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On Wisconsin Outdoors Bear baiting diligence fills tags

Wisconsin bear guide's work begins months before the first hunter steps foot in camp for the September season. For Mike Foss of Washburn near Lake Superior, diligent attention to making certain black bears habitually return to 38 bear bait sites spread over 35 miles of rugged Bayfield County backcountry meant that hunters in 2009 realized a success rate of 95 percent, with 100 percent shot opportunity. Included in the kill was a 639 pound, Boone & Crockett boar taken by Craig Cichanofsky of Green Bay. Hopefully still out there in the jungle somewhere is Snaggle Tooth, the monster bear watched by On Wisconsin Outdoors for three seasons from the Foss camp thought to weigh as much as 700 pounds. Snaggle Tooth, so named for the long fang protruding from the side of his mouth probably due to a battle injury incurred in younger years, was captured several times on motion camera mounted over one remote bait station placed by Foss in dense terrain after tracking the old boar to the lair.

"Every year at this time I watch and hope that he's still alive," said Foss, who first saw the huge bear in broad daylight in 2005 on the hot trail of female companionship. "This is the mating season for black bears. Last year at this time he was nowhere to be seen and then he just showed up on camera on the same bait where we took the 639 pound bear last year. I'm sure those two battled based on the wounds we saw on both of them. We've taken bears over 400 pounds on that bait, the Boone & Crockett boar last year and Snaggle Tooth has been a fairly regular visitor just before dark. Not once have we seen a sow or cubs on that bait. Those big boars would kill the cubs and the sows know it. I'm hoping Snaggletooth shows up again this year."

Twenty-five hunters will come to Foss's Northern Wisconsin Outfitters in early September carrying high hopes and, it is expected, the proficiency with a firearm to quickly dispatch a Wisconsin black bear. One veteran bear hunter with proven cool in "fever" conditions is chosen annually to wait...against the odds... on Snaggletooth. Hunters will carry rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, compound bows, traditional archery equipment, and handguns. Regardless of that choice, each hunter is relying heavily on Foss and his associate guides...right now... to bring bears to them via the animal's tremendous sense of smell and ferocious appetite in September.

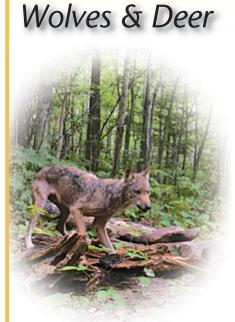


A black bear is captured by a motion camera mounted on a tree at one of the 23 Mike Foss bait sites on public and private land in Bayfield County.

With the exception of using hounds, baiting is the only way to successfully hunt bear. Until recently, many regular visitors to rural regions of Wisconsin have never even seen the shy and often nocturnal black bear in the wild. Increased northern Wisconsin sightings over the past several years and 2010 human-bear encounters even in Wisconsin's southern counties verify that a two-year cooperative study of Wisconsin black bears coordinated by the DNR is accurate; the population is probably about two times, or more, higher than what had been the longestablished population estimate of 13,000. The DNR website lists the 2010 bear population between 26,000 and 40,000 animals.

Currently, bear hunters wait on average seven to nine seasons to receive a kill permit. More than 70,000 hunters applied for and received either a harvest permit or preference point in 2010, the highest numbers of applicants since the quota system was adopted in 1986. The number of harvest permits has remained relatively unchanged over the last several

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A lone Wisconsin timber wolf apparently suffering from mange and seeking food scraps is caught on motion camera at a Mike Foss bear bait site. A nother predator with certain impact on the deer herd is the wolf, which is federally protected in Wisconsin. Although exact numbers of the wolf in the state and specific numbers of deer killed per wolf annually has been debated, it's safe to say that most deer hunters will agree that there are too many wolves taking too many deer.

The DNR has submitted a petition, applauded by Wisconsin hunting groups, to remove the gray wolf from the endangered list. Wisconsin's petition joins similar action filed by Minnesota in March with Michigan following suit.

"The Gray Wolf has been fully recovered in the state of Wisconsin with the current minimum population of wolves estimated to be near 720 animals," said Jack Nissen, President of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, which represents 168 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry organizations in the state. "This number far exceeds the 100 wolf population goal set by the federal government as the threshold for delisting the wolf as an endangered species in the state of Wisconsin."

The DNR has with approval from the Natural Resources Board (NRB) designated 66 Deer Management Unit (DMU) as regular units with traditional nine-day gun hunts with buck plus antlerless quota rules. This is an increase from 62 regular Units in 2009. According to the DNR, "Antlerless deer harvest is carefully managed by permits in regular units and 18 regular units will have no antlerless deer harvest permits available to deer hunters in 2010. This is up from 13 units with no antlerless permits available in 2009 and is the fastest possible way to increase herd

populations in units where the herd is below established goals."

The DNR with support of hunter groups including bowhunters has proposed eliminating harvest of antlerless deer by bowhunters in gun quota units that do not have antlerless permits available.

For 2010, 46 DMUs are designated as Herd Control Units with deer herd number estimated to be at least 20 percent above established goals. There is an unlimited supply of antlerless deer harvest permits available in these units, many in agricultural regions. Herd control units will also have an October 14-17 antlerless deer only gun hunt. There are 22 DMUs designated as Chronic Wasting Disease Management Units in 2010. These units have unlimited earn-a-buck rules and will be included in the October 14-17 antlerless only hunt. W

The Reich Stuff Handling hogs with dogs: A conservation necessity

In the Southern states, wild hogs destroy good hunting and farming land. And once a local population is established, it's impossible to completely eradicate them their toughness, breeding rate and undeniable survival skills (swimming across strong rivers, charging to intimidate opponents and just plain out-running predators) are absolutely amazing to witness.

You really have only three options to control a booming hog population, with a multi-facet approach: 1) baited hunting, 2) trap and eliminate, and 3) dog 'em down and purge.

OWO's Managing Editor, Luke Hartle, and I got a chance to witness option No. 3. We traveled to Roblyn's Neck Trophy Club in north-central South Carolina to a hog round-down with dogs. Here's how it works:

- 1. A group of smaller hounds (baying hounds, usually Walkers) sniff out a hog, chase it down, corral it and bark their fool heads off.
- 2. Some burly, tobacco-spitting "hog handler" dudes hear the barking canines (or locate on GPS tracking collars) and we all run to the scene.
- 3. A bumpy and muddy ATV ride ensues, and then a footrace to the scene of the showdown.

4. The dudes release a trained pit bull (ours was named Texas Pete) to go in to wrestle the hog down.

- 5. The hog handlers flip the porker over and end the adventure with a fast death stab to the heart (we chose a Schrade Extreme Survival knife).
- 6. The BBQ grill is ignited, meat is prepared, beers are opened and the party begins.

Of the five-man group, our 6-hour adventure ended with four hogs in the freezer. Yes, I got the piglet, but when it comes to controlling these damaging and menacing wild hogs, every "little" bit helps. The adventure was interesting and exhausting, not to mention a conservation necessity! Let's all hope and pray Wisconsin does not soon have a massively destructive hog population like down there.

For a southern adventure, Roblyn's neck has a lot to offer: deer, turkey, hogs, quail, dove and small game. Learn more at: roblynsneck.com. Wo

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





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Wisconsin Waterfowl Early scouting: waterfowling sweet spots

During mid-summer, it's hard to be a waterfowler. While fisherman are all over their game, and even Packers fans can start to watch the lads work out at training camp, those of us who wait for the whistling wings of October and November can only peruse the latest outdoor catalogs' offerings, work on re-stringing last year's tangles, patch up the holes our hunting partners' errant shots made in the decoys, and wait for the early goose season to start September 1.

Rather than just waiting and fixing, what if you could make a real difference in your hunting experience, by doing some legwork right now? It's certainly possible. Any hunter with more than a few years of experience knows that good scouting is almost always the root cause of success in the field. Although you certainly can't pattern the birds right now (in many cases, they're not here yet), you certainly can explore new places to hunt, both on public and private lands.

I had a very interesting conversation with Kent Van Horn, migratory game bird ecologist for the Bureau of Wildlife with the Wisconsin DNR (WDNR), last winter. During our talk, he shared with me a number of tidbits of information. One of the most compelling was the fact that most waterfowlers on public lands in Wisconsin are very sedentary. This doesn't mean you won't get off the couch—it means that once you have a spot to hunt, you don't move—ever.

Oftentimes, this reluctance to try something new results in some areas that have a high degree of hunter traffic, while other public areas—sometimes very nearby—get much less attention, and pressure, from hunters. It also means that you could be missing out on some really great hunting, only because you've never explored anything else.

Get Up Now

Nobody likes to miss a day in the blind in October, so what better time to research your next hunting spot than right now? Sure, it'll be pretty buggy now compared to during the season, but how great will it be to know what that boat launch looks like, where the likely hunting spots will be and other key "comfort" factors when you go to hunt a place for the first time next fall? The time you spend now will seem like a great investment when you have waypoints in your GPS or know just where the next bend in the trail is at 5 a.m. some day in November.

Fortunately, it's never been easier to get started on effective preseason scouting, particularly if you've got access to a computer. From very easy sites like Google Earth or Virtual Earth that show satellite imagery, to county websites that have maps of publicly owned hunting lands and GIS maps that show ownership records of private lands—you can do a lot of "getting started" right in your own living room, before you get in the truck.

Once you've targeted an area using whatever mapping assistance you find on-line, then it comes back to the basics of field work:

For Approaching Private Landowners:

- Never trespass. You do all of us as hunters a disservice when you don't request and receive permission to enter private lands, even before "having a look around."
- Pick your times. You've heard it before, but approaching hard working farm folks when they're in the midst of harvest time, or when cows are awaiting service, is almost a sure fire way to get the big "no." Be respectful.
- Be clear about what you're asking for. Identify yourself, who you'd hunt with, where you'd like to utilize the owner's lands, and for what. Even the most protected deer-hunting properties might not mind a few "golf course geese" being culled during the early September season.
- If successful in obtaining permission, be thankful. Respect the rules, followup with landowners, don't take advantage of opportunities you didn't ask permission for, and make sure to show your thanks after the outing and/or season. It does make a difference.

On Public Lands:

• Do your homework first. In the case of many public lands, there may be experts that are more than happy to

share information. County personnel, state property managers and even WDNR Wardens might be able to share valuable information with you. I can share two experiences: years ago, I once questioned a Warden via e-mail about a particular lake I wanted to hunt, that was within her area of responsibility. She was a huge source of information and guidance. More recently, I discovered a small, isolated, piece of county land that surrounds a small lake, while reviewing maps online. When I made a query of the county land office, the fine gentleman there even offered to have one of his most experienced staffers meet me out at the property, to show me around. They even made it clear that the property is very lightly used! Treated respectfully, most of these folks are happy to help you get information.

- Remember, just because you've discovered a place for the first time doesn't mean you're the next Christopher Columbus. It's hard to tell in July and August what the usage patterns will be for a property in the fall, but by utilizing contacts like those described above, you can get a feel for what might be going on, later. Be prepared to share the resource, be respectful, and you might even make a new friend.
- Know your boundaries. The saddest excuse in the book for any private landowner that abuts public lands is "I didn't know" when they find someone that is trespassing off the adjacent public lands. Be a responsible hunter, do your research, and carry a paper copy of the map with you – so that, if you do accidently stray, at least you'll be able to take receive effective direction on where the error was made.

Have Your Tools Ready:

- Before doing any actual on-theground work, be sure you've got your maps ready, your compass and some binoculars to better see your surroundings.
- Better yet, learn to use your hand-held GPS, and bring it with you. Sometimes you can even get waypoints to check out from your PC before you leave the



Being prepared and doing your homework now is the best way to ensure success once the waterfowl season opens this fall.

house. Other times, you'll find great things you want to be able to get back to—that's what GPS is all about.

 Make notes. If you don't keep a log, now's the time. Record the place, conditions, key information, including names and phone numbers, etc.
 Believe me, once you're over 40, you'll appreciate being able to reference all this stuff, without having to remember it!

Finally, consider involving a young person in all of this preparation. Just think: Most of our younger folks are great with technology, so now you'd have the chance to connect some "on-line" time with some "huntin' time," and both of you will benefit. You'll find the exercise of the whole process more rewarding as you expose someone else to the work, and the wonders, of waterfowl hunting.

Now get going! All of us at the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association are committed to education. Use this summer to learn some new things for yourself and make your fall hunting trips more successful and satisfying. Wo

Don Kirby is Executive Director for the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association. He joined the group after 16 years as a Store Manager with Gander Mtn. in Wisconsin. Prior to his time with WWA, he did extensive outdoor media work on radio and TV. He has an MBA from UW-Milwaukee, and lives near Green Bay with his wife Kathy and their children. Don has been an avid waterfowler for nearly 30 years.



Sometimes catching a pile of small, aggressively feeding fish is a therapeutic break from the emotional turmoil of constantly chasing rod-bending lunkers.

"Sometimes it's nice just to catch fish." So says my friend Bill anytime we decide to fish for something besides muskies.

Most of my fishing time is spent chasing a variety of species of large gamefish. The tradeoff of chasing these big fish is that overall, I catch fewer fish. There are times, however, when I just want to go out and catch a bunch of fish. This often occurs after my ego has taken a beating from going through a fish-catching drought. Not coincidentally, this drought often happens during August when our waters are at their maximum temperature and the big fish have seemed to pack their bags and headed somewhere north.

To repair my ego, I head to some favorite waters where I know it's likely I'll be able to put a bunch of gamefish in the boat, even if those fish are relatively small. In my area of southeastern Wisconsin, there are several lakes where small bass and northern pike are readily available and willing to bite.

I've built up a short list of lakes close to home that are loaded with small gamefish. Much of the list was

Outdoor Convergence Quantity can be quality

formed over the course of 15 years fishing local waters; however, there are some methods you can use to find these fish-filled waters without having to spend a decade looking for them.

Hunting For Lakes

My first suggestion is to go online and download a copy of a DNR booklet called, "Wisconsin Lakes." This document lists most of the state's lakes and the major categories of fish in them. It then places those fish in population density categories of present, common or abundant. You will want to look for lakes that have your targeted fish species listed as Abundant. This indicates there you will likely find a big population of undersize fish that are just waiting to be caught.

The DNR routinely updates the booklet, but you may want to call your local biologist to confirm the information for a specific lake is up to date.

I also recommend that you check in with your local bait shop. They might be able to offer advice on your lake choices and might suggest other waters to try as well.

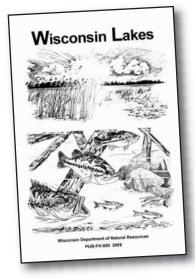
Once you narrowed down your lake choice, it's time to make some decisions on tackle. When choosing lures for this situation, I keep it very simple. I use a selection of soft plastic worms, small deep-diving crankbaits, and spinner baits.

