area you hunt.
- ✓ Don't hunt the same stand/blind more than two days in a row; the deer know you are there. An excep-

tion is during heavy rut when bucks really move. If you get busted, move elsewhere for a while.

- ✓ A great stand/blind will be great year after year.
- ✓ Stands/blinds are always placed downwind.
- ✓ Wind direction is a priority at all times.
- ✓ Grunt tubes, scents and rattling work sometimes and make hunting interesting.
- ✓ I hunt evenings, two hours max at my age. I leave the morning alone, good as it may be, but I hunt almost every day I can. Mornings are for warmth, snuggling and loving (and wishful thinking).
- ✓ Scout! No sign? Move on! Find where the deer are and the wolves are not. It is great exercise. When grouse hunting, I'm scouting. I hunted the woods for more years than I care to remember and am always finding new spots to hunt.
- ✓ I do not shoot over 25 yards.
- ✓ Shooting errors are usually due to trigger jerking on your mechanical release.
- ✓ Shoot only a double lung shot!
- ✓ After the shot, watch the deer's

posture, listen, stay put, look for the arrow, check blood color, mark blood trail, and get help.

- ✓ Biggest mistake I've ever made? Waiting to draw! If you see a deer coming, draw and hold to decide if it is a shooter. The 85% let off will help you do this. It prevents you from getting busted and makes you 100% ready. Always have your release attached to the string loop when hunting and in a stand have the bow in your lap with the release attached.

Hunting in snow is a blast. Own a cheap white coverall. I bought a bunch of used ones from a uniform company.

Hunting and fishing is not a hobby but rather a full-time job for old guys. This job is simple if you stick to the basics. Hunt and fish just a few hours at prime times in prime locations.

Get out there and keep the rust from settling in!



*Retired principal Dick Henske of Manitowish Waters hunts and fishes Wisconsin, Canada and the western states. Rarely does he miss a day in the field.*

# Dog Talk

## Time To Start The Realistic Training

By Kevin Michalowski

**D**uck hunters with young dogs, or even those with older dogs that might need some refresher training, should start thinking seriously about making the training as realistic as possible. October will be here before you know it and just because a dog stands still and retrieves perfectly in the yard that doesn't mean the same things will happen in the duck blind.

The first order of business is to get the dog working in realistic cover. That usually means you have to find a pond or slow-moving creek with some serious vegetation growing up along the banks. This vegetation will obscure the training dummy during the throw. A starter pistol with blank rounds will provide a bit more realism, but the vegetation is really the key.

Young dogs sometimes have trouble taking a straight line to the bird when they are first sent through weeds

or cattails. Like anybody would, the dog looks for the path of least resistance, which sometimes puts the dog in the water somewhere other than directly in front of the downed bird. The cure for that is to start at the water's edge with only a few weeds between the dog and the dummy. Send the dog to fetch several times with very exaggerated hand signals. Really point out the direction of the bird. After a few retrieves, start backing up deeper into the weeds to obscure more and more of the dog's vision.

The key to this is success. You want the dog to succeed and the dog soon figures out that every time he goes where you point, he gets to bring something back. The more this happens the more confident the dog becomes in your directions and will eventually come to understand that if he just keeps going in the direction you point, something good is at the end of the line no matter how far he has to go.



*Water works wonders. If you have access to a pond surrounded by vegetation you are well on your way to insuring extra ducks in your bag this season. Realistic training can really improve your dog's performance. (Photo by Kevin Michalowski)*

Continued on page 27



# Cheap Shots

## The Mosin-Nagant 91/30

By S. Wilkerson

Purchasing a surplus rifle sight unseen from a magazine ad is kind of like opening a box of chocolates, to paraphrase that overused phrase from "Forrest Gump." You never know what you'll get. In the case of my CMP Garand, the experience was more like overturning a rock and finding a yucky maggot underneath. That story eventually had a happy ending with the maggot metamorphosing into a beautiful butterfly, or something like that, but that's for another article.

The case in point is a Mosin - Nagant 91/30 that I ordered from AIM. It will never become beautiful. Attempting to make it so would be just wrong. The rifle has a history that, within reason, really should not be compromised. This particular specimen was rebuilt after the war by the Soviets and stored in preparation for the final showdown with the capitalist West, or, alternatively, to help arm a "War of Liberation" in some banana republic or former French colony. Mine was spared all of that and was allowed to wallow away its retirement, in all likelihood, stored in a salt mine in the Ukraine.

Retirement was probably well deserved. As a 1939 dated 91/30, it is very likely that this rifle saw service on the Eastern Front. My old Nagant may have helped stop the Nazis at the gates of Moscow, fought at Stalingrad, or marched with Zhukov to Berlin. Regretfully, of course, there's also the possibility that this rifle was used to imprison, enslave, and execute those doomed to a Gulag on a trumped up charge. I hope not.

The 91/30 featured here is a comparatively scarce version with a postwar laminated stock and came advertised as "excellent." I bought it for a paltry \$109 (\$120 with shipping) from AIM. I have yet to see another, but you could with a curio and relic license and a check to AIM. They're even less expensive now.

Non-laminated stock versions in good/very good shape can often be purchased for less than \$70. Mine is "force-matched," which means it was

rebuilt after the Great Patriotic War from rifles disassembled for that purpose and then renumbered with an electro-pencil. The bolt is a Tula, but my rifle boasts an Izhevsk barrel/receiver combination, both dated 1939, which means they probably left the factory together. While the barrel's crown is good and rifling fairly strong, the bore is, charitably, "frosty," which is a nice way to say "kinda pitted." Ivan at the arsenal had a high enough opinion of it to deem it "serviceable," so who am I to argue?

The stock, as mentioned, is a laminate in nice shape, for a Soviet weapon. Most postwar Soviet rebuilds feature a stock coated in some nasty red shellac that looks, for all practical purposes, to have been applied with a broom by an intoxicated baboon. Oftentimes, the baboon applied the shellac after the rifle was assembled. So, in addition to having some shellac slopped on to its metal parts, mine had brush bristles still sticking to it—and, I'm not making this up—what looked like moss or fungus growing in places.

Honest-to-goodness, matching numbered really, really nice 91/30s are virtually non-existent. All 91/30s were originally manufactured in Russia. The rifles themselves were issued in a number of nations, including Finland, East Germany, Romania, Poland, Hungary, China, and other Soviet proxies too numerous to mention.



The model 91/30 Mosin-Nagant—reliable, rugged but not particularly accurate.

.....

***"Most postwar Soviet rebuilds feature a stock coated in some nasty red shellac that looks, for all practical purposes, to have been applied with a broom by an intoxicated baboon..."***

.....

Mosin-Nagants are probably the least expensive rifles from which to base a collection. They may not have the panache of a pre-'64 Winchester, but they have a lot more historical value. You could own 20 91/30s, or maybe several sniper models, for the price of one really nice pre-'64 Model 70 Winchester.

I took my fairly nice 91/30 out to

the range on an overcast, windy, cold day. Not exactly the kind of weather that is conducive to shooting. What I didn't take, and should have, perhaps, was a mallet and a dowel to adjust the front sight for windage. I also did not take my stripper clips, which meant that the rifle could only function as a single shot. Mosin - Nagant stripper clips are really diffi-


cult to find, and cost too much when they can be located. It is virtually impossible for me to fill a Nagant's magazine well with five rounds without a clip. You might have better luck.

