

January/February 2012  
Vol. 5, Issue 3

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the  
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Photo by Dick Ellis

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LEE GATZKE

## NextBuk Outdoors

### Experiencing the ground game

**M**y typical bow or gun hunt for deer has me perched high in a tree, looking down on deer as they travel to bed, feed, or avoid other hunters. Occasionally, I've set up on the ground mainly due to lack of any trees in the area I've chosen to hunt. This past season I chose to hunt in a couple ways that meant I'd be forced to be grounded.

Early October found me in South Dakota bowhunting mule deer by spotting and stalking them. Trees are few and far between on the wide open prairie where the mule deer choose to bed in brush or waist-tall grass. Crawling into bow range and waiting for the deer to stand up to offer a shot is a much different hunt than I'm used to back home in Wisconsin. In my home state I occasionally hunt from the ground when conditions dictate, but that is usually my last choice, until this past year. I discovered a ground blind that I could use on the prairies of South Dakota or the farmlands of Wisconsin. Hunting from this blind is a deadly tactic that allowed me to hunt effectively, especially in the late season.

Several of the places I hunt on my



South Dakota bowhunt are public or "walk in." Many of these spots allow for cattle grazing, and cattle are responsible for cow pies, which I try to avoid while crawling in on bedded deer. It adds a new dimension to planning a stalk.

Plowing through fresh cow pies is the least of my concerns though, while

belly crawling into range on a deer. During a stalk, you must be aware of everything you may encounter along the way that could spook your target animal. While stalking, if you only focus on the deer you're trying to shoot and you make noise, get seen by other deer you hadn't noticed, startle or bump into

some hidden critter unintentionally, it could ruin your stalk.

Say you're belly crawling 100 yards through the prairie grass to get close enough for a shot, but 50 yards into your crawl you spook a pheasant that cackles and takes flight. Every deer

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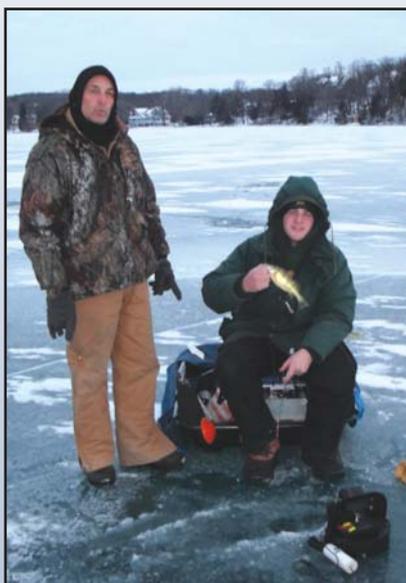


*A Blind Ambitions Bale Blind, made here in Wisconsin, allowed the author to hunt effectively from the ground. Seeing deer from ground level at close range is a hoot, especially when you're more used to watching them from a treestand.*

DAVE DUWE

## Deep, Primetime Perch ...

### Where some fear to go



*Rick and Cody Wollters with deep water success.*

**W**hen my wife tells me her library book is due, she is really offering me her subtle permission to take a day on the ice. Deep water perch fishing is my most constant pattern, and my most sought after target in midwinter is the yellow perch. In southern Wisconsin I choose a perch lake with deeper waters, meaning greater than 20 feet. I will fish in the main lake basin associated with a weedline. The order of my favorite Wisconsin fishing holes is: Lake Mendota in Madison; Lake Geneva in Lake Geneva, and Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh. Lake Winnebago isn't as deep as the other two but does have a huge population of jumbo perch.

The biggest challenge of ice fishing perch is locating them. A good pair of boots and a Vexilar flasher are

necessities. Perch roam in small to massive schools. Moving around to find an active school can provide all-day action. It is always better to bring a friend along both for safety and eliminating unproductive water. Make sure your fishing buddy's wife enjoys reading as it will help ensure a long day out on the ice.

Once I get to my desired area, I drill numerous holes and start searching. Perch can be belly to the bottom or suspended way up from bottom. I always fish the suspended fish first to prevent spooking the lower fish. Make sure to fish every hole a sufficient amount of times since the fish won't show up on the Vexilar until a bait is presented. A good search bait is the Lindy Rattlin' Flyer. The lure can be fished quickly to help find the roaming

schools. The spoon puts out plenty of flash and good vibrations and can be fished quickly to find the roaming schools. Hop the spoon off the bottom a few times to see if you can get the perch actively feeding.

As I work the bait, I am constantly watching my Vexilar FL-20, looking for fish to move on the screen. Spoons are good for actively feeding perch; however, most of the time perch are neutral or in a negatively feeding pattern. With this in mind, it's time to get subtle. A teardrop jig or Lindy's new Toad jig are great choices. When fishing in deep or dirty water applications, the color choice is important, so always use a glow color. This adds visibility to aid in the bite.

Add a heavy weight 3 to 4 inches above the jig. Having the line between

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DAVE SURA

## Shore Bets

### Back again: Another Manotak adventure

Trying to sleep was difficult, to say the least, as I anticipated my second trip to Manotak Lodge in Perrault Falls, Ontario. This year's trip was going to be different. Last year I was accompanied by my wonderful wife, Kati, and daughter, Abby. This year was the guys' trip. Mark Peterson, Dan Schultz, Tony Firle, Rick Rivera, Rich Henderson, and I began our journey north in the early hours of a mid-July morning. We were all wide awake, anticipating the beauty, serenity, and awesome fishing awaiting us on Perrault Lake.

After nearly 14 hours on the road, including many necessary stops, we were greeted by Dave and Linda Becker, owners of Manotak Lodge. We were assigned our cabins, dropped off our gear and returned to the office for our orientation on the camp. We then received our licenses, boat numbers, and fishing towels for our week of fishing. Before retiring after a long day, we spent a few hours on the lake catching smallmouth bass and northern pike.

Getting a great night's sleep was just what we needed to prepare us for our first full day of fishing. After a quick breakfast, we were down at the



Wisconsin angler Rich Henderson with a nice smallmouth bass taken while fishing Ontario with Manotak Lodge.

**"For the week, we had landed well over 100 bass and northern and 50 walleyes."**

dock getting stocking up on leeches, minnows and nightcrawlers from the veteran deckhand, Earl. Soon we were on the lake chasing fish despite the high skies and hot temperatures we encountered for most of the trip. We had three upgrade boats, 17-foot Lund Outfitters with 50HP Yamaha outboards, depth finders and live wells. Fishing out of the upgrade boats is the way to go and definitely worth the \$250 weekly charge.

Dan and Mark were in one boat, Rick and Rich in another, and Tony and I in the last. The other two boats from our group spent the morning chasing pike and bass. Tony and I went walleye fishing. The first morning was a good one. Our group caught well over 20 bass and northern, along with a half dozen walleyes, which were cleaned and delivered to our cabins for shore lunch. Excellent fishing, great banter and great food continued through Monday. Big fish eluded us, but that wouldn't be true later in the week.

Tuesday was special. Tony and I again spent the morning chasing walleye and perch while the rest fished for bass and pike. When we arrived back at camp, we were looking forward to fresh fish, with Earl providing a shore lunch kit available from the lodge for \$10, that included the pans and propane stove necessary for an awesome lunch. There is nothing better than fresh fish and cold beer for lunch. Since we had extra, we gave a plate full to Dave the Pelican and Earl at the dock. Both were very appreciative of the



Mark Peterson of Wisconsin holds a 24 inch walleye caught while fishing the lakes around Manotak Lodge, owned by Wisconsin natives Dave and Linda Becker.

snack.

Back on the water Tony and I immediately got into fish on a rock bar known as "the shore lunch spot." After a five-minute battle, I landed a fat 28-inch northern on a jig and leech, and over the next few hours we landed several nice 'eyes' and many bass. The highlight was a 30-inch walleye that bent my rod over, worked the drag and refused to even show herself for five minutes. A few runs later, she was in the net. Unfortunately, the fish was exhausted from the battle and would not make it. Back at the lodge, people were excited to see and photograph the fish and hear the story.

The next day, Mark, who had never fished walleyes, targeted several of the rock bars that Tony and I fished the days prior. The fish were still willing to bite. Mark caught a half dozen walleyes, including a nice 21-incher and Rich



Dave Sura of Racine caught his biggest walleye ever while a guest of Manotak Lodge in Ontario.

followed with a fat 19-inch walleye. Bass also cooperated.

That afternoon we switched back to the original teams and Tony and I fished "the sunken island." As we began fishing a 16-foot hump, I told Tony that the spot should have a big fish on it. Well, it did. Tony landed a beautiful

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DICK ELLIS

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

## Change in forage changes the game on Green Bay

*This trip took place in January 2011.*

Outside the two shacks far out on the hardwater of Green Bay, horizontal sheets of snow pushed by howling winds obscured the distant shanty town to the north. Inside, split oak and birch crackled in the wood-burning stoves and seven Wisconsin anglers with one Chicago escapee relaxed in sweatshirts, talked quietly and watched intently for any subtle clue of another whitefish strike.

Subtle indeed. Each whitefish hunter had watched the Swedish Pimples dressed with a wax worm or minnow tumble down through the clear water before the line went slack on the sand shelf shrouded with zebra mussel far below the ice. The trick, then, was to jig the bait ever so slightly and to decipher the gentlest of hits in answer from a whitefish 35 feet below.

The strikes came often and these anglers, new to whitefish angling, celebrated with growing piles of fish averaging 15 to 20 inches. Roger Mayer of Chicago, who swore allegiance to the Packers before he was allowed in the shack, Jeff Peterson and Steve Henske of Stevens Point, Bob Johnson of Mukwonago, John Ellis of Muskego, and Scott Heitman and I of New Berlin also lost countless numbers of the light hitters, despite the regular calls from Zack Burgess of Why Knot Guide Service to set the hook on another slightly twitching rod.

When the hook was buried, each whitefish ascending through the hues of Green Bay to the augured hole proved a worthy battle. Rods doubled over and struggling whitefish were either lost on the ride up or surrendered to an eventual meeting with the skillet.

Once, within seconds, the evolving story of the whitefish here on the Bay was reflected symbolically when first a zebra mussel was brought up pierced by the treble hook of a Swedish Pimple and soon after a whitefish was lifted from the water with the tail of a Round Goby still protruding from its mouth.

