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KATHY STRONG

Pre-Season Conditioning For Hunting Dogs

Ensure your dog is ready for a successful hunt

Nights are getting longer, with occasional teasers of coolness that hint at chilly days to come. Verdant crops are ripening. Portents of fall and the upcoming hunting seasons surround us. Excitement is building, with avid hunters starting to plan for their fall trips afield, whether local or out of state.

Admittedly, a trip to distant regions takes more advance preparation and, naturally, costs far more than local excursions into the field do, but one common factor determines the quality and success of either type of hunt: THE DOG. For both upland and waterfowl hunting, a fit and well-trained hunting dog is the key to a productive hunt. A dog that is well trained isn't necessarily ready to perform at its peak on a moment's notice. Too often hunters fail to realize that conditioning their dogs well before the season starts is essential for the dog to do the job it's bred and trained to do as well as for his safety and health.

A fortune is spent on licenses, costly equipment, travel, lodging, dog training, and other aspects of hunting. Conditioning your dog in advance of the season costs

little and will produce the most return for your money.

Ideally, every hunter would keep his/her dogs fit year around, but that rarely happens. For those who plan on hunting with their dogs during the fall months, preparing the dog for the hunt should begin at least two months before the dog actually will be hunting. A visit to your local vet is the place to start. Update shots and worming and ask the vet's advice on the overall physical condition and weight of the dog. Make adjustments in the type of food the dog gets according to the dog's weight and the increase in exercise that is planned. Dog athletes need higher protein/higher fat diets than non-athletes do, so switch to a good quality, high performance dog food, beginning, preferably, at the start of the conditioning program but no less than one month before the advent of hunting season.

The increase in exercise should be gradual and include a warm up and cool down phase, along with variations in the intensity of the exercise during the session. Begin with sessions lasting about 15

minutes and, over time, increase the length and/or number of conditioning sessions done each day. Any conditioning program needs to include days off for the dog to rest. Daily exercise is not recommended. Five days per week of strenuous exercise is more than enough; four is adequate.

Walking with the dog in an open field and on varied terrain exposes him to conditions experienced during hunting. An added benefit is that this activity helps condition the hunter, which is also essential for the success of the hunt. Jogging, biking with a bike attachment for exercising dogs, and running the dog with a 4-wheeler are great for building stamina, but high summer temperatures limit these forms of exercise to cooler days or early mornings. High impact exercises such as leaping and twisting should be avoided, especially in young dogs that are not fully developed but also in any dog due to risk of tearing ligaments or injuring joints. Water exercise, which is low impact and ideal for hot summer days, is fun for the dogs

continued on page 5



The author with Hooligan.



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JOHN LUTHENS

Three Days On The Flowage

Time has no meaning on the Turtle-Flambeau

We were lost within minutes of gearing up canoes and launching the fleet from a remote gravel landing. Soon we were plowing through marsh grass, high reeds, and swarms of mating dragonflies. A heavy bass splashed from under a lily pad and swiped at a pair of the winged lovers.

It took an hour of looking at the map, gauging the angle of the sun and relative wind direction, not to mention good-natured bickering in our canoe, when it started to sink in. Like Bugs Bunny once said, we “shoulda taken that left toin at Albukoykee.”

My navigator shouted out an opening ahead. It turned out to be a delusional mirage consisting of more weeds and sunken trees. With no signal, I stowed my useless cell phone back in my waterproof pack. Heavy bushes scraped along the sides of the canoe hulls. Back up, look at the map, realize the mistake, and turn around.

Blossoming in every direction were 14,000 acres of water and 195 islands

that popped from every angle, ranging from tiny birch and pine outcroppings to mammoth stretches of forest near impossible to distinguish from the mainland.

We were searching for a campsite to spend the next three days, designated to meet up with others in the swirling islands and waters, including a scattering of Boy Scouts from Troop 840 in Grafton and an assortment of other venturesome explorers from the Ozaukee County area.

But while 18 people in nine different canoes left the landing with us, everyone intent on trying their own custom routes, now there were only two of us paddling through endless channels with no sign of our companions.

We’d get there eventually. Miles of remote water lay before us. Time had no real meaning here. The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is like that.

Spread across northern Wisconsin’s Iron County, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is as close to traversing the waters of the Canadian Shield as you can get



Adam Schacht of Grafton pulls in a nice smallmouth bass.

without waiting in line for a border check. Springing to life just south of the town of Mercer, it rolls out just as rugged and scenic. Around any given bend the mind wanders to images of moose drinking along the shoreline and elk crashing

off through the brush, barring the fact that the Flowage didn’t even exist when moose and elk still roamed free across the northern realms of the state. Indeed, this

continued on page 7

TOM CARPENTER

Cubs Corner

Birth of a duck hunter

Although my father hunted some ducks back in the 1950s and ‘60s along the Wisconsin River bottoms near our home in Muscoda, waterfowl wasn’t his first choice of autumn pursuit. Squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, and deer were his fall callings, pretty much in that order, along with the bobwhite quail that still inhabited our state in decent numbers back in those “olden” days.

Getting up at O-dark-thirty. The good work of lugging gear. The splash of decoys onto dark water. Hiding in the cattails. The sweet smell of the marsh at dawn. Whistling wings. The call of, “Take ‘Em!” Shotguns booming. A teal or mallard somersaulting to the water. A hot breakfast at a small town café later, feeling all tired and warm and good, knowing there were some ducks to pluck out in the truck. Those joys weren’t part of my sporting experience while growing up. But kids can change your perspective.

continued on page 7



Ethan Carpenter proudly displays a pair of gorgeous drake wood ducks.

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TOM CARPENTER

Autumn Flight: Woodcock

Ten timberdoodle tips

When autumn leaves turn color and the first frosts hit, it's time to think woodcock. Timberdoodles provide great shooting when their migration is on and the flight is "in." The trick is predicting when birds will arrive and then knowing where to find them. These timberdoodle tips will help you feel the satisfying weight of a brace of woodcock in your game bag.

1) Note Tradition

You can find local birds in September, but woodcock traditionally migrate through Wisconsin in the first two weeks of October. This coincides with peak leaf color and frosty nights, but is generally ahead of deep freezes that lock up the woodcock's food supply of earthworms that the long-billed birds probe for in soft soil.

Photoperiod—decreasing day length—triggers migration. But some autumns the birds move through earlier; other years, later. Weather events and lunar patterns also affect migration, so it's essential to consider those factors also.

2) Watch The Temperatures

Knowing when the birds might arrive, it's time to watch a thermometer. But don't study your own. Look to the north. Study the temperatures in northern Minnesota and Michigan and southern Ontario. When deep freezes (a couple nights of 27 to 28 F or below) occur in those locations, watch for woodcock to arrive as they travel ahead of the cold.

3) Observe The Moon

Wildlife researchers say that moon phase may affect woodcock migration. Woodcock fly mostly at night, so the moon probably serves as a navigational tool. Data shows that autumn woodcock movement increases with a gibbous (more than 50% lit) moon. A waxing moon, one moving toward full, seems to induce more woodcock movement than a waning moon. An ideal situation may

involve a full moon within the traditional woodcock migration period.

4) Consider Wind And Barometric Pressure

Wind and barometric pressure also affect the migration's timing. A north, northwest, or northeast wind brings woodcock into Wisconsin as the birds ride the flow southward. Rising barometric pressure, associated with the clear blue skies and strong tailwinds of a departing low pressure system and an arriving high, also brings woodcock.

5) Work The Maps

Put a topographic map to work. Woodcock concentrate in low, moist spots, the better for hunting earthworms. Look for creeks, brooks, beaver ponds, bogs and marshes, and focus your efforts there. Stream corridors, especially those that run north to south, often serve as migration routes. Look for feeder streams arriving from the east or west. These moist areas provide food and holding cover for stopover woodcock.

6) Know Woodcock Cover

Aspen, particularly young stands with trunks of buggy-whip to pole sized, attract woodcock. The clean forest floor lets timberdoodles hunt for worms, the stem density protects them from land-based predators, and the overhead canopy foils would-be avian enemies.

Other preferred habitats include alder runs (for their cover density and moist soil) and willows. Research shows that alder runs may hold more birds in dry years, probably because of the associated moisture. Dogwood and sumac also produce.

7) Hunt The Edge

Woodcock prefer transition zones or edges, and a seam between cover types usually holds the most birds. Aspen to tag alders, tag alders to marsh or bog, forest to dogwood,



The author's little Brittany, Rascal, poses with an autumn flight woodcock.

willow to marsh, second growth timber to brush, and any forest to wetland zone are all edges to investigate.

Edges of meadows and abandoned fields also attract woodcock. Work the inside edge of the forest or brush and take a swing back through the field edge. Meadows with goldenrod attract woodcock too.

8) Control Your Dog

When danger nears, timberdoodles sit tight, relying on cryptic coloration rather than wings for safety. Combined with the thickness of good woodcock cover, these factors mean that you need to keep your dog—flusher or pointer—close. Be ready for an unexpected flush or a stop-in-his-tracks point from your pointer. To make up for the reduced amount of real estate you'll work, take several swings through good-looking cover.

9) Hunt Slow

The best hunting approach is slow, methodical, and thorough. Pause often, always with your gun at the ready.

continued on page 8

STRONG, from page 3

and owners alike. A pond or lake, tennis ball or training bumper, and at least one kid or grandkid can make conditioning your dog simple and entertaining for all. However, the retriever will tire far sooner than the throwers will so guard against over-exerting the dog. For those who have a treadmill, teaching a dog to walk on it is a simple matter, convenient, and can be done regardless of weather. The forms of exercise most practical for each hunter's situation depend on the availability of resources and weather conditions. Try to vary the activities done over time to avoid boredom and to help with overall conditioning.

Bear in mind that fitness and heat tolerance are two different things. Just because a dog is fit does not mean it can tolerate high temperatures. Tolerance for heat is related to breed (e.g. English Pointer

versus Labrador Retriever), weight, color of the dog, and simply individual differences among dogs. Don't think that because the dog is in good physical condition that it can be pushed hard on a hot day. If it's hot for the owner, it's hot for the dog. Take a break from conditioning, train during cooler hours of the day or select an activity that won't overheat the dog. Dogs can die from heat exhaustion, which is an avoidable condition.

The dog's food intake should be limited immediately before and after exercising/hunting. Make sure water is available and bring high-energy dog bars or gel into the field to use as needed. Watch for signs of trouble. If the dog seems sore or overly tired, give him a rest and scale back on the intensity of exercise. A buffered aspirin given with food will help symptoms but should not replace time to heal. Lameness that persists beyond a day or two may

signal more than sore muscles and should be addressed by a vet. A dog that is panting excessively needs a rest in a cool place. Encourage the dog to drink and cool him off by pouring cool, not cold, water on his belly or by using a cool, wet rag to wipe his belly and under his ears where blood vessels are close to the surface. A dog that begins to wobble, or whose hind legs collapse, is in trouble. Exercise/hunting should stop immediately. The dog needs to be cooled off and water and a high-energy supplement should be offered. If these actions don't perk him up within short order, vet attention is needed. Regardless, discontinue the exercise/hunt for the remainder of the day and possibly the next day as well. Be proactive in trying to avoid exercise-induced health issues.

For the avid outdoors person, fall is the most exciting time of the year. It's a time of bonding with friends, both human and

canine, an opportunity to relax and enjoy the beauty and bounty of nature, and to harvest the feathered fruits of the fields and lakes. Ensuring that these experiences are rewarding and enjoyable requires advance preparation. It is your responsibility to make sure your dog has the stamina and fitness to perform at his peak by conditioning him prior to hunting season. While this requires little effort or expense, it brings the great reward of a successful experience in the field and is essential to the safety and wellbeing of your canine partner.

Happy hunting.

For more information on pheasant hunting, dog training, pups and/or started dogs, contact Kathy Strong at 715.822.8071. Kathy is owner of Yellow River Game Farm and Piddle Creek Kennels in Barronett, Wisconsin, and dog trainer, breeder, guide, and hunting dog



JERRY KIESOW

Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

Collecting a little tying material

Autumn, my favorite time of the year. There is always something to do in fall. There is the end of the stream trout season to celebrate. At the same time, the beginning of the potamodromous salmon, steelhead, and brown trout spawning runs begin in the Great Lakes tributaries. And ... the collecting season also begins.

For those of us who tie our own flies, September through the end of February is the collecting season: time to gather the natural fur, hair, and feathers we need for our patterns. The whole idea of this, of course, is to save money.

