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On Wisconsin *Outdoors*

With the Dick Ellis Experts

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Dick Ellis

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



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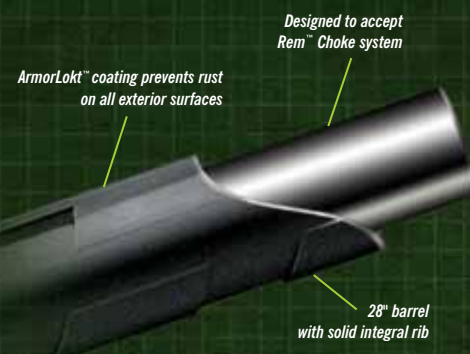
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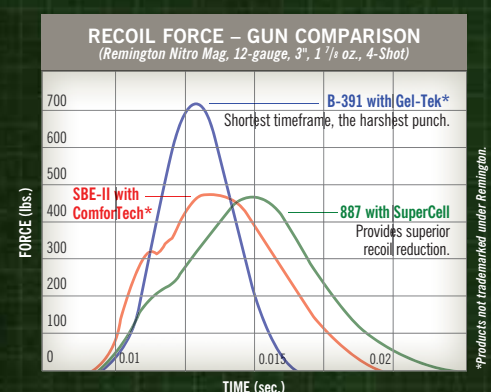
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MIKE FOSS

DIARY OF A BEAR GUIDE*Snaggle Tooth lives!*

What will be the next chapter in the Snaggle Tooth saga? Will there be a sequel next year? Will the final chapter be cast this hunting season? Actively working baits is one thing, but actively working baits during hunting season—during legal shooting hours—can be a completely different story.

Wondering about Snaggle Tooth, the enormous Bayfield County black bear? Me too.

Flipping through the calendar earlier this year, April 14 (the start of baiting season) couldn't come soon enough. I knew no one shot the big bruin last season.

I thought and dreamed about him this past winter ... thinking and hoping he selected the perfect den and consumed enough food to pull him through another long cold winter ... and said a small prayer as I dumped the apple pie filling mixture at "his" bait station. With patches of snow still lingering in the cool shadows, I cut fresh logs. And with new batteries, the Cuddeback trail camera was hung with care ready to shoot anything that crossed its path.

One week later, with the excitement and anticipation of a young child on Christmas morning, I slowly approached the bait site. And to my surprise it wasn't hit. With my head hung low I re-scented the area with anise oil and bacon scent gel, and then walked away.

Upon my return 5 days later, I was horrified to see the bait still

wasn't touched. I was baffled. I knew from the local reports that most bears were out of hibernation. With the lack of a springtime food source, numerous bears should've been scurrying the countryside to fill their bellies. I thought they would've found or visited this bait station by now.

Finally, the site was picked clean sometime during week No. 3. Cuddeback photos revealed some coyotes, a wolf and a few good-sized bears worthy for the wall ... but no Snaggle Tooth.

It wasn't until the end of May that I started to doubt Snaggle Tooth's return. Could he really be dead? Did he succumb to the wrath of winter? Was he simply too old? What if ...?

My frustration was diverted on June 22 when a rare Wisconsin trophy was captured on camera: A beautiful blonde/cinnamon colored bear was suddenly my new quest. And I made a few new friends along the way, too. Each time I checked my trail camera and pulled off the cover to retrieve the memory card, I noticed black ants inside; I guess they decided it was a good place to call home.

SO LONG, SNAGGLE TOOTH

By July 25, I had enough of the ants and came to the full conclusion the great Snaggle Tooth, the King of the Forest—who has outwitted many hunters—was no longer alive. I decided to pull the plug. I removed the trail camera but grabbed the

before, in that very spot, sat Snaggle Tooth.

If it wasn't for me forgetting the right screwdriver for those bear-proof boxes at both those bait stations, I would've pulled the camera from the tree and decided the big bear was dead.

As I sit staring at his picture on my computer, I wonder why it took so

"The very first picture forced my heart to skip a few beats: At 6:12 a.m., less than 4 hours before, in that very spot, sat Snaggle Tooth."

wrong screwdriver to remove the metal bear-proof box that the camera was placed in, so I had to leave the box on the tree until the next day. That night I removed all the ants from the camera, cleaned it up and plans were to place it on a newly established bait station that was getting pounded by multiple bears.

The day arrived, and with my Suzuki King Quad ATV fueled and bait buckets loaded on the truck, I was ready to go. Nathaniel Doucette, my niece's husband, would be accompanying me on this baiting trip. First stop: Place the trail camera on the new bait station.

Once there I realized I again grabbed the wrong screwdriver to mount the metal bear-proof box to the tree. On the way back to the truck I said to Nathaniel, "Everything happens for a reason, and there is a reason why I forgot the same screwdriver twice for both of those bait stations." There was something in store for us.

Like a light bulb going off in my head, I told Nathaniel, "The box is still on the tree, and we're going back to the Snaggle Tooth bait to put the camera back—just for a few more days." So we did.

The very next day, with the bait totally cleaned up, I unlocked the box, took the card out (still fighting some ants) and installed it in my camera to view the pictures. The very first picture forced my heart to skip a few beats: At 6:12 a.m., less than 4 hours

long for him to show up.

Everything happens for a reason. Snaggle Tooth has now returned several times to the bait station to be captured on film. The hunt is on. I got you. *W*

On Wisconsin Outdoors

With the Dick Ellis Experts

Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Travel and Outdoor Humor

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TERRY BITZ

OUTDOOR CONVERGENCE

Fishing The Flip

Besides cold fronts, there is probably no other singular event that gets blamed for poor fishing more than the fall "turnover." Turnover refers to the mixing of water layers of varying temperatures that formed during the summer months. While many anglers have a general understanding of what turnover is, few understand why it occurs and how it impacts fishing.

During summer, generally all but the shallowest lakes develop several distinct water layers marked by differences in temperature. This occurs because the density of water changes with temperature, and water is at its densest at 39 degrees Fahrenheit.

The top water layer during summer and fall is the warmest and the least dense, and the bottom layer is the coldest and most dense. Both these layers are defined by their fairly constant temperature from the top to the bottom of each respective layer.

The middle water layer contains the thermocline, which is marked by a sharp decrease in water temperature from its top to its bottom. The thermocline acts as a divide between the top and bottom layers of water.

The depth and thickness of the layers varies lake to lake and can even vary in a given lake year to year. On many local waters, thermo clines commonly develop about 25-30 feet below the surface.

If you have a decent fish finder, you can see the thermocline as a line that runs horizontally across the screen. This is due to the differences in water densities reflecting some of the sonar's signal. On some shallow lakes, you might see it on your locator as a murky smudge on the bottom of the lake.

FIGHTING THE FLIP

By late summer the oxygen levels below the thermocline can fall to such a degree in many lakes that most fish species are unable to survive in the bottom layer of water. This means that a large percentage of fish will be located at or above the thermocline.

In the fall, the temperature of the top layer of water will drop along with the air temperature. Eventually, the top layer of water gets close to the temperature of the bottom layer. While this is occurring, the middle layer is getting squeezed smaller and pushed deeper as the top layer becomes more dense.

Eventually, often with the aid of wind, the middle layer will completely



The author's son, Devin, wields a big muskie caught during the fall turnover period. Post-flip fishing can provide some of the year's best action.

break down and the top and bottom of layers of water will mix. This event is called turnover and can take place over a period of a couple days or possibly a week. In Wisconsin, lakes tend to turn over some time in October—earlier in the north, later in the south.

People often blame turnover for poor fishing, citing such factors as poor water clarity, changes in feeding habits or the fact that fish can now inhabit all depths of the lake because of oxygen being dispersed to all depths.

My own experience is that fish seem more difficult to locate during the times I believe turnover is occurring. However, there have been days when I believed a lake was turning over and proceeded to land some very big fish.

Admittedly, it's difficult to tell if a lake is turning over without measuring the temperature of the various lake depths on a daily basis. One recent study showed that most anglers misjudge when the turnover process is occurring. Apparently, poor water clarity, floating debris and the pungent smell many of us associate with the turnover process might not be reliable indicators. It's possible that daily weather conditions

play a greater role in whether fish will be biting.

Anglers should focus less on whether turnover is occurring and try and fish based on the conditions they are presented with. If the water clarity is poor, use bright-colored lures and cover a lot of water. Continue to focus on the food chain as fish will be where their food is at; use your electronics and look for schools of baitfish.

Also, don't be afraid to fish very shallow. The shallow waters can offer more stability and remaining weeds still offer more oxygenated water.

If you believe turnover is killing the bite on a given lake, move to another. All lakes do not turn over at the same time. Rivers are also an option during this time.

Even if fishing is slow and turnover is the culprit, cheer up because the process is generally over in less than a week, and post-turnover fishing can be the some of the best of the year. *WB*

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THE SPRINGTIME FLIP

DO LAKES TURN OVER IN THE SPRING?

Yes, they do, but the event is a bit less tumultuous in spring compared to fall.

Lakes stratify in the winter for the same reasons they do in the summer, but this time it's the cold water that is near the surface with the warmer water near the lake's bottom. This is because water, unlike most elements, is lighter as a solid than it is as a liquid (remember: ice floats).

Because water is most dense at 39 degrees, the water close to this temperature will settle on the bottom of the lake. It's this unique characteristic of water that allows fish and other aquatic organisms in northern latitudes to survive winters.

While most of the water in a lake will be close to 39 degrees throughout the winter, a thin layer of colder water will be located just under the ice and floating on top of the relatively warmer water.

Once the ice melts and the waters begin to warm, the temperature differences between the upper and lower layers decreases. As in the fall, the barrier eventually breaks down and the water layers mix and evenly distribute the dissolved oxygen throughout the depths. And because the top layer is not nearly as thick in the winter as it is in the summer, the spring turnover is a less radical event than the fall turnover.



DARRELL PENDERGRASS

OUT THERE*Boat rides and bonding time*

"Sometimes I get more emotional than I should.

*And sometimes I make a bigger deal
out of things than necessary.*

I don't have any explanations for why I do that;

I am who I am.

*But this giving of a boat
is more than a gift of metal and machine.*

*It's a gift of father-and-son experiences,
family outings and summertime trips."*

Rightfully taking the appropriate position as first mate, my son sat at the bow of our new boat; a smile was spreading wide across his face and his curly hair blew wildly in the wind. Jack looked like the boy that every man once was, and he was clearly happy.

"I love this boat," he said, leaning back in his seat and looking at me with grinning eyes, before turning back around and facing into the waves.

I sat in the captain's position with my hand on the throttle. Around me the coolness of Lake Namakagon went on and on as we made our way from the landing and out toward deeper water. I've never owned a boat before. I've been in many, but never had my own. Now I do.

Looking to the far shoreline and thinking of the adventures to follow, I felt free in a way that's hard to explain. Suddenly summer was bigger again. Fishing was more fun. I guess I looked a little like a boy myself.

"I love this boat, too," I called back. But Jack couldn't hear; he was lost in the wonder of being on the lake. Maybe in his mind he was a pirate, or a deep-sea angler. Or maybe Jack was just a son out fishing with his dad.

In February I had put the word out that I was looking for a boat, and I got a lot of response. I was fortunate enough to get a 14-foot aluminum boat with a 10-hp outboard and a trailer.

And it was a gift.

I won't say who, so don't ask, but I was given this boat by someone who thought I could use it. No charge. There weren't any guarantees: The motor started the last time the boat was on the water, but that was a few years ago. It's been used, but the boat shouldn't leak. Other than that, just come get it.

I was in disbelief. Someone was giving me a boat and motor? Giving? Someone else must want it? Nope.

After waiting the appropriate amount of time to see if in fact anyone might, I went and got the boat. I had the motor serviced, and now everything seems fine and good, and here it is.

On the lake Jack and I tried our luck at catching a fish in a weedy bay, but we didn't have any success. We pulled our anchor and headed to another spot where Jack said he'd caught some bluegills while out with my brother-in-law.

Sure enough, Jack was right. At the bow of the boat my son started catching bluegills out of the lily pads with some regularity. None were too big, really, but he was having a great time ... one fish after another.

I began casting away from shore with a big-bodied rubber jig. I thought that perhaps a bass might be lurking in the deeper water, out near the edge of the underwater cabbage. I didn't feel like messing with bluegills.

As I worked the jig along and just above the cabbage I saw a flash of a big fish take my lure. Line peeled easily from the reel. I figured it was a northern pike, and whimsically hoped it was a muskie. It pulled hard for quite a while, making four or five great runs that had line screaming off the spool, before giving in.

It was a 30-inch northern pike. I held it up for Jack to see.

"Nice one, Dad," Jack said. I let the fish go.

We caught a few more bluegills there, and then a few more elsewhere. We trolled along another shoreline. We dropped anchor here and there. Before we knew it Jack and I had put 4 hours under our belts in this our maiden voyage of our new boat. The time had melted away.

I told Jack that if anything ever happened to me, this was his boat. Don't let anyone take it and don't let Mom sell it. When you get to be old enough you can come get it and it will be yours forever.

"Nothing's going to happen to you," he said. I sensed a little disappointment in his voice.

Heading back to the landing, a slight spray coming off the water as we pushed ahead, again Jack sat in the bow and I sat at the stern. My son didn't look at me this time, but I heard him. "I sure do love this boat."

Sometimes I get more emotional than I should. And sometimes I make a bigger deal out of things than necessary. I don't have any explanations for why I do that; I am who I am. But this giving of a boat is more than a gift of metal and machine. It's a gift of father-and-son experiences, family outings and summertime trips. And I'm truly thankful to those who passed that along, and extremely grateful. Thank you.

And like Jack, I sure do love this boat. *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.



PHIL SCHWEIK

LINES FROM A HOOKSETTER*Muskies on top*

Early fall still offers plenty of opportunity to fish muskies with topwater baits.

It's early morning and the sun is just about to come up. A slight hint of the upcoming day is in the air and the only noise is that of my baitcasting reel as I retrieve my lure.

In my mind it is a perfect morning for topwater muskie fishing. The water is calm, the fish are shallow and the only thing I can think about is that explosive, violent strike on the surface.

Targeting muskies on the surface has got to be the most exciting way for any angler who has ever pursued this awesome fish. But to be successful at this type of fishing a person has to have a complete arsenal of topwater baits, and they have to know when to use the right topwater bait for the right situation.

TIME OF DAY

I believe this is the most important factor when deciding whether or not to run topwater baits. Generally, I'll run topwater baits for the first 2-3 hours of the day. As the day progresses, I'll run other lures until the last 2 hours of the day, and then I'll switch back to running topwater lures.

Nighttime is always a good time to run topwater lures, but run noisy topwater lures at night—such as a Top Raider by Bucher Tackle, a Cisco Kid by Suick or the Sputter Duck by Ducktail lures—to make up for the lack of visibility.

TIME OF YEAR

As simple way to figure this one out is to follow this rule: If the water temperature is above 60 degrees, like it often is in early fall, you can effectively run topwater baits. Start out early in the year with slow moving glide-style baits, and as the season progresses move into the louder prop-style baits. Once the season starts to wind down in the fall, go back to the glide-style baits.

SUNNY OR OVERCAST

Sunny or overcast days will determine two things: the amount of time I run my topwater baits and the color I use.

If it's sunny, I'll run topwater baits for the first 2 hours and the last 2 hours of the day. This is when the fish that are up shallow can effectively be targeted.

If it's overcast or if it starts to rain, you will probably find me or someone in my boat running some sort of topwater bait. I've found that the Hawg Wobbler is one of the best producers when it starts to rain.

Color can be determined by the amount of daylight and the water clarity. I like to run topwater baits with orange or yellow bottoms in stained water or on overcast days. Suicks in the storm pattern or Jackpots in the firetiger color have been very good producers the past few years.

If the water is clear or it's a sunny day, I like baits with very dark or black bottoms to give them a better outline

against the surface. At night I like to run baits with a black bottom; this will silhouette better than other colors against the nighttime surface.

