

March/April 2011
Vol. 4, Issue 4

On Wisconsin *Outdoors*

with the
Dick Ellis Experts

- **Junk In The Trunk**
Old lures, new treasures
- **Hangin' Tough**
Take down a late-season tom
- **Decoy Dilemma**
Ten sets to help you decide
- **Blood Brothers Outdoors**
Get out and scout ... now
- **Of Scales And Bows**
Carp: The other archery target
- **Recipes By Suzette**
Simple sauces for fish
- **New Waves**
How-to fish new waters
- **Surplus Firearms**
Don't tread on me
- **'Up Nort' Report**
Ode to the tip-down
- **Sauger Secrets**
There's more in these waters than walleyes
- **Hand-In-Hand**
The joys of sharing the outdoors

Dick Ellis

HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, TRAVEL & OUTDOOR HUMOR

OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

STURGEON LAKE LODGE

Drive-in Lodge and Boat-in Outpost



A Canadian Adventure
Ignace, Ontario

Fishing | Hunting

807.934.6983 sturgeonlakelodge@shaw.ca

BEAR HUNT *Starts*
\$1100.00 *includes* **Aug. 15**

- Stands baited 2 weeks prior to hunt
- Bait provided during hunt
- Modern cabin, boat, motor
- All meals

2010 Success Rate 100%



BEAUTIFUL SUNSET COUNTRY IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO



OUTPOST *Trophy walleye in abundance*

- 2 hour tug boat ride to the outpost 22 miles north of main camp
- No weight restrictions, bring an ATV if you want
- Fish the remote back lakes no one else fishes
- Better than a fly-in!
- Cabins sleep 10, solar-powered, flush bathrooms, hot showers
- Located on a protected walleye sanctuary
- June 11-18 available; other weeks open in July, Aug and Sept

MAIN CAMP *Best rates in the area!*

- 8 housekeeping cabins, ultra modern and rustic
- Many Northern, walleye, trout, bass, perch lakes to fish

**CALL TO BOOK
RESERVATIONS**

Winter Phone

807.344.8265

www.SturgeonLakeLodge.com

JERRY KIESOW

Junk In The Trunk

Old fishing lures: trash or treasure?

How many of you have a spare tackle box or two filled with lures you haven't used for years—or decades, perhaps? Or maybe you only have one box, but it's really big and there are hundreds of lures (well .. maybe not hundreds, but a bunch) jammed in every corner and tray. How many of those lures have you used in the past 2 ... 10 ... 25 years? Are any of these baits made of wood? Are any still in their original boxes?

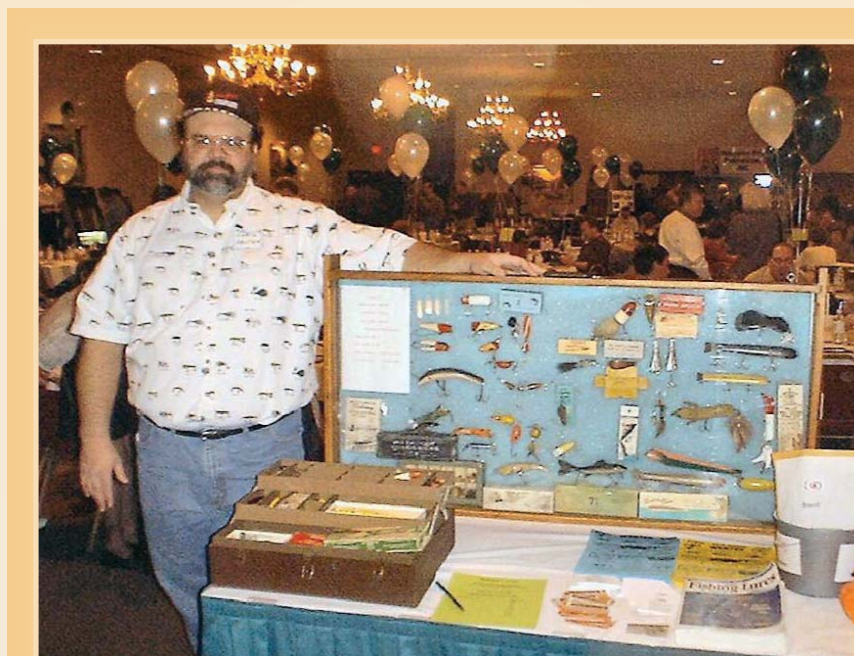
Why am I asking all these questions? Because many of us fit into one or maybe all of the above scenarios. Do you know if you're storing trash or hiding treasures?

To answer the last question, I have a few suggestions: First, meet Chris Hauser of New Berlin, Wisconsin. Chris has been collecting fishing lures and associated tackle for more than a quarter-century. He's the local expert when it comes to evaluating and estimating the value of anything antique in the field of fishing.

I met with Hauser in one of the conference rooms graciously provided by Cabela's at their Richfield store on the Monday after the New Year. I've known of Hauser and his talents for years and I see his name in the newspapers whenever he gives free appraisals at local sports shops in the area. We had, however, never met.

After opening chit chat, I learned the following about Hauser and the collecting world:

He got started in this hobby after meeting an antiques dealer who



Hauser and a portion of his collection.

enjoyed fishing. This dealer decided to combine his love for fishing with his business by buying and selling old lures. One day he bought a few lures from Hauser. The transaction interested Hauser, and he began researching tackle and its value through books and by going to shows. The more he read and saw, the more he enjoyed the pursuit. The rest, as they say, is history. But Hauser's history is still in the making.

History In The Making

I had a personal experience dealing with Hauser about 4 years ago at the Milwaukee National Fishing Lure

Collectors Club (NFLCC) show. (This is one of the three clubs to which Hauser belongs; the others are, The Old Reel Collectors Association (ORCA) and the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors (FATC).) I didn't know Hauser at the time.

I'd been collecting wooden, bait casting lures for decades. I had two tackle boxes full; I was very proud of the collection, but I had nowhere to show it off. The lures had been sitting in the corner of the basement for most of the years I had them. The only time I opened them was when I added another lure.

I knew some of them were worth something, and I finally got myself to admit that they were being wasted where they were. No one, not even me, was getting to see and enjoy them. After all, if you collect something, be proud of it—don't hide it. At least that's my theory.

My wife helped me carry the boxes and a couple of rod/reel combinations into the show. We had them appraised not by Hauser though I asked the gentleman who gave us their worth, "Is there anyone here who would like to buy them? Not pick and choose, but all or nothing." He spread the word.

Thirty minutes and three bids later, a gentleman was handing me money and we handed him the "collectibles."



A Magnetic Weedless lure rests on the pages of the 8th Edition of "Old Fishing Lures & Tackle" by Carl F. Luckey and Russell E. Lewis below photos and description of that lure. Its value is listed at \$50-\$75.



RIGHT: Lures from my tackle box, from upper left: Skinner spinner with feathered "bucktail" (could not find value), Heddon Dowagiac Near-Surface Wiggler (circa, 1915-1926, \$150-\$275), Heddon Crazy Crawler (\$10-\$20), Shannon Twin Spin, modified (unknown value), Creek Chub Injured Minnow (\$45-\$200), Creek chub Pike Minnow (\$40-\$150). Note: All plugs are made of wood, except the Crawler. Will I continue to fish them? Why not? As you can tell from the chipped finishes, they have been successful.

Deal done. Everyone was happy. That man turned out to be Chris Hauser.

In our interview I found that whenever possible, buyers like to pick and choose. However, as was in my case, if there was something of value in "the pot," and the seller was willing to take the reasonable offer for the whole kit and caboodle, then that's what a buyer would do. In my case, I knew I would not get full value for what I had, but then, I also did not know any buyers. I was happy with the price Hauser gave me, and he was good with what he paid.

No, Hauser did not remember the

Continued on page 15

BUYING ANTIQUE FISHING LURES



COLLECTOR
Of Fishing Lures and Tackle
1870's to 1970's

CHRISTOPHER HAUSER
Piscatorial Lure-ologist
262-860-1004

DICK ELLIS

On Wisconsin Outdoors

No surrender to late-season tom

So you drew a late-season turkey permit, and you're disappointed. The foliage will be full, the bugs swarming, the birds gun shy and your friends fishing. Look at it this way: you've got more cover. Don't forget the ThermoCell, and your friends will be slipping another skunk into the livewell. As for Mr. Gobbler ... he's lonely and looking. This could be the best hunt of your life. Walk back with me a few years to a Season No. 6 hunt in southwest Wisconsin—and take heart. Tom is waiting. ...

Two hours into a "last chance" spring turkey hunt, the gobbler answered the hen call from a deep wooded hollow in the rolling farm country of Grant County. Maybe, with a lot of patience and a little luck this tom, already a survivor of the first five of Wisconsin's six split seasons, would now be without the companionship of hens and be vulnerable. Then again, with

declining success rates correlating with each split season as the heavily hunted birds become streetwise to hunter calling and decoys, maybe not.

I'd taken the long ride from Waukesha County to Wisconsin's southwest in driving rain for a final crack at success. Thunderstorms gave way to a billion stars just 20 miles east of Fennimore. The agony of a blown opportunity in April was about to give way to the ecstasy of the most memorable hunt of a lifetime; it would be more challenging and rewarding than any hunt of any kind in an outdoor reporter's life in the field.

Sitting, moving and calling from the field edges with the diaphragm call from first light into the first 2 hours of a new day brought no response from any gobblers. From deep in the hollow, as I beckoned from a long thin wooded finger connecting woodlots and surrounded by rolling, fields of greens

and browns, a tom finally answered.

Our conversation would continue virtually non-stop throughout the day. When we did occasionally cease our banter, it was only as we jockeyed for position. I don't know if he ultimately gobbled 200 or 300 times, but his verbal enthusiasm was without rival.

When the noon whistle of Fennimore sounded, I'd hunted one tom for 5 hours. I'd not yet seen him. An hour later and a half-mile from his introductory gobble, my eyes finally were fixed on a still white spot at 150 yards in a tall grass field. "That's him," I thought, and watched the head shake and turn red as he gobbled in answer to my now familiar sweet talk. He assumed the full strut position, but remained "hung-up" and in no hurry to jeopardize his own safety for another feather in the harem hat.

Still stalemated an hour later he exited the field demanding that this "hen" follow. I countered by moving 200 yards just inside the woodline bordering the field to take a stand where I'd watched him strut. I would not call. If I "knew" tom at all from this chess game,

he would panic in the silence and return to the field and my new ambush.

I settled in against a tree, relieved again at completing a move without detection. This new, low visibility lair was no different than the haunt of a big buck that has learned to survive. If tom did return, I would have just 8 yards in the rolling field to locate and kill him. Behind me, the forest where he had disappeared was a thick mass of thorns and undergrowth. I rested my gun toward the field and silently waited.

At 15 minutes, a bit panicked, I risked a whispered "hello?" I had guessed wrong. The gobble was shattering from the vegetation behind me, less than 40 yards. I spun around the tree on elbow and shoulder, came again to the shooter's position—and waited. A tense 10 minutes later, I manipulated the mouth call to extend a near non-audible greeting. His return

Continued on page 12



27th WISCONSIN DEER & TURKEY EXPO

April 1-2-3, 2011 • Alliant Energy Center, Madison



Your HANDS-ON, Real Gear, Hunting Info HQ



WI Buck & Bear Club Trophy Contest Sponsor: Official Measurers 1-877-273-6408

• Byron Ferguson will perform on Sat. & Sun.

New in 2011 –

- Women's Hunting Clothing & related Gear Center - Fitting rooms avail. - WOMAN HUNTER magazine Info Ctr.
- Puppies & Kids Sunday
- Gun Auction Sunday
- DVD Theater
- USSA Raffles & Sweepstakes
- Deer Hunting "Answer Man"
- Turkey Hunting "Answer Man"

Other Highlights

- 590+ Booths and 50+ Seminars
- Archery Trick Shot (Sa & Su only)
- Tech Info Center expanded, w/ New-Products Seminars
- Trophy Contest (WI Deer & Bear)
- Trail Cam & Outdoor Photo Contests
- New-Product Display Area
- Flint Knapping
- Mountain Men Camp
- 3 Shooting Ranges
- Live Game Animals & Predators
- Tradeshow Sunday (dealers invited)

EXPO HOURS

Fri. Apr. 1st 2pm - 9pm
Sat. Apr. 2nd 9am - 7pm
Sun. Apr. 3rd 9am - 4pm

For city info and directions call:
1-800-373-6376
Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitmadison.com

Go to **www.deerinfo.com** for Directions/Map, Hotels, Exhibitor List, Seminars, Tech Info Ctr, Contest Rules & all event details. Or call 1-800-324-3337.

Follow us on ... www.facebook.com/deerinfo
www.twitter.com/deerinfo
www.youtube.com/Deerinfo

\$2 off Bring this coupon to the 27th Annual Wisconsin DEER & TURKEY EXPO April 1-2-3, 2011 Alliant Energy Center Madison, WI
You receive \$2 off one adult or military admission.
ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER
Price includes tax and admission only. No monetary value. WMS

ANOTHER TOM, ANOTHER TIME

At times during this extraordinary hunt, I would angrily scream without interruption for 30 seconds on the diaphragm call for the elusive tom to come to me, as he simultaneously gobbled non-stop for me to come to him. The conversation was so intense that I guessed it would eventually draw in another gobbler seeking companionship.

Soon, it did. A big gobbler moved in full strut silently across a planted field to me. I located him by slowly but consistently looking over my shoulders. Given the opportunity I would tag either bird. When the intruder first gobbled at 60 yards, I had high hopes of my "hollow" gobbler showing himself to this new competition.

Instead, he moved quickly toward the field, his dominant gobbling intensifying and allowing me to track his movement. The intruder tucked and literally ran. My boisterous tom retreated again to his lair, leaving us in our stalemate and me to wonder if I was hunting a special bird. ^W

TOM CARPENTER

Decoy Dilemma Decoder

Ten scenarios help you tag a tom

Decoys can create harmony or heartache in the spring turkey woods. The secret is knowing when—and when not—to use them.

Part of what makes turkey hunting so interesting is the fact that no 2 days, situations or turkeys are exactly alike. One gobbler might come running in to your decoys. The next tom will scurry away in fear. A third bird will hang in the distance, expecting that annoying hen to come to him.

Sometimes terrain and time allow you to put out a decoy without spooking a bird. In other battles, you only have time to plop down against a tree and pull up your face mask.

Decoys present some dilemmas. To help make those critical “use or not” choices, consider the 10 strategies in this Decoy Dilemma Decoder this spring.