Another nasty feature of the 91/30 is its safety, which is awkward and heavy. Located at the rear of the bolt, it requires a mighty tug and twist to the left to engage or to the right to disengage. I would not be surprised to learn that some Soviet soldiers never came home because they couldn't get their safeties off in time when confronted by unexpected Nazis.

Back to the range. All my shots were at least six inches to the right at 50 yards and nowhere to be found at 100 yards. I had no means to drift the front sight, and the rear is not adjustable for windage. Possibly, the wind was to blame, but wind was not the cause for the old beast to shoot about a foot high at 50 yards. Then again, the lowest elevation setting is 100 meters.

I did manage to shoot a two-inch group at 50 yards, which probably translates to four-inches at 100 yards. According to the literature, typical groups at 100 yards range from two to four inches. Given that my rifle's bore left something to be desired, and the trigger was a mushy 5 lbs (estimated) with a lot of creep, I'd call my rifle's performance typical.

I would also call my rifle a good value for the money. Mosin - Nagants have a fascinating history, are rugged and reasonably accurate. There are numerous variations of them to keep the frugal collector busy for years.

The Russian versions do not, however, exhibit fine craftsmanship, excellent fit and finish (at least the postwar reworks) or, in the case of the non-sniper versions, extreme accuracy. I would not suggest one for deer hunting or target matches, but if you appreciate history, there's a good chance that the 91/30 you purchase played a part in making it. 

*S. Wilkerson is an award winning Wisconsin journalist, firearms expert and student of the second amendment.*



# Out There

## How To Steal Your Wife's Jeep

By Darrell Pendergrass

As an outdoorsman of some standing it's important that I have the proper vehicle necessary for my travels, something that meets with my high standards and satisfies the public's expectations for someone of my character - a truck that's worthy of my presence.

Heck, it's got to start.

Many of my outdoor brethren can attest to the fact that the kinds of trucks and SUVs we use for our woodland endeavors don't always fire on all cylinders, which is why these machines have been relegated to our sporting chores in the first place. They're going to break down from time to time. While my 1994 Ford Ranger starts and sometimes runs, the black cloud of smoke that boils out from under the hood can be a bit distracting. The accelerator also likes to stick whenever it gets over 25 mph, making the truck a danger on the road. Yet, oddly enough, my wife suspiciously encourages me to drive it all the time.

So, because of the mechanical decline of my truck I've been keeping an eye out for a replacement. Enter Queenie.

My wife had been hinting that she too was in need of a new car.

Something sporty. Newer. And red. I eyed up my wife's plum-colored, two-wheel drive Jeep Grand Cherokee, the one with 135,000 miles, a pair of bald front tires and a jumpy oil gauge and smiled the smile of a man with a plan. A new car for the wife means a new jungle jalopy for me. At least in my mind.

So, with my blessings Queenie bought a Ford something-or-other, complete with a sun roof and a CD player, and I moved in on the Jeep. Believing a transaction had indeed transpired - new Ford for an old Jeep - I packed my acquisition with an assortment of fishing poles, stale smelling waders and other angling necessities. I also loaded up my collection of Tom T. Hall and Ernest Tubb cassettes, moved the seat back and adjusted the rearview mirrors.

Evidently Queenie didn't see that a trade was necessarily made. She seems to think that what is hers belongs to her forever. And what is mine is purely a loan. Queenie said she never gave up any rights to the Jeep. In fact, she made that statement in a rant about an open container of angelworms she found in the Jeep when she was gathering up some of her stuff. True story.

"There were worms actually crawling on the seat," my wife said in

disbelief. "Worms. Crawling. On the seat." A vein stuck out on her forehead.

I thought about all the logical reasons why worms might be crawling on a car's seat, and finding none, devised a plan to bolster my side of the argument on what was becoming a tug of war over the Jeep. Arguing with a classically trained mass communications major like me is a no-win proposition my friends. I'm a man of words.

"So?" I quipped.

"That isn't your Jeep," she said, poking a finger in my chest. "I need it for horse chores. There are things it can be used for around the farm. It shouldn't smell like bait." (Because horses don't stink?)

As she blabbered on I let my mind race away - if I filled my new vehicle up with even more worms, added some leeches, and tossed in an animal hide of

some sort, well, she'd never take it back. I did pack in an assortment of Little League baseball gear from my children's ball team, a post-hole digger and a giant metal bar. It would have been nice to have a Hooters air freshener to hang from the rearview mirror - to divert attention away from the worms.

Don't look now, but I may have pulled one over on the Queenie. I believe the Jeep may be mine. Hee, hee.

W

*"Out There: Twenty years of family, fishing, farming and a life afield," a collection of stories by Darrell Pendergrass, can be purchased for \$15 at The Daily Press in Ashland and Chequamegon Books & Coffee in Washburn.. Or send \$15 and \$3 for shipping and handling to Darrell Pendergrass, 52405 Otto Olson Road, Grand View, WI 54839.*



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# Observation From A Wisconsin Prairie

## A Morning With Livi

By Pat Clark

Deer hunting 2006 started in mid October for me. Upon returning from a Wisconsin duck hunt with my eleven-year-old son, Ben, my daughter Livi was waiting with a question. "When are you going to take me?" Livi asked. "You always take Ben, but not me."

So after some intense negotiations an agreement was made. Not a signed document, but one that can only be made between a father and his eight-year-old daughter. A circle on the calendar acted as a contractual agreement between the parties. That circle engulfed November 18, 2006, opening day deer season, Wisconsin style.

On October 21, 2006, my daughter began to prepare for the journey. Her thick socks, long-johns and camo pants lay on the foot of her bed. Her warm coat, winter boots, mittens and Grandpa's old blaze orange draped the stairway balcony. Below them was a pile of supplies; binoculars, shelled peanuts and a Sponge-Bob flashlight. Now there was a long wait until November 18th with plenty of questions and stories to build up the anticipation and excitement.

Finally, the day arrived. 4:00 a.m. November 18 came along, and the old alarm kicked in the FM radio to Neil Young's "Old Man." As I made for the young hunter's room I noticed a light protruding from beneath the



*Livi spots the big buck and dad Pat Clark makes the shot true for a memorable opening morning, 2006.*

door. Here, well ahead of my own readiness, I found the eight-year-old awake and prepared for the journey.

With sleep in our eyes and breakfast in our bellies we found our way to the old F-150 preloaded the days before. The fifty-minute trip to the stand went quickly. Livi noticed the shapes of "things" in the stars, I watched for deer.

We opened the old gate and parked at the "staging area." We made the one-eighth mile walk to the stand; it was 6:00 am by the time we climbed up in the box deer stand.

An auburn burnt sky was growing in the east. We whispered thoughts back and forth about the sounds and spirits of the woods and great bog marsh. At a distance two great horned owls hooted in conversation only to be silenced by a pileated woodpecker and

its carpentry work upon a leaning white oak. Below gray squirrels awoke to ramble in the leaves, running from limb to limb in a morning cartoon. Red-tail hawks gave their ancient cries from above the woodland. A neighbor's Holstein gave her morning moo to the day. It was 6:30 am. Livi broke out the shelled peanuts and I loaded the old 30-06. The sounds continued as a clan of crows flew overhead and a distant farm dog barked for breakfast. The sounds of Wisconsin in early morning are soothing for the rest of the day.