According to DNR Fisheries Technician Tim Kroeff of Sturgeon Bay, tremendous fishing for whitefish in recent years on the bay is less a resurgence of the population and



*Six Wisconsin anglers and one Chicago escapee caught 75 whitefish on the Bay of Green Bay under the tutelage of Why Knot Guide Service. They include Guide Zack Burgess of Algoma, Roger Mayer of Chicago, Bob Johnson of Mukwonago, Jeff Peterson of Stevens Point, Steve Henske of Stevens Point, Scott Heitman of New Berlin and John Ellis of Muskego.*

more a change in the fish's forage base that has enabled man to target it. Historically, the major food source of whitefish was Diporeia, but the numbers of the exotic invertebrate dwindled when "affected" by the zebra mussel in the Great Lakes. In response, whitefish adapted to feed on the exotic Round Goby, a vertebrate.

"The goby is illegal to use as bait," Kroeff said. "Fishermen mimic the goby by using Swedish Pimples or rapala jigs tipped with a waxie or a minnow or tipped with just a minnow head or tail. Everyone has their own little method they have confidence in. You can pretty much fish for whitefish now throughout Green Bay, but the eastern shore is better known to anglers."

According to Kroeff, whitefish can be caught in 4 to 60 feet of water and normally move in schools. He described angling action as very good, with fishermen allowed 10 whitefish per day. In addition to the whitefish change in diet creating a new sportfish, he said population numbers are also on the rise due to improved water quality.

"There's less water pollution," he said. "Historically, whitefish had fall spawning runs on the Fox, Peshtigo and Menominee Rivers. Now we're seeing runs again like they used to in

large numbers. We just tagged 2,500 whitefish on the Menominee. They've adapted. They're survivors."

According to Guide Zack Burgess, 99 percent of the whitefish are taken on jigging rods. Open water fishing for whitefish is very difficult, for all practical purposes making the sport an ice bite.

Burgess is a third generation guide also running 34 and 25 foot salmon and walleye charters out of Algoma beginning in mid-May "And we can take care of as many people as you bring because we are part of a charter boat association," he said. At age 27, he has already fished these waters for 14 years beginning on his grandfather's charter boat before going into business as a captain six years ago. "Now, so much has changed over the years that I teach him how to fish," he said.

Change for Zack Burgess includes learning over the last several years how to target and catch whitefish that several years before weren't even catchable. He learned his lessons well. The day before our ice party, a group of 18 anglers under his guidance took home a limit of 180 fish. During a hot January bite, a Burgess group had kept 29 perch averaging between 8 and 11 inches, with one obese fish measuring

in at 14 inches.

"The last three years I fished four or five days a week, learning how to catch whitefish," he said. "I figured I was ready to guide."

Quite ready. When the day ended after six hours on the ice, our Wisconsin group had caught 75 whitefish and thrown back many of the smaller fish. Burgess predicted diner's satisfaction whether we smoked, pickled, baked, or deep fried our catch.

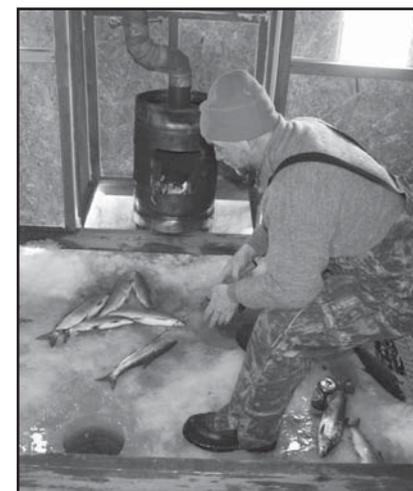
"You've heard of the Door County fish boil?" he asked. "This is the fish. And don't forget the salmon charters. Where else can you catch the quantity we catch out of Algoma with salmon in the 20-pound class?" he asked.

Okay...we believe. Heaven in Wisconsin starts on the Green Bay hardwater. 

Connect with Zach Burgess and Why Knot Guide Service at [WhyKnotGuideService.com](http://WhyKnotGuideService.com) or 920.559.7473. Fully guided ice fishing for whitefish for 1-2 people with all equipment provided costs \$200 daily, for 3-5 people costs \$300, and for 6-8 people costs \$400. Heated shacks are 8 x 16 feet and 8 x 10 feet.

For more information, including lodging options, visit [GreenBay.com](http://GreenBay.com) or [DoorCounty.com](http://DoorCounty.com).

*Dick Ellis is publisher of On Wisconsin Outdoors.*



*Steve Henske of Stevens Point waits for another whitefish on the Bay of Green Bay January 17. Eight Wisconsin anglers caught 75 whitefish averaging 15 to 20 inches during six hours of fishing with Why Knot Guide Service.*

TOM CARPENTER

## Cubs Corner

### Try something new, because all kids are different

The New Year is upon us, and with it comes a world of possibilities for you and the kids you're introducing to the great outdoors.

What traditions do you hold dear? They're important. Kids love the idea of a trip, event or outing that happens every year. For my family, there are annual waterfowl outings, pheasant hunts, deer season, river fish/camp excursions, trout weekend, a grouse hunt, and others. Traditions like these provide a wholesome anchor in a child's life ... and make memories that last forever.

Are you looking to add some new traditions to your sporting life? You never know just what will really tickle a young outdoorsperson's fancy. Introduce them to new things and see what hooks them. Every kid is different. Consider these examples.

My oldest boy, Jeremiah, is in college now, but told me before he left, "Dad, we still need to do our summer pike day and our winter deer hunt in South Dakota and turkeys when I'm back in mid-May." He has his likes—easy does it, make a good plan for breakfast and lunch, don't push me too hard—and that's just his style. Fishing in a boat is perfect for him, and he'll talk Packers and watch a bobber all day.

My second boy, Ethan, is different. I can roll him in the mud, throw him into the cattails and make him stand in freezing water for hours just so he can shoot a duck. He's a waterfowl nut. He'll sit under an oak tree for six hours to kill a turkey or walk you into the ground for a pheasant. Fishing, he can take or leave, but he'll go if you don't get up too early. He doesn't see the point if it's not a duck, buck or turkey.

The youngest, Noah, is still developing. He's a good fisherman. He



The author's son, Noah, displays the results of a family outdoor tradition: the youth waterfowl hunt. Explore all kinds of opportunities with your young outdoorsperson. You might be surprised at what you find together.

shot his first duck and pheasant last fall. And he's on me to go coyote hunting this winter. His twist is this: He has a special devotion to firearms, so we pursue that together too. The other two boys are like their dad when it comes to shooting: Take a shot, think, "Hey, I can still hit," and all is good. But Noah loves to shoot for the sake of shooting. That's just him.

We also feed birds in the yard, watch waterfowl in spring, put up summer hummingbird feeders, attend fall Packer or Badger games (only good reason to miss an afternoon of hunting in this family), clean and prep gear in the winter, and more.

What's on your outdoor agenda this year? Here's a 12-month planner to give you some ideas for expanding your young outdoorsperson's horizons ... together.

season turkey hunt (these hunts can produce!). Hunt for morel mushrooms or asparagus.

**June**—Endless fishing! Explore a trout stream before the grass and brush are too high. Bass are hungry too. Go for pike with bobbers and suckers.

**July**—Go camping. Whether you're a serious camper or a duffer, July is perfect. Go raspberry picking. Salmon season is starting; take a charter and make big memories.

**August**—River time. Float a river in a canoe and fish ... or just relax. Try the Wisconsin, Chippewa, Kickapoo, Baraboo, Wolf, St. Croix, Sugar, Pecatonica, Flambeau or Namekagon.

**September**—Take advantage of Wisconsin's great youth waterfowl weekend ... wood ducks are waiting. Try early season bowhunting.

**October**—We need more October! Head out for youth and antlerless deer hunts. Pheasant season opens; chase a rooster. Walk some forest trails for grouse.

**November**—Head back out for ducks. This is when the big, fat greenheads and regal divers such as canvasbacks and bluebills come through. Involve kids in the greatest tradition of all: the Wisconsin gun deer hunt.

**December**—A great time for rabbit hunting. Recharge the batteries with game dinner at the holidays. Sit down and make a journal of the year's outdoor memories.

Give something new a try with your young outdoorsperson this year. You'll never know when you'll find a new pastime you'll both love. 

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

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DON KIRBY

# Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

## Disabled hunting opps expanded in NE Wisconsin

The week before the gun deer opener, about 20 people gathered on a sunny, cold, and windy morning to celebrate their success. A ribbon cutting was held to commemorate and serve as a public thank-you to the many contributing partners that helped in completion of “phase 1” of the planned improvements to the WWA Abrams property, located in southern Oconto County. More about that celebration in a moment. First, a bit of history.

In 1996, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) transferred the deed on 112 acres in southern Oconto County, where they had recently completed a wetland mitigation project. This transaction was a fortunate one for WWA, as there were a limited number of assignments like this one, and these sorts of transfers to a nonprofit entity are no longer commonplace. The mitigation work created a large pond with several islands and lowered the elevation of the northern-most portion of the property more than 20 feet, with all of those tens of thousands of yards of fill material being used for the expansion and improvement of I-43 and US 41 in and around the Green Bay area, some 15 miles to the south.

This original 112 acres includes two upland “40s,” with significant tree cover, that meet each other at the northeast corner of the southern 40 and the southwest corner of the northern 40. To the north of the eastern 40 is an additional 32 acres, which includes the entire wetland mitigation area.

Immediately adjacent to the west of the mitigation parcel is another 30-some acres of wetland forest that the DOT still owns. In June of 2011, we received confirmation from the Green Bay office of the DOT that this DOT parcel is open to the public for hunting as well.

In April of 2011, WWA was contacted by the descendants of a local family to determine our interest in accepting a donation of an additional 40 acres of land, adjacent to the southern-most boundary of our current holdings. Conditions for the proposed transfer included protecting the land in its deed so that it can never be developed and will be open for the public to enjoy. WWA completed the process of transferring the deed to this addition in July, and thus, the WWA Abrams property has grown to 152 acres in our ownership, with nearly 200 acres available for public recreation, including the adjacent DOT holdings.

Over the last 15 years, various WWA volunteers created signage to identify a grassy parking area near the northeast corner of the wetland mitigation site, and some limited maintenance was done on the property. This approach changed in late 2010 as newer members of WWA’s Green Bay Chapter discovered the holdings and began to develop plans to improve the conditions of the property and enhance its usability for disabled hunters and the general public.

Over the course of the winter of 2011, working in partnership with volunteers from the local Delta Waterfowl chapter, more than two



Opening doors. A WWA handicapped accessible blind helps the physically disabled participate in the hunt.

dozen wood duck nesting structures were built and installed. Then in May, a controlled burn was executed on the highlands surrounding the wetland mitigation, helping to restore native species by beating back the invasive plants that had surrounded the area.