Situation #1: Gobbling bird on the roost, close. Morning.

Decision: No decoy. If you’re fortunate enough to get next to a gobbling bird on the roost, leave the decoys in your vest. The commotion of putting out a decoy can spook a close-range bird, even if darkness still prevails. Plus, you want that gobbler flying your way when he comes down, and looking for you. With a decoy out, he might just strut on the limb and hang up once he does fly down.

Situation #2: Gobbling bird on the roost, far. Morning.

Decision: Use decoy. If you’ve got a bird or birds gobbling on the roost but you can’t get in close, go ahead and set up a decoy or two. One hen is a great setup, but adding a jake can work well, too, to pique a boss bird’s jealousy. Birds coming from afar will want the visual assurance—your decoys—of birds up ahead.

Situation #3: Setting up “blind” before dawn.

Decision: Use decoy. We hunters don’t always have a turkey roosted. And some

days, no gobbles pierce dawn’s grayness. In cases like these, set up at a good strutting ground and use a decoy or decoys to make it look like birds are already there and waiting for gobbler services.

Situation #4: Field setups. Morning or afternoon.

Decision: Use decoy. A common tactic in Wisconsin is to set up on the edge of a field, often on a point of timber or in a wooded outside or inside corner, and wait for birds to enter the field or pass by. Use a decoy in this situation. Your calling will attract attention if birds enter the field, but they will want visual assurance that there are in fact turkeys there. Tip: If you can predict which direction the turkeys might come from, try positioning your decoys well beyond your position to intercept the birds on their path toward the fakes.

Situation #5: Woodland setups. Morning or afternoon.

Decision: No decoy. When setting up in timber, keep the decoys in your vest. Without a decoy out, the gobbler has to keep searching for you. Because the terrain is wooded, it’s natural that he might not see that calling hen. That could keep him on the prowl and less likely to hang up.

Situation #6: Strike a hot bird while prospecting. Any time of day.

Decision: No decoy. When you’re out prospecting and you finally strike a bird, don’t fiddle around with a decoy. If you’ve located that gobbler with a cutt or yelp, he might already be on his way, and you don’t want to get caught flat-footed or make any commotion to spook him. Find a good tree and set up fast!

Situation #7: Intercepting birds you’ve seen or spotted. Late morning or afternoon.

Decision: No decoy. In agricultural



Should you use a decoy or not? Making the right decision for different situations can make the difference in your turkey hunting success this spring. In this midmorning field-edge situation, the author chose to use a decoy, and it worked on this southern Wisconsin gobbler.

areas, it’s common to spot birds and then try to get closer for a setup, using terrain and vegetation to hide your approach. Leave the decoys behind. These are always low-percentage maneuvers anyway, and decoys will just slow you down and create unnecessary movement.

Situation #8: Hunting birds you’ve patterned. Any time of day.

Decision: No decoy. Many turkey hunters like to scout hard and pattern the local turkeys, then set up strategically along a travel route. In this case, forget the decoys. If those birds have a routine, why upset it with some suspicious new arrivals on the scene?

Situation #9: Waiting for birds to come to a roost area. Evening.

Decision: No decoy. Turkeys approaching their roost site are at the day’s wariest. The birds are usually quiet, passive and not interested in breeding. A decoy might just alert them. Rather, set up smartly along a travel route, and call only softly, subtly and occasionally.

Situation #10: Big gobbler, plenty of hens around. Any time.

Decision: Use decoy (jake). Nice hen calls and pretty decoys might do nothing to lure a dominant old gobbler with a harem. But, add a jake decoy to the equation, and you can spur his jealousy and territoriality into action. Use a hen decoy or two, and add one jake decoy for the gobbler to focus on. Place the jake decoy closest to you, because that’s where the gobbler will go first.

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

PAST ISSUES OF

On Wisconsin
Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts

AVAILABLE
ONLINE 24/7

onwisconsinoutdoors.com



Marking deer sign on topographic maps helps the author record data and develop a hunting strategy.

LEE GATZKE

Blood Brothers Outdoors

Pre green-up whitetail scouting

Starting From Scratch

When scouting, I'm initially focused on looking for daytime bedding areas. Trails that lead to and from bedding areas, and tracks that reveal size and gender, are second on my list of importance. When you find day beds you know where to find deer during the hours they can be hunted. Night beds usually occur near feeding areas and are typically abandoned before sunrise when the deer move off to their more secure daybeds.

Deer will often bed in or close to feeding areas just to digest their evening meal while under the cover of darkness, typically making these beds a waste of time to hunt. Finding night beds does indicate you've found where they have been feeding, however. If the feeding area doesn't provide safe bedding, and most don't, then the deer typically head to a different, secure bedding area to spend the daylight hours.

Each day most deer will spend

time bedded in two separate bedding areas: daybeds in secure locations and night beds close to where they feed. Most of the season, hunting in the area of daybeds gives you your best chance of spotting a deer during shooting hours, which is why finding daybeds is tops on my list of priorities when scouting.

Locating all the day beds I can find, along with the trails and other sign leading to and from them, are noted. I carry an aerial or topographic map of the property I'm scouting and make notes on it, illustrating the locations of the sign I've found. I also make note of possible stand sites covering entry or exit trails to these bedding areas and mark their locations on the map.

In this way, I'll be aware of wind directions in relation to the stand sites and bedding areas. Knowing this, I can plan how to approach and exit the area

Continued on page 14

AS THE DAYS GROW LONGER AND SNOW DEPTHS RETREAT, IT'S TIME FOR THIS PACKER FAN TO GET OFF THE COUCH AND TAKE IN SOME FRESH AIR. THE SUPERBOWL RUN AND DEEP SNOW

snow have taken their toll on my waistline by keeping me glued to the couch more than usual this winter. Somewhere out there in the woods and swamps are clues that'll make or break my upcoming deer season.

Even though deer season is months away, I feel the best time to scout is now. The disappearing snow cover reveals valuable sign from last fall—beds, trails, scrapes and tracks that have been frozen in time, made during the previous hunting season. Sign that was purposely frozen in time, by God, so we could root for our favorite football and basketball teams without interruption. Once the NCAA crowns its basketball national champion we have until the time Mother Nature thaws the swamps and makes the landscape green to efficiently do our homework. Late March to late April is prime time for discovering clues left behind from last season that can help us succeed

this coming season.

Deer that made the sign you find this time of year will frequent these same places this coming season, if they survived the winter. The new growth of spring erases these clues, so you need to get out before the landscape turns green once again to be able to find them.

Finding rub lines and scrapes gives insight into rutting activity and are important clues to know if you're looking to hunt bucks during the rut; however, much of the bow season and most of the gun seasons do not encompass the rut. Trails, tracks and beds are sign that tell the story of all who live in a specific area and how they use the landscape throughout the hunting season. Finding sheds is a bonus that makes it clear that a particular buck is in the neighborhood and will probably be around for the next hunting season.



The author hunted this 8-pointer based on sign he found on public land during April 2010. When he shot the buck in October, it was the first time the author actually saw him.

On Wisconsin
Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts

Hunting, Fishing, Travel
and Outdoor Humor

PUBLISHER/EDITOR:

Dick Ellis
ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

MANAGING EDITOR:

Luke Hartle
hartle@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

PRODUCTION & ADVERTISING:

Karen Cluppert, Not Just Words
ads@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

Published bi-monthly by ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS, LLC. Subscriptions are mailed first class. ©Copyright 2009 ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS, LLC with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission, of editorial, advertising or graphic content in any manner is prohibited by law. **NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:** All advertising is subject to publisher's approval and acceptance without recourse. Advertisers and their agencies assume responsibility for the condition of the contents of advertising printed, and agree to indemnify the Publishers of OWO for any and all claims and expenses arising there from. **CORPORATE OFFICES LOCATED AT:** 20240 West Rustic Ridge Drive, New Berlin, WI 53146 **Phone:** 262.549.5550 **Web site:** www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com **Postmaster:** Send address changes to: 20240 West Rustic Ridge Drive New Berlin, WI 53146

NATALIE BEACOM

Of Scales And Bows

Part hunting, part fishing ... all fun



Although carp are most popular, buffalo also make excellent targets and can grow to huge proportions.

We've all seen the DVDs playing on loop at various retail giants or on our favorite channels and been drawn to the whoops of laughter from fishermen hollering aboard speeding vessels with arrows shooting and fish flying everywhere. It's hard not to be entranced by what's happening: fast action, adventure fishing with compound bows and huge leaping fish that you can shoot.

How does what we are viewing fit into the knowledge banks we have developed as anglers or archers or hunters?

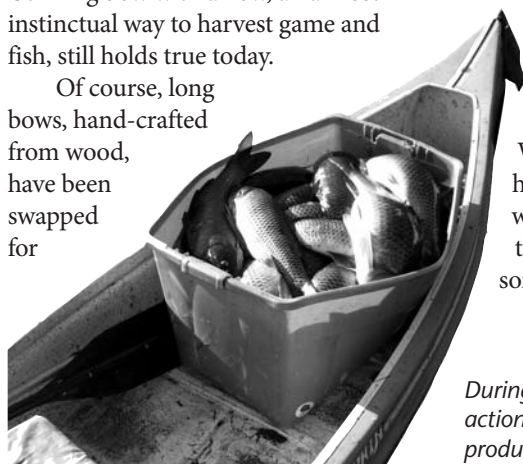
Bowfishing's origins date to the earliest of native peoples who fished using long bow from shore and canoe. Utilizing bow with arrow, an almost instinctual way to harvest game and fish, still holds true today.

Of course, long bows, hand-crafted from wood, have been swapped for

compound bow technology and wooden arrows with hand carved barbs have been adapted to fiberglass/aluminum/carbon-shafted arrows with large metal barbed tips to shoot through the water with ease. Reels with line attached for retrieval and slide systems to avoid snap back are all adaptations to equipment that help us fish more effectively and efficiently, but the methodology remains true to our ancestors.

The methodology for successful bowfishing is already something you've honed with your time maneuvering in the field or on the water. Whether from shore, pier, wading or by boat, bowfishing can be enjoyed on many lakes, rivers and back waters throughout the State.

Avid outdoorsman Wes Babcock has been bowfishing since he was a young boy on Wisconsin waterways. First with his father with a bow fashioned with a coffee can and string, and then as a father mentoring his own son to learn and enjoy the sport.



During the spring spawn, carp shooting action can be fast-paced and highly productive.

Babcock continues this family tradition and bowfishes with both his sister and wife and can claim shooting upwards of 20,000 fish.

Primarily fishing from canoe, Babcock has enjoyed big days on the water, having shot 187 fish in a single outing, a 57-pound buffalo (the existing state record for buffalo is just over 62 pounds) and last year an 18.6-pound carp sucker/quill back hybrid that fascinated Wisconsin fishing officials. A self-described bowfishing addict, Babcock has continued to bowfish because "it's a lot of fun and something different seems to happen every time out."

Big Help From Bowfishing

From a fisheries standpoint, the quarry for bowfishers is solely rough fish. Carp, suckers, buffalo, drums, gar, bowfin and a handful more rough species are legal to shoot in Wisconsin.

While not the best tasting or looking, these fish can range from 2-70 pounds, dependent on species—and there's often no bag limit. Rough fish are typically not desired in our area for commercial purposes. In fact, many are relatives to those invasive species whose continued proliferation serves to threaten our region's water resources.

Certain species of invasive aquatic populations, such as the Asian carp, stand to double annually. Although the reality of invasives is concerning for our shared waterways, it can't be controlled by sport fishing; however, no bag limits and sport harvesting does have an impact.

Get Involved

The Wisconsin Bowfishing Association (WBA) has made outstanding strides toward increasing awareness of the sport. It was also through support of the WBA and its members that the organization was able to negotiate trial night bowfishing, which has since led to the passage of legislation making nighttime bowfishing legal.

Tony Waltemath, WBA president, spent summers as a boy chasing spawning carp with crude spears, but he has since evolved and today rarely will he be found without his carp boat,




Aaron Babcock, Wes Babcock's son best bowfishing partner until his untimely death at 16 from an unknown heart defect, had a knack for finding and shooting big Wisconsin carp.

rigged for night bowfishing, hitched to his truck.

"There seems to be a switch that gets flipped when the sun goes down that allows you to get close to the fish without them spooking—nighttime is the right time for bowfishing," explains Waltemath.

Bowfishing has the distinction of offering a combination of many of the most loved outdoor sports. Those emotional highs we receive individually from hunting while stalking prey, as archers at full draw holding for the shot, and the excitement when the fish are biting can all be morphed into one fishing adventure. So, whoop it up, holler loudly, stop watching video clips and start bowfishing in Wisconsin!

To learn more about bowfishing, season dates and regulations contact your regional WBA representative. See the Wisconsin Bowfishing Association's web site www.wibfa.com or visit the WDNR's "Spearing and Netting" section of the WDNR fishing regulations. 

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

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette

Simple sauces just for fish

It seems as though everyone has their favorite way to prepare fish. Whether it's broiling, grilling, pan-frying or baking, we've decided at our house that the sauce served with the fish is what really makes the meal. That being said, I've chosen to devote this issue to sharing some of my favorite sauce recipes for you to try with your favorite fish. *W*

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. Contact her at recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

Find more WILD GAME Recipes Online

Creamy Mushroom and Almond Sauce

by Suzette Curtis

4 tbsp. unsalted butter
8 oz. sliced mushrooms
2 oz. sliced almonds
2 tbsp. flour

4 oz. dry white wine
8 oz. heavy whipping cream
Salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add sliced mushrooms and sauté until golden brown. Add almonds and sauté 1-2 minutes just to release their fragrance. Stir in flour to make a paste; slowly add white wine while continuously stirring. Reduce heat to simmer and stir occasionally until liquid is reduced by half. Add cream and continue to simmer, stirring occasionally 8-10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and serve atop fish. This is especially delicious with whitefish.

• OnWisconsinOutdoors.com •

OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

Mustard Vinaigrette

by Suzette Curtis

¼ c. lemon juice
¼ c. olive oil
½ tsp. Dijon mustard
½ tsp. minced garlic

1 tbsp. chopped fresh basil
1 tbsp. chopped fresh tarragon
2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in small bowl and rest at room temperature for at least 1 hour to allow flavors to fully develop. Not only is this vinaigrette wonderful to serve with grilled fish, but it's a delightful marinade in which to bake fresh salmon fillets.

