

September/October 2011  
Vol. 5, Issue 1

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the  
**Dick Ellis Experts**

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*Your best shot at success*

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*Great fun to great eating*

Photo by Dick Ellis

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## *Realized.*





TOM CARPENTER

# Early Season Deer

## Your best shot at success

No matter where you bowhunt for whitetails in Wisconsin, from Grant County in the southwest to Marinette in the northeast and Waukesha in the southeast to Douglas in the northwest, there is one common thread to the season: early hunting is great hunting, and it may present your best shot for success over the entire season.

### Opening Day Advantages

"If I had seven days to hunt over the bow season, like anybody else I'd pick four or five days right around that pre-rut time when the bucks are chasing does," says Dave Maas, a prolific bowhunter who works Polk County much of the time. "But I would not give up the bow season's first couple days, regardless of the weather being dished out for them."

This is the perfect time to ambush an unsuspecting deer. "It's a matter of the relative quiet time that whitetails have through springtime, then summer, right into September," says Maas. "For the most part, they've been left alone, and they're on a fairly predictable pattern now. That pattern is related to feeding, bedding and watering."

### Scouting and Setup Secrets

"Scouting is essential to get ready for an early season bow hunt, but you have to do it right," says Maas. "Your best bet is to scout from a distance using glass, put out some scouting cameras, and find out where those deer are coming out to a field. You'll want to set up right inside those field edges. If you've got a food source like a green field that the deer are hitting, you can't beat opening day or weekend of the bow season."

"A couple weeks before the season, I'll prepare three evening stand sites based on my scouting work. On any given evening, it's hard to get down from your stand and out of an area without spooking deer that are feeding in the field," Maas explains. "The next evening that spot won't be as good, so you go to your second field. It's like having another opening day. Then there's a third un-hunted field lined up for a final evening, if you can hunt. Having multiple setups is like having three opening days in a row."



Dave Maas likes to set multiple stands for the early season, concentrate on afternoons and evenings, and never over-hunt any one stand.

### Hunting Strategies

"Concentrate on hunting the evenings now," advises Maas. "You have a better chance of getting into your afternoon stand without bugging the deer." That's tough to do in the mornings when the whitetails are out in the feeding areas already, unless you can take a "back door" approach to your stand.

"I will hunt mornings, but not on the prime fields or areas planned for my evening hunts," he says. "You don't want to mess up those opportunities. So in the mornings, I go to totally separate places, often

*continued on page 13*

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OWO



DICK ELLIS

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

## *A dove in the hand ...*

The sun was dropping on the opening day of the Wisconsin mourning dove season in Winnebago County. Micah, at 14 weeks, had already delivered an early gift to this new dog owner by entering a stand of spruce and gently delivering a dove dropped 50 yards to our right by hunting partner Scott Heitman.

I carried a .410 but still refrained from discharging it over my young Golden Retriever. It seemed the only error I could make that might derail his early field education would be to inflict a case of the gun-shy blues with my own lack of field patience. We rendezvoused with Heitman at the close of shooting hours, ready to pack it in for the day, a patch of beautiful orange growing in the west. Now, though, a new challenge faced Micah.

"I knocked down a dove 20 minutes ago but can't find it," Heitman said. "It fell down here in the standing corn and pumpkins."

We walked with Micah to the edge of the yellow stalks rustling in a slight breeze and pumpkin vines reaching to the waist, sending him into the jungle with the same command he had become familiar with during our work with the training decoy at home. "Fetch the bird, Micah," I said. "Find it."

His path through the pumpkins was easily followed as green leaves and vines shimmied to mark the journey. He turned sharply to the east as if on a



*Excited from silently flushing homing pigeons planted for training purposes on private property near Oshkosh, 14-week-old Micah abandons chasing the airborne prey and returns to the group.*

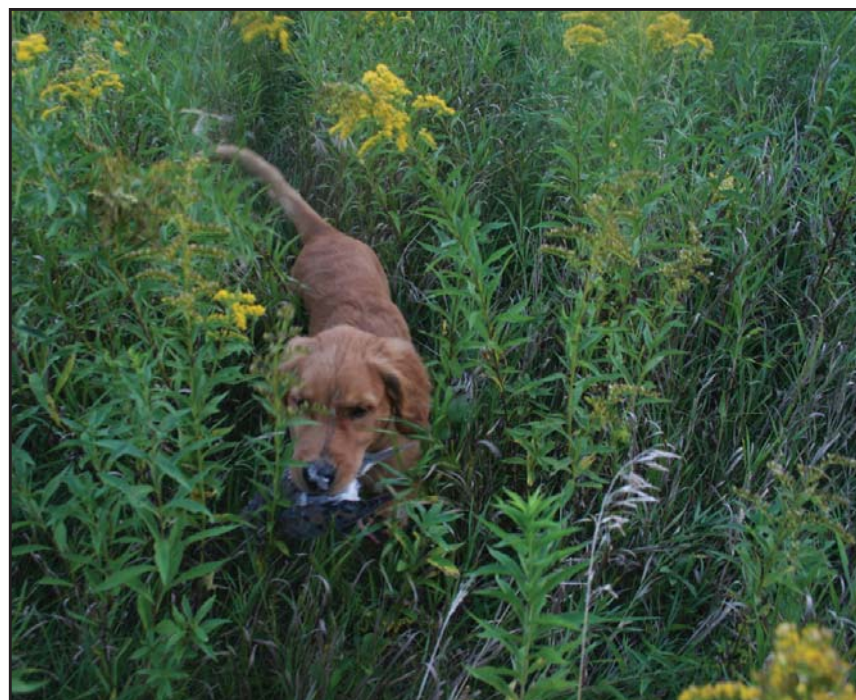
lead. In 20 seconds, he returned again to lay the dove in my hand. No dog ever received greater praise than Micah that evening on the edge of a Winnebago pumpkin patch. "Just what," I pondered, "do I have here?"

Of course, blood lines and breed lay the foundation for an exceptional hunting dog, but I was receiving some great help to introduce my puppy to his heritage from those who know far more than I. George Curtis, a friend and founder of the award-winning television and radio program "It's Your Environment," who has sold thousands of Wisconsin acres to the DNR at low cost to ensure public use, had invited us to his property on the shores of Rush Lake for much more than a dove hunt. Curtis has trained hunting dogs for decades and maintains a pigeon coop and pheasant pen on his land specifically to assist friends trying to introduce new dogs to the life they were born to lead. Curtis was also named Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Outdoor Communicator of the Year in 2009.

Spurred by his early interest in hunting dogs, Curtis said he "didn't ask who a dog's parents were decades ago; I just took them home." Early friendships with mongrels evolved to long relationships with German Short Haired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Pointers and English Springer Spaniels, the latter of which he labeled the "perfect pheasant dog." "They're great, natural retrievers, and they're built light on their feet so they'll go all day long," he said.

Curtis has also seen many dogs ruined by being introduced too early or incorrectly to gunfire. "It's so much easier to avoid a problem than to fix a problem," he said. "In part you can avoid a problem by not shooting over a dog until it's ready."

As we headed out on the Curtis property intent on meeting mourning doves returning in late afternoon from feeding areas to roosting trees, Curtis planted three homing pigeons in heavy brush out of view of Micah's scrutiny. Curtis requested that we remain silent as we approached the field to hopefully let Micah's sense of smell initiate interest and reveal the birds' hiding places despite extremely hot, dry conditions with little wind.



*On a September opening day, 14-week-old Micah returns with a first retrieve to lay a mourning dove in Ellis's hand. The young Golden Retriever had come on the scene 20 minutes after a hit mourning dove had dropped into standing corn and a pumpkin patch, still unrecovered despite an honest effort by a dog-less hunter to find his game. By the time 2010 was spent, Micah's retrieves would also include Wisconsin ducks and pheasants. 2011 waterfowl forecasts are exceptional.*

Micah's sense of smell quickly led him to the first pigeon where a dog-to-bird, nose-to-beak face-off ensued with puppy attempting to bluff his superiority by growling and barking. When the bird did flush after five minutes, Micah bounded after. A new sense of confidence carried with the encounter that enabled Micah to flush birds two and three in short order without adding his verbal bluffs.

"That was partly a fear bark," Curtis said. "The tail tells you a lot. His tail was down but it went way up when he figured out that he was the top pigeon and gained some confidence. And he gained more confidence and became bold as the day went on. He found the pigeons in the weeds and grass despite very difficult scenting conditions and showed an outstanding nose. He didn't know with that first pigeon what he was scenting, but he knew he wanted more."

Curtis once operated a licensed game farm but elects to carry a dog training permit today which enables him to still use training birds without the associated expense of a game farm. Calling a puppy a "baby," Curtis said he prefers using pigeons and hen pheasants, steering clear in early training of any encounters with rooster pheasants or geese that might lead to battle scars on a young dog and those emotional canine scars he strives to avoid that just might not heal.

With that new-found confidence, Micah would make the first two retrieves of his young life on Heitman's doves. On a return trip to Winnebago County, Micah would make his first retrieve of a third mourning dove taken with my .410 discharged right over him. He never flinched and enthusiastically returned the bird to an equally enthusiastic owner.

"Put your young dogs in situations where they'll figure it out and where they will win," Curtis said. "And be quiet. Keep in mind how well pheasants can hear. You slam a truck door and wild pheasants are piling out of a ditch one-quarter mile away. Why do you want to talk? A college-educated dog might understand six words. If you have a dog that does that, you're off to a real start. If you can go 45 minutes in the field without saying anything, you're going to have a real pheasant dog." *OW*

*This column first appeared on September 20, 2010.*

*Dick Ellis is Publisher/Editor of On Wisconsin Outdoors, and is a Wisconsin syndicated outdoor columnist. His weekly column, On Wisconsin Outdoors, is carried in 55 newspapers. The column has won seven national awards for excellence since 2004 from the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), including three 1st place awards. Read Dick's archived columns at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com.*



GARY ENGBERG

# Gary Engberg Outdoors

## Catching muskies on the Lower Wisconsin River



Client of Ron Barefield with a nice fish.

I happen to live on the Lower Wisconsin River, about five miles downriver from the Prairie du Sac Dam, which is the last dam on the Wisconsin River as the river flows west toward the Mississippi River. Here, below the dam, are the twin cities of Prairie du Sac and Sauk City. From the dam the Wisconsin River flows unobstructed from Sauk Prairie to its convergence with the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien some 85 miles away. Above the dam at Prairie du Sac and to the north is Lake Wisconsin, a flowage of the river that flows south and west from the dam at Wisconsin Dells. I'm trying to give you a little background on how the population of muskies on the Wisconsin River and the Lower Wisconsin River got there and seem to be reproducing with a gradual increase in numbers the last few years.

There is a fishable population of muskies in the area below the Prairie du Sac Dam to the Highway 12 Bridge and in lesser numbers from Highway 12 downriver (Lower Wisconsin River) to the Mississippi River. Muskies are being caught with regularity in this three- or four-mile stretch below the dam by both casting and trolling. This is the area that I suggest musky anglers fish for some good-sized and hard-fighting muskies.

