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On Wisconsin *Outdoors*

with the
Dick Ellis Experts

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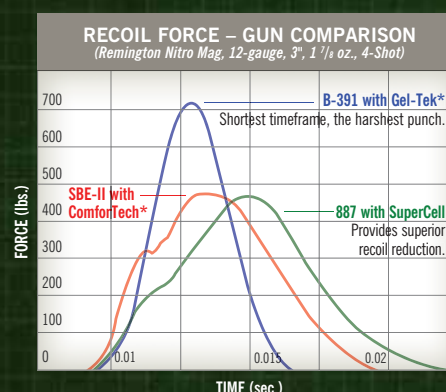
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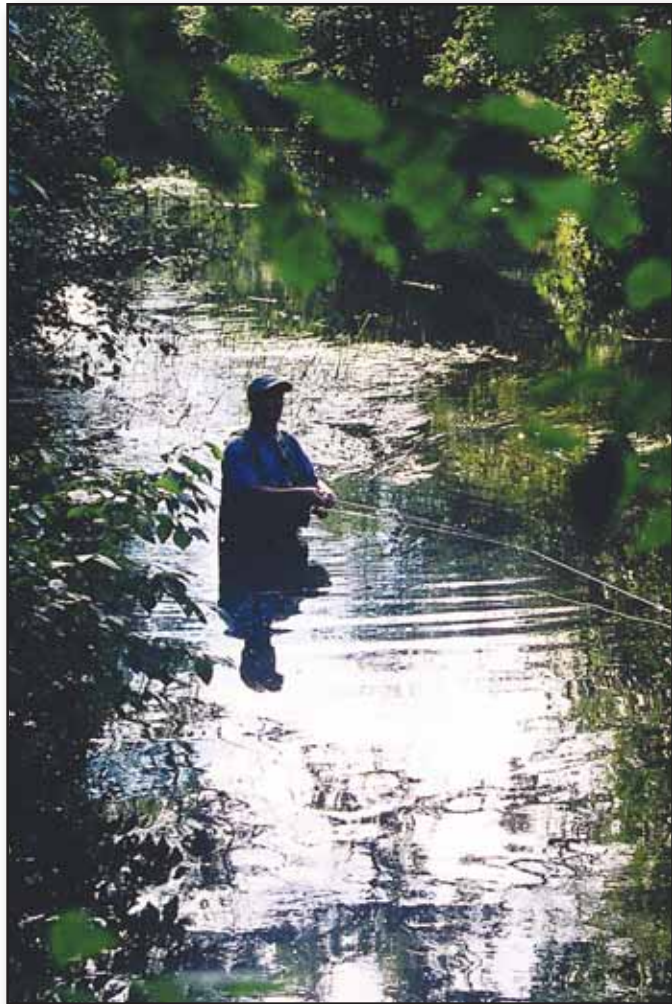


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DICK ELLIS

ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS

History, brook trout flow with Portage County drainage ditches



When it comes to fishing brook trout, sometimes less is more. There's often nothing flashy about fishing drainage ditches, except for the numbers and size of fish they often produce. (Ellis)

The Buena Vista Marsh in southwest Portage County had given Steve Henske better August evenings of trout fishing. The brookie that left the dark water of a deep hole to sting a flashing rooster tail, though, was worth the wait.

Henske brought the fish closer to surrender in the clearer shallows and rifled sand, the ultralight doubled over, the fish protesting the whole idea with a series of four beautiful boils. "Nice brookie," Henske said quietly as I continued to work the camera from high on the bank. "In fact, it's 13-1/2 inches."

My friend had taken even bigger brook trout here. And more fish. But Henske was on the straight and narrow of Ditch No. 2 within the Portage County Drainage District. No meandering trout stream here finding its

own way across the pages of time. On the ditches, things can change, including the degree of fishing success. Henske comes to catch a unique piece of Wisconsin history, almost as much as another brookie or brown.

In the late 1800s, Bradley University of Peoria Illinois would bring students to the Buena Vista Marsh area for hands-on experiences in agriculture. Impressed with the fertile soil here, The University began to purchase parcels of land, develop and sell the property, then buy more. Because of that, many

of the farmhouses in the area today are similar appearing.

In 1903, Bradley University, along with local property owners, began the legal process of creating the Portage County Drainage District. The goal of the district and draining the marsh was to create more productive land with longer growing seasons.

Shortly after 1903, with necessary easements purchased from private landowners, the University began to dredge seven original drainage ditches. The task was completed with a floating barge and mechanical shovel. The work crew lived on the barge.

Seven ditches proved inadequate to meet drainage goals, and three additional ditches placed between the original veins were dredged in 1913. The ditches are identified numerically, one

through ten. But due to the two separate dredging projects and ditch placement, the ditches are not referenced chronologically on maps.

With time and erosion dictating the need for maintenance repairs by the depression years of the 1930s, the ditches were re-dredged. Wooden decks placed as road bridges during the original dredging allowed barge shovels, starting upstream, to lift the decks, dredge through the roadways and reset the wooden bridge again.

With employment opportunities sorely lacking in the depression era, workers were hired to construct concrete dams on the ditches. The structures were designed to control underground peat fires and hopefully make the surrounding soil more agriculturally productive.

From the beginning, four of the ditches held a brook trout population by connection with natural streams. Buena Vista Creek meandered through the marsh and became Ditch No. 2 with dredging and straightening. Ditch No. 4 connected with Creek Four and Duck Creek. And Ditch No. 6 and Ditch No. 5 flowed into 10 Mile Creek and became the north and south branch of that fishery.

The uniqueness of the ditches as trout water can be appreciated visually in DNR Trout Fishing Regulations and Guide, the outdoor bible of trout anglers.

The Potage County Drainage District has jurisdiction over 60,000 acres. Its primary purpose is to provide proper growing environment for the agricultural interests in the area.

Because of that, dredging of the more than 100 miles of ditches periodically continues today, not always with the approval of some trout anglers.

Rather than destroying habitat, dredging the ditches, according to the Drainage District and DNR studies, actually benefits trout fishing by keeping what would be stagnant water that wouldn't hold trout flowing. The District works closely with Trout Unlimited (TU) and the DNR to maintain a quality fishery. Although the District's first responsibility is to eliminate water from the fields for the farmers because the lands were purchased with private funds they do maintain the ditches to enhance fishing, too.

The bottom line is that although dredging is a district right, the fishery remains in excellent shape with naturally reproducing populations of brookies and browns that were initially established through stocking.

The fishery brings avid trout anglers such as Steve Henske back annually. For the Stevens Point resident, he hasn't missed a return visit since he enrolled at UW-Stevens Point in 1979. Good populations of brookies from nine to 13 inches, and browns in the 17-inch class will do that to a trout man.

"My biggest brookie here was 14-1/2 inches and I've seen friends take browns up to 20 inches," he said. "The ditches seem to go in cycles. What's good now might not be next year. You have to put your time in to find the right ditch. It's a unique experience ... trout fishing on the prairie." *W*



Drainage ditches were dredged by barges and heavy equipment decades ago despite the obstacles of bridges. (Ellis)

GARY ENGBERG

GARY ENGBERG OUTDOORS

Big muskies up in the Lower Wisconsin River

I happen to live on the Lower Wisconsin River, about 5 miles downriver from the Prairie du Sac Dam, which is the last dam on the Wisconsin River. Here, the twin cities of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac are located. The Wisconsin River flows unobstructed from Sauk Prairie to its convergence with the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, some 85 miles downriver.

Above the dam at Prairie du Sac and to the north is Lake Wisconsin, a flowage of the river that flows south from the dam at Wisconsin Dells. These fish are growing and reproducing with a noticeable increase in numbers in recent years.

FINALLY, THERE'S FISH

There is now a fishable population of muskies below the Prairie du Sac Dam to the Highway 12 bridge, and to a lesser degree from the Highway 12 bridge downriver (Lower Wisconsin River flowage) to the Mississippi River. Muskies are being caught with regularity in the 4-mile stretch directly below the dam by both trolling and



It used to be that the Lower Wisconsin River produced the occasional "accidental" muskie to walleye fishermen. Those days are over, and the days of monster muskies are here instead.



casting, and muskie anglers can expect to catch some good size muskies.

The fish came from Lake Wisconsin during periods of high water, and to a lesser extent up from the Mississippi River. Now, they are common and fishermen who want to try new water should find time to experiment and fish this portion of the Wisconsin River for muskies. I know of many fish from 38-46 inches caught just since last fall.

Muskies have been stocked in Lake Wisconsin for years. Muskies here in recent years are growing and reproducing with a noticeable

increase in numbers.

Previously, a muskie was caught occasionally by anglers fishing for walleyes and saugers in the spring or fall. Now, you can go out and put in at any of the local boating ramps and be muskie fishing in a few minutes!

The boat landing that I recommend is the one at the VFW Park, which is a mile or so below the dam and through town past the Highway 60 Bridge. From there, you have a short ride to the Prairie du Sac Dam. The area directly below the dam is a great place to start fishing.

DOWN TO DETAILS

Begin by fishing the east shoreline below the dam. Spend some time (at least an hour) casting your favorite baits. Bucktails, jerkbaits, glidebaits, spinner baits and shallow running crankbaits all will catch fish. The new Bait Rigs Esox Cobra jig and its assorted plastics are catching lots of fish, too.

Other baits that work particularly well in the river's stained water are: Smity Baits, Bucher Shallow Raiders, Grandma Baits, Mann's Minus-1 Jerkbaits, Bull Dawgs, and Hog Wobblers. The best colors are natural ones such as perch and shad, but

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

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TERRY BITZ

OUTDOOR CONVERGENCE

The natural progression from quantity to quality

For many anglers, there's a progression in their attitude towards fishing. When they were young, most anglers were happy catching fish—any fish. It didn't matter if it was a bass or bluegill, and it didn't matter if it was big or small. As they get older, sometimes much older, the desire to mostly target larger fish can take hold.

Many years ago, I found myself on the big fish path. For those looking to join the big fish chase, there are some things that can help one to succeed in getting more of these larger specimens in the boat.

LEARNING LUNKER HABITAT

The most important suggestion I can make is this: You have to fish waters that routinely produce big fish in order to routinely catch big fish. As much as I enjoy fishing many of my local lakes, if I'm interested in just going after larger fish, most waters will be

locales can be big largemouth bass havens.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

If you want to land big fish, use high-quality equipment. It's possible to land a sizeable fish on questionable tackle; however, if you want to repeatedly land big fish, you need to upgrade. You don't have to spend a fortune to find top-quality gear, but you shouldn't rely on a \$20 rod and reel combo, either.

Speaking of reels, you should learn to use a baitcasting reel. It is true that spinning reels are the equipment of choice for many presentations. However, under various circumstances, baitcasters are often a better option due to their line-handling capabilities and traditionally better drag systems.

When it comes to your fishing line, you should give serious consideration to leaving everything below 8-pound test at home. Unless you're fishing gin-clear water, line diameter doesn't

"The most important suggestion I can make it this: You have to fish waters that routinely produce big fish in order to routinely catch big fish..."

bypassed for more productive locations. The reasons are simple—many fish end up in a frying pan before they make it to large status, and most of our lakes do not have the right ingredients to produce numerous big fish.

If you're searching for bodies of water to start on, look for those with special regulations. These regulations protect fish from harvest, at least until they reach respectable size, and make it more likely that a few will slip past anglers to reach large proportions.

Anglers shouldn't pass up popular locations that are known trophy producers. Some of the state's legendary waters such as Green Bay, Chequamegon Bay and the Mississippi River continue to put out big fish year after year.

Beyond those waters, you should think about lakes or ponds that have restricted access or are difficult to get to. These waters are less likely to have been beat down by harvest.

In addition, look to those bodies of water that get socked full of weeds. Heavy weed growth makes it difficult for anglers to get to the fish. Such

impact the bite as much as anglers think. Arguably, light line is a huge liability when trying to pull large fish out of the weeds, stump fields or snag-filled rivers.

When in big fish mode, I commonly use 10-pound monofilament and 20-pound braided line on my spinning reels. My baitcasters are often spooled with 12- to 17-pound mono and 20- to 35-pound braided line. Muskie and trophy northern pike fishing calls for braided lines of 50 to 100 pounds due to the use of big, heavy lures and the associated thick hooks.

TUNING TACTICS AND ATTITUDE

Finally, you need to modify your fishing tactics and your attitude. Big fish are not nearly as abundant as their smaller brethren and they often will not be in the same locations. This is especially true of species like northern pike where the big ones—big meaning pike measuring more than 36 inches—have different food and water temperature preferences than smaller pike.



Guide Dave Duwe holding a large bass caught using big fish tactics and tackle on Lake Delavan.

Spend some time reading about where bigger fish prefer to hang out, what their preferred forage is and the presentations and tactics that exploit those preferences. Apply what you read and learn, and try to discover new tactics on your own.

You will also need to change your attitude about catching numbers of fish. Muskie anglers will fish all day for the chance at one big fish; it's an attitude all

big fish anglers should develop. Often the hunt for big fish might mean you catch less fish overall; however, when you do catch a big one, it's worth the wait. *W*

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DARRELL PENDERGRASS

OUT THERE*Leaving the shore behind*

As fishermen go, my son, Jack, and I have typically been shore-casting and wading guys, when we've gone alone. For most of Jack's 9 years of life, I've never owned a boat—not a real boat—meaning that unless we've been invited by our more buoyant friends we haven't gone deep in our angling pursuits.

And that's been OK.



The reason we've been stuck on shore has been my boy's reluctance to fish from a canoe—one of which I have. I'm not sure if it's been Jack's fear of tipping over, falling into the abyss and drowning, or a simple lack of confidence in my paddling ability, but he has all but kept from stepping into my pointy little boat that sits out behind the barn.

Though I have always predicted the answer ahead of time, I've continuously suggested we take the canoe when we go fishing. "We could get out to the big ones," I'd say. Or, "Might be fun; beats fighting the mosquitoes." And Jack has always passed on the canoe option, until recently. Until this recently.

There's a little lake near our place that offers up sizable panfish and red-eyed bass to anglers

willing to walk the 200 yards or so it takes to get from the parking area to the landing. We usually get in and slosh along the shore in our leaky waders, casting out past the lily pads with rubber-bodied jigs for whatever's out there. Quite frankly, we do pretty well. There's a spot out near a point that we know of where the bass must be stacked up one on top of another; last year Jack and I laughed ourselves silly pulling in those brutes.

But this time we took the canoe.

Paddling along, making for parts of the lake we've yet to discover, I could see the uneasiness and tension of being in the canoe melt away from Jack's body. He reached for a paddle and began to take short, confident strokes in helping to guide the canoe along. After a few minutes it was apparent this canoe thing was OK. "I don't know what I was worried about," Jack said. "This is great."