• OnWisconsinOutdoors.com •

Tomato, Onion and Olive Oil Sauce

by Suzette Curtis

3 plum tomatoes, diced
1 red onion, feathered
¼ c. chopped fresh parsley
½ tbsp. chopped fresh oregano

1/3 c. extra virgin olive oil
¼ tsp. sea salt
1/8 tsp. white pepper

Combine all ingredients in small bowl and rest at room temperature for at least 1 hour to allow flavors to fully develop. Serve atop or alongside fish fillets.

• OnWisconsinOutdoors.com •

Lemon Caper Sauce

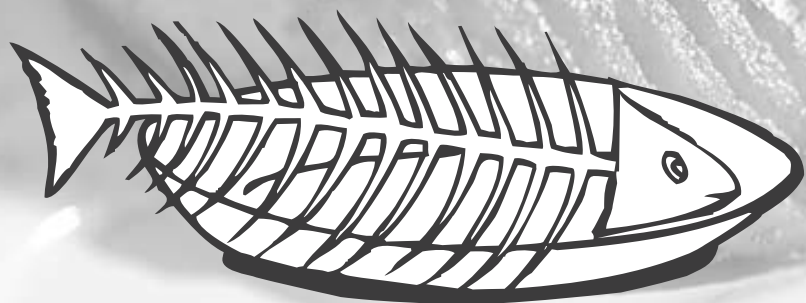
by Suzette Curtis

2 tbsp. unsalted butter
2 tbsp. all purpose flour
1 c. low-sodium chicken broth
1 c. dry white wine

2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1 tbsp. lemon zest
2 tbsp. capers, drained
¼ tsp. white pepper

Melt butter in skillet over medium heat. Add flour and stir to make a paste. Slowly add chicken broth, stirring constantly, until well combined. Bring to boil; reduce heat to simmer. Add remaining ingredients to skillet and simmer, stirring occasionally until sauce thickens. Serve immediately atop prepared fish.

• OnWisconsinOutdoors.com •





Doug Kloet of Kenosha hold a nice smallmouth bass caught on an unfamiliar part of Green Bay. Weeks of planning paid off with a successful trip.

TERRY BITZ

Outdoor Convergence

Battle strategies for fishing new water

With thousands of lakes and rivers available to anglers in Wisconsin, new water constantly beckons to be fished. As the popular mantra says, "Variety is the spice of life."

However, unless it's a small, shallow lake, just dropping the boat in the water and chucking lures all over the place probably won't be the most productive method of learning to fish a new lake. That approach will likely lead to more frustration than success. Instead, the preparation for fishing that new lake should start long before the first cast.

Map It

The best place to start is to get a map of the water you will be fishing. Fortunately, most of the waters in Wisconsin have been mapped, and the maps are available for purchase from a variety of locations. Free lake maps are also available for downloading from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website.

On the map look for major structure elements such as points, inside turns, humps, saddles and steep breaks. Fish can be almost anywhere, but these are high-percentage targets. After the spawning period, fish will

likely be holding on or near these spots.

Many of the map companies also place fishing tips on their maps, which are gleaned from local bait shops or fishing guides. These tips won't turn you into an immediate expert, but they can provide a good starting point about where to fish and what presentations to use.

Spy Tactics

Next, view satellite images such as the ones found on Google Maps. These can be useful for identifying features not found on standard lake maps. Thick vegetation, weed edges, fresh water inlets and docks can all be indentified from the overhead images.

These photographs become even more important for bodies of water that have yet to be mapped, as the images can provide clues to the location of underwater structure such as points or reefs. This is especially true for clear water lakes where these pieces of structures are easily identifiable.

Tap The Masses

Once you understand the basic layout of the lake and its major features, it's time to hit the Internet and see what

Continued on page 14



Preserving and
Enhancing
Our Waterfowl
Hunting Heritage

2011 WISCONSIN WATERFOWL HUNTERS CONFERENCE

March 4 & 5, 2011
Ramada Inn, Stevens Point

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Wisconsin Waterfowl Zone Changes and Opportunities to Provide Input** - Kent Van Horn - DNR Migratory Bird Specialist
- **The Mead Wildlife Area and Managed Hunts** - Tom Meyer - Property Manager Mead Wildlife Area
- **The Changing Face of Migration** - Jay Strangis - Editor American Waterfowler magazine
- **Duck and Goose Calling** - Mark Kakatsch - Former Wisconsin State Duck and Goose Calling Champion and Final Approach Pro Staffer
- **Waterfowl Hunting in Great Britain, and Around the World** - Pat Pitt and Tom Armbrust
- **The Status of Scaup** - Jane Austin, researcher US Geological Survey, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center
- **AND MORE!**

Friday, March 4th

Registration 11:30 - 12:30 pm
Session I 12:30 - 5:30 pm
Informational Displays 5:30 - 6:00 pm
Duck Hunters Party 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Saturday, March 5th

Registration 8:00 - 8:30 am
(Continental Breakfast Provided)
Session II 8:30 - 11:30 am
Lunch (Provided) 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Session III 1:00 - 2:30 pm

DUCK HUNTERS PARTY!

Friday 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Informal get together to renew
acquaintances and make new friends.
Complimentary Refreshments and
FEAST provided by fellow
duck hunters.

Just \$20.00 with registration by March 1st!

**Raffle
Prizes!**

**Includes all three sessions,
Friday Duck Hunter's Party,
Saturday Continental Breakfast
and Saturday Lunch!**

Register by Feb. 20 to be entered in the Early Bird Raffle

WALK IN REGISTRATION ACCEPTED - \$25.00 AT THE DOOR

JOIN US - We can make a difference!

The 2011 Conference is sponsored and organized by individual hunters, private conservation organizations and state and federal natural resource agencies. Join your fellow waterfowlers and management professionals to share questions, concerns, experiences and information that affect our waterfowl hunting heritage and future hunting opportunities.

**Additional information and registration forms are available online
at: www.wisducks.org/wwhc.htm Look for WWHC**

**The Ramada Inn 1501 North Point Drive, Stevens Point
715-341-1340 or 800-998-2311 (Rooms being held)**



DENNIS RADLOFF

Expanding Shorelines

Pre-season muskie destinations

While we're in the middle of our "closed" Wisconsin muskie season, and still a few months away from "open season" for muskies, there are some great destinations available for those of you itching for a muskie fix.

Muskie waters with closed seasons are generally lakes throughout the Midwest that have a native population of muskies. The main reason for having a closed season on these waters is to protect the vulnerable males and females that are staging for spring spawn beneath the ice. Many of these lakes are sustained through natural reproduction and the closed season protects the fish from harvest until after spawning is completed.

During the past 20 years there's been an expansion of muskie waters throughout some of the states south of us. While these expanded muskie waters might not have had "native" muskie populations, they're waters with great structure, forage and

warmer seasonal temperatures which have led to some fast growth rates and excellent muskie fishing.

These "south of the border" muskie destinations can offer some great opportunities all year 'round, and one of the greatest elements of these southern muskie lakes is the year-round open season. While the muskies in these southern lakes will still go through the spawn process, the water temperatures and conditions never stay consistent long enough for any natural hatch to occur. These lakes are sustained entirely through stocking and catch-and-release efforts.

Illinois: Lake Kinkaid

Embedded in the Shawnee National Forest with more than 90 miles of breath-taking shoreline is a 2,750-acre reservoir known as Lake Kinkaid. Built in 1972, Kinkaid has become home to Illinois' finest muskie fishery and arguably one of the best in the Midwest. With a 48-inch size limit, spillway barrier,

tremendous forage base and an extensive stocking program, Lake Kinkaid's muskie fishery is protected and shall continue to thrive for years to come. For more information and guide options, contact Chad Cain at: ChadCain.com.

Indiana: Webster Lake

Webster Lake is 640 acres with a max depth of 65 feet. Consistent stocking efforts combined with a solid catch and release program contributes to an estimated muskie population of 5 fish per acre! If you're interested in hiring a guide for this body of water, I recommend contacting Mike Hulbert at: MikeHulbert.com.

Kentucky: Cave Run Lake

This 8,300 acre impoundment of the Licking River is nestled in the Daniel Boone National Forest and offers thousands of acres of muskie-rich water. Pristine shorelines and local tourist opportunities make for a great vacation. Cave Run Lake is

located in northeastern Kentucky between Frenchburg and Morehead.

Cave Run Lake is known as the Muskie Capital of the South with good reason. On September 21, 2001, the Kentucky state record muskie—54½ inches long and weighing 44¾ pounds—was caught. The waters are also great for bass, crappies, catfish and trout fishing. For more information on Cave Run Lake and guide options, contact Gregg Thomas at: BattleTheBeast.com.

For those of you who travel south during the next few weeks for some muskie action, I wish you the best of luck on your adventures and look forward to seeing the rest of you on our waters soon. *WR*

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 www.sterlingmusky.com or at 262.443.9993.

DOUG KLOET

South Of The Border

Digging deep for perch

When you're fishing the vast waters of Lake Michigan for perch, the action can be exhilarating. Deep perch fishing and a fish fry to follow is a great way to start the season.

I usually start my perch fishing in early spring out of Waukegan, Illinois, when there's no longer ice in the harbor. This usually occurs in March, though the best bite is during April

and May. Last year I was able to get started in early March, but it took a few weeks for things to really get going because of the cold water temps.

Pulling these jumbo perch from the depths and seeing the size is truly incredible. Catching them 12-14 inches long is common, and most days nothing smaller than 13 inches is caught.

A great advantage to chasing

these perch south of the border is that the limit is 15 per person, vs. only five per person in Wisconsin. According to an Illinois fisheries biologist, the Waukegan area becomes one of the largest perch spawning areas in Lake Michigan. After the spawn is complete these fish disperse and can be found from Milwaukee to Chicago, giving anglers endless opportunities for an enjoyable perch outing.

From Techniques To Water Temps

The best way to catch these little giants is locating them in deep water. Looking for depths of 50-60 feet of water is where these deep perch are positioned. Find the rocky bottom areas and that is where the perch will be.

Continued on page 19

ALL-IN-ONE REDEFINED.

Are you
Ready for
SPRING?



Z425 EZtrak™

- 23-HP
- 2-year or 120-hour limited warranty
- Shown with 54" Edge™ deck and 6.5-bushel 2-bag bagger

X534 Select Series™

- 25-HP
- Exclusive 4-wheel steer
- 4-year or 500-hour limited warranty
- Shown with 54" Edge Xtra deck and 17P poly cart



X324 Select Series

- 22-HP
- Exclusive 4-wheel steer
- 4-year or 300-hour limited warranty
- Shown with 48" Edge Xtra deck and 25-gallon pull-type sprayer



VISIT US AT WWW.JOHNDEERE.COM



Nothing says "SMILE"
Like Towing Home A New



PRINCECRAFT

Pro 176



Ventura 190LW



SAVE
UP TO
\$5,000⁰⁰

Dave's Turf and Marine
Highway 16 & Eastgate Drive • Watertown • 261-6802

www.davesturf.net



Over 60 Years of Service

CALL ME 'ROTTEN SHOT'

The big gobbler soothed the agony of defeat one month before. Not 2 hours into day No. 2 of Season No. 2 of the Wisconsin split season, a very big tom with long beard blowing in the high winds had stood at 25 yards. He was busy with the decoy and oblivious to me.

I'd been here before. I'd made five head shots, five quick kills on Wisconsin toms. Now, I could already smell the aroma of this gobbler drifting from the deep fryer and looked down the scattergun for the head and neck shot.

My world was perfect. I had patterned the gun, mastered the mouth call, secured permission from Fennimore farmers to hunt, delivered a wet gift of appreciation, answered the 1 a.m. alarm, drove from New Berlin alone and confident, and hiked back 1 mile in the pre-dawn black to take a stand in a hardwood finger joining two woodlots. I'd set the decoy in the plowed field, and sweet-talked a tom from his roost with the new day until

he stood at 200 yards demanding that this "hen" come to him.

From his first gobble until, coaxed by my verbal encouragement, he stood at 25 yards, 75 minutes had passed. It had been a wonderful duel, and another tom tagged by this superior hunter ... until I shot.

The gobbler flew off to a distant woodlot. I was so certain that I couldn't have missed that tom that I spent the next hour looking for any trace of him, to ensure that I didn't wound him. After an uneventful hunt the rest of the way I returned home, knowing that I would have to tell my story to all of Wisconsin in a syndicated column, and trying to come to some understanding of what had just transpired.

Thankfully, after hearing the story, my lifelong friend, Larry Calvi, gently helped me to find that understanding, and to place the scenario into a hunter's perspective.

"You're an idiot," he said. *W*

ELLIS TURKEY, from page 4

solo told me he was in my lap. Still, I could not find the tom.

The minutes passed. The tom's bobbing red head appeared through a wall of thorns. When the shotgun barrel slowly found that place, the bird had disappeared to another. When the bright red target reappeared in the jungle, it required a seemingly time-eternal swing of 4 feet to place the bead of the barrel where it had to be for a quick kill. At just 10 yards, a full-choked load of No. 5 shot found only head and neck.

I was physically exhausted and even mentally tired. Like each of my rare duels with trophy animals, true satisfaction mingled with a bit of remorse as I fastened a tag. For the first time in years a worthy tom would not be on a roost as the sun slipped in the west. It had been 8 hours from first gobble; the longest hunt. I had a mile walk out under a burning sun with a very large bird on my back.

On the butcher's scale at Bender's Foods in Fennimore, the Wisconsin gobbler weighed in at 26 pounds. The beard would stretch the tape to 11 inches. Many special hunts in a lifetime are anticipated; the hunter works to know an animal's terrain and habits and then works to tag it. As many, I think, are stumbled into, unexpected, and only wear the label of "special" when the hunter looks back, and remembers.

I will remember the Fennimore tom, and the longest hunt, forever. *W*



Otter Outdoors

TOUGHER. STRONGER. SMARTER.

BECAUSE OUT HERE,
CUTTING CORNERS,
JUST WON'T CUT IT.

www.otteroutdoors.com

Otter
Outdoors

GARY ENGBERG

Gary Engberg Outdoors

Counting roosting eagles

Sunday, January 30, 2011, was a nice day for the end of January. The sun shone brightly—for a change—and the high temperature for the day was in the mid 20s, which was comfortable when dressed properly for being outside. It was an afternoon for the volunteers from the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council (FBEC) to go to their assigned roost counting sites (10 sites total) and count eagles the last few hours before sunset at the roosts in and around the Wisconsin River and its surrounding bluffs and valleys.

The FBEC is a local organization which, according to their website, is a grassroots organization whose purpose is “to protect, enhance and maintain bald eagle habitat in the Sauk Prairie area through education, research and management activities.” The Eagle Council works with schools, area residents and the community to bring the eagles back every winter.