It was in August, however, when the real heavy lifting got going. Partnering with Challenge the Outdoors, Inc. ([www.ctoforme.org](http://www.ctoforme.org)), a disabled outdoors-persons group based in Shiocton, and Red’s Excavating, the plans were developed. In September, the machinery got going, building a hard surface parking lot, along with recontouring the land, to create the first leg of a hard surface trail, both with

“green” crushed limestone surfaces. Using plans created by the University of Nebraska, the first of several planned disabled-accessible hunting blinds was constructed and placed. The full value of these works was well in excess of \$20,000, a figure that would not have been possible for WWA to take on by itself for this project.

The blind was ready a full week before the waterfowl season opener, and it was the culmination of these large projects, along with many smaller complementary jobs, that the assembled group celebrated in mid-November. Since undertaking the expansion and improvement of

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42nd Annual Wisconsin

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**Show is Saturday 8am to 2:30pm**



SUZETTE CURTIS

## Recipes By Suzette Sausage delights

I have always enjoyed a good venison sausage, but until recently I had not made the attempt to create my own. So with this last hunting season, my daughter, my son-in-law, and I spent a day in the kitchen trying our hands at sausage making. As always, we fooled around with several ideas until we came up with what we thought would work best. The results were favorable, for the most part, and definitely worth sharing. <sup>OW</sup>

### Cheddar Jalapeno Sausage

3 ½ lbs venison  
1 tsp ground black pepper  
½ lb beef tallow  
2 tsp liquid smoke  
1 cup cold water  
1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
3 tbs Morton's Tender Quick  
1 can diced jalapeno peppers (or two jalapeno peppers, seeded minced)  
3 tsp garlic powder  
2 tsp mustard seeds  
12" sausage casings

Cut venison into manageable chunks and grind along with beef tallow. Place in large bowl and set aside.

In small bowl, combine water, Morton's Tender Quick, mustard seeds, garlic powder, pepper, and liquid smoke. Stir until dissolved.

Add seasoning mixture to venison. With hands, thoroughly mix together. Fold in the cheese and jalapenos. Fill sausage casings and tie ends; placing filled sausages in gallon-sized plastic bags. Refrigerate 24 hours.

Remove sausages from bags and place on a broiler pan with rack. Bake in a preheated 300° oven for 2 hours. Remove sausages from oven and cool on rack.

### Cranberry Goat Cheese Sausage

3 ½ lbs venison  
1 tsp onion powder  
½ lb beef tallow  
2 tsp liquid smoke  
2 cups water  
4 tsp black pepper  
4 tbs Morton's Tender Quick  
1 cup dried cranberries  
2 tsp mustard seeds  
6 oz goat cheese, crumbled  
12" sausage casings

Cut venison into manageable chunks and grind along with beef tallow. Place in large bowl and set aside.

In small bowl, combine water, Morton's Tender Quick, mustard seeds, onion powder, liquid smoke, and black pepper. Stir until dissolved.

Add seasoning mixture to venison. With hands, thoroughly mix together. Fold in the cheese and cranberries. Fill sausage casings and tie ends; placing filled sausages in gallon-sized plastic bags. Refrigerate 24 hours.

Remove sausages from bags and place on a broiler pan with rack. Bake in a preheated 325° oven for 1 ½ hours. Remove sausages from oven and cool on rack.



### Spicy Hot Breakfast Sausage

3 ½ lbs venison  
2 tsp crushed red pepper flakes  
½ lb beef tallow  
1 tsp garlic powder  
2 tbs smoked paprika  
½ tsp oregano  
1 tbs salt  
¼ tsp cumin seed  
1 tbs black pepper  
¼ cup white vinegar  
1 tsp sugar

Cut venison into manageable chunks and grind along with beef tallow. Place in large bowl and set aside.

In small bowl, mix paprika, salt, pepper, sugar, pepper flakes, garlic powder, oregano, and cumin seed. Using your hands, thoroughly mix seasoning into venison. Finally, add vinegar, mixing well. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

Sausage may be cooked immediately, or place uncooked portions into freezer bags and store up to six months.

*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](mailto:recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)*

GATZKE, from page 3

within a couple hundred yards is now looking in your direction to see what spooked that bird. Most of the time this means it's "game over," as the deer then spot you and bound away to a safer place. Having to constantly monitor your surroundings while spotting and stalking keeps you engaged and actively hunting all day long. Occasionally, everything goes right and you are able to get a shot. Welcome to another form of hunting that is addictive.

If you've done much traveling in the Lower 48, you've probably noticed how a lot of farmers and ranchers nationwide are baling their hay in big round bales. These 5-6 foot diameter round bales dot the landscape in rural America. A company in Wisconsin, Blind Ambition Bale Blinds, has capitalized on this practice by producing a blind that looks exactly like a round bale. I hunted out of one this past fall and had excellent success, having deer come in close while I sat inside. The deer accept these blinds because they consider them to be just another round bale. These blinds are also portable so they can be easily moved if necessary.

The blind was effective all season but especially so during gun, muzzleloader, and late bow season. During those seasons deer were actively feeding in crop fields, putting on weight for the rough winter ahead. This type of ground hunting also got into my blood. During and after the gun season, when deer are especially spooky from being heavily pressured by the pumpkin crowd, blind hunting was at its best. Being a bit worn out myself from hunting in the wind, rain, snow, and cold, the blind offered a good place to get out of the elements and yet be right on top of where the deer were feeding. Having deer walk past within a few yards, or even bedding down up against the blind, was enough to convince me that I'll need to put in more time tucked into this bale blind in the future. Another bonus is that you get great shots at standing deer as they feed within range of a properly placed blind.

I love hunting from a treestand, but this past season showed me that I didn't have to climb a tree to get close to deer. I'm looking forward to the upcoming season and more encounters with deer at ground level. <sup>OW</sup>

*Lee Gatzke is a member of NextBuk Outdoors, creators of tactical deer hunting videos. Gatzke can be reached at [www.nextbukoutdoors.com](http://www.nextbukoutdoors.com).*



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TOM CARPENTER

# White On White

## *An exquisite quiet: hunting winter snowshoe hares*

Deep quiet enveloped me as I stepped into the popple forest. It was white on white everywhere—ghostly tree trunks, pale snow, colorless sky. There was no such thing as GPS in those days, so by dead reckoning I worked my way back to a clearcut that I had grouse hunted the previous October.

My quarry was winged on that golden day, but plenty of something else also captured my interest: snowshoe hares. I said I would return to hunt them when winter cabin fever set in. So here I was, looking for a cure amidst the white solitude and deep stillness.

After trudging through a foot and a half of powder for a half hour, I was there. I slipped the old bolt-action .22 off my shoulder, chambered a hollow-point long-rifle round, checked the scope, and set off through the brush.

It was perfect snowshoe hare cover—young popple, maybe three or four three years old, flanking a large Burnett County marsh. I figured snowshoe hares would be creatures of the edge, so I followed the transition line.

After a quarter mile, hare tracks appeared in the snow, then their telltale droppings. I slowed to a stalk. Ducking under a branch, I saw movement to my right—white on white, a snowshoe hare. I froze and the hare stopped, relying on its white fur as camouflage.

Kneeling down to steady my shot, the brush hid the hare. When I rose back up, I couldn't see my quarry from the new angle. It took a couple minutes of eye-watering peering before one

beady black eye popped out at me. Steadying the rifle against a sapling, I took aim and made the shot.

My first snowshoe! I admired the long, sleek, all-white hare for a few minutes, marveling at its thick and handsome fur and felt its heft. After gutting it out, it weighed much less. I stuffed the big bunny into my game vest before continuing my hunt.

That little northwestern Wisconsin adventure took place almost 25 years ago. Since then, snowshoe hares have entertained me on many a winter day.

What a "Wisconsin" thing this is to do! White-tailed deer, cotton-tailed rabbits, ducks ... game like that is everywhere. But you can't say that about snowshoes. These large northern hares live in the northern third of Wisconsin. The best snowshoe hare habitat consists of areas that were



*"After a quarter mile, hare tracks appeared in the snow, then their telltale droppings. I slowed to a stalk."*

recently clear cut, burned or otherwise cleared and are growing up with young, thick brush. Think grouse cover on the young side. Hares use the tender shoots as feed, and the dense stems provide hiding cover. Hare also like cedar swamps, hemlocks, firs, spruces and other coniferous trees.

You don't need access to private land to have fun hunting Wisconsin's snowshoe hares. Consider the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests. For state forests, look to the Northern Highland-American Legion, Brule River and Flambeau River, plus the Governor Knowles and abundant surrounding county lands.

If the snow isn't too deep, put on a pair of light boots, add a pair of gaiters, and hike in. Once the snow gets over mid-calf, break out the cross-country

skis and glide in to your hunting area. My preferred option is using snowshoes. It's amazing how easily you can get around on them. Traditionalists say the short and wide ones are best in the woods, but they aren't hunting hares in a Wisconsin cutover. Opt for the narrower snowshoes if you can.

Some hare hunters tote a shotgun. A 20-gauge or 12-gauge, loaded with size 5 or 6 shot, will do just fine. An improved cylinder choke is best for the close, snap shots you'll get. But I prefer the challenge of a .22 rifle. Top it with a quality scope. Hollow point rounds do a good job, but any long-rifle bullet will do as long as you shoot for the head.

Carry plenty of water because you'll get a good workout (another benefit of winter hare hunting). Speaking of which, wear polypropylene or other wicking garments next to your skin. Be sure to carry a GPS so you can hunt without worrying about where you are and to productively hunt your way back without having to retrace your steps.

Snowshoes hares cook up just fine. Cook one in a crock pot all day in beer, garlic and onions. Drain, peel the stringy meat off, add plenty of your favorite barbecue sauce, and make sandwiches.

If you're looking for some hunting action this winter—and some exquisite quiet in the wilds of Wisconsin—take out after snowshoe hares. It's one of my best cures for cabin fever. <sup>©W</sup>

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

**KIRBY**, from page 7

this property, WWA has enjoyed the partnership of many individuals and groups who have provided expertise, services, products, discounts, and financial support. Check the listing of partners on our website: wisducks.org. There's an entire tab devoted to the Abrams long-term project, and you can keep up to date on what's going on next. Feel free to contact us to find out how you might help.