Some of the muskies came from

Lake Wisconsin during periods of extremely high water, and to a lesser extent, other muskies came up from the Mississippi River and joined the local fishery. Now they are relatively common, and anglers who want to try a new water should find time to experiment and fish the Wisconsin River for these "toothy critters." I know of many fish from 36 to 46 inches caught the last few years with a few even larger and over the magical 50-inch mark.

Muskies have been stocked in Lake Wisconsin, which is just on the other side of the dam, for years. However these muskies came into the river, they have found a home where they are growing fat on a good forage base and are increasing in numbers. Previously, a musky was caught now and then by anglers who were mostly fishing for walleyes and saugers in the spring and fall. Now you can go out and put in at any of the local boat ramps and be musky fishing in a few minutes!

The boat landing that I would recommend is the one at the VFW Park, which is a mile or so below the dam or the public landing across the "Bridge" near the Quick Trip store and the Highway 12 Bridge. From there you have a short ride to the Prairie du Sac Dam or start fishing at the "Bridge" by the small island on the east shore.

If you launch at the VFW, start your musky fishing at the east shoreline close to the dam. I'd spend some time (at least an hour) casting your favorite musky baits. Bucktails, jerkbaits, glidebaits, spinner baits, and shallow-running crankbaits will all catch these big fish in these waters. The Bait Rigs Esos Cobra jig and its assorted plastics are really taking off, with many muskies now being caught on this relatively

new jig with its plastic and reaper tail combos. Other baits that work particularly well in the river's stained water are: all Smity Baits, Bucher Shallow Raiders, Grandma Baits, Mann's Minus-1's Jerkbaits, Lee Lures top-water baits, Bull Dawgs, and Hog Wobblers. The best colors are natural ones like perch, shad, and firetiger. Baits that give off a flash, sound, and vibrations are key for catching these river fish!

As I said, the east shoreline is one of the best locations to start, with the shore having a large back eddy along the golf course side. Also, work the willow trees and brush near the islands on both sides, which are a couple hundred yards from the dam. From there I'd fish both sides of the river all the way to the Highway 12 Bridge. You'll find slack water areas, some wood, rip-rap shorelines, bridge

abutments, islands, flats, deep drops, rock, gravel, points, and spring holes in this couple-mile stretch to the bridge. Be sure to fish both the east and west shores of the river. One of my favorite ways to fish is to use a Minn Kota bow mount trolling motor (make sure it's fully charged and that you have good thrust) to position the boat and slowly drift while casting the shorelines for fish.

Now with the warm water and hot weather, the local muskies get very aggressive and will attack top-water baits and big-bladed spinnerbaits. Downriver near the Highway 12 Bridge is Ray's Riverside Resort (now closed and a canoe rental business) and a small island with a small bay. Fish this area in warm and hot weather because there are springs in the little bay that hold muskies during the heat of summer. Use the public landing across from

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DAVE DUWE

# Fall's Fighting Bluegill

## Relaxing, fun, great tasting

After a long season of guiding, running to flag football games and to my daughter's dance classes, I now have the time to take my son fishing. I remember how relaxing and fun fishing is when I take my son and his friends out. The abundance and eager biting of bluegill makes it the fish I most enjoy pursuing this time of year.

My son judges the success of a fishing trip on how many fish can be brought home to eat. For weighing all of 61 pounds, he can eat more fish than a 300-pound man! He often remarks that if we don't keep any fish to eat, he won't tip me. What he doesn't realize is that the \$1 tip he gives me doesn't even cover the gas to get us out past the no-wake buoys.

In early October the bluegills are on the weed edge in about 14-16 feet of water. I prefer the weedlines associated with deep secondary points. In late summer the fish are on the points, and as the water cools, they will start to head down the weedline, which is where I look for them. The bluegills will completely pull off the weedline

and suspend by late October/early November, but that kind of fishing story is for another day.

The first of two presentations I've chosen for the weedline bluegills is a slip bobber rig with a size 12 single hook or a Bait Rigs panfish cobra in chartreuse or pink. To ensure accurate depth location—I fish my choice bait of either a leaf worm or a wax worm 6-12



Tommy Harris agitator with 3" dropper attached with a Bait Rigs Cobra jig.



Nice Delavan Lake bluegill caught from the deep weedline.

inches—I use an ice fishing lead depth finder to set my slip bobber.


The second presentation is the straight line method beneath the boat. The rig is a ¼-ounce attractor. I use an agitator produced by Tommy Harris ([www.tommyharrisblades.com](http://www.tommyharrisblades.com)) and a panfish cobra from Bait Rigs. The attractor acts like a sinker while enticing the shy bluegills into striking. The rig is basically the attractor with a small piece of 4-pound test line tied to the bottom of the weight. The baited jig should hang 2 ½-3 inches below the attractor (photo at left). If the line is too long, it will tangle when jigging the rig. If it is too short, the flash might spook the fish instead of attract them.

I bait the rig with wax worms or red worms. The flash attracts the fish while the bait entices them to bite. It can be worked effectively with the weight of the rig in most depths. Simply open the bail and let the rig drop to the bottom, then crank

the rig up approximately 6 inches off bottom. I then jig the rig with subtle movements and a lot of pauses; the rod must be held still to detect the bites.

With either presentation it is imperative to have an anchored boat so depth changes will not be a factor.

With the warm autumn weather pattern predicted, bluegill fishing should remain excellent throughout most of October. Trusted lakes to fish for fall bluegills are the Madison Chain and Delavan Lake in southeastern Wisconsin.

As I do with my son, take a kid fishing. When they have to get up early, they won't be out hooting with the owls! 

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](http://www.fishlakegeneva.com) or [www.fishdelavanlake.com](http://www.fishdelavanlake.com).

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### PUBLISHER/EDITOR:

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

### MANAGING EDITOR:

Luke Hartle  
COPY EDITOR: Heidi Rich  
[submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

### PRODUCTION & ADVERTISING:

Karen Cluppert, Not Just Words  
[ads@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:ads@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

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NATALIE BEACOM

# Behind A Librarian's Bear Hunt

## More than Pooh and Disney



For years as a librarian, I have sat cross-legged on the floor with toddlers during story time and sang straight from the heart, powered from the lungs, about the great bear hunt. The “Going on a Bear Hunt” song is a classic in the library and preschool circuit.

Once the kiddies hear the first few bars of the ditty, they can hardly wait to sing loud and scavenge around the library with make-believe guns, hunting their imaginary bear trophy. After being selected for a bear hunt, the lyrics “We’re going on a bear hunt! We’re gonna catch a big one!” had very special meaning and also gave me pause to think about the value of this great species and what the hunt would ultimately mean for me.

The pendulum of understanding bears swings from childhood sentimentality for Pooh with his cute grubby paws in the honey pot to the great North American Grizzly, who can diminish you in one half-hearted swipe. My understanding of Wisconsin black bear lay somewhere in the middle. My notes from Wildlife 101 in college long gone, I retained an awareness of the bear historically, ecologically and culturally as one of strength and nobility. However, over the years that image had been overshadowed somewhat by stories about bears cozied up on screen porches, downing bird feeders on a daily rotation, enjoying bee yards and joining family campouts. Activities like these helped evolve the image of the black bear from “noble”

to “nuisance,” and it’s an unfortunate truth.

Gradually, as black bear populations increase, their range grows southward towards more heavily-populated communities. Their opportunistic tendencies make them creative and assertive when finding food sources, and it will vary by season. Black bears will devour pin cherries on a late summer afternoon, but their tummies are more rumbling after they emerge from the long winter and need to eat, so they will be more problematic during early periods of early green-up in spring. However, black bear aren’t looking for an audience. They aren’t social; they are hungry. Dr. Barrie Gilbert, bear behavioralist, has said, “What we seem to want is a statistically homogenized picture of a species when we really need to look at bears as dynamic, living mechanisms.”

Tent caterpillars would degrade our forests were it not for the black bear; bears eat and help sow fruiting trees and shrubs which are used by other animals; snacking on insects, they serve as nutrient recyclers; and as predators and scavengers in our woodlands, they offer much more than a casino night theme or rustic doorstep up at the

*“Activities like these helped evolve the image of the black bear from ‘noble’ to ‘nuisance,’ and it’s an unfortunate truth.”*

cottage. Black bear are integral to the natural order of Wisconsin’s ecosystem.

In search of my black bear to adorn my living room in half-mount glory, I traveled northwest to Burnett County to a bucolic Wisconsin community called Grantsburg. The people are kind, the marshes are full of every bird you can name and the St. Croix River runs with fish. As I sat high in my home-tailored treestand, gun in ready position on one side and my guide, Kyle, next to me on the other, I was attentive and enjoying the sounds of the forest with guarded optimism. Thankfully, I wasn’t humming that contagious children’s song. It’s a general rule of thumb that unless you’re Disney, woodland creatures rarely sing along.

It was early evening, and based on our trail cam’s bear activity, I knew if a bear was going to hit our bait, it would be soon. I had a little quiver in my stomach, mouth was a little dry and could almost see my heart beating

through my camo vest. The cover around us was a very bright, almost chartreuse green, and as the sun began to set and dusk fell upon us, the green was still holding the light and offered a glow about the woods.

Walking earlier in the day, Kyle and I had spooked a fisher in the woods. Never having seen a fisher in the wild, this creature was silly: long and lean and hyper. When he returned to entertain us and dine on the day-old bakery that had fallen from our bait site log, I chuckled.

When my hyper little bear scout jerked his head sharply and high-tailed it away with urgency, I knew my bear was coming. I looked to Kyle, who quietly motioned that he had seen it too, and I shifted, breathed deep, checked my scope and watched. Within seconds my bear did come. She came with her two new cubs. I eased my rifle slowly back down to my side

*continued on page 8*

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SUZETTE CURTIS

# Recipes By Suzette

## Outdoor edibles

One of my favorite entrees to order while dining out is duck, any kind of duck—roast duck with stuffing, marinated duck salad, grilled duck breasts—you name it. Preparing duck, however, is not one of the things that I do best. So when it was requested that I share some duck recipes, I decided to turn to friends and family whose expertise I trust. Enjoy! <sup>OW</sup>

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

### Roast Duck

By George Curtis

3 whole ducks, plucked, cleaned, and patted dry (about 2 lbs. each)

3 oranges, sliced

3 lemons, sliced

3 T. chopped fresh parsley

3 medium onions, sliced in rings

3 tsp. thyme

Salt & pepper

Preheat oven to 450°.

Divide orange, lemon, and onion slices evenly among the three birds and stuff into cavities. Add one tablespoon parsley and one teaspoon thyme to each duck cavity. Sprinkle outside of birds with salt and pepper; place into roasting pan with enough water to just cover bottom of pan. Cover and roast 20 minutes.

Reduce oven temperature to 350°.

Continue roasting with occasional basting, approximately one more hour. Remove cover during last 15 minutes for browning.

Let stand 5 minutes before carving. Enjoy breast meat and save carcass and leg meat for soup.

### Duck/Goose Rumaki

By Paul Curtis

Duck/goose breasts

Bacon

Water chestnuts

Soy sauce

Worcester sauce

1 teaspoon sugar

Toothpicks

Marinate slices or cubes of duck or goose breast in 50/50 mixture of soy sauce and Worcester sauce and a teaspoon of sugar for an hour or so.

