

November/December 2013

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Photo by Dick Ellis

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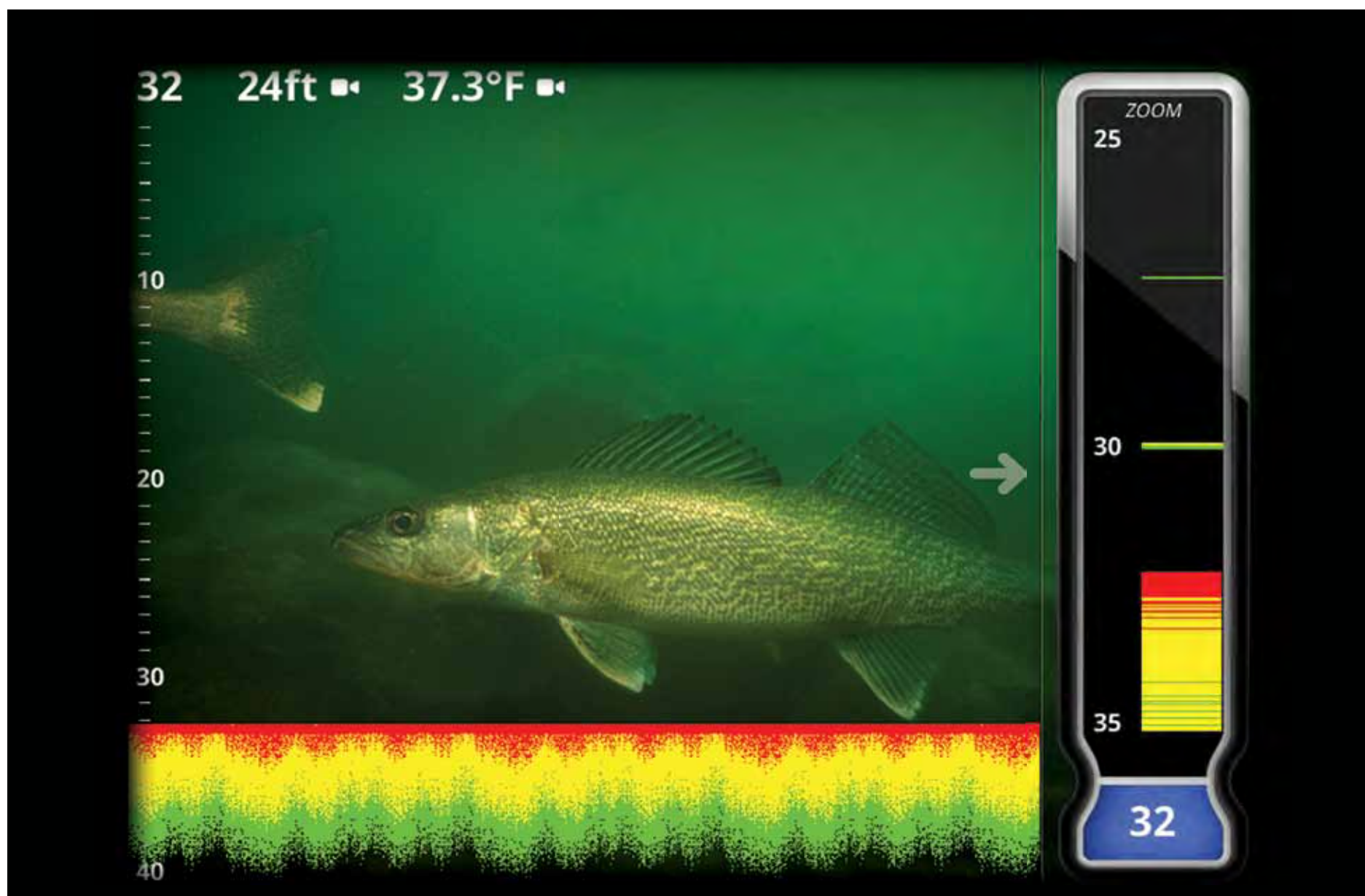
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PHIL SCHWEIK

# First Ice Walleyes

## Tips for a great season

Every year thousands of anglers anxiously await the first ice of the year. This can be the best time of the year to catch not only numbers of fish but some very good-sized fish as well. With crappies and bluegills being the most abundant and most sought after fish, the walleyes kind of get put on the back burner by a lot of anglers. But if most anglers knew what they were missing early in the season, they would more than likely change their ways.

Catching walleyes through the ice can take some understanding and timing, but once you know what you are doing it is not only fun but very rewarding. For the most part, catching walleyes through the ice early in the season consists of finding their primary location and setting up shortly before dark. Most of my primary early season locations revolve around one of two things, if not both: shallow water and structure. These are the two things that I consider most important when determining where I am going to target and set up for early ice walleyes.

With walleye fishing through the ice, most of my fishing is done late in the day and well after dark. Midnight is not too late to ice fish for walleyes, and sometimes I stay all night long and right up until morning. I run tip-ups baited up with golden shiners or medium-sized sucker minnows set approximately 1 to 2 feet off the bottom depending on how deep I am fishing.

When deciding where to set my tip-ups, I usually look for one of four things: weed edges on the main lake, points of land that jut out into the water, shallow back bays off the main lake or river, and mid-lake humps. These can all be great starting locations for early ice season walleyes. The key to deciding initially what exact locations to fish is when setting up can be difficult, but this is where the timing comes into play.

Very early first ice has me looking at the shallow backwater bays to start my season. This is where the first ice will form and where you will initially find safe enough ice to walk on. After the season starts to get

going and the ice begins to form, I begin targeting the weed edges in a little deeper water and the points of land that jut out into the water. The fish on the points and weed edges have not been disturbed in a while and can be easy pickings. Once we have had a few weeks of good cold weather, I start ventur-

ing out to the mid-lake humps in search of walleyes. These are usually deeper mid-lake fish that move up onto these humps to feed at low light periods and at night.

There are a lot of other systems and methods for catching early season walleyes through the ice, but with these tips you can

get started in the right direction. Good luck and have a great ice season. *OW*

Contact Phil Schweik at Hooksetters Guide Service by e-mailing him at [pschweik@dwave.net](mailto:pschweik@dwave.net) or through his website at [hooksetters.biz](http://hooksetters.biz).

The author's wife, Rhonda.



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DICK ELLIS

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

## Apostle Island lake trout a Superior experience

With Basswood Island left far behind in a wake of snow dust, the long line of ATVs and snowmobiles turn north off of Madeline Island and hone in on one small piece of Lake Superior paradise ice still four miles ahead. Armed with GPS, experience, and gear necessary to find fish and keep anglers safe, Craig Putchat, of Washburn, moves on, in tune with the threat of a long finger of open water slicing off the Great Lake to invade the Apostle Islands somewhere ahead.

"We stress safety," Putchat said. "You need to know where you are out here and you need to be with someone who knows where the ice is good. If it was foggy or rainy, you could run right into that finger. It changes every year and sometimes daily. Some winters, the ice is very good and guys are fishing 30 miles out around Outer Island."

The motorcade heads on toward the orange ball hanging on the horizon, the promise of Wisconsin's first late winter 40-degree day hanging out there with it. Our target is lake trout in 195 feet of water on solid ice 14 inches thick, eight miles from our departure point near Ashland. With Basswood, Madeline, Hermit, and Stockton Islands all looming as varying shades of gray in the distance, we set camp.

Putchat, OWO Bear Expert Mike Foss of Washburn, Rich Nemitz of Hartland, John Marksman and Alex Blaine of Ashland, and Gary Krueger of White Lake auger holes and ready the short, stout rods necessary to wrestle trout—that could weigh 30 pounds—from the bottom of Superior through almost 200 feet of water. Captain Putchat slices smelt and dresses the locally-developed beetle-jigs that will carry the bait down through the cold Superior waters to work trout on the bottom.



The only way these three iced lake trout taken from Lake Superior off of the Apostle Islands could look any better would be if they were in a frying pan. The fish were caught by jigging in deep water.