Coming into the spring of 2012, we're excited to see the outcome of

the next steps. Our project director, Peter Ziegler, has plans in place to complete wetland projects on the newer, southern parcel of the property. We've partnered with natural resources program students from Fox Valley Tech to perform a forestry inventory and begin planning for a select cutting of several areas of the forested area. To ensure good management of that resource, we've engaged the Ruffed Grouse Society to gain their expertise in creating and maintaining the right

habitat for grouse and woodcock. We'll be looking to expand further the opportunities for disabled hunter access, both on the ponds on the northern portion of the property and eventually on the southern portion, once the wetland and forestry projects are completed.

The possibilities for this unique property are nearly unlimited. The opportunity to help build something that will last longer than all of us is a special one. The value of a property like

this and the opportunities it creates for differently-abled hunters are incredible, particularly as it is accessible to so many people, being located just 15 miles north of the Green Bay metro area. Feel free to contact us to find out how you might help or consider joining WWA.

Although the Abrams property is unique, the core values of our mission that drive our work there are not. <sup>©W</sup>

*Don Kirby is Executive Director for the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association.*



DENNIS RADLOFF

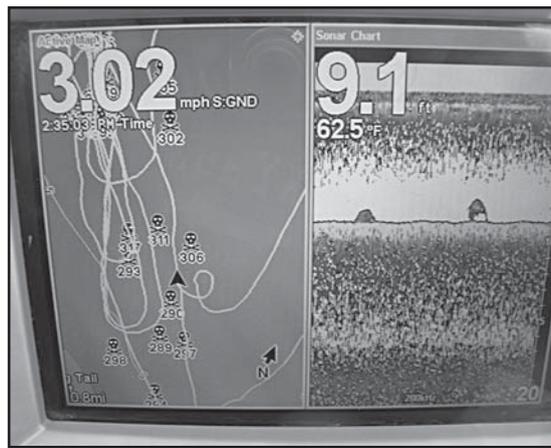
## 2011 Musky Season Done. Now What? *Part 1 of 2*

It's hard to believe another musky season is behind us, and hopefully yours left you with some great memories. I find myself entering my off season with the same mixed feelings I always have. On the one hand I am glad to be home and relaxing with my family. On the other hand I find myself thinking, "Now what?"

One of the things I like to do with my time off is to take a reflective look at the season and compile all the data from the records I keep over the course of a season. I keep track of each musky CPR'd, length of the musky, lure it was caught on, location of catch, water temperature, air temperature, time of day, moon phase, wind speed, and wind direction. I record some of this information in my daily log, which I conveniently keep in my truck.

Information regarding location and time of day is retrieved from my GPS. Every musky caught is entered in my GPS the moment it's on the line. By saving these waypoints I am able to use them for future location reference along with being able to review exactly what time of day the fish was caught. As I record this information on a spreadsheet I am able to line it up with moon phase times and weather conditions, which I am able to gather from websites on the Internet.

Ultimately, in the end, I have a very detailed breakdown of all the conditions regarding every musky in my boat for the year. This might sound like a lot of work, perhaps a little on the "geek" side of musky fishing. However, the facts of what, where, when, and how each musky is caught lend great statistics that are used for every future trip since



Example of waypoint collection on productive location.

trends and patterns are revealed by this information. These trends and patterns help produce consistency on a day-to-day basis and even dictate location under certain conditions.

Be sure to check back in the next issue where I will share the results of my 2011 season and any trends or patterns that made for some of the great memories my clients left with. 

Captain Dennis Radloff owns and operates Sterling Guide Service. He guides on the waters of Green Bay and Southeastern Wisconsin seven days a week April through November. Contact Dennis through his website [sterlingmusky.com](http://sterlingmusky.com) or at 262.443.9993.



Captain Dennis holding a big 2011 musky CPR'd on a hot waypoint from the 2010 season.



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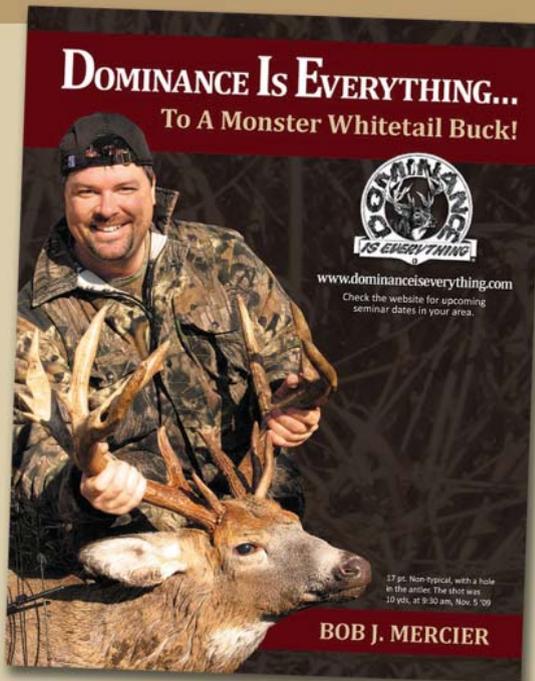
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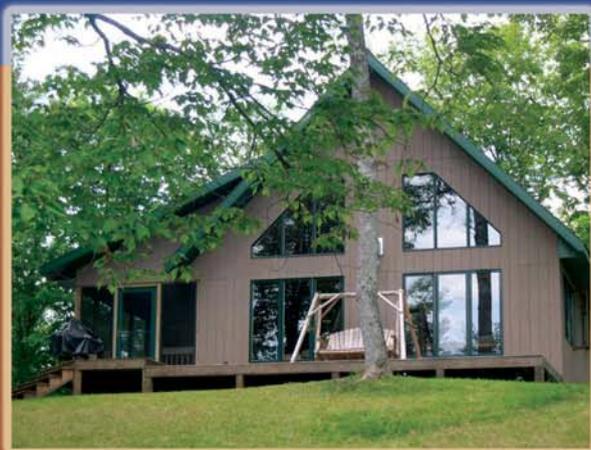
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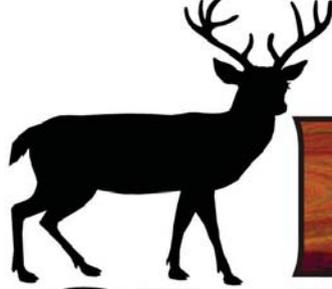
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JJ REICH

# The Reich Stuff

## Mississippi is my mistress



Wisconsin is my homeland honey hole. I was born and raised here. I love hunting for deer, ducks, turkeys and everything in between. As for my favorite place to hunt, I'm definitely married to the Badger State.

But, during the bitter-cold months of December and January, I often head south for some warmer-weather hunting action. When I am craving a southern-state hunting experience, Mississippi is my mistress. Over the last five years, I have harvested whitetail, waterfowl and wild boar all in the Magnolia State.

Mississippi has a bounty of public and private land hunts with high population of deer, wild turkey and waterfowl. But while you're at it, ask the guide, outfitter or landowner about a bonus hog hunt. Most landowners do not like hogs on their property and

permission to hunt them is fairly easy to come by. Hog hunting is definitely an exciting adventure, plus the removal of hogs helps in the never-ending task of wildlife management and conservation. Learn more about traveling to Mississippi at: [www.visitmississippi.org](http://www.visitmississippi.org).

And if you are interested in a good place to buy a hunt, I recommend you spend a few days with Terry Knight or any of the guides at Lifetime Hunts. For more information or to book a Mississippi hunt, visit [www.lifetimehuntsllc.com](http://www.lifetimehuntsllc.com) or call 662.726.9223. 

*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).*



*“Over the last five years, I have harvested whitetail, waterfowl and wild boar all in the Magnolia State.”*



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Combined these reductions will result in a net commission of 6% for this past season (2011) and 5.5% for the upcoming 2012 season.

**LAST RECEIVING DATES**

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
 January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
 April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

**SALE DATES**

January, 2012 (to be announced)  
 February 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012  
 May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The artwork is a detail from Near Journey's End Paul Calle is courtesy of the artist & art publisher Mill Pond Press.

JOEL KUNZ

## On Wisconsin's Rivers

*Getting that walleye tug on the line*



The author with a dandy February sauger caught below the Dells dam.

Although there may be a few places below dams where a guy can launch a boat and catch a few walleye, January is pretty much ice time if you are looking for a tug on the line. Sure, I've spent plenty of January and February days fishing the Wisconsin or Mississippi Rivers from a boat, but not as much in recent years. Age, less of an ability to weather the cold, and large amounts of snow have dwindled the flame that drove me to fish open water walleye in extreme conditions. But I've also grown fonder of catching walleye through the ice. Specifically, Wolf River ice.

Friends who fish and portable shelters make being on the ice much more comfortable. Seats outperform buckets and reduce fatigue, plus I can wear less clothing. That keeps me from getting overheated while setting up and drilling holes. Once you get sweaty, it's pretty easy to get cold. A small heater makes even the coldest night a comfortable experience.

Tip ups are a popular way to fish. Anglers gather in groups and set out lines of tip ups in transition areas above deep water and along shallow flats. You'll often see lines of black boxes, a local creation called Harry's Hot Box Tip Up. A candle keeps the inner workings warm, and the free spooling

ability of the design allows for light-biting fish to take some line without being spooked.

Walleye are often on the move this time of year, going from deep water zone to deep water zone in search of food. Rising and falling water levels caused by melting snow or rain will increase fish activity. Walleye will also use areas near tributaries and places where large back waters meet the river. Places such as the "Big Eddie," "Round Hole," the deep water near the mouth of the Rat River, and the mouth of the river at Lake Poygan all provide enough water where walleye may hold for long periods of time. But those are just the most well-known. There are many other areas where depths of 25 to 30 feet can be found, from Fremont to New London and above. Local anglers on snowmobiles and four-wheelers fish many of these areas, although great care should be taken at all times when traveling the river.

Whether fishing deep water or in a transition area, I like jigging. The feel of a walleye hitting the jig on a short stick makes fishing fun. I love fighting the fish and coaxing it through the hole, which should be drilled on a downstream angle. Long lining, a method pioneered by New London bait shop owner Don Cashmore, also works well. Dacron line with a short monofilament tippet and lightweight jig can be swept downstream to holding walleye. A video of Don describing his method is available at [www.thelittleshoppeofbait.com](http://www.thelittleshoppeofbait.com).