LOCATION

Topwater baits can be run in just about any situation. I like to throw surface lures over shallow rocks early and late in the day. The warm sun will heat up the rocks and the water around them throughout the day and attract fish early into the evening.

Weeds are always a good place to throw surface lures, too. A lot of good anglers run topwater baits over weeds in water from 1 to 15 feet deep. It's a good way to efficiently work all areas of a thick weedbed without the constant weed tangle that can form around the hooks and blades of a bucktail or crankbait.

Wood is another area where I'll run topwater baits, and it's arguably the most efficient way to get lures in front of a muskie that's hanging around a downed tree or a submerged log.

WINDY OR CALM

Wind can play a big part of what I'm throwing, but a good rule of thumb to

follow is that if it's calm, I prefer glide-style baits. If it's windy, prop-style baits come out to play.

SPEED

One of the things most anglers don't take into consideration when throwing topwater baits is the retrieval speed.

Speed will be determined by the type of topwater bait you're using. For glide-style baits, a slow tantalizing retrieve with the side-to-side motion is all that's needed.

For prop-style baits, most guys run their lures at a slow and steady speed. This works in most cases, but to be more effective, a quick "pop" of the rod now and then will spray water into the air and create the effect of a pursued meal trying to get away.

Try a couple of these tips next time you're on the water and see if you can't provoke a muskie to strike a topwater bait. Believe me, you won't forget it! *WS*

Phil Schweik owns and operates Hooksetters Guide Service, and can be reached at: 715.581.2620 or by visiting www.hooksetters.biz.

"REEL" MEN BLEED**Are You a Wisconsin Blood Brother?****Be a Hero.
Give Blood.**

Dave Duwe,
OWO Writer

TOM CARPENTER

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Stick to the seams for more ruffed grouse

Even when ruffed grouse are “up” in their population cycle, there isn’t a bird behind every tree. You need to read habitat and work the right kinds of cover to find the most birds. Seams between cover types are your best.

Forest disturbance provides the best ruffed grouse habitat. Clearcuts, burns, cutovers, fires, logging and windstorms all benefit grouse populations by clearing older trees and allowing brush, vines, bushes and saplings to sprout.

Within this mosaic of disturbed forest, grouse prefer the edges. Ruffs thrive where different cover types meet—seams where food, loafing areas, escape cover and roosting trees come together. This means a grouse has to travel less to get what it needs, reducing exposure to predators.

Let’s explore six key seams for hunting Wisconsin ruffs this fall. Recognizing productive cover seams, and knowing how to hunt them, will help you find and flush more birds. It’s up to you to make the shot!

MARSH/TIMBER

The edge between a wetland marsh and a young hardwood forest (preferably aspen or popple) is prime. Grouse like low, moist areas for the cover that grow thickly and the food that’s produced, including berries, greens and insects. Early in the season, moist areas often mean cooler areas.

Also, as young birds strike out and leave their mother during fall, they walk to their new destinations. When they meet an unfriendly obstacle—such as a marsh—they stall or wander along it.

Hunt a marsh/timber seam from inside the woods, working 10-15 yards from the edge. If you have a dog, let it work between you and the timber edge. If you don’t see birds on your first swing, take another pass just inside the edge, or a little farther into the timber.

YOUNG TIMBER/ MATURE TIMBER

I once told a friend the following when he graciously took me to a park-like spot he thought was birdy: “If you’re having a pleasant stroll, there probably aren’t many birds. If you want grouse, you have to be fighting brush, twisting about, moving in and out, and maneuvering through thick spots.”

We went to an edge where loggers had clearcut a block of the forest 7 or 8 years before. Working the seams and



The author likes to hunt the seams between cover types to find more ruffed grouse, and is often rewarded with a bonus woodcock, too.

transitions between the buggy-whip popple saplings and the bigger trees, we shot three birds (and missed a couple) in short order.

Big timber offers roosting trees and good buds to eat, but the thick stuff holds more of what the birds need—protection—during most legal shooting hours.

WATERWAYS

Brooks, creeks and streams offer prime grouse cover on their flanks. Grouse don’t mind damp feet, and the soil is moist, the cover is thick and the

food supply rich. Waterways also provide an easy route to follow on your hunt.

If the stream is small, work your way up one side, hop it, then hunt the other side back. Take varying paths through the cover—a swing along the water’s edge, a push through cover that’s farther back and a little elevated. Generally, the warmer or windier the day, the lower and closer to water the birds will be.

TAG ALDERS/TIMBER

Grouse love tag alders. Find a tag

alder seam situation and the opportunities get even better. Tag alder thickets bordering young aspen timber are especially productive. The attractions: Soft and succulent greens to eat grow in the moist soil, and the density of the cover (including draping overhead branches that provide protection from hawks and owls).

Tag alders are great in the early season because shade and dampness keep conditions cool. Windy days, which can really unnerve grouse, push birds into quiet tag alder lowlands. Some days grouse can only be found deep in the meanest, wettest cover, while other days the birds stay higher and dryer.

EVERGREENS/HARDWOODS

The zone between evergreens and hardwood timber, especially where the tree types mix, makes a great grouse spot. These seams get even better when cold weather has the birds preferring evergreens as roost trees.

Hemlocks and spruces, with their denser needles, attract more grouse than sterile plantations of long-leaf pines. Cedar swamp edges fall under this seam type.

CROP FIELDS/TIMBER

Crop fields aren’t just for pheasants. Through much of Wisconsin’s grouse range, fields butt-up against forests, providing sunny openings and thick transition cover for ruffs.

With a couple hunters, put one in the woods and one tight on the field edge. The woods hunter will get more shots; the field hunter is mostly there to let the birds know that’s not a good way to fly. Trade spots occasionally to even shooting opportunities. If you’re hunting alone, stick to the brush, where you’ll get more shots. If any birds escape across the field, find them later on the edge of the other cover.

When you hit the grouse woods this fall, don’t go traipsing off into the brush without a plan. There’s a smarter and more productive way to hunt. Grouse prefer the transition zones between cover types. Work these seams to find more birds, more often. *W*

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

SUZETTE CURTIS

RECIPES BY SUZETTE

The flavors of flight

MOURNING DOVE
We have an abundance of mourning doves living in our part of Wisconsin (Oshkosh), and my family enjoys watching them nest and listening to their songs.

I have to admit I was not in favor of having a dove hunting season when that subject came up a few years back. However, I have seen some of the experienced and not-so-experienced hunters in our family try their hands at dove hunting—and the doves are truly formidable opponents.

As always, I'm commissioned to cooking the bounty, and they are quite delicious, too.

PHEASANT
The hunters in our family do a lot of different bird hunting, but pheasant is probably the most common in our home. I don't claim to be the expert pheasant cook, so I asked our son, David, if he would be willing to share one of his expert recipes. I guarantee you will enjoy his Pheasant Marsala.

I did come up with a recipe of my own for preparing roast pheasant. The key is to first sear the halves in a pan to lock in the moisture. Then, roasting at a high temperature maintains that moistness.

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.

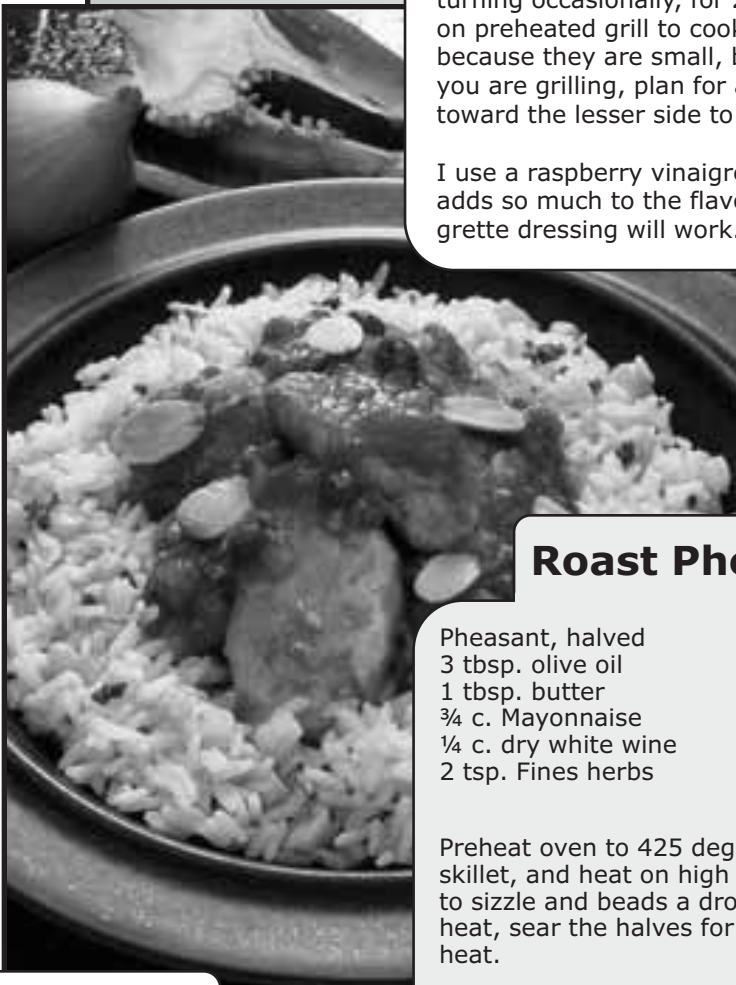
Grilled Dove

One of the easiest ways I've found to prepare dove breasts is to marinate them and simply cook them on the grill. Because they are so small, if you want them for a main dish you should plan for 3-4 breasts per person.

Dove breasts
Raspberry vinaigrette dressing

Place dove breasts in a re-sealable plastic bag and pour in enough dressing to cover the breasts completely. Seal bag and refrigerate, turning occasionally, for 24 hours. Discard marinade and place breasts on preheated grill to cook through. (They don't take long to cook because they are small, but depending on the temperature at which you are grilling, plan for anywhere from 3-5 minutes each, leaning toward the lesser side to keep them moist.) Serve immediately.

I use a raspberry vinaigrette dressing because the raspberry flavor adds so much to the flavor of the doves; however, any type of vinaigrette dressing will work.



Roast Pheasant

Pheasant, halved
3 tbsp. olive oil
1 tbsp. butter
3/4 c. Mayonnaise
1/4 c. dry white wine
2 tsp. Fines herbs

Sautéed mushrooms: 8-oz. package, sliced
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. minced garlic or 1 clove minced
2 tbsp. dry white wine

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Add olive oil and butter to an oven-proof skillet, and heat on high on top of stove. When oil/butter is hot enough to sizzle and beads a drop of water, add pheasant halves. Still on high heat, sear the halves for 2 minutes on each side. Remove pan from heat.

Combine mayonnaise, wine and Fines herbs in a small bowl. Brush enough mixture over pheasant halves to cover and place skillet in oven. Put remaining mixture into the refrigerator until serving time. Roast pheasant, uncovered, for 25-30 minutes until juices run clear. Meanwhile, sauté mushrooms.

Add remaining olive oil and garlic to medium-size pan and place on stovetop over medium heat. Sauté garlic until fragrant. Add sliced mushrooms and cook, stirring, until translucent. Turn heat up to high and add wine. Cook on high until wine has reduced (about 2 minutes), then remove pan from heat and set aside.

Place pheasant halves on platter, top with sautéed mushrooms and remaining sauce.

This is wonderful served with wild rice and asparagus. It serves four in our family because two of us prefer the dark leg meat, and the other two prefer the white breast meat. So, plan accordingly for your own family's preferences.

Pheasant Marsala

Pheasant, quartered	1/2 Vidalia onion, julienne
1/2 c. chardonnay	1/4 c. sun-dried tomatoes, julienne
4 tbsp. olive oil	1 c. chicken broth
1/4 c. sherry	Salt to taste
1/4 c. butter	Rice (prepare according to package directions)
1 tbsp. Italian herb mix, dry	Course ground pepper to taste
1 1/2 tsp. minced garlic	

In 12-inch skillet over medium heat—in hot butter, olive oil, garlic and onion—brown pheasant on both sides. Add tomatoes, chicken broth, chardonnay and sherry. Sprinkle with herbs. Cover and simmer 1 hour. Serve over rice. Pairs nicely with Pinot Noir.

LEE GATZKE

BLOOD BROTHERS OUTDOORS

Treestands for whitetails: portable vs. permanent

Which elevated treestand is the best choice for hunting white-tails: a portable or a permanent? Each stand has advantages that make them popular, but is one stand type more effective than the other?

Let's examine some pros and cons. Permanent stands are typically chained or nailed to a tree, making them immobile. Portable stands are carried in, set up, and taken down at the hunters' discretion. I've been successful out of each type of stand; however, one type has been more productive.

THE "PROS" OF A PORTABLE

Without a doubt, the first time a properly scouted stand location is hunted is the most productive hunt, as far as seeing and shooting deer is concerned. This is because the deer have not seen or smelled humans in that area for some time and feel safe in that particular location.

A good example of this happens every year on opening day of archery deer season. When I do my pre-season scouting I'm typically glassing bucks from a distance and do not enter the area where I will hang my stand until I'm ready to hunt it.

Portable treestands offer the element of surprise each time they're set up in a different location, which is a huge advantage for creating shot opportunities. I fully expect to have a



Hunting like a vagabond has its advantages. You can carry everything on your back, and the deer rarely see—or smell—you coming.

"I fully expect to have a shot opportunity the first time I hunt a particular location."

shot opportunity the first time I hunt a particular location.

Portables can be positioned downwind of travel routes anytime you hunt, whereas you must wait for a favorable wind to hunt a permanent stand. It takes a little practice to set up a portable without making much noise, but it can be done.

If the wind should change during your hunt, you can reposition your portable stand immediately and still be hunting the spot correctly. If the wind changes while you're hunting from a permanent stand, you probably will have to abandon that spot unless you have another stand positioned nearby, which is usually not the case.

In short, portables allow you to fine-tune your location—as the conditions dictate each time you hunt—which is something bowhunter must do. In addition, portables are the only stands allowed on most

public land.

"PROS" FOR PERMANENTS

Permanent stands are convenient because you have previously placed them in a good spot and you can access them without making any noise, or expending time and energy setting them up. Setting up portables in the dark requires time and patience to do it quietly, something a permanent stand hunter doesn't have to deal with.

Good shooting lanes are cleared from the permanent stand site well in advance of the time it is hunted, along with yardages being determined then as well. Some of my most memorable gun hunts took place in a particular permanent stand I nailed to a swamp oak on my property. Opening day of gun season meant there would be heavy hunting pressure from the neighbors, who would push deer past this location all day long.

Permanent stands can be very effective when you know a pattern will repeat itself that forces deer through a particular spot. Permanent stands are typically more comfortable to hunt

from, which can allow a hunter to stay on stand longer.

Portables take some effort to set up quietly to prevent spooking nearby deer, and if you hunt heavy cover your shooting lanes will be more limited than hunting from a permanent stand where you have previously cleared lanes.

A permanent stand's biggest downfall is that deer soon figure out their location. Because deer know their surroundings as well as you know where your refrigerator is, permanents are easily discovered by them. Deer, especially mature deer, soon detour around these permanent stands.


Long ago I found that my deer sightings reduced dramatically each time I re-visited my permanent stands. Too often a permanent stand will be over-hunted because it's often easier to hunt from than setting up a portable. My hunting group had plenty of good spots go cold because we kept going back to the same permanent stand that originally produced so well.

Each time you visit a stand site you lay down a scent trail that can last for days. If you visit a stand site every few days, you are leaving almost a continuous scent trail which the deer will remember, and their reaction will be to avoid that area, especially during daylight hours.

PORTABLES PREFERRED

Personally, I'll take portable tree-stand over a permanent almost every time. Portables give the hunters—especially bowhunters—the versatility to move right on top of the deer if necessary. I can strap a portable on my back and scout a given area and, upon finding good sign, set up downwind immediately.