When it comes to equipment, leave the heavy gear at home. I prefer spinning reels spooled with 8- to 10pound monofilament for the soft plastics and a bait caster or spinning reel spooled with 20-pound braided line for the crankbaits and spinnerbaits.

Hunting For Fish

Locating these fish is generally easy; just look for weeds. Small bass and pike will sit in the weeds all summer long while their larger brethren will often move to deeper water. Sometimes these fish will be on the edge of the weeds while at other times they will be lurking farther in. This can change on an hour-byhour basis, so you need be willing to move shallower or deeper depending on the fish's mood.

I will almost always start fishing with a spinner bait. These baits are an excellent choice for covering water and finding active fish. I will first cast over the tops of the weeds a short distance in from the weed edge. If I am not contacting fish, I will cast the spinner bait parallel to the deep weed edge.



Download *Wisconsin Lakes*, at: dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakebook

After the spinner bait, I will switch to a crankbait. Most often I will cast the crank into and along the weed edge. When the crank hangs up on the weeds, I will give it a hard jerk to rip the bait out. This is often when the bass or pike will strike the lure and they will do it aggressively. When I cast along the weed edge, I will reel the crank handle very fast to get it deep quickly. I will also occasionally stop the bait for a moment which often allows a fish holding just inside the weeds to dart out and smack it.

If the cranks and spinners are not producing, I will switch to soft plastics. Most often this will be various worms that are either rigged wacky-style or Texas-style. I will cast the worms into weed pockets or will cast right to the weed edge allowing them to sink for several seconds before moving the bait.

If I'm fishing at sunset, I will generally start casting the worms on the inside weed edge and the shallows looking bass which are prowling for food. Often, bass will go on a feeding binge right around sunset lasting until it gets dark.

If your ego has taken a beating, maybe it's time to repair it by catching a load of small fish. It can be quite therapeutic. W_0

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Nabbing salmon from the shore of Lake Michigan is an excellent way to experience some cool-water action when the weather is hot.

Shore Bets Dancing to a salmon jig

uring the past 20 years the methods D for catching Great Lakes salmon and trout have changed. For years the main method was soaking live alewives. More recently, it switched to throwing glow spoons at night. Now, jigging plastics has become more popular. Over the years I have caught trout and salmon accidentally while jigging plastics for perch. I really never thought of using plastics exclusively for salmon or trout until a few years ago when I saw a fellow fisherman successfully using plastics. I began experimenting and found it works great under the right conditions.

Timing And Conditions

From my experience, fishing Lake Michigan from mid-June to mid-July is the best 30-day period for summer salmon fishing. This period has given me the most consistent action for both trout and salmon. Other times of year that are good are early spring for Coho and fall for all species.

As with most shore fishing on Lake Michigan, the best time to fish is sundown 'til sun up. Because of the extremely clear water of Lake Michigan, salmon move in near shore under the cover of darkness where they actively feed on alewives. Without a doubt, nighttime is the right time for fishing trout and salmon.

Although the time of year and time of day are important, the single most important factor in catching fish is water temperature. No matter the time of year, having near shore water temperatures ranging from the upper



Although typically used for panfish and bass, the author has discovered that plastic baits can be lethal for trout and salmon.

40s to the upper 50s is critical for successful trout and salmon fishing. Cold water brings bait close, and of course, trout and salmon.

Tactics And Tackle

Working plastics for trout and salmon is easy; there are a few basic techniques I've used to catch these fish. The first is the simple lift and drop. Cast the ½- to 1-ounce jig out, let it sink to the bottom, lift and drop the bait as you work it back in. This method works well anywhere along a break wall.

The second technique involves "swimming" the bait. Cast out the jig and let it sink to the bottom. Then, lift and drop the jig and use the current found at the end of the break wall to swim the bait in or out of the gap.

The last technique includes snap jigging. As with the other techniques, cast out the jig, let it sink and aggressively jerk the bait back. This, too, will work anywhere along the break wall. Try all three as the fish's mood will determine which method they want on that day.

A high-quality 9-foot mediumheavy rod combined with a reel large enough to hold several hundred yards of 10- to 14-pound braided line is perfect for this type of fishing. Make sure the reel has a great drag as these fish will put it to the test.

There are several good baits that will work well for this application. The flukes by Zoom, jerk shads by Berkley and the new minnow baits by Trigger X will all work. Use these baits in the 4- or 5-inch sizes. The best color choice for plastics is pearl. Zoom makes one in glow as well which is great for night fishing plastics, although pearl works at night, too.

Having the right jig head is also crucial for success. Standard jig heads don't have a hook strong enough to land large fish. I personally like the saltwater bullet-style heads. They are available in the ideal weights and have a super strong and sharp hook.

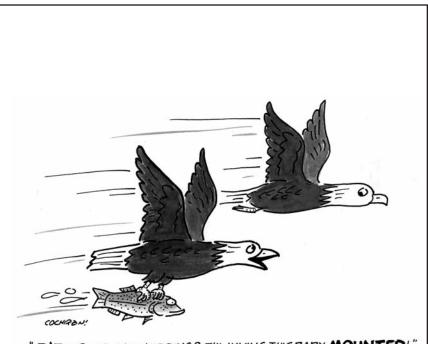
Conclusion

Fishing with plastics has always

"Without a doubt, nighttime is the right time for fishing trout and salmon."

been a great way to successfully catch fish. They are a great choice because they're inexpensive and easy to use. This summer, when the water near shore is cold and fishing for trout and salmon is hot, get out and try this technique; it'll put more trout and salmon in your cooler. W

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



" EAT IT? ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M HAVING THIS BABY MOUNTED!"

An 'Up Nort' Report When less is more

I was fortunate enough to again spend 10 days in May camping near Boulder Junction at the 26th annual Great Walleye Assault (GWA, for short) with my buddies. If you think back, you'll remember those 10 days as being the ones that broke up the two long stretches of great weather we enjoyed this spring. It was beautiful the day we set up camp and beautiful again the day we tore down ... in between we had snow, sleet, 4 straight days of stiff east winds, cold and rain. You name it, we saw it.

But there was a positive side to the less than beautiful weather. We didn't have to deal with any bugs. Our ice bill was low. The beer stayed cold—inside or outside of the coolers. Minnows stayed alive a long time. There were few other campers in the campground. We didn't go thru much sunscreen. It was easy to keep track of all of our clothes because we were generally wearing everything we'd brought. Also, the rain/snow meant there was no fire ban and the nightly campfires were bigger than normal.

Since three of us have cabins 'up nort', the question has been raised more than once as to why we choose to camp instead of enjoying the comforts of a heated cabin with appliances, electricity and indoor plumbing. While that route might make sense to a lot of folks, it just wouldn't be the same. Sometimes, less is more. The coffee just tastes better in the morning sitting in a lawn chair, looking out over the lake from the campsite. No TVs, less traffic, less competition at the boat landings, less stress ... it just makes the whole trip more enjoyable and more memorable.

When it comes to boats, I think the same is true. During GWA, I had the pleasure of spending a lot of time in my buddy Jack's new fishing boat. It's a beauty ... lots of room, quiet 4stroke engine and dual live-wells. I liked it. It's a lot more boat than I'm used to. But as I look forward to summer, I start to get the itch to climb into a much smaller boat. Those who know me or who have read this column previously know how much I enjoy canoe trolling for lake trout.

Which brings me to my "new" boat. The winter before last I got invited to do some ice fishing in the southern part of the state. When I walked into the garage of the friend's house I'd be staying at, I saw her ... the boat I'd been looking for (even though I didn't know it until right then). It was love at first sight. Oh, she was piled full of stuff and a little dusty, but I could see past all of that. And I was more than a little excited when the owner told me that he and his brother seldom used it anymore. To top it off, he said he'd like to get it out of his garage. That was arranged.

So for about a year now I've been the proud owner of a 1970s vintage Grumman sport boat—a 15-foot square-backed canoe/row boat. It doesn't have a motor, but I can easily clamp on an electric trolling motor when I choose. It's probably not pretty to anyone except me, but I think it's beautiful. My wife has also taken a real liking to it since it is roomier and much more stable than our regular canoe. Also, if I'm rowing, that means she isn't paddling. It's light enough for two guys to carry or one guy to drag if necessary. I can get it into most any landing. With the low water levels we're dealing with, that's a huge plus-less boat equals more lakes to fish.

It doesn't have live-wells, carpeting, pedestal seats, running lights, a radio or any of that. It's simple. It works. It gets me to quiet places. It rows like a dream. I have already caught a lot of fish out of it. As long as I continue to wake up each morning, I anticipate that I'll catch a lot more. Could I fish out of a bigger boat? Sure. But sometimes, less is more.

See you on the water. Just sayin'. $^{\rm GW}$

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.



DICK ELLIS On Wisconsin Outdoors Real Men Bleed

As we near the conclusion of three years of publishing On Wisconsin Outdoors, here's a little insight into our ongoing campaign encouraging people to give blood. We call these public service messages "Real Men Bleed", with the ads using our own outdoor writers and guides to ask Wisconsin's hunters and anglers to donate blood.

It started as a personal journey long before OWO. I looked at my tax returns under "charitable donations" and immediately cursed my own "cheap-skate-ness". Giving blood meant that I could still help people who really needed help and every bit of the contribution goes to those that need it most. And man do they need it. When you start to give regularly the people at the Blood Center of Wisconsin will begin to call you when you're five week waiting period is up and ask, very nicely, if you might donate again.

They just called again this morning. They need blood. So I'm going. I'll meet good people there again and be amazed at how much blood some of them have given. Best of all...they'll "make" me eat the chocolate chip cookies, and all the other goodies before I leave.



Unrelated to Dick Ellis' commitment to donating blood, this "Reel Man" and OWO Publisher will be a <u>recipient</u> of your generosity when he undergoes heart surgery on July 1.

Try it. You'll like it. And this I know. All the kids at places like Children's Hospital and all the Wisconsin people who really need your help thank you...from the bottom of their heart. Wo

SUZETTE CURTIS <u>Recipes by Suzette</u> Cleaning out the freezer

B efore we begin a new fall full of hunting seasons in our household, I use this time B as the perfect opportunity to take inventory of our freezer contents. I don't like to waste anything, so I try to creatively serve up what are basically considered "leftovers" (trust me, there is no venison tenderloin left at this time of year). These are a few of my favorite ways to enjoy the previous seasons' harvests in order to make room for what I always hope is a plentiful bounty to come! W_0

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. recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

Venison Meatballs

by Suzette Curtis

I take whatever venison cuts we have left and grind them, along with a small amount of beef tallow I get from the butcher. Usually I combine about 1/4-pound tallow per 2 pounds venison.

2 lbs. ground venison (with tallow) Two eggs, beaten 1 c. onion, chopped ³/₄ c. dried bread crumbs

1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese 1/4 c. chopped fresh parsley 2 tbsp. chopped fresh basil 2 tbsp. minced garlic

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spray large cookie sheet or jelly-roll pan with nonstick cooking spray; set aside. In large bowl, combine all ingredients (I take my rings off and mix everything together with my hands). Then, shape mixture into 1-inch meatballs and place on prepared baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes, then turn meatballs and bake another 10 minutes.

Serve with homemade tomato sauce:

2 tbsp. olive oil 1/2 c. onion, chopped 1 tbsp. minced garlic One 141/2 oz. can petite diced tomatoes 1/4 tsp. salt 1/4 tsp. pepper

In saucepan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook, stirring until onion becomes soft. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Pour over prepared meatballs and serve.

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Recipes Online onwisconsinoutdoors.com WILD GAME

Pheasant Salad

by Suzette Curtis

Two pheasant breasts, split & boned 2 tbsp. olive oil One bag mixed greens 1 c. dried cherries or Craisins 1 c. pecans, chopped

¹/₂ c. feta cheese, crumbled 1/4 c. finely chopped red onion 8 oz. chopped fresh mushrooms Bottled raspberry vinaigrette Fresh ground black pepper



In large sauté pan, heat oil over high heat. Add pheasant breasts and cook until no longer pink in center. The key is to cook them guickly over the highest heat possible without scorching the oil. Remove from heat; let cool for 10 minutes. Slice each pheasant breast into thin julienne strips.

Meanwhile, mix salad greens, dried cherries, pecans, feta cheese, red onion and mushrooms in large bowl. Drizzle raspberry vinaigrette salad dressing over top and toss to coat. Divide mixture onto four dinner plates. Top each salad with ¹/₄ of the sliced pheasant breast and sprinkle with ground black pepper.

Ma Plog's Fish Batter By Dr. Ron Bruch, Wisconsin DNR Two eggs CORRECTION 1½ tsp. salt 1½ tsp. oil

1¹/₂ tsp. baking powder 1 c. milk

1 c. flour (missing from recipe in last issue) Paprika for color

Cracker Meal: Blend salted saltine crackers in blender on lowest speed.

Beat all ingredients until smooth. Dip fish fillets in batter, and then roll in cracker meal. Deep fry in oil in a Dutch oven or a deep castiron frying pan.

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Fisherman's Stew

by Suzette Curtis

This is the recipe where you can "throw" in any type of fish you want. So, whatever you have left in your freezer is fair game. But remember: Only firm fish will retain its shape during cooking; less firm fish will just add to

4 tbsp. olive oil

- 4 c. onions, chopped
- 4 c. celery, chopped
- 4 tbsp. flour
- 1 qt. chicken stock
- 1 qt. fish stock
- 4 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley 4 tbsp. chopped fresh basil 4 tbsp. chopped fresh oregano

Two bay leaves

Fish, cut into bite-sized chunks

Two cans (28 oz.) diced tomatoes

In large pot, heat oil and sauté onions and celery until softened. Add flour and stir to combine. Gradually add chicken and fish stock, stirring constantly. Add all remaining ingredients except fish. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 20 minutes. Remove cover and simmer an additional 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add fish chunks to simmering stew. Cook and stir until fish turns opaque (depending on type of fish—approximately 10 minutes). Serve with crusty

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While other anglers are busy chasing walleyes and muskies, the author enjoys the fight and subtle beauty of fishing for smallmouth bass.

Behold the glory of summertime: campfires

under starlit skies, the simple pleasure of an ice-cold glass of lemonade and some of the fastest fishing action of the year. Wisconsin is home to arguably one of the greatest collections of sport fish in North America. From the raw power of drag-stripping king salmon to the simple charm of beautifully adorned brook trout—from the majesty of the mighty muskie to the exquisite table fare of the walleye—as residents of this fine state we are privy to a host of outdoor experiences on the water.

Dr. James A. Henshall in his historic text, Book of the Black Bass, described one of Wisconsin's more popular fish species, the smallmouth bass, as, "Inch-for-inch and pound-forpound, the gamest fish that swims."