I'm a novice angler on the ice, but I can see why it is becoming so popular. Better equipment makes taking advantage of the access that ice provides an easier experience than in the days of my youth. Lightweight portable augers are eons above the ones I started with 30-plus years ago. Clothing, boots and ice fishing specific rods and reels make for a much better experience. There is also much better access to fishing information, and the local bait shops do a superior job providing everything that's needed than they did years ago. The fishing is often secondary to the

*continued on page 18*

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Adams County, Petenwell and Castle Rock Parks, on the 2nd and 4th largest lakes in Wisconsin, **are open year round for camping with heated shower/restroom facilities.** Enjoy winter camping, fantastic ice fishing, and over 200 miles of scenic snowmobile trails. [Click on Adams County.](#)

Winter in Richland County is where you want to be! Don't let cabin fever settle in. Come to Richland County and **experience winter in the driftless region.** Don't miss this year's Screamin' Half Mile Oval Ice Race in February. We do winter right! [Click on Richland County.](#)

Winter is a great time to explore Washburn County. Snowmobile through beautiful forests, ski and snowshoe the beautiful rolling hills, or go ice fishing on one of more than 950 lakes. **Whatever your winter pastime, you'll have a great time when you visit Washburn County!** [Click on Washburn County.](#)

Live life on the wild side! Visit Juneau County and the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge where **snowshoeing and cross country skiing enable wonderful wildlife viewing.** Tour the new NNWR Visitor Center and learn about great hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling opportunities available.

[Click on Juneau County.](#)

**Lakeview Log Cabin Resort** is an outdoorsman's getaway located on scenic Lake DuBay, offering walleye, northern, bass, catfish, and panfish year-round. Outdoor activities like hiking, skiing, hunting, and biking can be enjoyed at Rib Mountain State Park, Nine Mile Forest, Green Circle Trail, or various wildlife refuges, all nearby. [Click on Marathon County.](#)

**Looking to get outside this winter?** Head to Calumet County where you can tube down a hill at Calumet County Park, ride the snowmobile trails throughout the county, ice fish on Lake Winnebago, and check out the prehistoric sturgeons up close during sturgeon spearing! [Click on Calumet County.](#)

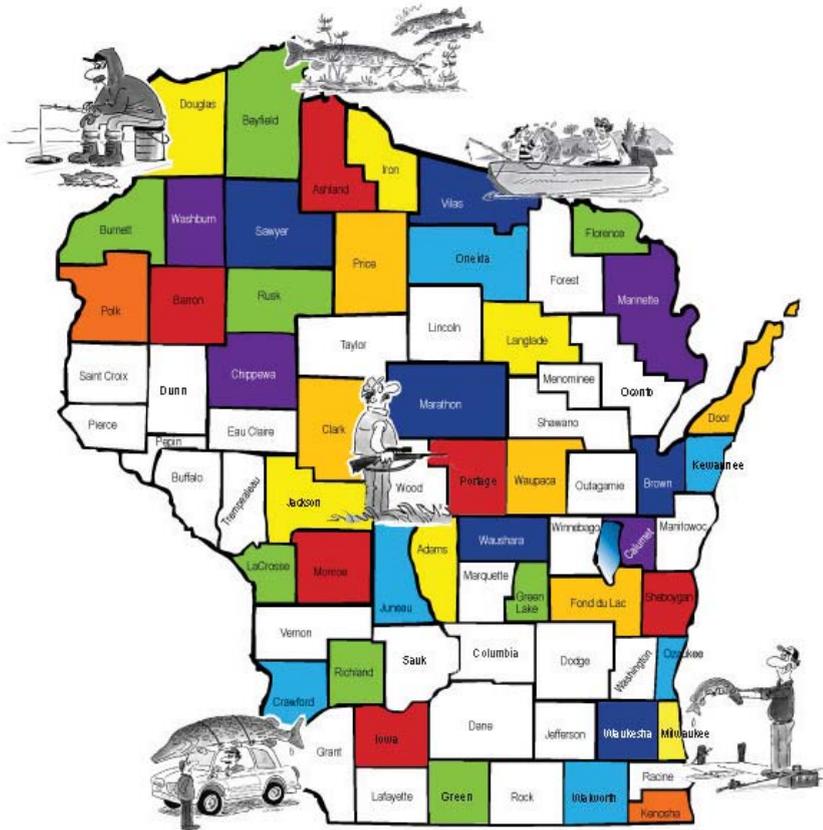
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Check snow and trail conditions online. Call for accommodations, attractions, events, shops and restaurants or to request a 2012 Vacation Guide or snowmobile map: 1.800.724.2992. [Click on Sawyer County.](#)

**Pack up your buddies and head to Green Bay for a guys' weekend!** The RV & Camping Show, January 18-21, is the perfect stop for outdoor enthusiasts. Or, visit the All Canada Sport Show, January 26-29, and start planning for your great adventure North. The Boat Show, February 16-19, has boats priced to sell and great exhibits on waterfront recreation. Call 1.888.867.3342 or [click on Brown County.](#)

The holidays are behind us, it's time to relax & have fun! **Come join us on over 370 miles of well-groomed snowmobile & ATV trails. Enjoy a day with the family while skiing, tubing & snowboarding.** Many more festivals, shops & activities to enjoy! [Click on Clark County.](#)

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Winter activities abound on Wisconsin's deepest inland lake and in Green Lake Country! **Join fellow ice fishermen February 11-12 for a fisherie on Big Green** or cross country ski shoreside at the Green Lake Conference Center on 7.5 miles of groomed trails. [Click on Green Lake County.](#)

Time for a winter getaway. The **Mississippi River is frozen and**

**ready for fantastic ice fishing.** March 3 is the date for Ferryville's Bald Eagle Day and you won't want to miss out on seeing fabulous raptors up close. Your friends at the Grandview Motel will be happy to accommodate your visit! [Click on Crawford County.](#)

**Do subzero temperatures send shivers of excitement down your spine?** Bundle up and come out and play in Douglas County. Ride our 400+ miles of snowmobile/Winter ATV trails, traverse 90k of X-C skiing, snowshoeing and skijoring trails, and fish our more than 200 inland lakes and rivers including Lake Superior. [Click on Douglas County.](#)

Happy new year! Are you ready for some fishing? Come see us at the sport shows in Milwaukee, Madison,

Green Bay and Chicago and book your trip to **Manotak Lodge in Canada.** Check out our half price trip for our fall special. 1.800.541.3431. [Click on Waupaca County.](#)

Ice Fishing is a big time draw in Ferryville on the Mississippi River. Pan fish are a favorite. Use the Ferryville Boat Launch to access the best fishing on the river. **March 3 is Bald Eagle & Raptor Day featuring live Eagle programs**, Lois the owl who flies around the room and Chloris Lowe, Ho Chunk Nation with Native American Program. [Click on Crawford County.](#)

Ever hear the term "walking on water"? Now is your chance to enjoy **walking on water while fishing through drilled holes inside a warm shack!** The opportunities are endless when spending time fishing this winter season with Wolf Pack Adventures! Let us take you to the hot spot! [Click on Sheboygan 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.](#)

**Wern Valley Sportsman's Club winter sporting clays is open to the public** Saturdays from 10-3 p.m.. Join the January 28 NSCA registered 100-bird sporting clays and 50-bird 5-stand tournament. Or hunt our wily pheasants through April 15 and keep the upland experience going strong right into spring. [Click on Waukesha County.](#)

Come try out some **amazing fishing on the Bay of Green Bay** this ice fishing season. **Whitefish, perch and northern pike** did very well in the 2010 ice fishing season. Limit is ten per person on whitefish and limits were the norm! Call Zach at 920.559.7473 for a great time. [Click on Kewaunee County.](#)

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- Eagle Point Cabin
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- Fremont Area Chamber
- Manotak Lodge, Ontario
- Wolf River Outfitters Resort

## WAUSHARA COUNTY

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**KUNZ, from page 15**

memories, sunsets and bull sessions that make up the activity. Well, at least for a guy who has never caught a lot of fish while angling.

Wolf River Country backwaters, mill ponds and small area lakes also provide a great deal of action for panfish and pike. Bluegill are a favorite target, but anglers will also be in search of crappie and perch. Location of the best schools varies year to year, but the Boom Bay area and Pages Slough are popular destinations. The west end of Lake Poygan usually produces some quality fishing for northern pike, and crappie can be found in area channels and out on Lake Poygan. Anglers are also expecting another good year for walleye fishing on Poygan. The past few years have been fairly good for walleye and white bass, whether using tip ups or jigging. Schools of fish use the bays, horseshoe hole and areas near the river current to feed.

**February Fools?**

Over the last three decades I have always looked forward to the inevitable January thaw that leads to some February open water fishing. Although

there are a couple of other potential destinations on both the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, the area below the Dells dam has always been my favorite. Here, owners of Rivers Edge Resort and some local enthusiasts do everything possible to have the launch open and available for hearty anglers. Fishing can be excellent or you might just catch a few, but the potential for some quality eaters and the fantastic scenery always makes for a great day on the water.

So get out and enjoy a tug on the line. Opportunities exist for ice anglers and die hard open water anglers who, like me, enjoy hunting for walleye. Hope to see you out there. *OWO*

*Joel "Doc" Kunz is a 2005 "Readers Choice Award" winner and member of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW). Visit [docswaters.com](http://docswaters.com) or his new project [lifeonthewolf.com](http://lifeonthewolf.com) for information on fishing in the lower Wolf River area of Wisconsin.*

**DUWE, from page 3**

the weight and the jigs allows the jig to get tangled easier. The heavy weights are called pencil weights. I like a weight attractor by Tommy Harris Blades called an agitator in a ½-ounce weight. The weight allows you to fish faster, getting the jig to actively feeding fish. Fishing faster in deep water prevents the fish from roaming away before you catch as many as possible.

To help pick up the pencil weight on the Vexilar, I add a very small washer above the weight. Again, fish upper fish first because you don't want to spook the whole school. Tip your ice jigs with spikes or wax worms. If I am over a big school, I will put another line pole down, a dead stick, placing the bait about 1 foot above. A dead stick is a pole you just let fish without any action. I will bait my dead stick poles with live bait: a small minnow or wiggler.

I use a stiff small jig pole with a spinning reel spooled with 4-pound

test. Fishing in such deep water, you will need to reel in the fish. Also, when the fish bite the stiffer rod, it will let you set the hook more effectively. Because of this, I use a spring bobber. Consider the sensitivity of the spring bobber. Don't use one for bluegills because they are too sensitive with the heavy weight.

Having multiple poles rigged allows me to change baits quickly without having to re-tie. A change of bait can entice a lot of the non-biters and get a school active again.