It is extra work to be setting up stands and taking them down after each hunt, but this effort is what it takes to hunt deer successfully. When portables are properly hung and relocated each time you hunt, your success will be far greater than hunting out of permanent stands.

Consider these thoughts and consider your hunting property and tactics, and then decide what works best for you. 



Lee Gatzke is a member of Blood Brothers Outdoors, creator of practical and tactical deer hunting videos. Gatzke can be reached at www.bloodbro.com.

DIANE SCHAUER

PUBLIC HUNTING GROUNDS

More than deer and ducks

Although hunting weighs heavy on the minds of most outdoorsmen during September and October, Calumet County offers outdoor excitement for the entire family.

In his article on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund featured in the January/February 2009, issue, Jeff Nania wrote:

"First and foremost, hunters, anglers and trappers remain the backbone of conservation in this state ... Wisconsin has been a national leader in 'on the ground' habitat restoration programs all driven by sportsmen and women. Our restorations benefit species of all kinds, few of which are ever hunted."

Truer words have not been written. Public hunting grounds and the restoration efforts applied to them have created a wealth of diverse habitat for all species. In Calumet County alone we have more than 9,000 acres of public hunting grounds to provide hunting opportunities for many game species. These include wild turkeys, pheasants, waterfowl and, though their numbers are disputed, deer.

The Brillion Wildlife Area (BWA) and the Killsnake Wildlife Area (KWA) make up most of the public hunting lands in Calumet County. Both properties are managed for waterfowl production and have had "on the ground" restorations largely funded by the Fish and Wildlife service, Ducks Unlimited and a number of local sportsmen's groups.

The properties also support upland and grassland plants and animals, with about 3,000 acres planted in grasslands and prairie habitat. Looking at the non-game species supported by these two properties can be quite eye-opening.

The Manitowoc River, Spring Creek and the Killsnake River run through the properties. Taking advantage of these waters, in addition to various game species of waterfowl, are ospreys. About 60 young ospreys have fledged from platforms erected to support their nests within these two wildlife areas.

It's fun to see ospreys build their nests in April. Watch this activity from the marsh overlook platform at the BWA. The adults and their young are visible at both properties all summer long. Black terns, Wilson's phalaropes and bald eagles also nest here.

Whooping cranes have visited Calumet County, too.

Our wetland areas are alive with sounds. Besides the redwing blackbirds, listen for the soras and sandhill cranes in spring or the yellow-headed blackbirds in mid summer. In addition to birds, amphibians are strong and loud, too. Leopard, green and chorus frogs are particularly abundant, but there are plenty of wood frogs and toads to entertain as well.

The upland areas have dozens of bobolinks in May and June. Bluebirds, meadowlarks, and swallows—barn, cliff and tree—flock to the public hunting grounds. By mid summer the dickcissels visit and young harriers cruise the fields, learning to hunt these grounds for themselves.

Summer is fabulous. The prairies are filled with spectacular colors: orange milkweeds, purple and white prairie clovers, yellow compass and cup plants. The white of the wild quinine and culvers root compliment the purples of the lupines, blazing stars and coneflowers.

The plants support an amazing community of insects, too, and this is a good thing! Take a leisurely stroll along the trails or create your own route in our public hunting grounds. You never know what you'll encounter.

The dragonflies and damselflies will delight you. The butterfly action is constant. You can never predict which flying beauties you'll encounter: monarchs, viceroys, mourning cloaks, black or tiger swallowtails, Compton's and Milbert's tortoiseshells, and many types of fritillaries. Look closely, leaf hoppers are beautiful little works of art and some spiders are great at the art of camouflage.

During fall, the public hunting grounds attract hundreds of sandhill cranes and egrets gathering for the migration south.

Winter supports shrikes, snow buntings, Lapland longspurs, horned larks and juncos. If the vole population is strong, our public hunting grounds provide winter hunting by dozens of rough-legged hawks, short-eared owls and the occasional snowy owl. Have you ever thought about raptors hunting voles as a significant by-product of managing our public lands for people to hunt?


What a tremendous resource we



Bluebird (top), yellow-headed black bird (bottom). Photos by Ken Koehler.

"Wisconsin has been a national leader in 'on the ground' habitat restoration programs all driven by sportsmen and women. Our restorations benefit species of all kinds, few of which are ever hunted."

have for hunters and non-hunters alike. Continued public land purchases through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, supported by great conservationists—the sportsmen and women of Wisconsin—provide a wealth of opportunities for everyone in this state. Thanks to each and every one of you!

For additional information about the public hunting grounds and outdoor recreational opportunities in Calumet County, visit www.TravelCalumet.com. . 

Diane Schauer is the aquatic invasive species coordinator for Calumet County.

DAVE SURA

SHORE BETS*Spawn tying 101: Sacking your way to better fishing*

Using the correct type of spawn is instrumental in catching the species you're targeting. Trout most often prefer trout spawn, and salmon generally prefer salmon spawn.

Each fall and winter you'll find me fishing the Root River for more than just enjoyment. Besides freezing, being called nuts by family and friends and much needed stress relief, getting spawn for the following spring, summer and fall is of utmost importance. Without these sacs of gold, fishing for Great Lakes trout is more difficult. Tying several hundred or more of these is a pain, but the end result is worth it.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

There are several supplies you'll need prior to tying sacs. The first and most important is a Spawnee, which is a device designed to help tie sacs.

You'll also need netting, Magic

Thread, a small scissors and a plastic teaspoon. When purchasing netting, I prefer the 4-inch squares, and I also prefer orange netting because spawn is naturally orange; however, the other colors do work and can out-produce the orange some days.

You'll also need paper towels, paper plates, empty butter containers, resalable bags and a curing agent, such as Borax.

TYING AND CURING

Once you have the supplies you need to get spawn, and the best way to get loose spawn is to catch spawning fish.

I begin tying by setting everything I'll need in front of me. Then I fill the butter container with spawn from the fridge (uncured) and pre-cut several pieces of Magic Thread. Place a piece of netting over the diamond-shaped hole on the Spawnee. Fill the spoon about halfway and pour the eggs on the netting. Push the netting down through the hole as you pour the eggs. Close the hole on the Spawnee and pull the netting tight around the eggs.

The tighter the netting is the better the sacs will be, but tighten carefully without crushing the eggs. Take a piece of thread, wrap it around the top of the sac below the Spawnee two or three times, pull tight, repeat, then pull the other end tight. Cut the excess netting and thread off, open the Spawnee—and it's done.

You can usually tie between 75-100 nickel-size sacs from each fish. Once I finish tying the eggs, I rinse the sacs and dry them by placing them on paper-towel-covered plate in the fridge for 15-30 minutes.

Once they are dry, you can freeze them or cure them for use. I usually freeze them unless I plan on using them soon.

To freeze them, I wrap 2-4 sacs in aluminum foil and place them in a mason jar or Ziploc bag. Make sure to remove as much air as possible. I remove the air from mason jars by burning a piece of wax paper in the jar then placing the lid on the jar while the paper is burning. Use a straw to suck the air out of a Ziploc bag.

To cure the sacs, follow these steps:

1. Place the sacs into an empty butter container or Ziploc bag.
2. Pour enough borax into the container to lightly coat each sac.
3. Close the container and shake the sacs so the borax covers each sac completely.
4. Empty the excess borax from the container and place the container of sacs in the fridge for 24-48 hours before use. The borax will be absorbed into the eggs, which hardens the egg shells and prevents the sacs from turning white during use.

EQUIPMENT AND TACTICS

When considering using spawn for bait this fall, first ask yourself what species you want to target. If you plan to fish for salmon, which tend to show up first in the fall, I suggest using spawn from salmon. For whatever reason, salmon prefer salmon spawn.

The same goes for later-arriving trout species; use trout spawn, as they

prefer trout spawn. If you don't have both, use what you have because fresh spawn is still better than the store bought alternatives.

Fishing spawn is quite simple. For the most part, you'll be fishing spawn under a float. It can be fished off the bottom; however floating it works the best.

The tackle you'll need should include an 8-13 foot salmon/steelhead rod, a reel that holds 200-300 yards of 8- to 12-pound line, floats, No. 6 or No. 4 octopus hooks, sinkers, and swivels. A large, long-handled net is also necessary when fishing piers.

When fishing the piers or harbor areas I generally fish the middle of the water column. Most piers have some current so cast up current and let the spawn float down.

When fishing a river I like to keep the bait as close to the bottom as possible. Fishing spawn is most effective when fishing deeper, slower-moving sections of the river. Again cast upstream and allow the spawn to float down stream.

Although tying spawn is not the most enjoyable part of fishing, it's necessary if you plan to fish for trout on the Great Lakes. By following these simple steps, you too will find yourself sacking in on the awesome salmon and trout action this fall. *WS*

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 steel-headsura@yahoo.com.

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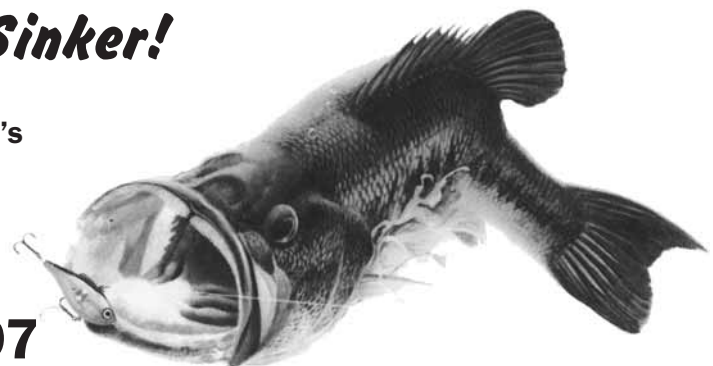
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JERRY KIESOW

FLY FISHING IN WISCONSIN

Fall: The time for trout and salmon

In past issues we've discussed the basic, getting-started tackle. Now, it's time we discuss specific stuff for specific species.

INLAND TROUT

September and October are trout and salmon months. The catch and digest, inland stream trout season ends September 30. Sometime during the last 2 weeks of the month, depending on my travel schedule, I'll take a day and celebrate the end of that season. (I prefer to close a season without the crowds, as opposed to being with the hoards on opening day.)

I will take my three-weight rod,



Basic starter flies for fall salmon include: (top to bottom) Black, brown, and white Woolly Buggers; purple and black egg-sucking leaches; and three varieties of egg flies.

reel, double-taper line and a selection of nymphs, drys, wets and streamers, and I'll fish the north branch of the Pike River in Marinette County. I'll spend at least 4 hours there, probably more, and admire each and every native brookie I land.

Last year I spent the majority of my day changing flies and enjoying the feel of swirling current around my legs. Then, as I was working my way back to where I began, I tied on a No. 10 Pass Lake wet fly. In the last 45 minutes of my season, I caught eight brook trout ranging in size from 5-10 inches. What a great way to end. Not only were the trout in full pre-spawn colors, but the maples, birch, oaks and poplar were also in their pre-peak colors.

SALMON

By the middle of September, the kings and Chinook salmon have begun to trickle into the tributaries from Lake Michigan to make their final run to spawn and die. By October, the run is in full swing and the streams are full of both salmon and fishermen.

This is when I rig up my eight-weight rod, replace the boxes of small natural flies I used for the stream trout with a couple of boxes of egg flies, egg-sucking leaches (love that name) and Woolly Buggers. My leaders are switched from 6X to 1X.

I'll fish a variety of rivers in my area: the Menominee, the Milwaukee and the Sheboygan. (All fishable tribu-

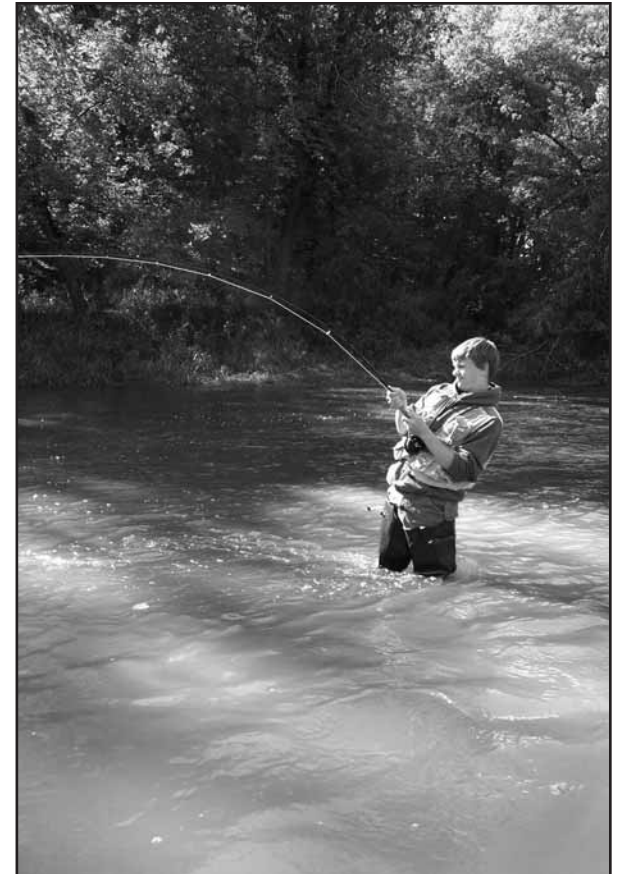
taries are shown in red in the "Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations and Guide" booklet maps.)

The chins are the first of the anadromous salmonoids to spawn. They will be 4 years old and range in weight from 10 to 30 pounds (thus the need for the heavier tackle).

Cohos follow, and often share the streambeds with chinooks. Once the cohos arrive I drop my leader weight to 2X, and if the water levels are low and clear, I will go to 3X.


Three years ago I introduced my grandson, who was 14 at the time, to fly fishing for salmon. He was a beginner fly fisherman, but he caught fish without too much trouble. He had never caught a 15-pound fish of any kind before, on any tackle, and he had a ball.

Often you will find steelheads and browns following the salmon into the rivers to feed on the eggs as they are deposited in the riverbed. This is a time when these trout are most vulnerable. Later in the year, during November and December, when these trout are the target species in the rivers after the salmon have died, they



Take a grandson or granddaughter—or some other youngster—fly fishing for salmon this fall. They will love it, and so will you.

become very challenging to catch. But then, that's a whole 'nother story.

Keep a good thought! 

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.

FALL FLY CHECKLIST

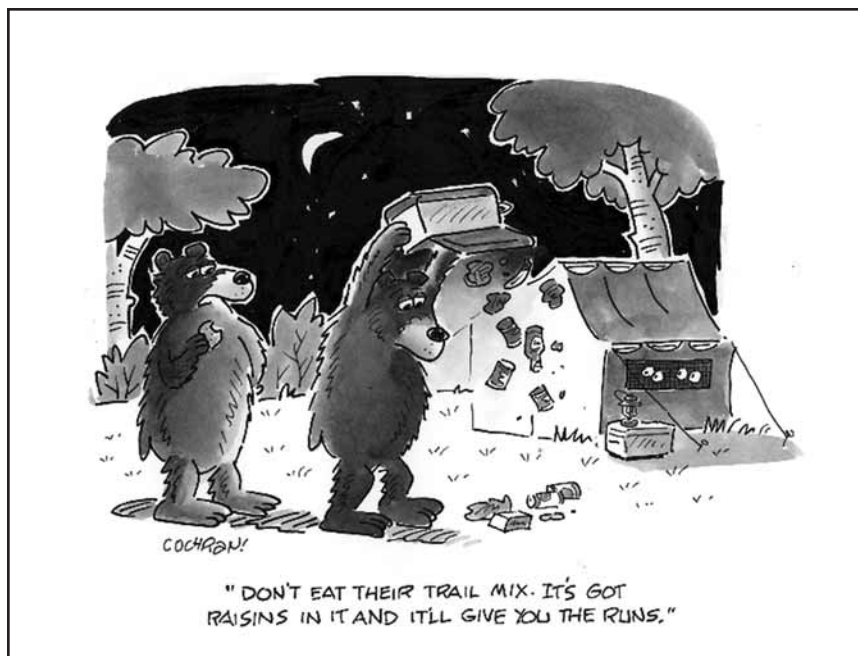
If you have never fly fished for salmon in the rivers before, here are some things you might want to know:

Polaroid glasses are a tremendous help. Most of your fishing is sight fishing. Cutting the glare is a must.