"The Beetle-jig flies up and flutters away from the bottom where you jig it up from," Putchat said. "The smelt just gives the trout some smell and something to hang on to. This is big game fishing. It can take 20 minutes to bring a fish up. Then they'll bulldog you all the way down again. Then three-quarters of the way up, then all the way down. Out further there is less fishing pressure, fewer commercial nets, and bigger fish. But we can't get out there this year."

Putchat said that the Lake Superior lake trout is long-lived and slow growing, noting that a 40-pound fish can be 50 or 60 years old. He points as evidence to a 40-pound monster caught five years ago that was shocked and fin-clipped in 1952.

"Lake trout have hard, bony mouths, so sharp hooks are important," he said. "We use 36-inch rods, 40-pound power pro no-stretch line and 20-pound fluorocarbon leaders. If you feel anything at all down there, set the hooks hard several times."

Our Wisconsin hardwater crew makes up a tiny community dwarfed by God's Country. At mid-morning, the howling of wolves falls over the ice from Hermit Island. Anglers spread over 100 yards of ice sit on ATVs and snowmobiles and tend their portholes and electronic screens. From time to time, the voice of one fisherman or another announces the play-by-play of fish approaching the lure on the monitor. Occasionally, a rod bent in half tells the story of a fish on and sends giddy grown men running to watch the fight.

Mike Foss talks of simply burning time on the ice, enjoying the sunshine and daydreaming about the day when he will chase big North Country bears again. Gary Krueger feels differently about the chance to ice fish. Just laid off from his job as a logger, he'll be on the hardwater and then the open water now three to four days a week until the call to work comes again.

John Marksman finds the hot hole. He learned to fish the Apostle Island waters with his dad as a boy. After one lost laker on this warm day, a series of several nice trout to 19 inches lose the battles with the veteran and are invited on the ice for photos.

"It can be a very overwhelming piece of water if you look at it as one big lake," he said. "But we take it piece by piece when we're learning how to fish it and it makes things much easier."

OWO Bear Guide Mike Foss has the clean air of Lake Superior Country to breathe, plenty of Apostle Island ice to himself, and lake trout to chase 200 feet below during the first near 40-degree day of winter.




For the past five years Rich Nemitz has spent time almost every other week fishing Superior Country. According to Nemitz, the laker is a salmonid that seeks prey by vibration via a "lateral line" and by sight hunting. Varying the presentation of the lure is imperative to success.

"You have to change it up and give them what they want on any given day," Nemitz says. "Some days they're picky and some days they're so aggressive it doesn't matter what you send down there. You're going to catch them."

Nemitz vividly tells the story of the 16-pound lake trout that nearly snapped

the rod out of his hand with a vicious strike as he was jigging last season. Twenty-five minutes later the fish finally surrendered, leaving a lifelong memory for the angler and a need to return as often as possible.

"That's what I like about it; they fight you every inch of the way," he said. "They run out of steam and then the fight starts all over again."

For more information on tremendous fishing opportunities throughout spring and summer on the Apostle Islands and Chequamegon Bay, contact the Ashland Chamber of Commerce at [www.ashchamb@centurytel.net](mailto:www.ashchamb@centurytel.net) or 715.68.2500. 

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DAVE HRAYCHUCK

# Hard Water Season is Here

## Ready yourself for great ice fishing

The temperature is dipping daily and soon we will hear the cracking and booming of ice forming on our area lakes. Hard water season is just around the corner!

Prior to deer season we site in our guns, check our treestands, replenish our stock of scent killers and doe urine, and get a myriad of other equipment ready. For ice fishing, we grab a bucket of tip-ups and jigs that were thrown in a 5-gallon bucket on our last late ice trip and think we're good to go. Not so. Taking the same care of our ice gear as we do of our hunting gear will not only help us catch more fish, it will make our time on the ice more enjoyable!

Here are a few tips to get ready for a great ice fishing season:

### Rods And Reels

Rods ought to be matched to the species you are fishing for. Panfish rods should have a sensitive tip to show the lightest bite. Using a stiffer rod or a bobber will not give any indication of the light bites. Jigging spoons or Rapala-type jigging minnows should be used with a medium-action rod that allows you to immediately set the hook as soon as the fish strikes.

Clean reels after summertime use. Bail springs need to be checked so that they shut completely when winding line under cold

conditions. New line should be spooled on the reel for ice season.

### Line

To prevent a lot of headaches on the ice when replacing your line, use line that is made specifically for ice fishing or an extra limp non-coiling line. After a good day of ice fishing, spool off 6 - 8 feet of line, as this section of the line continually gets rubbed on the bottom edge of the ice and becomes worn, causing it to break easily.

### Lures

Go into any sport shop in November and try to count the different sizes, colors, and action of all the ice lures on display. For panfish you should have several sizes of the same color of lures, as size often dictates if the fish will hit or not. Having different colors to try is also important. I have three to four different sizes of lures of the same color, usually in hook sizes 12-10-8. My color favorites are fluorescent green, orange, and pink.

For pike, walleyes, and bass, jigging Rapala-style lures and jigging spoons seem to be the preferred bait. Colors vary from one lake to another. Bait shops and fellow anglers are a good source to learn what colors are working on specific lakes.

### Augers

With ice fishing becoming more popu-



*Kids from 6 to 96 love the ice. Keep them warm and catch fish and they may never come off.*

lar every year, an assortment of ice augers are now on the market. Two-stroke and the newer four-stroke gas powered augers are the most popular that drill 6-, 8-, or 10-inch holes. I have tried several battery-powered augers, and a fully charged auger can drill 30 to 40 holes and still have some power left. Here in Wisconsin, having an undercharged auger left out in the elements all day draws the battery down quickly.

Auger bottom units can be attached to an 18-amp portable drill. These units are lightweight and can drill 20 - 30 holes. The only drawback is that the auger bottoms are

only 5 inches, so these are used mainly for pan fishing.

### Shelters

The type of ice shelter you use is dictated by what features, sizes, and set up times you prefer ... and also by your wallet! Just a few of the styles available are the pop up, hub style, and quick flips. Insulated and uninsulated shelters, as well as backpack-type or sled attached houses, are all considerations when shopping for an ice shelter. You don't want to forget to include some type of anchoring equipment with your small

*continued on page 9*

JOHN LINDEMAN

# Target Your Trophy!

## Big 'eyes vulnerable now

Even though another fishing season is almost over, you still picked up your favorite fishing publication, "On Wisconsin Outdoors." That tells me you're harboring hope of catching a trophy in 2013.

Well, seasonal conditions that make trophies vulnerable are coming together right now. Big walleyes are in the process of migrating to predictable wintering haunts. Let's get your trophy hunt started off on the right foot. But it's all for naught if you don't take action and target your trophy now!

Several late fall walleye spots dot the shores of Lake Michigan from Milwaukee to Marinette and continue into Michigan from Menomonee to Escanaba. I got my introduction to Michigan's Little Bay de Noc (LBdN)

from long-time fishing buddy Tom Linski of Milwaukee. Tom is old school. He sticks with what works and is rarely distracted by bling hanging on tackle shop walls.

Tom helped me cut my teeth on LBdN, and in the years that followed I continued to morph that knowledge with the things I learned each season. There was a time when leadcore line ruled. Several seasons later, we use various weight options and long line trolling methods instead of leadcore.

When fishing LBdN, the attraction is trophy walleyes. Since breaking the 10-pound mark, my focus is catching the biggest walleye possible. Being versatile in my approach and using a minimum amount of gear improves my chances.

*continued on page 10*



*Michigan's Little Bay de Noc produces many trophy walleyes. Author John Lindeman is all smiles after netting this brute.*



GARY ENGBERG

## Gary Engberg Outdoors

### River walleyes in the fall

By late October or early November, one of the best walleyes bites of the year is taking place on numerous rivers throughout the upper Midwest. Many walleye anglers have put their boats away by now and are concentrating their outdoor efforts on hunting. But there is a late fall walleye bite that takes place on most medium to large rivers in Wisconsin and throughout the upper Midwest. The weather can be cool, but if you dress properly and put into practice the information and techniques to follow, expect very good walleye fishing. Much of this information can be applied to most any river that has a dam, spillways, and a large scour hole with deep water in the immediate area of the dam.