On the other side of the lake, I kept the canoe close to shore as my son occasionally looked over and into the water, spotting rocks and logs down below. We glided along near the aspen when it was calm, and made sure we stayed pointed into the wind when a breeze would pick up. We looked for the chattering squirrels and the sneaking blue jays we could hear up in the pines but couldn't see.

Casting, Jack got a good bite out near a stump; the fish that took his offering began running hard and pulling line from his reel. Jack's eyes got wide. When the fish snapped off the jig we figured it had been a northern pike. "Felt like a big one," were the words from the bow.

We had a few more bites in the

same area, and each time Jack got a tug on his line he figured it was the same pike he'd lost his lure to, which isn't likely, but I couldn't convince Jack it wasn't. "Feels like the same fish."

For the most part the fishing was slow. The adventure was fun, don't get me wrong, but we needed a fish to make the outing complete. Bites weren't going to do it for us.

Jack cast over by another stump and his line went tight and I could tell by his posture that he had a fish on—most likely a bass. The end of his pole began bouncing around and up and down as the fish pulled line out. Keeping the line tight and letting the rod do its job, Jack tired the fish and guided it back toward me and the net.

Indeed, a bass—and a nice one, too. We pulled up into the reeds to get a photo. My son smiled a smile of success, and held the fish by its lip as I snapped an image. Then we let the fish go.

Heading back to the landing I couldn't see my son's face as we paddled along. Jack really likes this stuff—fishing and hunting, being outside and watching birds and bugs, identifying trees and leaves—it's just one of the many things I love about him. And he's quick to smile, so I'm guessing he was now.

I'm also guessing we'll be taking the canoe from this point on. *W*

Out There: Twenty years of family, fishing, farming and a life afield," a collection of stories by Darrell Pendergrass, can be purchased by sending \$15 and \$3 for shipping and handling to Darrell Pendergrass, 52405 Otto Olson Road, Grand View, WI 54839.

ENGBERG, from page 4

firetiger lands its share of fish, too. Baits that give off a flash, a sound, and vibration all work well in the stained water of the Wisconsin River.

The east shoreline is the best place to start, especially near the large back eddy along the golf course shore. Also, work the willow trees and brush on both sides near the islands, which are a couple hundred yards down from the dam. From there, fish both sides of the river all the way to the Highway 12 Bridge.

You'll find slack water areas, some

wood, riprap shorelines, bridge abutments, islands, flats, drop-offs, rock, gravel, points and spring holes in this stretch to the bridge. Again, fish both shores of the river.

Down near the Highway 12 Bridge is Ray's Riverside Resort and a small island with a small bay below it. Fish this in warm and hot weather because there are springs in the little bay behind the island that holds muskies in the warm months of summer.

Trolling is also legal in the Wisconsin River, so give it a try if that's

your bag. Trolling allows you to cover a sizeable area in a shorter time period. It makes sense that the more baits you have out at different depths the greater your success should be. You should be able to have some action on both sides of the Wisconsin River as you travel westward (downriver), and try trolling again as you head back upriver after reaching Highway 12.

The minimum keeping size for muskies is 34 inches—which is way too small. I was part of a group of local anglers and DNR personnel that

submitted a resolution in the Spring Hearings to raise the size limit to a more respected 50 inches. All muskies should be released anyway! Good fishing and if you follow these tips, you should have esox action. *W*

Contact Gary Engberg at 608. 795.4208. gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com or visit www.garyengbergoutdoors.com for good fishing information.

DAN MOERICKE

AN "UP NORT" REPORT

The (spotted) dog days of summer

Rap music. Economy car. Genuine replica. Mild heart attack. Life is full of oxymorons.

I think the oxymoron that best describes canoe trolling for lake trout (or "spotted dogs" as I affectionately refer to them) would be "peaceful tension." While quietly paddling the canoe, maybe you're daydreaming about elk hunting or that big buck you saw last fall ... then your rod is nearly ripped from the holder, the tip doubled over into the water and your drag starts a long whine. Talk about a mild heart attack!

One great thing about canoe trolling for lake trout is that the fishing gets good when other fishing slows down. I normally don't even start laker fishing until July ... in part, that's due to all of the other great fishing to be had during May and June. However, the main reason I wait is that, as the lakes warm up, the lake trout are forced to the deeper water and the search area is limited.

So if the dog days of summer have got you looking for something—anything—that'll bite, get out the old canoe and give lake trout fishing a try. Here's some of the basic stuff you'll need to know:

Lakes. There aren't that many



There are few methods of curing the summertime blues that are more effective than wrestling a big lake trout into submission.

Wisconsin lakes that hold lake trout. The clandestine society of lake trout fishermen out there will hunt me down

and do nasty things to me if I name their "secret lake," so I won't. Pick up a lake map book from Midwest Maps, grab a couple of cold Leinie's and spend an evening in front of the campfire. You'll be able to put together a list of lakes to try.

Equipment. My entire laker arsenal probably cost me \$500. That includes the \$150 I spent on a used 15-foot Grumman canoe, paddles, life preservers, another \$150 on a portable locator, a couple of 8-foot trolling rods with line-counter reels (a huge step up from the early 'count the number of cranks of the reel handle' days), rod holders, a couple of dippy-divers and an assortment of lures. I run 12 to 15-pound test low/no stretch line to the dippy diver and approximately 3 feet of 8 to 10-pound test

mono to the lure. Other equipment to have on hand includes a good net, a couple of marker buoys and cooler full of ice to keep the Leinie's cold and to put a lake trout in, should you decide to keep one.

Lures. I use primarily spoons. Pro-Kings and Northport Nailers are good. Stickbaits and cowbells with live bait can also be effective. Experiment with lures and colors to see what the fish are looking for on that day.

Technique. Trolling for lake trout comes down to knowing two things:

- No. 1: How deep are the fish?
- No. 2: And how deep are your lures running?

If you can get those two details in sync, then you're going to have a pretty good shot at tangling with one of these deep-water pit bulls.

The first part of equation requires having a decent locator. Without a good locator, I don't know if I'd even think about pursuing lakers. In addition to not knowing what depth the fish are holding at, you'd undoubtedly lose a lot of tackle when you run your lures into rock humps.

The second part of the formula requires knowing how deep your lures are running. You can study trolling charts all day, but to really know for sure how deep your lures are running, you'll need to actually get out on the water and do some experimenting. Let out 100 feet of line and run over a 50-foot deep hump. Did you hit bottom? No? Let out another 15 feet of line and do it again. Still didn't hit bottom? Repeat.

After a while, you'll be able to put together your own chart on how much line it takes to get your lures to a specific depth ... and it'll be accurate for your equipment.

Give the "peaceful tension" of lake trout fishing a shot. Even on days when the lakers don't cooperate, you'll get some good exercise, enjoy great scenery, and, by keeping an eye on your locator, you'll learn an incredible amount about the lake structure.

Happy paddling and take your heart medication! See you on the water. *W*

Dan Moericke is an avid and successful Wisconsin fisherman from Wausau and an occasional guest on outdoor fishing programs. On the water, he always tells us some version of the truth.



"YOU NEVER KNEW YOUR UNCLE MARVIN. HE WAS SLURPED OFF A LILY PAD BY A SIX POUND BASS IN THE SUMMER OF '07."

DAVE DUWE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Small streams capture emotions, hook, line and sinker

Wisconsin is blessed with thousands of lakes and rivers, and that seems to be why small creeks and streams are so often overlooked. When the area lakes are busy with jet skis or water skiers, you can escape the craziness by going small.

These small water bodies can hold a myriad of fish species. I've caught everything from walleyes to my favorite small-stream species, carp. The beauty of these streams is that more than likely, you will be the only person fishing there.

The most important equipment is a lawn chair and a cooler full of cold drinks. Both of my children have been fishing the creeks with me since they could walk. This is a great opportunity to get your child into your passion of fishing, but in a relaxing way. The beauty of shore fishing with kids is that there are also many other outdoor experiences for your child to explore and enjoy. It can be fishing, or catching butterflies or frogs, or my daughter Katie's favorite—picking flowers for mom.

I live in Northern Walworth County, where there are numerous great small creeks and streams. My favorites are the Bark River, Turtle Creek or Bluff Creek. You need to learn about the water you plan to fish. For example, Bluff Creek is a trout

stream and requires an additional license to fish.

BACK TO BASICS

The basic fishing equipment needed is a couple of light-action rods and reels spooled with 6- or 8-pound Silver Thread fishing line. I prefer using a closed face reel with younger kids. The Johnson Century reel fits the bill quite nicely: no tangles and very easy to cast. The set up is a ½-to ¾-ounce Lindy walking sinker with an 18 to 24-inch leader with a single hook. The weight of the sinker is determined by the current of the creek.

The ultimate bait is the night crawler, but if you are going to fish artificial lures, I usually choose a jig with a twister tail. A Yum 3-inch grub or a 3-inch Berkley Power Grub both work well in the absence of live crawlers.

Most of the small creeks have dark water, so chartreuse is always a good color to start with. Fish the grubs on a ¼-ounce jig head. Lindy has a cool new product, the X-Change jig system, which allows you to change the jig weight without retying.

Look for the deeper pools in the water, as the fish tend to hold up in them. Bridges are a good bet for



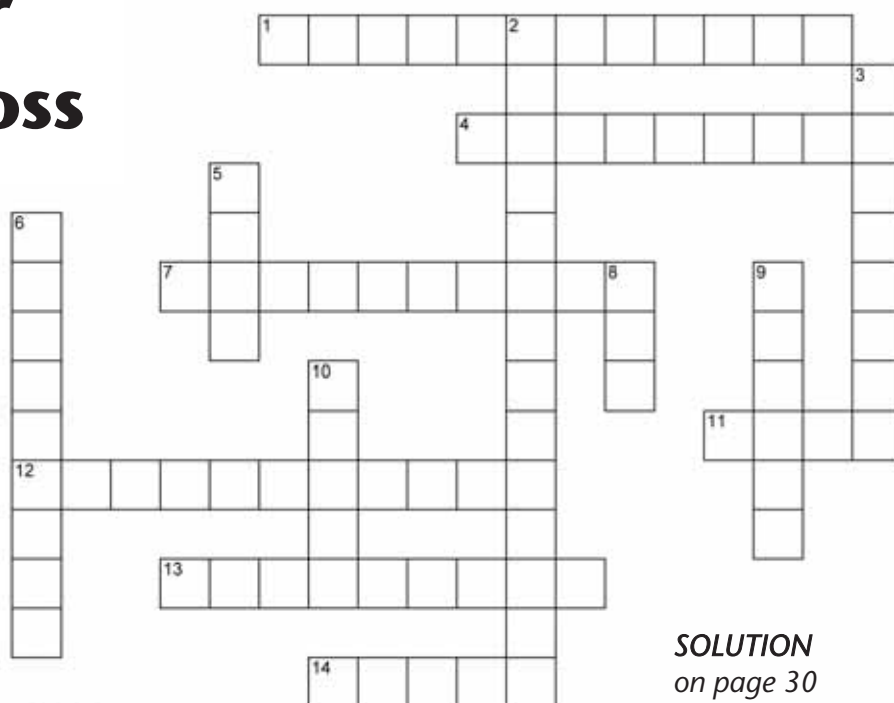
Although often overlooked, small streams often have the potential to produce lots of fish and huge smiles.

deeper water. The water movement through the bridge opening usually scours out the bottom of the stream.

With the warm summer months ahead, it's time to go small. You will be amazed at what big fish live in small waters. *WD*

Dave Duwe, owner of Dave Duwe's Guide Service, has been guiding the lakes of Southeastern Wisconsin for 15 years, specializing in Delavan Lake and Lake Geneva. Go to www.fishlakegeneva.com or www.fishdelavanlake.com.

Outdoor Criss Cross



SOLUTION
on page 30

ACROSS

- 1 A summertime live bait.
- 4 Use venison sausage to make this spicy Cajun dish.
- 7 A summertime shotgun target (2 words).
- 11 A small bird "loved" by hunters.
- 12 Another summertime live bait.
- 13 Trail cameras need these.
- 14 Walleye jigs get stuck on these.

DOWN

- 2 A multi-hook worm rig (2 words).
- 3 You sit by this on cool summer nights.
- 5 A mature male elk.
- 6 Makers of the model 887 pump gun.
- 8 A fisherman's success cry: "Get the ____!"
- 9 Serious shotgun shooters ____ their ammo.
- 10 A summertime hunting task.

TOM CARPENTER

RIVER BLUEGILLS AND CRAPPIES

Eight hotspots for panfish in the flow

Rivers offer an untouched bounty of panfish, but who heads there for bluegills and crappie action? Practically nobody. Fishing is simpler in lakes and ponds, where current is absent. That's why rivers are great for panfish, especially in summer: quiet, solitude and lots of fish that grow big and fat on all the food available. To help narrow your search and get on the fish, here are eight top river panfishing hotspots.

BEST PLACE BY A DAM SITE

Tailwaters below dams present excellent panfishing opportunity. But with all that flowing water, where do you find panfish? In eddies and slack water.

Define these areas of relative calm, usually from 100 to 300 yards downstream from the dam, and off to the side of the main flow. Fish shallow shelves and bars, often near shore, in water three to ten feet deep, where panfish hold in pockets between current seams and feed on baitfish. Use your trolling motor to work a jig-and-minnow until you find a concentration of fish, then hold or anchor there.

BACKWATER CONNECTION

Backwaters, and the channels that connect them to the main river, are panfish utopia because the current is slow or nonexistent here, and cover abounds.

Backwater lakes and sloughs are shallow, so look for cover that will attract panfish: stump fields, weed beds, rip-rapped or rocky banks, and reeds. Sneak around with trolling motor or oars, and use a slip-bobber rig to fish against, just above and in likely cover. If there's a little current, drift along until you find fish.

RIPRAPPING AWAY

If the river's main flow does not shoulder up against it, a rocky or riprapped bank is great for panfish. The attractions are food (insects, baitfish and crustaceans), hiding places and current breaks.

Drift along with your trolling motor, holding your boat to a mere crawl. Fish a jig-and-minnow or jig-and-tail vertically below the boat as you go, trying different depths, or cast toward the bank and bounce the bait back.

BEHIND THE POINT

Fishing a river point is not like fishing a lake point. On a river, you're just interested in the structure as a big current deflector. Get behind the point, into the slack water or eddy behind it. Anchor up and fish a slip-bobber rig with a minnow, or use night-crawler halves.

One of my favorite summer river panfish haunts is a pool behind a rocky point that juts into the St. Croix River. The flow sweeps up against the point hard, then hurries off toward the main channel again, leaving a serene bay behind the point. Bluegills and crappies stack up here, nabbing the emerald shiners that wander in.