After marinating is complete, wrap pieces of bacon around a water chestnut and a piece of duck or goose breast held together with a toothpick. Bake in oven at about 375 for 15 or 20 minutes.

### Duck Soup

Chicken stock

1 cup chopped celery

1 cup chopped onion

1 cup sliced carrots

2 cups diced potatoes

4 slices cooked crisp bacon

Salt & white pepper

This is a great slow cooker recipe, but it usually takes two days.

Day one: Place duck carcass (from roast duck above) along with any leftover meat into slow cooker. Add enough water to cover. Cook on low setting for 8 hours. Separate bones from meat and place meat in closed container overnight in the refrigerator.

Day two: Place duck meat, celery, onion, and carrots in slow cooker. Pour in enough chicken stock to completely cover all ingredients. Cook on low temperature setting for 8 hours, adding additional chicken stock if needed. Add diced potatoes during last hour of cooking. Serve topped with crumbled bacon.



### BEACOM, from page 7

and looked to see Kyle shake his head for what I unfortunately already knew. We had a mama bear and wouldn't harvest this moment. With one paw, she lifted the wooden lid off our log with such ease. Her cubs began to sort and forage on the sweet treats. My jaw dropped in awe to be watching the bear family. I could see their dark fur against the green of the leaves, and it almost hurt my eyes it was so beautiful.

The strength, size and grace of these bears made me understand immediately why they are considered sacred by so many cultures and a prize for Wisconsin hunters. As any mother on watch, it didn't take her long to sense she was not alone and her cubs may not be safe. After walking an incline and calling her cubs, they treed for a quick moment and then jumped down to ramble behind her path through the woods and return our site to silence.

Wildlife specialist, Dr. Wayne Lynch, has written, "Bears keep me humble. They help me to keep the world in perspective and to understand where I fit on the spectrum of life. We need to preserve the wilderness and its monarchs for ourselves, and for the dreams of children. We should fight for these things as if our life depended upon it, because it does."

In retrospect, the momentary glimpse I was able to see that bear and her cubs immersed within their habitat totaled maybe four minutes from beginning to end. But in those brief minutes, to be so very close to something much larger than me and larger still than this noble and strong bear ... I was humbled.

Every fall my "fight," as Lynch challenges us, will come when I ready myself to sing "Going on a Bear Hunt" with all the children I see and compel them to, hopefully, one day take their bear hunt from the alphabet carpet at the library to a wooded path in Wisconsin's north woods. <sup>OW</sup>

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



MIKE FOSS

# Diaries Of A Wisconsin Outfitter

## Land owner generosity first key to success

As a professional bear guide fortunate over the years to enjoy a 100 percent client shot opportunity and to have harvested bears as large as 638 pounds, I know where the success starts. Despite guiding in Bayfield County, where we often hunt on public lands that run wild and abundant, it's the Wisconsin landowner that first and foremost deserves our gratitude.

I want to thank all landowners who give hunters permission to recreate on their land. It is a great honor to have you entrust us with your property. We appreciate it.

Over the years I have knocked on many doors, asking permission to guide bear hunters or to personally hunt. This year was no exception. I approached a landowner, and one of his first concerns was liability. To ease his concerns, we had a discussion about Wisconsin Statutes §895.52 Recreational activities; limitation of property owners' liability, a Wisconsin Recreational Use Statute also known as the "Berry Picker Law," of which I provided him a printed copy.

This statute dictates that if you allow someone to recreate your property, you are immune from liability. §895.52(2)(b) states "no owner and no officer, employee or agent of an owner is liable for the death of, and any injury to, or any death or injury caused by, a person engaging in a recreational activity on the owner's property or for any death or injury resulting from an attack by a wild animal." This useful law may put a nervous landowner at ease.

The landowner was assured that I am a licensed Wisconsin Guide, that I carry hunter's insurance and that I require all my clients to sign a waiver form. So with the information about the afore-mentioned statute in his hand and his concerns addressed, I have gained permission to hunt another great piece of private Wisconsin property.

Since land is the hunter's most valuable "possession," my gratitude for a landowner's generosity is extended in the form of assistance; cutting lawns or firewood or just paying a simple courtesy visit to his cabin or home if he is out of town. Don't be a stranger except during the hunting season. Keep in periodic touch with a phone call or e-mail. This will keep you and the property owner informed of any changes that may occur regarding the property and your use of it.

Without the landowner though, nothing from the first April baiting to the first bears taken on an opening September evening would occur. This April I placed five bait stations on a trail that I created on my property. In May I added three more, and by the end of July all bait stations were up and running on public and private lands.

The knowledge of bears that I have gained through observing these stations with the aid of trail cameras is priceless. I never could have imagined what



***"The knowledge of bears that I have gained through observing these stations with the aid of trail cameras is priceless."***

I would discover about bears' behavior. To witness such activities, I didn't even have to continuously be in the woods, although I did spend countless hours scouting among the ferocious bugs and the sizzling heat of 2011.


When trail cameras first came on the market,

most of us correctly guessed that they would be the greatest form of scouting available. I couldn't wait to get that 35mm film developed. Oh, the money I spent on film, batteries and time. Technology in the trail camera industry has come a long way.

After testing several camera brands, those of you who have followed my stories, "Diary of a Bear Guide," know my choice of digital scouting trail cameras is Cuddeback. This summer I had the chance to use the new Cuddeback Attack. The technology that it brings to the field is extraordinary, including saving me money on batteries that will be well spent on other items. The Attack's Guard Duty Time Lapse Mode automatically takes five images per minute, with the hunter able to view 12 hours of images in just 10 minutes. To see wildlife in action, it has a 30-second video clip feature, and the advanced picture quality is exceptional.

In June I added not one, but two Cuddeback cameras to one of my bait stations. I placed one camera 10 yards to the west and the other 10 yards to the east, each facing the other with the bait pit between. It was amazing to compare pictures, times and dates of the bears' activity. Every bear is different. Some, mostly young bears, come right in. Others cautiously hang back from the bait for up to 20 minutes, checking the wind with their great sense of smell and listening for danger; not necessarily from humans, but from the bigger, more mature bears. Given the opportunity, a dominant bear will eliminate the competition by killing a smaller bear or cub.

I noticed many times when baiting by the pictures' time, that I had bumped a bear off the bait only minutes before. Those bears often come right back in as soon as I leave. I once again placed a camera on the back trail leading into the bait station. Every day bears travel down that trail. Another priceless lesson learned; do not position the entrance and exit of your trail so that either passes or even nears your treestand.

Setting up and observing bait stations has proven to be invaluable in my quest for bear facts. I already understood certain bear behaviors, but having concrete visual evidence only confirms and enhances familiarity with these magnificent creatures. When we recover bears this September for the 17 hunters due in camp, it will have been a combination of advanced technology, and, more importantly, simple human generosity that enabled us to do it. 

Mike Foss was born and raised in Washburn, Wisconsin. As a guide and owner of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters, he has harvested bear and many deer, including several record book bucks. Off season, Mike spends time with his family and is constantly scouting for new hunting areas and adventures. Northern Wisconsin Outfitters is now booking for the upcoming season. Go to [www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com](http://www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com) or call them at 715.373.0344.



PHIL SCHWEIK

# Eliminating Musky Water

## Finding the spot on the spot

**F**all brings out some of the largest fish of the season as muskies aggressively begin to feed in the face of winter. Take advantage of the muskies' need to feed by locating and working "spot on the spot" locations, the prime holding spots within the overall environment that the fish has adopted to make her feeding job easier. Not only will the big fish you're looking for inhabit these prime locations, several fish may position themselves adjacent to these areas as well.

Finding "spot" locations is not difficult but vital to success. First, if you are new to the water, get a good map of the lake you plan to fish. Study it. Know it well. In addition to paper maps, many locators come with mapping capabilities; they have lake maps preloaded on them or lake mapping available for downloading. Most of the maps on the market today have weed edges and drop-offs clearly defined. Mark down the locations as possible or likely holding areas to get you started. This is your first step to pinpointing those smaller hidden hot spots.

Second, head onto the lake to enforce or disprove the holding areas you may have discovered by doing your homework. Most of the time maps are just guidelines. The real education comes while you are on the water. If you don't have a map of the lake, just take it a little slower. Studying a lake while on the water has always been more successful for me than using a map anyway.

Once I am on the water, the use of my GPS and sonar come into play. Quality electronics like the

Humminbird Side Imaging and Down Imaging make it even easier to reveal the hidden secret spots.

Start out by traveling the perimeter of a lake, checking for distinct drop-offs and sharp break lines. I mark these locations on both the front and back locators, enabling both people in the boat to visualize the layout below by watching the electronics when we return to fish these areas. Having the interlink networking system on my boat also allows me to mark a location on one locator and have it recorded on both locators simultaneously.

When roving the perimeter of the lake, I also look for any emergent or submerged weeds as possible holding areas for muskies and record them on the locator. The side imaging on my boat makes it much easier to locate hidden inside pockets and turns and any submerged structure or extended underwater points off the main weed beds.

Once the perimeter of the lake has been thoroughly explored, I begin investigating the main lake basin. Look for submerged structure, break lines and mid-lake weed beds or any possible holding structure for fish. These mid-lake structures and locations can be the key to getting away from the crowd and finding an isolated location holding active fish.

Third, go back and look at the locations you've marked. Using the side imaging and down imaging on my locator, I can usually see exactly what is going on beneath the surface.

They say that 10 percent of the fishermen catch 90 percent of the fish;



Steve Janowski with his big musky caught with the author during the 2009 World Musky Hunt.



Dave Krueger with his 50-incher caught with Schweik during the 2010 World Musky Hunt.

this may be why. The information now stored on the locator (and in my head) enables the angler to eliminate 90 percent of the water and concentrate on the 10 percent that he believes holds the most fish. By knowing exactly where to fish and by eliminating the vast majority of the water or "dead water," the angler fishes only the most productive locations on the lake while saving vast amounts of precious time.

This relatively small percentage of the water now determines where to target the actual "spot on the spot" locations. To break down the 10 percent, fine tune your thinking and determine where the most likely holding areas for musky might be: an inside turn in a weed bed, a sharp-breaking contour, underwater structure or a submerged crib are all good choices when determining the exact "spot on the spot" location. Determine the best scenario for an ambush point or, if needed, an escape route to deeper water or to submerged cover. Once these locations have been successfully recorded and verified, the angler has confirmed a very good starting point to fish.

On a recent trip to a northern Wisconsin lake while fishing the World Musky Hunt, I had my client working the outside weed edges as we worked around the lake. I noticed a long, sharp tail off the main weed bed that I hadn't seen in the past. It was a new extension off the original weed bed that now extended out towards much deeper water. Marking it down on my locator as we passed over it and making a mental note of where that location was, I determined that this was a likely holding spot for a big fish.

After traveling another 200 yards

around the lake, the location that I had just marked was getting the best of me; I would have bet my guide license there was a big fish on it (not). But I did turn the boat around and headed back towards the weed bed. As we neared the location, I started watching the locator for my marked spot. When the marked extension of the weed bed appeared, I asked my client to cast out in the direction of the tip of the tail to fish the "spot on the spot." The bait hit the water. I had him count down eight feet and told him to start cranking.