A large net is helpful, but if you only have a small one—one that will not handle a 30-inch fish—do not take it! Why? Because you will try to use it. You are much better off tailing or beaching the fish. Attempting to land a big fish with a small net will likely result in a lost trophy.

A camera to record your catch is always a plus.

Also, there are times when the fish are so numerous that when you lift your rod to recast, or as your fly drifts through a run, you might end up foul-hooking a fish in the back or tail. For that reason, I use **barbless hooks**. A foul-hooked fish can be "shaken off" easier from a barbless hook. Foul-hooked fish must be returned to the water; that's the law.



1
SERVING
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PRESENTS

— Fishing Guide — DENNIS RADLOFF

The Green Bay muskie

By Dick Ellis

The monotony of a strike-less 6 hours on the Fox River at Green Bay wasn't keeping Dennis Radloff from feeling the magic of a guide's sixth sense. Waves pushed easily against the south shore of the river as the afternoon wore on and welcomed sunshine began to finally break a stubborn October sky. Radloff was "feeling" a muskie.

"I think this is the place," Radloff said as Steve Heiting continued to work a Baby Depth Raider. "The waves have been pushing baitfish up on this sand shelf. The sun is going make these firetiger colors stand out. It's a perfect ambush spot for a big fish."

Radloff should know. In just 5 years of concentrating on the waters of Green Bay and the Fox, Radloff clients have taken and released hundreds of fish. Reflective of the potential of the Fox in fall, in 2006 Radloff clients caught and released 114 fish in 21 days with two measuring more than 50 inches. At the peak of that frenzy, 53 muskies were caught in 5 days (10, 10, 11, 12 and 10 fish, respectively), all taken casting. Radloff's biggest Green Bay muskie measured 53 inches.

Heiting ended the drought minutes later when a spotted muskie rose from the murky water of the Fox to slam the florescent bait. The 35-inch fish

wasn't the big girl the editor of Musky Hunter magazine was looking for, but the tussle beginning with a doubled-over St. Croix and a beautiful muskie rocketing from the water was perfect medicine for three men chasing just that fix.

ORGANIZED CHAOS

Radloff had plotted our course and technique on recent experience, not the sixth sense. And in reality, even before the strike there was nothing monotonous about working the Fox. Listening to two muskie experts discuss tactics on unique muskie water is as interesting as a floating classroom could get. The Fox mystique is built on the spotted strain of muskie, a migrating shad forage base and the opportunity to target enormous fish in fall on a relatively small Green Bay vein.

"There's a chance that the next world record muskie will be taken from these waters," said Heiting, whose Musky Hunter magazine was founded in 1989, the same year Wisconsin DNR biologists traveled to Michigan waters to cultivate the brood stock that would reintroduce the Great Lakes strain of spotted muskie to Green Bay. "There are certainly 40 to 50 pound fish in the system now," Heiting continued. "I

know of one 49-inch fish caught that weighed well more than 40 pounds."

It's the lure of the incredible muskie that brings Radloff back to the Fox so often, chasing the fish to the beat of his own drum. Without exception, the vast majority of Radloff's spotted muskies were taken and released while casting—which is Radloff's preference, although motor

trolling is legal and the most popular technique on the Fox River and Green Bay.

A 50-inch minimum size limit here is also enforced. After passing as an advisory question at the spring hearings, a 54-inch minimum here will be brought to a sportsmen's vote in the 2010 spring hearings.

"I like to cast here but the majority do motor troll," Radloff said. "When they troll, they're running one way or the other up and down the Fox. Casting offers the fish a 90 degree change and I think that takes them off guard. Anywhere I fish, if I raise a muskie I'm a big advocate of corraling it. I move 360 degrees around the fish to show it different angles. I've had better than fair success with it."

The dropping water temperatures of fall coupled with warm water discharge areas on the industrial Fox also work to eliminate much of the intimidation factor of these immense waters. Warm water draws the baitfish into the river, which draws the predators. Those baitfish, Radloff said, are predominantly gizzard shad.

"I think the ultimate key to success up here year-round is the shad," he said. "The more fishermen understand what the shad do, the better he or she is able to target where the muskies are. There's a resident population of muskies in the river, but the nomadic fish follow their food base. They follow the shad out to the Bay and back into the river when the water starts to get cooler in September."

Radloff draws a parallel between the shad and the Cisco forage base on his home waters of Oconomowoc and Okauchee, which draw the predators to deep water. Muskies feed on the Cisco and remain largely unseen by the angler until the swarms of baitfish



Mike Scharf with a 51-inch Fox River Musky from the 2006 season.

spawn. Like the moving Cisco, find the shad and you'll consistently find bigger muskies.

Because the Fox River is dark and dirty, it logically requires a presentation that's both easily seen and heard by the fish. Florescent-colored rattle baits meet the need. According to Radloff, although he often imitates shad with his presentation, his Fox River muskies have been taken on a variety of lure styles. The common factors in addition to sound and sight, he said, is that the bait moves or pushes a significant amount of water as it's retrieved.

"This is super-dark water and the fish can't see the lure easily," Heiting added. "Having bait with a rattle helps the fish feel it through their lateral line; the sensory part of the muskie that runs down its side to detect movement. And having these bright colors helps. Dennis sure called that strike when the sun came out and the waves were pushing the baitfish into this corner."

"The muskie is a unique fish," Radloff said. "But they certainly can be patterned."

For more information on Musky Hunter magazine, call (800) 23MUSKY, or (800) 236-8759. For more information about Dennis Radloff's Sterling Guide Service, call (262) 443-9993 or visit www.sterlingmusky.com.



Rick & Rick Mueller Sr. with a 49-inch Fox River Musky from the 2006 season. This fish was also tagged in October 2005, only 50 yard away from where it was caught in September 2006 at 46-3/4-inch long. It grew 2.25" in 11 months!

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DICK ELLIS

ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS

Dominant eye test crucial to new bow purchase

"What is it with you outdoor writers?" asked Greg Kazmierski, owner of Buck Rub Archery in Waukesha, with a shake of his head and a smile several years ago as he fitted my old bow with a new quiver and bowsight, and handed me the first carbon arrows I would ever purchase. "You guys have some of the rattiest looking equipment that ever walks in here."

OUT WITH THE OLD

With the budget limited, this outdoor writer would rather invest in elite camera equipment tough enough for the field or a reliable laptop that would allow me to file stories in Wisconsin's backcountry. My old Model 870 Remington is battered and worn, my waders are patched enough so that I'm only wet instead of really wet, and if you look closely you will note the not-so-professional-home-made repair jobs on the tips of my fishing rods. As for the bow, while most of my friends speak of feet-per-second, I shoot, have lunch, and then scurry back to watch the arrow hit. It's old. We kind of grew up together.

When I do come into fine equipment, it's usually because my wife, Lori, takes care of me. The Lone Wolf tree-stand I carry on my back in the northern forests was my Christmas present after she learned from hunting partners that the climber I hunted from for 2 decades carried a "50/50 absolute-guarantee-of-probable-season-survival-maybe" from the now-defunct manufacturer.

... AND IN WITH THE NEW

But in 2009, I'll be shooting a Mathews Reezee. With a new Reezee to live and hunt, I approach the season with a few other changes, too. I recruited OWO advisor and expert archer Danny Flood to help the process. My friend is a shooting addict, technical student of the game and owns the Switchback, Prestige and Monster from Mathews. He is living proof that practice makes almost perfect.

First, under Flood's guidance, we quickly determined through the "Dolman" method that I am left-eye dominant and ordered a left-handed bow.

"Shooting with the dominant eye reduces problems," Flood said. "It gives you the ability to shoot with two eyes open, which gives you depth perception, and it lets you shoot comfortably and with ease."

"Try closing your dominant eye" Flood continued. "How comfortable is



Expert Archer Danny Flood, who helped the author establish left eye dominance prior to choosing a bow, shoots this Mathews Monster and several other bows.



Danny Flood shoots daily on the 3-D course at Ojibwa Bowhunters in New Berlin to ensure his top priority of recovering hit deer is maintained during the season.

that? The dominant eye will always command the line of sight when both eyes are open. With one eye open, you have a poorer field of vision and cannot follow the arrow. You can't see if the flight is true."

Switching from right-handed shooting to left-handed shooting was uncomfortable and felt uncoordinated for a relatively short time. The transition overall was smooth and the benefits reaped from the change will last a lifetime. As stated on one internet site, establishing eye dominance "may be especially important in sports which require aim, such as archery, darts or the shooting sports."

Because it's initially uncomfortable, the shooter might want to lower the draw weight temporarily until they gain confidence. Normally, with 60 pound limbs maxed out to 62 pounds, for example, I could decrease the poundage to 50 pounds. And if that draw weight continues into the hunting season, said Flood, then so be it.

"With the Reezee, you're drawing the fastest, most efficient single-cam bow on the market," Flood said. "At 55 pounds of draw weight or less, it's more than enough to make a quick, humane kill—with proper arrow placement."

BRING ON THE ACCESSORIES

Buck Rub Archery Professional Scott Heitman prepared the bow to my preference. Although more high-tech and expensive arrow rests and sites might be on the horizon when my evolution as a shooter warrants change, I purchased those accessories based on ease of use and simplicity.

My Reezee now holds a well-tuned drop-away Trophy Taker rest, which reduces any contact between the arrow, its fletching and the rest prongs. I also chose a slider, single-pin bowsight, which utilizes one pin but "slides" to change with the precise (or estimated) distance of the animal or target.

The single pin was chosen over a

DETERMINING EYE DOMINANCE

For your own home test, take a DVD or CD and hold it up and view a distant object through the center-hole with both eyes open. Alternate closing each eye. Your dominant eye will remain fixed on the object, and the object will jump from view when the non-dominant eye is tested.

Approximately two-thirds of us are right-eye dominant. A "small portion of the populace" according to internet sites, does not have a dominant eye. The rest are left eye dominant.

multi-pin sight to eliminate any chance for aiming on the wrong pin which, for this archer, could happen with the clutter of a multi-pin sight. The hunting environment can already invite mistakes if the shooter does not know his or her limitations or pushes those limitations. Toss in the intangibles, including emotions in need of control during a close encounter with a big buck, and things have the potential to get messy. Because a good hit and recovery is my highest priority, I won't shoot beyond 30 yards anyway, and the single pin is more than adequate.

A 3/16-inch peep sight was also served into the bowstring, which offers enough of an opening to hunt low-light conditions confidently. The sight allows the shooter to center the bowsight's sight ring in the peep sight and establishes a third anchor point in addition to, in my case, a thumb on the jawline and string on the nose.

Finally, we attached a D-loop to the string as the anchor for the Fletch Hunter trigger instead of electing to go with a brass nock set and clipping my release directly to the string. The D-loop allows the archer to make fine-tune adjustments when anchoring on the jawbone and drawing directly behind the arrow. All of this preparation boils down to placing the arrow exactly where the archer intends it to hit.

"It's called ethics," Flood said. "Recovering the deer is the first priority in our hunting camp. Who wants to spend the next 2 days of your hunt looking for a wounded deer?" W

County by County, Explore Wisconsin Outdoors.

Our 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. 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 **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 Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
www.menomoneiechamber.org
www.welcometomenomonie.com

FOND DU LAC COUNTY

Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau
www.glcountry.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
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Treeland Resorts

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SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

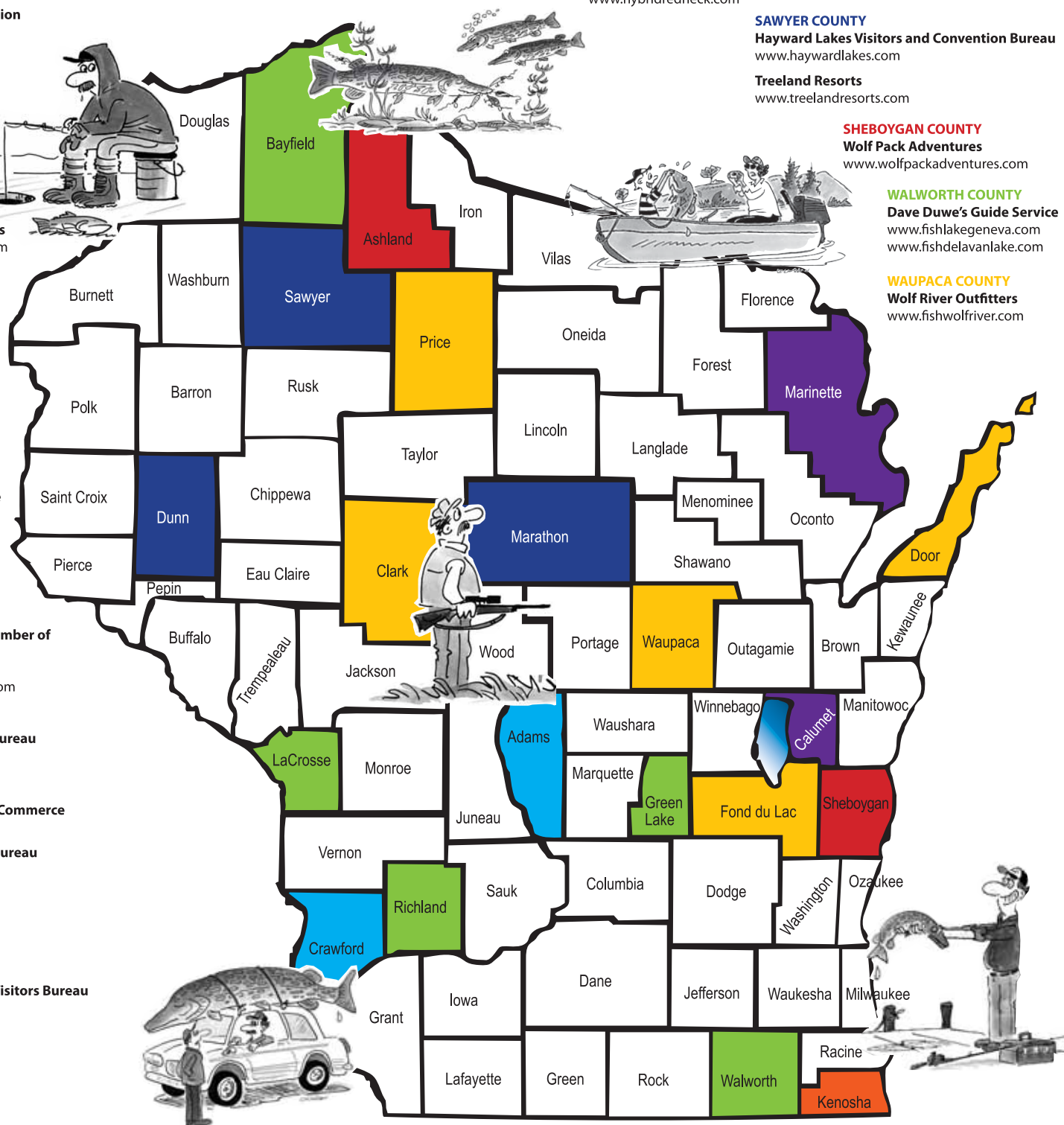
Wolf Pack Adventures
www.wolfpackadventures.com

WALWORTH COUNTY

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- Let-Off 80%

All specifications approximate. * Available in half sizes.

DICK ELLIS

SPILLOVER ROOSTER*Habitat imperative to wild pheasant success*

The following column written after a field hunt in 2004 in southwest Wisconsin emphasizes the impact of habitat and weather on wild roosters. According to DNR Wildlife Technician Brian Buenzow, after mild winters and forgiving springs translated to fabulous hunting for wild roosters in the fall of 2007, a severe winter and wet spring made for extremely difficult hunting last year. When the 2009 season opens October 17, population numbers are expected to be better but remain relatively low.