Any fly fisherman who ties his/her own flies and is worth the price of the tackle he/she totes knows that fly tying material doesn't grow on trees. Critters? Yes. Trees? No. So everything we poor souls can do to cut our costs should be done. How? Hunt.

We must trudge through the tall timber, push and pull our pirogue (canoe/skiff) through the cattails and muck, and hike the long, hot fields of stubble and corn, straining sinew and fibers of our feet and legs. Sometimes we sweat; sometimes we freeze; but we don't buy any item we need if we can collect it on our own. We are frugal. Like the pioneers before us, we

must be true hunter/gatherers.

How to begin?

Personally, I will begin this fall season with a trip to northeastern Wisconsin to secure grouse and woodcock feathers. Grouse feathers make magnificent tails and fins on a Woolhead Sculpin, and the miniature woodcock feathers make wonderful wings. A few trips to our cottage should present enough opportunities to accomplish this. And I will time one of the trips so I can toast the end of the stream trout season too. (Combined travel—always a good way to save money.)

During one of those trips I will spend a morning or two along the river or in one of the bays in the lake and harvest a goose. Its wings are perfect for the Leadwing Coachman, plus there is no substitute for goose biots for the tails, legs, and antennae of stoneflies. A mallard will be taken for its breast feathers for Hornbergs, and if I am fortunate, I will be able to pluck a male wood duck. Note: I only need one of each to replenish my supply of material, and, of course, a little waterfowl meat in the freezer is never a bad thing.

I may get the opportunity to harvest a turkey during one of these trips, but I may



Autumn is the time to celebrate the end of the stream trout season, the beginning of the spawning season for salmon and lake-run trout, and the collecting-fly-tying-material season.

have to plan for a long weekend chasing those birds over the hills in the Driftless area. They have a lot more of those critters than we do and I need to bolster my supply of Muddler wings and nymph castings.

What else? Pheasants, of course. I need those golden tippets for the tails of the Royal Coachman and Pass Lake, and the tail feathers for nymphs. Pheasants are pretty hard to come by without a dog (yes, I am dogless), so I should hunt one of the local game farms. No sense traveling all the way to the Dakotas when you can do it locally. Economize; that's the name of the game.

By now the gun deer season could be upon us. I will hunt both regular gun and muzzleloader seasons with my Hawken. The two seasons should get me what I need in deer tails and hide. If that fails, I may have to buy a crossbow. I will amortize that cost over the rest of my lifetime, which will bring the dollar value down to where it will be worth it in tails and hide savings. We always need hollow hair for bass bugs and the tan/brown and white tails for a variety of recipes.

Later, I will hunt squirrels. I use a lot of squirrel tails. One of my best streamers is my squirrel tail streamer. It catches everything. I tie a lot of them in a variety of sizes. I will travel to a friend's cabin in the big oak country. There I can harvest both grey and fox squirrels, again making trips that combine harvests to save money.


In February I'll pick up rabbit fur, after they have developed a thicker coat of hair.

I need some guinea fowl hackle, but a trip to Africa is out of the question. My wife would not like it if I went alone, and the price for two might tip the scale of economy too far the wrong way. I will buy the hackle along with peacock herl, hooks, floss, thread, foam, and the other synthetics. I can't collect everything.

As you can see, with some advanced planning, tyers can save quite a bit of money on their materials ... plus add a tad of meat to the larder.

Of course, this does put a few extra miles on the vehicle, so I will need a new truck sooner than expected, but my spouse should be happy. After all, it isn't much different than when she comes home and says, "Honey, you won't believe all the money I saved you at the mall today. Come, help me unload the car."

See you in, on, or near the river.

Keep a good thought! 

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: jerrykiesowoc.com.

In search of the perfect Wisconsin trout stream with monster fish and no competition? Come along on OWO writer Len Harris' quest for Brigadoon Creek at onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Click on Flyfishing ... and make sure your creel is big enough.



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LUTHENS, from page 4

piece of water was custom crafted by the modern hand of man.

In 1926, a dam was built below the forks of the Flambeau and Turtle Rivers to supply hydroelectric power for paper companies downstream in Park Falls. It backed up the river flow, flooding 16 natural lakes and acres of lowland forest. While I tend to think that messing with Mother Nature only leads to problems down the road, when the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage was created, it became a thing of beauty.

The DNR now manages the flowage, stretching over 35,500 acres of public land with 114 miles of mainland shoreline. There are 66 remote campsites accessible only by water, 60 of which are available at no fee on a first come, first served basis. Six of the campsites accommodate larger groups and require advance registration.

Our canoe was slowly headed for a set of reserve campsites on Big Island at the western end of the Flowage. Eventually we happened across the rest of our party, who were soaking in the sun and checking their own maps in a quiet bay, splashing in the shallows and filling up on water from the jugs we'd brought from home.

It should be noted that we had the bulk of the food in our canoe, while they had the water jugs. It was inevitable that we seek out the practicality of running with the pack. Besides, someone was carrying the water filters among the gear. With no available drinking supply in the heart of the Flowage, when the packed-in water ran out, we would be forced to filter our own.

Seven hours after embarking, we finally navigated through to our camp and set up for three days on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. Sore bottoms and backs and blisters on our paddling hands were worth it, because what followed was a wilderness experience in a wild land of islands, bays, and stretching water that is near impossible to put down through words and pictures. It was hard to believe we were still in Wisconsin.

Mornings and evenings were given to gliding shadowed bays for fish. The Turtle-Flambeau boasts healthy populations of walleye, bass, panfish and perch along with northern pike, musky and sturgeon. There were plenty for the fry pan. Coupled with crisp slab bacon over the coals of a fire, picking a fresh fillet apart with a knife and washing it down with a healthy draught of filtered flowage water was table fare fit for a king.

After the first day of wandering navigation, I never left camp without a map and compass. Thus fortified, I took solo excursions into a maze of islands and coves, exploring and wading the rocky points with a fly rod, catching smallmouth bass from remote places that may have never witnessed a deep running fly streamer. Other than an occasional boat motoring by in a deep channel, there existed only the silence of the wind in the island pines and the soft waves breaking on the rocks.

Eagles watched from the crags of birch trees, curious at the intrusion, possibly looking for an undersized fish to be thrown back for their own dinner. Loons howled long into the night under a full moon that glimmered across the islands. One

late afternoon a solitary deer wandered from the bottoms and walked by unconcerned. I could have touched the doe with a paddle.

Bays of sunken trees rose up like ancient graveyards, whole forests submerged by the simple act of putting mortar and rock in the path of a mighty river junction. It was easily the most diverse watershed I have ever encountered in Wisconsin.

We left the Turtle-Flambeau in a swirling mist, heading out by a shorter route and to a different landing. The wind rolled up a head of steam from the vast southern waters of the Flowage. Whitecaps shipped over the sides of the fully loaded canoes until we finally hit relief in the shelter of an island set. No canoes went down, but the soaked gear that came out of the boats when we finally limped down the home stretch into the landing showed it was a close call. It was as if the waters of the Turtle-Flambeau didn't want to let us go, screaming through wind and waves to tell us we had only scratched the surface of the secrets it wanted to reveal.


There's really no way to know if the windswept ride out of the Flowage portended anything at all. I expect the only way to be certain points to getting lost again in the island channels of the Turtle-Flambeau.

Editor Note: Want to experience the great fishing and scenery of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage but



Nathan Duwe with "Jerkbait" Jerry Hartigan and a nice crappie.

don't care to get lost among its 14,000 acres and 195 islands? Connect with Flowage Super guide Jerry "Jerkbait" Hartigan of Mercer at 715.476.2526 or info@flambeauflowagesport.com.

Read OWO writer Dave Duwe's story of a fall day on the Turtle-Flambeau with Jerkbait at onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Click on Inland Fishing. For information on lodging, dining, and entertainment in Iron County, connect with Iron County Development at ironcounty.com or the Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce at info@hurleywi.com or cabinhurleywisconsin.com. 

John Luthens travels Wisconsin, visiting favorite trout waters and exploring back road country often from the family cabin, near the Bois Brule River in Douglas County. Fishing the Winnebago system is a favorite pastime. He chronicles his outdoor journeys from his home in Grafton, where he resides with his wife and two children. Contact him at Luthens@hotmail.com.

CARPENTER, from page 4

When my boy, Ethan, indicated an interest in waterfowl after his start on deer and upland birds, I wanted to give him a good experience. So I turned to my duck hunting "consultants." Before youth waterfowl weekend a few falls ago, my friends Lester and Don scouted out a small public slough for us. Ethan had a great hunt, shot a box of shells, and brought home almost a limit of blue-winged teal.

Were we duck hunters yet? Not quite. When the next fall's looming youth waterfowl hunt coincided with afternoon obligations, we decided to go it alone near home.

I worked the computer and local game warden, finding a good public slough. Several shopping trips (and several hundreds of dollars) later, we had waders and a good setup of decoys and other duck hunting essentials.

Scouting the slough on a hot early September day, we were giddy at the numbers of ducks quacking and carrying on as we glassed from a bluff above. The waterfowl appeared to be mostly teal. Certainly they would still be around after another mild week of forecasted weather. We picked a setup spot and went home to prepare.

The schedule was charted with military precision. We were out the door at 4:15 AM and by 5:00 were making the mile-long trek from truck to water carrying decoy bag; "duck buckets" with gear, shells and snacks inside; and shotgun.

I threw out 13 decoys—wood ducks and blue-winged teal, with a gap right in front of us for the real ducks to land in—and we settled onto our duck bucket seats in the reeds to wait. As the sky slowly lightened, ducks quacked and chuckled out on the water. We grinned.

At shooting light, a small flock of teal buzzed in. Ethan stood and swung but missed all three shots. "Just a warm up," I advised, hoping to relax the young shooter and take the pressure off. "There's plenty of ducks around. Get ready again."


A single buzzed in from the right and Ethan dropped it into the decoys. We let it lay. Another knot of teal passed just inside gun range, but the shot missed its mark.

A lonely single approached from the other side of the lake, and when the wood duck drake set its wings, the boy dropped it near his other duck. As Ethan reloaded, some more squealing wood ducks fluttered in and another one splashed into the water.

And so it went for another half hour. The sun rose, a glowing orange orb behind a veil of river bottom fog. Ducks flew. I quacked little teal and big mallard sounds. The shotgun boomed. Several more teal dropped before the flight slowed and another stage of the hunt began.

The nearest thing we had to a duck retrieving dog was me. I slowly waded in, trying to remember Lester and Don's lessons about walking in marsh muck and keeping your balance. Slowly but surely, and relying on a makeshift wading staff, I made the rounds to pick up our handful of ducks. Arranging the beautiful blue-wings and woodies on our decoy bag, we sat back to admire the birds, drink some orange juice, and eat granola bars. Life was good.

Duck hunting has become an essential part of autumn's flow ... and life. In late winter we put out duck nest platforms and boxes locally. In spring we watch the duck migration, scoping out and identifying the parade of species. For fall, we have duck hunts to plan along with everything else. We've also added goose hunting to our repertoire.

It felt good to turn my boy into a duck hunter, but another one was born in the process too. 

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

LEE GATZKE

NextBuk Outdoors: *The luck factor*

Come mid September I'll be in a tree for the Wisconsin bow opener prior to heading out to South Dakota to do a spot and stalk bowhunt for mule deer. Do-it-yourself bowhunting mainly on public lands on the wide open, treeless prairie is an adventure I've become addicted to recently. Our western public lands offer low hunting pressure combined with abundant wildlife.

In the darkness of pre-dawn I arrive at the ridgetop overlooking the prairie below. Yesterday I had a failed stalk on a good 4X4 muley buck a mile to the west of here. Inadvertently, the glare of my camera lens caught the attention of the buck and he took off before my stalk got started. After kicking myself for being so careless, I decided I probably saved myself from doing another low probability stalk ending up in an embarrassing miss. He retreated into the hills I now occupy, so as the sun rose I began my search for him. Luckily, I quickly found him. Unluckily, he now had a lot of comrades surrounding him as he lay bedded on a bare hillside with 17 other mule deer. Lack of cover to get within bow range and that many eyes looking in all directions added up to a low probability of success. I backed out hoping tomorrow the situation would be more favorable. Hopefully he beds in cover that would allow for getting closer and has fewer buddies hanging around.

I took off to glass other areas and peek down into draws and valleys looking for another buck. I hadn't travelled far when a nice buck stood up from his bed to stretch before bedding down for a serious nap. He bedded in some low prairie brush out on a wide open plain. I marked his location close to a large boulder and walked a big loop to get downwind before starting my stalk. Reaching the point where I'd have to start crawling to close the distance, I dropped my daypack and a layer of clothes. Taking only my bow, rangefinder, and binoculars, I'd cover this last leg of the stalk on my hands and knees before dropping to my belly to get within bow range. Crawling, glassing, crawling, glassing, I could see the top of the boulder but not the buck. The brush the buck bedded in was about two feet tall. I crept forward and eventually got close enough to see the antler tips of the buck about 120 yards away.