Not four cranks later, "bam." Monster on.

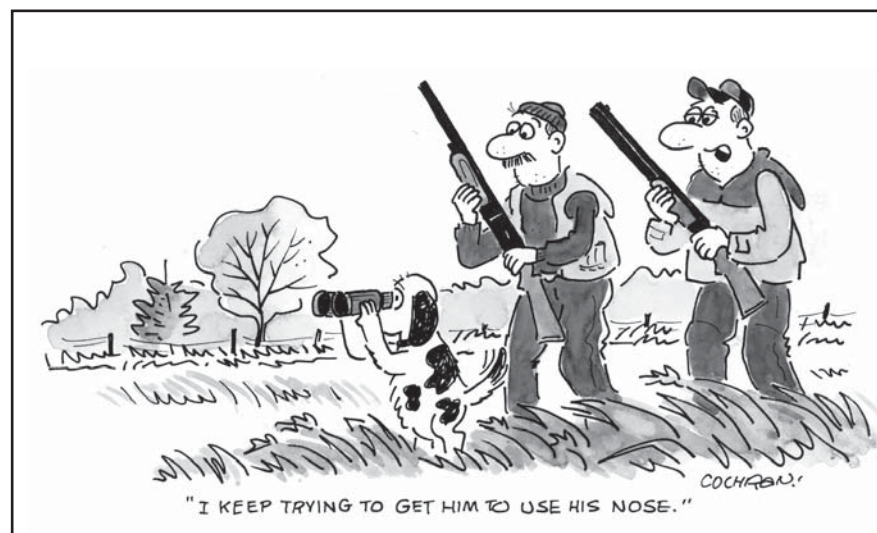
"Big fish! Big fish!" he yelled, hanging on for all he was worth as the rod bent almost to the breaking point.

After a two- or three-minute outstanding fight complete with deep surging power dives and tail walking that seemed like an eternity, the big fish submitted to my awaiting Frabill net. We measured the fish, took a few photos and released her to fight another day.

This fish would not have been caught if I had not seen the new extension breaking off the main weed bed. By marking that location on my locator and coming back to hit the exact end of that tail, we were able to connect with my client's personal best fish and the largest fish that day of the World Musky Hunt.

Spot location isn't always critical. But very often it makes the difference between coming home empty handed and coming home with the big fish photo and the smile that comes with it. *CS*

Contact Phil Schweik at Hooksetters Guide Service by e-mailing him at [www.hooksetters.biz](http://www.hooksetters.biz).





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TOM CARPENTER

## Badger Birds Cedar Waxwing

Rejoice in the sleek elegance of cedar waxwings when you can, because these beautiful black-masked nomads will only stick around as long as their favorite foods are abundant. Fall and winter are great times to observe cedar waxwings in Wisconsin as they glean ripe (in fall) or freeze-dried (in winter) fruit and berries. Once the crop is gone, the birds will move on to the next opportunity.

Look for the cedar waxwing's unmistakable and gorgeous plumage: silky-looking yellow-olive body, handsome crest, black mask and beak, waxy-red wing tips and bold yellow tail margin.

Listen for the waxwing's call, a lispy, trilling "tseeee" the birds utter as they roam for fruit or hunt insects from their perches.

Plant trees and shrubs that bear fruits and berries attract cedar waxwings. Cedar, juniper, crabapple, mountain ash, cotoneaster, chokecherry, bayberry, hawthorn and wild grape all benefit cedar waxwings and other fruit-loving birds.

Attract cedar waxwings to a tray or platform feeder any time of year with raisins or small chunks of apple or fig.

Did you know that in the late 1800s, ladies' hatbands were almost the demise of the cedar waxwing? The elegant feathers were used as adornments, and before it was stopped, market gunning endangered cedar waxwing populations. <sup>WO</sup>

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



Cedar, juniper, crabapple, mountain ash, cotoneaster, chokecherry, bayberry, hawthorn and wild grape all benefit cedar waxwings and other fruit-loving birds.

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ENGBERG, from page 5



Bob Zownir with a nice Wisconsin River musky.

Quick Trip for fishing this area.

Trolling is also legal in the Wisconsin River, so try that if that's your bag! You should be able to have some action on both sides of the Wisconsin River as you travel downriver and upriver toward the dam. Use the normal musky gear that you would use when

fishing for these big fish. The minimum size in the river is 34 inches, which is way too small in my "book." I was part of a group of local anglers that submitted a resolution in the Spring Hearings to raise the size limit to a more respectable 50 inches, which was shot down. All muskies, in my opinion, should be released all the time!

One other suggestion: don't fish for muskies when you have water temperatures over 80 degrees, as it can be during August and into September. Fighting fish in water this warm puts way too much stress on these big fish, so be careful when catching these river muskies. Try to keep your musky in the water and in your net, try to avoid touching them too much, and if you take a photo, try to make it quick before releasing the fish. <sup>WO</sup>

Contacts: Guides: Wally Banfi, 608.644.9823; Lee Tauchen, 608.444.2180; Ron Barefield, 608.838.8756; and Gary Engberg, 608.795.4208. Call Wilderness Fish and Game for bait, gear, and information at 608.643.2433 and ask for Wally.

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208 or [gengberg@chorus.net](mailto:gengberg@chorus.net) or at [www.garyengbergoutdoors.com](http://www.garyengbergoutdoors.com).



**EARLY SEASON SECRETS**, from page 3

Bowhunter Dave Maas with another nice, sleek early-season buck.

on public land. I'll get in tight right on the bedding areas and wait most of the morning." Travel funnels and escape routes are good spots too, as other hunters will likely be in the woods and moving about.

**Creating Shot Opportunities**

"Once you pinpoint the trails the bucks are using to get to the fields, you need to place that stand in the cover a little bit back from the edge of the field — 10, 20 or 30 yards," says Maas. "Then cut lanes so you can see and shoot deer. Keep those lanes minimal. The foliage is heavy now so you need to clear some, but you don't want to alter the surroundings too much."

Here's where precise planning really comes in. "Don't just cut a shooting lane," the archer warns. "The foliage is heavy now; you probably won't see the deer approaching until they're right on you and in the lane. If you only have one lane, they might step right through before you can draw and shoot."

"So I cut two lanes to the deer trail — a 'kill lane' closer to the field, then up the trail (toward the bedding area), a 'peek lane.' They work like this: deer approach, walk through the peek

lane and you get to see what they are. Usually, they just travel right through. If it's a deer you want," he continues, "draw after he steps through the peek lane, and then be ready when he enters the kill lane, 5 to 10 yards beyond. Another advantage: the deer is behind cover when you draw your bow."

"With this setup, you're all lined up to shoot, but there won't be a lot of time. Don't grunt," Maas warns, "because the deer might stop too early where you can't shoot. Just have your sight pin ready in the kill lane, and release the arrow after his nose and head pass through and his chest starts appearing. You have to be drawn and ready and right on top of things. It happens fast."

**Conclusion**

The archery season's opening days present your best chance to arrow a Wisconsin whitetail this fall. With Dave Maas's low-impact preparation plans and high-impact techniques, you can bring home the fall's first venison and maybe even a freshly-polished rack for the wall. *WO*

*Native son Tom Carpenter writes about the outdoor world for a variety of national and*

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JJ REICH

# The Reich Stuff

## Wisconsin's Durk Stark




**D**urk Stark, from Pepin, is not only a skilled Wisconsin hunter, he's also a talented and accomplished artist and turkey call maker. He grew up hunting upland game, waterfowl and whitetails in west-central Minnesota. Later in life he and his family moved to Wisconsin where some friends introduced him to turkey hunting. Due to his background as a craftsman, making his own turkey calls was a natural fit. Soon he was hooked on wild turkeys, and his life was changed forever.

Over recent years Stark has received

awards from the Minnesota and Wisconsin chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation in the decorative call making category, including first place at several Minnesota State NWTF conventions. He also received a second place for his World Slam Series of custom wingbone calls at the NWTF Grand National Call Making Competition in 2007.

Stark's calls and artwork have been, and continue to be, purchased and placed into core banquet packages for Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and other conservation organizations.

He specializes in crafting decorative wingbone calls. Some of his designs include the use of whitetail buck antlers (pictured).

For information on how you can purchase a turkey call from this talented Wisconsin resident, contact Durk Stark at [yelpermaker@hotmail.com](mailto:yelpermaker@hotmail.com) or 715.402.0250. 

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



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**on Washburn County.**

The River runs through it ... Sheboygan County, that is. **King Salmon** fill the Sheboygan River to the east, fresh **waterfowl habitat fills the Sheboygan Marsh** after a summer draw down on the west. King salmon weights are up, duck numbers are at a record high. Run the river with the Wolf Pack and enjoy the fall colors while harvesting a memory. [Click on Sheboygan County.](#)

Forget Napa Valley! The Green Bay area is home to **award-winning wineries and wine festivals**. Visit Parallel 44 Vineyard and Winery's Fall Harvest Fest for a traditional grape stomp, gourmet food, wine sampling and an art show. Stop by von Stiehl Winery for the Wet Whistle Wine Fest, winery tours, live music and wine samples. For a historical wine experience, attend Timeless Tasting at Heritage Hill State Historical Park to sample a wide variety of select wines and **enjoy dancing and horse-drawn carriage rides**. For details, check out our events calendar. [Click on Brown County.](#)

Explore historic downtown Ripon on **September 17 during Septemberfest**. Take in the **car show** and cheer on Ripon's mascots as they race down Watson Street. Enter the **beautiful baby and giant pumpkin contests** and enjoy the Taste of Ripon, pet parade, live entertainment, and kids' amusements. [Click on Fond du Lac County.](#)

Enjoy the outdoors in Calumet County this fall! Get lost in our world-famous **corn maze, pick apples and fresh produce at our orchards and farms**, find that perfect pumpkin at one of our many pumpkin patches, explore our caves underground and get close to **farm animals at our petting zoos**. [Click on Calumet County.](#)

The fish are biting in over 400 lakes in Polk County! And while you are here, plan to ride our two state bike trails or hike on the National Scenic Ice Age Trail. Take in a few special events such as: **Balsalm Lake Corn on the Curb Days, Wheels & Wings in Osceola, and the Amery Fall Festival**, all in September. October brings the **Classic Car show in Frederic, Autumnfest in St. Croix Falls, and Pumpkin Fest in Milltown**. [Click on Polk County.](#)

Autumn is in the air, and the gorgeous **colors along the beautiful Mississippi River bluffs** will impress and amaze you. Fall is also a great time for fishing, duck hunting, and visiting the many apple orchards nearby. Come to **Ferryville** and see. [Click on Crawford County.](#)

Port Washington in the fall still offers great recreation. Biking, hiking in nearby state natural areas, and Lake Michigan fishing are all great ways to be outdoors. Try out our **new South Beach and launch your kayak** for a Lake Michigan paddle. Or for a unique experience, attend **Sturgeon Fest in Thiensville Village Park**, and help release baby sturgeon back into Lake Michigan. [Click on Ozaukee County.](#)