It's 6:45 a.m. and a doe and her trio follow through the woods. They're loud and Livi is most interested in the triplets, two young bucks and a sister. They follow "mom" into the great bog. Suddenly seven turkeys appear out in front of the stand walking in line like "soldiers." Livi's own word. They work through the leaves for acorns and such. They drift out of sight slowly into a misty low area not to be seen again. Next to the stand a downy woodpecker, a bluejay and a red squirrel argue the boundaries between bird and mammal. This is done much to the delight of the third grader.

Then it happened. "There he is," Livi whispered to my chilled ear. I turned ever so slowly to the east with gun in hand and aimed down upon the half-lit bog. The scope found the sounds my daughter had taken in. I guess an eight-year-old's hearing is

superior to the "old man's." Livi covered her ears and the trigger was pulled and down went the antlered white throat. The bog bequeathed our family fresh venison. He lay upon the bog, over 12,000 years of truth, since the glacial ghost retreated north. The woods was now silent. I was shaking and the eight year old removed her mittens from her ears.

The deer is the bog's extension. Hence, the deer came forth of alder, sumac, dogwood and time. There he lay, sprinkled in golden tamarack needles, coming full circle.

That morning, the bog, as she has done a thousand times, acted as a conduit from daughter to father. In that instant, I had seen my "hunting life" over some forty years and what I hoped for Livi. Leopold came to mind; "I wonder whether the process ordinarily referred to as growing up is not actually a process of growing down." Livi laughed when the squirrels played, smiled at the passing sandhills and was thankful of God's perfect creation, the bog. Leopold is right.

I learned many lessons that day. Don't let your kids grow up too early. Do everything possible to protect the bog. Read Aldo Leopold's Wisconsin wisdom. And take your daughter hunting...often.

*Pat Clark is author of "Observation from a Wisconsin Prairie." To order the book go to [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com).*

# Badger Birds

## Boistrous, Beautiful Blue Jay

By Tom Carpenter

Blue jays are both rascals and rogues — rascals because they are boisterous, loud and mischievous, rogues because they like to bully smaller birds and seem to enjoy harassing larger ones. But what they lack in neighborliness and citizenship, blue jays make up for in bright and

almost breathtaking beauty. Males and females alike are strikingly handsome in their feathered packages of powder blue topcoats with white and gray undersides, black-and-white barred wings, and masked faces. These year-round Wisconsin residents hold a special place in most birders' hearts, and blue jays provide good company and great entertainment whether

you're hunting, doing some fall fishing, hiking through autumn's color or watching the songbird migration.

Listen for the blue jay's tell-tale jay-jay cry. There is also a more musical kwee-d-dle, kwee-d-dle call. Blue jays mimic other birds as well. Look for the blue jay's crest to send erect when she is excited or calling ... two activities which usually go together.

Feed blue jays black-oil sunflower seeds and cracked corn on a platform feeder away from your other bird feeders. Jays are large (about 12 inches long), and when feeding they like the stability a platform offers. This plan also separates the raucous jays from the smaller birds, which could be frightened away.

Did you know that blue jays love to bury seeds, especially acorns? Many a tree got its start thanks to a blue jay.

*Native son Tom Carpenter watches birds across the country, and writes about the avian world for many publications.*



# Cub's Corner

## Squirrel Hunt Eases Kids Into Hunting

By Tom Carpenter

When trying to hook youngsters on hunting, don't just assume they are young versions of us. Yes, whitetails and turkeys provide thrills. But is your new woods-boy (or girl) ready for the long, cold and boring hours often required to wait out a deer or gobbler? An ordeal or two like that could turn them off to hunting forever.

Kids want action now. So before you take them on any deer or turkey hunt, or if you need to get some hunting success under their belt before the next "big" hunt, take them out after squirrels. Yes, you may have graduated from the class long ago. But your kid or any youngster you are mentoring deserves the same curriculum.

October and squirrels make a perfect combination. It's warm. The fall woods are beautiful. You can move. You're almost guaranteed action. Valuable hunting techniques and skills are learned. You'll get shooting. If a squirrel is missed, there's another one around the corner or over the hill. And with young hunter in tow, I have yet to be refused permission to pursue squirrels in a chunk of private woods. Try that with deer or turkeys!

Consider squirrel hunting a training ground where you can help the young hunter develop a love of the outdoors, learn lifelong hunting

skills that transfer to big-game situations, and gain a real sense of accomplishment. Even better, it's easy.

No specialized clothes are needed. Get the young hunter comfortable footwear — light boots (they should be broken in beforehand), but sneakers are fine too. Add a blaze orange game vest and cap, a .22 rifle and a pocketful of cartridges. What more do you really need? Maybe a squirrel call. Keep things simple!

Sighting-in and practicing with the .22 is the only real pre-hunt preparation necessary. Practice from field positions too: Lean against trees, to simulate real hunting conditions.

Scouting is unnecessary. Chances are you know where some bushytails live anyway, from your adult hunting trips. Look for forests or woodlots with oak, hickory or walnut trees. Squirrels tend to avoid forests choked with brush; thinner woods are more fun to hunt. Nearby farm fields (especially corn) are always a plus.

Secure permission a few days before the hunt, or during the summer. It's more fun knowing where you're going and having everything lined up. Have your young hunter help do the asking — it's good for them, and it's usually your ace-in-the-hole for a "yes."

Squirrels are very active for the first few hours of daylight, so it pays to

get out early. But stay low-key — if you have a late riser, go when you can. The hours either side of noon are usually slowest, but action picks up in the afternoon, especially on a sunny day.

Let your young hunter take the lead. Only he or she should have a rifle; you are coach. Slide from tree to tree, breaking up your silhouettes. Tip-toe softly (a little leaf crunching doesn't hurt). Look and listen more than you move. Watch for the flick of a tail or the odd bump on a tree limb. Listen for cackling or the pitter-patter of nut casings as a squirrel eats. Once game is spotted, sneak closer for a better shot. Have fun!

Another great technique (I mix moving and sitting over the course of a hunt), is to sit or lean against a tree in a good spot and wait. Squirrels will often freeze when you arrive in a woodlot, top a ridge or enter a hollow. After a few minutes, activity resumes. This is a great way to train your young hunter on the value of sitting still, while easing into it for short stretches.

Positioning the young shooter is important. They need to be confident. Shoot for the squirrel's head. Shoulder shots are more risky. Only allow "leaning" shots where the young hunter has a rest. Have the youngster take their time, squeeze off the shot, and watch the game afterwards.

A good head shot will knock a

squirrel stone dead. Wait a moment, then go get your prize. Let the young hunter pick it up after you both check for signs of life with a stick (more good training for when it's a sharp-hoofed deer or needle-spurred gobbler on the ground). I carry wipes to clean off any blood so that we can take a few moments together to admire the squirrel, examine its tail (a trophy to keep — cure the meaty stub in borax after cleaning the squirrel later), investigate the shot and re-live the stalk.

Celebrate the hunt, whether you get zero squirrels, one bushytail or a limit. Stop at a country store or gas station for ice cream or snacks, or have a meal at a small-town restaurant. Talk about the hunt, or anything. Just be together!