Part of the appeal of spot and stalk hunting is taking the game to your quarry instead of waiting to intercept them as they come to you. The rush of excitement that closing the distance by



The 4X4 muley buck's antlers were still partially covered in velvet despite it being early October.

stalking your target animal provides is akin to that you feel as a deer approaches you in your treestand. While you wait for the inevitable shot, every step closer gets your heart pounding harder. The last 50 yards of a stalk is also when you are most likely to be detected by the deer, so it is necessary to slow down and be very deliberate in your approach while also being very quiet. Fortunately, the prairie is usually a windy environment that covers small, infrequent noises made while stalking as long as you progress slowly and the noises you make equal those of a bird or gopher.

Belly crawling and frequently monitoring the buck's location, moving only when the wind gusted, got me to within 60 yards. Months of target practice, shooting from sitting and kneeling positions had me confident I could make an unobstructed shot from here, but closer is better, so I covered another 20 yards before nocking an arrow. Getting in the kneeling position and crouching low, I waited for the buck to stand up to offer a shot since the brush prevented a clean shot while he remained bedded. I would wait for the buck to get up to stretch or relocate a short distance before bedding down again to take my shot.

Twenty minutes into my wait, I noticed the buck's rack tip forward, indicating he was about to stand up. From my kneeling position I drew my bow. When he stood, I was at full draw. The pounding of my heart sent blood racing to my extremities, my eardrums flexed, barely withstanding the pressure from within, and my eyes pulsed with every heartbeat. If my

cardiovascular system had any defects, they would be tested now.

The buck stood, directly facing me. I had no shot. He looked right through me as I remained motionless at full draw. A moment later he began browsing on brush, lowering his head as he fed. Now that he was standing, I could see that at 40 yards the brush still obstructed his vitals. I'd have to stand to get a clear shot. As I began to stand, he simultaneously rotated his body while his head remained lowered, feeding in the brush. Remaining at full draw, I generally kept the sight pin on the buck, but during the act of standing, my anchor point was compromised. Having my legs now fully extended but still bent over at the torso, I began to straighten up and bring bowstring back to a shooting position. In the process of getting my torso vertical and before I got my bowstring properly anchored, my entire stalk unraveled.

Somehow, while getting to my feet from the kneeling position, remaining at full draw, my finger put enough pressure on the release trigger to trip it, sending the arrow on its way before I consciously squeezed it after properly aiming. The maverick arrow took off to parts unknown and my heart sank. I hadn't reached my anchor point, took careful aim, squeezed the trigger, and followed through to ensure an accurate shot. The arrow was now charting its own flight path.

A split second and 40 yards later the sound of arrow hitting deer was unmistakable. I was shocked. The buck exploded into a dead run as my arrow buried into its paunch. Momentary

disbelief gave way to reality, and I ran after the buck as he disappeared into a valley 200 yards away. A good thing about hunting the treeless prairie is that if you can keep the deer in sight, you should be able to watch him go down, even if it has been gut shot.

By the time I got to where I could look down into the valley below, I could see the buck standing a quarter mile away in a pool of blood. I put my glasses on the buck and watched him stagger another 20 yards before lying down. Walking down into the valley, I followed a heavy blood trail right to my buck.

A closer look at the buck showed the arrow had entered the paunch just in front of the rear leg and buried into the far hind quarter, severing an artery along the way. My feeling of desperation for having hit the buck so poorly while not having intended to shoot yet gave way to a great relief that he didn't go to waste. I am very thankful that my hunt ended the way it did. What are the odds? "It's better to be lucky than good" replayed in my mind again and again. It still does. *WG*

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

CARPENTER, from page 5

Even with a good dog coursing the cover, lots of stops are essential for letting the dog work and come across the narrow scent cone that an idle woodcock creates.

10) Shoot Quick

Conventional wisdom says the ideal time to shoot at a flushed woodcock is at the apex of his vertical rise, when he pauses ever so briefly before darting off horizontally. Unfortunately, woodcock don't always follow this flight pattern, and you might not get to pull the trigger.

A better plan is to shoot quickly as the woodcock rises, with safety for canine and human companions in mind, before the bird really gets darting, juking, veering, and dodging. Use a wide-open choke (improved cylinder or even skeet) and light low-brass loads with no. 7 1/2 or 8 shot. *WG*

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

GLENN WALKER

ABCs For Big Largemouth

Top three rigs for chasing big bucketmouths

For many bass tournament anglers the acronym KISS (keep it simple, sir) plagues their mind when the bite isn't going the way they had hoped. This is why it is important for all bass anglers to have a good understanding of the three key rigs that should be used when going after largemouth bass.

The first rig that many bass anglers use in their infancy of bass fishing is the Texas Rig, mainly because of its ability to fish heavy cover and not get snagged, and also its versatility. The Texas Rig consists of three main components: weight, hook, and plastic bait. The Texas Rig is versatile because you can do so many things with it by changing up the bait and weight you use.

By upping your weight to a ½-ounce or larger tungsten weight, you can probe deep water cover or punch through the thickest of mats. Or, by putting a very small split shot or 1/16-ounce tungsten weight, you can let your plastic bait drift in the current or swim it over the top of vegetation.

The vast array of soft plastic baits on the market makes great options for Texas Rigging. From tubes to craws, to lizards and worms, there is a shape, size, and color that will work for your favorite body of water.

With a Texas Rig you can target any form of fish holding cover. From pitching it to weed edges or clumps or around stumps and laydowns, the Texas Rig is a definite must-know rig for any bass fisherman.

A Carolina Rig is a great technique for anglers to target deep water structure that is holding bass. A C-Rig, as it is commonly referred, is also an excellent way to determine what the bottom content is and what structure is available on the bottom of the lake. Tossing a Carolina Rig is a good way to dredge the depths of any body of water.

Some of the offshore structures that a C-Rig shines around include underwater humps, wood, points, and breaks. Over the past several seasons I have played around with this technique, and it has now become a key part of my arsenal. By adapting the components that make up a Carolina Rig, an angler can employ this technique on their local body of water, whether a deep lake or a shallow river. Another benefit of using a C-Rig is that it is an effective lure to cover a vast amount of water in a short amount of time.

With the Carolina Rig I use 15-pound fluorocarbon for my main line and leader, which is usually 18 to 24 inches. I first slide a brass weight onto my line that will range from 3/8- to ¾-ounce, depending on how deep of water I'm fishing. Then I'll place two beads on the line to help protect my knot and

also create noise. From there I'll use a high quality ball bearing swivel that connects my main line to my leader.

On the business end of my C-Rig is an extra wide gap hook with some form of plastic bait on it such as a baby creative bait, ring fry, or fluke.

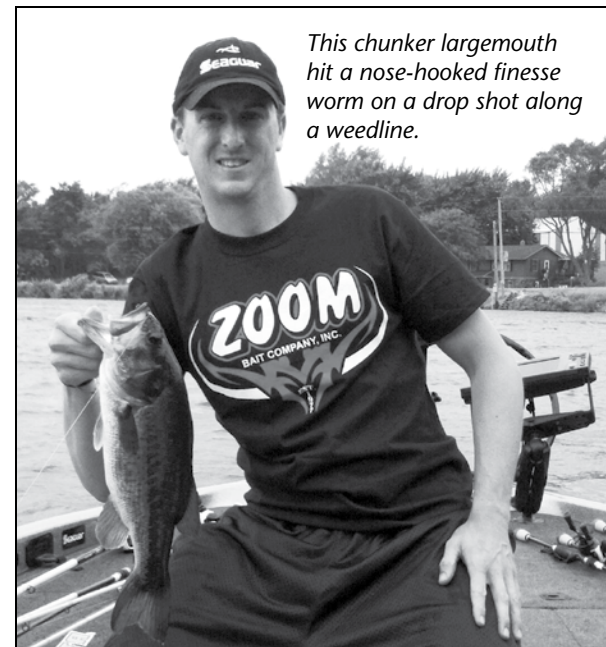
When it comes to hook selection for your Texas or Carolina rig you'll want to use a hook that has a big enough gap so the plastic has room to move when you set the hook, thus giving you a solid hook up on that big bass. Depending on the size of your plastic bait and shape, you'll either want to use an extra wide gap hook, round bend hook, or if you are fishing tubes, a hook that is specifically designed for tubes such as the TroKar Tube Hook.

A technique that has become a go-to of mine in tournaments these past summers, regardless if I was fishing shallow, deep, lake, or river, is the drop shot. To rig your drop shot, first take your 1/0 Drop Shot hook and tie a Palomar knot. Then, instead of cutting the tag end off, run it back through your hook eye and take drop shot weight and clip it on to the tag line where you want your dropper to end.


For weight selection, I try to use the smallest weight possible, which depends on the water depth and wind. The majority of the time I'll use a 3/16-ounce round or cylinder-shaped drop shot weight.

My top choices include a wacky-rigged Senko, a Gulp Leech or Minnow, or a finesse worm. Deciding on which bait to use has a lot to do with what the bass are feeding on in the lake or river I'm fishing. If they are feeding on minnows, then I want my bait to resemble a minnow. If the bass are very lethargic, then I'll use a small plastic bait such as a small worm or 3-inch wacky rigged Senko. These baits will make any bass bite despite how tough the conditions are.

With these three simple-to-rig bass fishing set ups, you'll be able to effectively target bass on any body of water, regardless



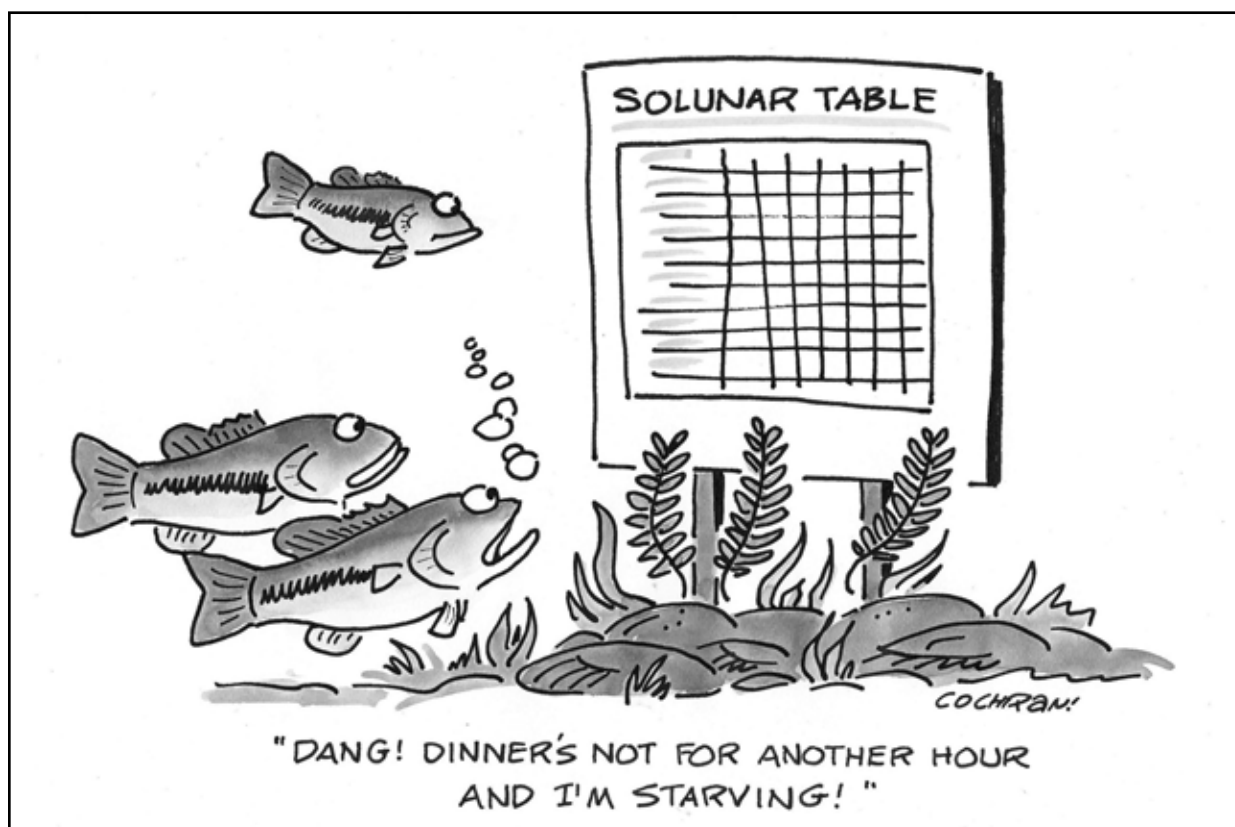
This chunker largemouth hit a nose-hooked finesse worm on a drop shot along a weedline.

of water depth, cover, or time of year. So next time you are looking to practice up on a new technique, don't forget about the ABCs of bass fishing. 