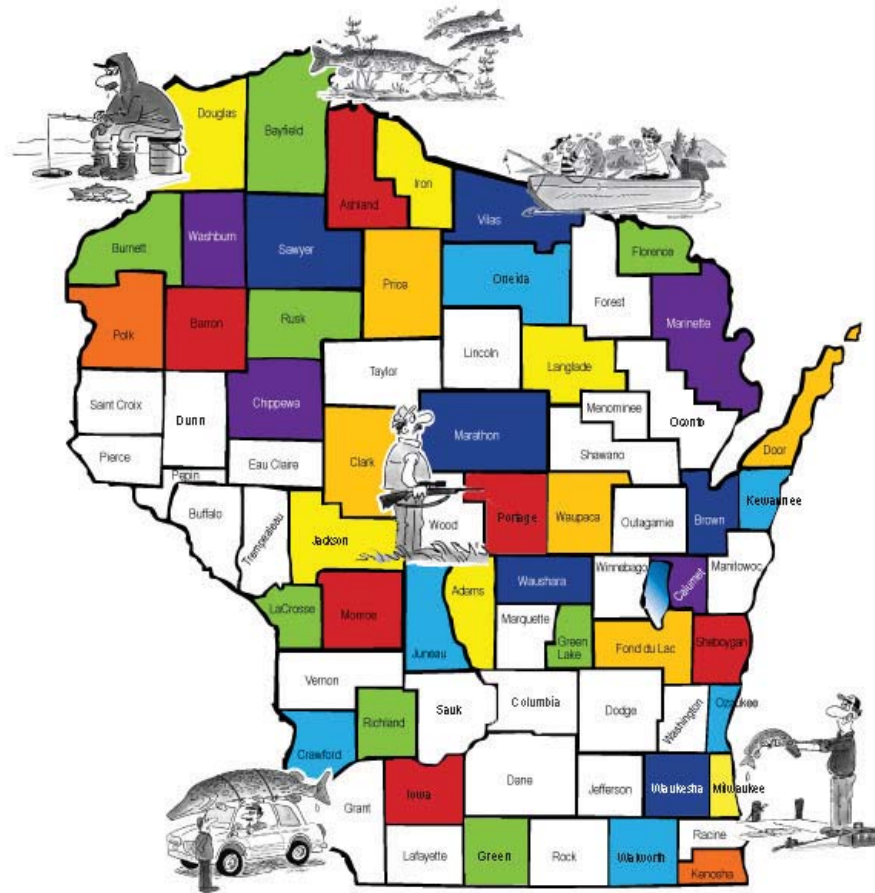
**Lakeview Log Cabin Resort** is the perfect place to stay while **fishing, hunting small game, or taking a ride** throughout the countryside during the peak of the fall colors. For information on rates and availability, [click on Marathon County.](#)

Fall can bring out some of the largest fish of the season, and one way to take advantage of this is by being able to locate that **"spot on the spot"** location. Not only will big muskies inhabit these prime locations, several fish may position themselves close to or adjacent to these areas. To learn about **Hooksetters Guide Service**, [click on Marathon County.](#)

You won't find a better place for a **Fall Deer Camp** than Juneau County, Wisconsin! **Excellent hunting opportunities await you! And, you can't beat the fishing either.** Juneau County is home to the 2nd & 4th largest lakes in the state, so come and enjoy your fall with us! [Click on Juneau County.](#)

Fall is a **sportsman's paradise in Iron County** with 377,900 acres of forest land and 214 lakes providing numerous hunting and fishing opportunities. Hunter walking trails along with logging trails throughout the county provide excellent **ruffed grouse hunting**. Large expanses of public land give hunters room to roam. To request our sportsman's map, [click on Iron County.](#)





**Do you dream of owning your own slice of rural Wisconsin?** Whether you're looking to build that perfect country home or you want to enjoy the outdoors on your own private recreational land, Badgerland Financial provides **country living loans** to make those dreams possible. Contact Badgerland Financial at 800.356.2197. [Click on Jackson County.](#)

The **Hayward Lakes Area** would like to welcome you. Rich in small town atmosphere, Hayward is an **ideal fall destination**. Join us to witness the brilliant hues of nature with a fall tour. Enjoy music, art and crafts at Hayward's Fall Fest on September 24. **Free vacation guide** to help you plan your fall getaway. [Click on Sawyer County.](#)

There is still time to get out fishing and **catch the tagged fish worth money**. The Tagged Fishing Contest will go through the end of October. The **top prize is a \$1000 tagged fish**. Purchase a fishing pin prior to catching the DNR tagged fish at the local bait shops. [Click on Ashland County.](#)

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

**Everything you need is at Rice Lake!** Connect with hundreds of miles of ATV & UTV trails. **Fish, canoe, bike, golf and dine ...** we have it all. When the day is done, relax in one of our seven excellent hotels. Download our sample travel itinerary. [Click on Barron County.](#)

Join us for the **9th Annual Pumpkin Run ATV Rally October 6-9, 2011**. We offer the largest trail system in Wisconsin, and we invite you to experience changing of fall colors and participate in fun, family friendly **ATV events** and spectacular fall color ATV riding. [Click on Iron County.](#)

It doesn't get any better than this. Fall's colors, **pristine waterfalls and wildlife** abound in the real north! Set

your own pace as you **hike, bike, hunt or fish your way through the fall colors**. Whatever your pleasure, there's room for you in Marinette County. [Click on Marinette County.](#)

September 10, **Mushroom ID Hike at Crex Meadows Wildlife Area**. September 17, **Musky Madness Fishing Tournament** on Big Yellow Lake. October 2, **Crex Meadows Fall Wildlife Festival**. [Click on Burnett County.](#)

Yahoo, autumn in Price County will be here soon! This is a great time to explore the outdoors while **ATV/UTV riding, hunting and fishing**. With fewer people in the region and spectacular leaf color, you are sure to have a FUN time while in the region. **Affordable lodging, dining and service providers** await your arrival. [Click on Price County.](#)

Breathtaking vistas of **flaming foliage, mums, pumpkins, sweet corn, fresh produce, corn mazes, and fall festivals** are unrivaled in Clark County in autumn. Check out the Highground Veterans Memorial Park, **Thorp's Pumpkin Fest, Greenwood's Street Dance, Granton's Fall Festival**, and our numerous greenhouses, farmers' markets, and roadside stands. [Click on Clark County.](#)

Bring your binoculars to watch the fall migration of birds or just enjoy the breathtaking views and vistas. Enjoy touring the **Great River Road** — Hwy. 35. Hunting season is in full swing as is fall fishing on the Mississippi River. Sept. 17 is **Mega Market in Ferryville** (Crawford County Celebrates) and Sept. 17 and 18 is the **Driftless Art Festival** — Soldiers Grove. [Click on Crawford County.](#)

**Do you dream of owning your own slice of rural Wisconsin?** Whether you're looking to build that perfect country home or you want to enjoy the outdoors on your own private recreational land, Badgerland Financial provides **country living loans** to make those dreams possible. Contact Badgerland Financial at 800.356.2197. [Click on Fond du Lac County.](#)

#### IOWA COUNTY

- Badgerland Financial

#### IRON COUNTY

- Hurley Area Chamber
- Iron County Development
- Eagle Point Cabin
- Mercer Area Chamber

#### JACKSON COUNTY

- Badgerland Financial

#### JUNEAU COUNTY

- Juneau County

#### KENOSHA COUNTY

- Wildlife Visions

#### KEWAUNEE COUNTY

- Why Knot Charters & Guide Svc

#### 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

#### MONROE COUNTY

- Sparta Area Chamber

#### ONEIDA COUNTY

- Minocqua Area Chamber

#### OZAUKEE COUNTY

- Port Washington Tourism

#### POLK COUNTY

- Polk County Information Center

#### PORTAGE COUNTY

- Stevens Point Area CVB

#### PRICE COUNTY

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

#### RICHLAND COUNTY

- Hybrid Redneck Events

#### RUSK COUNTY

- Rusk County

#### SAWYER COUNTY

- Hayward Lakes Visitors Bureau
- Treeland Resort
- Big Chetec

#### 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



DIANE SCHAUER

# A Man On A Mission To Save A Sport: Angler Educator Greg Karch

Angler Educator Greg Karch sums it up simply: he loves fishing and loves teaching children how to fish. He hopes that someday these children may develop the same passion for fishing that he has. I've seen him in action with the children, and it's working.

How many of you remember catching your first fish? I'm sure a lot of you do. Many children caught their first fish this summer because of Angler Educator Greg Karch. Greg is the Future Angler Committee Chair for the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA). He volunteered for the position and devotes a tremendous amount of time each summer teaching children the joy of fishing. Many leave his clinics with that wonderful memory of catching their first fish.

Some of the children who attend one of Greg's clinics come back to take


others. Each time, the kids can identify more native fish, are better at casting and catch more fish. They have so much fun that they study fishing during their summers! Now that's inspiration!

During the last few years, Greg has held more than 20 fishing clinics. He has shared his script and teaching style with other angler educators in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Dakota and Illinois. Though a tournament angler, he's been so busy teaching children and adults that he hasn't fished a tournament in two years.

Using "Boating Safety "Sidekicks" Go Fishing," a book produced by the National Safe Boating Council, Greg's programs begin with a discussion of safety, the most important message of the day. Greg then proceeds with discussions of gear, knot tying, casting, fish identification and a brief discussion of aquatic invasive species. The big bucket of minnows is



TOP: Angler Educator Greg Karch with one of his successful students who caught his very first fish. BOTTOM: Karch with some of his new fishing friends who attended the Yaraa Fishing Club family fishing event at Warner Park in Madison in June.



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usually the hit of the program. You can tell which of the children have never held minnows in their hands before, but they do now and they like it.

As great as Greg's programs are, he can't do it all alone. Dave's Musky Club of Kaukauna donated a substantial amount of money to support this angler education program. This should be no surprise to anyone who knows about Dave's Musky Club. They have

supported Lil'Anglers Fishing for Fun, Fishing has no Boundaries, and many other worthwhile groups and programs over the years.

Partnering with NPAA and Sea Grant, the children are provided the "Boating Safety "Sidekicks" Go Fishing" book and Future Pro t-shirts that remind them to "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers." Working with Plano,

*continued on page 24*



JOEL KUNZ

## On Wisconsin's Rivers Return to the rivers

**A**s cooler nights and shorter days begin to take over the landscape, walleye and white bass begin an often mis-understood return to the river in the Winnebago system.

Called a "mock run," water temperatures and length of daylight combine to draw the fish to the river, and if conditions are right, fishing can be fantastic.

Much like spring, water levels are the most important factor to the numbers of fish that show up. If water levels are low, the return to the river will start slower and fewer fish will show up. That is especially true for the white bass. Although some groups of fish will use the lower part of the river no matter what, we need good water flow to draw them in to the "Fremont pool," where legendary numbers of white bass have been caught in recent memory. In fact, we have had a few years in the past where the fall fishing for white bass has been far better than the spring run. This can also be true for walleye, but again, conditions dictate the numbers of fish and their locations.