At first, you might think squirrel hunts are just a stage on a young hunter's journey. Yes, the skills learned are essential. But now, as every autumn rolls around, my young outdoorsmen talk about hunting "little big game" as much as they do any other pursuits we might go on. Chasing squirrels has become a shared pastime — and important memory-maker — in itself.

*Tom Carpenter stays busy introducing three boys to Wisconsin's great outdoors, and writing about their escapades.*

### Outdoor Criss-Cross

Fishing Puzzle #23

Solution:





# The Question Still Remains Is The Legislature Going To Take The Bait?

Ask some typical Wisconsin hunters what they think of the potential for a statewide ban on baiting and feeding deer, and they most likely would respond, "Baiting ban? What baiting ban? Wasn't that already settled a few months ago?"

After all, since the Natural Resources Board – prompted by former Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress – voted unanimously in March to support a statewide ban and sent a resolution to the state Legislature detailing their concerns, nary a peep has been heard as to what, if anything, ever happened once that resolution reached the desks of the state's lawmakers in Madison, giving the impression that this fight may be over for the time being.

"As far as I know there has not been any bill introduced yet," said Greg Kazmierski, president of the Safari Club International Dairyland Chapter, one of the organizations that joined the Wisconsin Hunters' Rights Coalition to fight the potential ban last year. The WHRC also includes the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

"And you know, if indeed there was all this outcry from the public to ban baiting and feeding, we would have seen a bill," Kazmierski said. "So I guess their fire has faltered a little bit and I think cooler heads have prevailed."

But according to leaders from within the DNR, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, a surprise may be brewing for anyone who thinks the baiting and feeding debate ended quietly months ago.

## HOLLERING INTO A WIND STORM

In June, a dozen or so conservation organizations, agriculture groups and wildlife and forestry management professionals from around the state were part of a conference call organized by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation to feel out support for a new coalition against baiting and feeding, said

DNR chief conservation warden Randy Stark, who became a key figure in the DNR's fight to end the practice of baiting and feeding white-tailed deer last year when he authored a 16-page report detailing the trials and travails his conservation wardens face trying to enforce the state's current baiting and feeding regulations.

The point of the conference call, Stark said, was to bring all the groups together that had expressed an interest in ending baiting and feeding, and to devise a game plan to encourage state lawmakers to introduce and pass the necessary legislation to make the practice illegal across the state. Some of the organizations involved in the call included the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, the Wisconsin Deer

hopeful it will pass this fall and the legislators can deal with it and then go home and not have it be a campaign issue for them next year [in 2008]. Because in some of these districts, it's liable to be something that could make or break their campaigns."

## AN UPHILL STRUGGLE

The difficult part for the state representatives and senators, Harvey added, is that public opinion is "rapidly changing" on the issue -- so fast that several Conservation Congress executive council members claim to have lost their seats in May because of the issue.

"The Conservation Congress had the vote on the executive council last January, which was 19-4 to support the ban, and of those four councilors, three

.....  
*"We understand that it's going to be an uphill struggle, and I think that the legislators are more open to it now than they were two years ago..."*  
 .....

Hunters Association, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and the Wisconsin County Forest Administrators.

"The groups decided to signal their intent by writing a letter [declaring the coalition] and forming a smaller representative group to go on and talk to legislators to express their concerns about the issue," Stark said. "But we also discussed that it won't be happening until after the state budget is done, because there's no sense in going in there right now and hollering into a big wind storm."

Once the budget has been agreed upon, the coalition hopes to have a bill introduced and passed before the end of the year, according to Wisconsin Conservation Congress executive council chairman Ed Harvey.

"Although, the way things have been going, by the time the budget gets done, they may be ready to go on break, and then we would be looking for someone to introduce it next year," Harvey said. "But I'm

were replaced in May, and all three were let know in no uncertain terms that that vote was the reason," Harvey explained. "One of the guys called me up and he said, 'You know, when baiting and feeding was on the annual spring questionnaire, five of the seven counties in my district were opposed to banning baiting and feeding. And then I get the boot because I voted the way the public did in that district? I don't get it.' So it's a rapidly changing picture, even from what people felt one year ago."

Due to the apparent change in public opinion even in districts that have traditionally supported baiting and feeding, Harvey said he is confident a statewide ban will happen soon.

"To be honest," Harvey said, "I believe we are going to have a ban, because we are having growing pressure put on us [in the Conservation Congress] to do something, so I think the legislators are going to start seeing the same kind of pressure here pretty quick."

Echoing Harvey, Wisconsin



Deer baiting take fire from wildlife experts.

Wildlife Federation executive director George Meyer, who is a former DNR Secretary, said he is optimistic that a baiting and feeding bill will be introduced this year, but admitted he is not sure how the fight will end.

"We understand that it's going to be an uphill struggle, and I think that the legislators are more open to it now than they were two years ago. So we are going to build on that [by introducing a bill]. But will it pass?" Meyer asked, leaving his own question unanswered.

## LOTS OF GRANDMAS AND GRANDPAS

Regardless of the recent organizing by groups opposed to baiting and feeding, Kazmierski said he is not convinced that a ban will happen, mainly because he doesn't believe any state legislators will want to take



## WHAT CAN YOU, AS A TAXPAYER, DO?

To share your feelings about the baiting and feeding issue, call Rep. Gunderson at 608.266.3363 or Rep. Ott at 608.266.5831.

on the baiting and feeding issue.

"It was really ugly in 2003, when the compromise was drafted," he said. "This past year was not an example of how it would be if a bill was introduced, because I don't believe that the sleeping giant of backyard feeders was awakened. They will come awake if a bill is introduced, and believe me, there are a lot of grandmas and grandpas out there that go to the local feed stores to pick up their corn for the deer. That was what made it so difficult to draft a compromise in 2003.

Mike Bruhn, spokesman for state Rep. Scott Gunderson, R-Waterford, – chairman of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and primary author of the baiting and

feeding compromise in 2003 that is still in effect – said he believes there is no cause for worry among hunters who support the continuation of baiting and feeding.

"[The baiting and feeding supporters] who really got ramped up in 2003 have kind of been in hibernation, because there hasn't been anything to really fight at this time," said Bruhn. "The former DNR Secretary has been out trying to get somebody to introduce his outright feeding and baiting ban and he has been completely unsuccessful.

"I know he has even tried a few legislators from up north who turned him down out of hand, and if he had worked his way to those legislators, I'm assuming that people who live where there already is a ban because of chronic wasting disease turned him down as well," Bruhn added. "Hassett tried, I guess 'valiantly' is the right way of putting it, in his Don Quixote-esque fighting, but he has so far been unsuccessful."

So while it remains unclear

which side of the baiting and feeding issue holds the upper hand with state lawmakers, the Wildlife Federation's Meyer said he would encourage citizens to get involved by calling their representatives in the state Legislature to let their opinions be heard.


"If you want to support a ban, I would recommend calling Rep. Alvin Ott (R-Forest Junction), who is the chairman of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture. And if you want to oppose it, call Rep. Gunderson, because his natural resources committee most likely will not support it," said Meyer.

## A PEA, A CARROT AND A POTATO

Beyond contacting state representatives to voice personal opinions about the baiting and feeding issue, chief warden Stark said he would like to see the state's conservation and sportsmen's groups overcome the polarizing aspects of the issue.