Glenn has been fishing tournaments for ten 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](https://www.facebook.com/glennwalkerfishing).



Using a Texas Rig, an angler can flip heavy vegetation.





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CLAY HELLER

Fall Fishing: Now is prime musky time

There has been many an article written about fall musky fishing. Just pick up any fall issue of your favorite outdoors publication and there is bound to be an article by a local musky guide telling you to get out there and chase muskies this autumn, and for good reason. Fall is prime musky time, arguably my favorite time of year to chase these toothy critters.

What makes fall so special compared to any other time? It's a combination of factors. First being the lack of pleasure boaters; usually by Labor Day most of the non-fishermen/women have packed up their boats for the season. This can make it much easier to fish on lakes that receive heavy recreational traffic. It sure is nice to be able to fish a piece of structure without someone driving between you and the structure or having someone blow by you with a tube in tow and nearly rock you out of your boat.

The second factor is the fish themselves. In the fall the muskies start to put on the feed bags to prepare for the upcoming winter. The females are starting to produce eggs for next year's upcoming spawn. As the eggs continue to develop, the females will be searching for extra nutrition to help them mature. The fish we contact will likely be at mass density, making this a time for a

chance at a real trophy.

Baitfish are key to musky location this time of year. As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, the water temperatures will start to drop. As the water cools, suspended schools of baitfish will start to move shallow and the muskies will no doubt follow. Find the bait and you will find muskies.

Versatility in your presentation is the secret this time of year. Large bucktails, topwaters, glide/jerk baits, and twitch baits can all be very productive. In general, large baits in fall are the standard, but vary your tactics and let the fish tell you what they want. I like to start out with everyone in the boat throwing different baits at the beginning of the day and let the fish tell us what they want. There are times when we'll all wind up throwing the same style bait by the end of the trip, because that is what the fish were chasing that day.

So get out there and chase some muskies this fall. You might end up catching your best fish of the year. *WO*

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



The author with a heavy fall 4-footer caught casting a shallow bay loaded with baitfish.

MIKE FOSS

A Monster's Haunt

Finding special bear no guarantee of September success

"Hey Rob," my voice echoed through the swamp to reach my friend somewhere on the bordering Bayfield County ridge. "Get over here. You won't believe this."

We had been searching for the small swamp I now stood in since I had locked its location away in my mind in November. Somehow, clear memories of possible new hunting stands become abstract over time, especially when the "spot" also become disguised in the lush, green vegetation of full summer.

Rob Hass, one of the Guide's helpers who baits stands beginning in summer to bring bears habitually to the September stands placed for 15 to 20 hunters, heard the urgency in my voice. Soon he was standing next to me, looking up at the old cedar tree that had served as a territorial marker for a huge bear. I had followed his deep tracks and a worn trail in the mud to the cedar. At the tree, deep scratch marks to 8 feet above on the bark clearly showed claw marks that were 2 inches apart. Like a business card, this bear was telling other bears that he was here.

He was also telling us we had found another special bear. "I've never seen anything like that," Rob said quietly, his eyes fixed high on the tree. Rarely, anyway, even when you spend as much time in the jungle as a bear guide.

My thoughts shifted to Snaggletooth, the monster bear we had unsuccessfully set ambushes for over more than 10 seasons before the 600-pound boar, that I believe weighed 700 pounds in his prime, had finally fallen to hound hunters two years ago. In our own camp, one bear better than 600 pounds and several more in the 500- and 400- pound class had also worn the tags of our hunters in recent years. This is nasty, rugged, isolated Lake Superior country. Bears have a chance to reach the age and weights that can make a hunter tremble when a huge black ghost slips noiselessly from the shadows in the last few minutes of legal shooting hours, especially the inexperienced hunter only drawing a bear tag every nine years.

At Northern Wisconsin Outfitters, we have earned a 95 percent shot opportunity

for our firearms hunters and archers. We hang many bears and know only a small percentage reach these trophy sizes. Yet, they are here. It's easy as each winter wanes to get motivated to seek out such rare animals, although, in 2013, Mother Nature had done her best to smother the enthusiasm.

By April of 2012, like a kid at Christmas we were setting the first trail cameras of the season to visually capture the bears that had made it through the winter and priming the pumps of the first bait stations with teaser baits that, as the September season approaches, will be fully baited four to five times per week. In 2013, when April snow is measured at the knee, it's harder to get motivated. When the snow did melt, heavy spring rains brought floods and washed out roads that that would put us one month behind schedule.

Finally, when the rain also subsided and the backcountry where our many stands are set over 35 square miles became reachable, the mosquitoes, horse flies, and

continued on page 13



Six-foot tall Bayfield County super guide Mike Foss stands next to the cedar tree used as a territorial marker for another monster bear. The scratch marks reach to 8 feet on the cedar with claw marks an estimated 2 inches apart.

Weekend Freedom Machines



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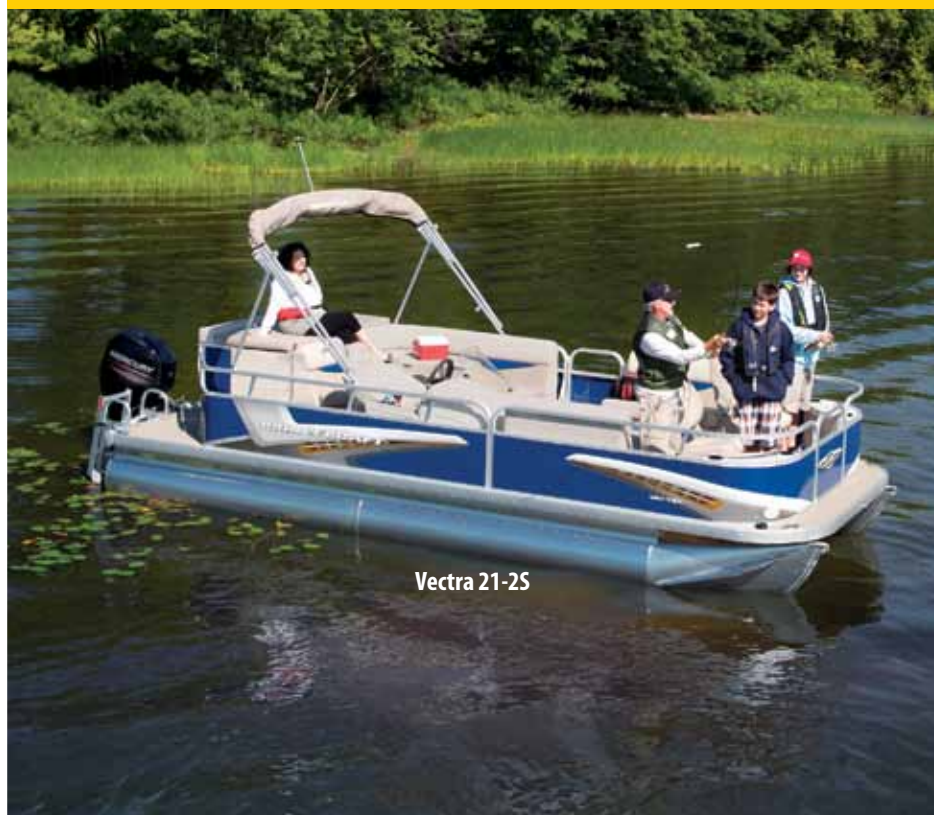
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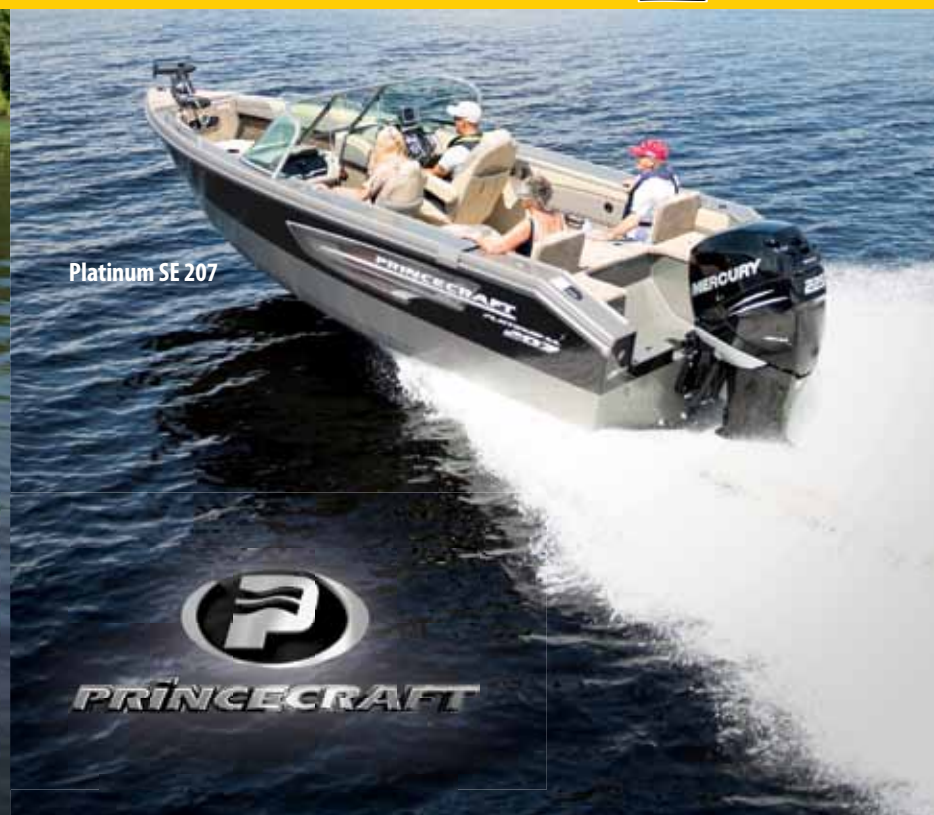
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Fall fishing at the Bridge in Winneconne can result in some quick limits of chunky walleyes.

Mention fall migrations to an outdoor enthusiast and waterfowl most commonly come to mind. Wisconsin offers a multitude of opportunities for viewing and hunting a diverse population of migratory birds. But for us in Wolf River Country, there's another migration creating anticipation. It's one of a more finny rather than feathery nature.

Late summer days struggling to emerge through the fog of crisp, too-cold-for-summer type mornings are a sign Wolf River Country's fall fish migrations are about to begin.

Through August, if you fished the wood in the river channel, bluegills were plentiful, often providing good action and fish fries. Now, as the water cools, it becomes a mixed bag of bluegill and crappie. Then, with the first hard freezes, your cooler will be filling with more crappie than bluegills, but you can still fish the same wood that produced in August. Plus, the resident walleye suddenly seem to develop an appetite.

If you haven't done that float trip for smallies on the Embarrass, Little Wolf, or Waupaca yet, the window for the best action is closing fast. All three of these tributaries hold resident smallmouth populations, but many of these tributary fish migrate back to the sanctuary of the Wolf River for the winter.

October can provide some of the best smallmouth fishing of the year on the Wolf. Personally, I think the Embarrass has some of the best quality summer smallmouth populations. Eighteen- and 19-inch fish are common and they have broad shoulders. Most of these fish will find their way back to the Wolf River by October, making New London a hotspot for October smallmouth. But I wouldn't ignore the mouths of the Little

GORDON PAGEL

Wolf River Country

Fall migrations of a piscatorial nature

Wolf and Waupaca either, as migrating fish will initially be concentrated in the river sections nearest the mouth of these tributaries.

There had been reports of good catches of white bass along the rock wall in Fremont back in August, but the fall white bass run generally starts in September. Late summer rains that increase the flow of the river will attract more fish and pull them farther upriver. Fremont is a safe bet, though, because the deep water immediately upriver from the mouth of the Wolf River to the mouth of the Rat River will attract fish regardless.

In the spring of 2011, DNR fisheries

biologists implanted 30 male and 30 female walleyes on the Wolf River with sonic telemetry tags. They have already garnered some interesting results.