Although fishing for walleye gets better as September's cool nights begin to signal a need to feed, white bass are the usual "news" in the area. The fishing begins in the lower stretches of the river above Lake Poygan. Here, deep water and additional flow from the Rat River help to draw the fish. Much of this early activity is dominated by the males,



Eric Ellertson with a dandy fall Wolf River walleye — released.

especially the younger ones. Length of daylight and water temperatures fool them into thinking that there are females in the system looking to spawn. Because many of these fish spend their summer on Lake Poygan, this flow of cooler water is easy for them to find. But, as stated, they will only go so far and stay so long unless we have enough water flow to draw them upstream.

Typically, August is when the Wolf River is at the lowest water level of the year. That changes as fall rains soak the area. Cooler days and nights provide for less evaporation, and because crops and other land plants use less water, more of it makes it to the river. Although the rise in water level is usually pretty small, it is enough to draw white bass upstream.

While the fall fishing is usually good in the lower end of the system, it is best if we have enough water to draw the largest schools of fish into the Fremont area. This is not because there is better habitat there; it is simply a numbers game. More water means more fish in the system. More fish in the system means more competition for food. More competition for food pushes the fish upstream with the rise in water level to the spawning areas around Fremont, where food from the bayous and Partridge Lake are readily available. Then, as the water cools, these schools will slowly drop back to the lower lakes of the system, usually Lake Poygan, although some will return to Winnebago. This is because the bulk of the bait fish and young-of-the-year fish go there too.

Fall white bass fishing is pretty simple. Find the schools of fish, usually located near deep water and on sharp dropoffs located on outside bends of the river, and target them with a jig and minnow or Wolf River rig. If "rig" fishing, I like to use a small streamer fly on the snel or use a two at a time setup with a jig as the dropper weight. Tip the presentation with a small minnow and get busy catching fish.

At times you will find the active



Two happy campers from the Hahn-A-Lula with a fall bonanza of white bass, crappie and walleye.

fish spread out in the hole, and other times they will be tight to the bank, feeding along the sharp drop. They can be toughest to find when they are stacked along the dropoff, but when you find the "spot on the spot," you can catch a coolerfull. This is also a time when you can be anchored 30 feet from another boat that is catching them like crazy while you get very few bites. This is simply a case of not being close enough to the dropoff hole, hump or focal point of the feeding activity. That's the time to move closer to the bank or find the depth they are feeding at. Same thing can happen on a mid-river hump or hole. Groups of fish will get tight to the structure and feed, and unless you are in the middle of them, you will only catch a few.

You can also catch quite a few fish by drifting and jigging through deep water transition areas such as the ones around Partridge Lake, Orihula and the areas below Boom Island, the Rat River and the mouth of the Wolf above Lake Poygan. Bright-colored jigs work best, and for white bass this time of year, I prefer orange.

Walleye activity also increases in September and October. Again, shorter days and cooler nights signal a need to feed, and natural instincts draw them to the river. Resident fish move up system from the lower parts of the river and usually create a pretty good bite in the New London area. This early fall bite

can be short and sweet or last right until ice up. Usually, there is a crescendo of September activity that tapers off until late October or November, when the need to feed and abundance of bait fish in the system makes for the best bite of the year.

Understanding walleye movements may help you keep on the active schools of fish. Simply, rising water levels pull fish upstream. Falling water levels make them drop back towards the lower lakes until water temperatures get into the 30s, where they may stack up in deep water until ice up, even after. So if you find a group of walleyes, keeping an eye on the water level charts through links on the Web, such as [www.wolfriverwalleyeclub.com](http://www.wolfriverwalleyeclub.com), may help you keep on those fish. Having a knowledge of the deep water areas, eddies and spring beds makes finding those fish easier.

A jig and minnow is all you need, but if I have them, I will use leeches as long as I can. Bright, multi-colored jigs are popular, but I like solid colors like green, blue, yellow, chartreuse and black and always with orange eyes.

Joel "Doc" Kunz is a 2005 "Readers Choice Award" winner and member of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW). Visit his website at [www.docswaters.com](http://www.docswaters.com). For information about the lower Wolf River area, visit [www.wolfriverwalleyeclub.com](http://www.wolfriverwalleyeclub.com) or his web-based video magazine at [www.lifeonthewolf.com](http://www.lifeonthewolf.com).



S. WILKERSON

# Surplus Firearms

## Winning the war

A book review of "Allied Rifle Contracts in America" by Luke Mercaldo with Adam Firestone and Anthony Vanderlinden

Officially, the United States was neutral during most of the Great War and for some good reasons. None of the warring European factions had much in the way of redeeming characteristics. Both the Allies and the Central Powers had blood, and lots of it, already on their hands prior to the Great War. England's treatment of Ireland was anything but benign. Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" may have been fiction, but the Belgians' treatment of Congolese natives was, in fact, barbaric to the extreme. Given the choice between showing some restraint and sending Cossacks to mow down starving citizens protesting in the streets, the Tsar almost always chose the Cossack option.

This is not to say that the United States government did not have a preference as to which side emerged victorious from the carnage. Early in the war, the United States may have been content to play both sides of the conflict, but after the sinking of the Lusitania and the discovery of the infamous "Zimmerman Telegram," the United States would cast its lot with the Allies. Many American civilians died when a German U-Boat sunk the unarmed British luxury liner, Lusitania. The discovery of the Zimmerman Telegram certainly did not endear the Kaiser to Congress. The telegram disclosed that Imperial Germany would assist Mexico in reclaiming lands taken from them earlier by the United States. Hoping to draw the United States into the war, this

was not information that the British were going to sit on.

The United States had other, perhaps overarching, reasons for assisting the Allies: billions of dollars could be made selling munitions, food, fuel and other products to the Allies, and billions would have been lost if the Central Powers won the conflict.

Whatever the causes of the war, one thing is for certain: the only country prepared for it was Imperial Germany. France, England, Russia and Belgium sat spellbound for years as they watched Germany build a fleet of Dreadnaughts second only to that of Britain, colonize swaths of Africa, arm themselves to the teeth, and increase the size of their army to an unprecedented degree.

When the entangling alliances that the belligerents had negotiated made war inevitable after the assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand, the Allies awoke from their slumber and only then began to ratchet up arms production. Soon it became painfully obvious that they had not the manpower, materials, manufacturing capacity or know-how to arm and equip the vast armies warring across Europe. Precious few modern weapons were available to arm their poorly-trained and -equipped soldiers. France, England and Russia first resorted to second and even third line weapons dating to the 1870s as they struggled to breach the gaps opened by the Germans on the European Allies' continental borders.

The Allies' only hope was to

procure weapons from the one country with the industrial might and skilled labor capable of making the millions of arms and billions of rounds of ammunition necessary to stoke the flames of Allied resistance: the United States of America.

Mercaldo's book, "Allied Rifle Contracts in America," describes in amazing detail the ins-and-outs of the procurement process, manufacture, logistics, and use of the rifles and equipment bought from U.S. manufacturers by Allied Forces to equip their soldiers. The book also includes

explains how Winchester, Remington and Westinghouse made millions of Model 91s for the Russian army and describes the battles the manufacturers fought with the Tsar's arrogant and incompetent inspectors assigned to oversee the task. Interestingly, after the fall of the Tsar, some of these rifles, officially designated U.S. Magazine Rifle Calibre 7.62mm Model of 1916, armed American Expeditionary Forces fighting at Murmansk, Archangel and Vladivostok against Lenin's communists during the Red/White Russian Civil War.

***"Mercaldo's book ... describes in amazing detail the ins-and-outs of the procurement process, manufacture, logistics, and use of the rifles and equipment bought from U.S. manufacturers by Allied Forces to equip their soldiers."***

no small amount of drama and intrigue as Luke Mercaldo and the co-authors describe the rise and fall of companies as they attempt to quickly manufacture and deliver on time the millions of weapons needed to keep Europe from succumbing to the Huns.

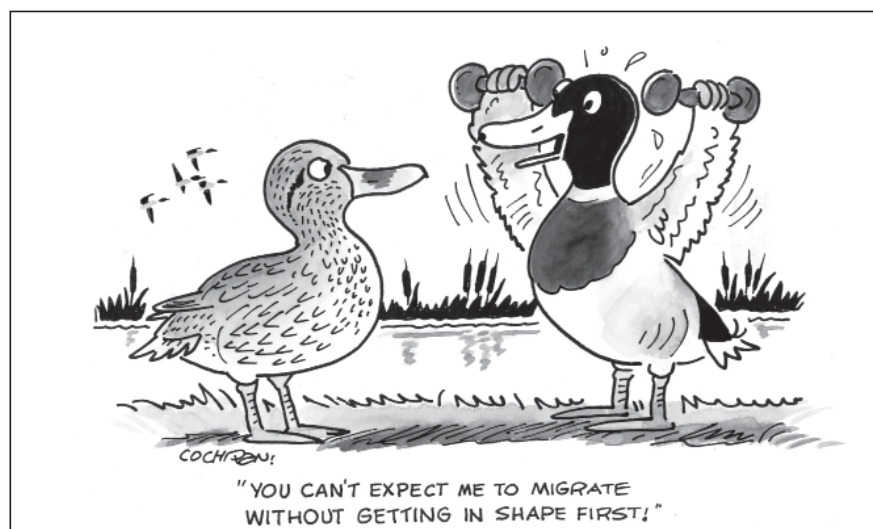
The desperate straits the Allies found themselves in cannot be overstated. So great was France's need for rifles, that it ordered thousands of long-obsolete, single shot, Remington Rolling Blocks. Russia, despite its vast resources and millions of citizens, was totally incapable of arming its troops on its own. Not only did Russian agents buy rifles from the same Japanese government they had recently lost a humiliating war to, but they also purchased thousands of rifles that the United States had deemed unsuitable for battle: the Winchester Model 95 Lever Action Repeater.

Mercaldo relates how the Russians went to war with an excellent rifle, the Mosin-Nagant Model 91. The problem was they could not produce them in anywhere near the quantities needed. U.S. manufacturers could. The author

Among the many other manufacturing and procurement sagas detailed in "Allied Rifle Contracts in America" is that of Hopkins & Allen. Generally remembered, if they're remembered at all, for a diverse line of cheap, nickel-plated, "suicide special" revolvers and inexpensive single shot scatter guns, this firm also made weapons for the Allies. Unfortunately, while the company had the manufacturing ability, they did not have the financial acumen that Remington, Winchester and Westinghouse possessed. Hopkins & Allen went broke making Model 1889 Mausers for the Belgians because the cost of production exceeded revenue. Another company, led by a smarter management team, Marlin-Rockwell, bought the bankrupt firm, continued producing model 1889s, and made a boatload of money.

Without America's manufacturing capability and skilled labor force to manufacture arms, Germany may very well have prevailed during the Great War. What then, might the outcome of the War to End All Wars have been? It is

*continued on page 24*





TOM CARPENTER

# Cubs Corner

## 10 reasons to go fall turkey hunting



The author guided first-time fall turkey hunter Justin Gervais (right) to this adult hen. The fall turkey woods hold a variety of other rewards too.

**T**wo factors conspire to limit the number of Wisconsin hunters that pursue the wild turkey in autumn. First, there's a perfectly good spring hunting season in which to chase gobblers. Second, fall is so rich with other hunting opportunities, some folks find it hard to devote time to turkeys now.