"In order to deal with these

kinds of issues, you can either use the parts of our democratic system which are adversarial, and you can sit there and beat heads and take each other to court and fight for years and years," Stark said. "Or you can kind of dispense with that and all come to the table and say, 'Okay, we're all here and these are our stakes and interests, and you smell like a pea. And you smell like a carrot, and you smell like a potato.' But how do we get in there and create a stew where everyone can have their own identity as part of the bigger thing?"

"We have all got to come together to the same table, find that common ground, assuage concerns that are legitimate, draft a bill that protects everyone's primary interest of hunting a healthy deer herd...and go forward from there." 

*Debbie Munson Badini is a freelance writer, photographer and avid outdoorswoman based in Marquette, Mich. Contact her at [debbie.munson.badini@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.munson.badini@gmail.com).*

## Wings Of Change... (Continued from page 21)

"I think it would be great to see peregrines flying up and down the Bad River Valley once again. I feel students could learn a tremendous amount from participating in a project like this. This bird helps me teach topics ranging from anatomy to zoology, and everything in between."

Foreman said he is currently pursuing the appropriate federal and state licenses for the project, "but the most difficult hurdle will be finding a suitable mate for Aerial. Her biological clock is ticking, so our time is limited."

He hopes to convince another falconer or breeder of captive peregrines to loan him a male to breed Aerial in the spring. "This year could be her last opportunity to breed," he said, noting he has turned a spare room adjoining his classroom into a breeding room.

According to the most current information on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' website, there are seven nesting pairs of peregrines in Wisconsin, none of them found in northern Wisconsin.

While the bird was taken off the federal endangered species list in 1999 due to successful breeding programs that helped re-establish peregrines, its status in Wisconsin is

still listed as endangered.

Foreman said the top of the historic Mellen School would be a suitable spot for an eyrie, noting peregrines commonly nest on the tallest structures in more urban areas of Wisconsin and other cities in the United States.

"The peregrine is a native species, which had its habitat altered in various ways by human activities. As stewards of nature it's our role to care for the health of the ecosystems which sustain us," said Foreman, noting the use of pesticides, especially DDT, caused the nationwide decline of peregrines.

"Creatures like the peregrine falcon play an important biological role in our ecosystems. They can indicate many factors pertaining to the overall health of our environment.

"Additionally, and not insignificantly, witnessing one of nature's most awe-inspiring creatures firsthand can lift our spirits and add to the quality of our lives," he said.

"In a roundabout way, falconry plays a part in every class I teach. Over the years falconry has taught me patience, responsibility, commitment, planning and a vast array of behavior modification techniques – all are skills

I apply daily as an educator."

Foreman, who will use his pointing dogs to flush wild game birds for the falcon during a controlled hunt, said watching the peregrine catch its prey in flight is an awe-inspiring moment.

"They hit their prey as fast as possible and under the right conditions, the sound can be heard a mile away. When the game is flushed the falcon rolls over and begins pumping its wings straight at the ground," he said, noting the female peregrine has an average weight of 32 to 40 ounces and is 18 to 21 inches in length.


"This reminds me of shooting an arrow at the ground out of a helicopter. When the falcon reaches terminal velocity its wings tighten and its contour feathers pull in close to the body for even more speed.

"As the prey rolls and dodges, the falcon makes slight mid-air adjustments in its trajectory until the moment of final impact. Often the falcon misses altogether, and sometimes the falcon knocks itself senseless or worse," Foreman said. "The top speed of this flight has been clocked at over 200 mph, and possibly as fast as 250 mph."

It is that incredible combination

of speed, in-flight grace, and natural beauty that have endeared this crow-size bird to the hearts of the 312 students in Mellen.

"The reaction from the students has been wonderful. I'm always amazed by how tuned-in our students are and they ask questions that show a tremendous insight into the natural world.... I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to spark the scientific excitement of our students," he said.

That excitement will continue to grow if Aerial is successfully bred and peregrine falcons once again are sighted in the skies over northern Wisconsin. 

*Jeff Peters of Mellen, Wisconsin, is publisher of "The Echo", a Wisconsin historical newspaper. Peters urges historians and residents of Wisconsin to send their stories and old photos (quality reproductions or scans at 300 dpi on CD preferred) to: Attention: Jeff Peters, The Echo, 31374 Long Lake Road, Mellen, WI 54546. Or email them to [peters@ceas.coop](mailto:peters@ceas.coop) Subscriptions for the newspaper are \$20 for the year and can be sent to the same address.*



# Restoring Wisconsin's Wetlands

## Natural Environment Crucial To Man, Wildlife

By Jeff Nania

I have been the director of the habitat program for the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association for well over a decade now. The director title may suggest to some that I spend most of my time directing, telling others what to do from a cozy office someplace, feet up in front of fire, with my trusty lab Chip by my side, answering e-mails, sipping coffee from my favorite mug. A vision that I am sure warms your heart just like it did mine last week as I was standing out in the middle of a former Sauk County cornfield, dawn to dusk, bucking the 15 mile per hour winds that drove temperatures to 12 below, watching a D-6 Cat sculpt the landscape, trying to put back the puzzle pieces of a former wetland, a place in the landscape that had become too wet to continue farming. Below surface the ground was saturated, and as I walked through the site, the wet mud stuck to my boots and froze in place minutes after hitting the wind. I did have hot coffee, and I can guarantee that it never tasted better.

The truth be known, my office is actually a 1997 Chevy pickup truck. It's not fancy but it is a good field truck, meeting my simple requirements: it starts and runs, the heater works and so does the four wheel drive. The truck is packed with every type of field gear imaginable, soil probes to transits, field guides to road maps. Together we have traveled to wetland restoration sites from Racine to Hayward, Green Bay to La Crosse. I long ago lost count of the sunrises and sunsets I have seen over the steering wheel.

Wetland restoration is a relatively new science. It involves restoring the natural functions of a piece of land altered by man. As a society we have tried to make the land suit our needs. With dozer and dragline, plow and paver we have changed the Wisconsin landscape, to build homes, factories and feed for a hungry nation. In many cases the land is changed forever, in others nature defies man's best attempts. It is here that we concentrate our efforts. The land on which we find



Jeff Nania stands next to his 'office' in the wilds of Wisconsin.

ourselves has often been ignored and scorned as waste land. A few years ago I was doing a restoration on one part of a family farm. As we began, I asked the landowner how he felt about the project. He looked at me then looked out at the land and said, "I have worked that ground for 60

left to our feeble human ways, trying to understand and interpret Mother Nature, but she rarely communicates with us in complete sentences, tending to leave out certain details requiring us to fill in the blanks.

Wisconsin has a long history of pioneer efforts in conservation to find

commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

One man can send a message but it takes many to change the world. Leopold had an audience ready and waiting. Then, as now, it was hunters, anglers and trappers that stepped forward. They read his words and knew what he meant. They knew the value of a good oak fire, the thrill of ducks landing in a marsh. They completely understood when Leopold wrote, "There are two kinds of people: those who can live without wild things and those who cannot." We are now and have always been the backbone of conservation in this state.

Some may call me naive or short sighted, and maybe they're right, but here is the lesson I learned from Leopold: Go forward and do something on the landscape. Real conservation takes your heart, your head, and your hands. No matter how intelligently we discuss, how passionately we speak, no wetland nor prairie will be restored from a meeting room or an office, unless it is equipped with four-wheel drive.