JOEL DEBOER **Wisconsin Angling Adventures** Summertime smallies

While this sentiment is not shared by everyone to have ever picked up a rod and reel, it's gospel to the contingency of anglers who passionately pursue this bronze-backed adversary throughout the open-water season.

Perhaps one of the finest times in which to connect with smallmouth bass, especially in river systems, is during the summer months. It's simple physiology really, being cold-blooded creatures, as the water temperatures increase, so does the smallmouth's metabolism—and with it the need to consume more food. All this adds up to fine action and excellent angling opportunities for the summertime smallmouth angler.

I'm fortunate to spend a great deal of my time fishing on Wisconsin's

hardest working river—the Wisconsin's hardest working river—the Wisconsin. The Wisconsin River—a virtual muskie and walleye factory—is also some of the premier smallmouth bass water in the upper Midwest. While the bulk of my river smallmouth fishing has been done on the Wisconsin, the same trends, tactics and techniques have produced fish for me from a myriad of other Wisconsin rivers including the Flambeau, Rib, St. Croix and Eau Claire Rivers.

Dabble In The Details

The key to finding summertime river smallmouth is to first identify main river structure. Sand bars and humps, undercut banks, snags, stumps and blow-downs, wing dams and even weeds will all draw fish during the balmy months of summer. The best structure tends to be in close proximity to the main river channel, due in large part to the current available there as side channels and backwaters experience the reduced current flow so often experienced during summertime on Wisconsin rivers. During times of stable, even reduced flow, smallmouths will tend to scatter along these structural elements, forcing anglers to search aggressively in order to locate fish.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

As one of Wisconsin's more popular fish species, the smallmouth bass is described as "Inch-for-inch and pound-for-pound, the gamest fish that swims."

> —Dr. James A. Henshall Book of the Black Bass

Searching for smallmouth bass entails utilizing lures that not only cover water quickly, but that bronzebacks find irresistible; fail-safe options include lipless in-line spinners, crankbaits, buzzbaits, and spinnerbaits. My personal favorite, due to its versatility and ability to cover water quickly and consistently score on smallies, is the inline spinner. The Mepps Aglia, Aglia Long and Black Fury are my go-to baits when conditions dictate smallmouth bass are scattered. I use the Aglia in shallow water, the Aglia Long for reaching deeper depths and the darkcolored blade of the Black Fury during low-light conditions.

When current increases, be it from storm run-off or gates opening at a dam, smallmouth activity tends to increase and fish concentrations on or near these structures quickly grows. Look for the bulk of the fish to be on the up-current side of structural elements, with smallmouth positioning themselves to face into the current. The same "search" lures can now be utilized to get presentations back in the strike zone as quickly as possible, allowing multiple casts to aggressive fish within a short period of time.

Summertime smallmouth bass spend a fair amount of their time feeding aggressively; however, situations such as increased fishing pressure and cold fronts can certainly slow the bite down and make fish less aggressive and more finicky. When this happens, a change in lures and tactics is in order. For starters, retrieve speeds need to be reduced and more high-speed, commotion-oriented offerings should be substituted for slower, more subtle lure styles. Swimbaits such as the 31/2inch Mister Twister Mister Shad rigged on a Mustad Powerlock Plus are not only extremely snag resistant, but deadly on bass; tubes, such as the Mister Twister 4-inch FAT Tube or 5-inch Tubo are also exceptional choices for eliciting strikes. Tubes can be rigged either weighted or non-weighted, depending on the depth of the water. You want to use the lightest weight possible to ensure the maximum delay in your bait descending to the bottom, yet still landing on target and not getting washed downstream by the current.

Another fine choice for targeting less aggressive fish is popper or chugger-style topwaters. The beauty of these lures is that they can be fished incredibly slowly; work multiple pauses into your retrieve and let the fish tell

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Lines From A Hooksetter *Terror on Top*

Over the years I've had many encounters with muskies on top-water lures—from walk-the-dog style lures like Jackpots and Dancing Raiders, to propstyle baits like Sputterducks and Top Raiders, to crawling-style baits like the Hawg Wobbler or the so called Creeper. All of these baits have distinctive individual characteristics, but they also have one thing in common—they produce explosive, unforgettable, mind-blowing strikes that will send water spraying into the air and children running for cover!

Each style of top-water bait has a specific purpose and function for its use. Over the years I've had many opportunities to try different applications with topwater lures, and here's what I have found best for each one:

Walking The Dog

These lures will zigzag through the water with a tantalizing back-and-forth motion that can tempt somewhat lethargic muskies into striking. This motion can run anywhere from 1-3 feet depending upon the individual lure and how you work the rod. On certain applications you can also get these top-water baits to dive and pop on the surface by sharply snapping the rod tip while retrieving the lure. This action, at times, can entice lazy followers into becoming aggressive strikers.

I primarily use walk-the-dog style baits very early in the day or late in the evening, and on some rare



Fishing top-water baits is not only fun, it has been proved to produce some of the biggest muskies.

occasion very overcast days with little or no wind. This bait is especially effective throughout the summer months, but don't overlook running it right away on opening weekend. Of all the top-water baits, this has proven to be the "big fish" bait.

Prop-Style Baits

These top-water lures have come a long way over the years, from the old "Globe" to what we now have with Top Raiders, Sputterducks and the many other varieties. They can come with multiple spinners and props, fancy color patterns, detachable bodies and many other options for the muskie-hunting enthusiast.

The primary purpose for prop-style lures is to spray water into the air while being retrieved, and to create a lot of commotion on the surface with its churning and spinning props and blades to get the attention of the muskie. These lures can be retrieved at a steady rate to imitate an animal or fish swimming across the surface, but to really get the attention of a muskie, try giving your rod a sharp jerk every so often during your retrieve to really blow up the water with your bait. The steady retrieve will create quite a commotion on the surface all on its own, but when you give that extra sharp jerk on the rod, you might be able to get the attention of a lethargic fish or entice a following fish into striking.

The best time of the day for running prop-style baits is basically anytime. These lures will work at all hours of the day, but I've had my best luck running these baits early in the morning up to around 10 a.m., and then again during the evening hours and after dark. They also have a special place if it's overcast with a little too moderate wind, and especially if it is raining.

Creeper-Style Baits

The lazy back-and-forth motion of this lure, and the extremely slow retrieve, will drive you crazy. But not only will it drive you crazy it, will entice and tempt any muskie that it encounters! These types of lures have a specific place and purpose, and when used in the right situation, can be absolutely deadly.

When I have an area that I know holds fish—an exact point on a weed bed or a specific log along a shoreline or maybe a sunken rock pile—I bring out the creeper-style baits. These are not the type of lures you want to use when "searching" for fish; these are lures you bring out when you know the exact location of a fish.

Maybe you had a recent blowup from a muskie but the fish missed the bait, or maybe you had a follow on a bucktail or a jerkbait but the fish wouldn't commit—this is the time to bring out the creeper-style bait. The slow, tantalizing and enticing motion of these types of lures are usually more than any muskie can take. You are basically throwing this lure right into their kitchen and giving them all the opportunity in



"No matter if the strike is out 20 feet from the boat or right at your feet, a strike on a top-water bait is one of the most exciting and rewarding to any muskie fisherman on the water."

the world to eat it. The steady click clack back and forth motion and sound of this bait is often too much for any muskie to handle, and when they strike this type of lure it's often very explosive and can sometimes be violent.

These lures are great early and late in the day or during mid-day hours if it's overcast with little to no wind. But, if I have an area that I know is holding fish, I will not hesitate to pull this lure out at any time of the day or during any type of conditions!

All Top-Water Baits

These lures have their own unique properties and characteristics and work very well under their individual circumstances, but the one thing they have in common is the violent and explosive strikes they can provoke. No matter if the strike is out 20 feet from the boat or right at your feet, a strike on a top-water bait is one of the most exciting and rewarding to any muskie fisherman on the water. ${}^{6}W_{0}$

Phil Schweik owns and operates Hooksetters Guide Service in Central Wisconsin. Phil is an also avid tournament fisherman and seminar speaker. Phil and his clients put 125 muskies in his boat last year, with the largest one being 53 ½ inches long and over 40 pounds. Contact Phil at: 715-693-5843 or visit him at www.hooksetters.biz.

Blood Brothers Outdoors The anxious bowhunter's off season





Shooting carp during the summer months is a great way to keep your "archery muscles" flexed and your skills sharp.

When getting in amongst the deer for scouting purposes, it is important to use as much stealth as you would while hunting later during the season.

Tuly and August is the time when bowhunters start counting down the days until the opener in September. The "off season" is waning, the weather is hot and we're trying to cool down any way we can. Driving the back roads in the evenings with the radio on and glassing my hunting areas is a comfortable pastime that pays dividends when bow season finally opens. Many of the deer seen by glassing during the summer are the same ones that we will be seeing from the treestand later in the year. Information gathered now helps to develop a deer hunting game plan for the early bow season, which I feel is not often given its due respect.

Early bow season is a great time to tag a deer you've been watching all summer because they have not been pressured and remain in their summer pattern for a while after the season opens. A word of caution though: Be careful about tipping off other hunters to "your" deer by being seen glassing property that is accessible by them. If you educate other hunters about a deer they might not have known are there, you'll be inviting them to the party and their company might spoil your best laid plans on a buck you've been keeping track of.

As I glass, I'm also watching the roads for other cars, bike riders or

hikers, and if I see any, I put down the binoculars and pick up a map or other prop to make it look like I'm lost and I just pulled over to get my bearings. So, if you see a green Silverado parked along a country road, check out the surroundings and you might discover what I've been looking at!

Many times I need to hike into spots to be able to glass deer that are spooky, or the field they are feeding in is not within sight from a road. Glassing on foot usually requires dousing myself in bug repellent, wearing full camo and a headnet, and sneaking into and out of the spot I will be glassing from. This type of effort usually is more effective because, if done with care, the deer are unaware they're being watched.

Always On Duty

Scouting cameras are excellent tools that can expose the deer that are living in your hunting area. If used wisely, scouting cameras can be a real asset. Placing scouting cameras in locations you can access without alarming deer when you check them, is a must. If cameras are placed in a location that allows deer to hear, see or smell your presence, they will have a negative impact. Just because a deer doesn't see or hear you placing and checking your cameras, don't think you've gone undetected. A deer will be able to detect your scent trail for days after your visit, so you must place the cameras where they won't cross your path. If a deer smells a human in an area that has been devoid of human scent for months, it will become alarmed and might relocate to a place that is free of human scent, like the neighbor's woods. Placing cameras on a food source or watering hole away from where they bed is a smarter choice than putting it on a tree you wish to hunt from. Use scouting cameras with caution to avoid educating deer.

Incorporating a variety of ways to practice shooting your bow during the summer months also helps to prepare you for opening day of the archery deer season. Range shooting at known distances lets you know how long of a shot you can be deadly at under ideal conditions, but stump shooting while cruising the woods and shooting at moving targets will sharpen your shooting skills for actual hunting conditions—and it makes practice more fun.

While stump shooting, I walk around and estimate the distance to the target and take my best shot. I find I pay closer attention to my form and have better concentration in order to make my best shot. I also learn to get pretty accurate on estimating yardage without the aid of a rangefinder or having paced off the distance prior to taking the shot. Bowfishing is another way to help me tune up—and it's a blast. Shooting at carp that won't stay still and that you need to sneak up on makes you concentrate on making a good shot when the opportunity arrives. Stump shooting and bowfishing are fun ways to tune up for bowhunting—which, might I remind you, is just around the corner. \mathcal{W}_{O}

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.



Last issue I told you about the first fly I tied to the end of a rod—a popper to a cane pole, no less—and how that fly started me on my life-long love of fly fishing. Today, you will learn that the first fly I ever tied was a streamer.

I started tying my own flies from a kit my parents bought me for Christmas. After checking out the tools, material and accompanying manual, I proceeded to tie my first fly. I kept it simple. For a tail I used the tip of a grizzly hackle. For the body I selected dark green floss, ribbed with silver tinsel. I used the same piece of hackle—minus the tip—for the wing, which I tied flat over the top of the body. I've never fished that fly, but I use it in my beginners tying class.

Why A Streamer?

Why did I choose a streamer as my first fly? Because I had learned by then that streamers catch fish. Granted, my first streamer was not a standard pattern, but it was simple and made a good beginning experience.

As we know, flies simulate natural bait more than any other type of lures. Most dry flies are designed to match the hatch, as are most nymphs. Streamers are counterfeit minnows and other small fish. Yes, some are attractors, but not as much so as in other forms of fishing.

Streamers come in a wide variety of recipes and designs. I have many boxes of them. One is for my No. 8s, 6s and 4s. Another holds the larger No. 2s through 0/2s. One box is for Lake Michigan, and I have a box of just Clouser Deep Minnows. I also keep a few No. 12s in my nymph box. These selections cover me for everything from trout (yes, I do like streamers for trout), panfish, bass and pike. I even have a small, limited number of really large streamers for muskies, although I have yet to take one on the fly rod. Maybe someday.

Obviously, I do not have a favorite. However, several decades ago, I designed a streamer based on the size and coloration of the minnows I found in the stream I frequented quite often for trout. It's a simple fly and still works in all waters, for a variety of species—at least some of the time. I call it the "squirrel-tail streamer," because all it has is a silver tinsel body and a squirrel tail wing.

Most streamers are not that basic. Some have wings made only with hair, or only hackle or marabou. Some are mixed and add peacock herl to indicate the lateral line. There are streamers with hackle collars. Today many tiers use synthetic materials. Flashabou or Krystal Flash is often added. Bodies can be floss, chenille or wool. Many have tinsel ribs.

One of my favorite streamer patterns combines many of these elements. As with the nymph pattern two issues ago, it has no name. Maybe I'll call it "Perch." (see sidebar at right.)

That's it. The "Perch." Why not? It has the color of perch and the collar adds the bulk needed for the proper profile of a perch when the fly is wet. So it must be a perch. Welcome to the creative side of fly tying.

This is the second perch pattern I've created. My first was tied primarily for northern pike. It has worked to a degree, but it's more successful with smallmouth bass than the pike. I'll let you know how this one does this year.

How do we fish streamers? Just watch the minnows they represent. Minnows often hold motionless. When they move, they can drift slowly,or dart. All fish do the same, so any size streamer you fish should be cast, let rest, then moved a few inches, slowly and/or twitched erratically. If, however, you see the predator approaching the fly, then strip it quickly, as if your "minnow" has also seen its nemesis and is trying to escape. It's the natural way of things that live in the waters of our state.

That's it; let me know how this pattern works for you. Next time? Salmon flies will be in the vice by then.

Keep a good thought! Wo

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.



The author fishes with a wide variety of sizes and color of streamers, and has gone so far as to create separate streamer boxes designated specifically for the various waters where he fishes.