"Pheasant young of year experience about 80 to 90 percent mortality anyway but with the hard winter and flooding of 2008 that was about 100 percent," Buenzow said. "Down here in southwest Wisconsin we shot more adult birds than young of year and that should never happen. We had a hard winter again and the spring was just so-so. Statewide we had comparable winters and spring so numbers will be down."

In Rock County, Buenzow has seen three broods this summer, when he might see a dozen during a strong year class. The broods though, are big, with 10, 10 and 8 chicks respectively. Even though more prime habitat is decreasing as more Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage is being taken out of production, Buenzow said enough habitat and birds remain to expect bright seasons in the future.

"The pheasants are here," he said. "Results when we have another mild winter and dry spring will be another good season. You can't over-shoot cock pheasants. It's physically impossible. It only takes one rooster to take care of every hen in the area."

Like a pace car unleashing the big engines, fresh scent turned a controlled search for wild rooster into a frenzied chase across a rolling piece of Grant County farmland. Hot on the



track of a cagey "runner", Gunner left the edge of the dirty corn, crashed through the overgrown brush of a deep ravine, and bailed out for the bordering grasslands.

The race would see its finish here. We would win only if I could keep up with Gunner, if the rooster busted cover under pressure from the yellow lab within range of the scattergun, and finally if the aim was true. Acting as the caboose on this choo-choo train of bird-dog-man, my sister and Gunner's owner, Barb Johnson of Mukwonago hurried on with the camera clicking.

We had come to hunt wild birds in Grant County not due to recent stocking or habitat work. But because increasing "crowing" heard during my spring turkey hunts in zone 11 verified that pheasant numbers were growing. Good habitat and perhaps the "spillover" effect of adjacent areas stocked with wild birds were apparently helping the birds to expand naturally.

The weight of one rooster already in the gamebag shifted back and forth as the chase continued. After knocking on doors for permission, probing the crop

edges of two farms over three hours had yielded not a single flush. Paradise was found around the back-forty of farm number three.

Pressed to the corner of the grass, the rooster flushed and a full load of number-six 12-gauge shot ended it quickly. Our hunt was over. It's the kind of success more and more Wisconsin hunters north and south find when mild winters and dry springs produce birds.

According to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist John Dunn, the primary goal of habitat work and wild pheasant release efforts is to prime the pump. Birds are released on the most desirable terrain, with the hope that they will continue to expand without releases to adjacent areas.

Dunn directed the last state releases of the approximate 15 year wild pheasant program around Clear Creek Township in south central Eau Claire County. Five releases totaling 1,370 Iowa strain of pheasants was initiated in the spring of 2000. Dunn hopes that offspring of those birds in the future increase in numbers and expand to meet with wild birds released in Dunn and Pepin Counties under the supervision of Biologist John Cole and Technician Jess Carstens.

"The ultimate goal of the program is to have birds continue to expand and cover more territory on their own," he said. "Just like the goal of the turkey program was to let the birds do their own thing after releases on the best possible

terrain."

Habitat is everything, according to several biologists. A unique aspect of the Clear Creek release area is that the habitat is completely on private lands and established through federal farm bills like the Conservation Reserve Program which compensates farmers to not plant traditional crops. Wisconsin DNR assisted only indirectly by helping to establish warm season grasses.

"The landowner has no obligation to let people on to hunt although we encourage it," Dunn said. "At the beginning they may have felt some obligation to protect the birds and that's good. Taking legally harvested pheasants though, the roosters won't affect the population. There's always another rooster to do the breeding. Now, as long as the landowner is seeing and hearing more birds, they're more receptive to hunters."

The program's main thrust of establishing habitat and then planting wild birds works. In anticipation of releases in Eau Claire County, crowing surveys coordinated over two routes for three years prior to release estimated five roosters total. Post release, crowing counts at Clear Creek jumped to 32, then 41, and 48 this spring.

"Our mild winters certainly have

Continued on page 27



Barb Johnson and Gunner with Grant County wild rooster.


ULTIMATELY, MOTHER NATURE HOLDS THE GAME CARD

Beginning in 1988 and concluding in 2003, according to DNR Wildlife Ecologist Keith Warnke, "tens of thousands" of wild pheasants were released over 27 release sites in Wisconsin from St. Croix County in the north to Green and Rock Counties in the south. Nineteen of the sites received the Iowa strain of bird, and eight sites received wild pheasants from the Jilin province of China.

Locations for releases were selected by a state pheasant committee of upland game specialists after reviewing proposals submitted by biologists working throughout Wisconsin. Basically, different state regions competed against each other for the limited number of releases.

Warnke hunts the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area. Completely on public

lands, the GHRA consists of 13,000 acres and 24 townships including Waupun, Columbus and Fond du Lac. Although he saw a significant number of wild pheasants, Warnke said that private lands planted in desirable habitat are imperative to supplement public acreage.

"Habitat on all public land is not enough to support a high density of birds," he said. "You need private lands participation. We've learned a lot. Establishing wild birds works with good habitat. But, to quote writer George Vuchlich, Ma Nature bats last, in the bottom of the ninth. If we have tough winters, wet springs and poor breeding conditions, we're not going to have good pheasant populations." 



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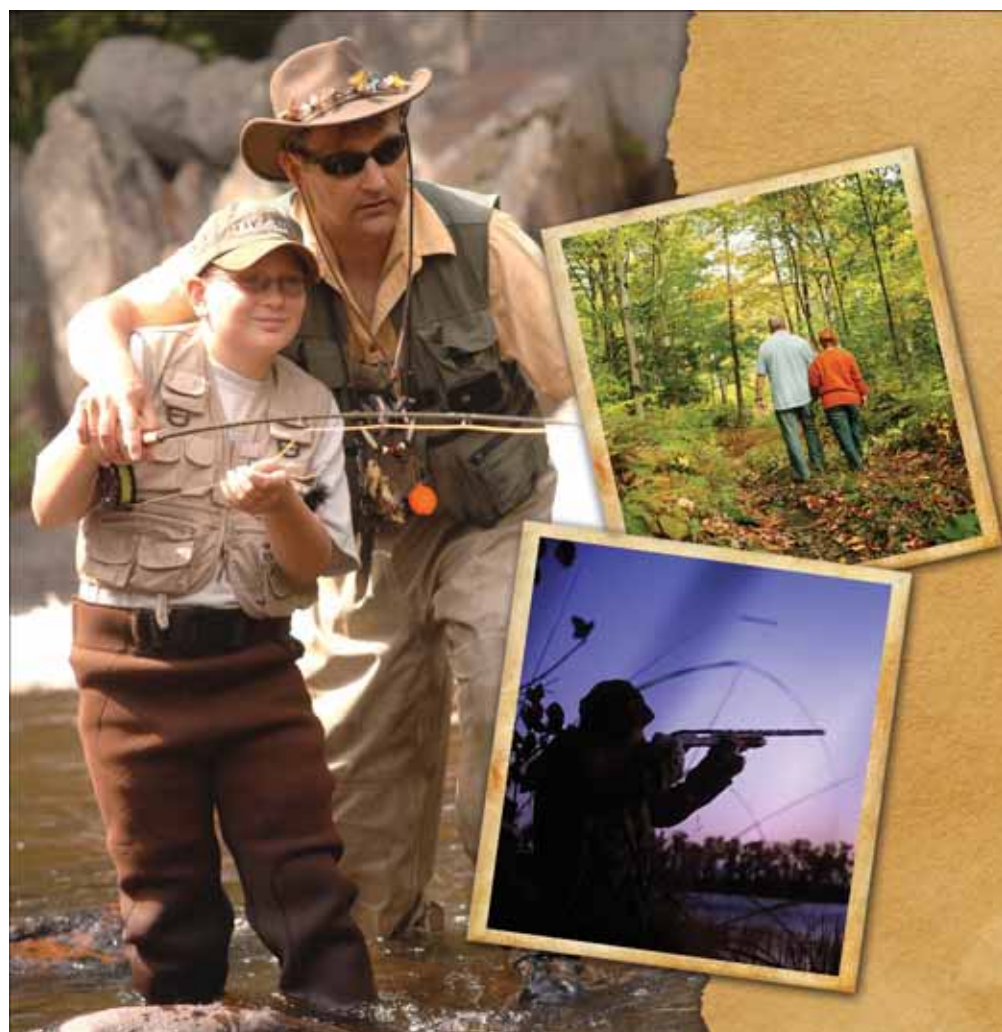

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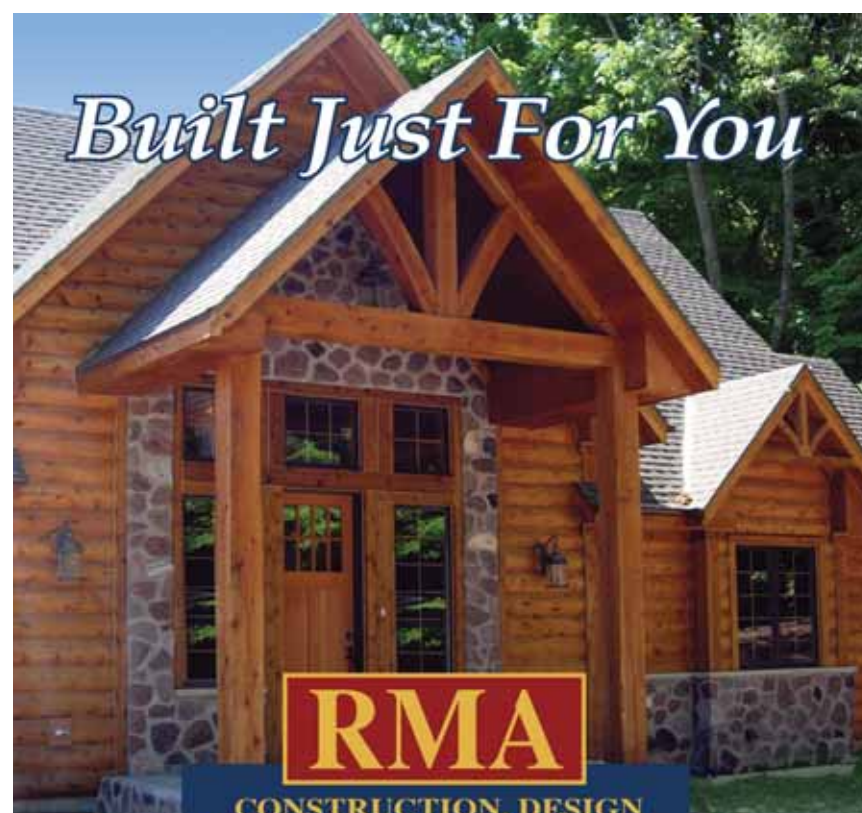
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TAKE SOMEONE HUNTING

Leave a legacy

As you prepare for the fall hunts, or the next time you are afield, ask yourself "How did I become involved in hunting?"

As is most often the case, the answer lies with a person, that individual who took time to introduce you to hunting, kindled that initial interest and nurtured it until you struck out on your own.

Several statewide conservation organizations, the DNR, and legislators worked together to develop the safest mentored hunting law in the country. The new Mentored Hunting Program, recently signed into law by Governor Doyle, provides Wisconsin's hunting community another opportunity to leave a legacy in the form of the next generation of hunters to carry on the hunting heritage and future conservation efforts.

Currently, there is concern nationwide about declining participation in hunting. On a national level – between 1996 and 2006, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation documented a 10% decline in the number of hunters.

In Wisconsin, the hunting tradition is an integral component of our history, culture, and economy. The recruitment of new hunters is an essential element to the continuation of our hunting heritage, wildlife management and conservation in the future. The implications of declining number of hunters for fish and wildlife conservation are many – the future vitality of hunting related conservation organizations, changes in the fish and wildlife program funding streams, reduced ability to control wildlife popu-

lations through hunting, and the reduced economic impact of hunting to name a few.

FAB FOUR

In the end, four essential ingredients are necessary for the future of hunting: 1) healthy wildlife 2) access to a place to hunt 3) hunters 4) and a public that accepts hunting. The mentored hunting program focuses on the third factor by creating a safe and effective mechanism to recruit new hunters.

The Mentored Hunting Program creates a controlled mentoring opportunity that allows any person age 10 or older, resident or nonresident, to experience hunting under controlled conditions without first attending a hunter education course.

These controlled conditions combine to enhance safety by focusing all the attention of the mentor on the person being mentored who is using a firearm or bow. The conditions include:

1. Only one firearm or bow may be used between the mentor and the person being mentored.
2. One on one mentoring – only one person can be mentored at a time.
3. The mentor must at all times be within arms reach of the person being mentored while hunting so the mentor can immediately intervene, if needed.
4. The mentor must be a licensed hunter who has completed hunter safety or was born after January 1, 1973.

Through the efforts of our dedicated core of Hunter Education Instructors over the past 42 years, there have been significant reductions in the number of hunting accidents. If the experience of other states holds true in Wisconsin, this program will ultimately result in more people going through Hunter Education in the future. As mentored hunters strike out on their own, they'll have to take hunter education in order to hunt outside the controlled circumstances of the mentored hunt. Hunting is as safe as it's ever been in Wisconsin, and will continue to get safer in the future as mentored hunters transition into hunter education.

There has been considerable social research conducted to determine the most effective approaches to hunter recruitment. Some key findings support the Mentored Hunting Program.

"It takes a hunter to make a hunter". The social component of hunting is very important. Researchers found that nearly all life long hunters talked about having a role model or mentor that caused them to identify with hunting and the hunting community.

Given the time stressed nature of society today, research suggests mentoring programs that make it easy to participate and allow people to safely "test drive" a hunting experience with a relatively low investment of time will be important in future recruiting efforts.

Recruiting adults is also important. One study conducted here in Wisconsin, based on interviews of 5000 hunters, found that approximately twenty percent (20%) of new hunters came in during their early twenties. These hunters in their 20's were often recruited in a work situation by peers who hunted, or were recruited through marriage when a member of the family they married into recruited them into hunting. This research demonstrates the importance and potential effectiveness of the adult



"The Mentored Hunting Program creates a controlled mentoring opportunity that allows any person age 10 or older, resident or nonresident, to experience hunting under controlled conditions without first attending a hunter education course."

mentoring opportunities.

Another important factor reported by hunters as an experience that caused them to be hunters was their first experience shooting a firearm. Another legislative change made along with the Mentored Hunting Program removed an existing barrier to youth under age 12 target practicing with a firearm under adult supervision.

Wisconsin's new Mentored Hunting Program was designed first and foremost with safety in mind. The mentoring program allows people to safely experience hunting in a highly controlled manner. It creates circumstances that are responsive to the social conditions research tells us is necessary to recruit more hunters. A mentored hunting experience can kindle an interest that leads to the creation of a life-long connection with the natural world – creating an appreciation and understanding of it - and evoking a spirit of commitment to pass on the conservation ethic and our hunting heritage to future generations.

Life teaches us that it is often more fulfilling when we come to realize that it's more about what you give than what you get. Eventually we come to understand the importance of giving something back to the causes, institutions, and people we care about. Leave a legacy and take someone hunting.

Consider returning the favor and mentoring a new hunter. To learn more about Mentored Hunting, "Google" "HUNTING IN WISCONSIN" or call toll free 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463) from 7AM-10PM seven days a week.

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- Within arms reach of the mentor

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Take someone hunting.



To find out more, Google "HUNTING IN WISCONSIN" or call toll free 1-888-WDNRINFO, 7AM – 10PM, 7 days a week.

MIKE HART

RELIVING THE MOMENT

Behind the scenes: A taxidermist's tale

For most outdoor enthusiasts, going hunting or fishing usually culminates with some great memories and stories. Having that special place to be when the deer are rutting or the fish are biting provides many experiences that only those who participate in them can totally understand.