Wisconsin walleye anglers have two major river systems that have all the necessary ingredients for good walleye fishing: the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Both have plentiful walleye and sauger populations and dams up and down their waters, and they are open year-round for walleye fishing. The dams on the rivers serve as impassable structures for the migrating walleyes and concentrate the fish in large numbers in locations below the dams face and for miles downriver. These river walleyes can be in deep water, shallow water, or anything in between depending where the forage fish are situated.

Depth is not the driving force for river fish as it is for lake walleyes. What drives these river fish and determines their location is the current flow and number of baitfish in the river. Fall hot spots are not much different than spring walleye locations. Areas below dams that will hold walleyes include: current breaks, wing dams, river bends and turns, points, bridge abutments, feeder creek mouths, eddies, islands, bottom depressions, rock piles, timber or wood, and deep holes. Deep water holes (scour holes made by high water usually in the spring's high water) will hold large numbers of late fall fish. Try fishing all around these deep scour holes because it will hold numbers of fish and also some big ones. Big walleyes can often be located close by and mixed in with smaller fish come fall.

Remember that river fish are constantly fighting current, so they use the above-mentioned structures for breaking the current and conserving their energy. Typically, a walleye likes to "hold" behind any of the current breaking structures and ambush the forage or baitfish that passes or floats by them. Walleyes can then dart out, feed quickly, and return to their holding area outside of the main current while still conserving their energy. These river locations are easy to find. Learn to "read" the river.

I live on the Wisconsin River, so daily I



Terry Lax with a Mississippi River fall walleye at Genoa, Wisconsin

can see what the water flow and current is and plan my fishing schedule accordingly. I try to focus my fishing relatively close to the dam and spillway areas where the fish will continue to concentrate as the fall and winter progress. Most of my fall fishing will be done within a couple miles of the dam.

As the river water cools, most anglers (including me) make the switch back to live bait presentations. This usually means vertical jigging with minnows. Late in the year you want to use fatheads and chubs that are large, matching the size of the year's forage. The baitfish and fish of the year have grown all summer, so use big minnows in the 4- to 5- inch size. Vertical jigging means anchoring in likely locations below the dam and keeping your line and jig as vertical as possible. Try casting your jig behind your anchored boat and let the jig fall to the bottom and then lightly lift and drop the jig. Lifting the jig (lift from 6 inches to a foot) attracts the walleyes, and dropping the jig allows the river's current to give action to your presentation as it falls back to the bottom. Another trick I use is to add some bulk to the jig in the form of a piece of plastic (from a twister tail) on the jig's collar or a whole twister tail on the jig/minnow combo. This bulks up the offering and slows its fall to the bottom giving the fish more time to strike. Most strikes occur when the jig is falling.

The Bait Rigs Slo-Poke jig works wonders in rivers with its slow fall, stand-up style, and wide hook gap. Colors can vary, so be sure to have a good assortment of styles, colors, and sizes. You want to use as light a jig as possible while still maintaining a vertical presentation. You can also cast and retrieve a jig while anchored using the basic jig/minnow combo or try using just the jig and a twister tail. I suggest the Kalin's brand of plastic in the 4- or 5- inch size. If you're fishing Wisconsin waters, you can legally use three rods. The ideal set-up while anchored is to vertical jig with one rod, cast with another, and put the third in a rod holder as your "dead" rod. Sometimes I'll rig my dead rod with a plain hook, a colored bead, and a split shot about 12 to 18 inches above the hook. I've had days when my dead rod catches all the fish. This Plain Jane tactic works well when fish are



"Bulking up" a jig for a slower fall jig/plastic combo

in a neutral mood. You have to be prepared for whatever the walleyes want on any particular day. Another important thing to remember is to keep your presentations slow as the water temperature cools. Hair jigs also can be deadly in fall and spring with the river's current making the jig's hair pulsate which attracts both walleyes and saugers.

Berkley Fireline works well in most river situations. This "superline" cuts the water and allows you to feel even the lightest bite. I recommend using the 14 pound test line which has the diameter of 6-pound test monofilament. The strength of Fireline also allows you to pull out of most snags that you may encounter in a river. To compensate for the lack of stretch in Fireline, try using a medium action rod like a G. Loomis SJR 721, which gives you the shock absorption you need for playing river walleyes.

Another effective fall river walleye presentation is the use of a three-way swivel. Three-way rigs attach your main line and the two other lines to the swivel, one with a weight as a dropper (or a heavy jig and minnow) and the other to a lipless crankbait. Slowly troll up and down river with this presentation. Working slowly off your bow or rear-mounted trolling motor while jigging is another option. Fishing late in the day and at night from a boat or wading can be worthwhile because walleyes move shallow at night to feed. If you wade, use 4 ML waders for the colder water of late fall.

You now have all that it takes to have fall success on most Midwestern rivers. Some of the best fall locations are: Sauk City, Wisconsin Dells, Castle Rock, Petenwell, and Nekoosa on the Wisconsin River. Good dam locations on the Mississippi River include Dubuque, Prairie du Chien, Genoa, Ferryville, LaCrosse, and Red Wing.

Don't winterize and put that boat away yet. Try river fishing below one of the many dams this fall in Wisconsin and surrounding states and you'll have little if any competition and a chance to catch some river walleyes. The fish will be there; will you?

W

For information on fishing guides visit [www.garyengbergoutdoors.com](http://www.garyengbergoutdoors.com).



"YOUR GHILLIE SUIT? I THOUGHT IT WAS A COMPOST PILE AND TOOK IT OUT TO THE GARDEN."



BILL KENDY

# Layering For Cold Weather Outdoor Comfort

## Outer layer

### Outer layer

In the September/October 2013 edition of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*, I featured some great inner and middle layer products for use in the outdoors during the colder months. As promised, read on to learn of some outer layer must-haves.

### Keeping Out the Elements

The outer shell layer protects you from wind, rain, and snow. It needs to be windproof, waterproof, breathable (this is a biggie ... you don't want perspiration condensation on the inside of your shell), and fit comfortably over multiple layers and allow a full range of movement. Shells make the most sense, but, depending on your resistance to cold, you may want to use an insulated outerwear coat or one that offers zip-out lining.



All of the same applies to pants. And it doesn't hurt if they have zippers at the bottom to allow you to regulate air flow.

### Hunting Systems

While you can pretty much mix and match in developing your personal comfort zone, some companies do offer complete systems. The Under Armour Skysweeper 3-in-1 Jacket has fully taped seams with a zip-out vest and removable hood. The L.L. Bean Big Game System allows you to choose a shell with either a medium or heavyweight liner and two choices of pants. With the medium liner, not counting the base layer, the system has a comfort temperature rating of 20 to 50 degrees in wind, rain, and snow conditions.

### Dress Smart

Dress for your activity. If you are hustling to

your stand and expect to build up a sweat, don't wear all of your clothing on the way out. Stash some in your pack and put it on when you get there and let the wet stuff dry out.

Also keep in mind that you can lose a significant amount of body heat through your head and hands, so don't forget to protect them.

### The Final Word

When you are buying outdoor clothing, don't skimp or buy "on the cheap." Buying inexpensive and inferior layering components is like spending \$1,000 on a great rifle but putting a \$75.00 scope on it and buying the cheapest ammo you can find. When you think about all the time, effort, and money you spend on fishing and hunting trips—and maybe that trip of a lifetime—it is pennywise and pound foolish to buy clothing that won't keep you warm and dry. *W*

*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.*



WILLIAM F. KENDY

## This Isn't Your Father's Wool

When I was a young man, surplus military clothing was plentiful and relatively inexpensive. I saved my chore money and bought a wool sweater and a pair of wool pants. I never wore them unless it was really cold because the sweater itched like crazy and the pants weighed a ton, especially when wet.

Fortunately, wool has changed. Today's wool is thinner, lighter, softer, resists tears better than most synthetic fabrics, and is long lasting. Unless you have very sensitive skin (or are allergic to lanolin), quality Merino wool is pretty much itch free.

"Performance Merino wool is so far



advanced from the standard wool of yesteryear," says Kendall Card, Co-Founder of Core4Element. "It delivers all of the benefits of synthetics and more. It breathes incredibly well, is soft against the skin, dries quickly, and, when wet, will still insulate. Likely the best benefit for hunters is the fact that Merino wool fibers are naturally antimicrobial, which prevent odor-causing bacteria to grow. This means a hunter can wear the same Merino wool layer for multiple days without the smell that synthetics have after one day in the mountains."