One trend indicates a large movement of walleye from Lake Winnebago to the upriver lakes in October and November. This coincides with the fall run of walleye up the Wolf River and legitimizes the Winneconne Bridge as a fall hotspot.

Locally tied flies are the hot bait in Winneconne this time of year. Red and black worked well for me last year. Fishing the bridge area by boat in early fall is a bit of a social event, but it's a fun one and productive.



The Embarrass River has a healthy summer population of smallmouth, but many of these fish migrate back to the Wolf River for the winter.

Walleye will be active through November until ice-up on the Wolf River. This is true all the way up to New London if water levels and flow are strong. If low water conditions exist, the better fishing typically will occur from Fremont down to Lake Poygan.

The information gathered by the DNR through those telemetry tags also helps explain why Lake Poygan can be a hotspot for winter walleye through the ice. This year should be no exception. And the fish should be exceptional.

DNR tagging results from this past spring were simply amazing. The 2008 year-class was fully recruited into the adult population this year, and the result was impossible not to notice. "In a good year, we will handle around 1,500 females, but this year it was more than 4,500," said fisheries biologist Ryan Koenigs. The 2008 class accounted for the 19- to 21-inch females and the 16- to 17-inch males. The DNR estimates exploitation rates at about 21 percent for females and 15 percent for males. So there is a very healthy population of walleyes involved in these fall movements.

Why wait until spring?

Wolf River Country Resources:

FREMONT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | travelfremont.com

CAPTAIN BOB CARYL | redbanks.net

CHRIS "CRITTER" BOUCHER | critterssports.com

GORDON PAGEL | wolfrivercountry.com

FOSS, from page 10

gnats joined us every step of the way. It was miserable. With the water table up and the forest saturated, bear hunters, arm yourselves properly or you will be eaten alive ... and not by the bears.

With the very late spring and nasty weather, the bears emerged from their hideaways with extra fat burned and their own enthusiasm to snap on the feedbag. No bird feeders were safe, including my own, and I have yet to see the devil that continues to smash my empty 55-gallon bait barrels stored behind the garage. One would think after his twentieth rampage that this bruin would discover the barrels are empty, but the ritual seems to have evolved into a knock-em-down, stack-em-up game.

As summer falters, baiting is in full swing. We have located some very big bears. At least one is extraordinarily special. Finding him was difficult. Tagging him will be more difficult. Like any trophy animal, he will most likely carry a sixth sense that helped him survive. The hunter who is placed on this stand will know we are conditioning the bear to briefly stop first at another cedar bait station just 80 yards away. If the wind is wrong,

the hunter will have agreed to not sit on that stand at all until it changes favorably again. Most likely, if the shot comes at all, it will come very late in the day.

When I bait, I leave Bacon Gel scent smear (Bear Scents LLC) on the cedar tree, hopefully drawing the monster's attention away from the human scent of a hunter's ambush. The hunter who does sit here will be a veteran of the field with the experiences and nerve to perform under pressure, not only because of what he might see here, but because of the eerie quiet and darkness of this back country.

When Rob and I first turned away from the ancient cedar on that first day, we also found the bear's scat in the deep mud path leading to the tree. It was as large as a soda can. I felt the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

The Wisconsin bear season is here. Will I feel that tension again when a hunter watching a small, isolated swamp in Bayfield County returns to camp to tell us he has a good hit on a monster bear? Let's get to it. *W*

As a guide and owner of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters, Mike Foss has harvested bear and many deer, including several record book bucks. Contact Mike at www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com.



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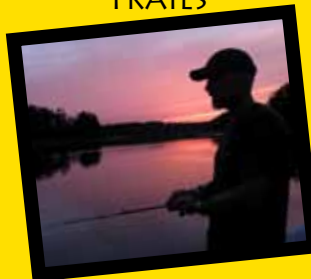
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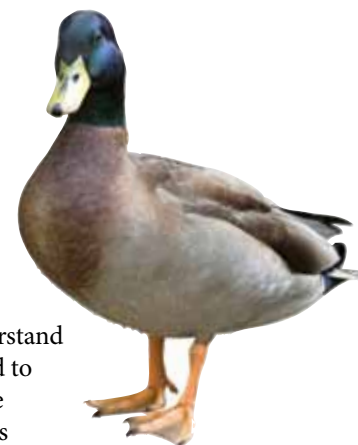
Badger Birds Mallard

Mallards might seem commonplace when you see them in parks and puddles around town in the summer, but it's worth taking the time to really appreciate these wonderful ducks. With his iridescent green head (often with a purple sheen), yellow bill, white neck band, chestnut breast, silvery belly, and orange feet, a drake is one of nature's most handsome creations. Hens are attractive, too, but in a more demure way in their elegant brown-gray plumage.

Watch mallards dabble for food. The birds tip head-down to forage below the water's surface, with their rump and tail sticking straight up in the air.

Listen for more than quacks. Mallards' vocabulary includes chuckles, warning quacks, clucks, purrs of feeding contentment ... there's a whole duck language.

Look for the electric purple speculum (color patch at the top/back of the wing) on flying mallards. This mark helps you discern mallards—hens as well as drakes in eclipse or non-breeding plumage—from other ducks.



Understand the need to preserve wetlands on the North American Prairie

to support the nesting habitat of wild mallards. Wisconsin is a mallard-producing state as well, and most of the greenheads that hunters harvest here are also born here, except perhaps for late-season birds along the Mississippi River.

Enjoy mallards at home. They will fly in from water to eat corn or sunflower seeds spread on the ground. Mallards will nest in tall grass or under bushes around your yard, even far from water. Erect a nesting platform or basket near a pond or wetland and raise your own greenheads next spring and summer. *W*

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

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ROB AND STEVE TOBIN

Walleyes, Northern, And Bears ... Oh, My!

Fishing at Red Lake

Spending 16 hours in a car with your dad, grandpa, and brother (all of whom I see plenty of) is normally not on my to-do list. However, when the destination is Howey Bay Resort in Red Lake, Ontario, I say yes, please!

It all started 11 years ago at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sport Show. I walked the aisles with my family in search of a Canadian outfitter. It was always our dream to go on a fishing adventure to Canada. I was told by many that it was where fishing dreams actually came true. Well, I tell you what ... they sure did.

We were blessed to meet Dave and Margaret McLeod, owners of Howey Bay Resort. They took the time to explain every little detail of the trips offered at Howey Bay. Finally, after a long talk and a few beers, my dad said, "Let's do it." Throughout the last 11 years we have ventured on four fly-in fishing trips and even one heck of a black bear hunt.

Walleye Mania

Anyone who has had the opportunity to fish the pristine waters of Red Lake knows how truly magical it can be.

I remember our first trip like it was yesterday. I had just finished my junior year of high school and that next weekend we were headed to sunset country. My exam scores weren't the greatest that year.

Packed down with gear, we rolled into Red Lake after 16 hours. (I need to mention how great Canada smells after being in that car with those guys for that long.) Whether it was the experience of my first float plane ride, black bear and moose sightings, or the most incredible fishing, it all has left a wonderful memory.

The best part of fishing Red Lake, or any of Howey Bay's outpost camps, is that all

you need are a few simple baits. Our go-to baits are a Lindy rig or a jig/minnow setup. The out-of-the-package Lindy rig will definitely catch you fish, but considering most of the waters are very clear, we like to tweak the bait a bit.

First, slide a 1/8- to 1/4-ounce "no snag" sinker up the main line. Following behind the sinker you need a large enough barrel swivel to keep the sinker from sliding off the line. Sometimes we like to re-tie the rig using 8- to 10-pound fluorocarbon line and keep it around 3 - 4 feet in length. The majority of time we fish with a smaller spinner blade along with a few beads that lead to the hook. Changing the hooks out to a smaller size, and even a colored Gamakatsu octopus, hook can help. Finally, tip the hook with a minnow, drop it down to the bottom, and troll slowly. I guarantee your arm will be sore by the end of the day.

The other technique that Rob and I have been incorporating into our arsenal more and more is vertical jigging. There were a handful of times throughout the week when we could put a walleye in the boat every 30 seconds.

Most important to any day on the water is finding the fish. We started our day out covering water in areas we thought would hold fish by hand trolling our Lindy rigs and letting them tell us whether the fish were spread out or stacked up. Once we caught a walleye, we would come back to the same spot to see if more were ready and willing. Occasionally, we would find a certain spot such as a hump or weedline that we would double up on every pass. When this happens, it's time to reel up the Lindys and approach them vertically. A 1/8- to 1/4-ounce VMC short shank live bait jig is our favorite.

Tobin boys with dinner, June 2013.



Many fishermen have a hard time putting the hot rod down to go to another rod, but time and time again I have seen the vertical presentation win over any other. We have caught some of our biggest pike this way. The pike are just on the outside of the feeding walleyes, waiting for the right time to take down a walleye dinner.

There is a bit of a misconception about the fishing in Canada. Some believe all you have to do is put a minnow in the water and it's fish on! Although I have seen that happen many times, that's usually not the case. You still have to have an idea of where the fish might be.

The first key to finding Canadian walleyes is a windblown shoreline. These shorelines in particular will hold more feeding fish due to the amount of baitfish that are being pushed by the current. Some of the best windblown shorelines to try first are corners or points.

The other factor you will have to determine is the depth of the fish. The time of year and the current weather play into

that the most. The walleyes will slide out deeper as the water temperatures begin to warm up; however, that does not always matter. We have caught walleyes in as shallow as 6 feet of water in the middle of summer. Cloudy and choppy days on the water will allow you to target these walleyes chasing bait in skinny water. Weed edges and rocky points are great areas for baitfish to stack up on, and that means walleye mania.

Do it just like this: use two rods (one Lindy and one jig/minnow), troll Lindy rig in windblown shorelines (find the fish), anchor over the area producing most fish, go vertical, and pound even more fish! And bring your raingear. ☁️



Steve Tobin with his black bear killed with his bow at 15 yards.

The Tobin boys weren't nearly done with the great Canadian fishing. See what happens when three generations of Tobins take stands in Red Lake, Ontario, in search of filling their black bear tags. Connect with onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Click on Bear Hunting.

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

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S. WILKERSON

Ammunition Panic

Remember who your friends are when stocking up

Taking advantage of a crisis may work well in politics, but it is not a very good long-term business strategy. For months after the Newtown tragedy in December, guns and ammunition were flying off the shelves, often at grossly inflated prices. Recently, prices have been returning to normal as the proclamations of Internet prophets are proving to be false on just about every count. Government purchases are not drying up the supply of ammunition. Semi-auto firearms are not being legislated out of existence, despite Sen. Diane Feinstein's efforts. Ridiculous impediments to the ownership of some types of guns have not been put into place, with some notable exceptions like Colorado and New York.

Here in Wisconsin there was very little talk about "assault" rifle bans, magazine capacity limitations, or ammunition restrictions, which is not to say we're totally out of the woods. People are still buying up, hoarding, and/or selling and buying .22 caliber and 9 mm ammunition at insanely high prices. Gun prices, on the other hand, are returning to normal. Some brands of fairly common AR 15s that were selling for more than \$2,000 in January are now back down to their pre-panic level of \$1,200.

During these troubled times when many sporting goods stores doubled, tripled, and, in the case of .22 rimfire, quadrupled their ammunition prices, some others—Cabela's for instance—kept their prices reasonable, even during the worst of the ammunition shortages. While others are trying and, apparently, succeeding in selling 500-round bricks of Remington Thunderbolt ammunition for \$100, Cabela's, when they have it, charges about a quarter of that amount. Thanks to them, I have finally been able to take my 13-year-old daughter out to the range and shoot



Hannah shoots her CZ rifle for the first time.

her new CZ 452 Scout.

Daughter Hannah earned her shooting stripes on her great grandfather's bolt action Remington Model 341 Sportsmaster in .22 rimfire, which was built sometime in the late 1930s. She shot some great groups at 25 yards, but the rifle's length of pull was far too long for her too-short arms. The CZ is an entirely different story. With a length of pull of only 12 inches, the Scout tips the scales at 5 pounds. The hammer-forged barrel is but 16.1 inches long, and the overall length of the gun is a mere 33 inches. Metal-to-wood fit is about as good as that of CZ/BRNO products made decades ago, and the metal finish is superb, as is the bluing. As an added bonus, the beechwood stock is very attractive.

The Scout is sold as a single-shot rifle, but it can easily be turned into a repeater by simply taking out the magazine block and replacing it with a 5- or 10-round magazine. With or without a magazine installed, the bolt action

operates exceptionally smooth. Like every CZ product I have owned, the Scout performed flawlessly.