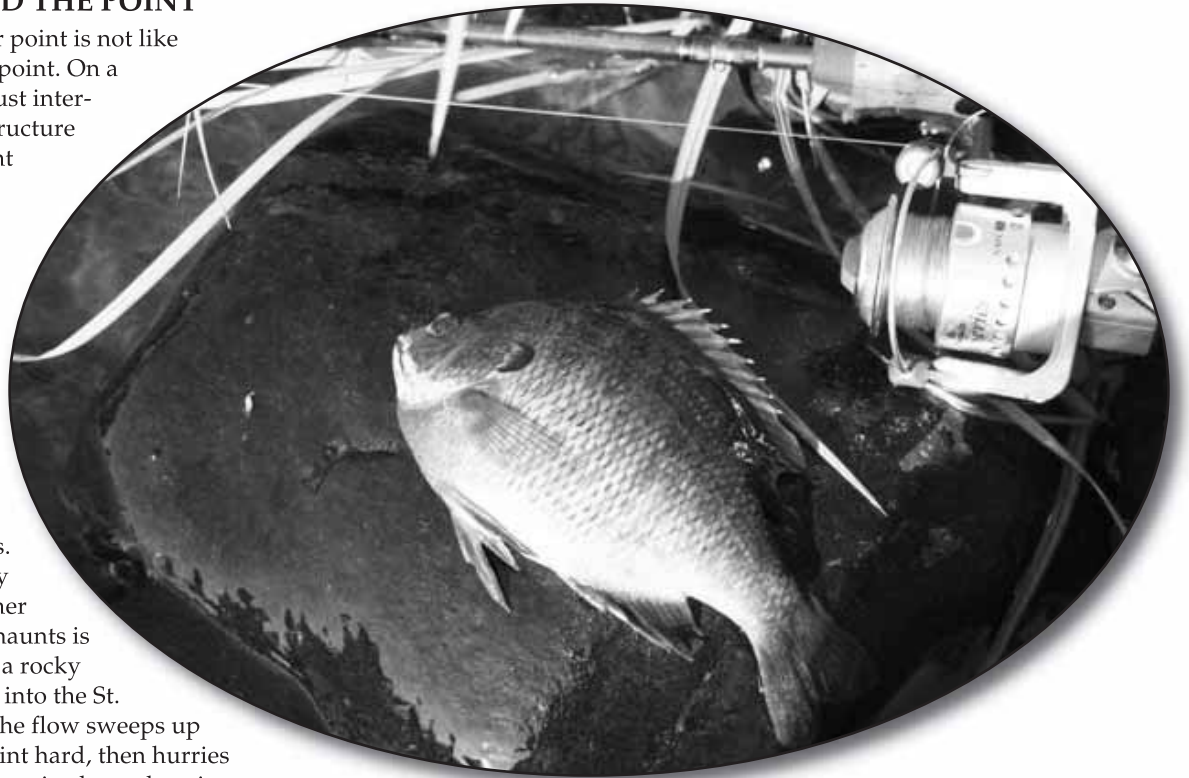
WINGING IT

Wingdams hold more than just fabled walleyes, smallmouths and catfish. Panfish take advantage of wingdam structure too, but differently.

Fish on the upstream side of the wingdam, close to the bank. (You can tell a wingdam by the way the water slicks up in front and then ripples over the top.) A slack-water eddy prevails where flowing water meets wingdam and bank. Approach carefully from upstream, anchoring much farther than a cast away. Feed anchor line and let the current carry your boat within a cast's reach of the wingdam, then tie off. Bounce a jig-and-minnow around in the slack water. Or cast on top of the wingdam, but still close to shore, and inch your offering slowly back.

BRUSHES WITH FAME

Trees and brush that have fallen into the river make great panfish spots. The woody cover breaks current and offers baitfish a haven. Brush out of the main flow is best. A precise presentation with a slip-bobber rig



If you're already amazed by the big fights in these little fish, imagine what's possible when you add some current to the equation.

works well here, if the current won't carry your bait immediately into the tangle. Set the hook quickly to prevent snags.

BELLYING UP TO THE (SAND)BAR

Fish the area immediately downstream of a sandbar. This calm pool, with current brushing past to one or both sides, is a panfish magnet because baitfish congregate here.

Anchor out in the current or right on the seam between it and the slack water. Drifting over the fish will spook them. Cast into the pool, using a jig-and-minnow. Or freeline a split-shot or slip-sinker rig through the area, letting what current is there carry your bait to waiting fish.

GETTING THE BENDS

Any time a river makes a bend or turn, investigate your options inside and outside the flow. Look for more

current-tolerant crappies on the outside of big river bends, just off the main flow, where they can wait and watch for baitfish. You'll find sunfish on the inside of a bend, where the current is slower.

Work seams between faster and slower current, as well as eddies and slack-water zones. Prospect along, searching different depths, using a jig-and-minnow or tail.

THE RIVER'S REWARDS

Rivers offer two great panfishing rewards: a seemingly endless supply of fish, and plenty of real slabs. A rich forage base, lots of water and limited panfishing pressure all combine to produce some of the best bluegill and crappie action you will experience this season. *W*

Native son Tom Carpenter writes about the outdoor world for a variety of national and regional publications.

JERRY KIESOW

FLY FISHING IN WISCONSIN

Try a fly ... wet or dry

In the past two issues of On Wisconsin Outdoors, I've introduced you to fly fishing and discussed basic equipment. It's now time to talk flies.

WHAT ARE THEY; HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

Ok, so, just what are flies—those “lures” that fly fishing is named for? In general terms, flies are lures made from a variety of materials, both natural (hair and feathers), and synthetic (tinsel and chenille), to name two basics of each. Flies have little to no weight to them, so in order to cast them, you're actually casting the line instead of the actual lure.

Most flies are tied to simulate real live critters, such as nymphs, hatched flies, minnows and frogs. Some are also tied as attractors, such as poppers and bright colored streamers. They're tied on single hooks which vary in size, length and weight. The hooks, for Wisconsin fish, can be as big as No. 0/4, or as small as No. 24. The flies I tie most often fall somewhere in between.

I categorize flies into only two types: wet and dry. This might confuse some, because there are flies called dry flies and wet flies. My categories are more general. Stay with me and you'll understand.

DRY FLIES

I consider any fly that's fished on top of the water a dry fly. That includes the aforementioned “dry flies,” such as poppers, hair flies, foam flies, any fly that's created to float or partially float on the top of the water. To me, these are all dry flies.

Trout fishermen only consider flies that match the hatch, as real dry flies. I have no problem with that. There are times when a trout needs to have a very close replica floated over its feeding zone to rise to the occasion. But if that same hatch is occurring on a lake or river where the denizens are crappies, bluegills or smallmouth bass, and they too are looking for a meal, and a popper works, why would the popper not be considered a dry fly? To me, it is. The same holds true with frog imitations, mouse patterns or most anything else, including bombers for steelhead. Anything that floats and catches fish is a dry fly.



The author's arsenal always includes a hefty selection of dry flies (top) and wet flies (bottom).

“I consider any fly that's fished on top of the water a dry fly ... To me, streamers, nymphs, emergers on the rise but not yet in the water's film, muddlers fished as minnows, or any fly fished under the surface, are all wet flies...”



A hard-earned brook trout is one of the few things more beautiful than a box full of assorted flies.

WET FLIES

The same philosophy holds true with wet flies. The actual patterns classified as “wet flies” are rarely used today (I still fish a few). To me, streamers, nymphs, emergers on the rise but not yet in the water's film, muddlers fished as minnows, or any fly fished under the surface, are all wet flies. This is how I categorize flies.

HOW TO CHOOSE WHAT TO USE

So, how does a beginner know what flies he/she needs to get started? In a word: ask. Ask your mentor if you have one. Ask the guy at the fly shop, once you have established that he does not only want to sell you something but really wants to help you. Ask someone you meet along the river or lake you are fishing what they have in their box. Ask me.

Here is a small selection of flies I feel you should have right from the get-go in your fly box.

Dry flies: Elk hair caddis, Royal Wulff and Olive Bi-visibles in sizes No. 10 and No. 14; two poppers, one yellow and one black, size No. 6; and two foam bugs, one yellow and one green, size No. 8.

Wet flies: Woolly worms in olive, black and brown, Size No. 8; beadhead Woolly Buggers, in black, olive and white, size No. 6; Pass Lake, McGinty, size No. 10; black-nose dace, Mickey Finn, Black Ghost, size No. 6; beadhead Pheasant tail, beadhead Prince, both size No. 12; and a black stonefly, size No. 8.

That's two-dozen flies. Not a lot, but with these you should be able to catch bluegills, crappies, smallmouth bass and trout. But don't be surprised if you end up with almost anything that swims on the end of your line at one time or another. Does that mean you don't need any other flies? Well, I guess not! Why else would we need 27 pockets in our vest? Keep a good thought! *W*

Jerry Kiesow fly fishes in Wisconsin year round, and teaches fly tying and fly fishing in the Grafton area. If you have questions about his classes, contact him via email at mrmrsprg8@wi.rr.com.

DAVE SURA

SHORE BETS*Skamania mania: Sacking summer steelhead*

Every summer, a sleek, acrobatic fish known as the Skamania strain of steelhead arrives at harbors all around Lake Michigan. These fish are one of the most exciting fish found in the lake; no other fish puts as much effort into shaking the hook as these maniacs do. Watching them rocket out the water, twist and turn, and charge the pier will make anyone's heart skip a beat.

LOCATIONS AND TIMING

Skamanias start arriving in June at the southern end of Lake Michigan, and they work their way north as the summer progresses. They generally arrive in Southeastern Wisconsin near the end of June or early July as the water warms into the mid and upper 50s.

Further north they show up a week or so after they arrive at my homeport of Racine. They hang around most harbors for several weeks, feeding on alewives and insects, awaiting a good rain to draw them upriver. Each year the numbers and timing of their arrival fluctuates with the weather. Be patient, the fish will show up. Last year they didn't show until mid July. But once they arrived, I caught several fish each outing and missed at least one for every fish I landed.

Finding fish isn't difficult. The best places to start are the bends of the breakwalls or near the end at the mouth of the harbor. Both places have current, which attract baitfish, and of course, steelhead.

As with most species of fish, low light periods are the best for hooking up. However, don't count out midday or midnight. The average size fish is about 5 pounds; however, fish between 10 and 15 pounds are readily available.

BAIT, TACKLE AND TACTICS

When considering baits for steelhead, my favorite choice is spawn. Although great lakes brown and rainbow trout are two of my favorite fish to catch, I have another reason for catching them: for bait.

Without fresh spawn, steelhead fishing in summer can be difficult. I personally tie more than 300 spawn sacs annually, mostly for summer steelies. When tying spawn, I prefer using the orange netting. I've person-

ally had more success with this color than the rest. I also recommend investing in a Spawnee. This device makes tying spawn easier and less messy.

Make sure you also cure the spawn with salt, borax or a commercial cure. They keep the bait fresh for longer periods as well as making them legal for use in Wisconsin because of VHS.

If you don't have trout spawn available, don't worry: Other good choices are available for you, including live alewives, shrimp, plastic minnow baits and spoons.

The equipment required for floating spawn is simple. You need a high-quality 9-foot long or longer steelhead rod, which eases the stress placed on the thinner, lighter lines and leaders

needed today because of the mussel infestations of Lake Michigan. Match your rod with a high-quality reel. The reel should hold at least 200 yards of 10-pound line. Monofilament works but I prefer superlines such as FireLine or Power Pro. They have no stretch and won't coil up like mono will. When using superlines, add a 10-pound mono or fluorocarbon leader to the main line to avoid spooking line shy fish.

Terminal tackle, such as hooks, floats, split-shot weights and swivels are also needed to effectively fish summer steelheads. Of these items, the most important piece of equipment is undoubtedly the hook. I prefer using colored octopus-style hooks by Gamakatsu. My favorite colors

are orange, pink and chartreuse, in sizes No. 4 or No. 6.

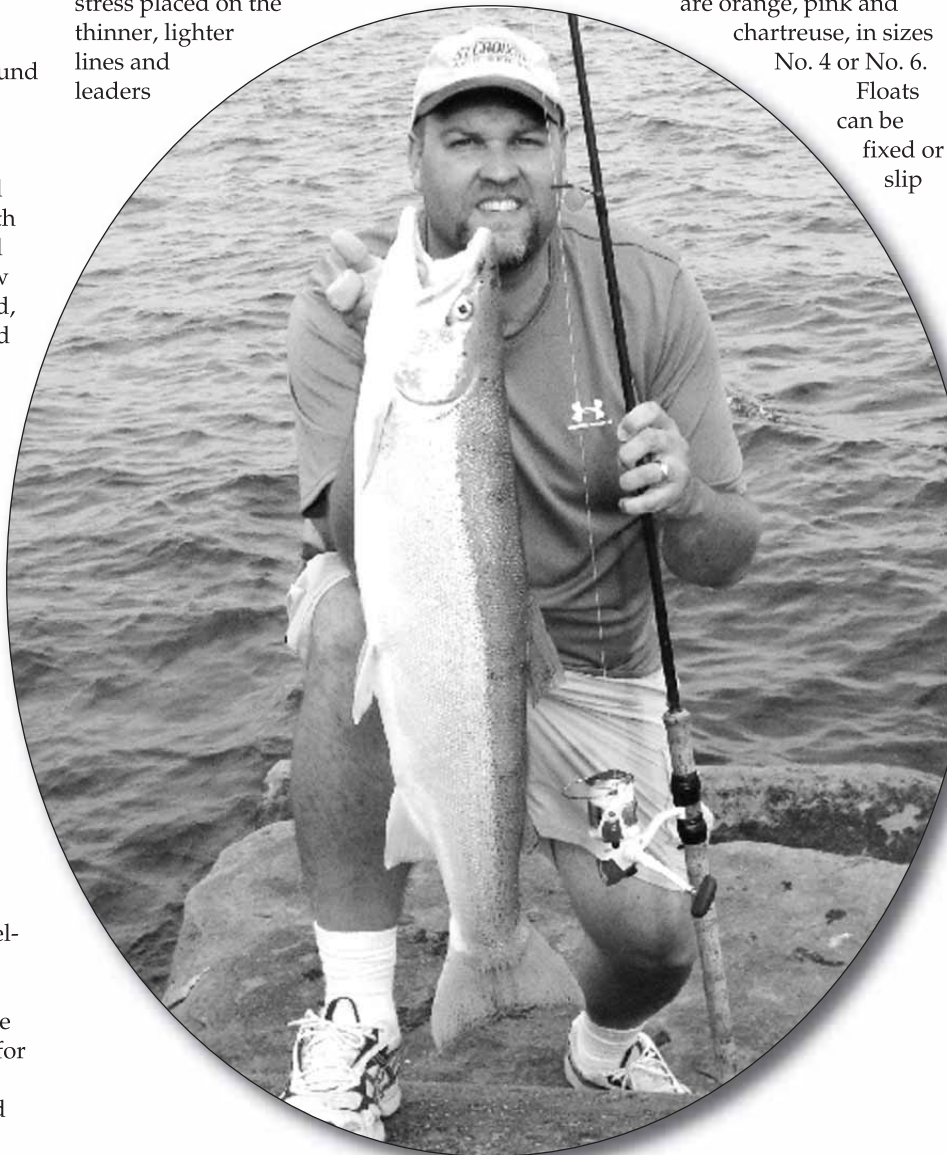
Floats can be fixed or slip

style, depending on your preference. With my 13-foot rod I prefer fixed floats. I can still cast baits sufficiently with this rod and it guarantees I'm fishing at the desired depth, usually 6 to 8 feet deep. Steelhead usually cruise the top half of the water column so adjust your bait so it's approximately half way down.