Core4Element clothing lines can be viewed at [www.core4element.com](http://www.core4element.com).

### HRAYCHUCK, from page 7

or medium-sized ice shelter. Screw-in ice cleats, your vehicle, or some type of weight is important so that you aren't chasing your shelter down the lake!

### Tip-Ups

Today's modern tip-ups come in various shapes and sizes. All have sealed grease shafts that allow the spool to move freely and smoothly when the fish hits the bait. The older style wood tip-ups require solder to be melted off the shaft to change the grease in them. The newer models have a bolt that unscrews, allowing the shaft to be refilled with grease. Tip-ups range from \$10 to \$40.

This has been a primer on getting your equipment ready for ice fishing season. Every year people drown, get injured, or lose equipment because they fall through the ice and can't get out. Twenty years ago people would put two screwdrivers on a cord and wear the screwdrivers around their neck to use as ice picks to pull themselves out if they fell through. Nowadays, most all bait shops

and sporting goods stores sell ice safety picks that are retractable, sharp metal spikes that dig into the ice so that you can pull yourself out of the water.

As always, prevention is the best safety tool! To avoid having to use your ice picks, always be aware of the ice conditions. The following safety guidelines are for new, clean ice:

**2 inches or less: stay off**

**4-6 inches: ice fishing on foot**

**8-10 inches: snowmobile or ATV**

**10-12 inches: small trucks or car**

**12-15 inches: medium truck**

Articles on where and how to ice fish and fishing reports from around Wisconsin are published in *On Wisconsin Outdoors* and on the OWO website.

Be safe, have fun, and take a kid fishing!

For more information or to book a fishing trip contact Wisconsin licensed guide Dave Hraychuck at 715.553.0578 or [hraychucks@centurytel.net](mailto:hraychucks@centurytel.net). *W*



MIKE YURK

# Bassology

## The love of crankbaits

Crankbaits have been my favorite lure since I first started fishing for bass over 35 years ago. I have always loved hard-bodied baits, which we once called plugs. I admired the displays of plugs available when I was a kid in the 1950s and 60s and first started to use them on walleyes.

The first largemouth bass I caught was on a crankbait. I believe it was a perch-colored Fat Rap by Rapala. Fat Raps are no longer made, but I have some left from my younger bass fishing days and still catch fish with them.

Another plug that caught my attention when I was a boy was the River Runt by Heddon. A few years ago I bought a couple at an antique store. I took them out on one of my local lakes and caught bass with them, proving that no matter how old a plug or crankbait may be they still catch fish.

The Lazy Ike goes back to the mid-1900s and is still made today. Lazy Ikes do not come in as many colors as they once did, but I occasionally use them and they catch fish. The yellow with red spots or the fire tiger colors are productive, especially in dirty water.

Another favorite crankbait of mine, standing the test of time and still available, is the Model A Bomber. When I first started bass fishing, the Model A Bomber was my crankbait of choice. Today they come in a variety of sizes and colors, but my favorite is the 3/8-ounce size in natural colors. As far as I am concerned they are one of the best crankbaits made.

A standard crankbait in bass fishing that went out of production several years ago and recently returned is the Thin Fin by Storm. When I heard that Storm was no longer making the Thin Fin, I bought a number of them before they

disappeared. It is a shallow running bait like no other on the market. I was overjoyed to see its return. They are available in two sizes and in several colors.

Lipless crankbaits are in a category of their own. They are a sinking bait and extremely effective in cold weather such as in early spring or late fall. They also work well in summer when fish move into deeper water. The Spot by Cotton Cordell, The Rattletrap by Bill Lewis, and Rattlin' Rapala are all good lipless crankbaits. I normally use the 2- or 2 3/4-inch sizes. Favorite colors are silver and blue as well as all white or bone with an orange belly. You can regulate the depth these baits go by just letting them sink before you start your retrieve.

A new crankbait that has hit the bass fishing world is Scatter Raps by Rapala. They have a unique cupped bill, which gives the bait more movement. I have been using the shad style. On opening day this year, with was snow on the ground and on the docks, I caught half my fish on Scatter Raps. As with most crankbaits, I prefer natural minnow-type colors.

When fishing crankbaits, the speed of the retrieve can make a difference. During warm weather you can fish them fairly fast, as the metabolism in fish is high and they will race after a bait. But in colder weather their metabolism slows down and they won't chase a fast bait, so slow down the retrieve for better action.

Another trick is to stop retrieving every now and then, let the bait rest for a few seconds, and start the retrieve again. This stop-and-go retrieve method can be deadly on bass. When you have stopped the retrieve, just pop the crankbait a couple of times before resuming your retrieve.

Crankbaits are still one of the most productive baits for bass.



For many years I resisted using leaders on crankbaits, so every season I would lose a few to northern pike. Northerns are found in the same water with bass, and it only takes one good strike from a northern to rake its teeth across that monofilament line and tear off a crankbait. I had been reluctant to use leaders because I feared a leader would be too heavy and alter the action of the bait. Once crankbaits began to reach \$7 to \$8 a bait, and after I lost

*continued on page 24*

### LINDEMAN, from page 7

Versatility will keep you from getting stuck in a rut. If you are ready to shift on the fly, chances are you will. In a single night of fishing on LBdN, I bounce between shallow weeds, deep humps, tapering points, and open water basins without blinking an eye. All that bouncing around is made possible by being versatile and limiting the amount of gear in the boat. For me, that gear includes line-counter reels loaded with 10-pound monofilament. To increase the versatility of that setup, I add planer boards and KFin Quick-Release Trolling Weights to the mix. The KFin trolling weights accomplish two things. First, each rod can troll shallow weeds or deep basins. Second, the KFin's quick-release design requires no knots or assembly—great for versatility and cold hands.

LBdN structure can be grouped



**Appleton's Jon Markley makes the trek to Little Bay de Noc each year in search of Trophy Walleyes like this one. A key to his success is using a simple yet versatile approach that helps him locate feeding fish under the moonlight.**

into four categories: shallow reefs, deep reefs, tapering points, and open water basins. When you group structure this way, you maximize the efficiency of each trolling pass by keeping baits in a productive zone as long as possible.

Shallow presentations require only planer boards or long lines to troll successfully. Shallow diving stickbaits work perfectly pulled in the upper water column between weed tops and the surface.


Deeper reefs and tapering points require boards, shallow diving stickbaits, and various quick-release trolling weights. Depending on the trolling pass you make, choose the appropriate weight. Keep things simple by using the same distances between bait/weight and weight/board, changing only the size of the weight. For example, 40 feet stickbait to weight, then 40 feet weight to board.

The final structure grouping, open water basin or deep flats, potentially presents your longest trolling passes. You need the boards, quick-release weights, and shallow diving crankbaits. Here you can set up, sit back, and concentrate on keeping warm.

When trying to locate fish in deep water, cover the entire water column. Your trolling pass should have baits wobbling behind quick-release weights at as many depths as possible while cruising at 1.5 miles per hour. When you contact active fish, match the productive depth.

If you didn't notice, the quick-release trolling weights eliminate switching out your shallow diving stickbaits for medium and deep divers as you shift from spot to spot. Also, if you're in deep water and feeding walleyes are up high, you didn't miss the action pulling leadcore.

Stickbaits are the lure of choice in November. Recently, F18 Rapalas and 700 series Reef Runners seem to produce the best. If another angler mentions a hot bait or color pattern, swallow your pride and head to the tackle shop.

In closing, LBdN is known for navigational hazards. Purchasing a depth chart of the area and paying close attention to your electronics is a must. Safety comes first. Simple things like charged phones and fishing with another boat pay big dividends when the wind and waves pick up. The fish are big, but there is always another November day to chase them. 

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



JERRY KIESOW

## Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

### *The first crappie fly and then some*

**I**t began in May of 2011. I was paging through another magazine (yes, there are other outdoor magazines), and there was a story about “the First Crappie Lure” — a fly shown with a split shot nestled up against its hook eye. The split shot did not excite me, but the fly looked interesting. Naturally, I went right to my tying bench and reproduced the pattern. Well, not quite. This past May I found the story on the desk next to my tying bench. The fly still looked good to me, so I sat down and tied a few—two years later.

