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JOHN LINDEMAN

Chasing Green Bay's Nomadic Walleyes

Change your mindset!

Are you ready to shift how you think about catching walleyes? Are you ready to throw the tried and true tactics your grandfather taught you overboard? Can you adopt and employ new methods that address a fresh set of walleye rules?

The only obstacle between you and schools of open water walleyes may be a stubborn mind that's set on taking the familiar path. Don't get me wrong; I'm not asking you to throw everything you know about walleyes out the window. I am merely offering a different path to follow. Free your mind and the rest will follow.

If you are willing to cast fear and doubt aside, you may find yourself on the special body of water you've heard so much about in recent years. This summer you may find yourself prospecting for Green Bay gold.

For a few years my fishing buddies and I postponed our first trip to Green Bay. It seemed too much to handle. We couldn't find the strength to pull ourselves away from the great slip bobber bite on Lake Winnebago. Eventually we threw caution to the wind and jumped in with both feet.

"Can you adopt and employ new methods that address a fresh set of walleye rules?"

What follows are some of the same tips we used to get our feet wet on our first trip to that big body of walleye water.

Many Wisconsin anglers get stuck in a rut. They focus strictly on bottom structure, which limits the number of walleyes one can target in a particular body of water. Why structure? Today's electronics make finding structure a breeze, that's why. The reefs, points and humps on your favorite lake, however, are always loaded with boats—day and night.

Green Bay isn't any different. The further you head away from Tittle Town toward Door County, opportunities to target walleyes on structure increase. But what about the Bay's vast amount of open water located between all that classic walleye structure? Much of that open water offers endless opportunities to chase walleyes without another boat in sight. It's not too much of a stretch

to say that Green Bay's nomadic open water walleyes only experience fishing pressure when pounded by lead jigs while spawning each spring in their river of choice.

Changing your mindset sounds hard, but it's not. When fishing structure, you know that specific parts of the structure hold a majority of the fish. When fishing open water, it's the same. Some open water areas will produce more fish than other areas. The challenge is applying new information and fishing with confidence, all while giving the whole process time to succeed.

Green Bay's nomads are constantly on the move, focused on roaming from the last meal to the next meal. By making some educated guesses (informed choices) you begin to form a new set of rules.

Let's Get Started

There are numerous factors that affect the location of open water walleyes, most of which remain unknown. However, there are indicators that can get your day going in the right direction. Obvious things

include wind direction, water clarity, water temperatures and a tip or two heard at the bait shop or launch. Other indicators are subtle, like slight water currents, cormorants diving for baitfish or bait balls on your locator. Whatever the case, all can be used to your advantage.

When fishing open water, no matter the depth, never make the assumption that every walleye is holding on or near the bottom. I made that mistake my first trip to the big Bay and all I had to show for it were several gobies. It took three dozen crawlers and more than a few hours before I convinced my stubborn self to elevate my harnesses. With each passing year, my offerings continued to creep ever higher in the water column, and each year my catch rates improved.

Another open water assumption to leave at the dock is all about current.



The author releases a 29-3/4 Green Bay walleye taken while trolling adjacent to anchored perch fisherman.

Believe it or not, there is a current flow in Green Bay. There are several sites on the Internet that show the direction water flows in the Bay. Use that information to your advantage. When wind direction matches current flow, walleyes set up accordingly as huge amounts of water carry forage gently up sloping shoreline points or over areas related to small humps or large reefs.

Steady winds, especially those blowing in the same general direction for a few days, may cause forage to bunch up in groups called bait balls. Use your electronics to find and mark these thick balls of bait, then make trolling passes in and around them checking for hungry walleyes lurking in the midst. Just like those salmon guys are doing in the main lake.

Another game changer on the Bay for lifelong Fox Valley area walleye prospecting partner Jon Markley and me was a virtual wall of muddy water that suddenly appeared alongside our boat. We had stumbled on an area of dirty water that extended nearly 800 yards from shore. In reality, we didn't notice the muddy water until we finished landing our first walleye. And, we didn't have time to think about it until we landed our second fish. What was going on?

It was birdsong sunny that day, but we realized heavy rain a day earlier

created an opportunity for hungry predators. Our electronics showed the muddy water was carried to the Bay by a small creek. The dirty water attracted walleye-sized forage to it, and the whole event became one big dinner table.

With both fish coming off the mudline side of the boat, Jon and I shifted into high gear to adjust our trolling pattern to duplicate the success of the first two fish. The mudline set up in 12 feet, so John and I quickly switched to our lighter quick-release KFin Trolling Weights to pull harnesses from 4 to 10 feet below the surface. Our planer board spread positioned a board well inside the dirty water, another right on the edge, and a third well into the clean water. Boards on the opposite side of the boat were cruising like scouts and came into play when we turned around to fish the mudline in the opposite direction.

Just because it's closer to shore doesn't mean it's not open water. Before the day ended, a mixed bag of perch, catfish and walleyes all paid us a little visit.

Open water also means making friends with perch anglers. When the perch bite is hot, walleyes are often found in the mix. Two of my largest summer 'eyes came while trolling adjacent to groups of anchored perch

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DAVE HRAYCHUCK

NW WI Fishing Report

The biggest gills in 10 years



No matter the fish or the time of year, Dave Hraychuck is on the bite in beautiful northwestern Wisconsin.



Fishing with guide Dave Hraychuck, Mike Evans caught these 10-inch bluegills on a Burnett County lake in June. Hraychuck continues to target big gills through fall.

Summer is finally here for more than 24 hours and the fish and fishermen are really happy about it! The crappies and bluegills are biting on all area lakes. Small jigs, ice spoons, and small beetle spins tipped with waxies, Gulp Bait, or minnows are producing great catches all over the area. Perch seem to be scattered along the outside weed edges in water 8 to 12 feet. Crappie minnows or small leeches seem to work best for perch. The most productive time to catch pan fish is any time you are out on the water.

Greg Wade, owner of the Log Cabin Eatery in Danbury, reports that since the water warmed the crappie and bluegill bit has exploded! He said "limit catches" are being taken all around Danbury and the surrounding area lakes. According to Greg, the pan fish are the biggest that he has seen in 10 years! Leeches and minnows appear to be the most successful pan fish bait, fished with slip bobbers and an ultralight jig.

As summer continues and the spawning activities wind down, the bluegills go deeper and the crappies suspend. Fishing tactics change but catching pan fish remains constant.

Walleyes have been biting well on jigs and leeches or slip bobbers and leeches. Yellow Lake walleye seem much more active during the evening bite. Fishermen have been catching walleye on other area lakes, but most fish caught do not meet the minimum size limit.


If you are a bass fisherman, northwest Wisconsin is for you. Almost every lake in Polk and Burnett counties has a healthy population of largemouth bass. In fact, there are so many bass that a lot of Polk County lakes, and most Burnett County lakes, have no size

limits on bass. The no-size limit is an effort to slow down the bass population by encouraging fishermen to keep some for the table. The most popular lure choices for bass are plastics and jig-n-pigs. In the evening surface lures work best, with catches of 25 to 30 bass being common.

Musky fishermen have some quality lakes here in northwestern Wisconsin. Bone and Deer Lakes in Polk County and Yellow Lake and Lake 26 in Burnett County are the most popular lakes to toss a bucktail or suick for a trophy musky. Unsettled weather and colder temperatures have kept musky activity to a minimum.

Northern pike inhabit most of our area lakes. Each year numerous fish in the 35- to 40-inch category are caught; however, most fish caught are under 30 inches. Scoffed at by many anglers, pike are a great action fish, and if you take the time to learn how to fillet out those pesky Y bones, pike are excellent table fare.


In addition to all of the above-mentioned species and lakes, northwestern Wisconsin is home to the famous St. Croix River, which is well known for its great small mouth bass fishing. Channel catfish and blue catfish also inhabit the river. Polk and Burnett Counties have numerous trout lakes that are loaded with rainbow and brook trout. In the fall, the area also has a unique inland sturgeon fishing season.

No matter what species of fish peaks your interest, northwestern Wisconsin has it all and then some! Come on up for a visit. 

For fishing information or to book a guided fishing trip in northwest Wisconsin, contact Dave Hraychuck at 715.553.0578 or hraychucks@centurytel.net.

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TOM CARPENTER

Summer Perch Secrets

Catch perch all summer long

Yellow perch often seem to be more of a winter hard water fishing target than a summer pastime. It's not that the fish disappear in summer, though. It's because perch get tougher to locate during the open water season, especially after they abandon the shallows of springtime and early summer. Now, in July and August, finding fish is a different story.

Here are some tips for catching a mess of "stripes" this summer.

1) Look Low

Perch are closely related to walleyes and often act like them. So look for perch to be deeper than other summer panfish—sometimes as much as 30 or 40 feet down. They are also more bottom oriented and quite nomadic. Look for perch on the deep edges of mid-lake humps, off points, on deep sand or gravel bars, and on deep mudflats where they go to feast on emerging mayflies. Rockpiles, with all their crayfish and minnows, are also good places to find perch.

2) Start at the Bottom

Start any search for perch near the bottom. In fact, if you're jigging, let your

bait tick bottom to stir up sand or mud that attracts perch. When pursuing perch, jig with a slower, sweeping motion rather than fast, erratic moves. The latter will often spook the fish. Perch move slowly and deliberately and want a bait that does the same.

3) Don't Forget the Salad

Many summer perch anglers are surprised to learn that perch will make use of weed beds too at this time of year. In this way, they behave a lot like bluegills. Usually you'll find perch right on the outside edge though, instead of buried deep in the growth.

4) Go Slow

Because they're nomads, drifting for perch is a good way to find the fish in open water situations. But perch won't chase a bait. If there's any kind of wind blowing (over 3 or 4 miles per hour), slow your boat down with a drift sock so you can vertically jig your way along.

5) Use Live Bait

The best baits are minnows, small leeches, hellgrammites and mayfly wigglers and worms. Of these, my favorites are minnows. Crappie minnows are perfect. By late summer, perch are

hungry and really targeting young-of-the-year baitfish. Keep your minnows lively with an aerator in your bucket. Redworms are another good bait. Always bring along several live bait options though, as you'll have to "match the hatch."

6) Get Competitive

Perch like to school tightly, and that means they often compete for food. So fish your own lines fairly close together, and put your partners' near them too. When you hook a fish, let it struggle a little bit around the other lines without tangling them. This will often attract other perch to the scene. Do this several times and you could gather a whole school below you. Then keep those baits down there to keep the fishes' interest up.

7) Fish the Evening

Some of the best summer perch fishing advice I ever got was from an older lady who for 30 years had lived on the lake I was fishing. I was going to fish a mid-lake hump for summer walleyes and she told me, "When the perch start coming up out of the deep water and biting, the walleyes will be right behind." She was right: We caught a dozen slab yellow



Gene Dellinger of Madison couldn't find perch initially, adjusted, and found non-stop action drifting on Mendota. Read the story online at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/TravelWisconsin.com.

perch as the sun made its final descent and the fish moved up from 30 feet of water into 10-12 feet. Just like walleyes. I've put that tidbit of knowledge to work many times since.