For that "special moment" when all the hard work and time finally pays off—when everything comes together and that trophy walleye is in the livewell or that big buck is on the ground—there lies one more question that needs to be addressed: What Taxidermist should I take it to?

This question and many more have been answered the past few years by Jeff Knapp, owner of Bucky's Taxidermy in Grafton. Jeff is an award-winning taxidermist, and for that reason has been fortunate enough to work on famous mounts such as the Jordan buck, the Mel Johnson buck and the Hole in the Horn buck.

I recently stopped by his incredible shop to pick up a few deer heads from the past season; I was lucky enough to have a taxidermist bill this year and couldn't wait to see his completed work.

In his shop, where for the past 31 years he's honed his craft, Knapp has numerous examples of his work and

displays them with pride. And in another room that sits off to the side, Knapp has hundreds more waiting for his attention.

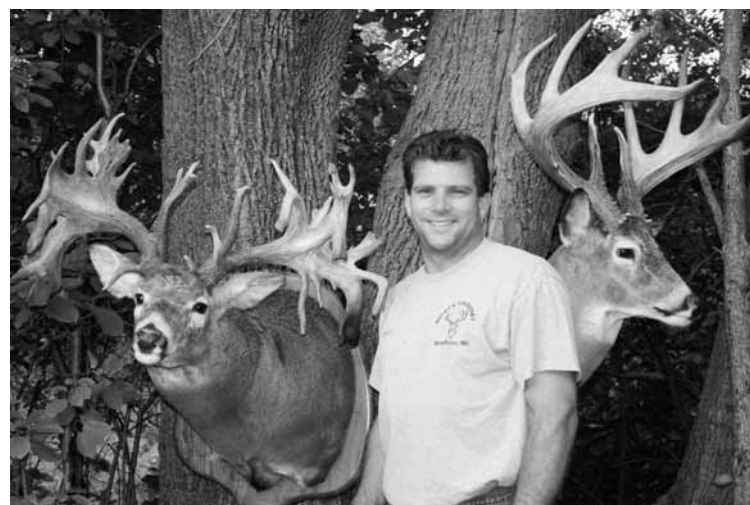
I asked Knapp to provide insight into what steps needed to be taken to ensure your trophy is properly prepared for the trip to the taxidermist.

Of course, number one is the proper handling and preparation the hunter must take with the animal or fish while in the field or on the water. At his website, Buckstaxidermy@wi.rr.com, Knapp lists things you need to do for this task.

"It's important to find an insured, licensed taxidermist that has plenty of references and various mounts available for you to see," Knapp said. "Qualified taxidermists will use higher quality products, which in turn guarantee a more realistic looking trophy. They also work with each individual client to make sure that they are getting exactly what they want."

Knapp also stated, "Each client is different and through talking with them, I strive to deliver exactly what the person wants."

After this takes place, Knapp devises an arrangement for each



Taxidermist Jeff Knapp has had the privilege of working on iconic whitetails such as the Jordan buck and the Hole in the Horn buck.

"If you're fortunate enough to be successful this year, find a taxidermist that you can be comfortable with, one that has a genuine interest in your hunt, your trophy and your story."

specific mount that attempts to recreate the live animal. One thing Knapp insists on is using professionally tanned hides and the reason is simple: You want your mount to look as realistic as possible—and to last a lifetime.

"I do not condone today's fast and cheap mentality," Knapp said. "No shortcuts are acceptable. You can have it mounted, or have it mounted right."

Knapp also insisted it's important to keep updated on the new techniques and products that allow him to constantly improve his work. For example, one new product on the market which Knapp utilizes is a flexible glue that shrinks or expands with the humidity of your home to ensure your mount will last. These are important details and your mount should reflect the true trophy that it is for years to come.

High-quality taxidermy comes at a higher price. There are no reasons to skimp on the cost of your mount when you have that "special moment," because as most of us know, they can come few and far between.

The old saying, "you get what you pay for," does have merit when it comes to taxidermists. If you're fortunate enough to be successful this year, find a taxidermist that you can be comfortable with, one that has a genuine interest in your hunt, your trophy and your story. *WB*

Mike Hart is a former professional baseball player currently teaching Physical Education in the Greenfield School District. He mentors students wishing to learn how to hunt on family property near Wisconsin Dells. Contact him at Mhart3631@yahoo.com.



TOM CARPENTER

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You've been looking forward to this hunting trip for a long time. Maybe it's for ducks or geese, could be for pheasants or grouse—something you're required to intercept and knock-out of the sky with a string of shot.

So you're finally in the field. Anticipation runs high. Suddenly a gang of teal zooms in over the marsh, a rooster flushes from the grass or a grouse bursts from the brush. The object of all your dreaming and desiring is right there, only a trigger pull away! You pull up, shoot ... and miss.

Fifteen minutes later another shooting opportunity presents itself. Another miss. Dejection and frustration start to set in. You've worked so hard preparing for the hunt, sitting in this blind for so long or walking so far for a flush—it's disheartening and disappointing to miss.

Yes, misses do happen. But there's nothing wrong with wanting to make some of the shots you've worked so hard to earn.

As mentors of young hunters, it's up to us to provide budding sportsmen and women the guidelines they need to become successful wingshooters.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

The best thing you can do is head to a trap range where the folks will understand you've got a new shooter. In this day and age, I don't know of any self-respecting shooter who would complain about having their trap round take a little longer in the interest of letting a young shooter have a good session. To reduce the inexperienced shotgunner's self-consciousness, go at the end of the day and ask for a special round or two.

The first goal is to get that young shooter familiar with their shotgun—where the safety is, how to swing the gun, what the trigger feels like, how the gun doesn't kick so bad after all, and how the shotgun cycles. If they've shot before, it's good to re-familiarize them with all these workings.

Imagine doing all this for the first time under live, field conditions.



Jeremiah Carpenter (left), Brad Boisen of Grand Ciel Outfitters (center) and Ethan Carpenter pose with a couple South Dakota ringnecks the boys shot.

MULTIPLE SHOT OPPORTUNITIES BUILD CONFIDENCE

If you want to create an effective wingshooter, real-life action on wild birds is essential at some point. The confidence of two of my young shooters soared when we visited South Dakota.

Even if a kid doesn't hit many clay targets, the safety level and comfort zone developed will increase their chances exponentially for success in the field.

After getting the mechanics down, it's time to try and hit a target. Read what to say to new or practicing shooters at right.

In the end, it would be nice not to have to shoot clay targets, as they don't replicate field conditions perfectly. But who has the time—and access to wild birds—to get young hunters tuned up on the real thing? To reduce the learning curve and increase their chances for success, it's essential to get young shooters some

organized instruction, practice and encouragement.

Kids want to find success in the field. That success is going to come down to one critical moment and question: Can they hit what they're shooting at? So don't take a chance and "wing it" this fall. Before hitting the field, take the time to get your young wingshooter familiar with their shotgun—shooting it comfortably and building their confidence. *W*

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

**PREPARING WITH PRACTICE**

- **Start with the shotgun at port arms.** Learning to mount a shotgun quickly and smoothly is essential—this replicates hunting conditions. Wear your hunting jacket or vest.
- **Cheek down.** Get that cheek down on the stock. Feel the cool wood or plastic composite, and look down the barrel.
- **Both eyes open.** Depth perception is essential to good wingshooting, and only one eye won't do the job.
- **Swing with the target.** Good wingshooting is not about aiming, but pointing. Swing with the target and through it, touching the trigger off when the muzzle passes it. Keep the shotgun swinging!
- **Imagine a water hose.** Imagine shot coming out of your barrel like water from a garden hose. You're trying to catch up with that bird and spray it, keeping the barrel moving, and ultimately producing a natural lead.
- **Don't over-think things.** Instinct is the best shooting tool you have. With a little practice, it's amazing how proficient young shooters can be. It's strange, but some culprits we blame for keeping them out of the field—computers and electronic games—also give them great hand-eye coordination for real-life shooting.
- **Take the pressure off.** Don't keep score on how many clay birds you hit. In several ways, hitting birds in the field is easier! The keys are being familiar and confident with your gun, and having fun.

JOEL "DOC" KUNZ

ON WISCONSIN RIVERS*Wisconsin's river whitetails*

Fall means whitetails and not only for the deer hunter. From autumn's first signs right through the deer firearms season, Wisconsin river walleye and sauger angling is usually the most predictable fishing of the year. Cooling water and shorter days push walleyes on a fall migration from their summer haunts toward the rivers. Once there, walleye and sauger use deep areas and adjacent drop-offs, gravel bars and other structure to ambush food. The baitfish travel too in search of oxygen, bringing the schools to the main river where the predators are waiting.

For those simple reasons, I've had more 100-fish days during the fall than any other time of year. Although the schools can spread out over a long flat or the top of a drop-off, they're often stacked up like cord wood in deep water.

THE WISCONSIN RIVER

The Wisconsin River provides countless opportunities from Prairie du

Sac to Lake Du Bay near Steven's Point. There are numerous shore fishing locations where anglers can expect to catch fish and boat ramps to allow access to every pool.

I like the Petenwell Flowage because it's my closest access to the big Wisconsin. Early in the fall season I fish the river channel and submerged wood on the north end of the lake and the first few miles above the mouth of the river. There's lots of good fishing between the lake and the dam, and schools of hungry fish could be using any of it.

I also visit the Dells area each year, making my yearly pilgrimage to River's Edge Resort. I've got a few tried-and-true spots away from the "community holes" that seem to always hold fish. A jig and minnow is all I need to catch them.

THE ROCK RIVER

The Rock River in southern Wisconsin is another fall fishing hotspot. From Blackhawk Island at the

mouth of the Rock and Lake Koshkinong to Jefferson, walleyes and saugers can be found using the river system.

There are a few well known "holes," but just about any depression in the river can hold fish. Some very subtle drop-offs and washed-out banks can hold incredible numbers of walleyes, too. High water and muddy conditions have made for difficult spring fishing on the Rock in the past couple years, a factor that could lead to some fantastic fall fishing. There are also some very good year classes of fish in the lower Rock River system to provide anglers with keeper-size targets.

THE FOX RIVER

The Fox River from the dam at Montello to the dam at De Pere is a potential walleye factory on any given day. Daryl Christensen showed me how to work a hair jig below the dam at Montello from the shore fishing area below the dam that creates Buffalo Lake.

Well-known places such as Eureka and the Fox River in Oshkosh also see a fair amount of fall fishing pressure, but the destination on most anglers' mind is the Fox River at De Pere. Here, fish that spend time fattening up in Green Bay come to the river for its bountiful food.

Held back from further migration by the De Pere dam, fish can be found using the deep water some days, the flats another and in the shallow water and rocky runs below the dam the next. There are also a few warm water discharges that hold fish, especially as the water cools. The area directly below the dam, flooded timber, warm water discharges and bridge pilings are all great places to cast cranks for big walleyes.

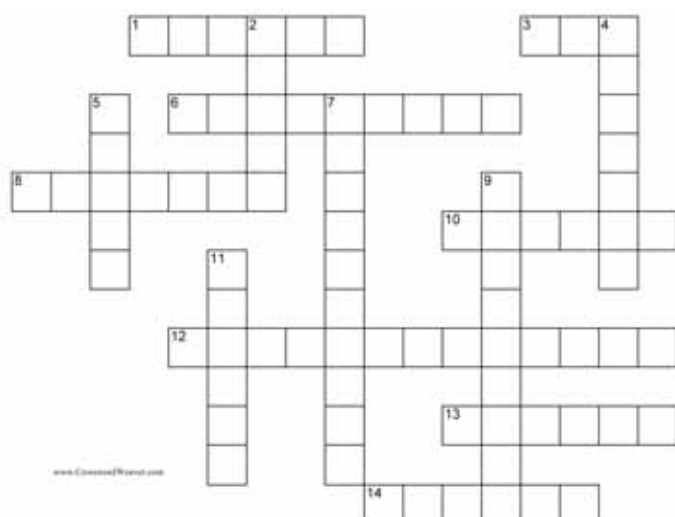
THE WOLF RIVER

The Wolf River walleye migration is harder to pin-down due to the size of the Winnebago system and summer location of the schools of fish.

The fall walleye fishing is best once water temperatures have cooled to the 30s and 40s, but September and October can be very good if you find the fish. The problem is, they could be anywhere in the first 40 miles above



The author sports a smile and an "eater-sized" Wolf River whitetail while many other outdoorsmen are chasing whitetails in the woods.

Outdoor Criss Cross**ACROSS**

- 1 A prize animal.
- 3 When fishing is good, it's a "____ Bite!"
- 6 An arrow's hunting head.
- 8 A fish nicknamed "Marble Eye."
- 10 Holds arrows.
- 12 A scope's power.
- 13 Spray down with "Scent _____."
- 14 A modern hunting tool: Trail _____.

DOWN

- 2 A belly-down shooting position.
- 4 Squeeze this straight back.
- 5 Mature male moose.
- 7 A bow's "pull-back" (2 words).
- 9 Berkley's marinated artificial bait. (2 words).
- 11 Red medicine for fuel.

Answers on page 28

Lake Poygan; it all depends on water levels influenced by the fall rains that typically bring water to the river after the summer low-water period. Like anywhere, a jig and minnow or leech worked along gradual drop-offs in to deep water, outside bends and eddie currents should produce fish. September and October walleyes also use some of the deeper flats to feed. Fish also work the shallows at night looking for food.

I've caught fish at night sitting on an inside bend in 3-4 feet of water, much like in the spring. Lantern lights often attract lots of minnows, and walleyes feed on the edge of the schools. Lightweight jigs worked off the bottom and Wolf River rigs both catch fish.

So get out and chase the whitetails of your choice. I'll be looking for a quiet piece of river where I know the fish will bite. *W*

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*Resurrection of the Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30*

Russian snipers killed as many as 40,000 German soldiers on the Eastern Front, according to some sources. While doing so, they disrupted communication and supply lines and struck terror in the hearts of every Axis troop that entered the Mother Land.

No nation fielded as many snipers or put them to such deadly effect as the Soviet Union during World War II. This was no accident. After World War I, when the Western armies forgot the worth of snipers on the battlefield, the Russians continued developing and honing sniper tactics. Ironically, the German Army, which had quite successfully employed snipers during the Great War, did not instill the use of snipers during the inter-war years. This omission would come back to haunt them in their next war with Russia.

When the Germans invaded in June of 1941, they did so with a small number of snipers, most of whom were armed with one of the worst telescopic sights ever issued—the ZF41. Mounted on the barrel of a K98 bolt-action rifle, much like today's "scout scopes," the ZF41 magnified its target by a mere 1½X within a very small field of view.

By contrast, during the initial stages of the war, the primary Russian scope was the PE of 4X magnification that was attached to the receiver bridge of the Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30, or semi-automatic Tokarev. The PE would be replaced by the PU in 1942. Cheaper and easier to manufacture, the 3½X magnification PU was, by far, the most prolific telescopic sight used in World War II.

Russian snipers could "reach out and touch someone" with their PE and PU scopes in much greater numbers than could their Nazi counterparts

armed with the woefully inadequate ZF41. Russian sniper rifles became highly sought after by the Germans, who often preferred them to their own weapons, especially early in the war before the Germans developed better telescopic sights. Wehrmacht snipers continued to use captured Model 91/30



Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30 sniper rifle.

sniper rifles up to the end of the war, as did the Russians.

German snipers, however, never received the superstar status their Russian adversaries were to gain. As the Russians initially reeled in the face of the Nazi onslaught, snipers were one of the few bright spots to be found in the defense of the Mother Land. Their unexpected appearance, particularly in areas thought "conquered," gave the Germans one of their first inklings that they might have finally found their match on the battlefield.

It was at the gates of Moscow in the winter of 1941 that the Germans learned for certain that Russia wouldn't crumble as easily as France and Belgium. Still, they pressed further east to Stalingrad, where the "War of the Rats" was fought and the cult of the Russian sniper was born.