This old fly has an interesting history. Dr. David C. Estes, of Minnesota, is credited with inventing this pattern in 1875. (The fly is included in Mary Orvis Marbury’s book, written in 1892, “Favorite Flies and Their Histories.”)

My personal experience with this fly indicates it is still successful. I wish I had tied it when I first read the article. I must say up front that I do not use the split shot when I fish the fly. The story suggests that, perhaps, the combination of the fly and the split shot might have been the first crappie jig.

I first tied this fly on a #8 streamer hook. Though it caught bluegills, it has been a

fly preferred by crappies—or as Dr. Estes spelled them, “croppies.”

The fly worked so well and looked so good that I decided to tie a few on smaller #10 wet fly hooks and try them for our native brook trout. Even though we have a place in northeastern Wisconsin where brook trout make the small streams their home, it took me until this past September to find the time to present this “new” fly to brookies. I went to the North Branch of the Pike River to fish a section that I know fairly well.

It was a cloudy day, but there was no rain in the immediate forecast. I started with that “First Crappie Fly.” I fished it casting across and down, drifting, then retrieving. Nothing. I changed flies—three times. I never saw a fish. Normally I at least scare the scales off of a few chubs when I stumble through a slippery section. Not today. I decided to try another section of this same creek.

As I drove, I noted that there appeared to be some good-looking grouse covets. I decided to return with the side-by-side 20 gauge in a few weeks when the cover would be down.



*Native brookie before release.*

Upon arriving at the new location, I re-rigged, putting that little crappie fly back to work. As I carefully approached the river, I saw fish: trout. Not big, but encouraging.

Slipping quietly into the water, I fished upstream, making short roll casts. This is not a big river but an alder-lined stream. Several times I spooked trout, mostly when I had to unhook my fly from alder branches.

After about a half hour, I took a break to allow things to calm down before fishing my way back. Still using the new fly, my casts changed. Instead of roll casting, I fished the fly as if I were drowning a night-crawler minus any weight. I drifted the fly down and through the holes and under the limbs, mending the line to direct it into different locations. Occasionally I would re-

*continued on page 12*

DAVE DUWE

## Late Fall Walleye Bite

### *Don't let the cold keep you out of the water*

**J**ust because it's hunting season doesn't mean that it's time to put away your boat. As the end of open water fishing nears, the late fall bite brings some of the most exceptional fishing of the whole year. But you have to be able to handle the cold.

During the late fall months I enjoy walleye fishing. Most of the summer is spent fishing largemouth bass or northern pike. With clients it is usually a live bait bite. In fall the best presentation is a crankbait. Whether it's casted or trolled, success can be had by all willing to bear the cold temperatures. Different than other times of the year, an angler can have success during either day or nighttime hours. However, I personally still find the first hour of light and dusk to be the most productive for numbers of walleyes.

The two methods I employ to catch wall-

eyes are trolling and casting crankbaits. Trolling is a very effective way to cover water and catch a lot of fall feeding fish. I look for weedlines in the lake I am fishing that still have green weeds (alive) associated with scattered rock bottom. Main lake points are always a good bet. During daytime hours I troll 15-17 feet of water. During nighttime hours I tend to be in shallower water: approximately 12-14 feet. I feel that at night the walleyes slide up the weedline to feed.

When trolling, my preferred bait is a Bomber Fat Free shad. The color of choice is pearl with black dots applied with a Sharpie marker. I want to match the bait fish in the lake and resemble the black crappie. Your color choice may be different depending on your body of water. I use 10-pound silver thread to aid in getting optimal depth for the crankbait. My pref-

erence in trolling rod is a 7-foot medium light Fenwick casting rod, teamed with Revo baitcasting reel. The lighter action rod seems to keep the treble hooks of the crankbaits from pulling out of the fish.

When fishing, I only use one pole per person. The use of planer boards seems to be less effective. The fish are in small (spot on spot) areas, so exact presentation is the key. I try to initiate a strike by gradually pumping the rod. This adds a very enticing pause to the lure. When getting a strike you never want to set the hook. Instead, make sure that the fish has it and lightly pull back. I seem to get bit more often when my trolling speed is 1.3 to 1.7 mph. With weedline trolling the worst enemy is the weed itself. If your lure gets fouled, you need to remove the weed. Not only will your lure not run effectively, it also won't get eaten. Check your lures often and make sure they



*Author with a nice fall walleye.*

have good vibrations.

My second choice of fall crankbait fishing is a jerkbait. My jerkbait fishing is almost exclusively done at night. In late fall the water is clear after turnover, making the wall-

*continued on page 23*



DICK HENSKE

## Cozy Camp

### No-wait bear hunting, great fishing calls Wisconsin

My stand was 45 yards from the bait that Ignace, Ontario, guide and Cozy Camp owner Dan Burkholder had just placed. He warned me that the bears had patterned to his baiting schedule, so I was in the stand early. He suggested I use a gun on this particular stand because of the distance and because there was a deep ravine behind the bait that an arrow-wounded bear would probably dive into. This would make retrieval very difficult.

Soon there was movement in the woods. A huge black body was half circling behind the bait, nose to the wind. A black head, the size of a 5-gallon bucket, slowly moved out to the bait pile. The thick-necked boar was a shooter! The hand cartridges I loaded in the .35 caliber Marlin lever action did their job. The bear traveled just 15 yards after the shot. The hunt was over!

I drove back to the resort, and Dan Burkholder, my guide and camp owner, loaded up the 6-wheeler for the big job ahead. After a lot of winching and pulling, we packed the bear to the resort and put him on a picnic table, a great height to work from. Now it was picture and beer time. I enjoy the "afterkill" as part of the hunt. I skinned, quartered, and deboned the bear, sealed the meat in plastic bags, and stored it in Dan's freezer. Most of the meat will be made into sausage. Life is good!



The author with his Canadian bear.

The trip was great for two Badgers traveling from Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin. Scheduling only allowed my buddy, Jeff Krans, and me a few days to hunt. Krans only saw a sow and two cubs but missed seeing another nice boar captured on the trail camera that hit his stand in the morning. We ran out of time to get Jeff a bear this time.

Dan and Anne Burkholder run Cozy Camp Resort, a full service set up with comfortable cabins on the English River just north of Ignace, Ontario, on Highway 599. Dan and

Anne sell hunting and fishing licenses at the camp office. They'll set you up in a nice cabin next to the water for the week with a 15-horse, 4-stroke Mercury and a wide 16-foot boat with seats. When you're not hunting, you can take part in great walleye fishing.

Dan and Ann have a great resort with two fish cleaning stations and lots of open space. If you want a bear, spend the money to go with a great guide. I suggest going the two weeks following the August 15 opener, but some of the bigger bears can be found later in the season.

Dan has been guiding for 17 years and knows how to get you a bear. The bear season begins annually on August 15 and Dan baits early in the year on a schedule. He puts you on a proven bait site that is hit hard and spread out in an area only his clients can hunt. If you listen to him, he has great tips. I have shot many bear and bait yearly for friends in Wisconsin but still learned a few new tricks at Cozy Camp. He made us put our hunting clothes in a plastic bag in the sun for a whole day. We smelled like a spruce tree! He spends the extra effort to make things fall together so you'll be successful. After you shoot your bear, he'll retrieve it, butcher it, and freeze it.

In Wisconsin, you will wait six to 10 years, depending on zones, to receive a kill tag. In Canada, you can buy a bear

*continued on page 21*

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#### KIESOW, from page 11


trieve it with a few short strips or twitches, then allow it to drift freely back into another spot, swinging back and forth as it did.

That crappie fly caught two brookies: a brilliantly colored male and a more subtle female. Neither were trophies—just legal keepers, a tad over eight inches—so I released them.