Don't let midwinter get you down. This is down deep perch primetime. And remember, the number one ice fishing secret is to always stay safe. *OWO*

*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).*



**ON THE COVER:** Each year, OWO reporters travel to Lake Winnebago during the sturgeon spearing season, where they interview and photo both the lucky, like Erik Kollman of Fond du Lac on the cover with his first sturgeon in 15 years of trying, and the not-so-lucky. According to Fisheries Biologist Ron Bruch, well over 12,000 licenses have been sold for the 2012 season slated for February 11, a 49 percent increase since 2007. Even without a license, don't miss the party. The assorted Wisconsin nuts will all be on ice, and well worth the trip.

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DICK HENSKE

# Beyond Wisconsin Borders

## Waiting to shoot a black bear? Think Ontario!



Steve Henske of Stevens Point (left) and Dick Henske of Manitowish Waters (right) help celebrate Mukwonago resident Dean Pavletich's 300 pound-plus dry sow taken in Ontario as a guest of Sturgeon Lake Lodge.

It takes six to eight years to get a bear permit in Wisconsin. Can't wait? Try Ontario. Three of us decided to plan a bear/ fishing trip last March. We checked various outfitters within easy reach of Wisconsin and selected Sturgeon Lake Lodge, located north of Ignace on Hwy. 599, 630 miles north of Wausau, WI. It was a great choice.

The cabin was modern and close to the bait stations. The owner, Jim Hall, has a daughter, Margaret Chambers, who manages the fishing and hunting resort. It's a family-operated business that has everything you need. For \$1,200 a week, Margaret baits the stands and feeds you.

We have done this type of trip before, so we know a good outfitter needs great bait locations and stands that are hit; a place to cut and wrap the bear; freezer space; excellent fishing, boats and motors. They have it all!

Sturgeon Lake had 100% success on bears, but if you wounded an animal, you are done. This is a noble policy.

We went late in the season and still had a fantastic time. They provided stands, but some were located too far from the bait for a safe bow shot. We put up one of our stands. Bringing your own stand is not a bad idea.

My son, Steve Henske, missed a

large bear when his arrow deflected on a branch. My nephew, Dean Pavletich, shot a huge sow. The bear was mostly processed into sausage, and the ribs were given to my neighboring taverns to be prepared for the Packer/Bear game.

Sturgeon Lake is 60 miles long and has a great lake trout fishery. For walleyes and northern, the outfitter has boats on "back-in" lakes, and we had no problem catching limits of nice-sized walleyes. Margaret prepared walleyes for us twice. She also served us bear tenderloins.

The resort also has an outpost camp that we visited. It can sleep a large group to fish for walleye, northern and lake trout. It is 22 miles away, and you are taken there by tug boat. Check the resort's website for details. When we visited the outpost, we had a huge bull moose in the water that stayed close, listening to our fake cow calls.

Hunting north of Ignace is ideal. To get there, we drove up the Minnesota side of Lake Superior, then entered Canada at the Pigeon Forge customs crossing, south of Thunder Bay. This is not a busy crossing. You need a passport and can't have a DWI or any warrants against you. To register your rifle or shotgun, you need a form, which is available online, and \$25. Bows

and crossbows have no restrictions and are legal for hunting. Remember, you are allowed one case of beer or one bottle of liquor. You'll pay duty on any overage.

License fees are \$219.01 for bear; \$28.27 for an eight-day fishing license; and you'll need an outdoors card for both hunting and fishing, which cost \$10.00 each and lasts for three years.

We picked up our licenses at Silver Dollar Campgrounds and Outfitters, which is less than five miles from the Sturgeon Lake Resort. Marty and Theresa Brindly are the owners and have a complete store with food, beverages, tackle and valuable information. Nice people!

At Sturgeon Lake Lodge, all you need to bring are your gun and/or bow, clothes, hunting and fishing items, boning knives and freezer paper.

Overall, it was a wonderful trip. If you are planning a bear, grouse or fishing trip, give them a chance. I suggest you go during the first three weeks of the season, which starts August 15th. After three weeks, you'll see fewer bears and they'll usually be larger ones.

Margaret Chambers became a friend in one week, and I'll be dropping bear sausage off for her in June while on

### Canadian Helpful Hints

- If you use a gun, keep all paperwork with you that is issued at the border. Don't lend that gun to someone else in your party.
- Follow all fish bag limits/sizes to the letter.
- Hunting and fishing licenses must be with you.
- Read all regulations and follow the rules.
- Grouse hunting is great, but 50% of them are spruce grouse, which are dumber than a rock and not as good eating.

my way to Savant Lake with our fishing crew. <sup>WO</sup>

For more information, call 1.800.487.9919 or [sturgeonlakeridge@shaw.ca](mailto:sturgeonlakeridge@shaw.ca) or visit [www.sturgeonlakeridge.com](http://www.sturgeonlakeridge.com).

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



Sturgeon Lake Lodge Owner Jim Hall used a cow call to bring this big bull to his Wisconsin guests fishing for walleyes during the moose rutting season. The bull didn't realize his mistake until Dean Pavletich had taken plenty of photos, up close and personal.

GARY ENGBERG

# Gary Engberg Outdoors

## Stocking continues on the Madison lakes

I've been writing the last few years about the stocking of muskies in Wisconsin's lakes and particularly the Madison Chain of Lakes. Muskies have been regularly stocked on Lake Monona, Lake Waubesa, and, to a lesser extent, on Lake Wingra for the last few years with the purpose being to distinguish if either the Wisconsin muskie strain or the Minnesota Leech Lake strain of fish reproduce and/or grow faster than the other strain.

Despite the good population of muskies on the Madison waters, there is no evidence of natural reproduction. The Leech Lake muskie strain has done well on other Wisconsin lakes like Nancy Lake near Minong where they were stocked. They are known for their rapid growth as well as for being able to reproduce in most Midwestern waters.

The raising and stocking of muskies is an expensive process, so that is why the Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. has contributed and paid for many of the stocked fish. The Leech Lake strain of muskies has been stocked in Lake Monona for over six years, and it will be a few more years before the stocked fish reach the legal size of 45 inches. But this past October, a Leech Lake strain of muskie was caught that measured 37.25 inches long. The muskie was originally stocked at 9.9 inches in 2006. This means that the muskie grew 5.5 inches per year.

The Wisconsin DNR has proven that they can raise the Leech Lake muskie strain if given the opportunity. The muskie strains are raised in the Spooner Hatchery. Once the eggs are put in a hatchery jar, the rearing cost is no more than the Wisconsin or Thompson muskie strain that has been stocked for decades in the state. The State of Wisconsin hopes that once natural reproduction takes place on these "test" lakes, hopefully, stocking may no longer be necessary. In this period of tight budgets and layoffs, reducing hatchery costs with a better muskie strain is the way to go in the future.

The Leech Lake muskie strain will be compared with the Wisconsin strain of barred muskies to see which strain is best suited for the state's waters. The Wisconsin DNR's southern fish manager, Kurt Welke, says that the Leech Lake strain is the beginning of a "thorough and comprehensive multi-year experiment." The mixing of the two different strains shouldn't be a problem or threaten the fish populations and environment of Lake Monona. Before their release, the muskies were "tagged" with a passive-integrated-transponder (PIT) inserted in their bodies. After a "wand" is passed over the fish, these PIT tags allow technicians and assisting anglers to record data for research. The data recorded includes when the fish was stocked, the measureables, and the initial muskie size.

This research will take many years to produce any solid data available for the fishery managers to compare and decide what is the fastest growing



Jeff Hanson with a 52-inch muskie from the Madison Chain.

***“Despite the good population of muskies on the Madison waters, there is no evidence of natural reproduction.”***

and most economical muskie to raise and stock in Wisconsin's waters. Hopefully, the stocking will be minimal if the Leech Lake muskies reproduce in these waters and do as well as they have in other lakes.

The future looks bright for the Madison Chain, Lake Wissota, and the Petenwell Flowage, all where Leech Lake muskies have been stocked the last few years. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, there have been six muskies caught over the magic 50-inch mark in the Madison lakes. This is the first verified catch of muskies this size in these lakes.

This past fall, the DNR and the Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. have again been busy stocking muskies. In October, the Madison lakes were stocked with Wisconsin strain muskies in the 10-

12-inch range at various locations around the lake. Workers have to be careful because larger muskies and sea gulls feast on these smaller fish.

Recently, I was at the Olin Park boat landing in downtown Madison for a stocking of the Leech Lake strain. I ran into chapter president Lee Bartolini, who gave me some facts and information on the project and the contributions the club has made. Lee said, "As a club whose primary purpose is to promote the sport of muskie fishing, we work closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in its effort to maintain a high quality muskellunge sport fishery through stocking." In cooperation with the DNR, they are stocking 1,000 muskies a year in Lake Monona, 500 Leech Lake strain and 500 Wisconsin strain fish for a period of five years. All the released muskies were PIT tagged and measured 10-12 inches when stocked. The muskies cost \$13.00 each plus the tag, which the club is also paying for besides the muskie. This year the Capital City Chapter wrote a check for over \$6,000.00 for the muskie stocking.

Since it began, over 3,000 muskies have been stocked for this study. Five hundred 10-12-inch Wisconsin strain muskies and 500 Leech Lake strain muskies have been stocked in 2007, 2008, 2009, and again in 2011. Leech Lake muskies were not available in 2010. There have been other muskies stocked, but all the muskies in this study have the PIT tag in them for gathering information and helping the future of muskies in the state of Wisconsin. Most of the data gathered so far has come from Wisconsin strain muskies that have been caught and "passed" over with the wand to read the implanted PIT tags.

Only time will tell, but make sure to fish the Madison Chain for muskies because it looks like the fishing will continue to improve and you won't have to go to Canada to catch a 50-inch fish! 

Gary Engberg can be reached at [www.garyengbergoutdoors.com](http://www.garyengbergoutdoors.com).



**Amy Olson, 30, of Onalaska** caught this birthday present; a 46.5 pound flathead catfish on the Mississippi River near Lacrosse in September.

TOM CARPENTER

# Badger Birds

## Red-breasted Nuthatch



**A**lthough not as common as their white-breasted cousins, red-breasted nuthatches present an appeal and excitement all their own. The appeal: These lovely and energetic little birds readily come to Wisconsin yards and gardens, especially in fall and winter, if you know what to offer them. The excitement: Nomadic red-breasts might be here today and gone tomorrow, so enjoy their striking beauty every moment you can.

To recognize a red-breast, look for a small nuthatch with a black cap, black stripe through the eye, blue-gray back, and handsome rusty-red breast. Listen for a high-pitched “ank-ank-ank” call as the birds flit and feed through forest, yard or garden.

Plant pines and conifers to attract

red-breasts. They use the trees as cover and eat seeds from the cones.