I’ve been a member for years and always help in the roost counts and help at the spotting scope during Bald Eagle Days. The numerous people who come to the annual Bald Eagle Days and the many others who come to the Sauk Prairie area throughout the winter to “eagle view” spend a considerable amount of money helping the local economy.



University of Wisconsin Professor Tim Moermond writes down data collected during counting for research.

Another area where the FBEC helps the bald eagle is by participating in and financing bald eagle research. Eagle roost counting is one of the research tools that has been done the past 22 years by the FBEC. Every other Sunday afternoon in December, January and February, the group’s volunteers go to their assigned roosts to count eagles as they come into various sites to spend the winter’s night.

Over the years, the busiest and most used roosts have been narrowed down to 10 sites that are now “manned” by volunteers from the Council to regularly count the eagles as they come to their roosts. Volunteers (about 30-40 members) count all roosting eagles and also break the bird count into mature, immature and unknown eagles in their bird count and survey. All this data, along with wind direction, temperature and snow depth, are recorded by the volunteers.

Bald eagles don’t always roost in the same trees and valleys because they go to the roost sites that give them the most protection from the weather. On Jan. 30, the wind was from the east, which had the eagles roosting at the far back of the Sugarloaf Valley where they were protected from the winter wind.

Eagles spend a vast majority of their time roosting or sitting in a tree and only 2 percent of their time flying and fishing. They are conserving their energy for the winter’s cold, so they don’t do much cruising this time of the year. This is why it’s so important to stay in your vehicle while eagle viewing. People easily scare eagles, and you don’t want to have them burning energy when it isn’t necessary.

The Eagles Want You

When counting eagles, one of the most important things is to dress properly. I count bald eagles with retired UW Professor Tim Moermond, Donna and Bill Stehling, and two area high school students, Kelsey Preston and Renee Recob, who helped scan the sky and record the day’s statistics. Kelsey and Renee are doing a project for high school. Tim Moermond is really the expert who knows more about eagles and all birds than all of us combined. If I have a question or want



A mature eagle roosts in the bluffs overlooking the Wisconsin River.

to know something about any bird, I ask Tim! All of us know how to dress for standing in the cold for 2-3 hours after years of experience.

The Sugarloaf Roost is on the east side of the Wisconsin River and not far from Wollersheim Winery. A local resident has a backyard that backs up to this roost site and has been nice enough to let the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council use his backyard for years to watch eagles

roost before sundown. The cold weather and snow have frozen up the Wisconsin River to Ferry Bluff, so the eagles are concentrated near the dam area. Most of the eagles are now spending their time up river and close to the open water below the Prairie du Sac Dam where they can feed regularly and gorge themselves on gizzard shad.

The final day of January was a good day for eagle counting and

Continued on page 24

SPORTSMEN'S
EXPO
2011

MARCH 27 2PM - 7PM

FIRST EVER SPORTSMAN IRON MAN COMPETITION.
ARCHERY, SHOOTING AND MORE!
\$10 ENTRY FEE

GUEST SPEAKER
ANDY PETERSON

A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER AND
SURVIVOR OF A MOUNTAIN LION ATTACK

BARBEQUE CHICKEN DINNER FOR
\$5 AND RAFFLE TICKET TO GANDER
MTN FOR BENELLI SUPER NOVA
OR GIFT CARD.

E-mail sportsmen@foxriverchristian.org for

GATZKE, from page 6

“When scouting, I’m initially focused on looking for daytime bedding areas. Trails that lead to and from bedding areas, and tracks that reveal size and gender, are second on my list of importance.”

based on the different wind directions without my scent blowing into the bedding areas or across the trails I expect the deer to travel as they approach my stand.

If you’re a bowhunter who relies heavily on the rut to be successful, then clues uncovered now are invaluable. Much of the rut sign made the previous year is still visible. Bucks leave a lot of sign that gets frozen onto the landscape, and that sign will be key to predicting how they will travel during next year’s rut. This information also gets noted on my maps. When I’m through marking up these maps, deer movement patterns emerge, and I can hunt the property much more effectively.

I do a lot of scouting each year, mostly on public land. Having only a

limited amount of private land to hunt, I would quickly over-hunt it if not for having the option that public land offers. Within a short drive of my home are thousands of acres of public hunting ground. Even though the public property might be heavily hunted, this type of scouting reveals places that are worth a try.

Scouting after the snow is gone and while the swamps are still frozen makes for easy walking. Deer sign left behind from last year is as exposed as it will ever be right now. Find that sign in the near future to get the information that’ll help you to be successful this coming fall. *W*

Lee Gatzke is a member of Blood Brothers Outdoors, creator of practical and tactical

MEET BOB IN PERSON
April 1-3 Madison
WI DEER & TURKEY EXPO

BOB J. MERCIER’S

“DOMINANCE IS EVERYTHING”

HUNTING SYSTEM



- Get two Dominant Bucks per year!
- Prepare yourself for the most exciting buck hunts of your life!
- I’ve spent 11 seasons mastering it.
- In the book and in the seminars I’ll teach you to walk among deer, you’ll learn to talk to deer, and you’ll learn to react like a deer. Heck, by the end of my seminar you’ll be convinced you’re a deer!
- The dominant buck hunts for you for up to 4 days, during daylight.
- He’ll always come within 35 yards.
- 0% failure, gun/bow, public/private
- Keep him guessing with D.I.E.!

Photo: Bob’s D.I.E. System gets results! 17 pt. Non-typical, w/hole in the antler. Shot was 10 yds, at 9:30 am, Nov. 5 ‘09

2011 SEMINAR TOUR ACROSS U.S.

CALL 262-719-2743 TOLL FREE 1-877-788-4621
dominanceiseverything@gmail.com
www.dominanceiseverything.com



SCHAEFFER’S

Specialized Moly Lubricants and Premium Fuel Additives



Christopher Hauser
262-860-1004
www.schaefferoil.com
You’ve Tried The Rest
Now Try The Best!

BITZ, from page 9

other anglers have to say about that body of water. There are a number of fishing websites where you can find information.

You want to get a feel for the general patterns that the fish follow on that lake and what pattern the fish are in at the time you’ll be fishing it. Try to relate the information provided on the Internet to what you learned by studying the lake maps and satellite imagery. There are times when you’ll be able to gather specific fish location and presentation information from the Internet. When you get such detailed information, consider it icing on the cake.

From the lake map, the satellite imagery and the information you can glean from the Internet, you should have a good basic knowledge of the lake in order to start building a basic plan of how you want to fish it.

Learn From The Locals

The next step I recommend in building your plan of attack involves a visit to a local bait shop. While on the way to the water, stop in and buy some bait or tackle and get some advice. Often, the bait shop will have a fishing report along with some general fishing locations and a selection of the hot baits for that lake.

Once you’re at the launch, don’t be afraid to strike up some conversations

with other anglers. I’ve found that most anglers are more than willing to share a few bits of advice at the launch as long as they don’t feel like they are being mined for information. Just ask how the fish are biting, the type of structure the anglers are fishing and at what depth they have been finding success. That last piece is the key. If you know what depth to fish in, you can narrow down the locations without needing to know specific spots.

The depth will also determine the types of presentation you will be using. For example, if you’re fishing 30 feet deep, you will be more likely to use a Carolina rig than a spinnerbait.

Finally, Wet The Hull

By the time you have the boat in the water you should have a plan in place on what spots to target first and what presentations to use. From there, it will be a matter of using experimentation and previous experience to guide you in putting fish in the boat.

Fishing new water can be exciting. By having a plan in place, you’re more likely to have a productive day on the water as well. *W*

Terry Bitz is a freelance writer who resides in Pleasant Prairie, WI. He can be contacted at tbitz@wi.rr.com, or visit his web site www.outdoorconvergence.com.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Tackling big lakes can be intimidating, but it doesn’t have to be. A large lake can be thought of as being made up of multiple smaller lakes. Choose one portion of the lake to target during the first outing.

Make sure you know what the condition the boat launch is in before

you get to the lake. For example, recent drought conditions in the northern part of the state have left some boat launches difficult or impossible to access.

Be adaptable and have back-up plans in place. If Plan A isn’t working, be willing to try Plan B.

Author’s note: Find lake map information from the Wisconsin DNR at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/maps/>

KIESOW, from page 3

From upper left: Heddon box, St. Croix lure in its box, Magnetic Weedless, Skinner spinner 1874, Cyclone Spinner, Anderson Minnow, Knowles spoon 1902, an old, small brass reel, with no manufacturer, O-Fish-All reel made in Wisconsin.

transaction. He does them all the time. But after more than an hour of conversation, and based upon our aforementioned exchange, I know that he gives fair value for what he buys. He paid for a few good lures and took the rest off my hands.

"Why do you think I have 300 tackle boxes full of lures?" Hauser asked, as we discussed the incident.

Going To Extremes

I think Hauser has gone a bit farther than most collectors. A few years ago, while looking at a particular lure, he bought an entire business—the Puls & Wencka Bait Company of Milwaukee. They manufactured the Cyclone Spinner. Hauser has the original mold. He has made a few modifications—improvements—so if anyone would like one, he has them, in a variety of sizes.

Hauser is also in the process of forming a new club, which, as of this writing, does not have a name. Why another club? He feels that there's not

enough local information about lures. Particularly, a listing of current prices paid for individual baits and/or collections. He would also like to share his expertise as to how to assess the value of lures, their boxes and related equipment; also, how to spot imitations, especially the fraudulent boxes, which, with the sophistication of the digitalization process, have shown up in the marketplace recently. The club will be Midwest-oriented.

Certainly, in addition to getting to know Hauser, anyone interested in the hobby of collecting old lures should join one of the clubs available. Who and where they are can be found on the Web by searching for "Antique fishing lure clubs."

Did I get rid of all my antiques? Apparently not. While researching this story, I found that some lures I have in my tackle box have some value to them. One lure of value I don't have is the large Haskell Minnow (there are two sizes). The last time that lure exchanged hands it cost the buyer \$125,000!

So, if you're one of those who has been, "meaning to get rid of all that old fishing junk I never use anymore," don't just toss it. Check with someone (naturally, Chris Hauser comes to my mind if you live in the southeastern part of the state), and find out if you have trash or treasure.

You can get in touch with Chris Hauser at (262) 860-1004. Keep a good thought! *W*

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

**SALMON AND WALLEYE FISHING MARCH - OCTOBER**

Salmon. Walleye.

on Lake Michigan

Starting at
\$350



- Fully guided Salmon and Walleye fishing
- All equipment provided
- 25 ft. and 34 ft. boats



WhyKnotGuideService.com

Call (920) 559-7473

WI Women Fish

A Fishing Club for Women
Classes, Clinics & Outings Offered

- 🐟 Fly Fishing Clinic June 2011 🐟
- 🐟 Trip to Canada July 2011 🐟
- 🐟 Boat Owners Clinic 🐟
- 🐟 Salmon Fishing 🐟
- 🐟 Ice Fishing 🐟

Members age in range from 20's to 70's



Explore Wisconsin | County-by-County at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com

County Teasers

Explore Wisconsin, it's as easy as 1-2-3.

Valuable resources for the outdoor enthusiast,
listed county-by-county:

- ✓ Tourism Information
- ✓ Hunting & Fishing Guides
- ✓ Resorts & Lodging
- ✓ ATV Trail Maps

1 Connect with
onwisconsinoutdoors.com

2 Click on the
"Explore Wisconsin" page

3 Click on any colored
county

ADAMS COUNTY

• Adams County Park & Recreation

ASHLAND COUNTY

• Ashland Area Chamber

BARRON COUNTY

• Barron County

BAYFIELD COUNTY

• Bayfield Area Chamber
• Cable Area Chamber
• Northern Wisconsin Outfitters

BROWN COUNTY

• Greater Green Bay

BURNETT COUNTY

• Burnett County Tourism

CALUMET COUNTY

• Calumet County

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

• Chippewa County Tourism

CLARK COUNTY

• Clark County Tourism

CRAWFORD COUNTY

• Grandview Motel
• Flyway Fowling - Todd Lensing

DOOR COUNTY

• Door County Visitors Bureau
• Sterling Guide Service

DOUGLAS COUNTY

• Superior-Douglas County
Convention & Visitors Bureau

See what our Explore Wisconsin partners are planning just for you ...

The **Annual Ice Fishing Contest** March 5-6 on Lake Superior is a fun way to take in the late winter sport of ice fishing. As soon as the ice moves out of the Bay look for **Smelt Season** to start in the Chequamegon Bay around the 3rd week in April. [Click on Ashland County.](#)

Port Washington is "THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE - **BEST WISCONSIN TOWN ON A LAKE**. For regular updates, visit our Facebook page and become a fan! [Click on Ozaukee County.](#)

Come to the Cable Area this spring! **Off season lodging rates, great fishing, less crowded trails**, and NO bugs! You don't want to miss out on this time of the year! Log on to our website for upcoming tournaments and events. [Click on Bayfield County.](#)

Cure your cabin fever with a trip to Manitowish Waters in Wisconsin's Northwoods. Enjoy the remainder of winter and the transition to spring. It's a great time to explore & relax ... and plan a return trip! The event calendar truly kicks off in May. Don't miss the Birding Festival, May 20-21. Travel U.S. Hwy. 51 or fly in to D25. For complete area information, [click on Vilas County.](#)

Make plans now to visit Iron County for the upcoming fishing season. Over 200 lakes await anglers including the Turtle

Flambeau Flowage and Gile Flowage which offer fishermen **a near Canadian wilderness experience close to home**. Spring is also an excellent time to view the areas many waterfalls. [Click on Iron County.](#)

Enjoy the **St. Patricks Day festivities** in Siren and Webb Lake and then hit the trails! Crex Meadows clean up is April 23/24. [Click on Burnett County.](#)

ATV riding begins in Price County with the opening of the Tussockia State trail on April 16, the Flambeau Trail System in the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest May 1, and the Georgetown Trail on May 15. Come ride with us this Spring! Order your trail map today! [Click on Price County.](#)

Spring is in the air not only with **Sheboygan Bratwurst** smoke, but spring rains drawing river run walleye's and rainbows. Join the Wolf Pack and fight a deep running Walleye or a current jumping Rainbow. To hear the **Turkeys gobbling**, click on [Sheboygan County.](#)

Wild Rivers Interpretive Center is excited to announce the newest addition to their Exhibit Center. We have a newly acquired **560 gallon fresh water aquarium** and have stocked it with local native species of warm water fish from area lakes. We presently have Northern Pike, Black Crappies, Smallmouth Bass and Bluegills in the aquarium. This upcoming spring will bring new species to our exciting **naturalistic habitat**. [Click on Florence County.](#)