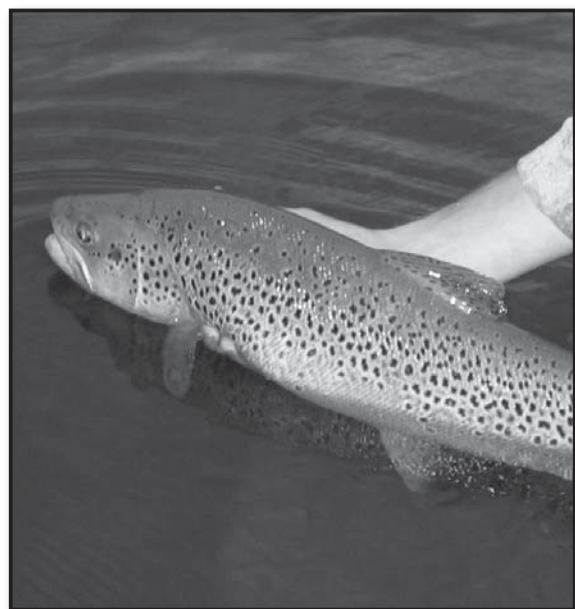
Conclusion

Don't give up on summertime yellow perch. The fillets are as delicious now as they are in the winter, and the catching is just as fun too. *WO*

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

GARY ENGBERG

Gary Engberg Outdoors: Sauk County's little gem



Brown trout. Photo by Len Harris.

When fishing gets difficult in the warm water of summer with its deep water fishing tactics and techniques, there's a lake in south central Wisconsin where you can go and usually catch fish simply and without many of today's sophisticated methods. On Devil's Lake, most summer days expect action from many different species of fish.

Devil's Lake, located in Sauk County's Devil's Lake State Park, receives over one million visitors annually. The park is a great place to camp, walk, and hike the rock hills and woods that surround scenic Devil's Lake with its magnificent fauna and flora. The park and lake are extremely popular, but few visitors fish the lake and, if they do, it's usually from shore. Devil's Lake, all 369 acres, doesn't allow outboard motors, which scares away some fishermen with big water boats. Trolling motors are allowed, so make sure that your batteries are charged to the maximum when fishing this lake. This is a perfect lake for fishing from a smaller boat, canoe, fishing tube, or kayak.

Devil's Lake was formed when glaciers covered

most of Wisconsin. When the glaciers receded, they left rock hills and bluffs with a beautiful spring-fed gin-clear lake in the middle. The lake's maximum depth is around 50 feet. You may see a few sailboats and canoes out during the summer months, but the numbers of fishing boats are few. I've fished Devil's Lake on the Fourth of July and had only a handful of other anglers on the lake. Shore anglers do catch some fish, but the key is getting out into the deeper water during the summer where there are brown trout that suspend above the thermocline.

The DNR stocks 7,000 or more trout a year in Devil's Lake, just for you to catch and eat. A decade ago the number of DNR-stocked trout was 12,000 to 16,000 per year. But with DNR budget cuts, the number of stocked trout has been reduced. The reduction hasn't seemed to hurt the fishing.

The brown trout are the most plentiful and sought after game fish in the lake. Devil's Lake has good depth, clear water, some rock structure, and an assortment

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TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds: *American kestrel*

This tiny, colorful falcon provides big thrills to bird lovers. Perched on a power line or tree branch, or hovering gracefully and buoyantly on the breeze, the kestrel hunts insects (grasshoppers are a favorite) and mice in open areas such as meadows, grasslands, prairies, roadsides, hay fields, and pastures. You can find kestrels across Wisconsin in these kinds of habitats during the summer.

Look for a handsome, sleek bird of prey in miniature (about the size of a mourning dove). The male kestrel sports a slate blue head and wings, a rusty red back, and vertical black bars or “sideburns” with white on the head. The female is more muted but with similar face markings.

Marvel at a kestrel in flight. Its extra-long wings and wide tail steer it with precision and speed to pounce on prey.

Know what kestrels eat: mainly insects, including grasshoppers, cicadas, beetles, moths, and dragonflies; small rodents such as mice, voles and shrews; and tiny snakes and lizards.

Listen for the kestrel’s call, a high-pitched *killy-killy-killy* series of three to six notes.

Did you know that American kestrels will hide extra kills in grass clumps, tree roots, bushes, and fencepost holes for lean times? *WO*

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



TOM CARPENTER

Cubs Corner: *Bird watching secret—it's in the details*



Whether you’re watching from your kitchen window, walking a nature trail or hiking in the wilderness, sighting a new species of bird is exciting, especially for kids. Look at parts of the bird and behaviors it displays to help make a positive identification when you refer back to a field guide.

Encourage your young birder to carry a small notebook to write down information. Sketching what they see is a great idea too.

The key to identifying birds is to have an eye for detail. Here’s what that means.

First Look

Take quick note of the entire bird:

Size: Robin sized? Sparrow sized? Chicken sized? Somewhere in between these familiar standards?

Sound: What does the song or call sound like? Any sound when the bird flies?

Flight: Fast? Slow? Fluttering? Swooping? Like a rollercoaster?

Movement: Does the bird walk, run, hop, scratch or shuffle?

Color: Does any color predominate or stand out?

Critical Details

Now quickly pick apart the bird’s features:

Eyes: Any stripes? Through, above or below the eye? Ring around the eye? What color? What color are the eyes themselves?

Wings: Any bars, stripes or special colors? When the bird flies, are the wings pointed or rounded? Long or short?

Breast and Below: What color are the bird’s undersides? Are they solid, striped, speckled, mottled or spotted?

Beak: Pointed? Rounded? Hooked? Thick? Thin? What color? Are the upper and lower beaks colored differently?

Tail Feathers: Barred or otherwise marked? Are the outer tail feathers different than the inner ones?

Crest: Does a crest or cap stand out?

Throat and Nape: Any distinctive markings or colors on the neck’s front (throat) or back (nape)?

Tool Kit

Use quality binoculars of 8- to 10-power. Don’t buy discount store models. Invest in a name brand pair that gathers a lot of light and won’t exhaust your eyes or young eyes. Good binoculars will last for decades. Binoculars help you enjoy beautiful details—even on birds that are close—that your bare eyes can’t see.

Good field guides are essential. A Peterson Field Guide® is a must. Detailed paintings emphasize parts of the bird that will help you positively identify the species you saw. National Audubon Society Field Guides provide photos of birds and detailed written descriptions of each bird’s habits, habitat and life cycle. These guides are available from most traditional and online booksellers and at nature stores.

Conclusion

Identifying new birds is fun, but you’ve got to have an eye for detail. Teach that skill to young birders and watch them fly! *WO*

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

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JERRY KIESOW

Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

A double report: Reel Recovery and jig hooks

The first follow-up report:

In last year's November/December issue, I told you about how I attended the first Reel Recovery retreat held in Wisconsin. I explained how the organization was formed and how it helps men who have or have had cancer. Those in attendance and I wondered if the retreats would be continued. I am happy to report they are. This year, from September 11 – 13, at Stoney Creek Inn in Onalaska, the same place as last year, the second annual Reel Recovery retreat will take place.

Here is a capsulated version so those of you who might be interested in joining us will have an idea of what to expect.

Reel Recovery was formed in 2003 for men dealing with all forms of cancer. The retreats combine fly fishing with courageous conversations and, hopefully, create a new ongoing support group. Two groups of individuals form the retreat: participants and volunteer fishing buddies. Retreats are held year round in many states.

The organization's goal is to provide a quiet, secure place where participants can openly discuss their disease and experiences associated with it. Between discussions they go fishing. Fly fishing is a key focal point of the retreat. Instructions are given as required and everything for the participants is provided: lodging, food, equipment. The only expense for participants is travel to

and from the retreat. Most buddies are volunteers from the local area.

Last year during the courageous conversations participants sat in a circle, depicting that there was no beginning and no end to the connection between these men. Conversations were led by a facilitator who opened each session with a question. Opening questions were simple so everyone could get acquainted and feel comfortable. Later the questions got more involved.

While the Q&A was going on, the fishing buddies checked the equipment and planned the day's fishing trips. Some boats were available, so there were limited opportunities for warm water fishing. Most pursued trout. Between all this activity breakfast, lunch, and dinner were served.

On the final day the circle formed outside—participants in the center, fishing buddies around them. A final question was asked. The answers were short and direct. As each reply was given, a blessing was added. After all had answered, the participants locked thumbs, touching fists. The buddies placed a hand on a shoulder of those in the inner circle. Together they raised their hands, broke, and shouted the R.R. motto: "Be well! Fish on!"

If you want to get involved either as a participant or as a volunteer buddy, or if you would like to support this worthwhile organization, go to www.reelrecovery.org. Applications can be made online. Each retreat is limited to 12-14 participants and at least that many volunteers. They always try to get one-

on-one matchups. Join us. I'll be there.

The second follow-up report:

Earlier this year I told you about tying a few fly patterns on jig hooks. I said I would give you a follow-up. Here it is. They catch fish. Need to know more? Maybe, maybe not, but I will tell you anyway.

I hoped to give these "new" lures a try during the steelhead run this spring. I did, but seeing as how the season was plagued with high water and dirty runoff and I only saw one steelie, I do not consider that season to be a fair test. However, I have fished these flies under moderately high, strong water conditions in the Milwaukee River and I have caught smallmouth bass on several of these lures: modified streamers, Woolly Buggers and worms.

If you remember, I tied these "hook-rides-up" patterns when I want to fish deep, hoping that I will not need to use the dreaded split shot to get there as it adds to the vulnerability to snag often. I even added additional weight to the shank. Because of this added weight, I questioned how the flies would cast. They did fine. They cast very much like a dumbbell-eyed Clouser Deep Minnow. Slightly shorter casts were preferable because of the sagging backcast but not so short that I had to change how I fished the river. (The depth and power of the water was more dictating of where I fished than how I cast.) These flies cast superior to the "chunk and dunk" method we use when crimping on a split shot. There is no out-of-place weight



Author's "new" jig hooks do catch fish.

flopping around to tie knots in the tippet.

So now I have added a few patterns and when the conditions dictate, I will not hesitate to use them. I am looking forward to trying the crawdad fakes and smaller nymphs on quieter water where a deep-running-bump-the-bottom approach is advised.