When using shorter rods, slip floats are a better choice. My rig consists of a float, placed on the main line, a barrel swivel tied to that, and a leader tied to the other end. I add two or three size BB split-shot weights above the hook. Add a spawn sac to the hook, set the depth, cast it out, and wait for the take-down. Change spawn sacs frequently, usually about every 30 to 45 minutes, to insure the bait looks and smells fresh. Be sure to keep them in a cooler as well, so they remain fresh prior to use.

Fishing for summer steelhead will remain good for several years. After that, the numbers of fish returning will likely decline as the DNR has suspended stocking of these fish because of VHS. Other states, such as Michigan and Indiana, will continue to stock these high-flying acrobats. Once the numbers decline in Wisconsin, head to our neighboring states to catch these fish. The fishing is great there now and will continue to be. This summer, take some time and drown a spawn sac. Once you hook a Skamania steelhead, I guarantee you'll be hooked as well. *W*

Dave Sura has fished Wisconsin waters for more than 25 years. He specializes in shore and tributary angling for perch, steelhead and salmon on Lake Michigan. Contact Dave at 262.930.8260 or steelheadsura@yahoo.com.



The author is all smiles after a hard-fought battle with a Skamania steelhead.

Share the Outdoors

Next time you pick up a copy of **On Wisconsin Outdoors** for yourself, grab a couple extras for colleagues, family and friends.

TODD BOHM

DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT

Nighttime bowfishing: When the water comes alive



When the waters come alive, only the weak go to bed. And only one question remains: Am I hunting or am I fishing?

Even though the fall bowhunting season is still months away, avid bow hunters have numerous opportunities to hone their skills in preparation for that shot of a lifetime. Target shooting and 3-D shoots are traditional methods of off-season practice for archers.

However, for some dedicated fisherman and archers, there is even a more exciting way to fish and polish your archery skills at the same time: nighttime bowfishing.

Nighttime bowfishing offers enthusiasts the opportunity to take up to 100 shots a night at live targets. This all happens during the cover of darkness when fish are less wary and, at times, it seems like the water is alive with fish.

GETTING GEARED-UP

Getting prepped for nighttime bowfishing requires some specialized equipment. How fancy you get with the equipment depends on how hooked you get on this awesome adventure.

Let's start with bow. Many

shooters choose to shoot their own bows that they use for bowhunting. This is a great option and allows the shooter to continue developing confidence with their bow. One bit of advice I offer shooters who use their own equipment is to decrease the draw weight of the bow. I prefer 35 to 45 pounds because drawing a 65-pound bow all night can get tiring.

Another option if the bug really bites you would be to invest in specific bows made for bowfishing. AMS and PSE are two manufacturers who specifically make these bows.

In addition your bow, you'll need to install a shooting reel and roller rest, and purchase a couple of bowfishing arrows. Quality products made by AMS are perfect and relatively inexpensive for both novice and seasoned shooters.

Once you've secured your shooting equipment, the next focus is on the shooting platform. Many shooters adapt their present fishing boat to fit their needs and, in most cases, this works just fine.

Rigging up work lights or handheld deer lights are a good way to

provide light at night for shooting. But for those shooters interested in a bowfishing specific rig, the sky is the limit. Most bowfishing rigs are flat-bottomed Jon boats with shooting platforms, multiple lights, generators, trolling motors, and in some cases air propellers to move the boat.

Shooters who don't have access to a boat can still shoot. Using waders and battery-powered headlamps offer shooters a fairly inexpensive way to still enjoy the sport of night bowfishing.

AM I FISHING OR HUNTING

After you've secured all of your equipment, it's now time to fish ... or is it hunt? In central Wisconsin, we focus on shooting on carp and suckers. Shooting on the reservoirs and rivers of this area provides hours of unlimited targets.

In spring and early summer, as these rough fish prepare to spawn, water temperature dictates where the fish will be. Most shallow bays or backwaters are perfect areas to begin your search. I've had great success finding areas of sand and weeds that tend to hold heat, and therefore hold fish.

Scouting during the day to locate fish is a great way to prepare for your night shoot.



Also, paying attention to wind direction during the day and water clarity are other key points that lead to increased shooting success.

Whether you're just interested in dabbling with the sport of bowfishing or are an addicted shooter like myself, give nighttime bowfishing a shot.

At Muddy Waters Bow fishing, we are happy to introduce people to this great sport and will provide as much equipment as our clients need. Step into the night and create a passion that'll likely never go away. *W*

Editor's Note: For more information or to book a trip with Muddy Waters Bow Fishing, see MuddyWatersBowfishing.com.

Todd Bohm is a lifetime educator and principal in the D.C. Everest School District. He is an avid fisherman and hunter who guides the waters of Central and Northern Wisconsin specializing in all species of fish including trout. Contact Todd at 715.297.7573 or visit www.wisconsinanglingadventures.com.




The darkness of nightfall has a magical way of producing monster carp and unparalleled excitement.

Savoring Summer

by Suzette Curtis

Summer's are so short in Wisconsin that I think we all try to capture as much of it as possible while it's here. This idea shows up even in my choices for summer cooking. I like cold dishes, outdoor preparation and easy "take-alongs" for when my family and I are on the go. Each of the following recipes falls into one of these three categories, so I hope that you will find them useful as well.

One of my favorite take-along snacks is venison jerky, but my favorite jerky recipe is not my own. I asked Tim Lizotte of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) if he would be willing to share his "famous" jerky recipe, and he graciously agreed. 

Suzette Curtis of Oshkosh cooks for a family of hunters and fishermen, and says she tries to fill their menu with recipes for meals made with venison, upland birds, and fish. She does just that with great expertise.

Venison Jerky

5 lbs. lean game meat
1 c. water

3/4 c. Worcestershire
3/4 c. soy sauce

1 c. teriyaki sauce
3 tsp. onion powder
3 tsp. garlic powder
3 tsp coarse ground black pepper
2 tbsp. Morton's Tender Quick curing salt
5 oz. liquid smoke
1-2 tsp. cayenne pepper

Partially freeze venison or other game meat. Slice into 1/8-inch strips. Mix all other ingredients in a large plastic bowl with lid and then add meat, and soak strips in marinade overnight. Drain meat in colander. Place meat strips on cookie cooling racks. Put racks into 175-degree oven and leave door cracked. After 1 1/2 hours begin checking jerky, remove pieces that are dry but not overdone. Enjoy!

from the Kitchen of Tim Lizotte, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Venison Kabobs

2 lbs. venison, cut into cubes
Two whole onions, quartered
Two whole green peppers, seeded and quartered
1 lb. whole mushrooms ("baby bellas" work great)
1 c. dry vermouth
1/3 c. olive oil
2 tbsp. minced garlic

Place venison chunks and whole mushrooms in a large Ziploc bag or covered container. Combine vermouth, olive oil and garlic, and pour over meat and mushrooms to completely coat. Refrigerate at least 1 hour (if you have the time, I recommend marinating 2-3 hours for deeper flavor).

Alternate skewering venison, mushrooms, green pepper and onions in any pattern you choose. I like them all, but sometimes I make a couple of skewers with just venison and onions or venison and mushrooms because not everyone enjoys the peppers. Dispose of excess marinade, and place skewers over hot coals or high temperature on a gas grill. These should be cooked quickly over high heat to sear the meat and keep the vegetables semi-crisp. Rare meat takes about 5-6 minutes, so adjust accordingly.

The kabobs are wonderful served as a stand alone entrée, but they are just as good taken off the skewers and served over rice.

from the Kitchen of Suzette Curtis

Our family likes to eat outside all summer long, and we like to cook outside as well. There is some indoor prep time for this recipe, but once they go on the grill, these kabobs are a quick transition to the dinner table.



Cold Fish Salad

Salad (equal parts of each):

Red pepper, chopped, mixed greens, cherry or grape tomatoes

Dressing (equal parts of each, but use 1/4 the amount compared to salad parts: mayonnaise, sour cream, cream cheese softened, white wine vinegar

White bass fillets, cubed and fresh basil for garnish

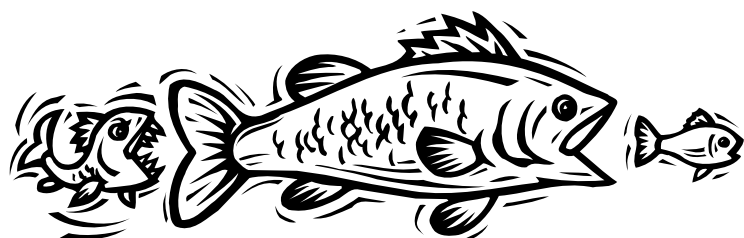
At least 2 hours before serving, lightly poach the cubes of fish in either water or white wine until firm. Place fish in a sealed container and refrigerate 1 hour.

In the meantime, whisk together mayonnaise, sour cream, cream cheese and white wine vinegar in small bowl. Cover and refrigerate.

Remove fish from refrigerator and combine with tomatoes, red pepper and greens in large glass (do not use metal) dish. Pour dressing over top of salad; cover and return to refrigerator for 1 hour.

Place basil atop salad for garnish, and let it "rest" at room temperature for about 15 minutes before serving. This recipe will serve as many people as you would like. If you use 1 cup of each salad ingredient, you would use 1/4 cup of each of the dressing ingredients, and so on. Plan for 1 1/2 to 2 cups per person as an entrée and 1/2 to 1 cup per person as a side salad.

from the Kitchen of Suzette Curtis



1
SERVING
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PRESENTS

— Fishing Guide — DENNIS RADLOFF

Bucktails anytime for muskies

By Dennis Radloff

One of the most frequently asked questions I hear from musky anglers is, "what's the best lure?"

With so many great lures for so many different applications, there is no text-book answer and the debate won't end with a newspaper column.

My choice though, is the "bucktail".

First and foremost, I like using bucktails anytime because of the lure's high percentage "hook up" rate. Bucktails have virtually no restrictive components to limit its ability to move through a musky's mouth, making hook setting easier than many other styles of lures.

Bucktails can also be utilized in deep, shallow, or in-between water

depths depending on the blade style and speed of retrieve. In early season cold water conditions, use smaller bucktails with a Colorado blade in shallow water over new weeds with a slow speed retrieve. Colorado blades provide a great degree of "lift" and ride higher in the water. Colorado blades can also be used to "bulge" a bucktail over taller weeds. "Bulging" is a method in which the bucktail is cranked in fast so that the blade is just under the surface of the water, creating a "bulge". When working bucktails in deeper water, the Willow Leaf blade is used. Willow Leaf blades do not create as much "lift" and allow the bucktail to run deeper. Slower speed retrieve

with the Willow Leaf blade will allow them to run even deeper.

Another great feature to fishing with bucktails is that they give the angler the ability to cover water effectively and at the very least entice muskies to "follow". Getting muskies to "follow" a bucktail simply lets the angler know she's there, and ultimately offers the option to return with another lure from the arsenal to try converting a strike.

The next time you're not sure what lure to use, remember that musky fishing is not always complex. Looking for one lure that covers all water, finds fish, and catches more than its share across the decades?

The bucktail is simplistically effective. ^{OWO}

Captain Dennis Radloff owns and operates Sterling Guide Service. He guides on the waters of Green Bay and Southeastern Wisconsin seven days a week April through November. Contact Dennis at www.sterlingmusky.com, or call 262.443.9993.

PRO tip

DENNIS RADLOFF'S PRO TIP

Ever have one of those days when you just can't seem to maintain the desired boat control due to strong winds and not enough bow mounted trolling motor power? This is a situation where you can use your "kicker" for something other than trolling.

When encountering strong winds or current I will use my 9.9 hp Mercury Pro Kicker to help assist in maintaining forward motion. By simply running the kicker motor in gear at idle speed you can get the assisted forward thrust to keep working into the strong winds or

current while continuing to use your bow mounted trolling motor to steer. Using the kicker in conjunction with your bow mounted trolling motor also allows you to conserve your battery power on those long windy days.



"What's the best musky lure? Although the debate is unending, the author states that the bucktail is the 'simplistically effective' answer..."

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County by County, Explore Wisconsin Outdoors.

Our new interactive web page **EXPLORE WISCONSIN** is a valuable resource for the outdoorsman. You'll find links to county tourism sites, resorts, hunting and fishing guide services, and other Wisconsin attractions for men and women alike. We're just getting started, so watch the map fill in, county by fabulous county! For more information about the highlighted counties featured below, go to the *On Wisconsin Outdoors* website and check out the new **EXPLORE WISCONSIN** page.