Among the many heroes of Stalingrad, none were more celebrated in the eyes of their fellow soldiers and the Russian people than their snipers. They became legends and grabbed headlines in Soviet newspapers as their "scorecards" reached the dozens—and even hundreds—at Stalingrad.

MODEL 91/30: ALIVE AND WELL

Unlike those of other Allied and Axis armies, Russian Model 91/30 sniper rifles can be found comparatively easily. After the end of hostilities, the Soviets rebuilt many complete sniper rifles which they moth-balled or gave to other Warsaw Pact nations. A good number of these were exported to the United States during the great rummage sale that followed the demise of the Soviet Union. Depending upon condition, maker and markings, they can be had for about \$800 to \$1,500.

Thousands of Model 91/30 snipers had their scopes and bases removed after the war and the resulting holes plugged with screws before being put in storage by the Russians or reissued.

Such rifles can sometimes be found among an assortment of run-of-the-mill Model 91/30s or available for a small premium—usually about \$50—from several distributors.

So, for about \$900-\$1,600, the astute gun collector can buy a real historical artifact from World War II. Pay another \$300 for a replica PU optic and mount (if you can find one), shell out \$70 for a bent bolt handle, and give a gunsmith \$75 to drill out the old holes and install a new mount and a very nice Soviet sniper "tribute" rifle can be made.

Or, for \$400-\$500 total, depending on accessories and condition, you can purchase one already made from Century International Arms or one of its distributors.

Firing a World War II-vintage Model 91/30 provides the shooter with a glimpse of the Eastern Front and, when mounted with a period-correct scope, an appreciation of Soviet sniper skills. More soldiers fell to these guns than any other sniper rifle of World War II—or in any other war.

It was with weapons such as these that the Soviets broke the back of Wehrmacht and drove the Nazis back to Berlin. For that reason alone, the Model 91/30 belongs in every collection of World War II arms. *W*

Special thanks to Century International Arms for the use of the featured Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30 sniper rifle. For more information about Century International Arms, visit www.centuryarms.com.

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

ELLIS PHEASANTS, from page 19

had a bearing on the increase," Dunn said. "Brood observations from landowners have also been positive. But that's more anecdotal and nothing we put in our reports. Since the last release in the spring of 2002, we've only had one year to evaluate our success without releases. The poof will be in the next couple of years. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate, habitat won't be coming out of the set aside programs and back into crops and we'll continue to see the population grow."

As the last Wisconsin region to

attempt establishing wild pheasant, biologists, landowners and hunters in the northwest near Clear Creek must now take a wait and see approach. In the far south, Brian Buenzow has been there and done that. And the state Wildlife Technician likes what he's seen.

In 1988 Buenzow helped direct Wisconsin's first attempt at establishing wild birds in Union Township in Rock County and subsequent efforts in Green and Lafayette Counties. In particular near Monroe, the program is a classic success story.

Around Union Township, chosen because of the potential for vast tracts of CRP habitat, only eight to 10 percent of the terrain was ultimately converted to desirable grasslands. With an extraordinary number of landowners near Monroe buying into the idea of establishing wild pheasants, more than 33 percent of the acreage is currently grassland. The number of birds correlates with the amount of habitat established.

"The more I know, the more I think the wild bird releases are secondary to success," Buenzow said. "Almost

without exception, if you put the habitat in, the birds are going to get there. Take the habitat out, they're gone. It may take a number of years, depending on the resident population. In Rock and Green Counties we had very good numbers of pheasants within two years of establishing habitat. The number of birds we're seeing right now near Monroe is extraordinary. Charlie Kilian (wildlife Biologist) is saying the same thing about Jefferson County."

"But if you build it, they will come. That is, oh, so true." *W*

DICK HENSKE

OLD AND IMPROVED

Upgrading your muzzleloader for fall



The author upgraded an old muzzleloader to create a more accurate piece without the mess. You can too.

If you have an older model muzzleloader, it can be a nightmare to clean and keep the rust at bay. My rifle is a .50 caliber Knight Wolverine in-line ignition model. It is accurate and never failed to fire, but I found myself hesitant to use it because of the cleaning mess. Instead, I made it more user friendly for an old duffer like me.

The first problem was eliminating the iron sights. Older hunters often are not able to focus on iron sights. The rear sight will be fuzzy. One way to overcome this is to put a piece of black tape on your eyeglasses with a large pin hole in line with your shooting plane. This works great at the range, but not in the woods at low light.

First I went to a red-dot scope. The results were lower accuracy and it didn't feel right or look right. I really wanted a regular scope like my other rifles. Telescopes are legal in Wisconsin during the 10 day muzzleloader season, if it is one power or less in magnification. You can use any type scope during the regular gun season.

On a trip to Milwaukee from our home in Manitowish Waters I purchased a Cabela's one power, one inch tube for under \$75. The mounting

plate needed to be modified so the #11 percussion cap could be fitted to the nipple. The scope was easily mounted, and it looks and shoots great. At the 50 yard range the impact point was 2-1/2 inches high and one-inch low at 100 yards with a 240 grain bullet.

I addressed a powder problem next. The old black powder substitute, Pyrodex FFG was reliable but extremely messy. Every time the gun was fired I needed to clean it with soap and water and every fall when the gun came out it would have rust in the bore. (You can solve this problem by putting wheel bearing grease into the bore when not in use and then removing it before you shoot again.)

There are many new black powder replacements that have hit the market in the last few years that are sulfur-free and non-corrosive. I selected Hodgdon's Triple Seven loose FFG powder which matches and even slightly improves the velocities and accuracy of loads made with the old Pyrodex. Selecting the Triple Seven loose FFG allowed me to keep the old #11 percussion cap. For \$60 you could upgrade the Wolverine with a conversion kit to use the hotter #209 primer. This allows the use of other powders. I

"It is accurate and never failed to fire, but I found myself hesitant to use it because of the cleaning mess. Instead, I made it more user friendly for an old duffer like me."

needed to stick to the loose FFG powder with the #11's.

Cleaning time decreased from 30 minutes to less than 10 minutes. More than a half dozen shots can be fired with only a damp patch used between shots, but after 6 shots, be aware that the nipple began to fowl. The residue after firing is minimal. You can put the gun away for days at a time after multiple firings and still take it out and accurately shoot it without fear of ruining the bore.

Saboted bullets of varying weights have always worked well in my gun with 100 grain powder loads. A sabot bullet means the lead bullet is a .45 caliber bullet in a sabot plastic sheath. After trying various types and weights I have stuck with two different bullets; a 300 grain sabot called the alpha Gold 300 by Lightfield. It retains velocity which translates into a flatter trajectory and more downrange energy. The tables show I should be getting close to 1650 feet with the 100 grains of Triple Seven Loose FFG. However, it shoots 5 inches higher than my old 240 grain

sabots, so I have a choice; for deer it will be the 240 grain and, for elk, the 300 grain.

If you are in the market for a new rifle, buy the new technology that shoots #209 primers so that you can obtain better velocity and 200 yard-plus accuracy. The 209s are hotter to help ignite the harder to ignite FFG and stick powders.

If you find a used muzzleloader that uses the old #11 percussion caps, it will be priced right. Snap it up and use the system I have mentioned. It should work well for you, too.

I am not a black powder nut, nor do I claim any real expertise. But, I have made my old unfriendly rifle very friendly. You can too.

See you in the woods. Remember everything you'll ever need to know can be learned in a tree stand. *W*

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

PUZZLE on page 26



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.

DAN MOERICKE

AN "UP NORT" REPORT

The Sylvania Wilderness—listen to the quiet

After a summer of dealing with boat landing clusters, ski boats, jet skis and raucous floating cocktail parties on pontoon boats, a guy can really use a little peace and quiet.

Fortunately for those of us in the Northwoods, there's a great escape perched on Wisconsin's northern border: the Sylvania Wilderness area.

Like her more famous big sister, the Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Sylvania is geared to the paddle-powered canoe/kayak crowd. The thing is, especially once fall comes, the crowd is non-existent. You can literally have a lake all to yourself. I've been paddling the lakes of Sylvania for a few decades now and I'm always pleasantly surprised by the lack of competition. The quiet can be deafening.

HARBORING HISTORY

The 18,000 acres that make up Sylvania were purchased by the United States Forest Service in 1967, which promptly removed all buildings and began managing it as a special recreation area. In 1987, it was designated as a federal wilderness area when the Michigan Wilderness Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan.

Sylvania straddles the divide between Lake Superior and the Mississippi River drainage systems, occupying some of the highest ground in the Northwoods. Due to this apex position, these deep, clear lakes are primarily landlocked, fed by springs and local run-off.

There are no surface streams entering the park, which is one of the reasons the lakes remain pristine and pure. Special fishing regulations on the more than 30 lakes within the Sylvania borders, including catch and release for all bass, have helped to preserve the lakes' fisheries. The Sylvania Wilderness also features 25 miles of hiking trails and portages within its 30 square miles.

There are 84 designated campsites in 29 locations throughout the wilderness, each with rudimentary amenities such as outdoor toilets, tent pads and fire grills.

WETTING A LINE

When it comes to fishing, Sylvania has something for everyone. Of course, the bass fishing probably receives the most attention, and rightly so—it's phenomenal. In my experience, the best lakes for big smallmouth are High, Clark, and Loon, probably because these are also the deepest.

For numbers, I think it's hard to beat Deer Island and Mountain Lake. My most consistent pattern for catching the big bronzebacks is dragging the

bottom with a 6-inch black or purple rubber worm rigged on a No. 4 barbless hook with a slip sinker. I see lots of folks working the shorelines for bass and, although they do catch fish, the bass tend to be smaller. Except during spring spawning, the lunkers are hanging out over the deep rock bars and sand flats.

Crooked Lake is by far the most fertile lake in Sylvania and is the only lake where regular Michigan fishing regulations apply. It's also the only

lake where one can use live bait, barbed hooks and even an

electric trolling motor.

Crooked boasts a great panfish population and, as a result, also grows some huge northern pike.

Crappies, perch and bluegills can be caught working the edges of the abundant weedbeds in Crooked Lake, too. Although live bait is allowed on Crooked Lake, my favorite baits for panfish are small jigs tipped with plastic tails or PowerBait grubs. White and chartreuse are good colors to try because this is the only lake in Sylvania with "somewhat" dark water.

If it's walleyes you're after, you'll need to seek out Whitefish Lake; it's the only lake in Sylvania to hold old marble-eyes. There are two trails that will get you there and I have to confess that they both involve a portage longer than I've been willing to make. One of these days, though ... maybe I can trick my son into carrying the canoe that far.

Make note of the fact that almost all these lakes are crystal clear. Light line is essential and I typically use 4-pound test, unless I'm throwing big spinners and spoons or working heavy cover for bass and northern pike.

The other species of note in the Sylvania area that keeps bringing me back is lake trout. Both Clark Lake and High Lake hold these deep-water bulldogs. And if I were to take a guess, I'd say that 80 percent of Sylvania's visitors don't know it. As a matter of fact, in the decades I've plumbed the depths for lakers, I've seen less than a handful of other anglers pursuing them.

To anyone considering a trip to this fisherman's paradise, I strongly recommend picking up Russ Warye's book, *Fishing Sylvania*. It really helped me when I first started learning my way around this little slice of heaven.

What a great place to listen to the quiet; you can actually hear it in Sylvania. *W*



Sometimes the quiet of Sylvania is shattered by the sound of your heart pounding when a big laker hits.

"Like her more famous big sister, the Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Sylvania is geared to the paddle-powered canoe/kayak crowd. The thing is, especially once fall comes, the crowd is non-existent. You can literally have a lake all to yourself."

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.

PRESS RELEASE

Cochran expands his comics with animation movies

by Tom Carpenter

Traditional panel cartoons in hunting and fishing magazines and newspapers have entertained outdoorsmen for years. Now, courtesy of Bob Walker, host of Sportsmen's Outdoor Strategies (S.O.S.) television show, and humorist Bruce Cochran, sportsmen can enjoy 30- to 45-second animated cartoons when they watch S.O.S. episodes on Versus and The Sportsman's Channel networks.

Called Weekend Warriors, these animated shorts deliver unique and fresh humor—all geared to the great outdoors—to this popular and long-running show.

"I'm always trying to put a little different spin on S.O.S. to make it stand out from other outdoor TV shows," says Host Bob Walker. "I think Weekend Warriors segments do just that."

The project was a natural for Cochran. He's been creating cartoons and illustrations since the early 1960s, and it's safe to say that most outdoorsmen have seen Cochran's wholesome and relevant humor, which is included in each issue of On Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO).

The creators for Weekend Warriors cartoons consist of outdoor writer and OWO contributor J.J. Reich, who coordinates and directs the production and sales of the series.

Cochran creates the original jokes and storyboards. Lead animation and design is done by OWO contributor Jonathan Kuehl. Sound and

music production is provided by Mathew Prock, and voice talents star Mathew Bielanski.

The animated shorts star three characters that Cochran created and designed specifically for the Weekend Warriors series. Stanley, a middle-aged outdoor addict, Oliver, his younger, "still learning" sidekick, and Squirt, an intelligent canine companion, who is doomed to cope with the silly antics of his owners.

"Oliver and Squirt were already created in my cartoon books. Stanley, the S.O.S. man, looks something like Bob Walker," Cochran says with a wink.

"Animated shows have done so well on mainstream television, I thought it was time to introduce some animation to the world of outdoor television," adds



WEEKEND WARRIORS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Cochran and his team have also entered a movie clip featuring the Weekend Warriors in a national animation online contest, where the public is encouraged to vote. And they need your help to win. Starting September 1, visit www.weekendwarriorscartoons.com to learn how to vote! Voting deadline is September 30.

Walker. "What's been really fun, though, is seeing these characters come to life and develop personalities as we work on scripts and storyboards. It's almost like Stanley, Oliver and Squirt are real!"

See the results for yourself on S.O.S. Television, airing several times per week for the 2009 season (July-December) on Versus and The Sportsman's Channel. For more information on S.O.S. Television, Learn more at www.weekendwarriorscartoons.com.

TOM CARPENTER

BADGER BIRDS

Dark-eyed junco

At one time, professional and amateur ornithologists believed that four species of junco existed—the slate-colored, western, pink-sided and white-winged. But where their ranges overlapped, the birds readily interbred, proving we really have only one species, now called the dark-eyed junco.

A sprightly and energetic little bird about the size of a sparrow, juncos nest in the arctic and northern tundra, but show up in fields, yards, gardens, parks and woodland edges as fall reaches Wisconsin. If you see little charcoal-colored birds hopping and flitting about from your treestand, chances are they're juncos.

Look for a slate-gray bird with a dark head, white belly and pink bill. Many delightful variations occur across junco range, but most juncos traveling through Wisconsin follow this basic pattern.

Listen for juncos' high-pitched clink and tick-tick calls while they feed.

Spread white proso millet, cracked corn, black-oil sunflower, thistle or other seeds on the ground or a low-slung platform. Juncos feed on the ground, and are also happy just picking up grain that spills from hanging feeders. If it snows, spread new feed on top.