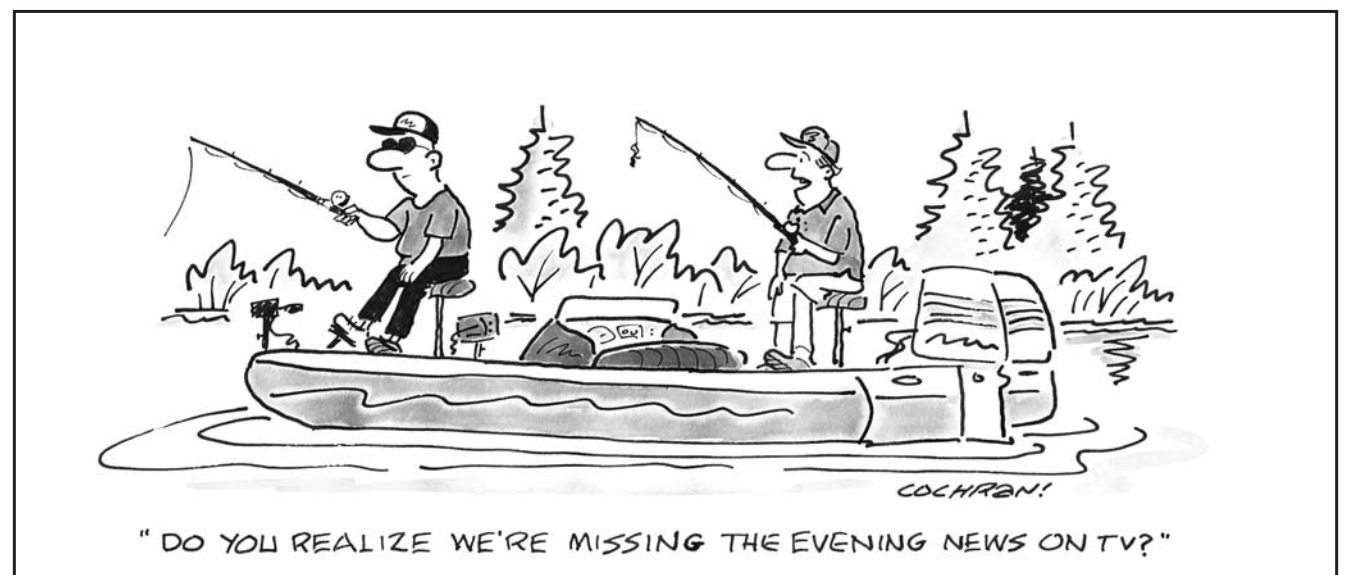
I will report back to you about them too. See you in the river.

Keep a good thought! *W*

Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors. To keep track of what he is doing and where, 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.



Most Reel Recovery participants will be fly fishing for trout.



DENNY MURAWSKA

The Only Insurance: *Memories preserve precious moments*



"Naively, I assumed these precious acquisitions would follow me through all my years. I was wrong. A fire ended this dream as the pre-dawn darkness turned to light and I watched our home burn to the ground ..."

We all pay for it...at least most of us. There is some intrinsic comfort in knowing that if I shoot myself in the foot, snag the back of my head with a musky lure, or fillet my left thumb, there will be some compensation through insurance. At times it seems like a form of extortion, but let's face it; we all need it.

As outdoors folks, we collect a lot of stuff, useful and otherwise. We grow attached to these things related to our passions. Guns, fishing rods, lures passed from father to son through the ages retain a worth beyond measure. Such stuff appreciates in value as the years roll by. It is comforting to hold and use as a portal to other times, places, and memories.

I often held Grandpa's gun, an intricately engraved double barrel 12 gauge that once belonged to a rough-hewn railroad man. To see it, you might expect the owner was an English gentleman, a dandy with a gun so beautiful one almost dared not shoot it. I even had a patch of camo cloth cut from a pair of pants I had worn hunting for at least 15 years. I had to throw out the pants but retained that one scrap for my medicine pouch of useless but precious memorabilia.

Naively, I assumed these precious acquisitions would follow me through all my years. I was wrong. A fire ended this dream as the pre-dawn darkness turned to light and I watched our home burn to the ground—every last piece of it. I stood with bare feet in the snow, too much in shock to want to move or leave the place I had collected my life

in. I suppose I would have been okay with just lying down forever right there with a beloved cat that never made it out. I was told we were lucky. Our chicken woke us. No alarms sounded as the upper roof burned. Nothing but the chicken.

It has been five months since that day. The insurance company has been wonderful in allowing us to rebuild, refurbish, and try to put this horror behind us. While stuff gets replaced, Grandpa's gun, photos of bygone times, fishing and hunting trophies, and memorabilia precious and known only to myself are gone. I was told shopping for new items would be fun. There is no fun in it.

I will have "stuff" again, but it is not truly mine and was not handed down to me with pride from generations past. That wood duck on the mantelpiece exploding from a duckweed-covered slough will not be duplicated. The wooden decoys carved by friends cannot be substituted for. The holster I wore for many years of my life in Colorado cannot be purchased at any store. Even if it could, it would not be mine.

Like photographs, I believe objects carry with them energies from the lifetimes they have shared with me. I now think I should have placed them in a fireproof safe. Pictures could have been backed up and placed in a safe deposit box. We never believe a tragedy like this can so fully destroy what we cherish. It cannot. So long as I can still envision my first trout pulled from a pond in Illinois and relive every fall

morning full of game birds exploding from the hedgerows over masterful pointers, there is no real destruction. As with hunting partners that have passed on, be they human or animal, their essence remains strong within. As ephemeral as dimly remembered sounds, smells, and tastes...the most irreplaceable memories will always remain very much alive. They outlive the most faded photographs. They outlast all of the treasured fishing rods, guns, and tackle boxes full of lures.

The motionless trophy buck on the wall stares down no more. It now sneaks under a gap in the barbed wire fence as it did the day my arrow found its mark. That gape-jawed bass is freed from its driftwood pedestal on the wall and skulks through lily pads and coontail as I remember it.

While I have lost pictures of the pointing dogs that enhanced each hunt for gaudy pheasants and explosive quail, I can still feel them next to me and smell their moist dog hair smell as I did when I slept with them in the back of our station wagon on the long road home from the hunt. ☺

Denny Murawska is an award-winning writer for The Week, Wishigan, UP-Magazine, and several other publications. He retired from science teaching to hide from humankind on a sandstone bluff near Black River Falls. Here, he gardens, hunts, fishes, and forages for wild mushrooms. His business, Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy provides museum-quality trophy mounts for anglers of all ages. Contact Denny at aa-taxidermy.com or call 715.964.1159.

LINDEMAN, from page 3

fishermen.

Other areas to check are adjacent to classic walleye spots. Troll that boat-free saddle between the shore and any of the Bay's popular reefs. The saddle could be expansive, but that's why nobody is there.

What about the first significant break off the shoreline? Avoid the temptation to troll over the first major break; instead, set up well off the break and see what happens.

Whatever area you start in first, make sure you get your lures or crawler harnesses spread out. On Green Bay, "spread out" means side to side and top to bottom. Planer boards help with side

to side, while trolling weights help with top to bottom.

Get ready for some big catfish and giant drum; they seem to be everywhere the walleyes are. Both are a blast to catch, but walleyes are usually the focus of most anglers. What makes the Bay so special, however, is that you have a legitimate chance to land a 30-inch fish any day and all summer.

To take that giant first step, just plan a trip this summer. Pick a launch, any launch. You can long-line your lures of choice, but planer boards help the cause greatly to get the small crankbaits and crawler harnesses, spread throughout the water. Suamico, Bayshore, Sturgeon Bay, Fish Creek—

wherever you go, walleyes are in the area. Your tackle box should hold the usual suspects including crankbaits. Pack your favorite trolling weights. I prefer the quick-release variety, specifically, KFin Trolling Weights which I design. All of the areas mentioned have produced fish. Some days you spend a lot of time searching and other days it seems the walleyes find you. The trick is to know of as many productive spots as possible to improve your chances of running into a hungry walleye. That's what makes professional guides on the Bay so valuable: they know a lot of spots.

When you do make contact with a fish, be sure to use the electronics

you paid all that money for. Put an icon on every fish you catch and don't erase them from one year to the next. Who cares if the screen gets crowded? Wouldn't it be nice to know exactly where you caught an open water walleye on a past trip? All that Green Bay water looks the same when you're a mile or two from shore. ☺

Wisconsin native John Lindeman has turned his passion for fishing into a business that provides effective products with innovative twists. The owner of Kingdom Fishing Innovations enjoys all types of fishing from small creeks to the Great Lakes. He can be reached at jlindeman@gokfin.com.

PHIL SCHWEIK

Wisconsin River's Reservoirs And Impoundments

Long line trolling catches more than just walleye

A lot of us here in Wisconsin are associated with and fish the Wisconsin River and its many backwater areas, reservoirs, and impoundments for walleyes. Most of these areas cover thousands of acres and can be very intimidating to fish. Without either hiring a guide or spending countless hours on the water, most anglers are left on the shore wondering how to reach all the fish that live in the system.

One of the most under-used but successful methods for targeting these fish is long line trolling (check area trolling regulations). Now, I am not talking about going out and buying a bunch of expensive trolling rods and accompanying reels or multiple boards

for spreading out your arsenal. I mean just simple, easy, long line trolling that anyone can do with traditional gear.

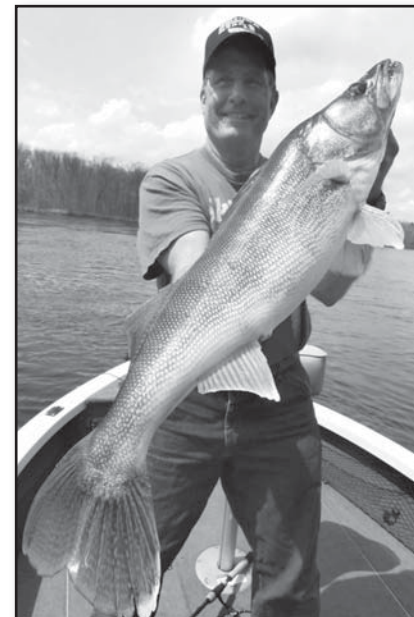
While long line trolling you can cover vast amounts of water in a limited amount of time. You can find active pockets of fish and eliminate "dead" water. By that I mean water that isn't holding any fish at that particular time. Once active fish are located, you can concentrate your efforts on those areas and work them thoroughly.

Long line trolling is relatively simple. You can use your basic spinning gear or bait casting gear and have it spooled up with 10-pound test line. Purchase a few crankbaits, preferably Husky Jerks, Rapala Shad Raps, or a few other off-

brand types of crankbaits in the 3- to 5-inch range. I like firetiger patterns and natural patterns depending on the water I am fishing. Also have on hand a few small split shot sinkers. That is all you need.

I like to target depths of 4 to 12 feet, running shallower early and late in the day and deeper during the mid-day hours. I start off running my boat parallel to the shoreline, and if there is current, I usually head upriver or against the current. It is easier to control the speed when running against the current. I run at speeds from 1 to 3 1/2 miles per hour depending on time of the year and the action of the lures. You want to run

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Terry Woldvogel with a nice walleye.

MIKE YURK

Bassology: Part II: Where to look for bass

One of the most interesting challenges a fisherman faces once the boat is launched on a lake is where to find fish.

Weather is always a huge factor in deciding where to look for actively feeding fish. The weather and wind will change from day to day, and that is all part of the fun and challenge of finding fish.

Water depth, natural structure or cover, shoreline and the presence or absence of such things as docks, boat lifts and other manmade structures are additional indicators of places that hold fish.