ADAMS COUNTY

Adams County Park & Recreation
www.visitadamscountywi.com

ASHLAND COUNTY

Ashland Area
Chamber of Commerce
visitashland.com

BAYFIELD COUNTY

Cable Area Chamber of Commerce
www.cable4fun.com

Northern Wisconsin Outfitters
northernwisconsinoutfitters.com

CALUMET COUNTY

Calumet County
www.travelcalumet.com

CLARK COUNTY

Clark County Economic Development & Tourism
www.clark-cty-wi.org

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Grandview Motel
www.grandview-motel.com

Flyway Fowling Guide Service
www.flywayfowling.com

DOOR COUNTY

Sterling Guide Service
www.sterlingmusky.com

DUNN COUNTY

Greater Menomonee Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
www.menomoneechamber.org
www.welcometomenomonee.com

GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
www.visitgreenlake.com

Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau
www.glcountry.com

KENOSHA COUNTY

Wildlife Visions
www.wildlifevisions.net

LACROSSE COUNTY

Lacrosse Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.explorelacrosse.com

MARATHON COUNTY

Hooksetters Fishing Services
www.hooksetters.biz

MARINETTE COUNTY

Marinette County Tourism
www.therealnorth.com

PRICE COUNTY

Park Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
www.parkfalls.com

RICHLAND COUNTY

Hybrid Redneck Events
www.hybridredneck.com

SAWYER COUNTY

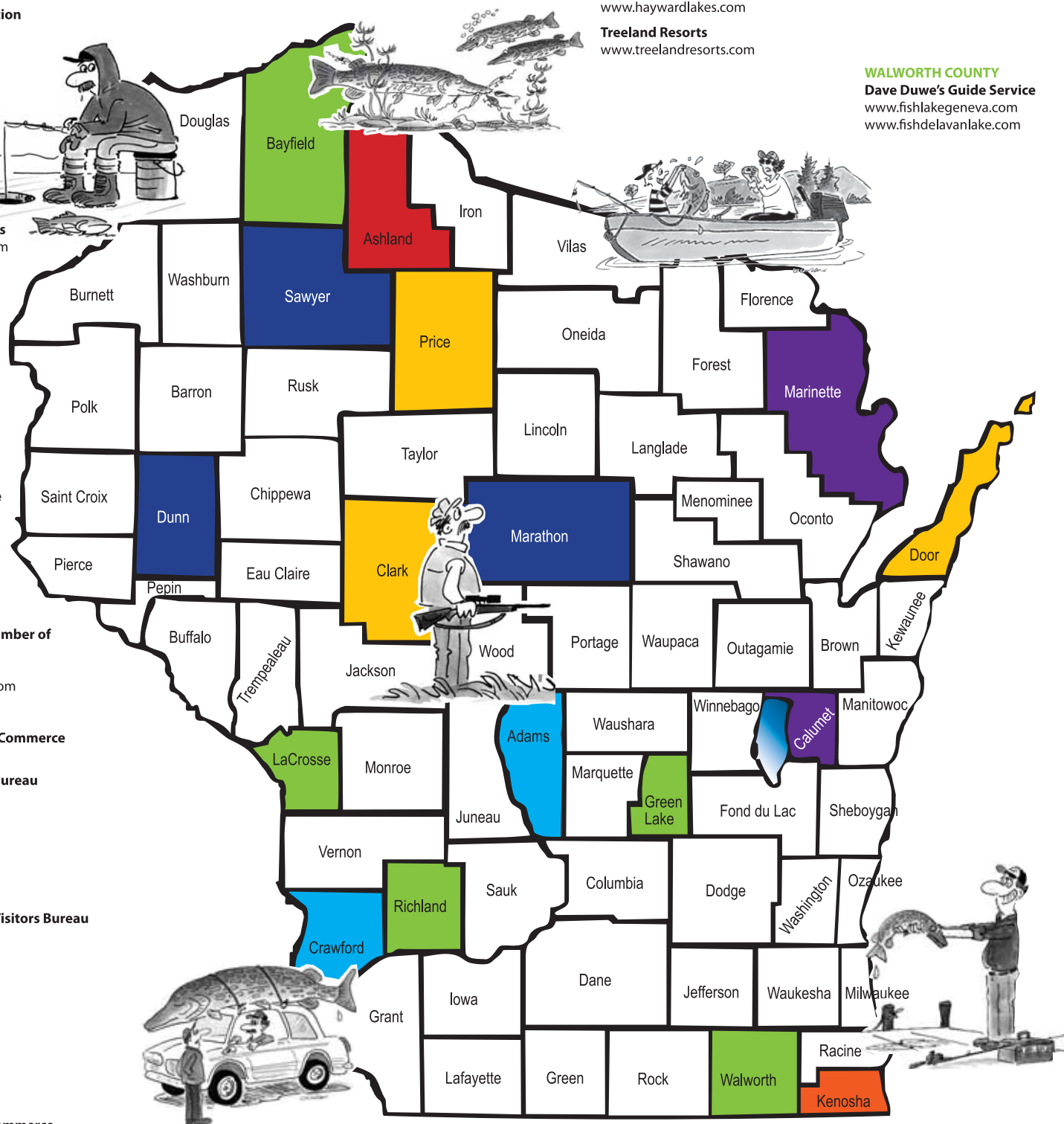
Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau
www.haywardlakes.com

Treeland Resorts

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Push button fun

As ATV consumers we're constantly bombarded with clichés, and catch phrases intended to make us lust after the next "Big" machine. Overused pitches like "Bigger is Better", and "No replacement for Displacement" have generally been the rule. The recent economic woes however, have ushered in a new set of refreshing catch phrases; "More for your Money", and "Less is More". This new sensible approach to ATV purchasing makes a bit more sense, and has placed new emphasis on the budget ATV class. Among the sub six thousand dollar set, Suzuki's KingQuad 400AS seems to embody this new approach best.

The 376cc shaft driven, air cooled KingQuad is easily the most well rounded, and versatile machine in its class. While 376 may not sound like much, the KingQuad has enough power and grunt to complete most chores, and enough "get up and go" to make it a blast to ride. The fun begins with a simple push of the electric start button, and the choice of forward, reverse, 2WD, & 4WD. Once you've decided which direction, and how many wheels you want driving you there, the possibilities are endless. The roomy KingQuad will go just about anywhere you want it to without hesitation. In the event you need a little more grunt, the aforementioned 2WD/ 4WD switch can be easily engaged with the push of

a button. In 4WD mode, the KingQuad is almost unstoppable, and will tackle just about any obstacle that a sane person would be willing to attempt. The Automatic Variable Ratio (V-Belt) transmission is controlled via handlebar mounted push button, and delivers a smooth ride regardless of drive configuration, or direction.

Ergonomically speaking, the KingQuad is spot on, the overall feel is roomy, and the controls are easy to navigate. The comfortable seat, handlebars, and footpegs all seem to get along well, and accommodate most sizes of riders. The footpegs themselves do a really nice job of keeping your feet in place, while the plush seat does the same for your backside. The instrument cluster is fairly "no frills" and comprised of just the necessities (three gauges: speedometer, odometer, & fuel, and three indicator lights: oil temp, Neutral, and Reverse). The tubular steel cargo racks offer enough room to haul whatever you deem necessary for just about any ATV adventure, or bring back from a successful hunting excursion.



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The KingQuad's handling package as a whole is solid, and confidence inspiring. Despite not having Power Steering, the 400's steering characteristics are pinpoint accurate, and the 10.2' turning radius allows the KingQuad to squeeze anywhere you're willing to aim it through. Minimal effort is required to navigate through the tightest of woods, or technical conditions, while at high speeds the KingQuad handles, and steers like a Cadillac. While we've never literally attempted to stop on a dime, if any machine could do it, it's the KingQuad. The dual front disc brakes on the 400AS are absolutely top notch, and predictable, while the rear drum brake performs flawlessly.

Suspension-wise, the KingQuad is in a class all its own, and the shocks really shine at all speeds. The 6.7" travel front & rear is plush enough to keep you from feeling beaten while traversing even the roughest of terrain, and stiff enough to soak up the square edged big hits often found on high speed trails. The Independent double wishbone front-end mates perfectly with the solid rear axle giving the 400AS a Sport Quad-like feel. The solid rear axle eliminates the roll commonly associated with IRS machines resulting in a package that's a blast to ride. The stability is enhanced enough to let you slide around corners without ever feeling "tippy" despite the tall (9.8") ground clearance. As a total package, the handling on the Suzuki is phenomenal.

As a whole, the Suzuki is really well rounded and suitable for just about any situation or riding conditions. Sure, it's not

going to move a mountain, or win a Pro Motocross Race, but it's certainly at the top of the heap when it comes to budget Utility machines. In the case of Suzuki's KingQuad Less just might really be More.

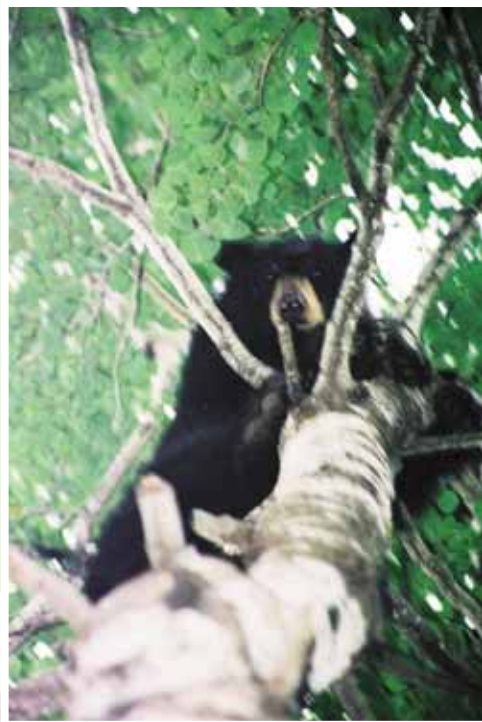


KingQuad 400FS

DICK ELLIS

ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS

Specialized training program prepares warden recruits



Bear hounds sing their celebration song for having successfully treed a black bear as warden recruit Jason Roberts, today a season veteran, takes a good look at the animal above during training near Minong. The bear was "caught and released." (Ellis)

EDITORS NOTE: This column from the files written by Ellis is 2002 shows how things change over the years in Wisconsin. Today, with new methodology wildlife biologists have determined that twice as many black bears roam Wisconsin as believed just a few years ago. Rookie wardens depicted in this story are today seasoned veterans, one bear biologist is retired. What never changes is the need for conservation wardens to be in tune with the hunters and anglers of Wisconsin, as this story on preparing both young wardens and bear dogs for the upcoming September season depicts. For information on becoming a warden contact Training Director Darrel Waldera at 608-266-2425 or darrelwaldera@wisconsin.gov. Training dogs for the 2009 bear season is legal from July 1 through August 31. The bear hunting season with the aid of dogs will run from September 9 through October 6. Bait hunters begin September 16.

Dancing in the mud and water of a distant swamp in the Namekagon Barrens near Minong, Max, Judd, Libby and Josie send their best hound-dog harmony to the skies to announce that the black bear is finally treed. Hundreds of yards to the east, Jason Schroeder stops his beat-up truck one more time on an overgrown dirt road, forces the door open against foliage playing havoc with mirrors and antennas, and strains against the Burnett County winds to get the message.

"I'm not sure what's going on," Schroeder says over the radio to a scattered group of fellow houndsmen, a veteran warden from Spooner and a warden recruit from Milwaukee gaining a baptism to the Wisconsin bear hunt with dogs. "But we're going in to find out."

I follow Schroeder on the run through a sea of poplar and pine, the growing chorus of baying hounds pulling us down from the hardwoods to a dark and wet, mossy-bottomed

swamp. Into the chaos of a successful hound pack dizzy with celebration. And a boar in the ash above, not nearly so pleased with the chase.

"This makes mama bear, baby bear, and papa bear, all in one morning," I think, shooting off more film until Warden Dave Zebro, Warden Recruit Jason Roberts, and bear hunters Jan Luke of Danberry, Dick Johnson of Minong, and Todd Johnson of Shell Lake pour in on the party. "Goldilocks has nothing on these guys."

Of highest importance, Roberts is seeing it all, through the eyes of a warden, but from the perspective of the hunter as well. The primary purpose of 10 weeks of specialized sessions offering warden recruits scenario-based training dispersed over their first year of hire. Placing recruits in a situational learning mode, specialized training promotes better understanding of hunters, fishermen, and other resource user groups for the soon to be warden.

At Leisure Lake in Washburn

Continued on page 27



Learning to understand bear hunters using dogs, and other sportsmen and women participating in Wisconsin's hunting and fishing seasons, is an important part of warden recruit training. (Ellis)

TOM CARPENTER

BADGER BIRDS*Chipping Sparrow*

Unlike the introduced, invasive House Sparrow, our native sparrows are a wonderful bunch. One of my favorites is the sprightly little chipping sparrow, a common sight in summer yards across Wisconsin.

Chipping sparrows have a way of stealing your heart with their subtle but handsome plumage, happy personality and special ability to live close to humans. Chippers spend their summers across our state in yards, gardens and parks in urban, suburban and rural areas. Brushy pastures make good habitat too.

Look for a tiny (about 5 inches long) sparrow that is streaked brown above and solid gray below, with a black line through the eye, a white eyebrow and a prominent chestnut- or rust-colored cap. Males and females look alike.

Listen for the bird's namesake chip call (hence the name chipping sparrow), or its high-pitched, rattling trill of a song.

Plant evergreens—spruces, junipers, cedars and yews are perfect—to serve as

chipping sparrow nest cover. The birds also love low deciduous shrubs and vine tangles. They'll nest right next to your house, even the front door! Be careful and watch for nests when trimming bushes.

Attract chipping sparrows with white millet spread on the ground. These ground-foragers will also glean seed that drops from sunflower and thistle bird feeders.

Did you know that chipping sparrows used to be called hair-birds because they line their tiny nest cups with hair? When horses were a common mode of transportation, horsehair was the preferred raw material. *W*



TOM CARPENTER

CUB'S CORNER*Summer trapshooting memories*

Growing up, it was a rite of late summer.

When the Fourth of July was merely a memory, the crickets had begun chirping and the katydids were buzzing in the treetops, it would be time: We would go trapshooting in practice for, and anticipation of, pheasant hunting. Several Sunday afternoons in July and August were taken up in this pursuit.

Maybe it was a little early to be preparing for roosters, but bowhunting for deer and stalking squirrels with .22's would take priority once actual autumn hit. Better to go shotgun shooting now, versus "wasting" actual hunting time!

We'd load up the massive trunk of our Impala sedan with shotguns, a portable Trius Trap Thrower that we would bolt to an old wheel-and-tire for

ballast, a case of Blue Rock clay pigeons, boxes of light shotshells my brother had reloaded, and an old red cooler filled with ice and cheap pop.

Our trip took us west on township roads for 6 or 7 miles, where we'd cut up a two-lane rut that paralleled the railroad tracks, buck and bounce our way a half mile back, and end up at an abandoned gravel pit.

It still amazes me that we could just go do that—drive out to a gravel pit, set up and start shooting dozens of, if not a hundred, shells. We didn't know who owned the pit. Nobody ever cared, or came to see who was doing all the shooting. It was a different age and time. Not better, for life is still good; but different.

So we would set up and start shooting, taking turns, with one shooter yelling "pull!" and trying to bust the flying clay bird. Nobody ever counted hits or kept track of scores, but we must not have hit too many targets because a smoked one would elicit a chorus of whoops from the gallery, which usually consisted of me, my brothers

Chuck and Larry, and my Dad.