Did you know that when a junco flies, its outer tail feathers show white? This is the best way to positively identify juncos versus the various sparrows that might also be found on the ground or low in bushes. *W*



Want More On Wisconsin Outdoors?

www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com

On Wisconsin Outdoors Board of Directors

Dear Rex Rodsalotta,
Overwhelmingly, Wisconsin sportsmen and women want the DNR Secretary appointed by the Natural Resources Board. Do you think Governor Jim Doyle not seeking reelection will have any affect on that issue and others over his last 18 months in office?
—Dale Dahlke, Richland Center



Rex Rodsalotta

Dear Dale,
There is some whispering that Doyle has a plan regarding the DNR Secretary. Rumor has it he wants to build one of those light rail choo-choos from Wausau to Madison, even though the people hate the idea and as long as the actual production of the choo-choo and rail system is built out of state and doesn't bring jobs to Wisconsin. The train will be used daily to transport Congressman Dave Obie to his new job as DNR Secretary. "Mr Obie has proven his value in spearheading the writing of the who-knows-how-long and who-knows-what's-in-it House stimulus package and Healthcare Bills," Doyle reportedly told sources. "We need a man like that who can write our deer hunting regulations. The hunters of Wisconsin deserve regulations in the years ahead that they are guaranteed of not understanding, at blood-sucking cost."
—Rex Rodsalotta



Conibear Smith

Dear Conibear Smith,
My friend's dad doesn't want us to hunt and fish. He said he learned how to love everything and anything the same at Woodstock. In fact he had to go to the hospital for some medicine he loved so much at Woodstock. He keeps interrupting his lectures to us by getting a dazed look and yelling, 'Tell me again why I'm here, Man?' Then he's okay again for a while. Anyway, we want to hunt and fish... but is he right?
Luke and Tyler, Madison

Hi Boys,
You're given a healthy body when you're born, and you can nurture that gift and find natural highs in the outdoors everywhere you turn fishing, hunting, and trapping. Use everything you take in the field, don't break the law, harvest humanely and help give back more than you take. As for your friend's dad, I knew many burn-outs who talked just like that. They're mostly dead now, except for some occasional twitching and drooling. One of those guy yelled "Tell me again why I'm here, Man?" watching events of the 40th anniversary of Woodstock and was immediately hired by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel as a valuable editorial writer.
—Conibear Smith



Hunter Daily

Dear Hunter Daily,
I was shooting the bull at my favorite West Allis Gun shop when I heard about the courageous action of Milwaukee's Mayor Tom Barrett. Did you hear? He personally came to the aide of a woman under assault near State Fair. The Mayor ended up in the hospital for days recuperating from deep lacerations from the bad guy's weapon.
—Zach Rumeler, West Allis

Dear Zach,
Courageous indeed and we wish him the best. Hmmm... another bad guy with a weapon hurting the good guys? One question for you. Where's the Mayor's stance on concealed carry and the Second Amendment?
—Hunter Daily

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KEVIN MICHALOWSKI

DOG TALK*Hunting dead: Let the nose do the work*

This ruffed grouse was a runner after a single pellet clipped one wing in thick brush. Good training gave Echo the desire to work out the track and retrieve the bird.

Lots of dogs can find birds and put them in the air. Lots of dogs can make marked retrieves like nobody's business. But what happens when the bird is down, the dog didn't see it go down and it might be running?

That's when you need a dog with a good nose, drive and excellent game-tracking skills. This combination allows your dog to "hunt dead" as long as you don't get in the way.

A good nose is not something you teach a dog. All dogs can smell birds. What you need to instill in the dog is the proper response to the scent. The response is, of course, for the dog to follow the scent to its source. You build that block by laying scent trails in tall

cover and letting the dog work them out.

BABY STEPS

Start small and work up to making things more complicated. For example, after you find a training area with suitable tall grassy cover, apply a liberal amount of bird scent to a dummy and attach the dummy to a 10-foot length of string. Leave your dog in the crate and walk out into the grass a few yards. Toss the dummy to one side and take about 20 steps through the grass. Let go of the string and get your dog.

The goal here is to make the dog

succeed and build on that success, so come at the dummy with the wind in the dog's nose. When you get near the point where you started the trail, release the dog, point in the general direction of the scent and say, "Dead bird. Fetch it up."

The dog should work the scent line right to the dummy and bring it back. Upon its return, praise the dog profusely. This praise will reinforce the correct action and help build the drive the dog needs for long retrieves.

After the first retrieve, take the dog back to the crate and start the process over again. Remember to keep the initial scent trails short and easy, and praise the dog like crazy for each success. Over several days and weeks of training you should extend the length of the trail and make it more complicated, but only a little at a time. Remember: The more success you give the dog, the more desire the dog will have to succeed.

Before too long, your dog will be working out serpentine tracks past obstacles and rushing back with the dummy in order to get that praise. To add an element of difficulty to the training, you can start extending the distance between where you release the dog and where the animal will pick up the scent trail.

It's important to give a general hand signal at the start of each run to help get the dog moving in the right direction, but the real motivator is the praise. Never yell at a dog when it's searching for scent. If you do, the dog might stop searching.

MAKING IT REAL

Your responsibilities become a bit different once out in the field. You still want to give the dog every chance to succeed, but the stakes are higher and

the tests tougher. This is where good early training and trust in your dog makes things easier.

If you shoot a bird and see it go down—but the dog has not seen it—your first job is to get the dog near the spot of the downed bird. If you have trained for blind retrieves your hand signals should get the dog in the right direction, but in some upland situations you might be moving through lots of bird scent to get to the spot where the bird went down. You might need to gently guide the dog to the area before giving the "dead bird" command. Once you're near the site, get the dog headed in the general direction and stay back out of the way.

Lots can go wrong on an otherwise good retrieve when you start mucking around in what should be the dog's territory. The worst thing you can do spoil the scent trail with your boot leather and pants legs.

You might also push a bird into a dead run or send it burrowing to a deeper hiding place. If the dog is up there doing its job, you can stay back and admit that it's much more likely to find a downed bird than you are. And if you do get a runner, the dog will be much faster than you during the foot pursuit, especially with a good scent trail.

So remember: Voice commands, early success and lots of praise. These three elements will help your dog learn to "hunt dead" and put more game in your bag. *W*

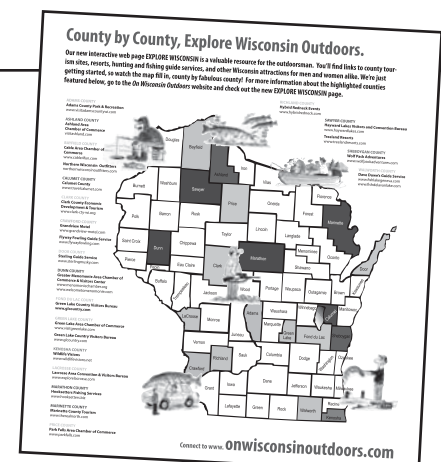
Kevin Michalowski is author of "15 Minutes to a Great Dog" and "15 Minutes to a Great Puppy" (Krause Publications, \$12.95 each) and has been training dogs for 10 years. If you have questions or comments on dog care, email Kevin Michalowski at askdogtalk@hotmail.com.

County by County, Explore Wisconsin Outdoors

Wade right into some of the best places to hunt, fish, camp, vacation or just simply travel any of our fabulous 72 counties. See page 17

Click on the **EXPLORE WISCONSIN** page at

www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com



SUZUKI MOTOR CORP.

QuadRacer R450*Dominance in a box*

by Jorge Cuartas



QuadRacer R450

When it comes to Sport ATVs, there's really only one thing that consumers want: The ability to dominate their competition right off of the showroom floor. As far as that goes, there's only one choice; The Suzuki QuadRacer LTR450 as no other machine has enjoyed as much success in crushing the competition in 2009. How dominant has the QuadRacer been? For starters, it's the very same Machine AMA ATV MX Pro National Champion Dustin Wimmer (Team Rockstar/ Makita/ Suzuki) piloted to Six Wins in defense of his #1 Plate. QuadRacer mounted racers were a fixture on the '09 ATV Pro MX Podium with 11 Podium finishes in 11 races. On the Grand National Cross Country (GNCC) side of things, Suzuki's Chris Borich is enjoying very similar success with Seven Podium finishes (including Six wins), and a huge points lead in the Championship standings.

PUTTING THE "RACER" IN QUADRACER

While the state of the art 2009 QuadRacer LTR450 enjoys modern technical advances like Fuel Injection, and a technically advanced chassis and suspension package, it's the roots of the QuadRacer that are most impressive. The original 1985 Suzuki QuadRacer 250 changed the sport of ATV racing forever. Much like the modern day version, the '85 was the first four wheeled ATV on the market built for racing. The QuadRacer single handedly transformed the three-wheeled ATV racing market into the thriving sport that it is today. The "QuadRacer" moniker was so catchy that ATV racers to this day refer to themselves as "Quad Racers".

With roots that go back nearly 25 years, the modern day QuadRacer LTR450 is built on a foundation of not only racing, but winning. The modern incarnation does so by coming factory

equipped with everything the average racer will need to compete at just about any level.

ENGINE

The four stroke, four valve, liquid cooled, DOHC, 450cc power plant on the Suzuki barks to life at the push of a button, (that's right folks no more kick starting). The lack of sound is kind of deceiving, as the LTR's low decibel output catches you off guard. The engine itself was designed with weight savings in mind, the aluminum cylinder bore is electro-plated with Suzuki's SCEM (Suzuki Composite Electrochemical Material) which improves heat transfer, and provides a tighter piston clearance. The cylinder head features a narrow included valve angle, which creates both a compact cylinder head, and compact combustion chamber. In keeping with the weight conscious theme, titanium valves, an aluminum piston, and magnesium clutch and magneto

covers, and magnesium cylinder head are all used to shed pounds. The end result is an extremely compact, technologically innovative engine that delivers great performance without adding unnecessary pounds to the machine's overall package.

The 42mm Electronic Fuel Injection means no more jetting issues regardless of temperature or elevation. The multi hole injector optimizes atomization and all but eliminates the "bog" commonly associated with four strokes. The system is controlled by a high performance ECM that utilizes a high spec 16-bit CPU. The Fuel Injection is just another first in Suzuki's long line of performance ATV innovations.

A bump of the throttle immediately lets you know you're on a serious machine, despite the lack of DBs. Once in motion, the five-speed transmission performs flawlessly, with a smooth transition between gears, and a sensation that the motor will pull strong endlessly.

CHASSIS/ SUSPENSION/ BRAKES

The LTR450 is built on one of the most technically advanced chassis on the market. The durable, high-tensile steel frame was designed for optimum rigidity, and unmatched cornering performance.

The race stance of the QuadRacer is achieved through two simple principles; keep it low, and keep it wide. In order to achieve the latter, Suzuki went with an MX friendly 49" width via independent double wishbone front suspension, and fully adjustable Kayaba piggyback reservoir style front shocks. Keeping it low was a little more complicated, everything from the actual engine design, to the radiator, and centrally mounted exhaust system was engineered in order to achieve a low center of gravity, and equal balance. Despite sitting low, the LTR still boasts 9.4" of ground clearance, and that's with the stock 20" x 7" x 10" front, and 18" x 10" x 8" rear tires.

Suspension wise, the QuadRacer is ready for everything from Motocross, to Trail Riding at just about any speed. Both the front, and rear Kayaba shocks have Kashima coating for reduced

friction and smooth performance. The rear shock features adjustable rebound, high and low speed compression, and preload, and a piggyback reservoir design. The LTR is just as comfortable soaking up landings from massive MX triples, as it is skating over tree roots, and ruts on the trail. The suspension performance allows the rider to truly utilize the machine's power plant to its full potential.

If there's one area that Suzuki crushes the competition regardless of makes, or models, it's the brakes. The QuadRacer LTR450 doesn't disappoint when it comes to stopping power. The single hydraulic rear brake caliper is paired to a 190mm rear disc, while the dual hydraulic front disc brakes are paired with 160mm front rotors and the result is amazing. The LTR can outbreak anything in its class, and everyone from ATV MX Pro Dustin Wimmer, to GNCC ATV Pro points leader Chris Borich agrees that the QuadRacer's stopping ability is a key element to their success.

ERGONOMICS

Ergonomically, the QuadRacer is as close to perfect as possible, and accommodates riders of all shapes and sizes. The machine's low, wide stance instantly gives you a "racey" feel, and all but encourages you to go fast. All of the controls are where you would expect them, and nothing feels out of place. The trademark "T" shaped seat makes cornering a breeze, and allows you to hang off of the machine without ever losing contact with it. The GSX-R/ Hayabusa inspired lights work great, and you never feel you'll outrun them while riding at night. The stock serrated foot pegs are just rough enough to keep your feet firmly planted, and provide great grip despite terrain, or weather conditions.

Performing routine maintenance doesn't require complete disassembly of the machine, and accessing the airbox is as simple releasing the seat. Overall the LTR couldn't be more comfortable, or easy to work on.

Overall the Suzuki QuadRacer LTR450 not only lives up to it's name, but honors it by continuing to push the limits of innovation and performance, much like it did 24 years ago. *W*


SUZUKI
 Way of Life!



Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

By JJ Reich

Here's the rundown on six hunting and fishing products you might find useful in the woods, fields and waterways. We did.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER GOLDEN ESTRUS GEL

For \$13, this gel is a strong, sticky, long-lasting sexual attractant for white-tail bucks. Extra-premium Golden Estrus Gel is effective before and during the rut. The 1-ounce bottle comes with a 100 percent money-back guarantee.



Wildlife Research Center's Golden Estrus Gel scent is hugely popular among bowhunters—almost has a cult following. The new, easy-to-use gel formula is sure to please—just smear the thick-like-honey scent on a wick, dead branch or a twig and it'll work its long-lasting magic for you.

WildLife.com

SHOOTER'S CHOICE AQUA CLEAN

From \$9-\$11, Aqua Clean cleaners use a highly concentrated, water-based formula that's environmentally friendly, non-flammable, non-corrosive and has no harsh petroleum odor. The bore cleaner removes all copper, lead, carbon and powder residue; the action cleaner/degreaser quickly dissolves oil, grease and powder.



Many hunters have told me these gun cleaners do an excellent job. But here's the real reason I wanted to try them: My wife hates it when I clean my firearms in the house. Even when I secretly clean them in the basement, her powerful sniffer detects the harsh chemicals and she gets ornery with me. But, she's OK with Aqua Clean!

Shooters-Choice.com

CASTAIC CATCH 22 SWIMBAIT

For \$20, this swimbait features a triple-jointed soft body molded around a durable Inner Armor skeleton that extends the lure's life. The softbait got its name due to the fact the manufacturer guarantees the bait will catch at least 22 bass before it loses the ability to swim.



I think this lure looks like a real fish and is very innovative: Simply run your line through the bait, tie on a treble hook and connect the hook to its unique belly magnet. This way, the lure will pull free on the line after a strike, saving it to catch more fish. It's avail-

able in a variety of fish designs including shad, shiner, rainbow trout, bluegill and sunfish (pictured).

CastaicSwimbait.com

TROPHY BAG GAME KOOLER

From \$190-\$210, this sized-right, animal-shaped, insulated cooler bag features a thermal-radiant barrier energy shield with anti-microbial properties to prevent bacteria growth on game animals. They're available in several sizes and in a variety of camouflage options.

This is truly a "cool" new product. The bags have openings for antlers and



legs, and work great in Wisconsin's hot September early bow season—or anytime of year, for that matter—to keep your game meat cool, protected from dirt and debris, and tasting great. It also rolls up nice and tight for easy transport and storage, too.

TrophyBagKooler.com

CRAP GRABBER

For \$25, this gear grabber retrieves cargo from the back of your pickup truck with ease. The adjustable tool works from a collapsed length of 55 inches to a fully extended length of 97



inches. It's made of high-quality lightweight aluminum with a versatile, two-prong hook.

I know it can be a real pain (for your knees and back) to crawl into your truck bed to grab your gear. This easy-to-use and easy-to-store tool reaches the full length of an 8-foot pickup truck's box, even with the tailgate down. And you'll probably think of a ton of other ways to use it, too, such as retrieving duck decoys from the cold water or something like that. It's definitely a handy tool.

CrapGrabber.net

SNAP-LOC WALKER SINKERS

From \$2-\$6, these Water Gremlin sliding sinkers combine the convenience of a Snap-Loc Dipsey swivel sinker with the action of a walking sinker. Its easy-on, easy-off snap-swivel eye lets you change weights without having to re-tie, and its unique L-shape imparts a walking action.

I've caught many walleyes using



these sinkers while river fishing. Unlike a standard walking sinker, I like how sinker's grooved base makes it wobble on the drop that gives it an attractive swimming action.

WaterGrem.com

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

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