Here in Clark County, each season offers a delightful change of pace. The reawakening of spring is impossible to resist after a long, cold winter. It's time to hit the great outdoors – **go hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding**. Stop at our many greenhouses as they are bursting with color. [Click on Clark County.](#)

Spring fever? Get outdoors and explore Marinette County – the real north! **Paddle the 11-mile Peshtigo River Trail, kayak or raft** the longest stretch of whitewater in the Midwest or just relax in the scenic northwoods at your own pace. [Click on Marinette County.](#)

The open water fishing season will be right on the heels of our current red-hot ice fishing action. Whether it's **Bass, Musky, Pike, Pumpkinseed or Perch**

you're after, come to Juneau County! The difficult decision will be where to find biggest one... Castle Rock or Petenwell Lake, maybe the Wisconsin, Lemonweir, or Yellow River? Oh! the decisions we must make! [Click on Juneau County.](#)

Sample the sweets of Calumet County during maple syrup harvest! Stop by **Maple Syrup Camp** on Saturday, March 26 at the Brillion Nature Center from 10am-2pm to learn how maple syrup is made! If you want to taste some of that fresh maple syrup, check out **Maple Syrup Sunday** on Sunday, April 3 at Ledge View Nature Center in Chilton from 9am-4pm. Sample the fresh syrup on pancakes or ice cream! Both events are great family events. [Click on Calumet County.](#)

Adams County Castle Rock and Petenwell Parks are open **year round for camping with heated shower/restroom facilities**. Bring your snowmobiles and access the trails right from the county parks or try your luck at ice fishing in the 2nd and 4th largest lakes in Wisconsin! [Click on Adams County.](#)

Got cabin fever? Start planning your summer vacation to Chippewa County now! Camp at one of our state parks, enjoy the **Old Abe State Bike Trail**, or utilize one of our **450 lakes and streams**. That is just glimpse of what Chippewa County has to offer vacationers. Start planning! [Click on Chippewa County.](#)

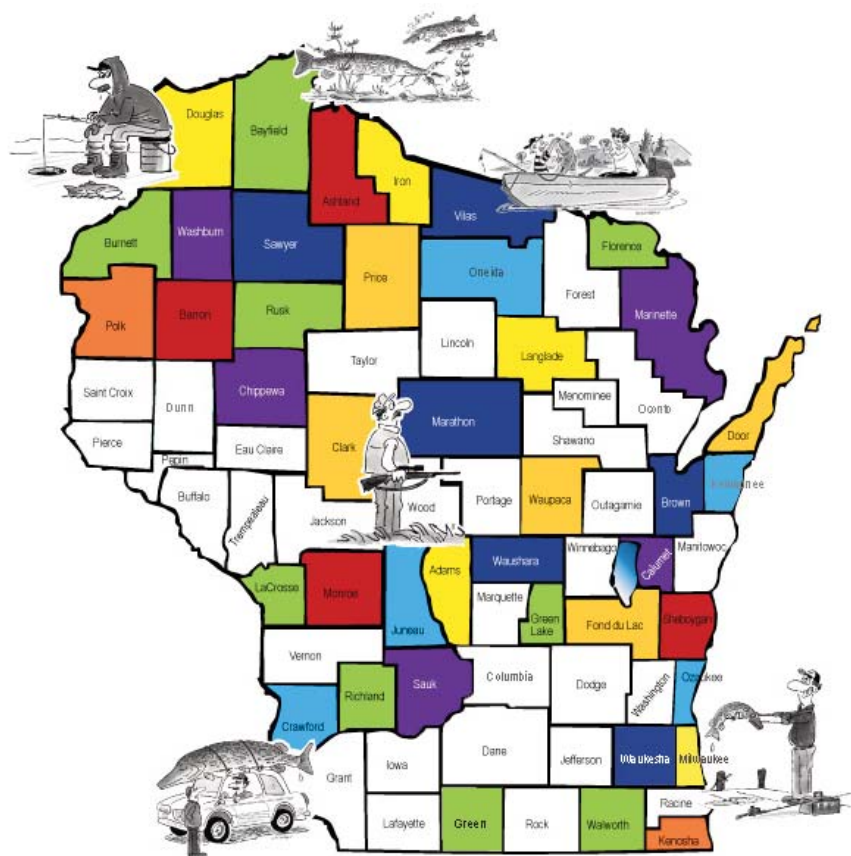
Shake your cabin fever with the annual **Douglas County Fish & Game League Sports Show** March 25-27. Starting in early April and through mid-May, anxious anglers will take to the shores of the Bois Brule (Lake Superior's best known Steelhead stream) in search of the glistening liquid chrome of the Steelhead. [Click on Douglas County.](#)

Why wait for the spring fishing opener in May to catch fish when right after "ice out" you can catch perch, bluegills and crappies in the great lakes of Polk County! As soon as the ice is gone, do some "open water" fishing while you get the "kinks" out of your motor, boat and fishing equipment! **Ice or no ice, fishing is always awesome in Polk County** Polk County Sportsman's Show April 30-May 1. [Click on Polk County.](#)

Bald eagles! Fishing! Turkey hunting! Spring waterfowl migration! Do it or see it where the Mississippi River is mighty

Explore Wisconsin | County-by-County at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com

Wisconsin ATV Trails



AND big! We can point you in the right direction at the Grandview Motel in Ferryville. [Click on Crawford County.](#)

GO PACKERS - GO FISHING! Put your game face on and come fish with us at Manotak Lodge. Linda & I are from Wisconsin and are true Cheeseheads but own a **Canadian Fishing Lodge**. Be the best, Fish the best. [Click on Waupaca County.](#)

Hayward Lakes...**Home to 5 World Record Muskies**. With over 200 lakes, we offer outstanding fishing for trophy musky, northern, walleye, crappie, bass and pan fish. Visit our Northwoods Wisconsin accommodations, ideal for family getaways and fishing vacations. A **sportsman's dream...A sightseer's paradise...A golfer's haven**. [Click on Sawyer County.](#)

Escape cabin fever and discover Richland County. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy both seasons. Rev up the **snowmobile** and enjoy our trails, go hunting and **help reduce our turkey population**, or dust off

that tackle box and explore our 267 miles of Class I and Class II trout streams. Catch Richland County! [Click on Richland County.](#)

Plan your **Northwoods getaway** to Washburn County today: 148,000 acres of county forest land, nearly 1,000 lakes, hundreds of miles of ATV, Snowmobile, CC Ski, Hiking and Horse trails and much more are waiting for you! Call 1-800-367-3306 for your **FREE Visitor Guide**, Trail maps and Lodging information. [Click on Washburn County.](#)

Weather? What weather? Shoot from a warm, protected structure. Check out our **two indoor 5-Stand fields and covered Trap field!** We are the only club in the state with this feature. Leagues and special events run all-year. April 30th **Wild Game Dinner/Fundraiser**. Great grub and lots of top shelf prizes. Join us! [Click on Waukesha County.](#)

The WWIA is dedicated to **serving our nation's combat wounded**, Purple Heart recipients, by providing world-

class outdoor sporting activities. Check out the **You Tube Video of Muskie fishing** on the Chippewa River. [Click on Price County.](#)

April is the best time to catch **springtime panfish in the shallows**. The warm Spring sun invites the fish shallow making them available to both shore and boat anglers. All you need is some worms. For guide trips check out **Dave Duwe's Guide Service**. [Click on Walworth County.](#)

Find the best lodging, sightseeing, dining, events, scenic locations and even seasonal activities for the entire **Door County** Wisconsin region. [Click on Door County.](#)

Fish lake Michigan and the bay of Green Bay with an experienced guide. Learn what we have to offer at Why Knot Charters & Guide Service. [Click on Kewaunee County.](#)

Great events to draw you **down South**, Southwest Wisconsin in Green County that is. March 12 – Celtic Pub Crawl; March 13 – 24th **Annual Farm Toy Show**; March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Parade; March 26&27 – **Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**; April 9&10 – Courthouse Quilter's Quilt Show; April 29&30 – Citywide Garage Sale. [Click on Green County.](#)

Juneau County Wisconsin

Castle Rock Lake
 Petenwell Lake
 Wisconsin River
 Yellow River
 Lemonweir River
 Baraboo River
 Buckhorn State Park
 Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

Sportsmen need we say more?

FLORENCE COUNTY
• Wild Rivers Interpretive Center

GREEN COUNTY
• Monroe Chamber of Commerce

FOND DU LAC COUNTY
• Green Lake Country Visitors

GREEN LAKE COUNTY
• Green Lake Country Visitors

IRON COUNTY
• Iron County Development

JUNEAU COUNTY
• Juneau County

KENOSHA COUNTY
• Wildlife Visions

KEWAUNEE COUNTY
• Why Knot Charters & Guide Service

LACROSSE COUNTY
• LaCrosse Area Visitors Bureau

LANGLADE COUNTY
• Antigo/Langlade Chamber

MARATHON COUNTY
• Hooksetters Fishing Guide
• Lakeview Log Cabin Resort

MARINETTE COUNTY
• Marinette County Tourism
• A River Guide (Jason Guarke)

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
• Fish Chaser Guide Service

OZAUKEE COUNTY
• 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

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
• Sheboygan County Tourism
• Wolf Pack Adventures

VILAS COUNTY
• Manitowish Waters Chamber

WALWORTH COUNTY
• Dave Duwe's Guide Service

WASHBURN COUNTY
• Washburn County Tourism

WAUKESHA COUNTY
• Waukesha Gun Club

WAUPACA COUNTY
• Fremont Area Chamber
• Manotak Lodge, Ontario
• Wolf River Outfitters Resort

WAUSHARA COUNTY
• First Weber Real Estate



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds Canada Goose

In some ways, it's unfortunate that these regal birds have adapted so well to human environments. Canada geese are occasionally considered pests for leaving their droppings on golf courses, parks, trails and lawns. But look at it this way: free fertilizer! These big waterfowl are handsome, wary and fiercely protective of their young. Who can't admire those traits? And the plaintive honking of Canada geese as they migrate northward and arrive back in Wisconsin in earliest spring—maybe to stop at a pond or marsh near you—is both a haunting and welcome sound indeed.

Look for a big, proud, gray bird with black legs, a black neck and head, and a bright white "saddle" on the cheeks and chin.

Listen for all the fascinating and different sounds that geese make—honks of course, but also clucks, moans, groans, cackles and all the other chitter-chatter of the goose "language."

Stay away from goslings, or be ready for mother and father geese's hissing approach.

Attract geese with grains such as corn, wheat or rice spread on the ground.

Did you know that several Canada goose subspecies exist, from the 3- to 4-pound Richardson's variety, to 12- to 15-pound giant Canada geese?

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

TOM CARPENTER

Cub's Corner

The surprising world of bird songs

With spring's arrival comes the return of migrating birds to our varied and wonderful Wisconsin landscape. It's a progression of sound like no other in the outdoor world.

First come the Canada geese, pulling in spring in late March with their honking and cackling overhead at night. Then come the ducks—divers and mallards, then widgeons and gadwalls, and finally the wood ducks and teal with their squeals and high-pitched quacks. Wild turkeys, which have been here all winter, join the audio show, with big toms booming their thrilling gobbles across the hills and farms. And don't forget about songbirds—from the robin's lilt to the different warblers' trills, the bluebird's melody, the yellowthroat's tune, and countless other songs.

It's a concert unmatched by any

other! Take a young naturalist out to almost any wildlife area, woodlot, prairie, marsh, or state or county park, and you can listen to the symphony together. Early morning is best—from a half-hour before dawn to an hour or so after. A fun activity is to keep two lists of birds—one of the species you see, another of the species you hear.

What's With All The Racket?

A common question kids ask when listening to birds is, "Why are they singing?" The stock answer that many of us have heard since we were kids is, "To attract a mate." But in almost all cases that's only partially true ... and even then, only in an indirect way.

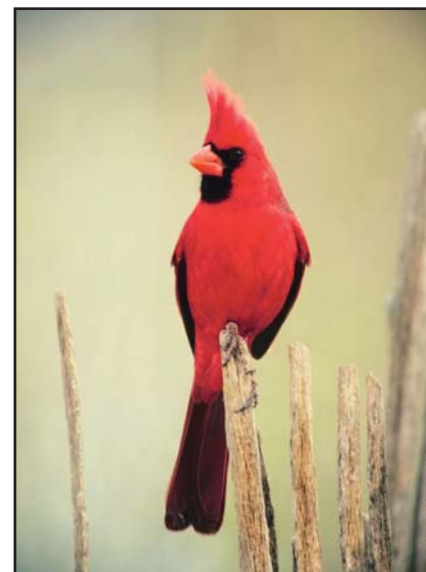
Although most birds' songs are pretty to hear, they're really made to warn other birds to stay away. The first purpose of bird song is to establish, hold and defend territory. The

message is, "This is my neck of the woods (or field or marsh), stay out, and if you encroach, there's going to be a fight." This is true for the wild turkey's gobble, the pheasant's cackle, the duck's quack and the pleasant songs that colorful songbirds make.

Most male songbirds set up territories, and then mate with the females that take up residence there. If a male bird can establish and hold some prime territory, females come there and he gets to procreate. Song lets other birds know what's his. I like to tell my kids, "That song sounds pretty, but it's really a war chant."

That brings us to the second important reason for bird song. It also issues a challenge or warning to other comers: "This area is mine. If you come into this territory, be prepared to fight." Birds will compete intensely to keep the rights to a piece of territory. Think about gobblers fighting, drake mallards chasing each other around, male cardinals going at it in a thicket, or bluebirds chasing about. If song can keep a bird out of a fight by scaring rivals away, all the better for him. If they have to fight, the fittest bird will win.

That brings us to attracting a mate. In the end, bird song does attract



mates, but only as a by-product of establishing and keeping territory, and scaring competing birds away from a conflict. Females like a nice, calm and safe place in which to nest.

So get up and get out one morning this spring and take your young naturalist on a bird-listening expedition. Bundle up, because most spring mornings are chilly. Bring a thermos of hot chocolate along! Get out to someplace wild (or only partially so—even a local park or good wooded backyard will do) and listen to the concert of bird song that nature performs. Admission is free, and the lessons learned will last a lifetime.

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

LEARN TO TALK THE TALK

Many good websites offer free and accurate instruction on identifying bird songs. Two good ones are eNature (enature.com/birding/audio.asp), and The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (AllAboutBirds.org). You can also order DVDs that play and identify bird songs. A couple I like include the Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs, Eastern Region (3 discs), and Bird Songs: 250 North American Birds in Song. Both are available at Amazon, or Google those titles to find other suppliers.