One of the most important aspects of searching for bass is to follow the food chain. Everything in the water is something else's food. Small minnows are attracted to plankton and other small organisms in the water. Game fish are attracted to minnows. Large game fish eat smaller game fish. Crawfish, insects and frogs are just a part of the food table for bass.

The first thing I do after launching the boat on a new lake or seldom fished lake is go for a boat ride. I am doing what we called in the Army a reconnaissance. With the depth finder on, I am initially looking for water depth in relation to the bank.

I search for deeper water close to the bank. With deeper water close to shoreline structure, bass can move up and down the water column looking for food but

remain oriented to the bank. This has been one of my favorite spots. When I am looking for deeper water, I generally look for water from about 5 to 15 feet. Those depths seem to be ideal for bass.

Any break in the shoreline will also attract fish. On one of the lakes I fish there is a rocky shoreline, and at one spot there is a small 3- or 4-foot point of rocks that poke out into the lake. Although I normally catch fish all along there, that little point seems to continuously have a fish or two and seldom disappoints me.

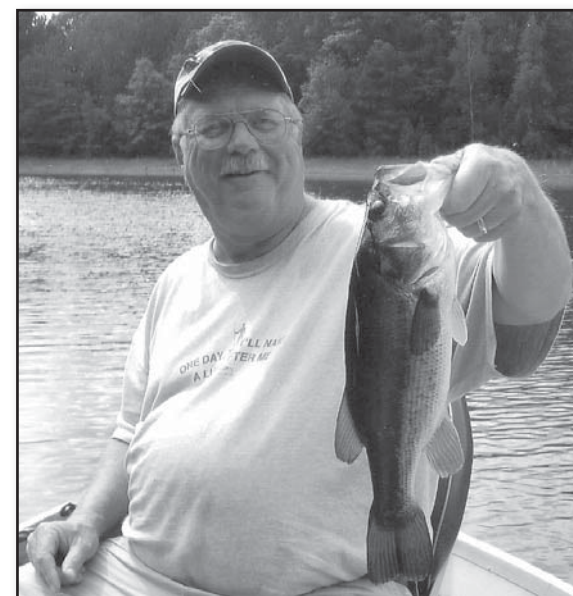
I also look at the composition of the bank, with the rocky shore being among my favorites. Rocks hold bass. Especially if the water temperature is cooler, the

rocks will hold heat longer than the land and there could be a couple degree change in water temperature near rocks that draw bait fish, which in turn draw game fish. Rocks are the home to

crawfish, a bass staple.

While I check out the water I am looking at the bank. Trees hanging over the water are great areas for holding bass, especially if the water is a bit deeper close to the bank. Fish do not have eyelids, so when the sun is out, they are drawn to shaded areas. If the shaded areas are in close proximity to a food source, that is even better.

In addition, I look for natural cover in the water. Sunken brush, submerged logs, flooded trees and other



Learning to search for bass on new lakes will help to boat fish like the one that Mike Yurk is holding.

natural items will attract fish, and it's always worth dropping a bait near them.

Four years ago I fished a new lake. I saw a rocky bank with large, mature overhanging trees. Once I nosed the boat close to the bank, I found 5 to 10 feet of water right against the bank. My fishing buddy and I moved farther down the bank and started fishing. In the next couple of hours we caught about a dozen bass and all of them were over 14 inches. Everything there told us that we would find fish in that area.

Water clarity or lack of clarity is important to finding bass. When the water is clear, it's usually harder to find fish since sunlight bothers their unprotected eyes. In clear water they orient themselves to anything that provides shade or sink deeper into the water to

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"I search for deeper water close to the bank. With deeper water close to shoreline structure, bass can move up and down the water column looking for food but remain oriented to the bank. This has been one of my favorite spots."



PRESENTS

— FISHING GUIDES —

Dan Diedrich & Clay Heller



CLAYTON HELLER

It's A Family Affair: Fishing with the wife and kids

When I first started fishing for muskies in my early twenties, the highlight of my season was always the annual week-long trip with my buddies to fish some famous musky waters. Whether it was one of the lakes in Oneida County or Lake of the Woods in Canada, it couldn't come soon enough every year. Now I'm in my late thirties, married with kids, and my priorities have changed a bit. I still take those trips, and, yes, they are fun, but the highlight of my season for the last few years has been watching my wife and kids catching muskies.

"If your wife catches the bug, you might end up with a pile of pink baits, but you may also get a little bigger budget for the season."

Trolling on the area lakes offers a great opportunity to get the whole family involved in the sport and, hopefully, fuel the fever in a new batch of musky nuts. If you hit it right, you can get good results with minimal effort.

Two of my sons caught their first muskies at age 4. My oldest boy, Jesse, now 9 years old, is a certified musky junky. I think soon he will be joining me on some of the above-mentioned trips to the north woods. My youngest boy had a chance to beat



The author's son with a healthy late season sucker musky.



The author's wife with her 47-inch "date night" musky.

both of them, but his older brothers kept stealing his turns and when he finally got a shot, he lost it at the boat. Last season my wife caught her personal best musky—a healthy 47-incher—on a musky trolling "date night."

Live bait fishing in the fall also offers excellent family fishing opportunities. While my wife doesn't really enjoy sitting in the boat all bundled up in November, my boys do! Jesse's personal best fish came sucker fishing a few seasons ago in late October. He talked about catching that fish at least once a day through the next January. We bundle up, turn the Badgers on the radio, and wait. My middle son's favorite story to tell is about an afternoon sucker fishing trip from last season. We had three fish on and up to the boat that afternoon they all managed to evade the Frabill, but he didn't care.

Getting kids involved in the sport has lots of benefits. When we are all done, they will be the ones carrying the torch, and if they are your kids, it's a great excuse to buy some new gear. If your wife catches the bug, you might end up with a pile of pink baits, but you may also get a little bigger budget for the season.

Spending time on the water with my wife and kids has really become one of my favorite things about musky fishing. Do it right and you'll have a fishing partner any time you want to go. *OW*

Clay Heller is a WMT tournament angler with HP Outdoors and is a Sterling Guide Service Pro Staffer. Contact Clay at Hellerclj@gmail.com or 920.256.0648.

YURK, from page 9

escape the effects of the sun. If the water is dirty, which is the case in most bass lakes, I can find bass out in the open and/or in shallow water.

Look for weeds; bass will always be attracted to weeds. Again, it is a good place for bass to escape from the penetrating rays of sunlight, but it also provides a safe place to hide and ambush forage that also is attracted to weeds.

If you can find deeper water on the edge of weeds, it makes it an even better spot to fish for bass. Another lake north of my home in Hudson, Wisconsin, has a very pronounced weed bed that circles

the lake. I used to fish over the top of the weeds and caught a lot of fish there. But when I started to fish the deeper water on the outside edges of the weeds, I found more and bigger fish.

The presence of manmade structure such as docks, boat lifts, swim rafts and boat houses are a natural draw for bass. It provides protection from the sun and draws bait fish. That is a great combination in locating actively feeding bass.

Play the wind. The wind blows the smaller organisms that attract minnows into a bank and bass will be following the food chain. Sometimes if the wind is strong enough, it will trap the bait fish

against a bank, and when that happens, bass go on a feeding frenzy.

Once I understand the water I am fishing I start to pull the rods out of the rod locker. I start in the areas that I find the most amount of factors all coming together. If I find deep water against a rocky bank that has a combination of both manmade and/or natural cover with the wind blowing into it, I will start there.

One windy, stormy fall day I found bass holding tight to any rocky point the wind was blowing into. That afternoon my fishing buddy and I caught over 25 fall-fattened largemouth bass just by fishing those spots. The wind, water and

structure all came together at just the right time and place.

Searching for bass on a new lake is finding the right mix of water and structure in conjunction with weather conditions that hold actively feeding fish. Once you start to look at the water with that in mind, you will find better bass fishing. *OW*

During the past 40 years, Mike Yurk has published more than 600 articles in national and regional outdoor publications. He has published five books, both fiction and nonfiction, on outdoor subjects. He is a retired Army officer and lives in Hudson, Wisconsin, near to some of the best bass fishing in the country.

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PRINCECRAFT

GLENN WALKER

Topwater Tactics For Bass

Lures for every mood

For many anglers there is nothing more enjoyable than seeing a big bass flying up out of the water and taking down the offering you have put before it. Topwater lures are all some anglers rely on, but these lures have a very specific place tied on an angler's line come late summer and early fall. This is when bass begin their annual fall feeding binge to put on some much needed weight for winter, and using topwaters is a great way to coax big bass into biting.

From lakes to rivers, there are a

variety of topwater baits that can work, and finding your favorite and seeing what the bass want that day is key. Here are some of my favorite topwater baits to give a try this year.

Walk the dog baits. This simple but effective topwater bait has a very successful and proven fish catching action...

walking the dog. This retrieve is mesmerizing to bass and will bring them to the surface when other topwaters fail to. I found this out firsthand last summer when my schooling bass would no longer hit my popper, so I tied up a bait that walked the dog and boom—I was back in the game!

A bait like this just sways back and forth across the water's surface. In situations where there is current, you can stop the retrieve and let it float right into the sweet spot where the bass are sitting, waiting for an easy meal.

Poppers. Chug, chug, chug...

SPLASH! That is the noise of a topwater popper in action, and this is one of my favorite ways to target when they are

putting on the feed bag. These baits can be fished in numerous ways, which make them extremely versatile, because as the bass's mood changes, you can speed up or slow down your retrieve.

My two top retrieves for a popper include a constant, fast reel and jerk approach. This works well when the bass are extremely active and you want to cover a large amount of water quickly. The other retrieve I rely on is, after I give the popper a jerk, I let the bait sit still for several seconds. Bass, especially

smallmouth, hate it when the bait is just sitting there after making a noise.

The majority of time I use a black or blue back with chrome body popper to help give off some extra flash. Other colors that are popular popper choices include shad imitators, but some off-the-wall colors excel in muddy water situations.

Any time I fish a walk-the-dog style bait or

popper, I'll spool my baitcast reel with 15-pound mono, as this line has some stretch to it so the treble hooks won't rip the bass's mouth. It is also vital to use a rod that has a soft tip and good bend in the backbone, because your rod needs to give when the bass hits and when it makes a surge to deep water and you don't want the hooks to pull free.

Frogs. The topwater frog has gone through quite the metamorphosis through the years, and the end result today is frogs that are truly high performance lures! This topwater bait is a prime and obvious choice when targeting bass in heavily matted

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Two beautiful largemouth that crushed my topwater offering.

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DICK ELLIS

On Wisconsin Outdoors

Pool 9, Canvasback and Bigmouth Bass

Todd Lensing walked the frog back across a carpet of lime-green sloop and over an apron of lily pads to the ancient log that both of us knew would hold another largemouth bass. After taking and releasing 36 bass on this same Mississippi slough days before, we were on the river at day-break but hadn't seen a fish in the first three hours. Then, like a dinner bell, the top-water bite was on.