Somewhere during the shoot we'd take a break to let the guns cool off and our ears rest. Cotton didn't keep out a lot of the shots' noise, and I wonder how much hearing I lost those days. I'll never get it back, but I'll never get that time back, either.

So we'd break open the cooler, drink an ice-cold dime-store pop, then take a walk up into the southwestern Wisconsin hills—strolling along cut hayfields with their sweet aroma, seeing how tall the corn was compared to our own growing bodies, flushing a few rabbits along the fencelines, watching re-tailed hawks soar across the blue sky above and gazing off into the hazy hills cloaked in summer.

After shooting a few more rounds back at the pit (no one could leave on a miss—that was bad luck), we would head homeward. I remember Dad stopping the car once, on our way out. He got out, looked at the ground, laughed, and pointed: wild strawberries—right on the gravel pit floor.

Going home, we would stop at a farm that sold melons. We always knew when they were in from the sandy fields and for sale: Watermelons, honeydews and muskmelons would be lined up under a spreading white oak tree in the side yard. We'd usually buy three—a couple to take home, and one that Dad would plunge his hunting knife into and cut up for us to eat right there.

We would get home about supper time, and spend an hour cleaning guns

and putting everything away. One day, we learned a big lesson in this process, too.

I had run upstairs to test whatever was cooking in Mom's pot, and a reverberating BOOM! exploded from the basement.

I ran down, and everyone there was ashen faced. Once gun had been left loaded, and had fired when the action was worked before cleaning it. Later, the resulting pit in the cement floor was painted over but left unfilled as stark evidence of the absolute need to check and re-check that your gun is unloaded, and in positive reinforcement that the muzzle should always be pointed in a safe direction. Which it was.

At the time, those summer trapshooting days didn't seem so important. Now, they seem monumental. It's simple: The time together. Getting outside. Doing something different.

When I look back at all the hunting and fishing I did growing up, those hot-hazy days of gravel pit trapshooting are among my finest recollections.

It's easy. Take time to make your own special pastimes—they don't have to be big and fancy—and create the same kind of lasting memories with your own young outdoors men and women. *W*



Native son Tom Carpenter writes about the outdoor world for a variety of national and regional publications.

BILL KURTZ

LOADED FOR BEAR

Making your practice sessions come alive

Twenty minutes, literally, that's all the time he took. In his shorts and sweaty t-shirt, my buddy went to his closet and took out his bow that had been sitting there since the last day he bowhunted in December. He blew the dust off it, and looked at it up, down and sideways. Then grabbed the quiver of arrows and walked outside. I followed.

While standing on the sidewalk, he nocked an arrow that had a broadhead on it and took a shot at a pop can that one of his kids left laying in the grass approx 20 yards away. With two more well-placed shots, he proclaimed, "OK, I'm ready for tonight's hunt!" "Tonight" was opening night of bear season, and I had been shooting since July. "If a can of coke comes rolling down the trail," I said, "I have no doubt you'll be able to quench your thirst—but how can you say you're ready?"

MIX IT UP

How many of you have buddies like mine? Getting ready for the upcoming season is, at least for me, almost as fun as the hunt itself, including shooting my hunting tools, be it bow or rifle. Not only does consistent practice tone and strengthen your special bow muscles that have been relaxing all summer long while cutting the grass and working the remote, but it also gives you time to get used to any new equipment you might have added to your bow,

or give you time to try something new during your practice sessions.

Standing at the same old 20-yard marker, shooting at the same old five-dot target, gets old. To make my sessions beneficial, I trimmed out a pine tree in my yard and hung a stand from it. Then I take a tennis ball and toss it out on my lawn—where ever it stops, I shoot it. This helps with distance estimations. My wife and I take turns retrieving arrows for each other. After about a month of fine-tuning, we shoot at matchbook covers, with the loser getting kitchen detail for the evening.

Also during my sessions, I make sure I'm wearing the same clothing I'll be wearing while hunting, especially if I just bought a new garment. Launching your arrow at a Booner is not the time to find out your string catches your sleeve or jacket collar, or your new face mask catches the kiss button. I also shoot the same broadheads I use during hunting season. Guys have been writing about this for years, yet every year during bear camp someone practices shooting out of our "simulated hunting stand" with old broadheads other than the kind he's hunting with. He says, "They are both 100-grain heads, so what's the difference?" Need I say more?

As the season draws near and my equipment is honed to perfection, I'll switch to shooting my 3D targets from my treestand in my back yard. Delta makes great targets that are anatomically correct in both size and shape for each species, and withstands



Practicing in realistic hunting situations, such as shooting Delta bear targets over a simulated bait station, is the best way to minimize "surprises" when the moment of truth arrives.



The author's archery target doubled as an inadvertent decoy and had a run-in with a territorial bruin ... and lived to tell about it. Now that's one tough target.

months of shooting punishment. In fact, one target in our bear camp was accidentally left out after bear season was over—and was attacked by a bear that roamed into camp. Now that's realism!

Our simulated practice stand at bear camp comes complete with a fake bait pile and two Delta 3D bear targets. It doesn't get more real than that. As we watch our hunters practice, we tell them to hold their draw for a full minute or two to simulate a bear standing behind some brush just getting ready to walk into the clearing for a shot, or waiting for him to step forward with his front leg exposing his vitals.

Make the most of your practice time and keep it as real as possible. You don't have to be a Robin Hood, but it sure is a great feeling to know that when you can get your bow drawn without getting caught, you then can start thinking about who is going to help you butcher! *W*

Bill Kurtz is head guide and long-time friend of OWO Columnist Mike Foss of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters. Northern Wisconsin Outfitters is now booking for the 2009 bear season. Go to www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com or call them at 715.373.0344.



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JOEL "DOC" KUNZ

ON WISCONSIN RIVERS

Canoe back to basics in Wolf River country

The first thing I learned upon securing my permanent campsite at River's Edge Camping Resort on the Wolf River near Leeman, was that I was going to have to change my expectations when it came to fishing in the area. First and foremost, I was going to have to forego the comforts of my "horse powered" fishing boat and trade them in for a paddle and a boat cushion.

I was also informed that in order to get to some of the best fishing, I was to expect to have to get out of the boat at times. But I was told I could expect good fishing for smallmouth bass, walleye and catfish along with expecting to spend a day enjoying the peace of the river away from the hustle and bustle of the more popular sections of the Wolf River. So with expectations properly aligned, I set out to find some local river rats to fill me in on the opportunity. If I was going to jam myself in a canoe, I needed to have an idea of what to expect.

Finding someone to get started with wasn't hard to do. Haze Diemel was easy to engage in a conversation. Long time area resident, Haze owned the bar that's now a part of River's Edge Camping resort. He's also one of the founders of a local organization,

"Shadow's on the Wolf," that has raised and donated thousands of dollars to local conservation efforts. With years of experience under his belt, he knows the river from Shawano to Shiocton quite well, and talked with me about walleye fishing some of the stretches.

Having to "work for them" was the bottom line. Gravel bars, drop offs and wood in the water provide sufficient cover. There is actually a good year round population of walleye but, as in any river, water levels play a critical role as to their numbers and location. Mornings, dusk and overcast days were best, but fish could be caught at any time of day.

Small crank baits and jigs tipped with a leech were the first tactics I mentioned and Diemel responded with a nod and smile. "You never know what you're going to catch them on," Diemel stated. "Sometimes it's the kid with the big red bobber that catches the big fish." Through the conversation I found out that there are some northern pike in the Wolf River between Shawano and Shiocton, but Diemel felt numbers and size of the fish in the area was generally down in recent years. When asked, he said that an occasional Muskie was reported,

but it would be a rare occasion to catch one. I asked about the smallmouth bass fishing and he reiterated what I had heard from others. That is, the Embarrass River was the place to be for river smallies.

So now I had the basics. If I wanted smallmouth bass and some occasional very good walleye fishing, I should head to the Embarrass River with the area below the dam at Pella a reportedly good starting point. I was told to expect to have some shallow areas where we might have to drag the canoe and that we would be fishing holes and drops offs with jigs or small crank baits.

But, without a canoe or someone to drop me off, I will opt for renting a canoe at Rivers Edge and having to work a bit harder to catch fish, if that's the case. It's actually a resource not available until this year. Never before has someone operated a canoe outfitting service on this part of the river. Bring your own canoe, or rent one from Rivers Edge, and they'll drop you off at one of a number of access points up stream allowing you to fish your way back to the resort. It's a great way to see the Wolf River and the nature surrounding it. A close friend told me on his last outing he saw eagles, osprey, heron, cranes and all sorts of ducks whose names I didn't know. He said that fishing wasn't spectacular, but he managed a few fish and showed me a picture on his cell phone. So if you are looking for a chance to fish some seldom fished waters, look for access points on the Wolf and Embarrass Rivers above their confluence in New London. There are numerous access points on both rivers and each mile up stream provides a river less traveled. Once the Wolf turns north again at Shiocton, a view on Google earth will show that the rivers run basically parallel for quite some time and are literally only 3 miles apart where County 156 crosses each, east of Clintonville.

On the Embarrass, a dam at Pella is the first obstruction up stream of the mouth at New London, providing 55



The author found success on the Wolf River after trading in his motor and boat for a canoe and a paddle.

miles of "canoeable" water. The river changes quite a bit and is rocky in some areas. The Wolf's first obstruction upstream of New London is the dam at Shawano, about 65 miles away. From New London to Shiocton you might see a few boats, but above that point there will be very few.

Steve Pari at River's Edge Camping Resort near Leeman, (where County F crosses the Wolf River), is the only "outfitter" that I know of. At this time he offers inner-tube trips and canoe rental on the Wolf River, but does not yet drop off and pick up on the Embarrass. If you have your own equipment, you may be able to arrange something. You are sure to enjoy the beauty of the river and mostly wooded shorelines of Wolf River Country. *W*

Editor's Note: Steve Pari at River's Edge Camping Resort can be reached at (715) 752-3344, or through their website at wolfriversedge.com.

Joel "Doc" Kunz is a 2005 "Readers Choice" Award winner, member of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) and a member of the Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association (WOCA). Visit Doc's website at www.wolfrivercountry.com.



S. WILKERSON

SURPLUS FIREARMS

The typewriter gun

Typewriter companies have made some of the best American firearms ever produced. So, too, have automobile manufacturers, a jukebox company, and rocket makers. There was a time during national emergencies that industry could always be counted on to equip American soldiers with the weapons they needed, quickly, efficiently, and seemingly effortlessly. Considering the state of American industry today, it's questionable if it could ever do so again. We best hope that the Chinese, to whom we sold our industrial soul, will build our weapons for us. If it's not them were fighting.

This edition's feature rifle was built at the height of World War II by a typewriter company, L.C. Smith Corona. Strange that a firm with no link to firearms manufacturing could transform itself virtually overnight into a rifle producer as good as any "real" gun company. Tragically, while it could build guns, Smith Corona, a giant in the communication industry for decades, never saw the information age coming. Like IBM, you might have thought that Smith Corona would have evolved into a computer manufacturer. Didn't happen.

But there are some Smith Corona 1903A3s to be found. The company made about 240,000 of them during World War II. They differ only in details from the same model built by Remington, which was a simplified, and better, version of the Springfield Armory Model 1903. The biggest difference between the 1903 and the 1903A3s made by Remington and Smith-Corona was that the A3s had

some stamped parts, a vastly superior rear sight, and was safe to shoot. Amazingly, the first 800,000 or so Model 1903s built in an armory with 100 years of experience in making rifles were potentially deadly - to the shooter. Yes, for over a decade, Springfield Armory churned out guns that sometimes had improperly heat treated receivers that could literally explode when the gun was fired. Say what you will about the synthetic stocks and matte finishes of today's guns compared to the high polish blue and walnut of days gone by, modern

guns are safer, more accurate, reliable and durable.

The A3s made by Remington and Smith Corona were definitely safe, accurate, reliable and durable arms. They were also rarely used. The only reason they existed was that the United States government spent most of the 1930s wishing away another world war. Public sentiment was firmly against getting involved in another alliance with Britain and France that might get the United States involved in another European war. Since there was little threat from the

Mexicans or Canadians, politicians saw no need for a large standing army, or tanks, planes, and ships, for that matter. America's peacetime army of the 1930s was small, ill-equipped, poorly trained, and woefully unprepared for combat.

No one noticed this, other than the Japanese, until the attack on Pearl Harbor. All of a sudden, America needed guns, and lots of them. Garand production at Springfield Armory had to be ramped up and quickly. Even then, there wouldn't be enough rifles for the armed services. The government turned to private industry to help out. Remington, already making the 1903, slightly revised it for mass production and started making more of them. Smith Corona won the contract to make some more. Garands would be issued to front line soldiers, 03A3s to MPs, security guards, truck drivers, band members, and other rear echelon troops who didn't need the best rifle of the war.

In the unlikely event that they did have to fire their 03A3 in anger, however, those at the rear were pretty well served by it. Firing the same potent 30'06 round as the Garand, the 03A3 was at least comparable to the Kar98s the Wehrmacht was putting to ghastly effect in Europe. The Mauser and 03A3 were both designed at the turn of the century and were wood-stocked, five-shot, bolt action repeaters, weighing about nine pounds. The similarity didn't end there. The Model 1903, the progenitor of the 03A3, was based on a Mauser design and the United States spent big

Continued on page 27



Smith Corona 1903A3. Author's rifle features an after-market 'C' stock with a pistol grip.

"Strange that a firm with no link to firearms manufacturing could transform itself virtually overnight into a rifle producer as good as any 'real' gun company..."



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ELLIS, from page 22

County, 12 warden recruits from the class of 2002 heard from a DNR bear biologist, watched the sedation and field work on a captured black bear prior to "nuisance" relocation, and were introduced by hunters to the breeds of bear hounds and varieties of telemetry equipment used in the chase. The following morning, each recruit was placed in the field with a different hunting group for the actual "scenario-based" chases.

Zebro, Roberts and I step into the predawn black of 4 a.m. with Schroeder's hunting partners, and head for the Burnett County wilderness. Schroeder and I slowly drive the sand roads on public land and paper mill property west of Minong using a spotlight to cut the night in search of bear tracks. In the back of our truck, Schroeder's three hounds, Max, a treeing walker, Maggie, a Redbone, and Bandit, a Plott, quietly wait their turn.

Eventually we find three adult sets of bear tracks at a single crossing. According to DNR Bear Biologist Mike Gappa, 13,500 black bears roam Wisconsin, with 3,000 harvested by hunters annually. It's the hound hunters and bait hunters, he said, who keep the population in check, and restrict the number of resident bear complaint calls from exploding beyond the 922 calls received last year. Three-hundred twenty-two problem bears were trapped and relocated based on those calls.