Hannah's only complaint was that the trigger pull was somewhat hard. Out of the box, the Scout is set at the factory with a trigger pull of about 4 pounds. This is fine with me, especially when compared to all of the AR 15s I have owned. My daughter preferred the trigger on the old Remington, which is especially nice, as would be expected of a gun that has fired thousands of rounds. Despite it being a youth model, the CZ has an adjustable trigger and can be made lighter by simply turning a screw. For now we will leave the trigger as is until Hannah becomes more familiar with firearms and their operation.

I wish I could report that Hannah shot dime-sized, three-shot groups with the Scout at 25 yards, but that was not the case. She did, however, keep her shots on the target. Dad was easily able to shoot quarter-sized groups at 25 yards,

and that was without the benefit of my Merit Optical Attachment on my glasses. Without the Merit, buckhorn sights, like those of the Scout, make for a pretty fuzzy sight picture.

Hannah's issues with her new rifle had nothing to do with the sights and probably not much to do with the trigger. It probably had everything to do with her wrist, which she fractured and is in a brace from her hand to her elbow. Needless to say, it was difficult for her to hold the pistol grip and pull the trigger.

Sooner or later Hannah will be out of the brace and shooting again. Unfortunately, it does not appear that .22 rimfire is going to be generally available soon, unless you're willing to pay the high prices that many sporting goods stores and Internet sellers are charging; I am not.

Thanks to Cabela's, Hannah will be shooting again when her arm heals, which is not to say that the CZ will be sitting in the gun safe in the meantime. A rifle this accurate deserves a decent scope, and I hope to buy one shortly. When I do, I will remember who my friends are and are not. Over the past few months I have been able to buy .223, 9 mm, 7.62 x 39 and .45 ACP ammunition from Cabela's for reasonable prices when it is in stock. When I buy a scope, I will buy it from Cabela's.

As for those sporting good shops that have tried to take advantage of me and others during the current ammunition panic by price gouging us, it will be a long time before I visit them, let alone purchase anything from them. *WO*

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

Duck Commander Footwear Collection Proudly Presented by Pro Line



Pro Line Manufacturing from Wayne, New Jersey has announced the release of a new line of footwear for the Duck Commander Company from West Monroe, Louisiana. Pro Line Manufacturing's longtime advertising support of "On Wisconsin Outdoors" is a major reason Wisconsin anglers and hunters have received the paper at no cost throughout the state.

The Robertson Family, owners of the Duck Commander Company, is well known through the increasing popularity of their Reality TV show, Duck Dynasty on A&E. The Robertsons wanted a resource for high quality hunting boots to help properly gear their

hunting enthusiast followers so they worked with Pro Line to bring this new line of boots to sporting goods stores.

The Duck Commander Footwear Collection includes 8 different styles all constructed to the highest standards of Pro Line Manufacturing, a company with over 38 years experience in making performance outdoor footwear. No matter which style you pick you can be assured of quality and all day comfort.

The Duck Commander Footwear Collection can be purchased at a major sporting goods or retail store near you. Connect with Proline Boots at www.prolineboots.com or 1-800-334-4612.

TOM LUBA

Fall River Crappie: Formula for more fish

Crappie are simple fish, right? Easy formula: wood + live bait = crappie. On a river, head for the nearest woody oxbow or bayou and you should be able to fill the bag.

But that's not the only place river crappie inhabit in the fall. Those locations are good to know, because the next time you tuck into your favorite bayou it might be wall-to-wall crappie fishermen fishing the wood with live bait.

No matter what people say, crappie, and largemouth bass, are not afraid of current. You can catch both species in moving water situations.

So when the crappie school up in October, you may need to change the formula to: current + structure + live bait = crappie. The structure might be wood or rock or nothing more tangible than an eddy formed by a bend in the river channel or a deviation in the river bank.

Crappie are not afraid of current, but they also don't brace it head on. They set up on the seam or the bottom of the adjacent eddy and let food come to them.

I heard a long time ago that rivers have slack areas, kind of buffer zones along bottom, top, and sides. Seeing how the Wolf River, for instance, does freeze in winter, I think there is some truth here. The fish can conserve energy while holding in these areas. They can also hold behind

bottom structure like trees, rock piles, and bridge abutments that are obvious current breaks. Find these spots and you can catch fish from the river proper while everyone else is jockeying for a spot in the backwaters.

The fish can be suspended behind a rock pile, based on the depth. I know of one such area that had rocks 5 feet down with 12 feet of water behind it, based on the prevailing depth in any given year. Another area had them tight to bottom where the river bank met the bottom. At the rock hump, you could count down a jig and minnow and watch it stop when a fish grabbed it, right smack in the middle of the river with no visible structure in sight. For the fish at the base of the river, where bank met bottom, you could drift a jig and minnow along until it passed right in front of them. They'd suck it in and the line would just stop drifting. On this occasion it was a matter of counting down a 1/64-ounce jig and fathead minnow so it hit the exact depth just at fish level. Once you found the fish, it was a matter of determining how far to cast upstream and how long it would take for the bait to hit the perfect depth. Sort of like Geometry.

While there are obvious color preferences among fishermen, I'm OK with a plain, unpainted jig head with a minnow on the back. If you need incentive, consider

using a small Blakemore Roadrunner head with a blade for a little flash.

You'll definitely find snags in rivers. Even jigs as light as 1/32- or 1/64-ounce will sink to the bottom if given time. Going heavier will result in a lot more snags. The best thing to do is keep it as light as possible. Watch your line, as sometimes you won't feel the fish bite. Developing a feel for what your bait is doing down there will help you catch more fish.

I like to work upstream so I can watch the line sink while holding the boat in as stationary a position as possible. Once you locate fish, you can "slip" the river. Slipping is a tactic developed quite a while ago whereby you don't use an anchor to fish a spot, but rather use your trolling motor to push you upstream and then slow it down so you "slip" back over a productive area. That way you can fish the best spots over and over without disturbing the water column. I've literally stayed on hot spots for several hours using this technique.

Tackle-wise, I go light. A 6-foot 6-inch ultralight rod and 4-pound Sufix Elite monofilament is my favorite set up. I prefer a closed face Zebco or Quantum underspin reel mainly because the closed face reel handles line better. I have had trouble with line wrapping around the drag spool knob on small open face reels. The pickup on the closed face handles the line much



It doesn't have to be fancy for river crappie. An unpainted jig head and a fathead minnow work just fine.

better. Just make sure to set your drag light enough to handle a bigger fish. I've had smallmouth, walleye, and even carp and sheepshead suck up a minnow meant for Mr. Crappie.

I generally do not use a float for main river crappie. While at times you can find them higher up in the water column among the branches of a downed tree, boat traffic and noise can push them down to the bottom. Though most people think crappie are always looking up for food, I've had more than my share just pick up a minnow off bottom, sort of a live bait deadsticking.

This fall, when everyone heads for the oxbows and channels, consider fishing main river areas instead. You just might find a nice school of crappie all to yourself. *WL*

Tom Luba is a free-lance outdoor writer and bass fishing fan from New London, WI. Tom fishes as much as he can and never gets tired of setting the hook.

BILL CUNNEA

Golden Hawk Y-Stern: My perfect boat

After having rescued a 1959 Alumacraft 14-foot boat, I set about looking for a smaller, more practical craft for my fishing and river duck hunting. I'm older, so a lighter craft—maybe something I could put a motor on—just made sense. (Besides, I enjoyed fixing up the Alumacraft more than I enjoy fishing from it. Odd, I know.)

Finally, I found the PERFECT compromise watercraft for me...a 13-foot, Y-stern (I'll explain in a minute), canoe on craigslist. It was light enough for old muscles and stable enough to hunt and fish from with no anxiety.

I rescued this boat from the abuses of an adolescent, who apparently knew you should tow a boat behind a car, but from the looks of it didn't know you should use a trailer. It was beat to near-death, but I felt I could salvage it.

It turned out to be a Golden Hawk 12'9" craft, perhaps a 1970s vintage. It is fiberglass laid, handmade by a company up in the northern third of Wisconsin. It's 65 pounds in new condition, although about 75 with the fiberglass repairs I've done. It has a substantial keel, and...the neatest part... it was built so that the transom for the motor is high above the canoe base. Thus, you can paddle both ways with the double-ended hull. No more pushing water out of the way with the chopped-off back of most square stern canoes.



Mick, canoe fishing.

Viewed from the back, the keel comes up and branches out to a "Y" shape. The 750-pound capacity substantially adds to its versatility.

Once made seaworthy, I put my old Evinrude 3 hp (35 pounds) motor on it and took it to the lake, and then to the small river nearby. The great Golden Eagle moved right along. At 38 inches at the widest, it is stable, with the keel it tracks well with the motor, I can maneuver around deadfalls with the paddle, and there's space for all the tackle and the dog. I'm delighted. It works well with a trolling motor, but I hate the weight of the battery.

I did some investigation. After the original company owner had health problems, the company closed, but three years ago it was purchased with the original forms and trademark by some folks up in Merrill, Wisconsin. I talked with one of the owners, Michael Spahn. Nice guy. They make four models: a 12'9" double-end, the Y-stern like mine in that length, a 10-foot double-end, and a 10-foot Y-stern.

As we talked, I mentioned that I thought I'd seen one of their boats years ago, used by a serious trapper. Mike said that fur trappers were among his biggest customers due to the versatility and stability of the design. (Look up GoldenHawk.com for more stuff.)

Is it a compromise boat? Sure. Can you go fast and cross Lake Michigan in it? No, but that is OK with me. Does it do everything I want a boat to do? Yes, sir. I can fish and hunt from it on all my area waters...maybe most waters.

Works for me. *WL*

Bill Cunnea has been a writer, teacher, consultant, and outdoorsman for over 30 years. He continues to be taught lessons by his dogs in southwest Wisconsin, where he's lived for 20 years. He's never caught a lunker nor shot a 12-point buck, and he has the lack of trophies to prove it.

BILL KENDY

Layering For Cold Weather Outdoor Comfort

Products to keep you warm and dry when conditions are not

Most outdoorsmen grew up layering. When it was cold, we threw on long underwear (usually cotton), a flannel or wool shirt, a sweater or sweatshirt, and then our hunting coat. This logical and simple concept hasn't changed much. The difference is, with all the new products available, you can stay warm and dry without the weight and bulk of the "good old days."

Layering allows you to regulate your temperature by adding or shedding garments and match your activity level to the weather conditions. The layers need to work together to move moisture from



Columbia's PHG™ base layer is performance fitting with sweat wicking insets and thermal reflect ability.

your skin, breathe, trap heat, block wind, and shed water.

There are three basic layers and each one has an important function. The base layer needs to manage perspiration and wick that moisture away from your body.

The insulating layer protects you from the cold, pushes the moisture out farther, and provides warm air space. The outer or shell layer needs to be wind resistant, waterproof, and breathable.

Where It All Starts: The Base (Inner) Layer

The base layer is the one next to your skin. Its purpose is to disperse perspiration away from your body so it can evaporate. The dryer you stay, the warmer you are.

Dump The Cotton

A cotton base layer absorbs moisture, and when it is wet against your skin, it steals heat and you will begin to feel clammy, especially if a wind kicks up or the temperature drops. If you're hiking a half mile back in to your deer stand in November and work up a sweat by the time you get to your stand, it is just a matter of time before you get chilled. That can ruin a day out in the field.

"If you don't have a good base layer, you are doomed," says Under Armour spokesperson Eddie Stevenson. "It is designed for moisture transport to keep your body dry and warm. The functions of the mid and outer layers are to continue the job of moving moisture out, provide warmth, and deliver protection from wind, rain, and snow."

Most base layers come in three weights. Lightweight is designed for high aerobic activity, with the main goal being to move moisture directly away from the skin but offers

little insulating capacity. Mid-weight underwear provides the same wicking abilities but adds insulation. The heavy weight (expedition) layer adds more insulation.

While the "rule of three" is standard, there are exceptions in base layer choices. Under Armour offers five base layer weights, ranging from a low of 1.0 to their Tree Stand Base, which is designed for maximum warmth for stationary hunters.

"Under Armour base layers are available in weights ranging from 1.0 to 5.0 to match and cover all activity levels and weather conditions," says Stevenson.

"Our PHG™ base layer features Omni-Heat thermal reflective lining, which dissipates moisture while helping regulate your temperature by reflecting and retaining body warmth," says Columbia Sportswear spokesperson Andrea Pallavicini.

Base layers are available in wool, silk, or synthetic materials such as polyester, polypropylene, or fleece. For comfortable outdoor adventures, it is wise to pay attention to the fit.