I love these colorful fish. I think that God outdid Himself when he created the native brook trout. Always colorful, but more intense in fall when they spawn, the male brook trout's body has yellow spots mixed with red spots encircled with blue. These are positioned below a dark olive back with gold, worm-shaped markings that meld into a slash of yellow, which blends into a lower deep orange streak on its side. Below, the orange fuses into a black belly. The head is a continuation of the back, including the upper jaw. Below that jaw, the worm-shaped markings fade into only olive. This entire body is accented with orange and black fins edged in white. The female has the same coloration but not nearly as brilliant.

But I digress. So now I have a pattern that catches crappies, bluegills, and brook trout. I plan on tying a couple on a #6 streamer hook and adding an orange

beadhead. I'll give it a shot at steelhead. Stay tuned.

See you in 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.*

#### **HOOK: #6 streamer**

**Thread:** Black 6/0/ UNI

**Tail:** Two dyed wing fibers, one yellow and one red

**Body:** Dark blue chenille

**Rib:** Gold tinsel

**Hackle:** Orange, only two wraps tied before the wing so they are pushed to the sides and slightly down when the wing is added.

**Wing:** Mallard flank

**Options:** Use orange thread and/or add an orange beadhead. Change the dark blue to medium blue. The dark blue looks almost black when wet. It might be more colorful if a lighter shade is used.



TOM CARPENTER

# Gun Season Strategy

## Ten seconds to success

During the upcoming deer gun season, success or failure will evolve in mere seconds. Can your hunting attitude handle the challenge?

Think back to some of the deer you've taken with rifle or shotgun. How much time elapsed between when you first saw each animal and when you shot and knew the deer was yours or soon would be? Write down the figures. Any surprises?

I bet your timeframes are short, maybe as low as 10 seconds per deer. But the actual number isn't important. What's essential is the idea that success can happen mighty quickly in the deer woods. Your emotions can run from "I guess I might not get a deer this year" to "I can't believe I just got a whitetail!" in mere seconds.

### Ten Seconds Of Action

For me, 2012's opening day was a perfect example. Situated along the Little Sugar River in Green County, I was watching a small and secluded soybean field that deer like to traverse between marshes.

It was maybe 9:00 AM, with no deer sighted yet, and I had just decided I would be fine with an antlerless whitetail now that the season was a few hours old. Glancing to my left, here they came: three nice does. Without hesitation, I rose to one knee, locked in on the lead deer, and pulled the trigger when she paused. They wheeled and ran, but I could tell my target deer was lagging. Time elapsed? Maybe eight seconds, certainly under 10.

I knew that what I would find at the end of the blood trail I could already see out in the field. So I sat back to savor my success for a few moments before tracking down my winter venison, which I found in the form of a beautiful doe just 10 yards into the marsh grass.

If you work to hunt alertly and with a positive attitude all the time, ready for success at every moment, you have a much better chance of getting a deer, period. Success happens fast, often in 10 seconds or less, if you are ready.

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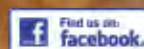


The author, shown here with a Green County whitetail, says one of the secrets for success is to be ready for fast action every moment of the hunt.

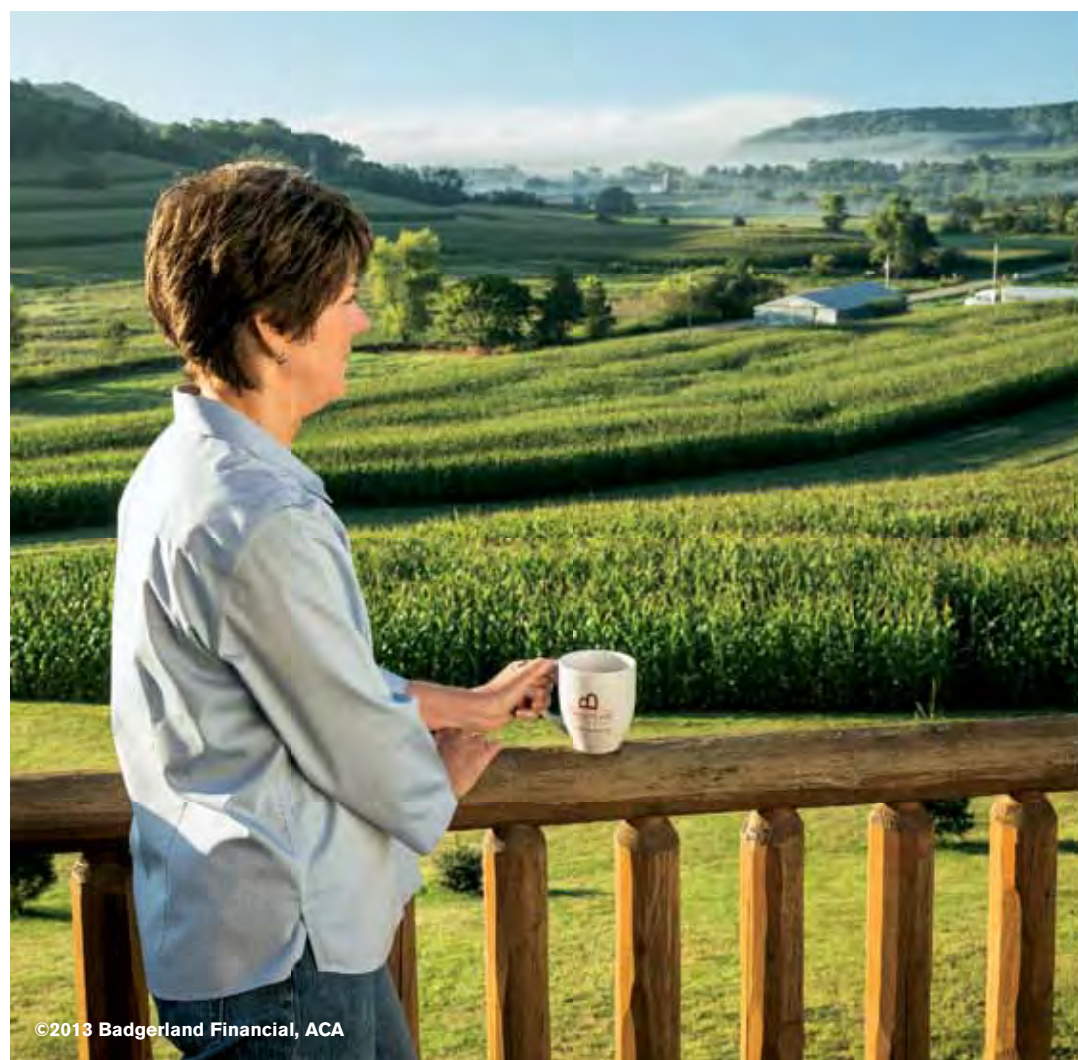
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TOM CARPENTER

# Cubs Corner

## 40 years and counting

When you grow up in Wisconsin, the years can be enumerated in many ways: how the Packers' season was; what happened with the Brewers campaign; if the Badgers made a bowl game (and did they actually win the dang thing?). But I have a better measure: how the gun deer season went.

Ask a Wisconsin hunter what year he was married and he'll scrunch up his nose and have to think. But throw out a year—any old random year will do—and I can bet that same hunter will immediately tell you where he sat on opening morning, what kind of deer (if any) he shot that year, how his group did filling tags, and what the weather was like.

Back when I was a badger cub in the hills of southwestern Wisconsin, deer season was (and still is) a rite of passage not to be missed ... better than Christmas, your birthday, and a date with a cute cheerlead-

er all rolled into one. I never did have the date with the cheerleader, though. I always wanted to be home and in bed to be rested up for whatever the next day's hunting would bring!

It's hard to believe, but 2013 will mark my 40th straight Wisconsin gun deer season. I remember well the very first year, 1974. We hunted by the tiny railroad crossings known as Calamine and Slatford in Lafayette County. My Uncle Alvin had the spot all staked out thanks to the crew on the Milwaukee Road freight train that ran the course of the Pecatonica River valley.

In those days, the hunt started with finding a spot where there were actually some deer. As the railroad depot agent in Mineral Point, Uncle Alvin had the train crew keep an eye on the fields as they made their biweekly run from Janesville. They targeted a spot for us, right down to the right-of-way mileage markers.