Tying a Streamer

Hook: Long-shank streamer hook, size of your choice. I'm using a No. 4 Mustad 79580.

Thread: Black No. 6/0 UNI-thread. Weight: Optional. I find weighting some streamers desirable because it keeps the split-shot off the tippet. This fly is weighted with just a strip of medium lead tied—not wrapped—along the length of the shank.

Tail: None. If I tie this in a larger size, I might have to add a tail because otherwise the profile might not be correct.

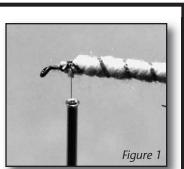
Body: Strands of pale yellow and light lime, fine knitting wool with the strands intermixed then twisted together before wrapping around the shank. *Rib:* Silver tinsel, widely spaced. (Figure 1)

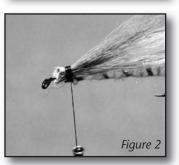
Under-wing: A mix of yellow and olive bucktail favoring the yellow below the olive. (Figure 2)

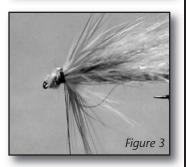
Collar: One deep red hackle, one yellow hackle, one olive hackle. Palmer to the head one at a time in order listed. Note: Red denotes gills. (Figure 3)

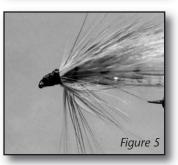
Over-wing: Two yellow, and two olive hackles tied on the side not the top. Tie yellow in first followed by the olive. Note: With a brown permanent marker, "stripe" the olive hackles before tying them in.

Head: Black tying thread. Whip finish, and add head cement. (Figure 4)











DENNIS RADLOFF **Running the reefs**

A lthough summer can be one of the more challenging times of the season to find consistent walleye patterns, the Green Bay system has a few ingredients essential to some of the greatest trophy opportunities of the season: big walleyes, and lots of reefs.

Catching Consistency

Targeting the open water reefs of Green Bay in the summer is where you will find consistent walleye fishing. Open-water walleyes will spend most of the summer foraging on the schools of baitfish that are abundant on the numerous reefs that are scattered through out the Door County region of Green Bay. These reefs are easily located by use of a good map or GPS system. Selecting which reefs to target is easily accomplished by driving along the main break-line of the reefs, watching your locator for schools of bait fish.

Once you identify the depth of the baitfish, you can start trolling crawler harnesses or crankbaits

along those edges. Typical depths will be in the 15to 30-foot range. Trolling speed can vary depending on what you are using. When trolling crawler harnesses the most common speed range will be $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mph. When trolling crank baits, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2.2 mph will get the job done.

With the clear water conditions in the Door County region, the use of planner boards will help spread your lures apart and help target walleyes that might "scatter" away from the boat.

Using a GPS system when trolling these reef complexes will enable you to save waypoints on schools of baitfish and where you are catching fish, making is possible to replicate productive trolling passes. W_{0}

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



Even though it's hot, big walleyes still have to eat during summer months. For the best success, the author suggests following baitfish near deep-water reefs.



If you want summer fishing action, hit the "big" lake. Lake Superior is the largest body of fresh water in the world. It contains as much water as all the other great lakes combined, and most importantly, it has the only stable population of naturally reproducing lake trout.

It's this self-sustaining fishing that

The 'Trout' Days of Summer Lake Superior lakers

our group of five went after a short time ago. We chartered a boat out of Saxon Harbor, Wisconsin, which is 10 miles west of Hurley on Highway 2. We selected Star Kissed Charters, owned by Charlie and Joe Maslanka. Their 34-foot boat was great. They ran 14 lines on the bottom using downriggers and planer boards, trolling spoons of various colors. We worked 8 or 9 miles from shore in about 100 feet of water with bottom temperatures of 46 degrees.

We fished a half-day charter of 5 hours and boated nine lakers and lost about four or five more. It was a very warm day and we enjoyed nature's largest freshwater air conditioner.

The captain cleaned the fish as we

caught them and their stomachs were loaded with rainbow smelt. Lakers are predaceous and will eat insects, plus small birds and animals as well as fish.

Our catch averaged between 4-7 pounds. Lakers reach sexual maturity between 8-10 pounds after 10 years. Our captain boated an 18 pounder earlier in the week and claimed that his record was in excess of 46 pounds.

This slow growth means heavy fishing pressure can seriously deplete the lake trout's population. The fish we caught were from natural production; one had a sea lamprey wound. These fish were just the right size for the grill and palate. Larger fish are often less desirable as table fare and end up in the smoker. Charters include all equipment and tackle. You'll need a fishing license and a Great Lakes stamp. Remember that weather can be unpredictable, so bring layers of clothing. At this time, lakers are the predominant target, but you can catch browns, rainbows, Coho salmon and other game species between May and October. You can also catch the beauty of Superior country any time. ${}^{6}W_{0}$

For an excellent trip on Superior, contact Star Kissed Charters, at: superiorcharterfishing.com.

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.



TOM CARPENTER An Eye for Parts Focusing on feathers

To matter your reason for being in Wisconsin's great outdoors, and no matter the season, bird life always educates and entertains. Whether you're fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, camping, boating, skiing, stalking morels or picking berries, it's fun to take a little time to admire the birds whose habitat we are visiting.

Identifying different bird species is essential to enjoying this pleasant diversion. But even dedicated birders—folks out there for the sole purpose of observing the birds—run into identification challenges. When you want to know what species of bird you're looking at, you need to break it down part-by-part and study its pieces instead of taking a broad look at the whole bird.

Developing an eye for parts is as simple as remembering what pieces of a bird to look at, in what order. Armed with this detail, and a few other key

observations, making an exact identification becomes much easier.

Make mental notes or, better yet, jot them down in a field notebook. A rudimentary sketch also helps.

Visual Dissection

Start at the top of the bird and work down. First, break the head down into its critical parts. Does the bird have a crest, top knot, or crown of a different color? The eyes and surrounding markings are important. How are any stripes or bars placed above, through or below the eyes? Is there a ring around the eye? Is an "eyebrow" present?

Study the beak. Is it short and stout, long and slender, pointed or blunt? Note the beak's color, and define whether the upper beak and lower beak (mandible) are the same color or different.



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Central Wisconsin **Real Estate ONLINE MAGAZINE**



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"When you want to know what species of bird you're looking at, you need to break it down part-by-part and study its pieces instead of taking a broad look at the whole bird."

Look at the bird's neck. Is there a chin or throat patch? What color? Is it solid, streaked, or mottled? Study the back of the bird's head and neck, known as the nape. Any colors or markings to note?

Get a good look at the bird's breast—the chest (immediately below the throat) down to the belly and underparts. What colors? Is this area spotted? Mottled? Streaked? Barred? Solid? These are all key identification marks

Observe the tops of the wings. What color? Are they barred (markings across the wing), striped (markings along the wing) or solid? Maybe the primaries (outermost wing feathers) and secondaries (inner wing feathers) sport a different color than the rest of the wing. Many ducks feature a speculum or color patch on their wings; note it.

When the bird flies, watch the wing. How are they shaped—pointed, rounded, long, short, slender, blunt, straight, or curved? Observe wing undersides and note any discernable shading or coloration that can help you secure a positive identification.

Remember details about the bird's tail and coverts (feathers that cover the base of the tail) or rump patch. What shape is the tail-pointed, blunt, rounded, forked, fanned, or squared? Is it long or short? See if the tail has

bars across it or stripes along it. Are the outer tail feathers colored differently than the inner ones? How does the bird hold its tail when perching, walking and flying?

Don't forget the bird's legs. Color? Are they feathered or bare? Are spurs or other features visible? Are feet webbed or toed?

Determine the bird's size. Of course, with live, wild birds we can't run up with a tape measure to pinpoint body length, wingspan, beak size and other relevant dimensions. But you can make comparisons to birds you do know-sparrow, robin, redtail hawk, etc. Most field guides will give some reference to relative size.

Tap All Your Senses

Beyond physical traits, observe the bird's habits, actions and behaviors. How the bird moves is important. Flight patterns are a natural place to start, as are walking habits. Consider feeding clues. What is the bird eating?

Use more than your eyes. Listening to a bird's call and song will provide valuable clues. Does it cackle, cluck, gobble, trill, rattle, scream, sing, croak, hoot, chip or buzz? Are the sounds soft or loud? Harsh or pleasant?

SUZUKI MOTOR CORP. New 2011 KingQuad 750 Models

Suzuki is pleased to announce the launch of the 2011 KingQuad 750AXi, KingQuad 750AXi Power Steering, KingQuad 750AXi Camo Edition and the KingQuad 750AXi Power Steering Camo Edition. This announcement comes just a few weeks after Suzuki announced the early release of the 2011 KingQuad 500AXi Power Steering. "We are dedicated to producing innovative and exciting products for the 2011 model year." said Steve Bortolamedi, Senior Communications Manager at American Suzuki. "The production announcement of these four KingQuads re-confirms Suzuki's devotion to supplying our dealers and customers with excellent product and we believe that the KingQuad 750AXi is just the right machine to get our customers enthusiastic about buying Suzuki ATV's."

Perfect for tackling the toughest jobs or the most daunting task, the Suzuki KingQuad 750AXi offers an unmatched combination of exciting sport-utility and dependability. With exceptionally strong low-end and midrange torque, the Suzuki KingQuad 750AXi is engineered to take on just about any terrain including twisty

SUZUKI

Way of Life!

trails, mud bogs or long hauls. Whether the job requires pulling stumps or hauling heavy equipment, the KingQuad 750AXi can get it done. Not only is the KingQuad great for work, but also if riders are into hunting, fishing or exploring, the KingQuad 750AXi has the comfort and convenience features to get them there. With the addition of Suzuki's advanced Electric Power Steering, the KingQuad 750AXi Power Steering models offer riders lighter steering and even more responsive handling than ever.

A single-cylinder liquid-cooled DOHC 722cc engine powers the KingQuad 750AXi. The big bore facilitates abundant torque, especially in the low-to mid-rpm range. The fuel-air mixture is delivered through Suzuki's own patented fuel-injection system. The electronic fuel injection provides better throttle response and smoother engine power than a mechanical carburetor. The KingQuad 750 boasts the ultimate power-delivery drivetrain and transmission with three drive modes available: two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive, and front differential-locked fourwheel drive. The KingQuad's suspension is fully independent and built into a high-tensile steel frame.

For 2011 customers can choose from four different KingQuad 750 models; the KingQuad 750AXi, KingQuad 750AXi Power Steering, KingQuad 750 AXi Camo Edition and the KingQuad 750 AXi Power Steering Camo Edition. The 2011 KingQuad 750 is now available in 5 colors: Great Blue, Champion Yellow, black, white and RealTree Hardwoods HD Enhanced. Wheel colors for the new 2011 KingQuad are as follows: silver wheels for the black and white models and black wheels on the Great Blue, Champion Yellow and Camo KingQuad 750 AXi's. All 2011 KingQuads come with a new wrinkle paint finish on the racks and front bumper for increased durability and scratch resistance. With its high-arched fenders and sharp headlights, the Suzuki KingQuad 750 combines sporty appeal and utility strength. W

2011 KingQuad 750AXi KingQuad 750AXi Power Steering

- Colors: Great Blue, Champion Yellow, black, white and RealTree Hardwoods HD Enhanced
- MSRP: KingQuad 750AXi (Yellow/Blk/White/Blue): \$8,199
- MSRP: KingQuad 750AXi (Camo): \$8,599
- MSRP: KingQuad 750AXi Power Steering (Yellow/Blk/ White/Blue): \$9,049
- MSRP: KingQuad 750AXi Power Steering (Camo): \$9,449
- Available at Suzuki Dealers
 Summer/Fall 2010

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No sound is sweeter than the swish of your paddles when you **canoe or kayak** the **St. Croix National Scenic Riverway**. Get tips on where the fish are biting from park rangers when you visit the National Park Headquarters in St. Croix Falls. View a free movie on the St. Croix River and get maps and help to plan your trip. Take in the **Pro-Bass Tournament** on Balsam Lake July 17 and make time for fun family activities at **Polk County Fair** July 29 through August 1. *Click on Polk County*

Spectacular mid-summer fishing awaits you in Iron County, where an abundance of species swim in **300 pristine inland** lakes including the Turtle, Flambeau, and Gile Flowages. If it's big water you seek, check out Lake Superior charter fishing opportunities or launch your own boat from Saxon Harbor, where you might also enjoy a long walk on the sandy beach. For a break from sand and water, the **Iron County Heritage Festival** offers many unusual and interesting events from July 23 to August 15. *Click on Iron County.*

Port Washington serves up New England **fishing village charm** with Midwestern friendliness. During July & August, you have much to choose from: free outdoor concerts, a bountiful farmers' market, garden tours, and the best **Maritime Heritage Tall Ship Festival** in the state. Fish Day, July 17 - the world's largest one-day outdoor fish fry. *Click on Ozaukee County.*

Marinette County is **nature's waterpark** in the real north. There's something for every outdoor enthusiast: lakes, trout streams, rivers, flowages, even a **self-guided waterfalls tour**. For untouched history and scenic beauty, paddle the 11-mile Peshtigo River Trail. *Click on Marinette County*.

With approximately 18,000 acres of

water and more than 340,000 acres of public land, Price County offers plenty of opportunity to fish and hunt - away from the crowds. Children will enjoy the **Spirit Lake Kids Pan Fishing Contest** on July 10, while avid muskie anglers can fish for a cause and win cash prizes during the 14th Annual **Charity Classic Muskie Tournament** on the Phillips Chain of Lakes July 17. *Click on Price County.*

Check out Clark County's **Fourth of July** celebrations, community festivals, County Fair, quilt shows, farmers' markets, museums, bike races, camping, hiking, swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and **ATVing on the best trails in Wisconsin.** *Click on Clark County.*

Boulder Junction, the **Musky Capital** of the World[®], offers more than just incredible musky fishing. Find some of the **top bicycle trails** in Wisconsin, sensational boating and paddling, unmatched wildlife viewing opportunities and a laid-back lakeside resort atmosphere that will have you wishing your vacation would never end. *Click on Vilas County.*

The lumbering heritage of Hayward comes to center stage July 23-25 when more than 100 top timber sports athletes compete in the **Lumberjack World Championships.** Hayward Lakes: think woods, waters, and world-class events. *Click on Sawyer County.*

History sails into the Greater Green Bay area August 13-15 for the **Baylake Bank Tall Ship Festival**. The event features 13 vintage vessels docked on the shores of the Fox River at Leicht Memorial Park downtown. Come enjoy ship tours as well as entertainment, food, and drink. *Click on Brown County.*

Your northwoods family welcomes you to Chippewa County with endless outdoor fun. Enjoy two state parks, paved bike trails, more than 450 lakes and streams, 32,000 acres of pristine forest land, camping, ATV trails, the Ice Age Trail, and more. Try the overnight **Chippewa Rod and Gun Catfish tournament** July 10 – 11. *Click on Chippewa County.*

July and August are the months to visit the lakes area for a family vacation, with some of the **best fishing action of the year**. As a rule, the fish are hungry and aggressive then, and can be readily caught on the deep weedline, using suckers or nightcrawlers. For guide parties, contact Dave Duwe. *Click on Walworth County*.