"When layering with wool for a hunt, it's important to have a base layer that fits snug without being uncomfortable," says Kendall Card, co-founder of Core4Element. "Getting a good fit allows the merino wool to better manage perspiration and regulate heat for both active or passive hunt scenarios."

The Middle Layer ... Where The Heat Is

The mid layer traps air and provides the insulation needed to keep you warm. Merino wool, down and synthetic materials such as polyester, polypropylene, fleece and brand names like Polartec and PrimaLoft are all good choices.

Wool or synthetic materials will keep working even if wet, while down clumps together and loses most of its insulating capabilities. (Although some down is now

being produced that can get wet and still provide benefits.) Synthetic fleece has high warmth to weight ratio and can be wind and water resistant yet still breathable. Fleece can do double duty as a middle layer or an outer layer if it isn't wet or too cold. Some options (but certainly not all) are Columbia men's PHG™ zippered fleece jacket and

the L.L. Bean's Trail Model Fleece and Big Game System Midweight liner.

"It is important that the middle layer has breathability and good loft which gives you a thermal barrier, much like insulation does in a



Bean Maine Guide Shirt with PrimaLoft

house," says Jeff Miller, Senior Product Developer, Hunting and Fishing at L.L. Bean. "When it comes to staying warm, loft is the key."

How many layers do you need? While the unofficial standard is three, depending on the temperature, your activity level and your internal furnace, that is up to you. I get cold easily and during November deer season usually wear four layers when I'm on stand, with a backup in my pack.

When you are setting up your own personal system, remember to make sure everything fits over everything else so you're not so bundled up so much that you feel like the Pillsbury Dough Boy and you can't move. Vests make sense as they keep your core warm but don't constrict you. It is also wise to have a mid layer that either buttons or zips.

"It's all about the ventilation. What a button or zipper mid layer does is help you vent, getting to and from the stand. When you get to your destination, you can button up or zip up," says Miller.

The L.L. Bean guide shirt is a perfect choice. It is heavier wool that can be worn as an outer layer. Vests are great for still hunting because they allow you unrestricted movement while still keeping the core warm. When you are moving around slowly, starting and stopping, they keep your core warm, especially if you are starting and stopping, while not restricting movement. A vest is a great component to keep in your pack, and synthetic or wool vests compress well. The L.L. Bean Ascent Packaway vest compresses and packs into its own pocket.

"We design our systems and layers to accommodate previous layers," says Miller. "A small shell is going to fit you more loosely. When you are buying L.L. Bean, you shouldn't have to go up a size."

Watch for the next installment of layering for outdoor comfort which will feature outer layer products.

WO



Ascent Packaway Vest
Cutline: Featuring PrimaLoft insulation, the warm Packaway vest compresses into its own pocket.

Columbia's PHG™ fleece jacket is 100% polyester and offers a relaxed fit and silent movement.



Bill Kendy is a freelance business writer, consultant, and speaker who is heavily involved in the firearm and outdoor industries. He is a lifelong hunter, shooter, fisherman and camper.

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Ferryville Fall Fest at Sugar Creek Park on Hwy 35. Food, vendors, fun. In the area ... Art Festival in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, 9/14 & 15. Fall colors are fantastic along Hwy 35. Raptors are starting migration south so bring binoculars. Fall fishing and hunting in full swing in beautiful Ferryville! **Click on Crawford County.**

Enjoy the beautiful fall colors in Petenwell and **Castle Rock County Parks** on the 2nd and 4th largest lakes in Wisconsin, open year round for camping with heated shower/restroom facilities. Both parks offer a boat launch, fishing, swimming, concessions, and a game room. ATV/UTV area at Petenwell Park. **Click on Adams County.**

Hayward Lakes ... home to **5 World Record Muskies**. With over 200 lakes, we offer outstanding fishing for trophy musky, northern, walleye, crappie, bass, and pan fish. Visit our Northwoods WI accommodations, ideal for family getaways and fall fishing vacations. A sportsman's dream ... a sightseer's paradise ... a golfer's haven. Call 800.724.2992 for additional information or click on Sawyer County.

Ride into fall color at Sparta. Pedal or throttle your way through some of the most scenic areas in western Wisconsin. Sparta connects two great bike trails: the Elroy-Sparta Trail and the LaCrosse River State Trail. Sparta is also centered on five motorcycles routes. To plan your trip **click on Monroe County.**

Port Washington in fall is a great place to be outdoors. Check out our new Coal Dock Park, with opportunities to jog, bike, fly a kite, watch birds, or drop a line. Extending almost 2000 feet out into Lake Michigan, it'll be an awesome place to fish from shore. **Click on Ozaukee County.**

Get ready for the fall **musky bonanza in central Wisconsin**. As the water temperatures start to go down the action on the river heats up. **Click on Marathon County.**

Check out the new Washburn County self-guided **ATV Scenic Tour** and learn about over 35 points of interest located along the 100+ mile ATV system. The new tour highlights many points along the trail including historical sites, rivers, and more. UTVs Welcome! Trails allow easy access to lodging, dining & gas. Request your free brochure and trail map today! **Click on Washburn County.**

The hardwoods at Timm's Hill County Park, the highest point in Wisconsin, explode with spectacular color each fall. During your park visit, **fish from the pier, hike & bike the trails or auto tour** along Rustic Road 62. Fun regional events include the Ruffed Grouse Fall Festival, Fall Harvest Festival and Christmas Tree Festival. **Click on Price County.**

Come "Fall" into Richland County and **"Hug-A-Hog" at the Richland County Fair** September 4-8, **"Get Your Freak On"** at the many Center Color Fest activities and stay for the "Lights Parade" October 5th, or let loose at Hybrid Redneck Rally October 12th. For full details and other events **click on Richland County.**

Brat smoke starts to clear along the shores of Sheboygan from all the festivals as the fall approaches. But the newly dredged Sheboygan is starting to boil as she fills with fall run Salmon & Trout. Contact Wolf Pack Adventures for this Smoking Hot fishery along the Lake Front and river. And the Colors ... oh, my! **Click on Sheboygan County.**

Experience family-friendly fall fun in Calumet County. Explore **Packers themed corn mazes** at Polly's Pumpkin Patch and Meuer Farm, try everything apple at **Crafty Apple Fest**, view the fall colors on the **Rural Arts Roadtrip**, and head underground for candlelight cave tours at Ledge View Nature Center. **Click on Calumet County.**

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

September-October: Have fun in Ashland with these events! **Fall Mural Promotion, Follow the Mural Brick Road & Treasure Hunt.** September 7: Mural Fest and Car Show, downtown Ashland. September 13-15: 2013 Bass Fishing Tournament on Chequamegon Bay/Lake Superior. Win up to \$10,000 in prizes! October 11-12: CenturyLink WhistleStop Marathon/Half Marathon & Brews & Blues Festival. **Click on Ashland County.**



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GARY ENGBERG

Gary Engberg Outdoors

Stopping invasive fish species from moving upriver

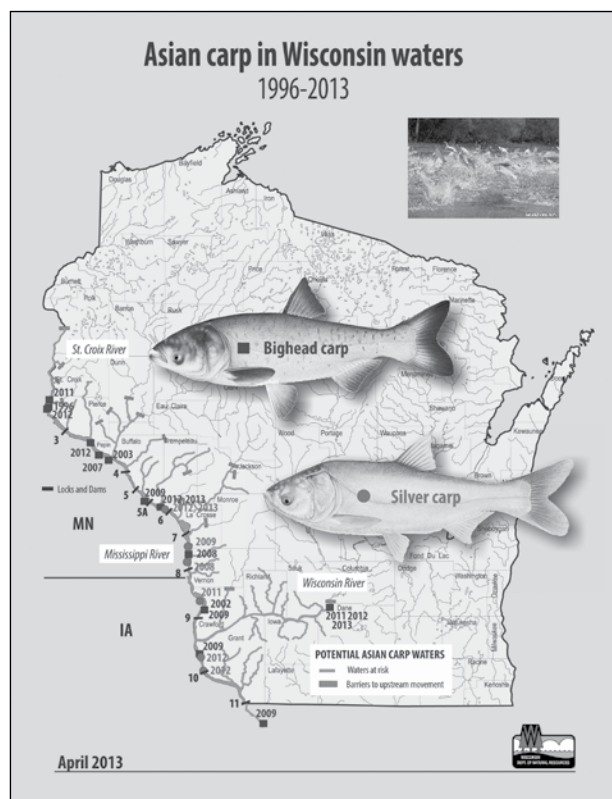
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are currently developing an assessment to evaluate the environmental impacts of providing a way for fish to pass upriver and downriver from the dam at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Wisconsin Power and Light, which owns and operates the dam, is required to provide a fish passage at the dam, which is required under its license requirements granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Wildlife Service must develop this assessment to follow the National Environmental Policy Act, which must show the impact of providing this passageway for fish to move upriver and downriver from the local dam. The main problem that has been encountered is how to prevent the upstream travel of non-native invasive fish species like the Asian and silver carp, which can destroy a fishery in a short period of time.

The dam at Prairie du Sac is the first barrier on the Wisconsin River, some 92 miles from the confluence with the Mississippi River. The Prairie Dam is a complete barrier to any fish movement up or down the river. The Prairie du Sac Dam was built in 1915, and, historically, there were 19 fish species and 15 kinds of freshwater mussels upstream from the dam ... or presumed to be there based upon the available habitat and range estimates. But since the dam's construction, none of these aquatic species is still found in the Wisconsin River between the Prairie du Sac Dam and the Kilbourn Dam at Wisconsin Dells. The Kilbourn Dam is the next dam on the river system above the Prairie Dam.

The dam at Prairie du Sac is a complete barrier to any fish movement upstream. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that it is necessary to find some way that would allow fish to bypass the Prairie du Sac Dam. A way to accomplish this goal would be to create a "fishway." Some fish species, like the paddlefish and lake sturgeon, need this upstream access seasonally to complete their life cycles. A fishway is an engineered structure that allows the passage of fish around the dam. The fishway, according to the U.S.F.W.S., must be constructed to allow for the safe, timely, and effective movement of fish up and downriver from the dam. This fishway would be a compromise between power production and the necessity of getting the fish to their upriver habitat and spawning areas.

The dam at Prairie du Sac is owned and operated by Wisconsin Power and Light Company, which is a subsidiary of the Alliant Energy Corporation. The owners of hydroelectric dams are required by law to obtain an operating license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This operating license is necessary because pursuant to the Federal Power Act money that is made by a private company through the use of a public waterway, which happens to be the Wisconsin River, is under their control.

Numerous agencies including the Wisconsin DNR, USFWS, and the River Alliance made formal recommendations during the Federal Energy hydropower licensing period that a fish passage be constructed at the Prairie du Sac Dam to allow the passage of migrating fish to the habitat above and below the dam. The Federal



Photos courtesy of WDNR.

Energy Regulatory Commission changed the Prairie license to provide a safe and timely passage of fish.

Goals that have been established for the Prairie du Sac Dam fish passage are: 1) Re-establish the fish populations of the blue sucker, paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and any other native fish species above the dam and allow access and seasonal migration to these locations. Two of the spawning areas are near the Wisconsin Dells and Baraboo River spawning areas. 2) Reconnect the native fish species and native mussels above and below the Prairie Dam, allowing the migration to spawning and seasonal habitats. 3) Alliant Energy must also follow and comply with all laws and regulations, including all state and federal permit and license regulations for their operation.

Fish Passage Alternatives

- The fish passage must provide safe passage for the fish passing through the dam with no injuries or death to fish.
- There must be a timely passage during the appropriate seasons or periods of the year when fish are attempting to pass the dam. Fish must be allowed to complete their life cycles, which at times is within a short environmental window.
- The passage must also allow for the passage of native fish (walleye, sauger) that want to move upriver or downriver of the Prairie Dam but not permit fish that are invasive from moving upriver from the dam.
- Put in place reasonable precautions and barriers to prevent the upriver movement of invasive species like the Asian carp and silver carp.

The Asian and silver carp began working their way up the Mississippi River and its tributaries in the 1970s from fish farms in the South during periods of high water

and flooding. I've been to the Illinois River about 175 miles south of the Madison area where the silver carp are so numerous that people have to wear helmets and nets to protect themselves from these fish, which are known for jumping out of the water just from the noise of an outboard motor. Asian and bighead carp have also moved up the Mississippi River and into the Wisconsin River during the last decade, if not sooner. These invasive fish have traveled up the Chicago Sanitary Canal where a barrier has kept their expansion out of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes. But this is not much protection for the multi-million dollar fishing industry of the Great Lakes.