.....  
***"The theory of restoration is simple: reverse the manmade impacts and put the pieces back together. The actual practice often challenges the mind and body..."***  
.....

years, I won't miss it a bit. That damn field has always been too wet to farm and too dry to grow ducks. Maybe you can make something out of it."

The theory of restoration is simple: reverse the manmade impacts and put the pieces back together. The actual practice often challenges the mind and body. We have learned that the closer we can get to original site conditions, the better chance we have of success. So we take great care to evaluate current site conditions and try to determine what the area had looked like before alteration. Sometimes the people that altered the site are still around and provide us with valuable information. However most of the time when we are developing a restoration plan we're

those answers. Aldo Leopold, a hunter and noted conservationist, looked across the land at a worn out Sauk County farm along the Wisconsin River; a farm so depleted that even weeds looked for a better place to grow. He began a personal and family effort that changed how we looked at land. He called the farm his family's refuge from too much "modernity". They went forward to restore the land with axes, shovels and a vision of what could be, beginning a journey that would take many years and would be recounted in his writings to the delight of millions the world over. In the 1940s he wrote, "We abuse the land because we regard it as a

Jeff Nania is the executive director of The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association



# Nania is 2007 National Wetland Award Winner

## Work With Land And Young People Tireless

**W**ASHINGTON D.C. - The Environmental Law Institute, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the US Army Corps of Engineers named Wisconsin Waterfowl Association Executive Director Jeff Nania as the recipient of the 2007 National Wetlands Award. Nania was chosen from 60 nominees for his work in wetland restoration and conservation in Wisconsin.

"We could have nominated him for any number of categories," Becky Abel from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association said. "He has tackled every area that someone could work on an issue. From the ground, to outreach, to legislative issues. We have lost over half of our historic Wisconsin wetlands. They are critical wildlife habitat but they are also critical for a clean water supply. There is a lot of work to be done and he (Nania) is out there working all the time."

Nania started as the Project Director with the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association in 1993. Since then he has restored over two hundred wetlands in Wisconsin, in partnership with many conservation groups, government agencies and many, many conservation minded private landowners across the state. He developed a restoration planning process that required each wetland restoration site be addressed individually using an ecosystem based approach. This included an investigation of site history and an examination of pre-restoration site conditions, including soils, remnant seed bank, hydrology, and site topography.

In 1996 Nania became concerned that children were losing touch with our natural resources and launched Outdoor Adventure Days, an interactive, (muddy and wet) outdoor classroom that has hosted more than 7,000 kids from around Wisconsin. In 2002, he took his interest in wetland education a step further and helped start River Crossing Environmental Charter School, a full-time school for

seventh and eighth graders. Jeff leads the students weekly as they plan and implement restoration projects. River Crossing has received national recognition as one of the most successful and effective schools of its kind.

In addition, in his spare time Jeff works with the Wisconsin legislature on issues involving wetlands, resource protection, as well as hunting and fishing. Nania says this is a natural extension of his commitment to conservation. Even though sometimes it requires a constant shifting of gears, going from restoration projects, to the classroom and then the Capitol, sometimes in the same day.

"The future of our natural resources will be decided in the Capitol. Restoration and education are critical parts of the picture, but we would be foolish to ignore the political process. There are a great many solid

conservationists on both sides of the aisle. I have been fortunate to be allowed to work closely with them to help craft good public policy," said Nania.

"I am honored that I have been chosen to receive this award. The truth is, any success I have had has been a result of the support of WWA members and many very dedicated hardworking partners. There are a lot of great folks out there that are doing good things on the landscape, for no other reason than it's the right thing to do. Good conservation takes your heart, your head and your hands, and solid partners, regardless whether it is working in the Capitol, restoring a wetland or introducing kids to the outdoors."

On May 9, Nania traveled to Washington D.C to receive the National Wetlands Award, in a ceremony on Capitol Hill.

W



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# A Pinch Of Humor

## Out Of The Mouths Of Babes

By Duane Harpster

Being a game warden gives you a chance to see fishermen and women at their best, their worst and everywhere in between. For instance, children do say the darnedest things and more often than not the unvarnished truth. Once while working with several other wardens in an undercover mode at the Petenwell dam on the Wisconsin River, we watched a boat with an adult and a child. The adult caught and kept well over the combined bag limits of both people. He put his fish in a basket tied to the stern near him, while the youngster also had a fish basket nearby, at the bow. When we approached the boat, I wound up being closer to the boy, while my partner was close to the man at the stern. My partner asked the man if he was catching any, to which the man replied, "A couple in the

cooler." I asked the boy how he was doing and he replied, "A few, but my dad is really doing good, and he has them in a basket by the back of the boat!" Out of the mouths of babes.

After we put the size limit on bass, some folks took a little while to get used to it and some just ignored it. I was working on a pretty popular smallmouth lake and had just gotten a new 14-foot olive drab painted boat. I was using it in place of my normal big patrol boat, so I guess I was somewhat incognito even though I was in full uniform. I was approaching a boat with two fellas that were fishing – I wanted to check their licenses and bags, and was motoring up slowly. I got within 50 feet or so of the boat before the fellow in the stern glanced over at me, did a double take, leaped to his feet and grabbed a five gallon pail out of the bottom of the boat.

I announced myself and told him

not to dump the pail, to no avail. I could see there were a large number of smallmouth bass being dumped and they didn't look very big. I coasted alongside the boat while standing up to look where he had dumped the fish. To my amazement, and the fishermen's consternation, I saw a couple dozen dead and dying undersize smallmouth floating back to the surface. The fisherman's partner's comment: "I told you they would die in that pail!"

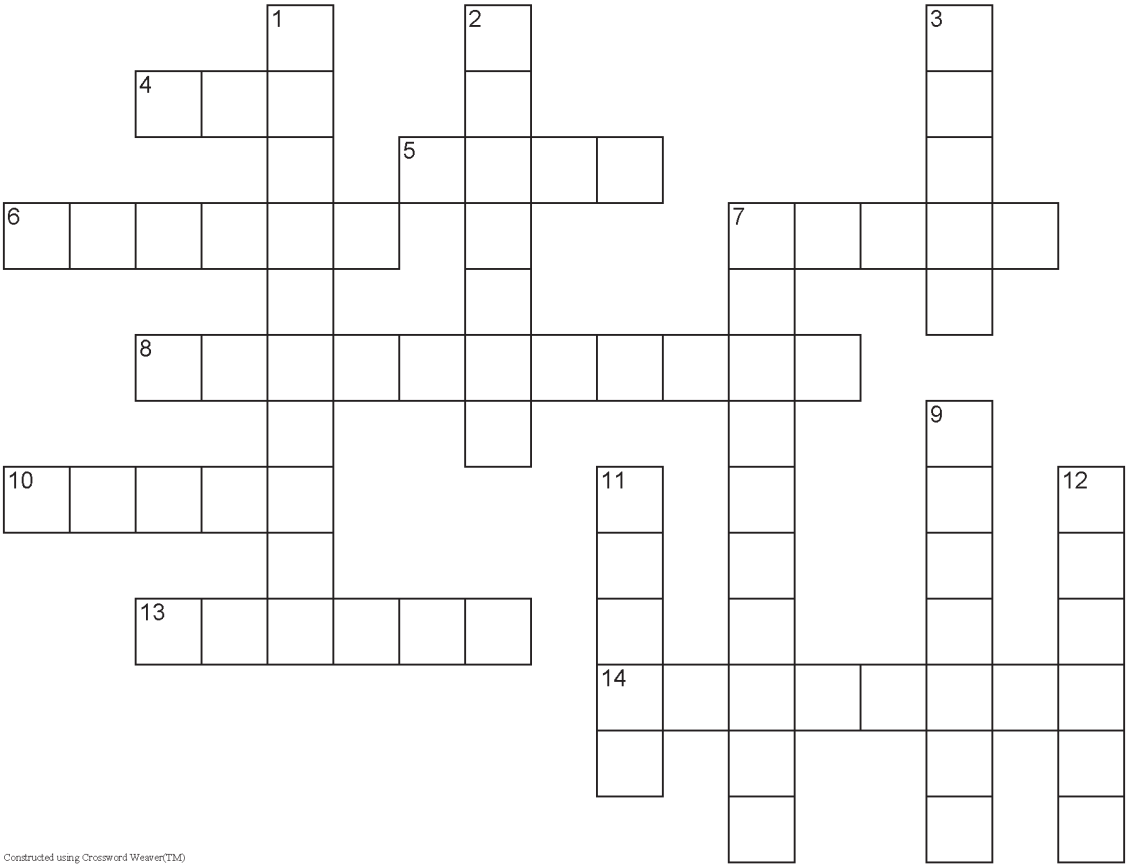
There are quite a number of lakes around without public access. Sometimes folks that live on them tend to think the warden can't come on there, which of course is not totally correct. I received a call from a gentleman who lived on such a lake early one summer evening. He asked if I could come up to his lake and apprehend some guys illegally motor trolling. I told him I would hook up my boat and be right up. Instead, he