With a twitch of Lensing's rod, the frog climbed the timber in one hop and a nice bass went airborne with it. The bucket mouth engulfed its meal and was rewarded by an adrenalin-struck Lensing setting 65-pound test line in one vicious rip. There was no finesse, no "playing" this fish. Mr. Bigmouth was coming out of this sloop and wood... right now.

Seconds later, the bass was slipped back into the cool Mississippi

backwaters to find another shaded log, maybe to contemplate whether or not ambushing frogs is really that good of an idea.

A different game with the same players on the same playing field had brought Wisconsin professional waterfowl guide Todd Lensing and I to Pool 9 on the Mississippi River as the calendar crawled into July. Usually, this guide/reporter rendezvous would have been in Lensing's duck boat and we would be looking for October canvasback, or any other puddle or diver the big river might send with the dawn. On this 85-degree summer morning, Lensing was simply enjoying his off-season passion by targeting largemouth.

"I can get up at 4:30 and get four hours of fishing in before anyone else is up and before I have to do any chores," said Lensing, who owns the Grandview



Todd Lensing prepares to release another largemouth enticed from the sloop and wood of Pool 9 backwaters near Ferryville in Crawford County. Photo by Dick Ellis.

Motel with his wife, Donna, in Ferryville overlooking the Mississippi. "The more I do this shallow water bass fishing in the sloop the more I want to do it."

Lensing said that this stunning Crawford County backcountry offers mile upon mile of isolated waters to find and fish bass. It also offers the unfamiliar angler a real opportunity to get lost. "You can get lost in a hurry out here," he said. "I know this duck hunting terrain like the back of my hand. Back in some of these areas we're fishing I still have to think about where I am once in a while."

Although his bass fishing is a hobby, Lensing put us on plenty of fish following the first few hours of drought. Even when the largemouth lockjaw was in full swing, we were in bluff country alive with wildlife. It was easy to outlast the poor fishing with the scenery hanging over our quiet hunting banter about an area that draws every diver and puddle duck in North America.

As many as 420,000 canvasbacks stage on Pool 9 from a total North American population of 650,000 to 800,000 birds annually. Drawn by the wild celery, the average number of canvasbacks staging each year is 300,000. If the population dips below 500,000, there is no "Can" season. Lensing, though, said the personality of the area plays as much a part of bringing

his waterfowl hunting clients and motel guests back as the flyway itself.

"Ferryville is one of the few places in the Midwest that is just laidback and simple," Lensing said. "I hear it from my clients all the time. You have to come and experience it to feel it. It's amazing how many people like to go a local bar and grill here just to be treated like someone special."

Bass fishing went from poor to very good when we figured out that the heavy weed edges on this morning were holding many more bass than the deeper parts of the swamp, although we tried it all. Lensing

strong-armed each willing fish with a promise of just one photo and a quick release.

"You can't mess around with these bass," Lensing said. "You've got to horse them out of there. That's what the heavy line is for. We're taking them out of some pretty heavy weeds and wood. We would never get them out with lighter equipment."

We would have never gotten in to this jungle with lighter equipment either. Lensing is a field representative for the Phowler Boat Company. Ruggedly designed for the duck hunter, a Phowler Boat is ideal for the waterfowler who also has a sloop bass fisherman living inside of him—like Lensing.

Dual air-cooled Pro-Drive 36
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Brew City offers more than just beer



Moon over Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

When most people think Milwaukee, they think beer. However, what you may not know is that Milwaukee has some of the best salmon fishing in the United States.

Recently I had the opportunity to go on a salmon fishing trip on Lake Michigan with my friend Captain Todd Pollesch of Brew City Charters. We started the day at 5:30 AM at McKinley Marina. The day had very light winds out of the west, which made it quite comfortable to fish out of Todd's 22-foot Grady White. We began in 90 feet of water, just north of the harbor mouth, and we fished north and south, looking for the schools of alewife. Alewife has been the key for Lake

Michigan fisheries for years; the better the alewife population, the better the fishing in general for not only salmon but other species as well.

We had success early and often. We only had two poles down before we caught the first salmon. My son, Nate, and I had sore arms before the end of the day. We caught 10 Coho Salmon in just under two hours. Salmon fishing is great fun; the fish put up an incredible fight. Todd's best success with 12 poles in the water has been eight fish at once, landing seven of them.

Cohos are a schooling fish, so once you find one, you will find a bunch, and today was no exception. Due to the clear water, the most success comes

The State of Fishing.

OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/WisconsinFishing

away from the boat, especially with the fish being so shallow. Consequently, we used clear Dipsey Divers or Church X22 planer boards to move the bait away from the boat. The best presentation was an 8-inch dodger with white or aqua flies. The most consistent depth was 10 feet beneath the surface. Todd finds that flies and dodgers get more consistent bites than spoons. We trolled north to south in front of the Milwaukee harbor. Todd explained that because of the currents it was easier to troll north and south than east and west; it helps control your speed much better. The best trolling speed was between 1.8 and 1.9 mph.

Repetition is the key to success, and line counters ensure that you are letting out the right amount of line each time. We were letting most of the line out 69 feet from the planer boards. With the clear water from the Zebra Mussels, Todd finds you will be more successful if you get away from the pack of boats.

The water temperature was 47 degrees on the surface. The secret to finding the proper water temperature is the use of a Depth Raider. This device tells you both the trolling speed and water temperature at the downrigger ball. The water temperature is crucial, and the best water temp for salmon is 43-50 degrees.

Todd found his love of Lake Michigan at an early age, growing up in Shorewood. The first time out fishing the lake as a child, he caught two 10-pound brown trout on Mepps spinners and has been hooked ever since. I've never fished with anyone



Captain Todd and Nate Duwe with an attractive Coho salmon.

more passionate about his craft than Todd.

Todd has been a captain with Brew City Charters for the past 13 years and is the former president of the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen. He is currently serving on the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, which sets policy on stocking, water quality and other Great Lakes issues. Todd believes that Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes are some of the most precious commodities of not only Wisconsin but of the U.S. as well. *WD*

If you'd like to spend some time on Lake Michigan, I encourage you to reach out to Brew City Charters. Visit brewcitycharters.com or call 414.899.5959.

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

WALKER, from page 12

vegetation, floating vegetation, and lily pad fields. But as numerous pro anglers have revealed, the topwater frog works well over open water. Making long casts to the vegetation and retrieving it all the way back past the edge of the vegetation and over the open water is a great way to coax bass out.

Varying your retrieve of the frog will bring the bass in and it will tell you how the bass want the frog worked. Sometimes a smooth and steady retrieve works best, while other times you have

to bring the frog to open water pockets or the edge of the vegetation and just let it sit there. When it comes to color selection for frogs, I commonly use a white or black one. The color you choose depends on the water clarity, how dense the vegetation is, and if it is sunny or cloudy out.

Buzzbait. A buzzbait is a great topwater choice when fishing around submerged and emergent vegetation. By speeding up and slowing down your retrieve you can change the action of your buzzbait. My favorite way to use a buzzbait is as a search lure to determine

where the bass are positioned on the cover you are fishing. Making parallel casts to the cover will keep your bait in the strike zone longer and increase the number of strikes you will get.

I'll use either a 3/8- or 1/2-ounce buzzbait depending on the wind, but one thing is for sure—all of my buzzbaits have a clacker on them because it puts out the maximum amount of noise possible and really calls in big bass from far away.

Now that I have your blood boiling and your pulse racing, grab your favorite topwater baits and go take part of some

exciting topwater bass action as they start to feed up this fall! *WD*

Glenn has been fishing tournaments for over 10 years, spreading his passion and knowledge of the sport via articles and videos. He keeps busy fishing events across Minnesota and on the Mississippi River. Glenn's sponsors include: Humminbird, Jeff Belzer Chevrolet, LakeMaster, Mercury Marine, Minn Kota, Onyx, Plano, Rayjus, RC Tackle, Seaguar, Snag Proof, The Rod Glove, TroKar and Wright & McGill. For more information check out glennwalkerfishing.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/glennwalkerfishing.

ROB AND STEVE TOBIN

Home On The Twin: Fishing with family and friends



Tess Tobin with her pink fishing pole

When spring in Wisconsin finally rolls around, the Tobin family starts talking about “cottage time,” which means family fun, a little work, and fishing on the winding West Twin River. But before I get into all the fun my family has up here, I want to start from the beginning. The family would not be where it is today if it weren't for my grandfather, Bob Tobin, who introduced us to business, family, faith, and the outdoors, all of which the Tobins share together on a daily basis.

In 1952, my grandfather and his partner, Ray, started Rupprecht & Tobin Jewelers. They struggled to keep business alive during those early years, but with hard work, late nights, and the great talent of gold smithing, my grandfather soon had enough money to start looking for a summer cottage of his own.

After looking at a few cabins and cottages with \$2,000 in his wallet, he stumbled on a little two-bedroom shack with a porch that he could afford just north of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. This beauty needed some work, along with running water and a bathroom at the demand of Grandma Tess. These first few projects were definitely not the last to be started at the cottage. Bob and Tess worked hard for years building a family business, a home in Greenfield, Wisconsin, and a cottage, which is hard to do when you are doing it yourselves. Eventually my dad, Craig, and mom, Mary, were able to help them with many projects, making it easier to handle all that work.

Forty seven years and a hundred projects later the family cottage has indoor plumbing, four bedrooms, and a large great room built by Bob and his growing family. These days the cottage

still has small projects and ongoing upkeep, but for the most part it is great to be third generation.

The cottage is open for the summer now, which means swimming, water skiing, grilling, beer drinking by a bonfire, and my favorite activity: fishing.

Steve and I have been fishing this small, shallow rocky river our whole lives and we still are learning where the fish move throughout the year. The West Twin holds many different species of fish from bullheads, carp, bluegills, perch, northern pike, large and smallmouth bass and Great Lakes trout and salmon during their spring and fall migratory spawning runs due to the West Twin being a tributary of Lake Michigan. We pursue every one of these fish species through the year, when the time is right, but my favorite species to target is the smallmouth bass.

The river smallie is quite an adversary; these fish fight harder than any fish I have ever caught. Having to fight river current their whole lives, these fish can give you a run for your money, and boy, are they acrobatic in the summer. The smallies move through the year from a deeper muddy river bottom in winter to a shallow rocky river bottom when the water temperature rises above 50 degrees. This spring has been cold, so the males have just started making their way up to the shallows to eat crawfish and ready the spawning bed for their ladies. This is a great time to put numbers of smallies in the boat, but I thought it still might be a little early for the big mama staging in deep water—until yesterday.

Steve and I snuck away for a few hours to dip a line on Memorial Day after a lawn mow, wood stacking, gutter cleaning, and vacuuming countless

dead flies. We started fishing in four feet of water with a rocky bottom and never had to leave. I love it when a plan comes together, and it happened after two hours of hook sets. We found both pre-spawned male and female fish hitting our baits just out of aggression. We tried an assortment of plastics and cranks, but the larger bright crankbaits actually were catching more fish.