Calumet County is home to Lake Winnebago, the state's largest inland lake, with more than **26 miles of shoreline**. Fish, boat, kayak in the 12,000 acres of state wildlife areas and state and county parks. *Click on Calumet County*.

Sheboygan's lakefront is hot, and so is the fishing. Rainbows dance on the water and the **king salmon** absolutely heat up as Sheboygan's **sand beaches** fill with families on vacations. Don't forget our **golf courses and the PGA** this year just to our north. The Wolf Pack can book your adventure! *Click on Sheboygan County.*

Explore the **10-lake chain** and 44mile Manitowish River, special events such as the Independence Day Celebration, outdoor movies, **Taste of Manitowish Waters**, cranberry marsh tours, art show and tour, Dillinger Days, and much more. We've got it all! *Click on Vilas County.*

Summer is great for a **wilderness fishing trip** with family and friends on the St. Croix Scenic Riverway, one of only two national parks in Wisconsin. Fish the tremendous smallmouth bass fishery on the St. Croix River with a spinning rod and reel or your favorite fly rod. We have outfitters to help with your needs. Click on Burnett County.

Visit Washburn County for **ATVing**, **hiking**, **bicycling**, **fishing** and many more exciting activities for everyone in the family. You won't want to miss the **Spooner Rodeo July 8-10** or the **Birchwood Bluegill Festival** July 16-18. *Click on Washburn County*.

Looking for an easy, yet beautiful, place to go **canoeing or kayaking**? Try paddling up the Pine River Flowage to LaSalle Falls. After you pull to shore, walk downriver to view Pine River Falls. If you're looking to ATV, ride up the **Nicolet State Trail** to Florence County. *Click on Florence County.*

What happens when you mix **EXTREME and SERENE entertainment?** You get the oxymoron "Hybrid Redneck." Picture a Honda Prius with a gun rack being crushed by a monster truck, parked next to a pink van full of signatures to crush cancer. It happens at the **Churnin' Dirt Nationals Truck** and **Tractor Pull** July 23-24, taking place at the base of the emerald hills and turquoise waters of Richland County. *Click on Richland County.*

Thousands of dollars and great prizes are offered in the **Chequamegon Bay Tagged Fishing Contest** running through October 31. Catching the tagged lake trout, smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, steelhead and brown trout can mean as much as \$1000 in your pocket, or free lodging and dining in beautiful Ashland County. *Click on Ashland County.*

Whether you prefer rustic camping or running water and electricity, Langlade County has a site for you at one of our **sixteen campground**s–great for inexpensive **family vacations** or quiet trips for two. *Click on Langlade County.*

Over 20 **NEW waterfront listings** from First Weber. *Click on Waushara County.*

Yes we have water! Fishing and everything else you might like to do on the lake is in full swing now. You'll find Treeland Resorts on the Chippewa Flowage. Come on up! *Click on Sawyer County.*

Calling all bikers, bird watchers, boaters, cyclists, fishermen, hikers, nature lovers, train watchers, and everyone in between. Enjoy the **Great River Road in Ferryville**, where the Mississippi is three miles wide. Take it all in when you visit the Grandview Motel.

Thinking about **duck hunting the Mississippi**? Check with guide Todd Lensing for available dates. *Click on Crawford County.*

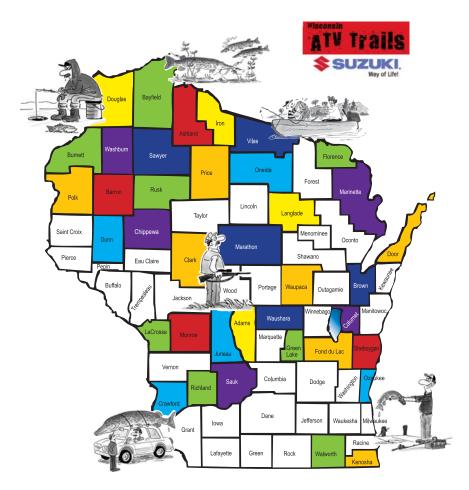
Bayfield County has **944 named bodies of water**, many of which are inland lakes in the Cable area. Almost every species of fish exists in our waters. One of our lakes, Lake Owen, was recently named **Wisconsin's healthiest lake** by the DNR. The Cable area is home to one of the largest trail systems in Wisconsin – for your ATV, mountain bike, or feet! *Click on Bayfield County.*

Don't miss the **Birchwood Bluegill Festival** July 15 - 18. You'll find great games, great food and great shopping around our great fishing that never goes away. Big Chetac Lake has received the designation of "The Bluegill Capital of Wisconsin." Relax at Big Chetac Resort. *Click on Sawyer County.*

When fishing **musky and walleye in peak summer patterns**, primary location will be main lake structure like reefs, islands, and humps. You can also find these fish suspended in adjacent open waters, offering the opportunity to get away from the crowds to target some of the biggest fish in the lake. Contact Dennis Radloff at Sterling Guide Service. *Click on Door County.*

Topwater action for muskies is heating up as we work our way into the summer months. Contrary to popular belief, this really is a great time to bag a trophy. *Click on Marathon County.*

Adams County parks in Central



Wisconsin, just north of Wisconsin Dells, offer camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and hiking located on **Wisconsin's second- and fourth- largest bodies of water.** Parks offer modern hot showers 24 hours a day. *Click on Adams County.*

Looking for a place for the entire family to enjoy the water? Come up and check us out. Beach the boat and swim on bars all along the Wolf or take advantage of outstanding summer river fishing from northern pike to bluegills and crappie. Our weekend nightly entertainment alone is worth the visit. *Click on Waupaca County.*

Four great rivers, **90,000 acres of public lands**, numerous trout streams, miles of trails, and plenty of great lakes await you in Rusk County. River fishing for bass and musky means action and scenery. *Click on Rusk County*.

Enjoy ATV riding in Wisconsin's largest county forest. More than 1,200 miles of roads and trails wind and loop through the 272,000-acre forest and surrounding properties. Motorcycle enthusiasts, the new five-mile-long looped **Straight Arrow Off-Highway Motorcycle Trail system** meanders through a variety of terrains and directly connects to the 20+ mile OHM trail in the MN Nemadji State Forest. *Click on Superior-Douglas County.*

Our beautiful area comes to life with live music, festivals, and traditional events from Cookie Daze Aug. 7 in Ripon to August Art Month in Green Lake. Don't miss the famous Princeton Flea Market every Saturday morning – get there early! Let the fun begin this summer in the Berlin, Green Lake, Markesan, Princeton and Ripon area. Click on Green Lake County.

Enjoy four days of fun during the 58th Annual Flambeau Rama July 29-August 10: free live music, plus food, a carnival and activities including the St. Croix Rod Casting Contest, a chalk drawing contest, Family Fun Day games, kiddie parade, arts and craft fair, Road Walk/Run, car show, fireworks, parade, and more. Click on Price County.

Canoeing/kayaking opportunities abound. The Yellow River from Necedah to Castle Rock Lake, The Lemonweir River from New Lisbon to beyond Mauston, and the Baraboo River, the **longest undammed river in the nation,** all this on top of two of the **largest lakes** in the state, Castle Rock and Petenwell. Come explore! *Click on Juneau County.*

FLORENCE COUNTY • Wild Rivers Interpretive Center

FOND DU LAC COUNTY • Green Lake Country Visitors

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MARATHON COUNTY

• Hooksetters Fishing Guide

MARINETTE COUNTY

- Marinette County Tourism
- A River Guide (Jason Guarke)

MONROE COUNTY • Sparta Area Chamber

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Port Washington Tourism

POLK COUNTY • Polk County Information Center

PRICE COUNTY

- Park Falls Area Chamber
 Price County Tourism
- Wounded Warriors in Action

RICHLAND COUNTY • Hybrid Redneck Events

RUSK COUNTY • Rusk County

SAUK COUNTY • Birchcliff Resort

SAWYER COUNTY

- Hayward Lakes Visitors Bureau
 Treeland Resort
- Big Chetac Resort

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

City of Sheboygan TourismWolf Pack Adventures

VILAS COUNTY

Manitowish Waters Chamber
Vilas County

WALWORTH COUNTY • Dave Duwe's Guide Service

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INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment.

REMOVE plants, animals and mud.

DRAIN water from boat, motor, live well and bait containers.

DON'T MOVE live fish away from a waterbody.

BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer and reuse them only under certain conditions. See website for more information.





том сакрептек **Cubs Corner** Grow a monarch this summer



A s summer hits its peak and flowers bloom everywhere, graceful monarch butterflies waft across the landscape. Did you know you can raise your own monarch butterflies? It's easy, and it's a great project to do with kids.

You don't need many special materials. You'll learn together about butterflies and how they reproduce. And it's fun to let the new butterflies fly away to start the long journey back to their wintering grounds.

Here's how to grow a monarch.

Gather Materials

You'll need a container to hold caterpillars and the chrysalis' they become. Make sure it's clear-sided (so you can see what's going on), and has air holes in the lid. Bug boxes work perfectly. A jar is great, especially one with a wide opening that kids can get their hands into.

Locate Milkweed

Every species of butterfly depends on a specific type of plant, called a host plant. Milkweed is the monarch's host plant. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed leaves, and monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves to grow big and fat.

Find Eggs

Search for single eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves. A monarch egg is about the size of a pinhead, shaped like a football that is flat at one end, and is creamy-yellow colored with ridges. It's tiny—only about two millimeters long. Collect leaves with eggs, and bring them home. (If you find a white-, black- and yellowstriped monarch caterpillar, bring it home on the leaf it is eating, and put it directly in your bug box with fresh milkweed leaves.)

Hatch Eggs

Lay the milkweed leaves out,

bottom (egg) side up, on damp paper towels. Dampen the towels daily so the leaves don't shrivel up. The egg will get dark when it is ready to hatch. A new caterpillar is tiny—maybe a quarter inch long and about as thick as a thread. Cut out the section of leaf the caterpillar is on, and put him in your bug box (kids need help here!) with fresh milkweed.

Feed Caterpillars

Monarch caterpillars eat constantly, but they take occasional long breaks to rest. Monarch caterpillars create droppings constantly, so you'll have to clean out the container every other day. Stock it with fresh milkweed leaves, put the caterpillar back in on its old leaf, and it will crawl to the new ones. Have kids do these chores.

Provide Perch

When a caterpillar gets about two inches long, and fat like a French fry, it will begin looking for something to attach itself to for transformation into a chrysalis. Monarch caterpillars will attach themselves to the roof or lid, but they prefer climbing up on a stick or twig, so prop one in the container.

Observe Chrysalis

The caterpillar attaches itself and forms into a hanging "J" shape, then

Continued on page 33



GARY ENGBERG Gary Engberg Outdoors Shore fishing with children on the Madison Chain of Lakes

Tips for Kid-Friendly Fishing

- Practice safety by wearing life jackets, sunglasses for eye protection, hats and sun block.
- Keep things simple and let the child or children have their own rods, not yours.
- The most important thing is to have action and numbers; size and species are not important to children.
- If things are slow, don't stay too long—but go again soon. Fishing is better in the summer in low light conditions when fish are more apt to move to shallow water.
- Be sure to bring some snacks, fruit and drinks because hungry children get bored.
- Have some other activities to do if the fishing is slow like looking for frogs, skipping stones or playing games.
- Always bring a camera. The disposable cameras are great and a digital camera can be put in your bag. Praise the children's catch and photos.
- Always try to teach ethics, obeying rules and regulations.

I regularly talk to people who say they'd love to go fishing more, but they don't have a boat, regular access to one, or many friends who fish. The way the economy is now, about the only thing selling at boat dealers are smaller, entrylevel boats from 15 to 16 feet with a 20- or 25-hp motor on them. But there is an answer to this dilemma—fish from shore!

The Madison Chain of Lakes is comprised of Lake Mendota, Lake Monona, Lake Waubesa, Lake Kegonsa and Lake Wingra. All of these lakes have very good fishing with diverse fish populations of most species, and many fish can be caught from shore most of the year. The weeds have been growing quickly with the warmer weather, but many of the weeds are "good" weeds for fish such as coontail, cabbage and sand grass. The invasive weed, Eurasian milfoil, is not favored by fish if they have a choice. But, milfoil can also hold fish if there is not another alternative on the lake.

The time is right for taking the family out for a day or even an afternoon of fishing. Try to make it a day of it with a picnic basket of food and goodies, some games and activities to play during lulls in fishing, and a 5gallon pail to take a few fish home for a tasty meal. The water is warm enough where you can wade without waders as long as you gained lake access through public property or a place where you have permission.

Lake Mendota

Some good shore fishing locations include: the rocky shoreline near the locks; Tenney Park break wall and lagoon; the Lake Mendota shoreline from the University to James Madison Park; the inlets at Mendota County Park; and the public pier near the boat landing at Captain's Bill's, Governor's Island, the lagoon at Warner Park, and the Highway 113 Bridge.

Lake Monona

You can find good shore-fishing opportunities at Brittingham Park; off the pier at the boat landing and along the Olin Park shoreline; Monona Bay, near the M.G. and E. discharge and along the Monona shore to the Convention Center; Law Park; Yahara Park; the Olbrich Park break wall; and the Winnequah Road lagoon. There are tried-and-true locations that have produced fish for decades (when I was in college and poor) and continue to this day to be good fish producers.

Lake Waubesa, Lake Kegonsa and Lake Wingra

These lakes don't have as many shore fishing locations as Lake's



Mendota and Monona, but there are a few good spots. Babcock Park, near the locks in McFarland on Lake Waubesa, is a good location to fishas is the Lake Farm boat landing area and pier. Two good spots on Lake Kegonsa are the boat landing and pier at the Fish Camp launch near Lake Kegonsa State Park and all along the park's shoreline. This is great area for bluegills and crappies. Lake Wingra has a fishing pier near the dam, fishing around most of the lake near the Vilas Zoo, and the Vilas Park lagoon which is always good for some panfish. But, there still are a few largemouth bass and muskies that can be caught along the shore at the pier and launch on Knickerbocker Street, and in Murphy's Creek that runs into Lake Monona.

Many of these locations offer camping areas, fishing piers, playgrounds, hiking spots and dog walking areas. These locations offer anything that a shore angler could want while giving them the chance to catch some fish for release or the frying pan. Try to keep enough for a few meals, but don't be a fish hog!