suggested we use his boat.

When I arrived, we hopped on his pontoon boat. I settled into a lawn chair on the front in full uniform, and we went out to the slowly motoring trollers. A few feet away I inquired how the fishing was. The two occupants, each holding a rod, responded that they were getting a few but fishing was slow. I said that I didn't know you could motor troll on this lake. Weren't they afraid of getting caught? The response was: "You can't, but this is a private lake and the warden can't come here." My complainant began to laugh and blurted out, "He is the warden, you idiots!" You could see the lights finally come on as their heads dropped and shoulders slumped. Their comment: "We didn't know the warden had a pontoon boat."

Duane Harpster is a retired Wisconsin Conservation Warden.

# Outdoor Criss Cross - Fishing Puzzle #23



- ACROSS
- 4

A type of knot: Double \_\_\_\_\_
- 5

A hook part
- 6

Maker of the VMAX outboard motor
- 7

Nickname for a popular panfish
- 8

A type of fishing lure
- 10

A fishing scent: \_\_\_\_\_ trail
- 13

A outdoorsman's cable TV channel
- 14

A WImsky destination: \_\_\_\_\_ Flowage
- DOWN
- 1

A name of a Garmin product
- 2

A type of catfish
- 3

A tackle box manufacturer
- 7

A popular braided line
- 9

water movement
- 11

A slimy summer bait
- 12

A maker of crankbaits

Puzzle answers on page 27



# Sacred Ground

## Our Shallow Lakes

By Terrill Knaack

The names Koshkonong and Puckaway echo in the minds of those who know of their history. There is something intangible and nostalgic about them. These large riverine wetland lakes evoke visions of running for tip-ups, marshes that were a mosaic of red and yellow ochre in autumn, and the flashing light off the wings of Canvasbacks in the morning sun.

The large effigy mound complexes built by Native Americans overlooking these lakes assures us that they were of special importance. A true breadbasket. Wild rice, fish and a great diversity of bird and animal life in abundance allowed for a culture that was well provided for, with enough time to build earthworks that are unique worldwide. These lakes were consecrated; they were sacred ground.

I had the privilege in my youth to know men who hunted and fished, but most importantly enjoyed and felt part of the wildlife that was so numerous on these river systems. Marking the arrival of the tundra swans in spring, the week the ospreys would appear on their migration in May, to the time to fish bluegills in June.

I am old enough myself to remember clear water and submergent vegetation on Lake Puckaway, watching the white bottoms of swans turned skyward as they reached for tubers on the bottom sediments and seeing canvasbacks on Lake Poygan by the tens of thousands. On many lakes, wetlands firm enough to walk on without hip boots are now gone, eroded away. Many shallow lakes have changed drastically with the passing decades. Where water clarity diminished, submergent vegetation of these lakes disappeared. Oily slicks of decaying blue green algae block out light in late summer destroying life in the plants below. When shoreline wetlands disappear, as the result of constant high water or increasing water levels, we create unmanageable spawning grounds for tens of thousands more carp. This already sad situation is getting worse.

Lake Koshkonong is a natural widening of the Rock River. Its histor-



*Golden tamaracks border a shallow Wisconsin lake in this Terrill Knaack painting.*

ical appearance was more that of an expansive wet meadow, a sea of wild rice. Lake Puckaway is somewhat similar on the Fox River, also a riverine wetland ecosystem. Not all shallow lakes in Wisconsin are the same, however they do have several common denominators that we should consider carefully. These are not lakes in the classical sense that relate at all to the science of limnology. They are something unique within themselves. Riverine wetlands are the natural equivalent of water filters; the earth's kidneys, so to speak. They accumulate and hold nutrients. Flooding them out for long periods, so that all plants, even the submergents, die out, unleashes these nutrients to the water column. This is an exact formula for creating a hyper eutrophic (extreme excess of phosphorus and nitrogen) disaster. Water quality diminishes to the level of a sewer.

Although riverine wetlands are complex systems, we know several things for sure. They cannot have improved water quality without healthy submergent vegetation: plants that anchor and stabilize bottom sediments and utilize excess nutrients.

Secondly the submergents themselves, such as wild celery (*Vallisneria Americana*) and sago (*Potamogeton Pectinatus*) and others have been carefully studied on the Mississippi River and in Canada. Natural seasonal changes in water levels and longer term variations that are part of longer term hydrological cycles are really essential for their health. Keeping submergent vegetation healthy depends on both of these. Constant high water on Lake Puckaway threatens this one time jewel as never before. It may in fact be too late. Artificially managed high water levels are destroying this lake.

The reader is probably now aware that I have given a definite meaning to these critical water resources. I have ascribed to them the meaning of having an essential role in supporting the incredible diversity of birds, plants and insects that would naturally inhabit these beautiful places. To let the heritage of these resources diminish because of ignorance of their nature, even worse because a healthy ecosystem is somehow in the way of our ability to run large outboard motors or develop

more real estate on lakes, is a travesty. It negates the very significance and miraculous nature that life has. It contradicts our essential responsibility to protect life and save something healthy for future generations.

The Wisconsin DNR has a very checkered record in preserving and protecting our riverine systems. The best recent news is the victory by the DNR staff and the Lake Koshkonong Wetlands Association in diverting an attempt to raise the water levels on Lake Koshkonong. This victory does not in itself address the management needs of the lake, but certainly has avoided a real disaster. Both these groups deserve our deepest gratitude and respect for their work to help save Lake Koshkonong.