There are two really great crankbaits on the market that should be in everybody's tackle box. The first one is a Rebel Teeny Weeny crawfish that dives about three feet down. It works great in combing a lot of water fast to locate shallow feeding smallies. Second is the Rapala Flat Rap, which is newer on the market. On Monday the smallies were chewing the paint off this thing. Another go-to bait in our smallmouth arsenal is a 4-inch Yum Tube or a 4-inch Kalin's Grub. Last but not least, when the time is right on the Twin, a topwater popper will destroy all the baits listed above.

Through the years we have constantly worked on learning how to adapt to the changing conditions of this small, shallow tributary. Every day can be different, with the old saying, “here today ... gone tomorrow” holding true on this stretch of river. It seems that in early spring and fall you can find these fish a little more stacked up due to the spawning time and the cooler temperatures. However, when the water warms into the summer months, the brownies really seem to spread out.

Our most productive locations on the river will always include shallow rock flats adjacent to a deeper mud bottom. These smallies will come up onto the rocky flat, on the hunt for crawfish and schools of recently hatched minnows.

Although many other areas hold aggressive bronzebacks, a transition area will more times than not produce fish on all rivers and lakes. So the next time you find yourself on a river, I encourage you to toss a few of those baits along a rocky bottom, and I just bet you may encounter the crush of a brown bass on the end of the line.

The coolest part of having the opportunity to fish this river for over 20 years is looking back noticing how my life and tackle box are related. As a kid I started out with a few baits but mostly bobbers and gold hooks, looking for anything that was willing to bite. I didn't have patience for much, but I still caught my fair share of bullheads and carp. Then, as my addiction to fishing grew, my so-called tackle box suddenly turned into what looked like a duffle bag I would use to pack my clothes in for a week-long trip to Mexico. All I wanted to do was fish, fish, and fish some more.

Twenty years later with hundreds of hours logged in and countless bass all CPR'd with my brother, Steve, I have suddenly found myself reliving my childhood, as I now would rather fish off the dock with my 2-½ year-old daughter, Tess, who just wants to catch a slimy bullhead and keep it as a pet. The look on her face when she reeled in her first yellow belly brought us all back and reminded us of what fishing is supposed to really be about. It's not always about how many or how big but about how refreshing it is to enjoy the outdoors with my family and friends. I encourage you to introduce a friend or family member to hunting or fishing. *W*

Rob and Steve Tobin are avid deer hunters and waterfowlers and fish throughout Wisconsin.



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SCHWEIK, from page 9



A good Wisconsin River walleye.

slower early and late in the year and faster during the hotter summer months. The action of the lure will help determine your speed just by watching how it reacts in the water at different speeds.

When trolling, I usually run my baits anywhere between 25 and 50 feet behind my boat depending on the depth.

I put a small split shot approximately 18 inches in front of the bait on the line to catch debris and help keep my bait down at a desired depth. I then travel in a zigzag style method keeping my rod held firmly in one hand and off to one side of the boat.

Occasionally during trolling I give the rod an upward jerk, ripping the bait forward and then letting it drift back. This rod ripping method does two things: 1) it eliminates any debris that may be hanging up on the split shot, and 2) it may trigger a following fish into striking.

Run through your areas in a methodical pattern as if you are working a grid. Don't just go out without any direction or reason. Study a lake map to get an idea of the underwater terrain and contours so you have some inkling of where you want to fish.

Follow some of these methods and give trolling a try. Not only will you pick up walleyes, but you may be surprised by a big bass, crappie, northern pike, or musky. No telling what is going to hit your lure while trolling on the Wisconsin River system. *W*

Contact Phil Schweik at Hooksetters Guide Service by e-mailing him at pschweik@dwave.net or through his website at hooksetters.biz.

ELLIS, from page 13

horse-power motors allow the guide to negotiate just 3 inches of water when leading his waterfowl clients to extremely hard-to-reach backwater blinds. Rotate the prop 180 degrees and the motor will also pull the boat back out again. The same features on Lensing's smaller Phowler single engine boat took on anything that the river backcountry tossed at us. Logs that were literally driven over in the shallowest of water and weeds that wouldn't choke off an air-cooled motor were non-factors of where we wanted to fish.

"When I picked up my duck boat, Phowler told me to 'run it like you stole it.' That's how it's designed. It's meant to be used and abused."

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Dick Ellis is publisher of On Wisconsin Outdoors. Read Dick's blog on the website.

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ROBB MANNING

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PCS Blackbird and Pocket Mag Carrier

In Wisconsin we normally get three to four months of warm weather, and when we do, it's nice to be able to wear T-shirts and shorts. T-shirts aren't the best option if you carry, so

we're forced to make a choice: T-shirt or carry pistol. With Pocket Concealment Systems (PCS) you don't have to make that choice; you can wear a T-shirt and carry.

PCS makes seven models of pocket carry holsters as well as five belt carry holsters. I have the Blackbird model for a Kimber Solo. The Blackbird is strikingly good looking—so much so that I hate to hide it in my pocket. But it is for concealed carry after all.

Craftsmanship is outstanding. It's well made, with precision heavy-duty stitching and high quality leather. The edges are burnished—for comfort and to keep the edges from printing. The leather is tooled to

give it a simple and elegant design, the detailing of which sets it apart from other holsters. The Blackbird comes in Black, Brown, and Cordovan and retails for \$50. I like to partner it with the Pocket Magazine Carrier, which retails for \$40.

I think the holster really works best in pants that are a little baggy with large pockets, rendering it ideal for carry in cargo pants or shorts. Since this is

primarily what I wear in hot weather, this makes it the perfect mode of carry in summer months. Any situation where I want to wear a T-shirt, such as bike riding, pocket carry works well.

There are pros and cons to pocket carry. First, the pros. As I said previously, it lets you wear pretty much any shirt type you want. No need for a concealed carry shirt or a certain shirt

cut or print. I recommend wearing one a little long, but you don't have to. Second—and I really like

"Pocket carry does take some getting used to, but it is well worth the effort."

this one—if you suddenly find yourself in a situation in which you're very uncomfortable, you can easily slip your hand into your pocket and grab the handle of the pistol. This makes it a lot faster if you have to draw. You can't put your hand on your pistol if you're using belt carry; that would be brandishing. Better yet, slide both hands into your pockets and with the proper body

continued on page 24

ENGBERG, from page 5

of beautiful green weeds. All of these attributes make this a perfect little lake for a varied and diverse fishery. Besides the stocked brown trout, Devil's Lake has northern pike (some over 20-plus pounds), walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and plenty of eating-sized bluegills and crappies.

The stocked trout are mostly the legal size of 9 inches, with many in the 12- to 14- inch range and some well over 20 inches. You may legally keep three trout per day. You are required to have an inland trout stamp and a valid Wisconsin fishing license. There are good boat landings at both the north and south ends of the lake with the south landing getting some needed improvements the last few years.

The best and easiest way to fish this lake is to drift the main basin with a 3-inch fathead minnow on a #6 or #8 VMC hook with a split shot attached about 2 to 3 feet above the hook. I suggest drifting with the wind and positioning your boat with a trolling motor (I use Minn Kota) to keep the

boat drifting parallel with the waves and wind. Vary the amount of line that you have out and the size of your split shot till you contact fish and find the depth of the day for the suspended brown trout. Try to remember how much line you have out when you caught fish and repeat that process.

Line counter reels work wonders, but not everyone has them or needs them. An easier and cheaper way to go is to count the number of line pulls from your reel to your first guide on your rod. If you have electronics, you'll be able to see the thermocline on Devil's Lake and be able to mark or see the schools of trout and the baitfish that they are eating. In Wisconsin you may use three rods, so vary the amount of line you let out on your rods till you find the zone or depth the trout are in that day. This is simple, back to basics fishing, nothing high-tech. You don't need line counter reels and a GPS, just a rod and reel and some lively minnows. Leeches also will work as will casting a leech or minnow out in deep water without any weight and letting it naturally sink. It won't take long for a trout to find your bait on most days. But

keep your bait lively in warm weather by keeping minnows in the water and crawlers and leeches on ice in a cooler.

Fishing through and over the weed tops is the best way to catch the 2- to 3-pound largemouth bass that love the lush green weeds. Buzz baits, spinners, plastics, Gulp products, and shallow running crankbaits work well when retrieved over and through the weeds. The average bass is a little over 2 pounds. The smallmouths are deeper and often relate to the many large rocks and boulders that surround the lake's shoreline. Casting Rapala Shad Raps to the shoreline rocks and retrieving them over the steep drop-offs will catch smallmouth too. This also holds true for the walleyes that swim Devil's Lake.

Panfish (nice, big bluegills) are close to the weed edges and near any downed wood or brush. Small jigs or ice fishing jigs work best when tipped with wax worms and pieces of red worm. Slip floats work well when casted outside the weed edges and around any visible structure.

One of the biggest surprises is the number of large northern pike present.

Devil's Lake has been managed for pike for many years. The size minimum has been raised to 32 inches instead of the state minimum of 26 inches, and there is a one fish limit. This lake is a pike sleeper with some fish over 40 inches. Most big pike are caught through the ice, but a few people target them during the summer. The big pike cruise the deeper water in the summer looking for the protein-rich stocked brown trout. The trout make the pike grow thick and fat. Trout suspend over deep water all summer and into fall with the pike chasing the schools of trout around the lake. You can also fish the deeper weeds with large crankbaits or drift the main basin with large shiners or sucker minnows down 10 to 20 feet and down over 40 feet of water for northern pike.

Devil's Lake is worth fishing whenever you have the time. It rarely lets me down, and I can usually come home from this productive and beautiful gem tucked away in the Baraboo Bluffs with fish for dinner. You can usually catch trout and panfish, plus there's always the chance for a bonus pike, walleye, or bass.

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S. WILKERSON

Firearms In History

Missed opportunity: the M1 Carbine in the post-war world

Not many Americans were interested in getting embroiled in another European war when it became increasingly obvious by the mid-1930s that a rearmend Germany would soon be on the march. World War I did not prove, as promised, to be “the war to end all wars,” despite the loss of over 100,000 United States soldiers and millions of others from France, Britain, Italy, and Russia.

Instead of ending war, the First World War sowed the seeds for even more havoc. Russia descended into bloody revolution, famine, and the deaths of millions of its citizens. Japan was ascendant in the east in the 1930s, and the atrocities committed by its soldiers against the Chinese, Koreans, and Filipinos went unchecked by the world. Germany’s Weimar Republic experiment in democracy died as a result of the heavy war reparations demanded by the Allies and the worldwide depression. In short order, Germany exchanged an emperor for a dictator.

Like most of the world, the United States suffered under the weight of the depression. Blessed with secure borders, Congress saw little need for large, well-trained, and equipped armed forces. Americans did not have the stomach for another conflagration across the ocean that would result in tens of thousands of dead and maimed soldiers for no apparent reason. The United States had its own problems, not the least of which was an unemployment rate of 25 percent.

While Congress may not have given the armed forces much monetary support, that didn’t mean the development of weapons, tactics, and strategies had ground to a halt. One of the most important lessons Army brass learned from World War I was that of the role of the machine gun and automatic weapons. Machine guns changed the face of wars by making it possible to kill large numbers of combatants in a fast and efficient manner.