Currently, numerous agencies are looking at different types of fishways or passages like the trap and transport fishway, the pool-type fishway, the lock fishway, the rock ramp fishway, the nature-like fishway, and the Denil Fishway (developed in 1909 by a Belgian scientist, G. Denil).

The trap and transport fishway may be the best way to keep out and prevent the spread of the invasive fish. This fishway is called a fish elevator or "fish lift" and consists of an entrance channel that pushes fish through by attraction flows to a hopper that acts as a trap where the fish can be sorted and inspected by biologists and fishery personnel before allowing upriver movement. Most of the other fishways are not suited or capable of preventing invasive species fish from moving upriver.

The lock fishway is another possibility, but I'm not sure if there is a way to sort and inspect the fish that are to be moved upriver. As with most, if not all, of these fish passages, there is no effective way to control the invasive fish. The only thing that can be done now is to prevent their further spread into new waters.

The public meeting (which was very well attended) was held in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, on July 15th. The federal and state officials present did a good job explaining the situation faced at the Prairie du Sac Dam and the Wisconsin River. We are confronted with a problem of preventing any upriver movement of these invasive fish while complying with state and federal laws. The selected passageway for fish also needs to prevent downriver fish from accidentally jumping or swimming upriver from the dam. There must be a "default closed position" where the fish would have to be manually transferred upriver on site by trained personnel manually operating the fishway. All fish transferred upriver need to be sorted, inspected, and handled by DNR or federally trained personnel. All fish transferred upriver must have DNR permits before the upriver transfer past the Prairie du Sac Dam.

I hope that everyone reads and becomes informed about this very serious problem that we are facing in our local waters and the Great Lakes. These invasive fish are plankton feeders that disrupt food chains and can out-compete native fish for food. Remember, there is no effective control method for Asian carp. The future of fishing depends on keeping these invasive fish from spreading and moving into new waters. ☺

Visit Gary at garyengbergoutdoors.com.

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette Wildfowl

I'm always looking for new and different wildfowl recipes to serve to my family. While some basic recipes are still favorites in our household, variety in the menu planning keeps everybody interested and challenges my cooking. Along with two bird recipes, I am adding a fish recipe to the column that was given to us by a friend, and I wanted all of you to try it as well. Enjoy!

Dove Stew

- 10 dove breasts
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 5 slices uncooked bacon, cut in half
- 2 cans diced tomatoes with liquid
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- Salt & pepper to taste

Place dove breasts in bottom of Dutch oven; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Arrange onion and bacon slices atop breasts. Mix Worcestershire and diced tomatoes and pour over all. Bring to boil; cover pan and reduce heat to low. Simmer on low for 1 ½ hours. This is wonderful served over brown rice.

Oven Roasted Duck

- 2 ducks, halved
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup ketchup
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ½ tsp. onion powder
- ½ tsp. allspice
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- ¼ tsp. pepper

Place duck halves, skin side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. Combine butter and garlic and brush over duck. Roast in preheated 400° oven for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, combine remaining ingredients in saucepan over low heat. Reduce oven temperature to 350° and cook another 30 to 40 minutes, basting with sauce periodically. When done, serve duck with remaining sauce.

Fried Breaded Fish

By Ann Kies

- Fish filets (walleye, perch, etc.)
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- Flour
- Corn flake crumbs
- Panko bread crumbs
- Lawry's Seasoned Salt
- Canola oil for frying

Rinse each fish filet with cold water and dry well with paper toweling. Roll each filet in flour; shake off excess, then dip into mixture of evaporated milk and egg. Mix equal parts corn flake crumbs and Panko bread crumbs with seasoned salt to taste in shallow bowl or plate. Dredge each filet through mixture to coat well. Place fish filets on plate with wax paper between layers, cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate. (It's best to do the preparation in the morning and refrigerate fish all day for cooking in the evening.)

Heat about 1 inch of Canola oil in bottom of fry pan. Place fish filets in oil and fry until lightly golden. Remove from pan and place on either a rack or paper toweling to remove excess oil.

DAVE HRAYCHUCK

Fall Trouting In The Northwest Recipes included

As the days get cooler, the bugs get fewer, and water temperatures begin to drop, trout start coming into the shallows and begin to feed heavily.

A few years ago the DNR Fisheries Division opened up a new fishing opportunity for Wisconsin anglers. Here in northwestern Wisconsin we have over 20 lakes that are open for trout fishing until the first week of March. (Check DNR Trout Fishing Regulations for lakes in your area of the state.)

This fall, in between sitting in your morning tree stand and waiting to get in on the evening deer hunt, why not take a quick trout fishing trip to an open lake in your area? Fall-time trout can be easily taken by shore fishing. All you need is an ultralight rod and reel and decide if you want to use bait or artificial lures.

Popular trout bait includes wax worms or Gulp-type bait. The Uncle Josh Company also has an assortment of trout bait in different flavors and colors and comes pre-made or bulk. I just started using the Uncle Josh Bait this spring and found that it stays on the hook and really works well.

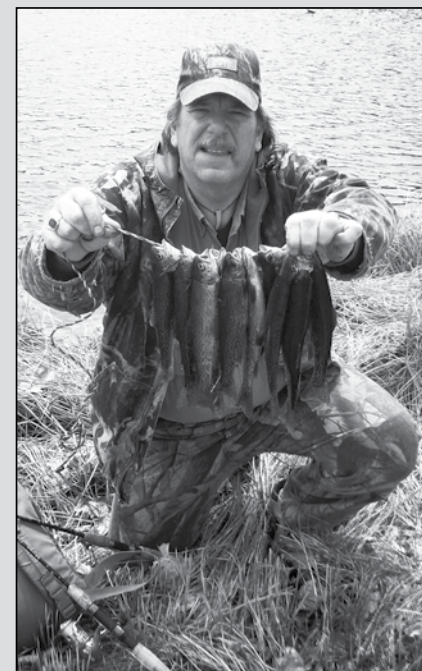
Some of my favorite artificial lures for trout are gold-colored Mepps in size 0, Kastmasters, Swedish Pimples, and Panther Martins. I found that the Swedish Pimples and Kastmasters work best when you lightly pump the rod as you are reeling in. This makes the lure swim more erratic and catches the trout's attention.

Another popular technique for putting trout in your creel in the early fall, before a few killing frosts have occurred, is breaking out the fly rod on nice days and using some wet flies or nymphs.

Now that you have successfully caught a meal of trout, it's time to turn them into dinner. Here are some of my favorite recipes for you to enjoy.

Fried Trout

Gut and head the fish. Using a gallon Ziploc-type bag, add flour, lemon pepper, garlic, and onion powder. Shake well until the fish are covered. Fry in hot oil for 3-5 minutes per side and serve. Sweet potato fries and



Dave Hraychuck with a limit of rainbows caught on Gulp bait.

coleslaw make fine side dishes.

Smoked Trout

Gut and head the fish, soak in a one-gallon plastic bowl with water, 2 cups of non-iodized salt, and 1 cup of brown sugar for 24 hours. Rinse fish and place in smoker 1 - 2 hours at 180 degrees.

Grilled Trout

Gut and head trout. Lay it on a sheet of heavy duty aluminum foil, add 2 -3 tabs of butter, spice of your choice, and a small thinly sliced onion. Put on grill for 20 - 25 minutes, turning twice.

These are just a few simple and delicious recipes. Lots more can be found in your favorite fish and game cookbooks.

For a change of pace in the fall, leave the bow at home and the shotgun in the gun safe and enjoy this new fishing opportunity. As fall blends into winter and the lakes get iced over, grab your fish locator, a jig rod, and some waxies and try trout fishing through the ice. It's another opportunity you will really enjoy.

Tight lines to all!

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

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.

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.

Doug Larson

With hundreds of miles of trout streams, inland lakes and Lake Michigan, Marinette County offers many types of fishing. So come for the fishing, stay for the adventure!

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OWO STAFF

Product 6-Pack

Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

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

BUSHNELL THE TRUTH RANGEFINDER

Want an affordable, accurate, easy-to-use rangefinder for bowhunting, gun season, spring gobblers, and even a trip out west? Bushnell's new The Truth Rangefinder is your solution. With ARC (Angle Range Compensation), you get true horizontal range to your target even if you're in a treestand or uphill or downhill from your game.



4X magnification bow mode measures almost instantly from 7 to 199 yards. Switch into regular mode and reach out to 850 yards. What's more, this unit fits right in your pocket and boasts a rain-proof, non-slip finish. \$199.99.

www.bushnell.com/all-products/laser-rangefinders/the-truth

CYCLOPS ORBIS 3-WATT RECHARGEABLE SPOTLIGHT

As long as you stay legal, there's nothing wrong with spotlighting to see what kind of deer are in the neighborhood, trailing and field-dressing a whitetail after dark, or scoping out a setup spot from your duck boat. Enter the Cyclops Orbis 3-Watt Rechargeable Spotlight.



This compact, handheld, and super-affordable spotlight uses a 3-watt LED bulb

to create a bright 140 lumen light. Made durable with an ABS plastic housing, the light is equipped with the swivel handle for a comfortable grip. It's powered by a 4V rechargeable Sealed Lead Acid battery, and the kit also includes a home AC charger and car 12V DC charger, so you never have to worry about running out of power. \$29.99.

www.gsmoutdoors.com/cyclopsolutions/

KENT TEAL STEEL

Looking for a good early season duck load to take care of business on those speedy little blue-wings and wood ducks with enough wallop to bring down a mallard in nice range? Kent rolled out nationally with teal steel this year after southern boys raved about it in test shooting last season.

Teal Steel follows in Kent's Fasteel footsteps, getting your shot string there lickety-split (which means less lead is needed) while delivering a 1 1/4-inch load of no. 5 shot from the 3-inch shell. \$124.99/case.

www.kentgamebore.com

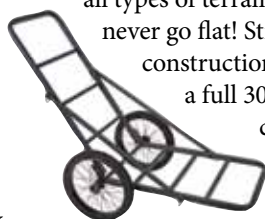
PRIMAL VANTAGE STEEL DEER CART

Maybe your back isn't what it used to be. Whose is? There's no need to struggle and suffer getting your whitetail out of the woods this fall. Turn to the Primal Vantage Steel Deer Cart.

Solid rubber tires will stand up to all types of terrain ... and they will never go flat! Strong tubular steel construction gives this unit a full 300-pound weight capacity, and it easily collapses down to a lightweight, compact package.

Includes three straps for securing your load. \$79.99.

www.primalvantage.com



SPYDERCO ENUFF LEAF KNIFE

Looking for a great hunting knife for all-around use? Take a look at Spyderco's Enuff Leaf. It combines performance and ergonomics with a graceful, businesslike look. Importantly, the grippable handle texture lives up to no-slip expectations under messy field-dressing conditions. The handle also feels good from another perspective: It bellies downward to fill that gap in your palm at the base of your middle and ring fingers.

The perfectly-sized and graceful 2 3/4-inch leaf-shaped blade is sharp as can be, and it picks up a nice edge again after a couple swipes on a stone. Expect exceptional performance from this thin, flat-ground blade made of VG-10 stainless steel. \$179.95.

www.spyderco.com

APEX GEAR DOUBLEDOWN BOW SILENCERS

A good pair of silencers may be the smallest but most important investment you ever make in your bow setup. Apex Gear's Doubledown Silencers shutdown string vibrations fast, and the unique double-arm design allows for double

dampening.

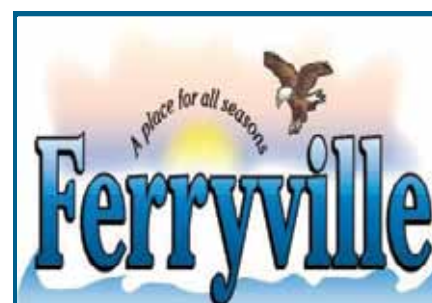
What's even better, no bow press is needed to attach these units, so installation is quick, simple, and hassle-free. And they fit all bows. Don't let whitetail jump the string this fall! \$9.99.

www.apex-gear.com



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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The advertisement features a family of five dressed in camouflage and outdoor gear, standing in a wooded area. Above them is the Duck Commander logo, which depicts a duck in flight within an oval frame. The text "Coming This Fall!" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. To the right, the text "Introducing Little Duck Commander® Footwear!" is also in bold, red letters with a white outline. In the foreground, three Little Duck Commander shoes are displayed, each with its own packaging. The shoes are designed to look like the feet of the family members: Willie's (red and black with a flame design), Phil's (black and brown), and Uncle Si's (brown and orange). The packaging for each shoe features a small photo of the family member and the shoe's name.

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