Remember is to get some good, quality equipment. You don't have to spend a fortune, but buy decent equipment because it is worth the added price. Teach your children to take care of their rod, reel and equipment. For most panfishing, use light line in 4-pound test because it will catch more fish.

Also, always use light floats or bobbers. The fish can pull them under easier and not let go. When panfishing, use ice fishing jigs with a piece of nightcrawler or a wax worm that can fit into the fish's mouth. Another simple and effective technique is to take a small hook, split-shot and nightcrawler. Cast the rig out and slowly retrieve it. You'll have a chance to catch about anything on this simple rig. Check the line regularly for nicks and always cut off a few yards of old line whenever you fish so you don't loose the big one!

This is a good primer for those who fish from shore and would like to take the children and or family out fishing and catch a few fish. Ask the bait shop owner or sales person if they have any tips or know where the fish are biting. They are in constant touch with people who are fishing and can usually help if asked. You may always contact me and I'll try and help you in anyway that I can at: garyengbergoutdoors.com. Have fun fishing! Ψ_0

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208, or gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com or visit www.garyengbergoutdoors.com for good fishing information.

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ELLIS BEARS, from page 3

years. In 2009, approximately 7,300 harvest permits were available and hunters responded by harvesting 3,900 bears, the highest bear harvest documented in Wisconsin history.

Any discussion of bear populations in 2010 must travel to deer numbers. The Wisconsin black bear is thought by a growing number of experts, including Wisconsin bear guides and hunters, to have a significant impact on the deer population through the predation of fawns in the spring. It is a fact that the carefully monitored Wisconsin elk herd at Clam Lake has not been able to increase numbers as hoped in large part due to the predation of calves by black bears and wolves.

Although the bear harvest was the highest in history, the statewide success rate of 53 percent in Wisconsin four hunting zones fell below the three year average of 59 percent. The questions still needs to be asked; if the bear population is as high as 40,000 animals and they are significant predators of fawns, is harvesting approximately 10 to 20 percent of the bear population annually enough? Or, should additional bear harvest permits be issued?

"I saw my first fawn up here this week," Foss said, the week of June 15. "There are very few deer up here."

In 2010, hunters over bait in September will have first crack at bears, and hunters with dogs begin their season later. Seasons in Zones A, B and D where hunting with dogs is allowed run from September 8-14 with aid of bait and with other methods not utilizing dogs; September 15- October 5 with aid of bait, dogs and other methods, and October 6-12 with aid of dogs only. Season in Zone C where dogs are prohibited runs September 8 through October 12 with aid of bait and other methods not utilizing dogs.

Due to the increased number of applicants, hunters now need four to nine preference points depending on zone before they receive a Class A permit to actually hunt. Regardless of the number of bears or permits issued, working to replenish bait sites with non-animal or animal bi-products like pie filling, pastry or candy treats like gummy bears is necessary to bring the animal to the hunter. Guides and individual hunters alike are working hard to bait and re-bait in these summer months before the season opener.

Bait hunters could legally begin baiting bears on April 15, almost five months prior to the season opener, and continue through the end of the season. Most hunters do not begin to bait that early, but Foss was baiting his 37 sites on public and private land this year April 17. He will initially bait once or twice per week, but increase the routine to four times weekly one month before the season, and five times weekly two weeks before the season.

With plans as always to report on the Foss bear camp in September as an observer with the hopes of meeting Snaggle Tooth, I accept invitations to also bait with Foss in early summer. This reporter also was among 15 hunters who helped pull out the 639 pound Cichanofsky monster in 2009. The baiting work is hard and hot in thick foliage with swarms of mosquitoes also ready to answer the dinner bell. Foss carries bait and a can of bear spray in the highly unlikely event of an attack. But, even when trailing a hit bear during the black of night in thick vegetation, regulations also dictate that he carry only spray and not a firearm for protection.

"Don't worry Mike, I'm right behind you," I will tell the guide again during the regular season especially near the Snaggle Tooth haunt. "I mean... I'm way behind you."

Our circuit of several bear sites was traveled on two ATVs, courtesy of OWO sponsor Suzuki. We then parked, and walked into each bait site with Foss carrying a pail of goodies to replenish the bait pits. Inevitably, the sites had been hit by bears, with logs used to seal the meal from deer and scavengers scattered around like toothpicks. After the bait was set, the logs were replaced and we would move on.

Cameras mounted on trees and fixed on the bait sites add to the fun. Motion triggers the photo, and we then are able to view how big the bears are that are visiting. With 300 pound plus bears and bigger harvested annually in the Foss camp and monstrous Wisconsin bears out there roaming, viewing the photos offers its own kind of excitement. Recently, in addition to the bears a lone timber wolf apparently with mange seeking scraps at one site was also captured.

Foss said that the Wisconsin bear season is a necessary management tool within a precise management program that prevents the population from exploding. With high bear numbers, he said, more and more bears not dominant in certain territories migrate to central and southern regions of Wisconsin where they would not be under more normal conditions. Those areas are often urban and heavily populated by humans.

"That means we see more nuisance bears in



Bear Guide Mike Foss completes baiting another site by rolling logs over the sweets that will prevent deer or scavengers from raiding the bait but which can also easily be thrown aside by a hungry bear.

conflict with humans," Foss said. "They get in garbage and bird feeders for example. And once a nuisance bear, always a nuisance bear. Even if they are trapped and relocated, they're going to get into trouble again."

Foss also sees trouble ahead with the current state bear hunter's system and specifically the number of applicants waiting for kill permits before being part of the pool of hunters selected to hunt. "A lot of guys can't find an outfitter," Foss said. "In addition to the 25 hunters in my camp, I had to go out and find quality guides for hunters calling me that I can't take this year. A lot of hunters are from southern Wisconsin and they can't be running up here to bait. I'm telling you, it's going to be a great big problem." "Wo

Contact Northern Wisconsin Outfitters at www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com or 715.373.0344.

This Dick Ellis syndicated column originally appeared on August 18, 2008. Read Dick's column archives online at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

TODD BOHM

Wounded warriors in Wisconsin



Daniel Smith, Nick Schoon and Nick Colgin took part in a turkey hunting/fishing event hosted by Wounded Warriors in Action and the author.

▲ Tho says that America doesn't have any heroes anymore? During the weekend of May 21-23, I had the opportunity to host three veterans from the Wounded Warriors in Action program for 2 days of turkey hunting and fishing in central Wisconsin. Combat veterans who participated in the program included: Daniel Smith from South Carolina, wounded in Iraq; Nick Schoon from Texas, wounded in Iraq; Nick Colgin from Wisconsin, wounded in Afghanistan; and founder of the program, John McDaniel.

Wounded Warriors in Action was founded in 2007 by retired Army Lt. Colonel John McDaniel with the purpose of providing world-class hunting and fishing opportunities for veterans who had been wounded in combat in the Iraqi or Afghanistan combat theaters. A native of Wisconsin and 20-year Army veteran, McDaniel has split time between his home in Florida and Phillips, Wisconsin. Focusing on the healing powers of the outdoor experience and new friendships that would be developed, McDaniel's program has provided veterans opportunities for guided saltwater fishing trips, alligator hunts, duck hunts, turkey hunts and whitetail hunts.

The three veterans who participated in the Central Wisconsin program arrived at the Central Wisconsin Airport on Friday, May 21. Although the three veterans had never met, within minutes the common bond that only combat veterans can know soon had the men talking and sharing stories. Following a Wisconsin style brat fry and get-together at my home, the veterans hit the rack in preparation for the Saturday morning hunt that would begin at 3 a.m..

As dawn broke on Saturday and Sunday mornings, the four members of the organization found themselves scattered around southeastern Marathon county hunting turkeys with four guides who had volunteered their services. Although no gobblers were shot during the two mornings, all of the hunters had opportunities to see and hear toms.

Following the Saturday morning hunt and a brief lunch, the veterans were back in action as they hit the water. Lake Wausau was our lake of choice and within short order, the veterans were putting fish after fish into the boat. By the end of the evening, anglers had boated dozens of walleyes, northerns, perch and crappies. Most of the fish

Wounded Warriors in Action was founded in 2007 by retired Army Lt. Colonel John McDaniel with the purpose of providing worldclass hunting and fishing opportunities for veterans who had been wounded in combat in the Iraqi or Afghanistan combat theaters.

were returned to fight another day, but enough crappies were kept to provide a couple of Wisconsin fish frys.

Following an outstanding dinner at the Log Cabin restaurant in Schofield, the veterans hit the rack in preparation for a repeat schedule on Sunday. Sunday morning allowed the veterans to choose from turkey hunting or fishing. Two of the veterans chose to turkey hunt, and I had the pleasure of spending the morning on the Wisconsin River with Nick Schoon chasing walleyes and smallmouths. Nick loves to fish, and it was obvious why: Soon after launching the boat, Nick was landing walleyes, crappies, smallmouth bass and catfish. Because their planes were leaving early in the afternoon on Sunday, the fishing and hunting was called off by late morning and our veterans left central Wisconsin with a lifetime of memories and new friendships. Nick Schoon said, "This is replacing bad memories with good memories. I will look back on this weekend and remember it forever."

Special thanks goes out to the veterans who have sacrificed so much in defense of the freedoms that we enjoy here in the United States. This event would not have been possible without a

number of businesses that donated services including: The Grand Lodge by Stoney Creek who donated all of the rooms, Log Cabin Restaurant, Marathon County Game Warden Ben Herzfeldt and Gander Mountain Manager Tom Keenan. Offering guide and cooking services for the weekend included Bill Gibbs of the Silver Pump Farms, Tony Kopchinski of the Mosinee Sportsman club, Chef Luke Coenen and Gander Mountain sales associates Justin Petroske and Eric Biezek.

Many great memories and friendships were made on the Wounded Warriors in Action Central Wisconsin "cast and blast" weekend. It was truly an honor to host these American heroes. Plans are already being made for spring 2011. Anyone interested in joining or helping give back to our veterans should contact Todd Bohm. Wo

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



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371 COLT SPORTER MATCH HBAR .223 #MH050XXX W/ANPVS4 (\$1200) INFRARED SCOPE, 30 RD. MAG, FLASHFIDER & SLING, 98-99% \$1,950.00

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S.WILKERSON Surplus Firearms Curios and Relics

"Had there been an Internet in the early 1990s, I could have learned that my friends were full of the berries and I would now have one heck of a gun collection bought on the cheap."



Yugoslavian Model 48s were cheap and plentiful a few years ago. Prices on these very desirable and accurate rifles have dramatically increased as availability has decreased.

hen brand new circa 1950 Polish TT33 pistols could be bought for \$225 about 10 years ago, I didn't buy one. Same with East German reworked Lugers. Didn't buy any of those either, even though they only cost about three large bills. Model 40 Russian Tokarevs could be had for about the same, and Argentine 1911s were even less, but I passed them by like a bad habit.

It wasn't like I didn't have the money or was particularly stupid. In fact, I was better off financially then than I am now and hadn't lost quite as many brain cells to old age. No, the fault lies with the Internet and uninformed friends and acquaintances.

All of the rifles and pistols mentioned above were available through the mail cheap back in the day to those who possessed a Federal Curios and Relics (C & R) Firearms License. For a lousy \$30, Uncle Sam issued a 3-year license to those who

could pass a thorough back ground check that opened up a flood-gate of highly desirable firearms at dealer prices. The applicable guns, generally speaking, have to be at least 50 years old or older in order to qualify for C & R status, which included just about every gun I had ever wanted.

Many dealers bought the same guns back then and, as they do now, often marked them up excessively high. Knowing that I could get a MK IV Enfield for \$100 through Shotgun News or Gun List kind of soured me to the idea of paying \$200 for one from my local gun dealer. So I went without.

Why? Because, according to my gun "expert" friends and acquaintances, possessing a C & R license was just inviting my own personal Waco. These experts "knew" that BATF agents could come to my home any time of the day or night to check my paperwork. If anything was amiss, they would confiscate my guns and put me in jail. I was pretty sure I could keep my paperwork straight and it wasn't like I had a meth lab in the basement that I was afraid of BATF discovering. No, what I had was a wife who, not only



Checkpoint Charlie's (see facing page) has thousands of collectible and other firearms for sale, like this Walther P38 and United States Army Model 1911.

didn't want drunk friends sleeping on the coach or front yard, but was none too keen on the idea of strangers coming into the house at all hours of the day or night—at least not until she had time to vacuum the rugs, clean the sink, dust the furniture and put on her makeup.

Women had never lined up at my front door because they found me so appealing, so I decided it was best not to jeopardize even infrequent romance by cheesing off the Old Lady. In short, I did not get a C & R because I was afraid of my wife.

All that changed one fateful day about 5 years ago at a Bob and Rocco Gun Show in Milwaukee where I saw a former co-worker for the first time in years—Toothpick Jim. Even though he had put on a few pounds and lost some hair, I still recognized him. (Felt better about myself, too, 'cause I was, comparatively speaking, more svelte and hairier.) During the course of discussing who among my former workmates got married, divorced, died or was now in jail, the topic of M1 Garands came up. I told TP I would buy one of the Lend-Lease Army bring-backs from the Civilian Marksmanship Program, but didn't want to get the necessary C & R license for the reasons stated above.

Toothpick Jim

A C & R holder for years, TP informed me that this was just an urban legend and BATF had to have a reason to come to your home and had to call ahead of time before they did so. In other words, my wife would have time to put on her lipstick and my friends were, once again, wrong. Big surprise there; these are the same people who, I'm pretty certain, still believe you should never use the front brake on your motorcycle because you'll go over the handle bars and bought a dozen AK magazines because they were sure they would fit their SKSs.

Had there been an Internet in the early 1990s, I could have learned that my friends were full of the berries and I would now have one heck of a gun collection bought on the cheap. Instead, I have a gun collection that cost a small fortune, at least by my standards, because I bought many of the guns I coveted in the 1980s and '90s for a lot more money during the new millennium with my C & R.

Missing The Golden Age

Even though I missed the "Golden Age" of surplus arms in the 1980s and 90s, I do still find some bargains out there, which you can read about in this column, at least until I run out of guns to test which will happen soon. There are also some deals that can be found at gun shows and I found one recently from another C & R holder, a Yugoslavian Model 48 A rifle in 8mm caliber. Built on a "small ring" Mauser Model 98 action, the one I bought was built sometime in the early 1950s and immediately put into storage where it remained for over 40 years. The Yugoslavians took meticulous care of their stored weapons back when there was a Yugoslavia. The guns were routinely examined and re-oiled and put back into storage where they remained until the Yugoslavians finally decided that they had enough AKs in stock to finally let go of the multitudes of 48s, SKSs and K98s

The Grand River *A girl and her gar*

s the temperatures warm and A summer in the Midwest arrives, it's hard not to hear the call of the open road. For anglers, all roads lead to water, and my inner voice was leading me straight to the Mississippi. This Grand River surely evokes romantic Twain-like images. Pure, lazy river days watching the continuous flow of water rambling downstream and the relaxing sound of its rush. Along 250 miles of Wisconsin's western border, the winding river roads lead you around picturesque bluffs and passes near sandy shorelines. A perfect fishing destination to relax and enjoy, but I had more intent with my choice—I was on the road with a purpose. I wanted a gar.