Night turns to day and the day burns away. The trucks converge on the

sand roads. Three dogs have been tethered carefully in the open boxes of the trucks for "rigging." They will open up in song should the scent of bears reach their uncanny sense of smell. Soon, a chorus of wailing rises to tell the group a sow with cubs has crossed the road here. After examination of the track, though, the convoy moves on.

"You rig a track in this bad of scenting conditions, it's a good track," Schroeder says. "But I'm not going to throw the dogs on her track and make an unscheduled trip to the vet. She'll probably put her cubs up a tree, but if she's the one sow in ten who turns to punch it out, she can be the nastiest critter on earth."

Nearby, a few dogs are put out onto an old, lone track. We listen as the hounds change in voice tells the story of a cold track turning hot, and eventually, the story of success. We travel the dirt roads as far as we can toward the baying, and then abandon the trucks to run to the dogs. We find the sow intended to be left alone high in a birch, her two cubs higher. The lone bear being trailed had crossed the hotter track of this trio, and the dogs had naturally navigated to the fresher scent.

Warden Dave Zebro has seen treed bears before. As have these hunters from the northwest. But for warden recruit Roberts, and a reporter, it's cloud-nine time. We let these few minutes sink in, cameras clicking, before the bears are left unmolested again.

Roberts, 25, has hunted and fished all his life, and is becoming a warden to give back something to the resource that has already given him so much.

"The best thing about these week-longs (training) is that they're all scenario-based," he says. "I have questions, and I need to be with the people who are using the resource to find a lot of the answers."

"It's absolutely essential that we give these recruits the hands-on training so that they know how to apply the laws to specific situations," says Zebro, a veteran Field Training Officer (FTO) who works closely with a recruit over much of his first year. "When a recruit works with the hunters, they see the situation through the hunter's eyes as well as through the eyes of law enforcement. That allows the recruit to better evaluate a situation before making a decision."

With almost 8 hours in the field, the dogs find our "bonus" bear. Our group



converges on the run to find the boar down in the swamp, up in the ash. We leave the bear alone again following a 10 minute photo shoot. Jason Roberts, warden recruit from Milwaukee, is wearing the look of a more woods-wise law enforcement officer.

"It's so important to work with these bear hunters," says Zebro. "Of all the user-groups, hunters with dogs are the most criticized, least understood group. From the outside it looks easy. But when you get in the trucks, you know how difficult it is. If we're going to work with them, we have to understand them. You can't place enough emphasis on that kind of training. You can do classroom work every day from dawn to dusk, and never give these recruits the same benefit." *W*

WILKERSON, from page 26

money for the copyright. The United States moved on to better things in the way of the Garand. Germany, on the other hand, pretty much stayed with the tried and true 98 with which they lost the original world war. England, France, Russia, Japan, and Italy all armed most of their troops with bolt action rifles during the second go 'round, so it's not like Germany was the only major power that didn't possess the foresight of the Americans.

The 03A3 at 44-inches long and nearly 10 pounds loaded is not a particularly handy rifle. Most featured stocks with no pistol grips and those with pistol grips were of the scant variety. This means that they don't shoulder and point as well as say, a Garand. Because they don't bleed off any gas in their operation, 03A3s also recoil more than a Garand, but the effect isn't awful. Compared to most military rifles of the era, they have great rear peep sights that are adjustable for windage and eleva-

tion. The front sight is another story. Extremely thin and unprotected, it is a fragile piece. For this reason, the gun was supplied with a removable spring steal front sight protector which, if you have one, you shouldn't use. It is harder than the barrel steel and guaranteed to rip unholy gouges into the barrel. Furthermore, the sight protector cannot realistically be left in place when shooting because it ruins the sight picture.

Blessed with an excellent two-stage trigger and a fairly light trigger pull of about four pounds, 03A3s routinely shoot groups of two inches or less at 100 yards with surplus ammunition, provided the bore is in good shape. Unfortunately, a lot of them are not. Most 03A3s never saw combat in World War II and many of them saw no use at all. They were marshaled out of the service and leant, or outright given, to such post-war allies as the Greeks, Turks, and Danes, all of whom took

better care of them than the VFWs and American Legion Posts that got them for free for ceremonial purposes.

There is a lot of evidence to suggest that once they got out of the armed services and went on to parade and funeral duty with their local Legion and VFW, former soldiers became pathologically indifferent to proper firearms maintenance. After popping off some ceremonial rounds with corrosive blanks, the guns were put away uncleaned and left to rust. This habit continued for decades; fire some rounds, put the gun away dirty, fire some rounds, put the gun away dirty. It is not uncommon to find virtually new A3s sold by the Civilian Marksmanship Program with thoroughly rusted out barrels because the boys at the VFW and Legion were too lazy to clean the bores.

If you find a good 03A3 with a pristine barrel, expect to pay around \$700 for one rearmored after the war, as most were, and maybe twice that much for an

original survivor. Be very careful and do your homework before paying more for a gun billed as "all original." Guns rebuilt in U.S. government armories look like new, but their finish, proof marks, stocks and sometimes barrels are very different than a virgin example. In any case, Smith Coronas go for about a 10 percent premium over a comparable Remington.

While they don't have the battle scared panache of a Russian 91/30 and will probably never be as collectible as some Garands, the 03A3 is a well made, very accurate rifle. In its Smith Corona guise, it is also an historical artifact from a time when industry reigned supreme and could be counted on not just to make a buck, but make the arsenal of democracy. *W*

S. Wilkerson is an award-winning Wisconsin journalist, firearms expert and student of the Second Amendment.

Kuehl Kids Photo Contest

And the winner is Clay Elmore



Clayton Elmore, age 15, caught this 39-1/2" carp at Castle Rock Lake in 2008.



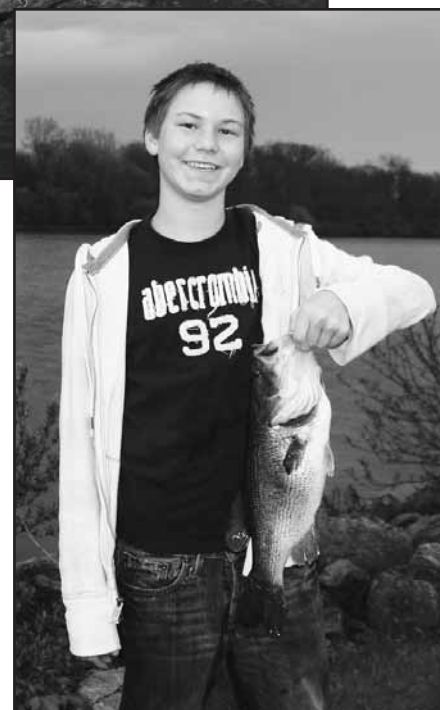
Connor Westphal and Alexandra Westphal of DePere.



Additional Submissions ...



Michael Pletta, 14, with a 18" large-mouth bass caught from shore at Delavan Lake.



Kuehl Kids PHOTOS



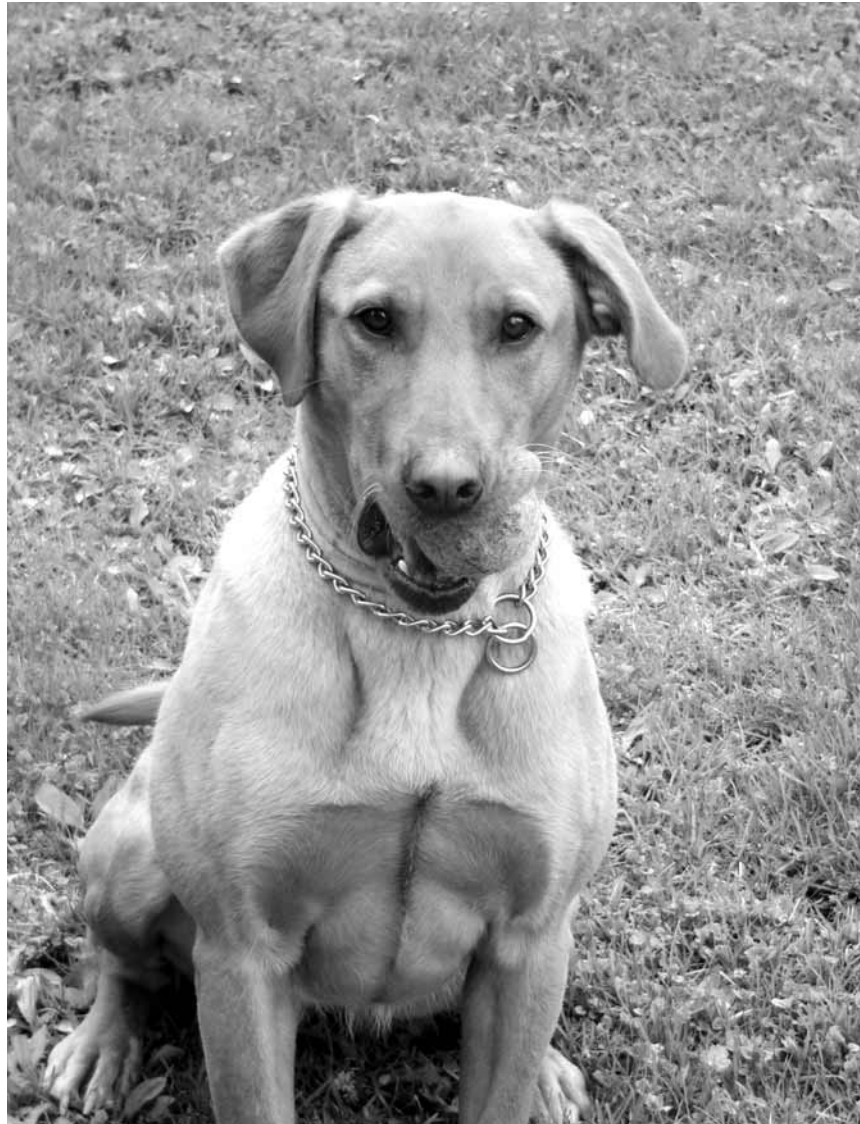
Submit your photo of a kid in the outdoors!
Winners will receive a caricature drawing of their photo.

Submissions will be printed in *On Wisconsin Outdoors*, and the winner will be mailed the original caricature artwork as our gift!

Photos scans or digital files must be provided at high resolution 300 dpi and emailed to submit@onwisconsinoutdoors.com. If we select your photo, the original caricature drawing will be mailed to you at no charge.

Interested in purchasing a caricature drawing made from your photo?
 Contact artist Johnathan Kuehl directly at kuehlarts@gmail.com or call (612) 812-9600.

KEVIN MICHALOWSKI

DOG TALK: SCENT TRACKING*One great nose trumps two good eyes*

Some pheasants hit the ground running. I've seen ducks that have dropped into the cattails only to waddle around the stalks doing their best to avoid hunters and dogs alike. In each case, a good dog makes quick work of a wounded bird on the loose. But to be effective, the dog must be trained to follow a scent trail. Luckily, teaching a dog to ground track by scent is not all that difficult. All you need is correct kind of scent (more about that later), a tennis ball and a strong arm. Come to think of it, you don't even need a strong arm any longer.

The basic idea behind training a dog to track is to lay down a line of scent the dog must follow. There's no easier way to do this than by spraying liquid bird scent all over a tennis ball and throwing it so it bounces through medium-length grass. The bouncing ball mimics the scent trail created as a bird tries to escape. It also leaves gaps

in the trail here and there, forcing the dog to do a bit of searching to pick up the next hot spot. And by using a ball, there's no need to walk along dragging a canvas dummy on a string. The scent-soaked ball creates a new trail every time you throw it. You don't contaminate the trail with your scent and you're not required to put the dog away each time in order to keep him from seeing where you dropped the dummy when you create the trail.

SECRETS OF THE SCENT

But training a dog to track is not just as simple as walking out in the yard and throwing a scent-soaked tennis ball. There are a few nuances that will help you guide the dog through the training. Remember, helping the dog to succeed is the key to

good training.

The first nuance is simple: The ball has to roll through the grass. This might sound obvious, but I've seen lots of people throwing a long lob out into to the field and sending the dog after it. That's not scent tracking—that's just a marked retrieve. To make the training session one where tracking is involved, you need have the ball roll through several yards of grass that is tall enough to nearly conceal the ball, but short enough to allow it to bounce and roll through.

Then you have to throw it hard enough to move through the grass. A strong arm is handy, but it isn't mandatory. The Chuck-It tennis ball thrower takes care of that for you.

The Chuck-It, available at most pet stores, works and looks a lot like one of those clay target throwers. It's a long plastic wand with perfectly sized cup on the end. The cup holds the ball until you whip it forward. It's no problem to throw the ball 150 feet or more. With a little practice, you'll have the ball bouncing through the grass in no time.

Once you can throw the ball effectively, put your dog at heel and douse the ball with scent. Throw it for effect, so it bounces nicely through the grass, and keep the dog sitting at your side. The dog will watch the ball rolling away. After the ball stops, count to 10 before you send the dog to make the retrieve.

As you progress through the training, you'll need to introduce more



distractions. To do so, simply make the dog follow you around at heel before sending him to make the retrieve. Your goal is to be able to send the dog in the general direction of the ball, have the dog cross the trail and follow it to the ball.

Most dogs learn the basics in a few training sessions. But the more you practice, the better your dog will be at tracking and finding wounded game birds. *W*

Kevin Michalowski is author of "15 Minutes to a Great Dog" and "15 Minutes to a Great Puppy" (Krause Publications, \$12.95 each) and has been training dogs for 10 years. If you have questions or comments on dog care, email Kevin Michalowski at askdogtalk@hotmail.com.

SELECTING SCENTS

Choosing the right scent and the correct means of application is one of the keys to making this program work. After years of testing and aggravation, I've finally settled on Buck Stop brand dog training scent as my one and only. Not only is it a top-quality scent, but it also comes in 4-ounce bottles and is free of huge particles. That last point is very important because the best means of application is with a cheap spray bottle. Many other brands of training scent is filled with particles that clog the spray bottle.

With the Buck Stop scent, all you need to do is pour the scent into the spray bottle, mist the tennis ball, throw it with the Chuck-It thrower, and let the training begin.

CURTIS from page 33

that prime photo of two bucks kick-boxing as I do when I blow a chance at a buck in the fall (O.K. that might be pushing it, but you get the point).

EQUIPMENT CAN VARY

One doesn't need to invest tons of money into fancy photography equipment to "shoot" deer all year round. Like any other hobby, deer photography has its extremes. A person can go full-bore and opt for a professional 35mm setup with a very high-quality (and very expensive) 2.8 aperture lens at about \$10,000 for lens and camera body, or use any of the point-and-shoot digital cameras that can cost as little as \$200.