The ecologist Aldo Leopold attempted to create a revolution in resource management by focusing on the integrity of ecosystems rather than looking at them as commodities that can provide a given number of "man hours" of recreation and certain dollar value to real estate developments. It has been pointed out in countless examples that ignoring the health of land and water resources and substituting a vision of short term gain is in itself, self defeating. Even those who encourage us to destroy living systems for economic gain alone eventually come to deplore the results of their actions.

It is my hope that this essay stimulates discussion about riverine systems and what we can do to protect them. This is only a modest beginning of what needs to be considered. These uniquely beautiful water resources are a part of the heritage of all who live in Wisconsin, past, present, and future. They are sacred ground. Whether we treat them with respect and understanding because of the life they support or let them degenerate into biologically degraded sewers is up to us.

*Terrill Knaack has been painting Wisconsin landscapes and wildlife for 30 years. He is also a photographer and a perpetual observer of Wisconsin's natural history. To learn more about his work, see [www.terrillknaack.com](http://www.terrillknaack.com)*



# Whitewater And Quietwater

## A Paddler's View From The Stern

By Steve Henske

Barely heard over the violent pounding of the whitewater Jeff Konopacky yells: "It doesn't look too bad and I don't feel like portaging, so I'm going to run it." I don't blame him. The temperature is on the uphill side of 90 degrees and the air is thick with humidity. Portaging this C-III rapid would mean a 300 meter trek on a rarely used bush trail, littered with blowdowns and loaded with bloodsucking insects that have no intent of helping portage our gear.

I reminded myself that our Wisconsin group of six came to the Allanwater River in Ontario's Wabakimi Provincial Park in July of '07 to paddle, not to carry our gear around every little set of Class 2 or 3 rapids we come across. The fact that this is our twelfth set of rapids in three hours puts portage time at a premium. We have so far run them all and our projected campsite is only another two miles. That means 12 miles behind us and 128 miles to go over the next nine days.

After scouting out the rap we find a safe cheater route along the river's right shore created by this year's high water levels. The adrenaline jitters start and Jeff and Kosha lead in their 17 foot Dagger Venture. Missy and I gingerly follow in our 16 foot Appalachian with Dave and Gary's Old Town Tripper playing "clean-up" in the rear. Our reward for running the rapid is another deep pool literally stacked with walleye and northern pike.

And so continues another canoe trip in the Canadian bush. We do not turn our backs on the fine paddling waters of Wisconsin and the UP of Michigan. My canoes have logged literally tens of thousands of miles on local waters. The proximity of our home in Stevens Point to fine whitewater is fantastic with many great day trips to be had within a 1.5 hour drive. Wisconsin also has some great overnight paddling trips on the St. Croix/Namekogan, the lower Wisconsin Waterway, the Peshtigo plus a host of others. But, if you are searching for an extended and truly wilderness canoe trip then head north young man... head north.



Jeff and Kosha Konopacky of Stevens Point run a rapids of the Ogoki River, Wabakimi Park, Ontario in July of 2007.

I first started paddling the Canadian Shield back in 1980 with a trip into Quetico Provincial Park, the north half of the Boundary Waters. I have been back there a few times and still love it but find that a country the size of Canada has a lot more places to paddle than just Quetico. Lay out a map of Ontario and the first thing you notice is that there are very few roads, and those few roads dry up to almost nothing within a couple hours travel north of the border. The next thing you notice is that there is one heck of a lot of water. Water everywhere. Enough water to keep Las Vegas and

was further reinforced after I dunked his three hp Evinrude one night when I was 12. A broken paddle is much cheaper to fix than the crankshaft in an outboard motor. We would paddle down the river on the Manitowish Chain and camp on my friend's grandmother's point. Back then we considered canoeing to be stealthy. No noise meant nobody knew what we were up to... which was a good thing.

Soon the half-mile paddle would take only minutes and the trips got longer. As one's paddling skills and physique develops cranking out

a rental home on the Plover River. Our family began to expand and we paddled ... a lot. All three of our children grew up on the water and are now accomplished paddlers and quite comfortable running a raging whitewater river or canoe-camping on a quiet Canadian lake.

I overheard a couple guys at a local pub discussing those "tofu eatin' canoers and kayakers." Now anyone that truly knows me will say that I am probably more of the quiet type, and being true to my nature I ordered up another cold one and kind of slid over there and eavesdropped on the conversation. "Those anti-hunting SOB's drive around their Subarus and come paddling down my trout river when I am fishing and scare all the fish away." I straightened them out in pretty short order. I don't like tofu because it falls apart on the grill. I do not own a Subaru. My paddling buddy Jeff has a Subaru and he is a deer-killing machine. I am an incredibly avid bowhunter with more moose, caribou, and deer antlers than my walls have space to hang them. And anyone that has not trout fished out of a canoe is truly missing something.

I do admit to owning a fishing boat (camo) and a ski boat. They are used but not nearly as much as my fleet of six canoes. The draw of paddling is getting into places that a powerboat will never go... quietly, lightly, efficiently, inexpensively and reliably. The pace is such that you see things that

.....

*"My father Dick Henske has an impressive stable of tattered and dented canoes that lay testament to our family's early method of paddling—the braille method..."*

.....

Los Angeles, and probably the entire country of Mexico green and happy for eternity. Consider that there are thirteen Canadian Provinces and Territories and all have navigable canoe waters totaling millions of miles, it only makes sense to not go back to the same place too many times.

My paddling days started earlier than I can remember. My father Dick Henske has an impressive stable of tattered and dented canoes that lay testament to our family's early method of paddling- the braille method. He does have motor boats, but I found it pretty hard to get in trouble when I used the canoe. That

miles becomes an afterthought. In 1977 I entered college at UW-Stevens Point with what I considered the usual college gear... a fishing rod, my waders and tackle box, my shotgun and bow, but no canoe. It took two full years before I broke down and dropped fifty bucks on an old Grumman 17 foot tin can. It immediately got camouflaged for the marsh.

It was then that I met my future partner in life. It turns out that Missy liked to canoe, which was a good thing because my \$50 camo duck boat was one of the more valuable items I owned. She was amazingly, impressed. Soon thereafter we found

Continued on page 35



# Product 4-Pack

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By JJ Reich

**H**ere's the rundown on four hunting and fishing products that you may find useful in the woods, fields and waterways. We did.

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The locking-ability on the large cutting blade is a great safety feature on this knife when field dressing game. I also liked the folding saw; it easily cut through the pelvis bone on white-tailed deer.

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*JJ Reich is Field Test Coordinator for "North American Hunter" and "North American Fisherman" Magazines and the author of the Kampp Tales hunting books for children.*

### Whitewater And Quietwater... (Continued from page 34)

never reveal themselves when screaming across a lake in a powerboat. Wildlife is not nearly as spooked, the water striders stay in stride and a person can actually use a reference book while identifying the local flora while paddling. Not to mention the fishing! If you have never had the wonderful opportunity to do a fly-in fishing trip in Canada and thought the fishing was great... you have no idea what you have been missing. The canoe will bring you down absolutely virgin waters that have never seen a fish-

erman. You feel the eddies, you never run out of gasoline. *W*

*Next issue: Planning an extended wilderness canoe trip and fishing the shield out of a canoe.*

*Steve Henske is a veteran canoeist having paddled thousands of miles on the Canadian Shield, and many more in Wisconsin. He resides in Stevens Point, WI, with his wife and paddling partner Missy, and faithful canoe rocking specialist Cody, a Golden Retriever.*

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