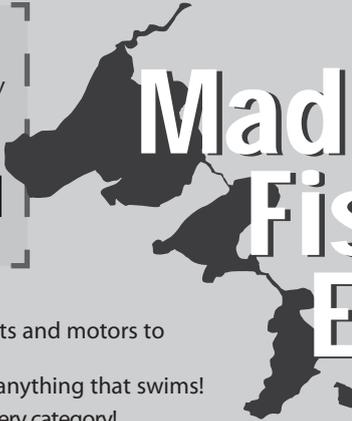
Feed acrobatic red-breasted nuthatches peanuts or black-oil sunflower seeds from a tube feeder. Trays work too. Offer suet in a basket. Or place a bone (with meat and fat on it; a back leg from a deer you butchered is perfect) in a mesh potato bag and hang from a tree. Red-breasts need the protein.

Did you know that red-breasts are known to smear pine pitch around their nest cavity’s entrance? The goal is to improve their grip as they enter and exit and discourage predators from reaching in. <sup>WO</sup>

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

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KEVIN MICHALOWSKI

# Dog Talk

## Fresh water is key to winter dog care

Sometimes it looks like winter can be really tough on dogs that live outside. But the beauty of canine evolution is that dogs are wonderfully equipped to live outdoors, even during the coldest months, as long as all their basic needs are met.

Water, food, and shelter, as any first-semester biology student knows, are the three most basics needs for any animal. Dog owners who keep their pets outdoors during the winter months have got to pay special attention to these needs in order to keep the dogs healthy, comfortable and happy. While most dog owners go out of their way to provide a little extra food and a warm place to curl up out of the wind when temperatures drop, the real key to keeping a dog warm in the winter is an ample supply of fresh water.

Water is what allows the dog to successfully digest food and turn those calories into body heat. Even if a dog is allowed or encouraged to eat all it can, without fresh water the animal won't be able to put those nutrients to their best possible use. The result is a cold dog and more work for you when it comes time to clean up after the animal.

The single best way to provide water to a dog is through an electrically heated water bowl or bucket. There are several models on the market in a



***“Water is what allows the dog to successfully digest food and turn those calories into body heat.”***

wide range of styles and prices, but a simple, sturdy, flat-backed bucket, like those commonly used in horse barns, is the most durable and cost-effective. These buckets typically retail for less than \$50 and hold enough water that they don't need to be filled every day. While they are tough, they are not indestructible. The most common cause of damage to these buckets is a power outage that allows water to freeze in the

bottom. The resulting cracks are all but impossible to repair.

As for food, there's really no need to switch to an ultra-high-protein dog food for the winter, unless your dog is very active. A high-quality adult formula dog food will work fine. What dogs can use when the weather turns cold is an additional source of fat. A few fatty treats like a hot dog or a slice of bologna or even cooked bacon will

provide the dog with extra fat during extreme cold. Just don't overdo it. Dogs should not be living on a diet of table scraps. The majority of their nutrition should come from a well-balanced dog food.

Shelter can be just about anything that protects the dog from the wind and allows the animal to remain up off the cold ground. That means good, clean bedding is a must. Anything from a custom-made, insulated doghouse to a plastic 55-gallon drum will provide adequate shelter as long as it has decent ventilation and good supply of clean bedding. The doghouse should be large enough for the dog to sit up and turn around comfortably. If it is too big, the animal's body heat won't be retained effectively. A weatherproof door is an option, but as long as the entry is turned away from the prevailing wind and the dog has room to move to the rear of the house, the animal should be able to stay warm.

Keeping a dog warm in winter is really quite simple. As long as you are diligent about supplying the basics, most dogs will do very well outside. 

*Kevin Michalowski is author of "15 Minutes to a Great Dog" (Krause Publications, \$12.95) and has been training dogs for 10 years.*

### KIESOW, from page 25

whereby they are collected. This is done to learn what is in a particular section of river, which relates to the health of the river. I did this in several sections of the Milwaukee River. It was fun and an interesting learning experience. I was surprised at how many different species live in that river—some good, some not so good—and where you find them.

### Looking Ahead

So what do I hope to do in 2012? Fish more, or course. I'll also continue to introduce people to the sport of fly fishing, including tying. To see this year's schedule, go to my website: [www.jerrykiesowoc.com](http://www.jerrykiesowoc.com) and click on

“workshops.”

Through our new online fly fishing Q&A at [OnWisconsinOutdoors.com](http://OnWisconsinOutdoors.com), if you ask, we will do our best to give you answers. E-mail me at: [flyfishing@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:flyfishing@onwisconsinoutdoors.com). But be advised, I may not always be quick to respond. I often fish in places where Web access is not available, so please have patience. I look forward to your questions. 

*Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors. To keep track of what he is doing and where, to see his photos and read some of his other writings, including his book, "Tales of The Peshtigo Putzer," check out his website: [www.jerrykiesowoc.com](http://www.jerrykiesowoc.com).*





"THE LAST STRAW WAS WHEN HE STARTED GETTING HIS MAIL AT HIS ICE FISHING HOUSE!"

**SURA**, from page 4

26-inch walleye, his biggest ever, after a nice battle. The fish was released after a few photos.

Once back in for the evening, we e-mailed or Skyped our families via the wireless internet available to the guests. Kati would help me find a taxidermist for the walleye that would help me to remember my time at Manotak Lodge for many years to come.

A weather change Thursday chased 90-degree temperatures and brought the winds. Despite the change we packed our gear in the van and drove to the musky lake available to fish by the guests of Manotak Lodge. We headed out only to find it nearly impossible to control the boats and fish effectively. After a few hours of futile fishing, we surrendered to the weather, spending the rest of the day at Manotak relaxing and discussing the plan for our last day on the water.

Friday brought more wind and scattered showers, weather more typical of Ontario. Despite the weather Mark and I headed back to the "shore lunch spot" where we landed several nice eater walleyes and lots of bass. On our way back for lunch we fished Little Manotak Island, where we found more bass and Mark's biggest walleye, a very nice 23-inch fish that he released.

That afternoon we fished for bass and northern, saw a pair of otters as well as many loons and eagles. For the week, we had landed well over 100 bass and northern and 50 walleyes. Not bad for a week of fishing, especially considering I was the only one who had fished the lake before. Several of us had taken the biggest walleyes and smallmouth of our lives, while Mark claimed both the



Tony Firlé traveled to Manotak Lodge in Ontario with Wisconsin anglers Dave Sura, Rich Henderson and Mark Peterson. The groups found food and fishing much to their liking.

largest pike and largest smallmouth he had ever before caught.

Wow, what a week. We all had a blast and can't wait till next year. If you're thinking of heading north of the border next year, I highly recommend Manotak Lodge. Dave, Linda, and their staff are awesome. They bend over backwards for each guest, clean your fish for you, and genuinely care about you. It's true what they say: "You came here a guest and leave as a friend."

Connect with Manotak Lodge at [www.manotak.com](http://www.manotak.com) or 1.800.541.3431. I guarantee you won't be disappointed with the lodge or the fishing on beautiful Perrault Lake. 

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



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- Women in Hunting
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- Wisconsin Legislative update

**Friday, March 9**

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

**Saturday, March 10**

Registration	8:00 to 8:30am
Session II	8:30 to 12:00pm
Lunch (provided) I	2:00 to 1:00pm
Session III	1:00 to 2:30pm

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES All Three Sessions, Friday Duck Hunter's Party, Saturday Continental Breakfast and Saturday Lunch!**



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**Friday 6:00-10:00pm**

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**Additional information and registration forms online**  
**[wiswaterfowlersconf.org](http://wiswaterfowlersconf.org)**

S. WILKERSON

# Surplus Firearms

## *Suffering from an identity crisis: Yugoslavian Model 48*

Marshall Josip Tito bound the disparate groups that made up Yugoslavia with his security forces and cult of personality. The wholesale slaughter of his opponents during World War II and after no doubt also went a long way in cowering dissent. Despite his murderous ways, the man who brought Nazis and Chetniks to their knees and stood up to Stalin did command the respect of his people.

When the old partisan died in 1980, his successors proved incapable of keeping the numerous religious, ethnic and nationalistic forces that divided Yugoslavia stitched together. Within a decade of Tito's death, Yugoslavia began to unravel into bloody and brutal civil wars with death tolls the likes of which Europe had not seen since World War II.

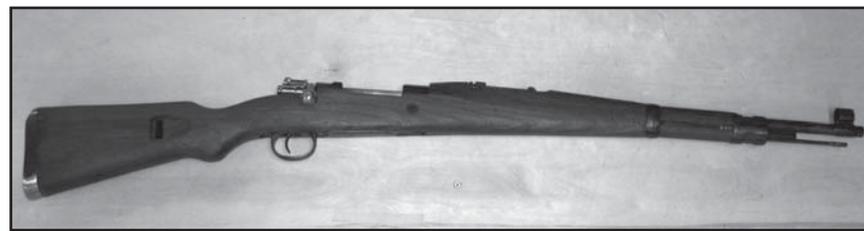
Unfortunately for the civilians caught in the crossfire of the warring factions, the United Nations tried to bring peace to the situation and failed miserably. There are numerous examples of blue-helmeted UN troops standing by helplessly as they watched Bosnians, Serbians, Muslims and Christians exterminate each other. Only after NATO intervened by bombing the final warring factions into submission was peace restored and the dissolution of Yugoslavia into a number of independent nations complete.

The armies, paramilitary organizations, and terrorists that tore the country apart were armed with a variety of weapons that they used against each other, as well as tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children, many of whom were shot by snipers simply for the "fun" of it. There are also tales, possibly true, of wealthy Europeans who paid large amounts of money during the conflict for the opportunity to use a sniper rifle to kill civilians for "sport."

The ubiquitous AK 47 and SKS were fielded in greater numbers than any other weapon during the breakup of Yugoslavia, a conflict that also saw sporting rifles and captured German 98Ks from World War II pressed into action. In third place in terms of use was the first mass-produced rifle in

Yugoslavia, the Model 48, a rifle that has suffered a serious identity crisis for many years thanks to the lies and half-truths of a major distributor. This distributor's magazine ads implied for years that the Model 48s he sold were made on German machinery in Yugoslavia for the Nazis.

In truth, the Model 48 had nothing to do with Nazis. The rifle was adopted in 1948, three years after the war's end, and its receiver is shorter than the Model 98 action upon which



***"In truth, the Model 48 had nothing to do with Nazis."***

it is based. Model 48s were made into the 1960s, and they have Curios and Relics status. Like the 98K that armed the Wehrmacht, the Model 48 features a rugged and reliable claw extractor and fires five, 8mm rounds held in an internal box magazine. While not quite a true carbine at 42 inches long, the Model 48 is about an inch shorter than the 98 and weighs about the same.