Towards the end of the First World War, this capability was being provided to individual soldiers as opposed to only units. German shock troops were armed with some of the



“... the semiautomatic M1 Carbine was the perfect tool for the radio operator, truck driver, or supply clerk.”

first submachine guns, the Bergmann, and put them to deadly effect clearing Allied trenches. Fortunately, it was a case of too little too late. The French also realized the benefits of infantry armed with firearms that could lay down a massive field of fire. In 1918, France began fielding the extremely unreliable Fusil Automatique Modèle 1917 semiautomatic rifle. When it worked, it was a very effective weapon. Unfortunately for the French, it didn’t work often enough.

Weapons like the Fusil Automatique Modèle 1917 and Bergmann piqued the interest of American weapon designers and military strategists. By the early 1920s, work was well on its way at Springfield Armory to develop a semiautomatic rifle. By the late 1930s, just such a rifle, the M1 Garand, was in production and in service with the Army.

Despite the unlikelihood of the country becoming involved in another war across the sea, American weapon designers were on a roll in the 1930s. When war did come on December 7, 1941, the armed forces were ready, at least in terms of firearms. The United States was the only nation on earth whose standard service rifle was semiautomatic in nature, which was great...if you were in the infantry. The 10-pound, 44-inch Garand fired the mighty 30’06 round to great effect. It

was a purpose-built battle rifle for a warrior but far from delightful if you were a cook, typist, mechanic, or any other of a myriad of noncombat soldiers that made up more than 50 percent of armed services personnel.

If you were of the majority whose specialty wasn’t actually killing people, you got a handgun in one of several calibers and configurations. The problem with a handgun is few people can hit anything with one at more than arm’s length. While it wasn’t too often, for instance, that a division band member had to go to battle, it did happen. When it did, the musician with the .38 caliber revolver was at a significant disadvantage against an enemy with a rifle.

With that in mind, Ordnance weapon designers went to work not on perfecting a pistol, but replacing it. The standard U.S. pistol at the time was the much vaunted 1911A1, a reliable workhorse that probably only 1 in 50 soldiers could use to good effect, and then only at close range. What was needed was a firearm that support personnel could actually hit something with but was small and light enough to not get in the way of their duties; hence, the M1 Carbine.

Weighing in at less than 6 pounds, only 36 inches in length, and firing a lot of small .30 caliber bullets in a replaceable box magazine, the

semiautomatic M1 Carbine was the perfect tool for the radio operator, truck driver, or supply clerk. The carbine was, however, a rather imperfect tool for fighting soldiers, who, nevertheless, often took a shining to it due to its light weight, rapid fire, and ease of maintenance. The carbine may have been designed for issue to support personnel, but it wasn’t long before it was being widely used by actual fighting soldiers in combat situations. In that capacity, the reviews were mixed.

The M1 Carbine shot what amounted to a pistol round comparable to a 9 mm in power. Stuffed into 15- or 30-round magazines, a soldier could sling a lot of lead with an M1 Carbine, particularly if it was of the fully automatic variety, which many of them were after World War II. If the target was 50 yards away or so, the M1 was reliably lethal. Beyond that, things quickly became iffy.

Most battles are fought at 100 yards or less, meaning that the carbine was only halfway there as a reliable killer. On the other hand, the M1 Garand, firing the much bigger 30’06 round, was pretty much overkill. Soldiers simply did not need that big of a round in combat situations, which is something Army Ordnance realized as far back as the 1920s. The M1 Garand was originally designed to fire a far more practical, and smaller, .276 caliber round. One bean counter in particular, then-Army Chief of Staff (General) Douglas MacArthur, put an end to that. With ample supplies of 30’06 in stock, MacArthur saw no need in retooling for another round. The United States did not get around to correcting that mistake until 40 years later, and then only after being introduced to the most lethal killing machine ever, the Kalashnikov.

Seeing as how they bore the vast brunt of the fighting in World War II and killed far more Germans than any of the other Allies combined, it is no surprise that the Russians learned a thing or two about what made an effective battle rifle. Four-foot long, five-shot, bolt action rifles, like the ungainly Russian standard infantry rifle, the Mosin-Nagant 91/30, were not

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JOEL DEBOER

Release 'Em Right

Let the big ones swim away

Tips From The Pros.

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Few moments in nature can be as touching, even spiritual, as watching a trophy fish swim away to fight another day. Years ago I was fortunate to guide a successful veterinarian and accomplished outdoorsman named Dale to one of the more memorable and moving incidents I have been privy to experience on the water.

Dale was an accomplished hunter and fisherman, having traveled the world while capturing wild game on just about every continent, including Africa's fabled "Big Five." The stories were excellent; the cold front that greeted us on the first of our two fishing days was not. After a fruitless first day consisting of only a few lazy follows on one of Hayward's pristine bodies of water, a dandy musky finally decided to eat Dale's Jake crankbait as the sun peeked out from behind the clouds during the late afternoon. As we had discussed prior to the trip, Dale knew my boat maintained a strict catch-and-release policy with muskies. After catching the upper 40-inch class musky, he begrudgingly let it go after a few brief pictures.

Long after the fish had disappeared back to the depths, Dale remained lying on his belly on the bow of my boat. He lay motionless, even statuesque to the point I began to feel a pang of worry as to his health. I intuitively asked him if he was all right, to which he slowly sat up and faced me, tears in his eyes. "Joel," he said, "you were right. That was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen."

Catch and release of trophy gamefish is more popular today than ever, and for good reason—many top predators, such as the muskellunge, often experience difficulty reproducing successfully or tend to produce young that are highly vulnerable to natural mortality and predation within their environment. A study and hypothetical musky release/stocking scenario conducted by Muskies Inc. concluded that to grow just one 50-inch musky in a body of water requires over 500 juvenile muskies make it to 10 inches. Think about that—over 500 juvenile muskies must survive to hopefully result in just one making it to the magic 50-inch mark!

I am thankful to the good Lord for the hundreds of muskies I have been blessed to boat over the years for myself, clients, family, and friends. Of all those fish, not one musky has been kept, including all of them over the magic 50-inch mark. Am I looking for praise and accolades? Absolutely not. Rather, I hope to impress upon you just how vital proper catch and release truly is. With the advances made in graphite fish mount replicas such as those produced by Conover, Wisconsin's very own Lax Taxidermy, there is no educationally-sound argument to be made for killing big fish. Period.

The successful release of trophy fish does require preparation on behalf of the angler. Just as a surgeon cannot do his or her job without the correct tools and equipment, neither can a fisherman. Preparation

begins by keeping a release kit in the boat at all times and in good working order. Start by taking a quality durable waterproof box such as the Plano 1470-00 Large Polycarbonate Waterproof Case and filling it with the tools necessary for proper release of a musky: a long-nosed pliers, bolt cutters (for cutting hooks), hook-out, and a fish-friendly jaw spreader. Release gloves are a good idea, as they not only protect your hands from sharp teeth and gill rakers but help minimize the amount of protective slime removed from the fish during landing and handling. Add in a split ring pliers along with extra split rings and Mustad hooks of varying sizes and your release kit is ready to go.

While fighting a fish, do not play it to the point of exhaustion as it makes successful release that much more difficult. In summer, as the water temperatures reach the upper 70s and into the 80s in our area and most places down South, this becomes even more crucial. In fact, once water temperatures crest the 80-degree mark, it is in the best interest of the muskies to avoid fishing for them at all as successful release becomes incredibly difficult.

Landing a fish should involve leading it head first into the net, then leaving the fish in the water so that it is able to breathe and have its body supported. With the specimen still in your net, remove the hooks using the bolt cutters to cut any hooks too firmly embedded. Once the lure has been moved safely out of the way, leave the fish in the net while preparing the camera and addressing any organizational needs in the boat.


When you are ready for your photo opportunity, carefully lift the fish, ensuring to support the weight of the body with your other hand. Take a few quick photographs if so desired, and get the fish back in the water as quickly as possible. Once you have placed



The author offers advice for safely releasing muskies, in particular trophy fish. Guide Dennis Radloff knows the game.

the fish back into its watery domain, continue to support it so that the body remains upright and do so until the fish swims away under its own power.

May you experience the thrill of watching a giant swim away to fight another day this year! Catch a big one and let it go, let it grow.

I'll see you on the water. 

Joel DeBoer owns and operates Wisconsin Angling Adventures guide service, and specializes in muskie, walleye and smallmouth bass, based out of the greater Wausau, WI area. He can be reached at 715.297.7573 or through www.wisconsinanglingadventures.com.


WILKERSON, from page 20

ideal for mass infantry attacks, street, and house-to-house fighting, which made up so much of the war on the Eastern Front.

Submachine guns were favored by Russian troops but lacked range. What was needed was an intermediate caliber battle rifle with semi and fully automatic capability. The Russians developed just such a weapon with the advent of the 7.62 x 39 Kalashnikov, otherwise known as the AK 47.

American Army Ordnance learned virtually nothing of any use from World War II that would prove helpful in the development of the Garand's successor. Ordnance developed a slightly smaller 30'06, the .308, and, basically, modified the Garand to fire fully automatic and take a replaceable 20-round box magazine. The resulting behemoth, the M14, tipped the scales at over 10 pounds loaded and was

virtually uncontrollable in full auto. The M14 was completely outclassed in the jungles of Vietnam by the Kalashnikov, and after less than 10 years of service was replaced by the smaller and lighter M16 that fired a .223 round.

Rather than further developing the Garand, Army Ordnance might have been well in front of the eight ball had it concentrated on improving the M1 Carbine, a weapon very similar in size and purpose to the Kalashnikov. History teaches us that the carbine was a portent to the future and the Garand/M14 a dead end. Had the M1 Carbine been developed to fire a slightly larger round, it may have been the first widely issued assault rifle. Instead, that honor belongs to the Kalashnikov. 