The upper Mississippi River, itself a fraction of the Mississippi River System which is the largest in North America, supports more than 140 species of fish. I was only concerned with one: the longstate record for short and long-nose gar have been earned on the Wisconsin River in Richland and weigh near the 21-pound range. Gar prefer 80- to 90degree water temps; however, on average they begin to become active and spawn in 60-degree water.

While anecdotal and not proven biologically, it's said the gar's roe is poisonous and considered toxic if eaten. The long-nose tends to feed nocturnally on fish and invertebrates, but aren't too picky. With their sharp alligator-like jaws that overlay each other, they will often bite through line. In the end, these fish are not easiest to prepare, nor are they the tastiest, either. But I still wanted one.

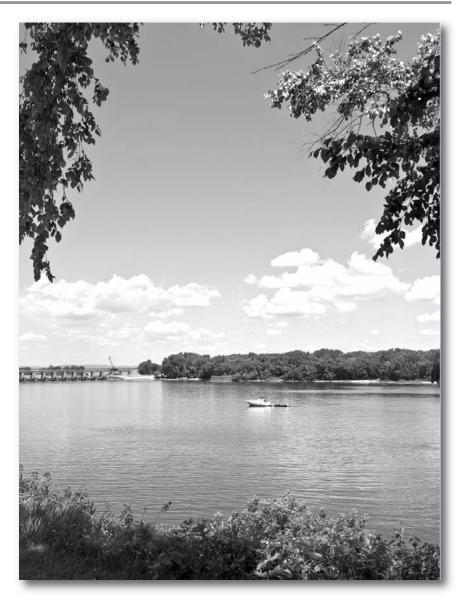
Although understanding your fishery, the fish and its habitat are keys to having successful results, sometimes what can drive us more than the

"...both the state record for short and long-nose gar have been earned on the Wisconsin River in Richland and weigh near the 21-pound range."

nose gar. You've seen them hovering rod-like in the big tanks at the zoo or Cabela's. Their prehistoric swordfishlike chops full of sharp teeth, each fish floating confidently in schools, fearing no predator.

Although I've never seen a gar outside of an aquarium, it occurred to me that I might have difficulty catching one of these fish, so I did a little research. Finding home in many of our Wisconsin rivers and lakes, both the "science" is the want or challenge of a situation. For me, I wanted first the tug of the line as a gar is taking my line out and then the fight—bringing him in followed by my smiling face next to a respectable-sized Jurassic-looking gar. So with the spirit of a true river rat and the impatience of a city girl, I saddled up, loaded my gear in the wagon and headed westward to the frontier that is the Mississippi.

I reached the Mississippi River and,



like always, what hits me looking at any natural environment is that it's all so much bigger than me. The Mississippi's brown water and strong current look so powerful. I found a nice spot, perhaps not a hotspot, but my spot. I rigged my line with a rope lure and readied for a bite. I fished the entire day away—dawn to twilight. With each cast, it began to be less about the species of fish and I relaxed and enjoyed the sway and the breeze and the smells of the river wafting over me.

In fact, like Twain has written, "Along the upper Mississippi every hour brings something new. There are crowds of odd islands, bluffs, prairies, hills, woods and villages—everything one could desire." I found that to be true. With my strong journalistic ethics and no access to PhotoShop, I can't end this story bragging about the size and length of my gar. However, out there on that Grand River, I know my quest for my gar will continue.

Natalie Beacom is a librarian and freelance writer residing in New Berlin and enjoys spending time hunting and fishing throughout Wisconsin. Email natalie@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

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TOM CARPENTER Badger Birds American goldfinch

Goldfinches come close to songbird perfection. A bright male goldfinch makes a striking summer sight with his neon yellow plumage, dandied up with a bold black cap and black wings barred with white. Though less spectacular, a female's olive-yellow feathers display a refined elegance all their own. Bright and beautiful goldfinches make the Wisconsin countryside home all summer, and they are easy to attract to your yard. "Wild canaries" (as they are sometimes fashioned) always display high energy and good cheer.

Listen for goldfinch calls: A lively chew-chewchew triplet of notes when flying, and a happy per-chik-oreee when feeding.

Look for goldfinches' undulating, up-and-down, roller-coaster flight, which is designed to confuse avian predators. Goldfinches often travel in groups, and the sight of eight or 10 intensely yellow goldfinches descending on a feeder is stunning indeed.

Attract goldfinches several ways. Hang special thistle feeders or sacks filled with nyjer thistle seed. Offer black oil sunflower seed in tubes or o n trays. Plant sunflowers and leave them up through fall and winter. And offer plenty of water year round, for goldfinches love to drink, splash and bathe.

Did you know that Wisconsin goldfinches don't nest until late July and August? Goldfinches are dedicated seed eaters, and by this time a bounty of seeds is available for feeding the young. Parents pass along "goldfinch porridge" that they bring back to a tightly woven nest built deep in a shrub. \cap{W}_{0}

Native son Tom Carpenter writes about the outdoor

world for a variety of national and regional publications.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION, from page 16

Count the number of notes in a bird call or song, and get a feel for the rhythm used. Most field guides offer a verbal description of birds' calls and songs by which you can sometimes identify the maker. Better yet, get a CD featuring wild bird calls and songs.

Use high-quality binoculars of 8to 10-power in the field. Invest what you can in a name-brand pair that gathers a lot of light and won't exhaust your eyes. Good binoculars will last for decades.

Finally, a good field guide is essential. A Peterson Field Guide is best, because detailed paintings emphasize parts of the bird that will help you positively identify the species. Field guides with photos are nice, but the illustrations will call out key identification factors.

It's rewarding to figure out what kind of bird you saw. Maybe it's your first redstart, a stunning indigo bunting, a secretive fox sparrow, or an active red-breasted nuthatch. Making a solid identification on a new bird is always rewarding, no matter what activity has lured you out to Wisconsin's great outdoors.⁴W

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

SURPLUS FIREARMS, from page 27

they had been hoarding.

My 48 A is a handsome bugger. The barreled action has a commercial blue finish nicely set off by a bolt still in the white. As is sometimes the case with these guns, there is chip out of the heel of the elm wood stock where it meets the butt plate, but it isn't too noticeable and doesn't affect the functionality of the gun. The slightly pitted bore also does not affect accuracy. Shame about the bore, too. The lands, rifling and crown are absolutely sharp edged and the bore shines bright, despite being slightly frosty.

That frost is the result of one of its previous owners firing corrosive ammunition and not cleaning it properly. A word to the wise: Corrosive ammunition will pit a bore within hours if it is not cleaned and totally ruin it in less than a week. The slight pitting and chip in the stock made this a \$200 gun instead of a \$300 gun. By the way, 5 years ago, brand-new Model 48 Yugos fresh out of storage cost less than \$160 to those who bought them through the mail with a C & R.

Any Model 48 with a decent barrel will shoot well with good ammunition. Mine sure does. Armed with 1970s vintage Yugoslavian M70 187 grain sniper ammunition, I knew I had a winner when, at 25 yards, it put four shots in an area slightly larger than a dime. Windage was perfect and, since the rounds hit the target at 6 o'clock, I knew it would be in the black at 100 with the potential to shoot good groups.

If only I owned this gun 25 years ago when I could still see its barley corn sights. Even with my Merit optic aperture affixed to my glasses, I had difficulty seeing the front sight. Despite that, and the fact that it had a rather heavy and gritty trigger pull and the baby butt smooth butt plate didn't want to stay on my shoulder, I did manage to get a three-shot group of less than one and three-quarters inches at 100 yards. A better shot could have done better.

Riding The Waves

Yugo 48s, like many surplus arms, have become more desirable and valuable over the years. There are still some nice surplus guns out there for sale, like the Swiss 1911s that have recently been imported and the Yugo 24/47s. They are not often seen at gun shows or dealers, which is why a C & R is a necessity if you want to collect guns or simply take advantage of a deal on the internet or gun magazine.

Don't make the mistake I did. Get your C & R and get it now. They are still only \$30 for 3 years. It might be years before another assault weapons ban goes into effect, but the sources of importable surplus arms is drying up rapidly. Russia, Vietnam, China, and Iran have them in great numbers, according to legend. In the case of Russia and China, many of their surplus firearms have been banned by presidential executive order. The chance of them flooding the country again with SKSs and TT33s are about nil and it's doubtful that a trade agreement with the Iranians will occur in our lifetime.

On the other hand, who would have thought that we'd ever see Finnish Lugers, Garands, or Eastern Front veteran P38s imported again, as they have been recently? Be a Boy Scout. Be prepared. Buy a C & R and buy some guns while there are still some surplus guns to buy.

And if you have anything cheap for sale, contact me via email at On Wisconsin Outdoors. ${}^{0}W_{O}$

S. Wilkerson is an award-winning Wisconsin journalist, firearms expert and student of the Second Amendment. Contact him by email at cheapshots@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

REVIN MICHALOWSKI **Dog Talk**Manners afloat make hunting safe and fun

What's that old saying? "There's no time like the present." That means now is the right time start teaching your dog to sit still while in your boat or canoe. This is important stuff. Your gear, your hunt—even your life—can depend on it.

Out in a boat, and especially in a canoe, you need complete control and a rock-steady retriever. There's not enough room in a boat for dog to be pacing around and a canoe is nowhere near stable enough to put up with a lot of that nonsense. For the record, I don't recommend hunting with a dog in a canoe. If you must have a dog in a canoe, the craft should only be used to transport you, your dog and your gear, to and from the hunting location. Shooting a duck, and then sending a dog on a retrieve from a canoe, is a recipe for a dunking. Just don't do it. Be safe so you can be able to hunt again another day.

If you are going to have a dog in a canoe or a boat, you must introduce the dog to the new surroundings well before you get out on the water. The best place to do this is, of course, on dry land, where there is no danger of anyone taking a swim. By placing a canoe on the ground in your backyard you can easily teach the dog to get in and out of the craft, while at the same time rocking the gunwales a bit to mimic some of the instability common on the water. Getting the dog in and out of the craft is easy, but the most important element is to instill a comfort level. You'll notice right away that the dog will be confused and anxious the first few times in the boat. It's your job to reassure the dog, point out the place where you want the animal to sit or lay and calmly lead the dog there every time.

While repetition is the key to any training, the single most important thing you can do while training a dog to be still in a boat is to remain calm. Anger and rough training will only make the dog uncomfortable. Calm words and positive reinforcement will work much better than harsh corrections and a booming voice. The goal is to make it fun for the dog. You want the dog to enjoy sitting in the boat. You want the dog to jump into the boat happily, rather than be afraid of what will happen when it gets to the gunwale.

Don't rush this. Encourage the dog with happy talk, whistling and even treats. Just get it to hop into the boat or canoe on his own. Once the dog is in, give it lots of praise, but don't let it get out. If the dog tries to get up and get out without your permission, immediately command, "No. Sit." When the dog sits, heap on the praise again. If need be, you can use the vibration setting on your ecollar to get the dog's attention. But do it carefully. You don't want to cause any issues with fear of the canoe.

When it comes time for the dog to get out of the boat, that action must be done ONLY on your command. You simply cannot have a dog that breaks in a boat. The best way to accomplish this is to command the dog to sit in the boat or canoe and hold its collar. Then, toss a retrieval dummy a short distance away. But still hold the collar. If the dog even tries to move, give the "No. Sit." command and hold tight to keep the dog in place. Praise the dog for staying put, and then send the dog to fetch the dummy. Again, gentle stimulation from the e-collar will help with this.

Ideally, your dog is very well trained in the basic commands before you start this, but this new environment will be a big distraction. You will need to train through it thoroughly.

All this is best taught through daily repetition. Always give the dog the opportunity to get it right. As you continue the repetitions you should increase the amount of time you keep the dog sitting waiting for the fetch command. Once the dog is solid on the commands on land you can move to shallow water. Get a dog ramp and start using it right away. Teach the dog to always get in the boat via the ramp.

Constant and correct repetitions will teach the dog the correct way to act in a boat. Unless you want to be testing that new floating gun case, you've got to get this right. 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 at askdogtalk@hotmail.com.

DEBOER, from page 10

you what cadence they require. I've had days when I have waited longer than 10-15 seconds between twitches of the rod tip—do not attempt to impose your will on the fish, let the bass tell you how they want their dinner.

In addition to increased current flow, insect hatches can be absolute catalysts for increased fish feeding activity. Although short-lived in the overall picture of summer, hatches offer exceptional windows in which to find large numbers of active aggressive fish in concentrated areas. Topwater lures tend to work wonders during hatches as due lures which attempt to "match the hatch," such as dry and wet flies, and in-line spinners like the Mepps Thunder Bug.