Approximately 10 ago, a flood surplus of Model 48s entered the market, ranging from poor to never-issued shape and sold from about \$90 to \$200, depending upon condition. The unscrupulous distributor, who pawned them off to the unwary as German World War II rifles, sold them for about twice that amount.

When they first came into the country, some gun enthusiasts considered the Model 48 as damaged goods, despite the fact that many of them were new and had flawless wood stocks and beautifully blued metal. Workmanship was almost pre-war in quality, and, if shot with decent ammunition, the guns were extremely accurate.

Some of the guns did indeed suffer from a serious, though easily fixed, malady: They were too well maintained by the Yugoslavian army, which held them in war reserve for decades after the adoption of the SKS and later, the AK 47. On a very regular basis, Yugoslavian conscripts took the stored weapons apart to check their condition, fired them to ensure function, and doused them with liberal quantities of grease. Some guns ooze history; surplus Model 48s ooze

stock's every pore.

Elm rates right up there with oak as a suitable wood for gunstocks, which is to say, not very high. It is a fairly weak and fibrous wood and easily chips and breaks. Like many others, a small portion of the heel of my rifle's butt stock is broken off. The bluing on the rifle gleams, and, when warm, the stock leaks grease. The sights are of the barley corn variety and unfit for anyone over the age of 35. Without my Merit Optical Attachment on my eyeglasses, I can barely find the front sight through the rear sight notch. With it, I can actually see the sights. The trigger pull is fairly long, but very smooth, and crisply breaks at about five pounds. At exactly nine pounds unloaded, the gun doesn't carry like an AR15, nor does it recoil as lightly. All that weight does help tame the recoil, which, while certainly not akin to the kiss of an angel, is also nowhere near the kick of a mule.

Sporting a perfect crown, shiny lands, and sharp rifling, my 48A is an accurate rifle. After purchasing it, I loaded it up with some 1970s vintage 196 grain Yugoslavian M75 sniper ammunition and took it to the range. My first shots were at 25 yards to get an idea of how well they grouped. The result was all three rounds touching each other. At 100 yards, I got some groups of less than two inches. Better eyes and a sturdier gun rest would have made for smaller and more consistent groups.

If you come across a Yugo 48 in decent shape, you should buy it. The guns are well-built, accurate, easy to clean and increasing in value. If you do buy one, buy as many surplus 8mm rounds as you can, because it appears to be drying up fast. <sup>WO</sup>

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

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cosmoline from their barrels, bolts and wood stocks and everywhere else it was slathered. If their bolts were not field stripped by their new owners and rid of the copious amounts of cosmoline that occupied them prior to shooting, some Model 48s would not fire and/or extract spent cartridges. Internet gun forums were filled with complaints about the guns not working correctly. In reality, all they needed was the kind of cleaning that common sense should have dictated.

I recently stumbled upon a never-issued Model 48A at a gun show. The 48A is differentiated from the 48 by the use of some stamped parts, such as the magazine floor plate and trigger guard. Like many 48s, mine has an elmwood stock, which is often misidentified on gun forums as teak wood. Why anyone would think that a poor, but heavily-wooded, nation like Yugoslavia would import teak wood for their guns defies the imagination and common sense. I suppose the stock wood could be mistaken for teak because it's reddish in color, but that's actually the result of the cosmoline that permeates the wood

JERRY KIESOW

# Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

## 2011 in review



Author demonstrates a retrieving technique to students.

So ... here it is, 2012. Another year of promise. How did 2011 go for you? I thought I'd share some of the ups and downs of my past fly fishing season with you.

### The Classes

My fly tying and fly fishing classes at Riveredge Nature Center went very well. In fact, it was one of the best years I have had recently. The students in the tying classes were quick learners, so we ended up tying a pattern or two more than originally planned. That is a sign of a really talented class.

The students informed me that my hands-on classes, in conjunction with You Tube instructions, proved to be invaluable to them. I mention this in the new brochure I have out for 2012 classes. I also will check out in advance just how the patterns we tie in class are taught online. There is always something new to learn, isn't there?

The beginner's fly fishing classes, including the one held for the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin on Memorial Day weekend, were full, as always. This past year we had several generations of one family in the same

class: grandfather, father, son, daughter, and, I believe, an uncle. That brought about some "friendly" competition during the actual fishing portion of the class. We also had several husband and wife teams last year. They always add a bit of spice to the class.

The intermediate fly fishing classes were interesting. For me, these classes, which are limited to two individuals, are the most fun and challenging. Even though I have an agenda, the classes are all about what the students want and need to know to move forward in the sport. Every class is different. I love 'em, and the students tell me they do also.

This year I held a new class about fly fishing for salmon. It was well attended, but the students wanted more instruction on tying flies. Based on this type of feedback, I will be making a few adjustments to the fishing classes this year.

### The Fishing

"That's all well and good, Jerry," you may be thinking, "but how was your real-time fishing? What spectacular species did you land last year?" Well, if the truth be told, it was just an average year. Good in some areas, not so good in others.

At our cottage, the fishing was a bit below average. Not in quantity but quality. I have heard this from several

people in other parts of the state this year, so maybe it was not only our area. Around our home base, steelheading was almost a washout, literally, with all the high water, but if you read our publisher, Dick's, story, "For The Love Of Flyfishing" in the April 25, 2011, issue on the Web, you know we did get out and have some fun.

Smallmouth bass fishing in the Milwaukee River was excellent. I do not remember a time out when I did not catch fish—the skunk never stayed in the box.

The new stretch of river in Grafton at Lime Kiln park, now available to those of us who wade, is a challenging section of water. For details, see my complete two-part story in our online issues in June/July and August/September. I will place a short update in this issue's online Q&A column.

On the downside, I only once got to cast a fly to trout this past season. It was in late March on the Onion, which

is in Sheboygan County.

During the fall run on salmon, I was having a day when the kings would not bite but were chasing around after each other and getting foul hooked on many casts and/or retrieves. One of those hook-ups was in the dorsal fin of a fish and resulted in a lost fly. Later that morning I found a pattern they did hit: a peach-bodied, brass beadhead with an orange marabou tail. The third fish I landed on that fly had my previously lost fly still in its dorsal. I retrieved the fly before I released the salmon. That was a first.

### Something Absolutely New For Me

I also had the opportunity to get involved with an activity that I have never had the opportunity to do: electro-fishing. Electro-fishing is a team effort where electric probes sweep through the water, stunning fish,

*continued on page 22*

## 28<sup>th</sup> WISCONSIN DEER & TURKEY EXPO

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OWO STAFF

## Product 6-Pack

### Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

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

#### ROD-N-BOBB'S MR. ICE FOAM BOBBERS



For \$3 a 2-pack, these foam bobbers are designed to feature removable foam inserts, so you can easily customize your set-up. The foam portion of the bobber slips off the bottom base and can be replaced with low-cost refills. Refills are available in three sizes, and in bright orange or yellow.

"I like simple stuff. And, these

bobbers are pretty simple: Just choose the size foam you want, and twist it onto the plastic base. The base is also designed to quickly snap on/off your line without untying your jig. Plus, you can easily insert Ron-N-Bobb's Beacon Light Sticks in the foam for night fishing." -J.J.R.

[www.rod-n-bobbs.com](http://www.rod-n-bobbs.com)

#### NORTHLAND BIONIC ICE LINE

For \$3.30 per 125-yard spool, this ice fishing line is available in Clear color or Northland's Vertical AquaFlage Blue Camo. The camouflage is a unique blend of blue tints that allow for visibility when watching your line above the ice, yet blends-in against the ice when seen underwater. It's available in 2- through 8-pound strengths.

"This line generated a lot of buzz last season because of its brute strength, light-bite sensitivity and smooth flexibility. I like that fact that it's available in strengths of 3- and



5-pounds so you can fine tune your set-up, if needed." -J.J.R.

[www.northlandtackle.com](http://www.northlandtackle.com)

#### ESKIMO FATFISH 949 ICE SHELTER

For \$300, Eskimo's Fat Fish pop-up portable utilizes an innovative wide-bottom design. The bottom of the shelter flares out to achieve a maximum amount of fishable area inside the tent. The FatFish series includes four different models with three different sizes. The FatFish 949 (shown) has a capacity of 3-4 anglers and is also available in an insulated version.



"The wide-bottom design makes for a large interior that you need to see to believe. Other great features big A-frame windows, reflective tape, and reinforced corners." -J.J.R.

[www.geteskimo.com](http://www.geteskimo.com)

#### NAP APACHE DROP-AWAY ARROW REST

For \$70, The APACHE Drop-Away Arrow Rest from New Archery Product



features a full-containment housing; a 360-degree sound dampening pad; a self-centering, felt-covered V launcher that makes for a quiet drawback, with total fletching clearance; and all-aluminum component construction throughout for toughness and durability.

"Drop-away arrow rests have a reputation for being troublesome to set up and difficult to adjust. Well, not this one! Its tool-less adjustment knobs feature super-fine, laser-etched graduations for fast tuning, making adjustments simple and easy." -J.J.R.

[www.newarchery.com](http://www.newarchery.com)

#### OTTER OUTDOORS' AUGER SHIELD



For \$50, this full-length auger shield (with mount) is a great way to store your ice auger, and transport it. It completely protects your expensive gear from being damaged by the sharp metal edge of the blade, while also protecting the blade itself. It's designed to fit standard length augers with 8-inch or 10-inch diameter blades.

"Protect yourself and your gear from sharp auger blades. The shield is made of tough, durable polyethylene plastic. It also has a built-in carrying handle for easy transport and easy storage. Just hang it on the wall in your garage." -D.E.

[www.otteroutdoors.com](http://www.otteroutdoors.com)

#### CHAMPION RE-STICK TARGETS

For \$9.50 a 10-pack, these new targets are packaged in peel-and-stick, 25-sheet pads. They are produced by the makers of 3M brand notes. Each target has multiple adhesive strips that stick to most clean and dry surfaces. There are eleven new target designs. The turkey target design has



plenty of red on the gobbler's head, so you can clearly see it from distances of greater than 40 yards.

"I like this new turkey Re-Stick Target. No staples and no tape means no hassles! It has a 10-inch and a 15-inch circle with grids of 1-inch squares. The 1-inch squares help you determine if the spread of your pattern is ideal. Plus, it has a note section to record your performance." -L.H.

[www.championtarget.com](http://www.championtarget.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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