JOEL "DOC" KUNZ

On Wisconsin Rivers

Ice Breaker 6 kicks off spring walleye fishing

For the most part, early March's walleye fishing activity in the Wolf River area is dominated by those venturing out on diminishing ice in search of migrating fish. Tip-ups, especially the local "Hot Box" style and "willow sticks" come in to play as both allow for little resistance when a walleye grabs the minnow, which makes for better hooking success.

I'm still hanging with the jigging crowd and apply both vertical tactics and the tactic called long lining, taught to me by Don Cashmore from The Little Shoppe' Of Bait in New London. During the day, long lining the gradual decline in to a deep hole or a transition to a flat is what I do. In afternoons, transitioning to evening, I like to vertical jig an Odd Ball, tipped with a minnow near an eddy or off-current area near shallow water where fish will come to feed.

For me, most of that fishing will come with the first few warm days that signal the upcoming end to winter—a time when good ice conditions and decent temperatures make the experience enjoyable for my aging body. Proper equipment such as special outerwear, boots and gloves sure do help as does a portable shelter or permanent shack on the river. Being mobile is best if you are going to catch fish, but when it's cold, shelter and a

heater are first on my list.

That's the beauty of companies in our fine state such as Frabill who have such great equipment for ice fishing. Not only do they allow for those inclined to push their limits when facing the elements while ice fishing, they allow aging anglers such as myself the ability to stay warm and be comfortable. For me, that extends my opportunities by making it easier for me to say "yes" when asked to go. Ice fishing can be good right up to the last vestiges of safe ice with some anglers using long planks, ladders and even Jon boats to get to a fishable spot.

Ice Breaker 6: Focus On Walleyes

Last year's show once again did its job as the river opened to boat traffic literally right in front of our eyes.

Although the allure of fishing is strong, anglers should take care before scratching their cabin fever; ice flowing down the river is very dangerous. Even small chunks can cause prop damage or cause you to change course quickly or even capsize. Anglers should never anchor in the current and should never run full speed while the ice is going out. Even if it looks clear, someone's wake could dislodge shore ice upstream and send it in your direction.

Inside bends are the key to up running walleye. Each fresh influx of water will put fish on the move as do the lengthening days. Rain is the key as rising water dictates fish movement, pulling fish from the lower lakes in to the river systems where they traditionally spawn. Inside bends provide respite from the current and also a place to hold and wait for food near the main flow of the river. This is why I usually choose to fish at night during the pre-spawn weeks of March and early April.

At night, the river is quiet, and I can set up in 2-3 feet of water and bounce a jig near the edge of the lantern light. Fish will be on the move and use the shallower water where there is less current and a better chance for a meal. During the daytime, boat traffic and sunlight push the migrating fish a bit deeper, which usually makes them a bit less likely to bite.

The best spots have a distinct dropoff that follows the bank starting at the apex of the bend and continues near shallow water. Find the current line and you'll find the walleyes' highway to the spawning grounds. All you need then is to be in the right place at the right time. I've sat at night and caught few fish and also been there when so many fish swim past our boat we literally catch fish all night



The author hoists a big pre-spawn Wolf River walleye, caught working a live minnow 6 inches behind an Atomic Guppy, suspended just off the bottom.

long. Eddy currents and deep-water holding areas near spawning grounds are also likely spots for pre-spawn walleyes. *W*

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

BIG WATER SAFETY

When out on Lake Michigan the weather can be very unpredictable. Before you venture out on the big lake for a perch outing always check current weather and wind conditions. During the early spring the majority of the boats on the lake are 16-20 feet long, so safety is a huge concern.

Wind and wave heights can change fast. Operating your boat according to the conditions is crucial. Be sure to equip your boat with the proper safety devices. All of these precautions can help guarantee a great day of deep-water perch fishing.

KLOET PERCH, from page 10

Watching your fish finder is the most important part of this. Locating where the other boats are can be a great start, but it's not the only place to look. On your fish finder, the rocky bottom will appear to be rigid, and the perch will appear as little marks just off the bottom.

The best way to catch these perch that are in very deep water is with minnows, and large fatheads and shiners is what they love most. Using a three-way rig or crappie rig with 1-2 ounces of weight gets your minnow down to the bottom.

A three-way rig starts off with your main line coming down attached to the three-way swivel. Then there will be a line about 12 inches long with a panfish hook tied to the end.

The other line will be about 24 inches long, and there will be a snap on the bottom to attach the weight. Using this technique, it's very important to keep contact with the bottom, and utilizing the right amount of weight for the wind conditions is imperative.

A crappie rig consists of two standout hooks offset on the rig. The bottom has a snap where the weight will be attached. Pyramid weights are the best types to use because they help prevent your weight from getting snagged on the rocky bottom. The best equipment to use is a medium-light spinning rod spooled with 8-pound test. This gives you a great fight and using light line will allow you to feel light-biting perch.

The most productive water

temperature for these deep-water perch is the mid 40s. The reason for this is because the perch are in a pre-spawn manner and there's a very large population in the area. They will then spawn when the water temps are from 45-55 degrees. During this time the bite will slow down for a few weeks. The season closes the month of July, but by then the majority of the perch have dispersed out of the Waukegan area. *W*

Doug Kloet operates Captain Doug Kloet's Guide Service in southeast Wisconsin, Green Bay and northeastern Illinois. He can be reached at dougkloet.com or (262) 705-7415.

S. WILKERSON

Surplus Firearms

Don't tread on me



You don't need that. "That" being high-capacity magazines, "assault rifles," semi-automatic firearms, or "high-powered guns" of any kind. Who's decided what you should and shouldn't have, or sure would like to make that decision for you? The answer is a large number of politicians and their mouth pieces in the media. You know, the liberal elite who vacation in the Hamptons, are driven to work every day in a limousine and have their own security detail everywhere they go.

These people, who've been wrong about practically everything of importance throughout their careers, are somehow convinced they know what's good and bad for you and me. These are the same folks who immediately after the Fort Hood massacre, and without a single shred of evidence, decided it wasn't a case of terrorism, but the result of the killer's stress related to his impending deployment to Iraq. Turns out, he was a terrorist, and the FBI and Army had lots of reason to believe he might come unhinged at any moment.

Fear of the inevitable lawsuit and criticism from Katie Couric, Brian Williams, et. al, that a Muslim was being unfairly singled-out no doubt played a part in not dismissing him from the service, thus making the massacre practically inevitable.

When a lunatic in Tucson killed six people, including a 9-year-old girl, our friends in the New York and Washington D.C. media axis, prompted by the Tucson sheriff,

decided that "hate speech" spoken by the usual suspects—Sarah Palin, Michelle Bachman, Glenn Beck, etc.—incited the killer's act. Not surprisingly, this conclusion was based in the absence of any facts. Again, to absolutely no one's amazement, the other guilty party was guns, especially semiautomatic pistols capable of accepting large capacity magazines.

None of the accusers asked why on earth the sheriff's department didn't have an armed officer at this event. I would suggest that if this obviously incompetent sheriff had thought to assign an officer there, Rep. Gabby Giffords might not have been shot in the head and the ensuing carnage might never have occurred. Neither did the accusers question the decades-in-the making laws that make it virtually impossible to get help for the obviously deranged without their consent. Media types and pundits blamed the shooting on everything and everyone except the shooter.

Within several days of the tragedy, it became clear that the shooter's muddled ideology had nothing to do with hate speech and everything to do with the fact that he was an untreated whack-job. This didn't stop the calls from the left for more gun control. Facts rarely get in the way of a good story.

"Rarely is a crisis allowed to go to waste by the left," to paraphrase former Obama Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. After the Tucson tragedy and all the predictability of the sun rising in the east, the Beltway elite immediately called for the reinstatement of the assault weapons and high capacity "clip" ban (left wingers don't know the difference between a clip and a magazine), the closing of the "gun show loophole," and the elimination of semiautomatic firearm sales.

Fear On The Loose

Sadly, it's not just liberal pundits and their followers that subscribe to this nonsense. Too many in the firearms community would willingly go along with these measures. They're gun owners who frown on anyone that owns anything other than a traditional hunting rifle or shotgun and, in a

"Once the camel has its nose under the tent, the rest of the camel will eventually follow and the tent will collapse."

misguided attempt to preserve their choice of firearms, would be willing to go along with banning others.

All gun owners, hunters, collectors, target shooters, etc., need to understand the old "camel's nose" analogy. It goes like this: Once the camel has its nose under the tent, the rest of the camel will eventually follow and the tent will collapse. Put another way, as soon as the gun grabbers accomplish one type of gun ban, they'll go after another and another until the Second Amendment becomes a quaint footnote in American history.

We old people remember the 60s-era fable of the "Saturday Night Special." The anti-gun nut argument was that if imported, small-caliber, inexpensive pistols were banned, the crime, suicide and mayhem rates would drop and the Age of Aquarius would be upon us. Imported Saturday Night Specials, as defined by a bizarre set of criteria developed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, were, indeed, banned. The Age of Aquarius didn't dawn, but the camel got his nose under the tent. Not long after Saturday Night Specials were outlawed, total

handgun and other firearm bans appeared in Chicago, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, among other places. Strangely, the murder rate went up in these areas and down in more enlightened communities where residents were allowed to carry concealed weapons.

"Assault weapons" and high capacity "clips" are the gun haters new Boogie Men. Most of these people are under the impression, or promote the mistaken belief, that assault rifles are machine guns. In real life, they certainly are when issued to military organizations. Congress, however, stopped the production and sale of new (and highly regulated) machine guns to civilians in the mid-1980s. The assault rifles in question today were banned by an act of congress from 1994 to 2004 because they had no "sporting purpose." Among these guns' sins were that they accepted high capacity magazines, bayonet lugs, flash-hiders, pistol grips and folding or collapsible stocks.

Imported guns that fit this description were banned by President George H. W. Bush in 1989.

Continued on page 22



DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report

Ode to the tip-down

Myth: You can't be in two places at once.

Fact: Using tip-downs, you can.

When it comes to locating crappies and effectively covering large areas of hard water, the simple tip-down is my tool of choice. Make no mistake, I'll still have a jigging rod with a spring bobber in my hand at all times, but in Wisconsin where we're allowed to fish with three lines, there'll also be two tip-downs somewhere nearby.

For those unfamiliar with a tip-down, it's basically just a pedestal on which a jig pole is balanced, ever-so-slightly over-weighted on the handle end. When a lively minnow is suspended down the hole, a crappie is able to inhale it and swim away with little-to-no resistance as the tip of the jigging rod is slowly pulled toward the hole, signaling the strike. It's the ice fisherman's equivalent of a sensitive bobber used in open water and allows one to effectively fish two or three holes that might be as much as 20-30 yards apart.

Over the years I've seen all sorts of homemade contraptions used as tip-down bases, from a nail through a piece of a scrap wood to elaborate configurations of PVC pipes to notched pieces of pine. They all work.

My first attempts were simple pieces of 1x3 boards with a "U" cut out of one end to create two "arms" that were then notched at the end.

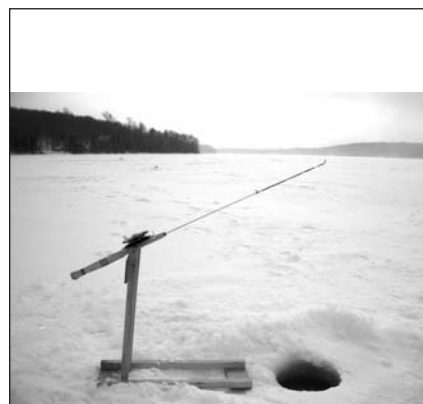
The notches served to hold a thin 3-inch bolt threaded through a jigging pole handle just ahead of the balance point. While these worked fine, the downside was that I needed a pile of snow or slush to plant them in next to the hole. When fishing through late ice in March and April, those snow piles can be hard to come by.

A couple years ago I decided I was old enough to have some decent tip-downs and actually broke down and bought a couple. They work great. The only modification I've made to them is to put some reflective tape on the rod tips and handles to increase visibility when fishing by lantern light. (Just after dark is a great time to hit crappies coming into the weedbeds to feed!)

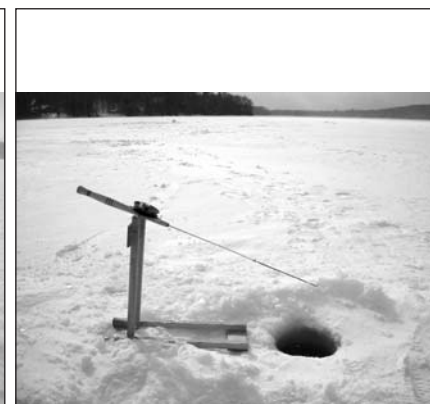
Specs And Tricks

I've rigged my tip-down rods with 6-pound Trilene Solar line. To the end I add a 2-foot-long tippet of 2- to 4-pound clear fluorocarbon. Using the heavier, colored line makes it easier to see and to handle on the ice. The light tippet can fool the most finicky of crappies, and you'll only lose a foot or so of line if you get snapped off by a northern.

Terminal tackle is simple: Use a small (No. 12-14) gold treble hook and a sinker heavy enough to quickly get the bait down to the desired depth. When fishing at night, I've



Although the concept is simple, a tip-down is an invaluable tool for Wisconsin anglers looking to score late-ice panfish.



also had good success substituting a small glow jig for the treble hook.

It's important when fishing in cold temperatures to regularly make the rounds and scoop the ice out of the holes to keep the lines from freezing in. When doing this, I'll normally push the tip of the rod down to the water and allow it to slowly come back to its "set" position. This allows the minnow to fall, and the frantic swimming frequently triggers a strike from a nearby crappie.

It's key to determine the depth at which the crappies are moving. On late ice in particular, they might be cruising a foot under the bottom of ice. When fishing deep mud flats, having a locator is really important. Absent a locator, start with one tip-down set 3-feet off the bottom and another 6-feet from the bottom until you see which is most effective.

When setting up, I like to drill pairs of holes about 8 feet apart and set a tip-down in one. When I catch a fish I can then quickly move and

jig-fish the adjacent hole to hopefully take advantage of a passing school.

If I'm setting my tip-downs more than a few paces away, I'll loosen the nut on the reel to allow it to spin freely. That way, the fish doesn't hit a "wall" and drop the bait when the rod tip bottoms out. (If you do this, remember to hold your thumb on the reel when lifting the rod to set the hook!) Putting a tiny bobber on the line at the rod tip allows you to quickly reset to the same depth after a fish is caught.