Camera equipment chosen is of little significance when it comes to getting the personal satisfaction of scouting, observing, learning about deer and obtaining permission for future hunting hot-spots. W

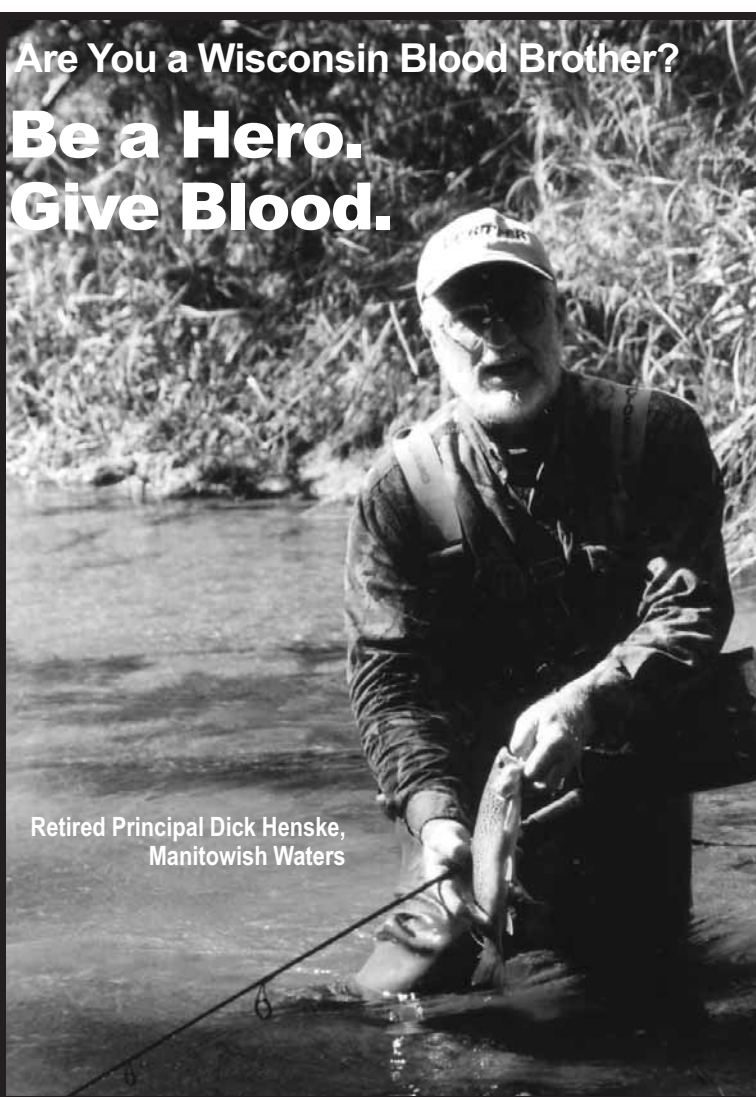


Ralph Curtis' photos can be seen on Blood Brothers Outdoors videos and website www.bloodbro.com. Videos can be purchased on-line at the Blood Brothers Outdoors web site store or in Gander Mountain stores.

"REEL" MEN BLEED

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**Retired Principal Dick Henske,
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Solution:



Puzzle on page 8

On Wisconsin Outdoors Board of Directors

Dear Rex Rodsalotta,

I've been reading a lot about the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) trying to insert a provision into the state budget that would have taken away access rights for hunters, anglers and trappers on thousands of acres of lands purchased with Stewardship grants. Can we trust our state senators and representatives or can't we?
—Polly Brown, Green Lake

Dear Polly,
Well, let's see. The Outta-Joint Finance Committee voted on the provision buried in with 20 other items labeled "Odds & Ends" at 5:30 am without input from the outdoor community. It was the last item on agenda. It's the same committee that raided the state trout, turkey and waterfowl stamp accounts four year ago. A few days before they voted to eliminate the requirement that DNR publish a directory of stewardship funded lands that would have listed all properties open to hunting, fishing and trapping. No, don't trust these people, and never take your eyes off of them.
—Rex Rodsalotta



Rex Rodsalotta



Conibear Smith

Dear Conibear Smith,
What do you think of the Joint Finance Committee?

—Troy Krueger,
Richland Center

Well, the OWO Board was discussing this very thing during our retreat last month to determine just how to professionally respond. My suggestion that we personally show JFC members how to use my grand daddy's bear trap ...let's say in the back country of Bayfield County...was rejected 2-1.

—Conibear Smith



Hunter Daily

Dear Hunter Daily,
You don't really think the government would ever take our right to hunt and fish and trap away from us do you?
—Luke Sankey, Manitowoc

I think they would have taken a big piece of it away this time if it wasn't for the diligence of state organizations like the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, The Conservation Congress and Wisconsin Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and some very special individuals keeping watch. Want the full story? Visit www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Click on "Dick's Column". Click on "Joint Finance Committee Ambushes Outdoor Community". Most importantly, stay alert. This war is only beginning.

—Hunter Daily

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BILL CUNNEA

COMPANION AND HUNTER

Young Bert; still the not-right dog

I'd just gotten Young Bert (YB), the not-right dog, from the breeder who followed me home so I wouldn't change my mind. YB was going to put be down for chronic barking and running away (only when the wife was at home alone ... odd, eh?). He once walked into an all-night Walgreen's through the electronic-eye front doors, and just meandered around, meetin' folks.

He'd spent most of his life tied to a tree in a yard in a western Chicago suburb. He was not a house dog, except in the most simplistic sense of the term. Dad didn't train him and Mom didn't want him. This was a shame, for he was beautiful, smart and could've used the socialization. I've always thought the more stimulation a young dog got, the more intelligent it became. I know this is true of human babies: Pathways form in the brain, and with regular stimulation, become permanent. If the stimulation halts, the pathways deteriorate.

He was friendly during the first hours/day we were getting to know each other. A little rambunctious—but he was slightly more than 2 years old—and congenial, if a little anxious about the new surroundings and lack of familiarity with the human in the house.

I went to take a shower, closing—but not shutting—the bathroom door. I was in the shower when I heard the door open and the click of his toenails on the bathroom floor. YB was coming to check on where I was.

There was a pause, then ever so slowly, first a brown nose, and then muzzle, and then eyes, and then the head of a dog pushed aside the

shower curtain and looked to see what I was doing. I said "hello," and went about my business. He just stood there.

Then, with exceptional slowness, a paw appeared and rested on the tub side—and then extended itself into the bathtub. He looked at me. I

looked at him. We looked at each other. I was curious. He was anxious.

Then, another front paw appeared. And with the same deliberate movement, extended itself so the front of YB was now standing in the tub; the body and back half were still outside on the bathroom floor.

He looked up. I laughed. "What's this?" I questioned. He didn't reply. He just stood there with the spray of the shower ricocheting off the wall and tub and onto his legs, chest and face. He put his head down a bit; then, almost abashedly, awkwardly lifted a rear leg in and then brought the other in.

He stood still, head down. Then he looked up at me. I was hooting as the almost-drenched dog stood at the end of the tub. Very tentatively, he shuffled toward me, into the heavier deluge of water. First his head, then shoulders and back came under the main spray.

He just stood there, head down, getting soaked, and then ... sort of leaned into my leg, putting some of his weight against me.

It was one of those moments ... you know ... where two separate species fully understand each other. He was apprehensive and scared of being abandoned again and I knew it—exactly as if he were articulating his apprehension in words.

I finished the shower and used a "good" towel to dry him off. I got a fresh one for myself, and took him out in the kitchen for some dog-bribe.

Later that week, he did it once more, but never again since.

But he still "ain't right." *WC*



"It was one of those moments ... you know ... where two separate species fully understand each other. He was apprehensive and scared of being abandoned again and I knew it—exactly as if he were articulating his apprehension in words."

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RALPH CURTIS

BLOOD BROTHERS OUTDOORS

Up close and personal with whitetails during the offseason



Getting up-close and personal with mature whitetails doesn't have to be an "autumn-only" adventure. Learning about whitetails while holding a camera will make you a more successful while holding a gun or bow. (Photos by Ralph Curtis)

I was getting excited as I watched the huge 13-point buck edge its way close to my ground blind. My adrenaline was high after watching three smaller bucks walk by within 20 yards of my setup. Being "on stand" since 3 p.m. was taking its toll on my patience and my butt, but now it was all worthwhile as I watched the trophy buck get closer and closer.

Just as the buck dropped his head to nibble on some alfalfa, I pulled the trigger ... on the camera, that is.

Photographing deer throughout the year can make you a better hunter and open doors to more hunting opportunities. By observing deer all year long and trying to position yourself for the optimum "shot," deer photography is the ultimate practice session for when it really counts come fall.

OPENING THE DOOR

When scouting for big bucks during the summer months, permission to access land for photography is usually pretty simple—once that big buck is located. Many farmers and landowners don't mind someone sitting on the edge of their fields with

a camera, as long as permission is asked prior.

This is a prime opportunity to get to know the farmer, and for him to get to know you. After a few visits during the summer, and the farmer/landowner gains your trust, obtaining permission to hunt in the fall comes much easier and is sometimes only possible thru these trust-gaining visits.

Numerous times I've been given permission to hunt after getting to know the landowner on a first-name basis through photography visits throughout the year. It might not happen the first year, but usually through time, permission is granted where otherwise it would've been a slim chance.

OBSERVING DEER BEHAVIOR

Photographing deer throughout the various seasons gives the hunter new insights on deer behavior that can lead to a more successful deer season. For instance, through numerous hours in the field, a person begins to know when a deer will raise its head from

feeding. When feeding undisturbed, deer tend to have a certain rhythm as they gorge themselves.

The persistent observer/ photographer of deer will get a better understanding of when a deer becomes nervous and unsure of a possible present danger. The reactions a buck makes differ dramatically depending on what sense triggered the alert to the deer. Knowing such deer reactions through photography has helped me react to the same circumstances when a big buck is alerted with a bow in my hand.

Sitting on the edge of a food

source on a summer evening is an enjoyable time outdoors, whether a picture of that trophy buck is taken or not. You'll likely observe the most comical deer behavior along with the most pitiful: A game of tag between fawns is always enjoyable to watch (but hard to photograph), a kick-boxing match between deer competing for the same soy beans, or a doe harassing a buck that, in 2 months will have well hardened, polished antlers are all episodes that make deer photography enjoyable and yet frustrating.

I get almost as worked up missing

Continued on page 30





Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

By JJ Reich

GAMEHIDE LOST CONQUEST

For \$99-\$119, the Conquest jacket and pants are made of Gamehide's soft and silent HushHide material, which also features Silver+ ion, anti-microbial technology that inhibits body odor, and a moisture-wicking interior mesh lining. Plus, the garments use two levels of foul-weather protection: Hydrocore waterproof/breathable laminate and Outlast water-beading treatment.



This new jacket and pant set is designed in the high-performance spirit of Mathews' compound bows, and sports exclusive "Lost Camo" that was developed by Mathews' founder, Matt McPherson. Plus, both pieces stuff into their own pockets for easy storage. So, if you need a new waterproof outfit, this set has a lot of bang for the buck!

Gamehide.com

REMINGTON 887 NITRO MAG

From \$400-\$530, the new Remington Model 887 pump-action shotgun was inspired by their best-selling and reliable Model 870, but with



more robust features such as a rugged ArmorLokt coating which prevents rust on exterior surfaces, and a new SuperCell recoil pad that reduces felt recoil up to 54 percent. The 12-gauge handles up to 3-1/2-inch shells and is available in a black synthetic and Realtree MAX-4 HD camo finish.

I like that fact that Remington "over-built" this shotgun to handle hard-core hunting abuse such as accidental encounters with barbed wire or a rough ride in the bottom of a Jon boat. And its synthetic stock and fore-end are ergonomically contoured to offer a positive grip, comfortable handling, solid aiming and smooth shooting.

Remington.com

DOUGH BAIT PRESS

For \$5, the TroutBerry bait press forms balls of bait quickly and easily, and without creating a funky mess or contaminating the bait with human scent. Two different-size presses, with lanyard holes, are included in the combo pack.



If you fish with dough-in-a-jar baits, these plastic gadgets are extremely slick. Simply place your hook in the line slot, scoop the bait out of the jar, and press to secure a right-sized ball of bait firmly on your hook.

Troutberry.com

ROCKSTAR FROG

For \$9-\$16, The Maxx-Rev hard body RockStar frog is a 5 1/2-inch top-water lure that rolls from side-to-side on a straight retrieve. The durable hard-plastic lure features dual trebles and a fish-attracting tail spinner.



This new lure got its "Rock Star" nickname because of the noisy way it rocks, rolls, dunks and thrashes on the water surface, creating a lot of attention. The RockStar definitely puts on a good show, is well-built and has high-quality, lunger-landing hooks.

Rockstarfrog.com

RETRACTABLE BOATBUCKLE

For \$65, BoatBuckle's G2 retractable transom tie-down system delivers convenience, style, versatility and innovation. The system features one-hand ratchet operation, a strong stainless-steel power spring, vinyl-coated hooks to protect your boat's finish, and the 43-inch strap length can adapt to virtually any mounting angle.



I like BoatBuckle's slogan: "Just Hook, Ratchet and Go!" And it's true, since these compact and simple-to-use tie-downs are always bolted to your trailer, you won't be looking for them or wrestling with them when you need secure your boat for hauling, which saves you time and frustration at the boat launch. Who doesn't want that?

Boatbuckle.com

PLANO ELITE KVD

For \$130, Plano's Guide Series Elite KVD Tackle Bag features an easy-to-clean all-weather polyester exterior, nonslip rubberized base, six side pockets with waterproof zippers, numerous mesh compartments, padded shoulder strap, and a dual-entry main compartment.



Part of being a better fisherman is having better fishing gear, especially gear that keeps you better organized! This roomy bag is very well-designed and features high-quality materials. It also comes with four Plano 3700-series StowAway hard-side utility boxes, and a convenient, compact takeaway bag that fits in the front pocket.

Planomolding.com

JJ Reich is an outdoor writer who contributes product-related articles to several national publications and is the author of Kampp Tales™ hunting books for children (www.kampptales.com).

The advertisement is set within a rustic wooden frame. The background image shows a group of people gathered around a large, crackling campfire in a forest at night. The scene is warmly lit by the fire. Overlaid on the top half of the frame is the word "Leinenkugel's" in a large, stylized, light-colored script font. In the bottom right corner, a condensation-covered bottle of Leinenkugel's Classic Amber beer stands next to a tall glass filled with the same beer, topped with a thick head of foam. The bottle label features the Leinenkugel's logo and the text "CLASSIC AMBER".

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SoutheastSales.com

Ozaukee Suzuki

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LeisureTimeSportsTomah.com

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CountrySportsInc.com

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