But to me fall just isn't the same without turkey hunting. Sure, a couple mornings chasing turkeys might take away from treestand or duck blind time, but the rewards of hunting hens, jakes, jennies, and maybe even some big old gobblers are well worth it.

Here are 10 reasons to hunt wild turkeys this fall. Try to create the time—and make the effort—to take a young or first-time hunter. Fall turkeys offer something for everybody. And the pursuit is fun and exciting, which makes it perfect for the new hunter.

### 1 Any Turkey Is Legal Game

In spring you're limited to gobblers and jakes. That can make hunting a real challenge. But in fall any turkey is legal... and is a trophy to be proud of.

### 2 Fall Turkeys Are Abundant

In fall there are as many turkeys on the landscape as there are going to be for the year. The broods are raised, winter hasn't yet hit, the countryside is

filled with food and turkeys. If you want to shoot a turkey, fall is the time to do it.

### 3 The Season Is Long

You have months to hunt in fall versus five days on your spring license. This makes it easy to squeeze hunts in here and there when time is available. The pressure is off.

### 4 You Already Have The Equipment

If you have a shotgun (use a choke and #4 shot), camouflage clothes, facemask and gloves, along with a few turkey calls, you're geared up for fall birds! Add a comfortable seat to your setup and you have everything it takes to be a fall turkey hunter. Carrying a box call, slate call and push-button is plenty. Have a mouth call too.

### 5 Fall Calling Is Fun

Get a new hunter involved in calling fall turkeys. Why? Because it engages them in the sport and because you can't really make a wrong or bad call in fall. In fact, young turkeys (especially jakes) and old hens sound downright awful!

### 6 Fall Turkeys Talk A Lot

Yelps, kee-kees and clucks are your bread-and-butter calls in fall. Hens use yelps to assemble their young. The vocal chords in young turkeys (those born this spring) haven't developed yet, so these birds make kee-kees—which really sound like whistles—as they attempt yelping. A kee-kee run is a set of these whistles with a couple of raspy yelps on the end; jakes make this call. Clucks work well too, as do nice soft purrs.

### 7 Early Wake-Up Drill Is Optional

While early morning hunting is great in fall, you can also do well by just hunting the afternoons. Scout a field where the turkeys like to feed, pattern them, put out a blind for a few days, then get in early and surprise the birds one afternoon.

### 8 Scattering Excitement

If you or your new hunter likes to roam instead of sit and wait, go out and find a flock of turkeys, sneak toward them, get close, then run in and scatter them to the wind. Set up and start calling them back. Mimic whatever the real birds are saying. It's some of the best hunting fun you can imagine.

### 9 Secure Thanksgiving Dinner

Don't settle for store-bought turkey this Thanksgiving. Eat the real thing! People who haven't eaten wild turkey often ask me, "What does it taste like?" My reply always is: "When you bite into a supermarket turkey you say 'Oh, that's turkey.' But when you bite into a wild turkey, you say 'Oh, my! That's TURKEY!'"

### 10 Capture Autumn In Your Heart

There's something about hunting wild turkeys in fall. The smell of oak leaves. The sight of russet and gold hills rolling off to a blue-skied horizon. The feel of frosty morning air on your nose. The sounds of yelps and kee-kees — and yes, even an occasional gobble — at dawn. Find the excitement this fall, and share it with someone who will also appreciate the experience. *Wo*

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

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LEE GATZKE

# Blood Brothers Outdoors

## Early season challenge



As the 2010 bow season approached, I had reason to be optimistic. Trail camera photos and summer glassing revealed a bachelor group was living on my hunting property. By early September the group had disbanded, spreading them all over the landscape except for a 12-pointer who chose to hang around. A lush bean field was the first stop on this buck's evening feeding schedule. Commonly, quite a few vehicles would pull over and watch the 12 as he fed there. I wouldn't be the only one hunting this buck.

As opening day drew near, my plan was to stay out of the area until it was time to hunt, then go in for an evening hunt on a south or west wind. I'd quietly set up my portable treestand 50 yards into the woods an hour before sunset and catch him coming to the beans. Opening Day evening the wind was wrong, but the next day I got the wind I needed. My buddy, Glenn, would be filming this hunt, so an hour before sunset we slipped in and set up.

Fifteen minutes later a neighboring hunter walked the property line 75 yards south from our position and climbed in a ladder stand 150 yards away. He hunted the fence line at the field edge, unaware of our presence. He didn't take into account that the wind was carrying his scent towards the direction the deer would come from. I looked at Glenn and rolled my eyes.

That evening nothing showed. The neighboring hunter made the mistake of planting himself in that ladder stand repeatedly regardless of the wind conditions, and in doing so, tipped off any deer coming into the bean field of his presence. I had the feeling he would continue to hunt that spot, hoping to get "lucky," even though the buck was no longer coming into the beans in daylight.

It was time for me to come up with a new plan. I would move deeper into the woods, closer to where I suspected the buck was bedding. Trail camera photos showed the buck was still feeding in the beans just after sunset, meaning he was leaving his bed in daylight and arriving at the bean field just after sunset. He was waiting for my neighbor to leave before coming out to feed. This information meant I had a chance to get him if only I could get closer to his bed without his being aware.

My next opportunity to hunt this buck came October 5. The afternoon temperature was 75 degrees with a good westerly breeze. It happens that there is water close to where I suspected this buck was bedding, so I set my portable up there. I expected the buck to get a drink because of the warm, dry conditions before heading to feed. An hour before sunset I was settled into my stand, watching squirrels and

birds coming in to get a drink. The little critters provided a non-stop show until something spooked them. That "something" immediately caught my attention as it cautiously approached the waterhole. The 12-pointer I'd been watching all summer was soon knee-deep in water and satisfying his thirst.

From the moment I first saw him, I set in motion to be ready for a shot, so as he stood broadside drinking, I drew my bow. The steep downward angle had me aiming for the top of his lungs on the side facing me. My arrow hit the spot but did not pass through. I listened for him to fall as he ran off into the brush, but all was quiet. I waited until dark to leave in the opposite direction of where he ran.

That night I enlisted the help of two friends, and we decided that overnight temperatures in the 40s allowed for tracking him the next morning. At daybreak we put my friend's blood-tracking dog to the faint

blood trail and found him in short order, 150 yards from the waterhole.

This buck chose to feed nocturnally to avoid hunting pressure, altering his feeding habits to remain feeding on his preferred food source. That is a tactic that early season bucks tend to use. Knowledge of bedding areas on this property was the key to being in position to intercept him in daylight.

Early season bucks have a predictable pattern that makes them vulnerable to those who take the time to scout them prior to the bow opener. The places you find them in early September will be where they spend most of their time until the "dreaded rut" influences them to change their habits. Patterning an early season buck makes for an awesome hunting experience. *W*

*Lee Gatzke is a member of Blood Brothers Outdoors, creator of practical and tactical deer hunting videos. Gatzke can be reached at [www.bloodbro.com](http://www.bloodbro.com).*

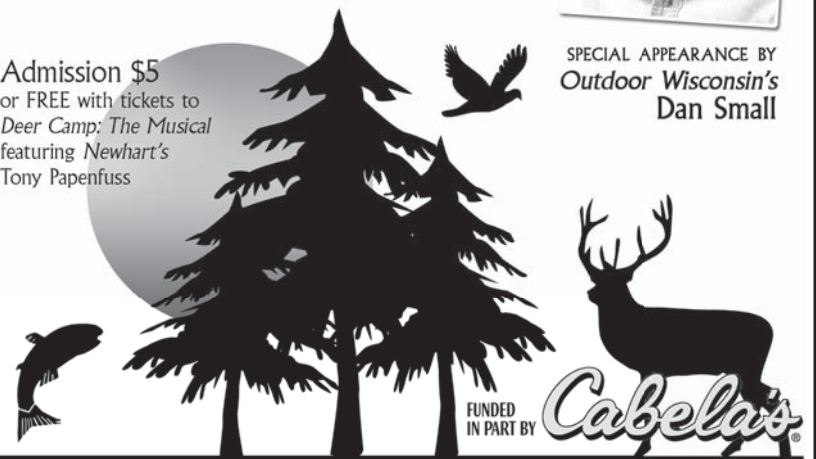
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KEVIN MICHALOWSKI

# Dog Talk

## Collar conditioning makes e-training easy



Good collar training can help a dog learn to hunt close and hard even in a field full of pheasants. (Adam Michalowski)

***“A properly conditioned dog is happy to work and has no fear of the collar or the commands.”***

An e-collar is a training tool, just like a leash, just like a collar and just like a whistle. The collar does not teach the dog anything; you do all the teaching. And if you do it incorrectly, you will only confuse the dog and end up frustrated and angry.

Let's take a step back. Before you can begin to use your e-collar, you must establish a sound base of obedience training with your puppy or young dog. Let's start with a basic discussion of puppy training before we move on to trying remedial work with an older dog.

Puppies learn by watching and doing, and they learn by having success and being praised for that success. At the same time, you have to give them general boundaries, but you can't come down on them too hard for mistakes because you can break their spirit and leave the dog too fearful to work properly. Let them be puppies and guide them along the way to encourage them to do what you want.

But when puppies reach about six

months of age, you can change your training to what's called “avoidance training.” Put quite simply, the dog learns to follow orders to avoid the correction. It should go without saying (but I'll say it anyway) that the dog must know what is being asked. If you just say “sit” and don't show the dog how to sit, you can't expect the right response and you should not give a correction. So we go back to the puppy the day before the dog is six months old.

During those first six months, you need to give commands and show the pup what is expected. When you give the command “sit,” you hold the collar and push down on the butt. When the pup is in the right position, praise the pup. No harsh punishment should be used, and a calm, quiet demeanor from the trainer will help keep an overly exuberant pup from getting out of line.

Now you are ready to move on to the next phase of training. This is the avoidance training. It starts with a

week's worth of corrections applied by the choke collar and 6-foot leash. Get yourself a stout, properly sized choker chain and a good nylon or leather leash, and you are ready to begin. It goes something like this: clip the leash to the choker around the dog's neck, command “heel” and start walking. If the dog doesn't follow, give a short jerk on the leash to get the dog at your side. Then make a turn and if the dog doesn't follow, give a short jerk on the leash to get the dog at your side. Then stop and command the dog to sit. If the dog doesn't sit immediately, give a short jerk on the leash. While keeping the dog at sit, move around. If the dog “breaks” from sit...you know the answer. Yep, a short, sharp jerk on the leash.


For the first day, do this without the dog wearing the electronic collar. On the second day, put the collar on in the morning, work the dog for 15 minutes and leave the collar on until suppertime. If you can work the dog on the leash with the choker a couple times between the morning and suppertime, all the better. At suppertime work the dog again and take off the collar for the night.

Notice that at no time did I say you should be using the e-collar's controller. Leave the controller in the house. Don't even turn the collar on for this first

week of training. Just let the dog get used to the weight and feel of the collar.

At the beginning of the second week, you can now turn on the collar and start applying light stimulation. It works this way: every time you give a correction with the leash, use the “nick” button on your controller so the dog gets a brief stimulation. The stimulation should be such that the dog does not vocalize. You should set the level so the dog simply gives a glance to one side and maybe has a bit of a confused look. All you want to do is get the dog's attention.