I sat in a brushy sidehill pasture next to my uncle the first morning and managed to miss three different does with my smooth-bore, 30-inch barreled, hand-me-down Montgomery Ward single-shot 12-gauge. One unfortunate whitetail even lost her ear! (Later, we shot the gun at a big box and discovered it hit 2 feet high and to the left, which explained the ear shot.)

We teamed up with a local family to push a block of timber where two bucks had dived in. I was relegated to pusher status, along with my two older brothers and a couple other teenagers, as other hunters posted at the whitetails' likely escape routes. Looking back, I have to laugh. We were just the adults' hound dogs! But I learned something vital.

Bulling my way through the thickest thorn brush imaginable, I fell behind the other pushers and had to stop to tie my boot. As I stood up, I was looking eye-to-eye with two bucks maybe 15 yards away, sneaking out the drive's back door! I don't know who was more surprised, but I do


know who won the contest. Actually, it wasn't even a contest. I yelled "bucks!" and they kept going, heads down, right out past where the drive had started.

Of course, nobody believed me when the hunt was over, except my dad. But in a few years, when I became the orchestrator of our family deer pushes, the other hunters became believers when, given the opportunity, I trailed the drive or posted at the back door ... and shot whitetails nobody else was seeing.

It was a rainy season that year, but we slogged through. On the second afternoon, we ended up in the burg of Belmont (which once served as the territorial capital of Wisconsin), sitting in a Laundromat in our underwear as our clothes tumbled in big industrial dryers. We headed back out and finished the day off. I got to take off of school and hunt on Monday too.

We ended up with one deer for five of us: a young buck my brother dropped across a

*continued on page 25*



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LEE GATZKE

## NextBuk Outdoors

### Opening day of gun season

I rolled into deer camp in time to crawl into my bunk for a decent night's sleep before the Wisconsin gun opener the following day. Six hours later the camp cook, brother Bill, was waking up the clan to eat the hearty breakfast he'd prepared for us. Nine of us, all with the same last name, crowded around the table and made the mounds of eggs, sausage, and fried potatoes disappear. As the last of the feast vanished, one of us paid homage to opening day with a Bronx cheer, which began a chain reaction from the rest of the crowd, reminiscent of the famous scene in "Blazing Saddles" where the cowboys ate their beans around the campfire.

When the laughter settled down, Bill turned on the radio to get the weather report. After the radio gave the opening day forecast, each hunter picked a spot to hunt according to the prevailing wind. With the knowledge of where each of us would be hunting, we all packed up and headed out to our stands in the predawn darkness. I decided to hunt an area that showed little

deer activity until just a few weeks before the gun opener, when some nice bucks showed up on trail cameras.

Opening morning dawned windy with temps in the mid-20s. From my perch, 18 feet up in my tree stand, a familiar bedding area was about 100 yards distant, not quite downwind. It was unusually quiet for opening day with only a few shots being fired in the area. I had yet to see a deer when, just before 8:30 AM, the backside of a whitetail appeared in thick cover close to the bedding area. Seconds later the deer turned and headed in my direction. I could make out a rack, but the heavy cover shielded its details. Since I self-film most of my hunts, I turned the camera on and followed the buck's progress as he closed the distance between us. Pausing and lifting his head to survey the path ahead, I got a better look at the buck's headgear; the rack was tall and heavy. I reached for my rifle as the buck resumed his approach. As I put the rifle to my shoulder, I took a good look at his body

*continued on page 19*



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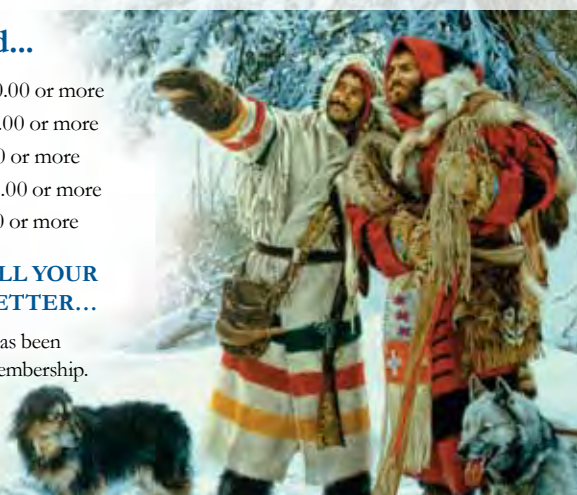
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The artwork is a detail from Near Journey's End Paul Calle is courtesy of the artist & art publisher Mill Pond Press.



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DAN MOERICKE

# An “Up Nort” Report

## String theory 101

If you saw the title and were hoping to get up to speed on particle theory and quantum physics, you will be disappointed. The string that I’m referring to is one used to help bowhunters recover their game after the shot. It’s pretty simple; almost crude, in fact.

This fall marks my 45th year of bow-hunting, and I’ve been on quite a few blood trails over that span. Fortunately, many of these have been in the accompaniment of friends, all of whom are great trackers. Or so I thought. A couple of decades ago I tumbled onto the fact that my buddies actually *weren’t* great trackers ... I was just really bad at it. While these guys could see a drop of blood from 20 feet away, I struggled to see one underfoot when they were pointing directly at it. As it turns out, I’m moderately red-green colorblind. My wife has confirmed that many times over the years by pointing out that my shirt/tie/slacks/socks didn’t go together and asking me what color I thought my suit was. (To see if you are red-green colorblind, do an Internet search for “Ishihara colorblindness

tests.”)

To the rescue for all of us colorblind folk and neophyte trackers alike, a company called Game Tracker long ago came out with a device that you can put on your bow which holds a spool of strong nylon string. The string is attached to the arrow by loosening the broadhead, wrapping the threads three or four times, and then retightening it. When the arrow is released, the string trails after it and will, in theory, lead you right to your deer/turkey/hog/etc. The idea is similar to the reels you see being used for bowfishing except that the string is not re-spooled after a shot and, obviously, you’re going to have to follow the string rather than dragging your deer back to you like a big skewered carp. (Game Tracker was acquired by Easton a number of years ago and the device is now called a String Tracker. It retails for under \$20. Replacement spools cost \$6-8.)

String trackers seem to have gone out of vogue, and it’s gotten increasing difficult to find replacement spools. These days it seems that it’s all about making a bow

*The author’s bow with String Tracker engaged. Tip: keep the amount of string hanging out of the container to a minimum to avoid catching on brush.*



shoot faster, smoother, and quieter. A string tracker does none of these. It will slow your arrow—significantly on shots of 30 yards or more. It will make noise as the string comes off the spool. But, from my experience, at distances under 25 yards it just doesn’t matter. Properly used, the string has little to no impact on arrow flight at those distances and the additional noise is a nonissue as well.

### When To Use

I always use a string tracker when hunting near swamps or pine plantations. If hunting a trail or food source where your shots will definitely be under 25 yards, there is no reason not to. Being colorblind, I’ll always use it when hunting alone. Once there is snow cover on the ground I may take it off my bow but not before.

### What it Does

Ideally, you make a clean pass-through shot and the arrow anchors the end of the string in the ground. As the deer runs off, the string passes through the deer until it drops and you actually get to follow a dou-

ble string to your animal.

Sometimes the arrow doesn’t pass through and you’re left with just a single string to follow—still easier than crawling around on your hands and knees trying to see a spatter of blood or a hoof print.

If the deer runs a long way or through thick brush, there is a good chance that the string will break at some point. Even so, you’re often given a considerable head start knowing the animal’s exact course for the first critical yards. Usually by the time the string breaks the blood trail will be heavier and easier to follow.

*continued on page 26*

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GATZKE, from page 15




The author puts his gun tag on a buck in its prime.

and realized this was one of the largest bucks I'd ever had a chance to shoot.

"Time to concentrate on making the shot," I thought as the crosshairs of my scope found the crease behind his shoulder. As I touched off the round, the buck's hind legs did a mule kick and he raced off. One of my two follow-up shots broke his shoulder but didn't drop him on the spot. Thirty seconds after he disappeared into the heavy cover, I heard a crash followed by the sound of him rolling downhill.

Following a heavy blood trail and running tracks, I quickly walked up on the dead buck. At a moment like this, I just stood next to him for a minute or two marveling at this buck in his prime and realizing how fortunate I was to be putting my tag on him.