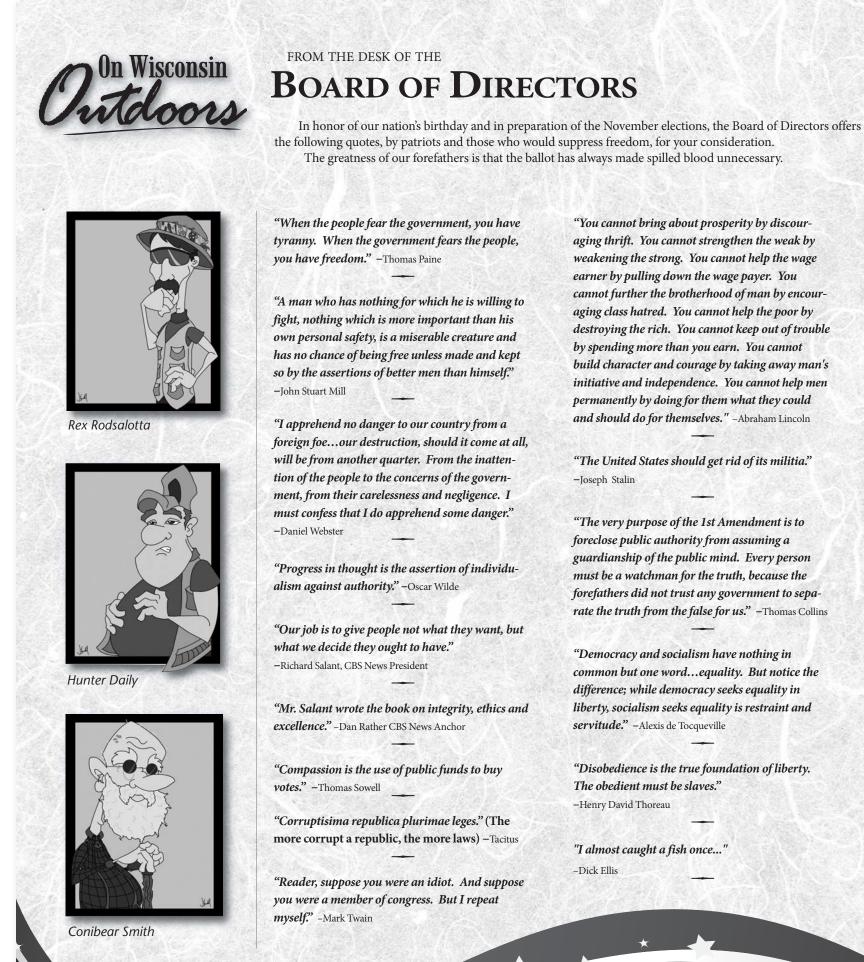
Equipment for summertime smallmouth, outside of the lures mentioned prior, include mediumlight to medium-action St. Croix spinning rods in the 7- to 7½-foot length coupled with a high-quality spinning reel such as the Abu Garcia Cardinal series. Spool the reel with 6to 12-pound test Sufix Elite monofilament fishing line, depending on the size of the fish available and the amount of cover you will be fishing in proximity to. Nets, while often scorned in the bass community, are valuable tools to both the fish and fisherman. Products such as the Frabill Pro-Formance and Conservation series not only make it easier to land a large, unruly bass, but also fish that are lightly hooked, or have multiple hooks protruding from their mouth area as is often the case in crankbait fishing.

Summertime is a time of beauty, and few things are as picturesque as a boldly marked smallmouth exploding from the water with your lure in its mouth. Enjoy the heat, and enjoy the bass.

I'll see you on the water. W_0

Joel DeBoer owns and operates Wisconsin Angling Adventures guide service, and specializes in muskie, walleye and smallmouth bass, based out of the greater Wausau area. Visit his website at www.wisconsinanglingadventures.com or call 715.297.7573.

Good manners in a boat is no accident. It takes some training and encouragement to have the dog sit still. Photo courtesy of Howard Communications.



"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves." - Abraham Lincoln

"The United States should get rid of its militia." -Joseph Stalin

"The very purpose of the 1st Amendment is to foreclose public authority from assuming a guardianship of the public mind. Every person must be a watchman for the truth, because the forefathers did not trust any government to separate the truth from the false for us." - Thomas Collins

"Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word...equality. But notice the difference; while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality is restraint and servitude." - Alexis de Tocqueville

"Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves." -Henry David Thoreau

"I almost caught a fish once..."

Investing in Wisconsin's Youth Adventure Lodge Kids White Bass Round-Up



"Once the kid gets in your boat and the fishing starts, all of your attention is on the kid and trying to find fish for him or her."

The Adventure Lodge Kids 1st Annual White Bass Round-Up on the Wolf River was everything a young fisherman could ask for. With temps in the 70s, little wind and sunny skies, the stage was set for a day loaded with fun.

Adventure Lodge Kids (ALK) is a new non-profit organization in the Waupaca area. Its purpose is to encourage parents to participate in outdoor sporting activities with their kids. ALK is an outlet that provides equipment, locations and guides, and encouragement to kids 8-16 years old along with a parent/mentor to enjoy successful hunting and fishing adventures together.

ALK officially launched operations on May 15, 2010, with a white bass fishing tournament on the Wolf River. Each of the 22 kids were paired with a professional or experienced volunteer guide along with a parent/mentor for an exciting day of fun and fishing. Local community organizations were asked to nominate one kid and a parent/mentor to participate in this free tournament. Organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Fox Valley and North Central Wisconsin, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Students against Drunk Driving and various local churches all got involved and sponsored a child.

Fish On!

The morning began with all guides reporting for check-in at 6:30 a.m. to the smell of fresh coffee and donuts for their volunteer guide meeting. Shortly thereafter eager kids with big smiles began pouring in to register and collect an array of free participation gifts such as fishing poles, tackle boxes (loaded with lures, jigs, and hooks), Yogi Bear's Jelly Stone Park coupons and life jackets. Thanks to the generous donations of more than 20 area businesses, all these gifts were made possible. After a short safety meeting the volunteer guides led their kids to one of 22 fully rigged boats loaded and ready to go.

The excitement and energy level was high as the kids loaded up their fishing gear and joined in the entourage of boats headed down to Gill's Landing. With 22 boats plus other non-tournament fisherman looking to launch, it was quite a scene at Gill's. By 9:15 a.m., all boats were in the water and heading out to their secret (or not so secret) fishing holes.

Guides could take their kids to any place on the river. The official end of tournament fishing hours was at 1 p.m. This gave adequate time to find the "hot spots" and load up on white bass. For young kids, 3-4 hours of fishing proved to be just the right amount of time. All participants were encouraged to bring a sack lunch to eat while on the water. After all, who would want to leave when the fish are biting?

At 1 p.m. the tournament fishing boats pulled up anchor and raced back to the landing (some literally) to get first bragging rights on their livewell full of fish. By 2 p.m. all the boats where back and the fish stories were flowing. The smiles on the kids' faces told the whole story. They had fun and couldn't wait to see who caught the most fish!

Prizes were given for the heaviest stringers of white bass and the two heaviest white bass. Kids with the three heaviest stringers where given bIn honor of our nation's birthday, and in preparation of the November elections, White Bass Round-Up are already being considered by organizers.

Adventure Lodge Kids will continue to offer fishing and hunting opportunities via their web site after the tournament. If you are a sportsman and would like to occasionally volunteer your time, equipment and know how to provide exciting introductory experiences in the outdoors for kids, please contact Scott at Adventure Lodge Kids at (715) 412-1268. Also, contributions to help fund professionally guided trips for kids are welcome via the website at AdventureLodgeKids.org. \mathcal{W}_{D}

Tim Lencki is an author/speaker in the fitness industry who also has a passion for the outdoors. He can be reached at tim@adventurelodgekids.org.



DIANE SCHAUER Protecting Wisconsin Only you can prevent forest invaders



Emerald ash borer traps are becoming as common a sight in Wisconsin as white-tailed deer.

h, the crack of the fire, the pop of the wood. What's your favorite part of a campfire? Is it the smell of the burning wood? Feeling the warmth of the fire versus the cool air on your back? Watching the flames flicker and the embers glow? Or listening to the snapping and popping sounds?

Whatever your preference, there are few things we like better than a good old campfire on a summer night. Often, it's my favorite part of vacation.

The good news is that we can still enjoy our campfires. But the movement of firewood around the state—and in fact the entire Midwest—has changed. This change began years ago with the arrival of the gypsy moth, which defoliates and stresses many trees, especially oaks. When that invasive insect arrived in Wisconsin, the campaign to request that people voluntarily stop moving firewood and to clean camping gear between sites began in earnest.

Since the confirmation of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Newburg, Wisconsin, in 2008, things have escalated. Though it's still a voluntary decision not to move firewood through most of the state, wood is quarantined in 11 counties where EAB has been found: Brown, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Vernon, Washington and Waukesha. You cannot move firewood out of the listed counties. Additionally, if you are moving clean firewood from outside the quarantined area to another, you cannot stop in a quarantined area for longer than it takes to refuel your vehicle.

In an effort to protect their own properties, the state enacted a law effective June 1, 2010, preventing visitors from entering any Wisconsin DNR managed property with wood from more than 25 miles away. This really is serious stuff.

So why all the rules? The emerald ash borer is nearly always fatal to ash trees, which are a significant component of most of our forest systems statewide. The EAB eggs are only about 1mm in size, and the larvae burrow under the bark for one to two years. While under the bark, the larvae eat away in the soft wood and disrupt the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients up the tree. Visual inspection of wood doesn't always show the presence of this invasive species.

Expect to see a lot more evidence that the state is taking invasive insects seriously. Nearly 9,000 deep purple EAB traps will be hung in all 72 counties in Wisconsin. These traps are 3 feet tall, 1-foot wide and sticky. Most of you have seen them hanging from trees



in right-of-ways throughout the state. More than 30,000 gypsy moth traps will be hung in 45 counties by July 1. These traps are either orange and triangular, or a bright green and milk carton shaped, depending on the current level of known infestation. They are designed to lure the male gypsy moth in to the trap, never to escape. Consider these traps as census takers for insects; they will help the state determine location and densities of the populations of these invasive species around Wisconsin.

Are the restrictions on moving firewood largely voluntary? Yes. Can you continue to move firewood around outside of the quarantined areas? Yes. Should you? Probably not. Each year additional populations of EAB and gypsy moth are found in Wisconsin. Will the next population be found in your county? Do you want to risk being the one to transfer destructive tree-killing insects to your favorite place outdoors? I would hope not.

When planning your next campfire, please buy the wood where you want to burn it—and burn it all; don't move the leftovers to your next campgrounds. Encourage others to do the same. And don't forget to pack the s'mores. GW_{0}

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

CUBS CORNER, from page 22

Day By Day

Here's approximate timing for the stages of raising a monarch.

- Egg to caterpillar: 1-5 days
- Caterpillar to chrysalis: 10-12 days
- Green to clear chrysalis: 10 days
- Clear chrysalis to butterfly: 1-2 days
- Wet to dry butterfly: 3-4 hours

• Total: 22-29 days

transforms into chrysalis. To do this, the caterpillar "unzips" its skin, wiggles out, and wraps itself in an acorn-shaped pouch. This is where the new butterfly develops. A chrysalis is beautiful with its pleasant light-green color and a "zipper" of golden dots.

Watch Changes

Study the chrysalis together every day to look for changes, or you might miss a very magical performance—the thrill of watching a butterfly bust out. When the butterfly is about ready in 10 days, the chrysalis pouch will become clear and look dark as you see the black-and-orange wings of a new monarch butterfly folded up inside.

Meet Butterfly

One to two or three days after the

chrysalis changes begin, a new butterfly will burst forth. The chrysalis shell splits, and a new, wet butterfly is left hanging there. Once this hatching process starts, it happens fast, so don't miss the show.

Be Patient and Gentle

Give the new butterfly plenty of time for its wings to unfold completely, and dry out. The young butterfly will begin pumping its wings. This is just exercise: He is not quite ready to go. Don't touch the wings now, or ever. This is a good time to take pictures. Just put a finger next to the butterfly's feet and it will cling.

Set It Free

Three to four hours after it hatches, your butterfly will be ready for solo flight. Take the bug box outside, open the lid, let the butterfly crawl onto a kid's finger. He will fly when he's ready, often fluttering to a shrub, tree branch or flower for a little more rest before flying off for good.

Conclusion

Raising monarch butterflies is a rewarding summer project for adults and children alike. From gathering eggs to watching caterpillars grow and seeing almost-magical transformations from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly, you get a real inside look at he monarch's fascinating life history. %

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

Product 6-Pack Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

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

BARRONETT BIG MIKE BLIND

For \$149, the Big Mike from Barronett blinds features a tall and slim profile that allows you to set it up in smaller, more confined spaces; fivehub pop-up system with no loose poles; replaceable three-panel shootthru mesh windows (good for fixed-blade broadheads); bow hangers, gear pockets and ground stakes that are included; and the new "Blood Trail" camouflage pattern.



Many archery ground blinds on the market have "seating room only," so it's tough to stand up and take your shot. But not this one—it's definitely for the big and tall. But what I like most are the convenient backpackingstyle carry case and super affordable price tag.

barronettblinds.com

GAMEHIDE ELIMITICK GARMENTS

For \$70-\$80, ElimiTick garments use Insect Shield Repellent Technology, which is a man-made



version of a natural tick repellent found in chrysanthemum flowers. The odorless and invisible repellenttechnology is bonded into fabric fibers, and is U.S. EPA-approved. Garments includes a button-up shirt, five-pocket pant, baseball cap and more.

Over the years I've visited the clinic three times because of infected tick bites. Tests on ElimiTick clothing show garments are 97.9 percent effective on ticks, even after 70 washings. I tried it last spring—my hunting buddies had several ticks on them and I had none. No trips to the ER for me.

GameHide.com

SHOOT-N-C PRAIRIE CHUCKS

For \$9, this six-pack of prairie dog targets is made of corrugated black plastic; these targets are tough and long-lasting, and bullet impacts reveal bright yellow. Each target stands 71/2inches high and includes a mounting stake for easy set up. Simply reuse target by slapping on a new prairiechuck target sticker.



Want some summer fun but can't afford a full-day car ride Out West to wipe out an entire prairie-dog town? Sharpshooter Prairie Chuck die-cut targets feature a realistic shape to test your long-distance shooting skills. Just head to the rifle range with a six-pack of these babies and pretend you're shooting at the real thing.

BirchwoodCasey.com

ABU GARCIA VENDETTA RODS

For \$50, these one-piece spinning or casting rods are factory tuned and balanced for better sensitivity, performance and comfort. It features 30-ton graphite construction strength, and high-quality frame guides and reel seat. Its split-grip handle is made from high-density EVA with strong anodizedaluminum lockdowns. Several length and strength versions are offered.

I like the new style and design of these rods. They do their job well and look good doing it. Plus, that price is hard to beat for a rod with both strength and good sensitivity. From a brand like Abu Garcia, I trust rod will last me for many years.

AbuGarcia.com

THERMACELL OUTDOOR LANTERN

For \$32, this outdoor lantern provides up to 98 percent protection from mosquitoes, black flies and nosee-ums. It provides a 15-square-foot insect-free zone while also casting a soft, comfortable light from eight longlasting LED bulbs. A butane cartridge heats replaceable repellent mats which emits a synthetic copy of a natural insecticide.



As you probably know, a ThermaCell portable mosquito repellent device is very effective at shutting out insects when sitting in one place for a long time. This lantern operates in the same way; it's great for campfires and snacking at the picnic table!

ThermaCell.com

MEASURETT-N-RELEASE TRAY

From \$18-\$20, these fishingmeasuring cradle trays are made from rugged polyurethane, strong enough to hold your big catch and durable enough to withstand frigid temperatures during the ice fishing months. They come in two sizes, 20- or 30-inches long.



A user-friendly measuring device is always a good idea: You definitely don't want a DNR fine for a misjudged keeper. And, this cradle tray is an easy way to avoid the mess and of a flopping fish bouncing on the floor of your boat, not to mention reducing the risk of injury to the fish by quickly and safely handling and releasing your catch.

MeasurettNRelease.com

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

CHECK OUT PAST PRODUCT 6-PACK COLUMNS ON OUR ARCHIVED ISSUES PAGE, ONLINE AT:

onwisconsinoutdoors.com