After a week of this, your dog should understand that your commands mean exactly what you say. The dog should also be none the wiser about where those corrections are coming from. Proper collar condition means the dog pretty much believes the correction is coming from thin air as a result of failure to comply with the command.

A properly conditioned dog is happy to work and has no fear of the collar or the commands. Don't mess this up; it is the basis for future training. 

Kevin Michalowski is the author of “15 Minutes to a Great Dog” and “15 Minutes to a Great Puppy,” both available at major bookstores everywhere.



Here's a happy dog in the field just waiting for the next command. (Photo by Adam Michalowski)



DENNY MURAWSKA

# Church Afield

## Sermons in the natural places



The other day I read a saying on the website of a fellow fish taxidermist:

**I'd rather be fishing  
and thinking about God  
than sitting in church  
thinking about fishing.**

In my case, I suppose this would be true. While I fully support the values and spiritual messages conveyed in churches, they are not places where I feel closer to the Maker. Perhaps in the past, a congregation was a group of folks that knew each other on a first name basis and enjoyed giving praise through song and listening to scripture together. I honestly wish I were one of those who feel a spiritual "something" from this. The music and choirs can be moving. Sermons can be inspiring. Still, I have always ended up feeling awkward and self-conscious when in traditional church.


Apparently, congregations are reaching mammoth proportions. One that is featured on television fills a stadium with thousands of people. These individuals appear so happy and moved by the sheer volume of like-minded fellow worshippers. I bet they represent all walks of life and races. It looks like a beautiful thing. It is just not for all of us.

I know there are others like me who turn to nature and silence for their spiritual communion. This is a matter of such importance to me, and it can only be done alone. My pew may be an old stump, fallen log, or canoe. The stained glass windows appear as sunlight through a kaleidoscope of leaves and the changing colors of clouds as the sun sinks in the sky. Flowers call out to pollinators with their showy colors and heady fragrances. Something in them attracts us as well.

It is in such natural places one can experience "sermons" that are as varied as any in church. The cycles of birth, death, struggle, and prosperity are there around you, disclosing themselves in so many ways. Whatever the lesson, there is a common thread. It is a feeling of being surrounded by a great love that is revealed in the smallest, most trivial things.

I cannot say how many hours I have spent since childhood walking beaches, deserts, and mountainsides searching for colored pieces of agate, carnelian, and crystals. Bags of fossils remind me always of the eternal yet changing nature of life. A bug that was trapped in a piece of amber stares back at me from millions of years ago. The tooth of a fearsome reptile is a token of the eternal, creative force that God has endowed all life to inherit. Pottery shards and stone tools evoke imaginings of other ways humans have existed. How did the makers of these implements view their world and its creation?

It seems to me society views aloneness as a bad thing. We are encouraged to be gregarious creatures rather than loners. Yet, as I look at the lives of great spiritual leaders, it seems they knew when it was time to be alone. From Jesus to Thoreau, it was off to wild places to strengthen their spirits and clarify their thoughts.

It hurts to be lonely, but not to simply be alone. I cannot be surrounded by the wind, trees, and babbling brooks and feel alone. The older I get, the less comfortable I am around throngs of people. It seems increasingly difficult to find opportunities to leave behind the noise and manic activity of society and find oneself in the company of birds and minnows. Alone in the company of unblemished creation, I can pray, sing, cry, or simply reflect and not feel silly or self-conscious. That is where church will always be for me. 

*Denny Murawska's outdoor musings have been a part of Wisconsin lore for more than 12 years. A world-respected fish taxidermist, Denny operates Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy and writes regularly on the subject. Contact Denny at 715.964.1159 or find him at [www.aa-taxidermy.com](http://www.aa-taxidermy.com).*

**SCHAUER**, from page 18

Northland Tackle and others, Angler Educator Karch was also able to provide most of the children with small tackle boxes containing jigs, bobbers and other necessities. Kids learn how to fish and are given the tools to catch some. Sweet setup indeed! Thrivent Financial provides the volunteer base to help work with the children at the events.

Next year Angler Educator Karch wants to do more. He plans to hold fewer small workshops but wants to add Train the Trainer sessions to teach other people how to present his successful and entertaining program to more youths throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. He needs to hear from people who would like to share this pure joy of teaching children to fish. If you would like to be a part of this Future Angler program, contact Greg at [greg.karch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greg.karch@sbcglobal.net).

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


**WILKERSON**, from page 20

doubtful that the Tsar would have survived as Emperor. He was ultimately responsible for the deaths of millions of Russian soldiers and citizens, and they knew it. A revolution was inevitable, but a communist dictatorship was not. Communism and the horrors wrought by Lenin and Stalin were not preordained. Had the Germans not brought Lenin to Russia, there is a very real chance that some form of parliamentary government may have taken root, and millions of Kulaks and others would have been spared.

Its armed forces and treasury bled white from four years of war, Britain would have lost its empire sooner, and France may very well have gone communist. It had, briefly, once before during the Paris Commune of 1871. With so many millions of their people dead, starving, and demoralized, many other nations of Europe may have followed France's lead and turned to Marxism.

Had America remained steadfastly neutral and not become the Allies' armory, World War II may not have later taken place. A different conflagration may very

well have, however, and from a source one can only imagine.

We will never know what the world would have looked like were it not for the efforts of Hopkins & Allen, Remington, Winchester and the other manufacturers that armed Europe during the Great War. One does wonder, though, with the willful knowledge of America's political ruling class in collusion with Wall Street to abandon manufacturing to the Chinese and other developing countries, would the United States again be capable of arming the world against tyranny, and would it even have the will to do so? 

*Allied Rifle Contracts in America by Luke Mercaldo, published by Wet Dog Publications, [www.fn-browning.com](http://www.fn-browning.com), ISBN: 0-9707977-7-2, Retail \$49.99, OWO special pricing through October \$47.50 plus FREE domestic shipping.*

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



JERRY KIESOW

# Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

## When the salmon get fussy, offer them a popsicle

Well, once again it is salmon time for fly fishing people. Last year I wrote about the basic egg fly and its partner, the Egg-sucking leach. Those are still the important go-to flies to have in your vest, but I would like to introduce you to another pattern that may not be the fly-of-choice all the time, but when the going gets tough, and you need to “talk the fish into hitting,” let me suggest to you: The Popsicle! No, not the frozen kind that you get on a stick. (Although, it would be interesting to see if one held in the river would attract any attention from its bleeding color and flowing flavor.) This Popsicle is a streamer fly that activates the fish—hopefully.

### A bit of history

First, let me clarify one point: This fly is not a Midwestern pattern. Actually, it is rarely fished here. It is a fly of the Northwest and Alaska. One of their favorites. So why tie it? Simple. Our fish originally came from that part of the country. They are the same species we challenge each autumn—chinooks and cohos. If it works for them, why not for us? (Confidentially, it can work for us. Which is why I feature it today.)

### A little history

The Popsicle is one in a series of fly patterns, invented by George Cook, an Alaskan guide. The series is known as Alaskabou flies. The Popsicle is the most popular fly in the series. Alaskabous, like many patterns today,

is not a single, well defined recipe. It is a method of tying a certain type of fly. Normally, individual patterns use specific colors and, in some cases, add a material or two. But the basic Alaskabou fly consists of three colors made with marabou (thus the name).

### Variations

As one reads stories, or searches the web, you will find that most tiers do not include any body material or Krystal. They simply tie the marabou on the hook. I have seen other recipes which call for purple Schlappen as the third wing instead of the marabou. I am not sure why they do this. Perhaps it makes it easier to finish off the head with this very soft, webby hackle, instead of the fluffy, sometimes difficult to handle marabou.

### Where and how

This is an attractor fly. Remember, salmon are not feeding when they spawn, so, sometimes, you just have to get their attention. Sometimes that means using bright flies and aggressive retrieves: i.e.: If you are fishing up and across, cast the fly above the fish and bring it in front of its “face” in short fast spurts. Don’t expect an immediate hit. You may have to do this several times—after all, the fish have other things on their minds. The idea here is, if you do this often enough, the fish just might get mad and lash out at this “gaudy, flashy, irritating, won’t-go-away thing!”

*As a personal note: I have found that cohos respond to this fly better than*

*chinooks, but then, they are the more aggressive of the two salmon anyway.*

### To illustrate, a quick story:

It was about three years ago. I was fishing a small stream in Sheboygan County. The run on the kings had been good earlier in the larger Sheboygan River, and now I was looking for coho. Although I could find coho in the bigger water, I preferred to look in the smaller streams where I could isolate individual fish or small groups of spawners.

On this day, there were enough fish in the creek to make fishing interesting, but they were not in the mood to suck in any of the normal patterns I offered—eggs and variations, including the egg-sucking leach. Finding a lone male “resting” in a small riffle, I switched to a # 6 Popsicle.

Drifting the fly down toward the fish, instead of casting beyond it from

the side (the stream was too narrow for that approach), I let the fly get to within a few feet of the fish, then began working it back in twitches and darts. The fish did not respond.

On each successive drift, I let the fly get closer before retrieving.

On what must have been the eighth or ninth (or twentieth) retrieve (I am now letting the fly get to within six to eight inches of its nose), the fish moved slowly forward and followed the fly back for a few feet before sliding back into its “holding place.”

On the next drift, I stopped the fly in, approximately, the same spot as previous, but let it sway back and forth in the current for a few seconds. Then, with a sudden strip of the line, I started to bring it back in foot long pulls. The popsicle only traveled two feet when the fish snapped forward and gulped it down.

*continued on 27*

### THE PATTERN AND VARIATIONS

**Hook:** # 4 or 6 streamer

**Thread:** Red

**Body:** Holistic silver tinsel - it shows when the fly is wet. Note: Some, I tie weighted.

**Wings:** There are three. All are made with marabou wrapped around the hook like hackle - not in the normal laid-back-tied-in-wing-fashion. The first wing is hot orange, wrapped full; the second wing is red, wrapped less full and shorter than the first wing so the first wing shows through and beyond; the third wing is purple, wrapped with only two turns, and shorter than the red, so both the red and the orange show. In between the first and second wings, I add a few strands of pearlescent Krystal Flash.

Tie off and form the head with the red thread. That's it!



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**Outers-Guncare.com**

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**Smith-Wesson.com**

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**Primos.com**

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**GorillaTreesStands.com**

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**GerberGear.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: email [ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com).



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KIESOW, from page 27



A male coho that just had to have a Popsicle.

**In conclusion**

Was he hungry? No. I had just irritated the heck out of him until he retaliated. That is the kind of reaction you might get from this very flamboyant, seldom used fly.

So ... when the standard eggs and egg-sucking leaches are not working on those river run salmonoids this fall, take a page out of the Alaskan fisherman's book. Give 'em a popsicle to suck on! 

*Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors. In his book, "Tales of The Peshtigo Putzer," he tells some fishing tales, hunting tales, and many other yarns on a variety of outdoor activities. You can get a copy at [www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.com), or if you would like a personalized autographed copy, send \$24.00 to Jerry Kiesow, 1690 Dellwood Ct., Grafton, WI 53024. Also available for Kindle and Nook. Review Jerry's book at [www.jerrykiesowoc.com](http://www.jerrykiesowoc.com).*

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