So here's to tip-downs! If you're not currently using them as part of your panfishing arsenal, give them a try. They don't require a huge investment, and being in two (or even three) places at once can really up your odds. Just sayin'. *W*

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

FOR SALE

- 5 and 6-gallon plastic pails with covers, food grade
- 55-gallon plastic and metal barrels with locking covers
- Large variety of shop toweling, soft strong and absorbent

Great for the sportsman. Open 7 days a week.

Ray's Handy Wipes

Calumetville, Wisconsin Call 920-579-9978



Reel Men Bleed



OWO Contributor JJ Reich

**Be a Hero.
Give Blood.**



Find **MORE** Outdoors
... **online!**

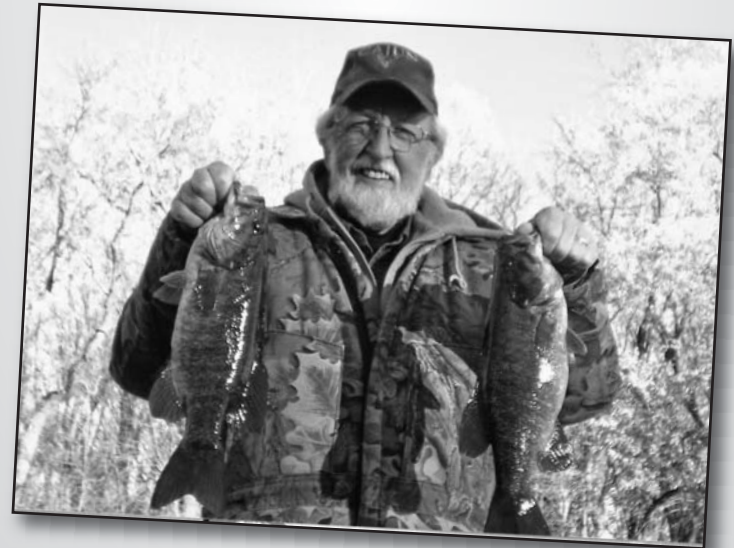
**Visit our website for more
outdoor columns from these
Ellis Experts:**

Jerry Kiesow
Fly Fishing

Tom Luba
Choosing Bass Colors

Don Kirby
Wood Duck Mojo

Mike Yurk
Bassology



OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

WILKERSON, from page 20

Within 5 minutes of the law's passing, loopholes were found and guns that looked like assault rifles were back in production, sans folding/collapsible stocks, bayonet lugs, and flash-hiders. There remained literally millions of high-capacity magazines which could be used in these guns, but the price of them skyrocketed. Unless it was changed, putting the ban back in place would return us to the same situation we were in from 1994 until the ban was allowed to sunset in 2004. The guns would look evil, but other than the lack of a few features, they would still be assault rifles, as defined by the BATF.

As for needing an assault rifle or high capacity magazines, I offer another old axiom: When seconds count, the

police are only minutes away. Readers may recall when Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, a large number of New Orleans' finest turned tail and ran while looting, and worse, was rampant. Other New Orleans police officers got trigger happy and killed unarmed citizens under make believe pretenses. Others busied themselves rounding up guns from law-abiding citizens. No one thought that such things could happen in America until they did.

Anyone who thinks that throwing assault rifles and high capacity magazines to the wolves will pacify the gun grabbers should think again. In the fevered minds of the anti-gun nuts, a scoped deer hunting rifle can easily be defined as a "sniper rifle" and banned

because it could be used to shoot people at great distances.

Once the nose is under the tent, the rest of the camel will inevitably follow.

Civilian gun ownership was made possible by the Second Amendment, which has absolutely nothing to do with skeet shooting or deer hunting. In some ways, it's the Dooms' Day Amendment. Its only purpose is to provide the populace with the means to overthrow a government gone awry. One could argue that a populace armed with rifles and pistols would have no chance against a government equipped with tanks and fighter planes at its disposal. Tell that to the North Vietnamese and the Mujahedeen.

Before anyone gets their undies in a

bundle and alerts MSNBC, I'm not calling for an armed revolution, nor do I believe the need for one is just around the corner. Unlike most of today's politicians and corporate leaders whose short-sighted thinking ruined the economy, I do take a long-term view on things. Generations from now, there might be a need for another revolution. I don't want to be any part of the process that made it impossible for one to occur in response to tyranny. *W*

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

WHICH DOG IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Labrador Retriever: Easy to train, willing to please and tough. Well-trained dogs will flush and retrieve upland birds in any weather and do double-duty as a waterfowl hunting dog. On the downside, because of their size, Labs can tire easily and might not handle heat well.

Springer Spaniel: A true pheasant dog. Springers are energetic, willing to work hard and fast all day and great family dogs. But not many of them will have the power to drag in big ducks or geese from a flooded marsh.

Golden Retriever: Exceptionally smart and willing to please, goldens love people and make great family dogs, too. They need more grooming than labs, and sometimes they can be a bit “soft” and will cower if disciplined too severely.

German Shorthair: These are very versatile pointing dogs and popular across the country. Their thin coats make South Dakota winters tough on shorthairs, and wily pheasants can often slip away when a shorthair is on point.

German Wirehair: A cousin to the shorthair with a coat that is better suited to South Dakota. Wirehairs are also very versatile and often show a determination that can sometimes be mistaken for disobedience.

English, Irish and Gordon Setters: These long-haired pointing breeds sometimes suffer the same fate as the German shorthair. Wild pheasants often don't sit still for pointing dogs. These breeds also need extra grooming.

Chesapeake Bay Retriever: Strong of body and will. Great retrievers, but they can be aggressive toward other dogs and sometimes people. Their short, dense coat is easy to care for and winters well.

KEVIN MICHALOWSKI

Dog Talk

And the best hunting dog is ... yours!

It's getting to be that time of year again when people are thinking about getting dogs. But what kind is right for you?

Ask a dozen hunters which breed of dog is best and you're likely to get 10 different answers. Choosing, training and hunting with a dog are each very personal activities. Even if two different hunters agree on the breed of hunting dog, they'll likely handle their dogs completely differently and expect the dogs to respond to a personal style in the field.

“I grew up around dogs,” said Dean Listle, an avid bird hunter from New London. “We had several different breeds: pointers, labs and setters, and I loved them all.”

Listle, like most hunters, wants a close-working dog that'll find and flush pheasants within shotgun range. It seems like a simple request, but the details, as always, sometimes get in the way. The first step in choosing a dog is to think about how you hunt and what you want the dog to do.

A Customized Canine

“We had a couple German shorthaired pointers as I was growing up, and I loved to watch those dogs work,” said Listle. “But I always felt those dogs didn't have enough fur to handle tough winters. So, I settled on Labs early on because they can do everything I want them to do.”

When it comes to pheasant hunting, the Labrador retriever is the most popular breed in the field. That's largely because a good Lab will do what it takes to find and flush the birds and will typically follow-up the shot with a strong retrieve. Pointing dogs, while popular with bird hunters in some areas, are occasionally ineffective against South Dakota ringnecks because the birds simply refuse to cooperate.

Hunting stocked pheasants in Wisconsin can be a different story. In many cases pointing breeds work great. Ruffed grouse will also often hold for a well-trained pointer or setter. But then again, it all comes back to how you want the dog to work for you.

Another breed that rousts birds



Choose well. Train often and everything will work out.

with some authority is the springer spaniel. Many people believe a hunter who chases only pheasants would be best served with a springer. But these biddable little dogs also work great on other upland birds and even on ducks. springers have boundless energy, excellent noses and an attitude that makes even the toughest hunt more fun. What springers don't have is the same tolerance for cold water that Labs have. For that reason, many pheasant hunters opt for Labs because they might do some late season duck hunting, too.

.....

“It all comes back to how you want the dog to work for you.”

.....

While on the topic of ducks and geese, you have some decisions to make there, too. A Chesapeake Bay retriever will certainly hold up to all the cold weather and rough water you can stand, but the breed can be standoffish and difficult when in the company of other dogs. Golden retrievers have such long beautiful hair; it's a shame that most aren't a bit tougher—and then there's all that

combing and hair care after each hunt. Still, in the end, all that matters is that the dog does what you want the dog to do.

Serious dog buyers will check out parents even before the puppies are born. Seeing both the male and female hunt, even before the female is pregnant, is a great way to watch for attributes you like and those you don't. Once you find solid parents, chances are really good the puppies will have those qualities as well.

The most import element in having a good dog is to ensure the dog responds to all the basic obedience commands no matter what distractions are going when the command is given. This doesn't take a lot of time; it just takes a lot of repetition. And it often requires that you work on dog training not only with live birds if you can, but also in areas with other activities going on. This type of socialization might create a bit of early aggravation, but it'll pay big dividends in the long run.

So, regardless of which breed you choose, it's your hard work that will make it the best dog around. Wo

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, e-mail Kevin at askdogtalk@hotmail.com.

DAVE DUWE

Saugers Secrets

Tips for boating saugers



The author is all smiles with a Wisconsin River sauger after long winter.

Springtime is sauger season. The end of March through April is the best time to pursue the pre-spawn and spawning saugers. Saugers are in the same family as the walleye, although they are typically the smaller cousin. They're identified by spots on their dorsal fin.

During March and April saugers will be concentrated in river systems making them an easy target for anglers. My favorite spots for sauger fishing include the Wisconsin River near Wisconsin Dells, the Illinois River near Starved Rock, Illinois, and the Mississippi River near Alma, Wisconsin. All of these locations offer a chance of 100-fish days. The Illinois River is known nationwide for its trophy-class fishery. The Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers also have opportunities for trophy fish along with a lot of quality eating fish; saugers make great table fare.

Tested Techniques

I have three preferred methods for catching sauger: a jig and minnow combo, a Lindy rig and the three-way swivel rig.

My favorite presentation is the tried-and-true jig and minnow combination. I prefer using the Arkie ¼-ounce red sickle jig in pink or chartreuse, or the Bait Rig's Odd Ball jig

during the majority of my fishing. The weight and size of the jig head is dependent on the river current. To prevent snags, you want to use a jig weight that will keep your line vertical to the bottom. I use a 6-foot-long, medium-action rod with a baitcasting reel spooled with 6-pound-test Crystal FireLine. The shorter rod teamed with a baitcaster will help you adjust to changing depths.

When the fish are in a non-aggressive mood, I recommend always using a stringer hook. A stringer hook is a small treble hook on monofilament line attached to the jig to improve hook-ups when the fish are biting short. I

prefer not hooking the minnow in the stringer hook, but rather letting it swing freely. This will not detract from the natural swimming action of the bait.

Tip the jigs with large fathead minnows or lake shiners. To prevent line twist, I'll attach a small snap swivel to the main line; this also makes changing jigs much easier. Work the jig and minnow 3-4 inches off bottom. Be aware that the fish will often hit as the jig falls.

The Lindy rig is a "walking sinker" from ¼- to ¾-ounce in weight tied in front of a hook or floating jig head. The leader length will vary; you need to adjust it to determine what the fish want. As a rule, I prefer a 24-inch length. I use a small split-shot to hold the walking sinker into place. Another option would be using a barrel swivel; however, you can't change your leader length without re-tying. Like the jig, you want your fishing line to be vertical with the bottom. When I get a strike, I will allow the fish to take a few feet of line before setting the hook. The Lindy rig should also be tipped with a minnow.

The third method, and one of my favorites, is the three-way swivel rig. It can be fished from shore or boat. The rig is composed of a three-way swivel, a heavy sinker (¾- to 2 ounces in size)—any shape will work—and a hook. A slight adjustment I make is to replace the sinker with a heavy jig, usually a Bait Rig Odd Ball; this doubles your chances by presenting a lure both directly on and slightly above bottom.

Maintain a short sinker line, 12-18 inches, and an 18- to 24-inch leader.

The length of the sinker line depends on the location of the fish relative to the bottom. Shorter leaders will reduce snags. Again, experiment to see what the fish want. Unlike the Lindy rig, three-way rigs don't slide up your line, so you don't need to feed line to the fish; rather, bow your rod slightly before setting the hook. The three-way rig can be trolled into the current or drifted with the current, always working the rig vertical to bottom.

The sauger bite is usually so good that fishing pressure can be tremendous. Try going during the week or when the weather isn't quite perfect to avoid the crowds. Most rivers have specific bag limits, so make sure you know the rules before you hit the water to enjoy some of the best fishing of the year. *W*

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

ENGBERG, from page 13

standing outside. The eagles started coming into the roost about 3:30 p.m. and continued almost non-stop until after 5 p.m. Numerous eagles initially roosted in the southern part of the valley, but as the wind picked up many re-roosted and finally settled in the far eastern part of the valley and halfway down the bluff. This must have been the most comfortable location for them for the evening.

I haven't received the total count from all the eagle roosts, but I'm sure that the total numbers will remain high—more than 200 eagles roosting in the Sauk Prairie area. The Sugarloaf Roost had more than 40 eagles roost this particular day. *Author's note: To get the complete numbers go to these websites: FerryBluffEagleCouncil.org or GaryEngbergOutdoors.com.* *W*

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208, or gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com or visit www.garyengbergoutdoors.com

Brittany and Bryan Mazur cash-in on sauger action on the Illinois River.



DENNY MURAWSKA

Walking Hand-In-Hand

The joys of sharing the outdoors

Many schools offer programs in outdoor education. During these sojourns into nature, kids are instructed in orienteering, tree identification, forest resources and engage in countless fun and engaging activities. Having been involved with such trips for many years was a rewarding experience. While it's true that teachers can convey a deeper appreciation of nature to their students through such expeditions, it's much more difficult to attempt this with a spouse.

On a trip up north to the Eagle River area, I decided to allow my dearly beloved Susan some opportunities to acquire a deeper rapport with the woods and wilds I'm so passionate about. Hunting with a bow, shooting a pistol and scrounging for mushrooms were on the curriculum.

From Fungi ...

And the mushroom hunting was fantastic! On our first foray through the woods, we discovered a prize known as a "bear's tooth." This odd-looking mushroom is one of the most delicious of all wild, edible fungi. In a short time, Susan found an even larger one. Once she tasted this delicacy sautéed in butter, she agreed with all the authors of mushroom identification books that this was truly a gastronomic delight. The wet and warm weather was ideal for causing the fruiting bodies of many choice edibles to pop up everywhere.

One morning, as if by magic, an entire flush of *Boletus edulis* popped up right in the back yard of our cottage. It was as if some gnomes had magically conjured them up just for the two of us. This handsome fungus is known as King Bolete. It has almost as many names as there are European countries whose inhabitants relish it with a religious fervor. In all our miles of wandering, we never came upon any more. We collected enough to mix with some wild rice for a gourmet treat beyond words.