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

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Got fish? Sheboygan has a Hot **Salmon fishery** going on right off our shores, and it's heating up with the area's **summer festivals**. We have fish, brats, beer, and family activities. A short hike off the interstate, follow the brat smoke. We got fish! Contact The Wolf Pack to enjoy that adventure with a special someone. *Click on Sheboygan County.*

Ashland, Lake Superior's hometown, the Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin. July: 4 - Ice Cream Social, Carnival, Outdoor Concert, Fire Run, Fire Works. 17&18 - Maxwell Street Days. 19-21 - Bay Days. 21 - Sprint Triathlon and Little Minnow Kids Triathlon. August: 31-September 2 - County Fair. Chequamegon Bay, a **World Class Small Mouth Bass Fishery** and 4-season fishing destination. *Click on Ashland County.*

Price County is home to a variety of natural resources. Our abundance of woods and waters provides **endless outdoor recreational opportunities**. Explore the 150,000-acre Chequamegon National Forest and over 120,000 acres of State and County Forest. You'll have free access to 18,000 acres of water, including 174 lakes, several trout streams, three major rivers and six county parks. *Click on Price County.*

Port Washington celebrates summer outdoors! Fishing is great; **book a charter, launch your boat, or drop a line**. Launch a canoe, kayak, or stand-

up paddleboard from South Beach. Rent a bike and hop on the Interurban Trail for a spin. Or, just grab a bench and watch the lake. *Click on Ozaukee County.*

Fishing on Green Lake is fantastic this time of year, but this lakeside community is also known for culture. **The Fine Arts Fair** bustles with over 100 artists, August 10-11. And live music rocks the wharf as **Battle of the Bands** heats up August 17. *Click on Green Lake County.*

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, game room, concessions, swimming beach, boat launch, and fishing. Petenwell Park also offers ATV parking with immediate trail access. *Click on Adams County.*

After working up an appetite from fishing on **Lake Winnebago**, head over to one of the many supper clubs on the east side of the lake in Calumet County—**Supper Club Capital of the Midwest**. Visit the dining section of the county's website for a listing of supper clubs. *Click on Calumet County.*

Passionate about fishing? Cast your line in the **St Louis River**. Walleye fishing has been fantastic, and trophy muskies are starving for your lure. If ATViing is your style, we have **Wisconsin's largest county forest with over 1,200 miles of roads and trails**. *Click on Douglas County.*

Hold on to your seats as things heat up at the Richland County Fairgrounds July 25-27 for **"Churning Dirt" National Truck**

and Tractor Pulls! Looking for something a little more "serene"? Richland County has many scenic routes through the hills and valleys for motorcyclists, bicyclists, and hikers. Something for Everyone! *Click on Richland County.*

4th of July Celebrations, **Community Festivals**, County Fair, Farmers Markets, Greenhouses, Historical Museums, **Bike Races**, Camping, Hiking, Swimming, Fishing, **Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking**, Horseback Riding and ATViing on the best trails in Wisconsin. Visit us today! *Click on Clark County.*

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the Big River! **Pool 9 of the Mississippi is over 30 miles long and 3 miles wide**. If you've never been this way, you will be delightfully surprised at the beauty of bluff country. Grandview Motel in Ferryville is right at the center of it all. *Click on Crawford County.*

Enjoy the beautiful lakes of Walworth County with **Dave Duwe's Guide Service** and create memories with some of the best fishing around. Try **Delavan Lake** for Northern Pike and Largemouth and **Lake Geneva** for Lake Trout and trophy Walleyes. *Click on Walworth County.*

Find the motorcycle haven of Western Wisconsin. We have winding roads, grand views, and country hospitality with forested hillsides, meandering rivers, wetlands and ridges. Five routes take you through friendly towns and remarkable destination stops. Visit driftlessdestination.com Sparta is part of it! *Click on Monroe County.*

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LEE GATZKE

NextBuk Outdoors

Badgerland homegrown gear

Shortly after the Fourth of July, glassing deer—and bucks in particular—gets really interesting. Antlers are well into their development now with frames and tines established enough to identify who will be carrying the heavy headgear come fall. By the end of August antler growth will be complete. During these two months most of the bucks are hanging out in bachelor groups that live in the same general area, making it easy to keep track of them once they are initially located. Mid to late summer also finds bucks active in daylight, typically feeding out in the open during evening, well before the sun sets. This all adds up to make for great glassing conditions.

Watching deer now, through the lenses of a good pair of binoculars, fuels my fire to get into the woods come fall. This past year I picked up a new pair of compact binoculars from Vortex Optics of Middleton, Wisconsin. The Vortex model 8 X 32 HD Talons are compact enough to fit in my shirt pocket yet powerful enough to effectively glass deer on the “back 40.” When they’re not in my pickup, they’re in my backpack or hanging around my neck anytime I head into deer country.

Back in early May the closet where I keep my hunting gear needed a good cleaning. Faded camouflage suits, long underwear and socks riddled with holes, and old quilted flannel shirts in tatters were piled high. These items were spared from the trash for too long mainly because of their association with good memories. Some of this stuff was older than my first born, and he is now a father himself. Spring cleaning won out and my inventory of hunting clothes plummeted. This action was made easier due to a desire to get more of the Predator Camo patterns that have caught my eye recently. Predator Camo is located in LaCrosse, making it another Wisconsin company selling top-of-the-line-hunting products. My closet is now stocked with Predator outerwear, easing the pain of dumping my worn out camo.

With my next, and last, planned purchase of hunting gear I will complete my list of needs for this year. It also is from a Wisconsin based manufacturer who has just started up operations. Scent Vent out of Jefferson manufactures an odor elimination system that is revolutionary to the hunting industry. The Scent Vent

The Ellis Blogs.

OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/WisconsinBlog

is a self-contained dryer and odor elimination system that uses positive pressure ventilation to neutralize the bacteria responsible for producing odors. Clothing, footwear, backpacks, and other hunting gear including electronics can be dried and deodorized naturally, without the use of chemicals, in a matter of a few hours.

Boots filled with swamp water is a frequent occurrence for me, and by using this product my boots will be dry and odor free in three hours. I can't think of anything I regularly encounter in the woods and swamps more offensive smelling than swamp muck. Wash swamp muck out of your boots and the odor lingers for weeks unless you treat them with a few hours in the Scent Vent.

If you film your own hunts, you understand how moisture plays havoc and can ruin cameras. Putting a video or digital camera, a GPS unit, or even a computer in the Scent Vent for a few hours before operating the moisture-laden electronic device will likely save it from being fried. I have toasted my share of video cameras due to condensation and moisture. The Scent Vent will be called upon to save them in



Products from Wisconsin based companies Predator Camo and Vortex Optics will be adorning the author as he hunts this year.

the future.

Prior to the opening day of bow season I will have dialed in my weapon, kept watch on the local deer herd, and bought quality hunting gear from companies located here in Wisconsin. Hunting season can't get here soon enough! *OW*

Lee Gatzke is a member of NextBuk Outdoors, creators of tactical deer hunting videos. Gatzke can be reached at www.nextbukoutdoors.com.



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SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette

Outdoor edibles



The best fish I have ever had was on the back of our son's tender boat in Alaska. We had spent the afternoon fishing and once each of our younger kids caught his/her first salmon, we decided it was time to eat. Pieces of salmon were placed skin-side down, spread with a little mayonnaise, salt and pepper, and grilled to perfection. Of course the real key to this dish was "fresh," but I was reminded that it doesn't have to be fancy to taste great. I love gourmet recipes; however, I have decided to devote this column to some basics. As long as you're dealing with fresh fish, the simplest recipes are perhaps the most delicious. Enjoy! ^{OW}

Steamed Fish

- Fish fillets
- 1 can of beer
- Butter
- Salt & pepper

Pour beer into bottom of large, shallow pan. Set pan over medium high heat*, bringing beer to a boil. Place fish fillets in a steamer basket, top each fillet with a pat of butter, salt and pepper to taste, and steam over boiling beer. Cover pan for first two minutes of cooking, then remove cover and continue steaming until fish is opaque. **If you have the right supplies, this can be done over an open fire as well.*

Baked Fish

- 2 lbs fish fillets
- ¼ cup milk
- ½ cup bread crumbs*
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. dill
- ½ cup butter, sliced

Combine bread crumbs, cheese and dill; set aside. Coat baking dish with

cooking spray. Dip fish into milk and dredge through bread crumb mixture; place in prepared dish. Place slices of butter atop fish and bake at 450° for 20 to 25 minutes until fish becomes opaque and begins to flake.

** You can also use Panko crumbs for a lighter crust.*

George's Boiled Shore Lunch

- Fish fillets
- Potatoes, diced into small pieces
- Onions, finely chopped
- Celery, chopped and including leaves
- Salt & pepper

Bring large pot ¾ full of water to boil over open fire. Using large pieces of foil, wrap remaining ingredients in serving size portions and seal securely. Drop foil packets into boiling water and cook about 8 to 10 minutes. Remove packets, open and serve immediately.

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



MANNING, from page 19

language you can make yourself look like you're a laid back loafer instead of someone on high alert.

The cons to pocket carry are pretty minimal. First, it does take some getting used to. A lot of us haven't done it before, and it does feel a little uncomfortable in the beginning. Not speaking as to physical comfort but uncomfortable in that initially you might feel as if everyone will see the bulge in your pants pocket. But in truth they can't, and most people don't look down in that region when you're walking by. If they do, the Blackbird will break up the outline so it looks like a wallet, not a pistol. Second, as someone who typically carries a lot in my pockets, you have to find alternate ways to carry your stuff. In my front pockets I carry my money clip, lip balm, pen, business card holder, pocket knife and car keys. (My car key holder is so big it makes me feel like a prison guard.) You can't carry any of that if you're using pocket carry, especially if you have pistol in one pocket and magazine in the other. This is why I normally don't do pocket carry for both gun and magazine at the same time; I simply can't give up all that pocket real estate.

It's well worth the effort to get accustomed to pocket carry. To me the pros outweigh the cons and I think it is a great option. With the right pants, it is easier to conceal a handgun and can be more comfortable. If you haven't tried pocket carry, or haven't tried it with a PCS holster, give it a try. You might find yourself switching to it as your primary carry method, or at minimum it will give you options when you wear a shirt that is not conducive to belt carry. ^{OW}

Robb Manning served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nearly 11 years where he developed a passion and knowledge for firearms of all types. Since 2010 Robb has been a gun/hunting writer, and also films gun and gear videos for his Youtube channel 762x51n8o.



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ENGBERG, from page 24



Brown trout close-up. Photo by Len Harris.

Call ahead if you plan on camping because the lake gets many visitors during the summer months. There are numerous motels in the area if you're not a camper. Devil's Lake is about an hour north of Madison off Highway 12 and near the Town of Baraboo and south of Wisconsin Dells.

There is something for everyone in Sauk County, year 'round. But fishing

and camping at Devil's Lake for a day or two is a wonderful experience way to enjoy the summer.

Contacts: Wilderness Fish and Game, 608.643.2433. **Guides:** Wally Banfi 608.644.9823 and Gary Engberg 608.795.4208.

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Product 6-Pack

Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

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

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Heavyweight 600 Denier Polyester, floating foam padding and multiple pockets store all the important necessities you need for a successful day in the field. Includes plenty of quick access shell loops. Comes in single and double sizes. \$41.99 - \$45.99. Available at hunting retailers and catalogers.

Editors Note: Coming this fall! Proline Manufacturing announces a new line of footwear for the Duck Commander Company. Check the "Featured Products" page at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com for more information.

www.duckcommander.com

STEALTH CAM SKOUT NO-GLO

Looking for a new scouting camera to get ready for bow season? Look to Stealth Cam's newest creation. The SKOUT NO-GLO camera incorporates three technologies: video (capable of 10-180 seconds with audio clarity), still imagery (7MP, 3MP or 1.3MP settings) and time lapse.

Maybe best of all, the Skout No-



Glo is easy to program and set up. It operates on eight AA batteries. Output includes time, date, moon phase and temperature output, so you can really study and analyze game movements. The price is right too. \$139.99.

www.stealthcam.com

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Product 6-Pack contributors include Tom Carpenter and Robb Manning. If you have recommendations for good gear that works for you, tell us about it at ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

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