... To Deer ...

So far, so good! I could feel the bonds between us growing stronger. Now came the real tests: Would Sue be willing to sit in a blind on an archery

hunt far into the woods? How could she understand my passion for this type of experience without actually being there? I explained that it would involve hours of silent sitting, waiting on a trail frequented by deer because of the abundant acorn crop.

Walking about the in pitch blackness would be part of the thrill, but I assured her there was not a thing to worry about. As the sun sank below the horizon, a doe poked its head up from a trail leading directly to our tent blind. At 20 yards, she was wary. Susan remained motionless in her camo headgear that made her look more like a terrorist than she knew. The doe stared directly at the blind, which she knew did not belong in her woods.

As alarmed whitetails are prone to do, she stomped her foot to show her disapproval and alert other deer in the area. This was followed by a 10 minute staring match as she tried to figure out what this new addition to her domain was.

The doe cautiously circled downwind of us and starting blowing as she caught our scent. This series of snorts was a final warning to every critter in the woods that there was a problem here. It's also the last thing a deer hunter wants to hear. It's generally followed by an upraised white flag of a tail as the deer bounds off into the thicket. This was no exception. Unless you're the adrenaline-pumped hunter, I'm not certain squatting in a camo tent for hours is terribly exciting. Yet, once again, I felt Susan captured a taste of the patience and focus it requires to become obsessed with this type of hunting.

... To Pistols

Finally, it was time to instruct my honey in the art of pistol shooting. As a boy, I had the good fortune to learn this difficult skill in a logical progression. It began with throwing clods of dirt in mock wars with armies composed of other neighborhood kids. From the start, I showed a knack for hurling projectiles and hitting targets. Of course, this was a dumb thing to be doing, but all the kids did it, so what was I to do? This quickly progressed to slingshots, BB guns and finally firearms. Because Susan didn't have a lifetime of these



"How could she understand my passion for this type of experience without actually being there?"

prerequisites, I decided it was time to jump in the pond and get swimming!

My first concern was to provide hearing protection. Rather than waste and extravagant \$2.39 on ear plugs, I bought along some tissue. Heck, it had always worked for me. Perhaps it's why I often respond to questions by asking, "What?" I could tell my would-be pistolero was ready when I noticed about 5 inches of white paper sticking out from the sides of her head like a poodle. I then explained how to properly brace both hands on the grip of a gun, and to take a wide stance.

I did not tell her the pistol was loaded with .357 Mag. loads. This is not a beginners round! Oh well, one has to start somewhere. The blast found my sweetie almost running away from this beast of a firearm, while shaking her hand up and down. I had neglected to notice one of her fingers just in front of the revolving cylinders. You see, as one fires, a small amount of the blast is channeled out and onto anything in this area, resulting in a bruising powder burn. In addition, she complained of a terrible ringing in her head. Those magnum loads can be a bit much for a petite lady that's somewhat of a featherweight.

I apologized profusely, and went through the old adage about how one has to get back on the horse and try again. This time the round would be a more tolerable .38 Special. It took plenty of coaxing, but I showed her how "expert" marksmen sight in their guns. You need a rest that "gives" a bit, like a sandbag. But because we had no sandbag, I improvised by wadding up her new parka on top of a Coleman cooler. Now she had a nice, stable rest.

Kaboom! Kaboom! Two shots rang out, both missing the paper plate target at 10 yards.

At this point, Sue mentioned in a trembling voice that she might be more inclined to enjoy this endeavor with a .22. It was then I noticed that her off-white parka was peppered with some large, brownish spots. Ooops! That was a \$20 mistake on the part of her "mentor." He almost instantly agreed to replace the gun rest with one of equal value, or face some long moments alone in the forest for the next week.

These misadventures all ended up on a happy note. By the end of the week, my able student was riddling her target with the .38. I noticed she had picked up a wing feather of a wild turkey found on one of our many walks, and held onto it like a prized trophy.

She marveled at the colors of the trees, now at the peak of their autumnal splendor. In the somber peace of the deep woods, we both soaked in the cathedral-like world enveloping us.

What I had experienced so many times, she was now seeing with the eyes and heart of a child for the first time. In spite of her teacher's well-intentioned blunders, we had grown just a bit closer. *W*

Denny Murawski's outdoor musings have been a part of Wisconsin lore for more than 12 years. Upon retiring from a career in biological science education, Denny and his wife Susan relocated to the awe-inspiring bluffs and hills deep in the forest near Black River Falls. A world-respected fish taxidermist, Den operates Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy and writes regularly on the subject. Contact Denny at 715.964.1159 or www.aa-taxidermy.com.

OWO STAFF

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.

AVIAN-X LCD BY ZINK

For \$80, the Avian-X Lifelike Collapsible Decoy (LCD) has extremely realistic looks with compact collapsibility. Each feather in their mold was hand-carved by champion carvers to achieve true turkey-like appearance. The decoy features correct body posture, shadowing texture and colored highlights using a special painting process.

"If you're looking to buy a new decoy, this one is your best option.

They're manufactured using an inflatable Dura-Rubber material, meaning the decoy is made just like a rubber dodge ball. The hard rubber surface has a textured-feather look-and-feel that can be flattened and tightly folded, so that it can be easily tucked away inside a turkey vest."—J.J.R.

ZinkCalls.com



ORGANIZER LANYARD BY EZ ACCESS

For \$17, this deluxe lanyard from EZ Access allows you to attach, detach and change out your turkey calls, or other gear, whenever you want. You'll no longer have to fumble around in your vest or pack because your calls stay attached to the lanyard, but you can detach and

change them out as you wish.

"This system works great for keeping track of your game calls, GPS, flashlights, walkie-talkies, keys, cameras, cell phones, caller remotes, wind meters, compasses, small rangefinders and other essentials. All items can be removed and detached simply and easily."—J.J.R.

EZAccessgear.com



AVIAN-X LIFELINE 360 BY ZINK

For \$25, this innovative device uses a small disk-and-pulley system to impart realistic hunter-

controlled motion for your turkey decoy. The decoy can be swiveled in a 360-degree arc with a pull-string with handle. The LifeLine 360 device is compatible with Zink's Avian-X decoys and most other decoys from other manufacturers.

"If you want your turkey decoy to be more realistic, make it move. Decoy movement increases the chances a gobbler will commit to your ploy and come in close to your setup. The prancing gobbler's full attention will be focused on the fake birds and not you, giving you a shot to make it his last dance."—J.J.R.

ZinkCalls.com



TOMTAKER 2 BLIND BY AMERISTEP



For \$150, this low-profile blind has long windows on all sides, designed to help shoot game with a bow. The hub-style construction is extremely rugged and durable providing

excellent stability and easy setup in just seconds. The blind has a 60-inch shooting width and stands 54-inches tall.

"With a camo backpack, UV-protected fade-resistant materials and shoot-through camouflage mesh windows, this turkey hunting blind will help you take down a gobbler in style."—D.E.

Ameristep.com

MAGNUM PRO BY BIG GREEN

For \$85, this field-point target measures a full 24-inches tall by 24-inches wide and 13-inches deep. It features several wild game aiming spots screen-printed on both side sides. Its design consists of a heat-bonded, layered closed-cell foam outer core filled with a combination of recycled fabric and foam that's capable of stopping arrows shot at 350 fps or more.

"The 'Green' in Big Green Target's name refers to the company's commitment to the environment. Each target is



produced from 100-percent post-industrial waste. And although each target is designed to stop blazing fast arrows, they also feature easy arrow removal."—L.H.

BigGreenTargets.com

WHITE LIAR BY KNIGHT & HALE

For \$34, the White Liar pot call is made using a new Corian material that works just as well wet as it does dry, providing an easy-to-use, works-when-wet turkey call. It also features a hardwood pot and comes with a Power Tip Striker.

"What's really unique about this new turkey call is the convex-shaped calling surface. Instead of being perfectly flat, the calling surface has a slight 'bubble' shape to it. This design allows the striker to stay in contact with the surface for more consistent and easy-to-product yelping."—J.J.R.

KnightAndHale.com



Product 6-Pack contributors include Dick Ellis (D.E.), Luke Hartle (L.H.) and JJ Reich (J.J.R.). If you have recommendations for good gear that works for you, tell us about it: e-mail ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

Big Chetac Resort

lake level shore • parklike grounds
cottages have full kitchens, dishwashers, cable TV,
air conditioning

• some units
wheelchair accessible



Clean, Modern Cottages on the Lake

boat, motor, pontoon,
kayak, paddleboat
rentals playground
• nice swimming area •
game room
laundry • children
under 2 stay free
in cottages



Jerry and Susan Janetski • 715.354.3865 • 888.4.chetac
2708 N Cty Rd F • Birchwood, WI 54817

www.bigchetacresort.com • info@bigchetacresort.com

relaxed family atmosphere
cottage discounts / spring & fall

DIANE SCHAUER

Monitoring History

It's not spring until the sturgeon are thrashing



Sturgeon spawn (left) in the Wolf River in mid April. Here, you can see how close they are to the water's edge along the Sturgeon Trail just outside New London. WDNR fisheries staff work hard to catch, measure and tag the sturgeon during the spawning season. Watching them is part of the fun of the event.

The snow is whipping, the wind howling, and the day is raw. Somewhere deep down I know that spring is coming, but it seems so very far away.

But it's true. Soon it will be April and I'll be enjoying the first true sign that spring has arrived: watching the sturgeon spawn. For me it's not the first robin or the hepatica and bloodroot flowering in the woods that signal spring—it's watching the sturgeon. It might not sound exciting if you've never gone to see them, but try it ... you might be surprised.

Some Background

The Winnebago System has the single largest population of Lake Sturgeon in the world, with an estimated 58,000 fish. Yes, you read that correctly, the largest population in the entire world. These 5-foot fish can reach nearly 100 years in age, but grow slowly. The females don't spawn until age 25, the males at age 15. Each fish only spawns every few years. Sturgeons are tough and astounding creatures, nearly unchanged in their 150 million year history.

In April, thousands of sturgeon return to about 50 different sites along the Wolf, Little Wolf and Embarrass Rivers. When the water temperatures

reach about 53 degrees, the spawn begins.

The Action

Multiple males will surround a female sturgeon. They twist and roll along the rocks at the edge of the river, right at the shoreline. Their great ridged backs break the plane of the water as they thrash and tumble. Tails splash and whip the water. Large swells of enormous fish move with the current. It is mesmerizing to watch. The temptation to reach out and touch them is real, they are that close.

Keeping Sturgeon Safe

Sturgeon Guards are there to protect the sturgeon. Hundreds of people volunteer their time to stand guard and ensure that the sturgeon remain safe. Two-person teams work 12-hour shifts, keeping watch, armed with Sturgeon Guard hats, flashlights and cell phones. The guards' role is to deter poaching, protect the sturgeon and simply call the WDNR if they notice any illicit activity.

Keeping Tabs

When you go to view the sturgeon, you might encounter Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) fisheries

personnel. They take this opportunity of getting up close and personal with the sturgeon to carefully capture, measure, tag and register the fish. It's fascinating to watch them work. They start tagging with the beginning of the spawn and continue until the end. It's hard work; last year the WDNR tagged 86 fish at Bamboo Bend in just one day!

Where to View

You don't have to live along the rivers to watch this astounding spectacle. There are three excellent public viewing locations with lots of public parking and paved trails. Bamboo Bend is located on County Highway 54, just west of Shiocton. This is the location where Stanley the Sturgeon, a large trailered sturgeon sculpture, made its debut in 2010. Pose in front of him for a great photo!

Sturgeon Park in Shawano is another great site. It's located by the dam on the west side of town at the end of Richmond Street and has parking and benches available.

The Wolf River Sturgeon Trail, 2 miles west of New London on County Highway X, is a great place to learn about and to view the fish. There's parking and a ½-mile-long paved trail. I enjoy watching the sturgeon from their many nice accessible

fishing platforms that provide a great bird's-eye view.

When does it begin?

In 2010, the spawn began at Bamboo Bend April 9-11, and the hot spot April 16-18 was the Wolf River Sturgeon Trail at New London. The dates and locations vary, of course. If you want to know when it kicks in at New London, call their Chamber at (920) 982-5822 or e-mail them at chamber@newlondonwi.org.

The WDNR website updates temperatures and locations of the spawn and provides maps of the best public viewing areas.

If you want to know where the action is, drive along the river and stop when you see the crowds of people at the water's edge—that's where the sturgeon are.

This is the largest lake sturgeon population in the world, and even the WDNR website calls it "one of the biggest sturgeon spawning shows on earth." This incredible event is right here in Wisconsin. So what's stopping you? Pack up the kids and the strollers, grab your cameras and visit a truly unique event. *W*

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

PRO LINE

World Famous Hunting & Fishing Boots

GET THE BEST YOU CAN GET.



WIN 72101 Twin River

- Extremely lightweight rubber construction with 300D nylon lamination but with durability and strength to protect
- Cleated outsole for sure traction
- Removable insole for all day wearing comfort
- Adjustable nylon suspender with quick release buckle
- Strong drawstring for better fit
- Large inside pocket for extra storage

WIN9301 Marsh Creek

- Neoprene Chest Waders
- 3.5MM neoprene lightweight, insulated, snug fit
- Each wader is air and water tested to assure waterproof
- All seams are butt cemented, stitched and sealed
- Quick release buckles
- Large outside pocket
- 200 grams of Thinsulate™ Insulation
- Double knee patches Rubber Boot Foot
- All vulcanized rubber construction
- The rubber outsole style features a deep cleated design for traction

Thinsulate
INSULATION
200 gram insulation

WIN22103KHK Stream

- Vulcanized construction - factory tested 100% waterproof
- Insulated boot with sponge rubber padding
- Deep cleated outsole for sure traction
- Layered toe cap for longer wear
- Aggressive padded knee for protection and comfort
- Large inside utility pocket
- Draw string for better fit
- Reinforced belt loops



3112 PROLINER SERIES

- Sleek design of one piece construction
- Stretchable, Light-weight and durable
- 200 grams Thinsulate™ Insulation in Boot
- Cleated rubber or felt out sole

Thinsulate
INSULATION
200 gram insulation

Innovative Construction of Stretchable, Light-weight & Durable 3-Ply Material
(Nylon Jersey/Rubber/Nylon Jersey)



100% Waterproof Rubber Bottom



Thinsulate is a trademark of 3M

Pro Line Manufacturing Co.

186 Parish Drive • Wayne, NJ 07470 • 1-800-334-4612

Fax: 1-973-692-0999 • www.prolineboots.com