After that moment of quiet awe and respect, I took a good look at the size of his body. I've been around a lot of deer before, but never have I seen one that had front forelegs so big in diameter that I couldn't get my hand to encircle them. The tall, heavy 9-point rack was an even match, side to side, except for a broken-off brow tine that would have made him a 10. I have a trail camera picture of him prior to the brow tine being broken off that shows the missing brow tine was a perfect match to the remaining one, making him a 10-pointer. Being a taxidermist, I'll enjoy fixing that. 

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

KATHY STRONG

## Recipe For Pheasant

### Teaching your dog tracking and quartering

#### Ingredients:

- Hunting dog of any persuasion (flusher/pointer), age three months or older
- Bird: preferably a live hen pheasant, chukar, quail, pigeon; dead bird if necessary
- Check cord: 25 feet, lightweight, 6 mm belaying or parachute cord works well
- Dog whistle
- Large field: medium to low cover

Any of you who has taken a young dog out bird hunting only to have him follow at your heels or run wildly through the field flushing everything in range knows how frustrating and unproductive this is. A few sessions of teaching tracking and quartering makes all the difference in the ability of the dog to efficiently find and flush/point birds and to provide you with a successful, quality experience in the field.

When I teach a young dog to track and quarter, I start by getting the dog excited about a shackled, live bird. To shackle the bird, fasten its legs together and pull the flight feathers out of one wing. Tease the dog with it, throw it, and try to get the dog to pick it up and return to you with it or at least to play and run around with it. By stepping on the 25-foot check cord attached to the dog's collar, you can prevent the dog from running away with the bird. When giving the cord a sharp snap with the command "here" or "come," you can bring the dog in to you.

Once the dog is excited and wants the bird, use an assistant to hold the dog, or tie him to a nearby tree or post to keep him from following you, but allow him to watch as you walk away, dragging the bird by a cord attached to its feet. Walk, dragging the bird into the wind, about 50 to 75 yards, then let go of the cord in a clump of grass or brush and keep walking, circling around back to the dog. Release the dog and command him to "find the bird," "hunt it up," or whatever phrase you use to tell the dog to hunt.

The dog may start out in the direction you went with the bird or may just run around with no clue as to what is expected. Start walking diagonally in the direction that you dragged the bird, crossing the drag trail. The dog will usually come with you. As you get about 10 yards past the drag trail, change direction and briskly walk diagonally back across the drag trail until you are about 10 yards past the drag



Lucy with her bird

trail on the opposite side. Keep moving diagonally in the direction you dragged the bird. Each time you change direction, toot twice, sharply, on the dog whistle. Two toots is the come around command.

Ideally, the dog will eventually pick up the scent, put its nose down and follow the scent to the bird. If he does, stop walking diagonally and tooting him to change direction. Follow him and praise him profusely for finding the bird. If he doesn't pick up the track, you may need to narrow the distance you walk before telling him to change direction and maneuver him into a position where he can't help but find the bird. No matter how much help you have to give the dog, praise him and show him how excited and happy you are that he found the bird.

I do tracks in sets of three or less. Dogs tire quickly doing this, and I want to keep them excited and fresh. For the second and subsequent drags, position the dog where he can't see where you go and can't follow you. Start the second drag where the dog found the bird after the first drag as he will naturally look there for the bird when you release him. Proceed with the diagonal walks in the direction of the bird, changing direction and tooting the whistle twice as you turn. Unless the dog seems tired or is losing enthusiasm, follow these steps a third time, starting again where he found the bird after the second drag.


It doesn't take long before the dog catches on and you can start tooting the whistle twice and he will change direction without you needing to walk back and forth. With time, your teamwork will

improve and the dog will quarter readily into the wind upon command. Some dogs need multiple sets of drags before becoming efficient; others catch on so quickly it takes your breath away.

When the dog starts tracking so well that you can't keep up, start doing the drags across the wind, with the wind, in multiple directions, and lengthen the drags to 100 yards or more to help build persistence in tracking. You can also interrupt the drag by picking the bird up, walking 10 to 20 yards, and then resuming the drag.

Once the dog is consistently tracking and finding the bird and is accustomed to gunshots, replace the shackled bird at the end of the drag with a bird that can fly. When the dog locates the bird, it usually nudges it before picking it up, which causes the bird to fly and gives you the opportunity to shoot the bird. This way, you get a controlled flush and a successful end to the lesson.

How you handle the find will vary depending on whether you have a flusher or a pointer. If you follow these basic steps to teaching tracking and quartering, you and your dog will soon be a team that pheasants and other upland birds fear.

Happy hunting. 

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



ROBB MANNING

# Everyday Carry

## Why current concealed carry laws are still unconstitutional and why we need national reciprocity

In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Supreme Court ruled that the Bill of Rights did in fact mean what it said: we have the right to keep and bear arms. It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out, and in case anyone had any doubts about the founding fathers' intent behind the Second Amendment, one would only have to read the *Federalist Papers*, which made it pretty clear.

In recent years, the boom in states that allow, in some form or other, the right to carry a concealed firearm—or even open carry a firearm—demonstrates that lawmakers do have a clue as to what “bear arms” means. Many get the “keep arms” part but fail to grasp the “bear arms” part.

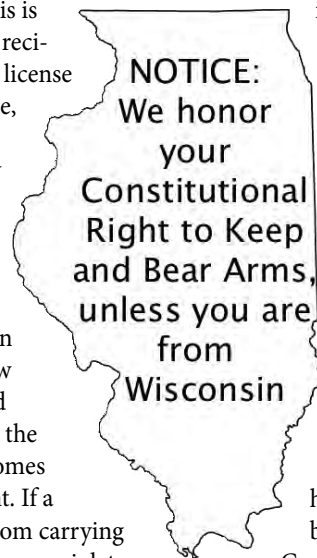
If I, an American citizen, have a right to keep and bear arms, I should not lose that right when I travel across state lines to places such as Illinois. My home state of Wisconsin acknowledges that right. The state of Illinois (finally) acknowledges that right. Illinois even has reciprocity with other states, so they acknowledge that people from other states should be able to carry in their state, but only certain states. They deny that right to their northern neighbors. Maybe they're mad because our football team always beats their football team.

The situation between Illinois and Wisconsin is not unique. There are other states that deny out-of-state citizens from one state the right to carry while granting it to

citizens in other states. This is why it is time for national reciprocity laws. If you have a license to carry in your home state, and since now every state allows for concealed carry in some form or another, then you should be able to carry nationwide.

Lawyers like to argue “the spirit of the law” when it suits them, but right now there are a lot of states and municipalities that violate the spirit of the law when it comes to the Second Amendment. If a state prohibits someone from carrying a firearm in their state, they are violating the constitution, regardless of whether that person is a citizen of that state.

No other amendment under the Bill of Rights do we allow to be violated as we do this one. Under Amendment Eight, Kenosha cannot waterboard sex offenders. As much as we would like to, this is prohibited as cruel and unusual punishment. To further my point, if someone from Illinois were visiting Wisconsin and committed a sex crime, Kenosha cannot waterboard them because they are from out of state. The Bill of Rights still applies. Under the Third Amendment, California cannot force homeowners to provide their home to National Guardsmen. If I'm a resident of Nevada and own an investment property




in California, they still cannot force me to quarter troops in my property, even if I'm from another state. I could go on with more examples, but you get my point. In the case of the Second Amendment, states are allowed to violate our rights.

I can say without a doubt that if Kenosha were waterboarding criminals, or California was forcing homeowners to house troops, the United States Attorney General would be all over that. But he's not going to be all over this, because he's not really about the Constitution, he's only about the political agenda. He couldn't care less about our rights.

This goes counter to the prevailing sentiment in America. Because, despite the barrage of anti-gun propaganda from the media and from the President and from anti-gun Democrats and from liberal celebrity gas-bags, the majority of Americans want the right to keep and bear arms and they do not want more anti-gun laws. What we all want is for existing gun laws to be enforced. What I want is for cities and states to stop violating my right to carry a firearm responsibly and preventing me from protecting myself and my family from those people who intend to do harm and couldn't care less about the law.

The only way we're going to be able to prevent states from violating the rights of U.S. citizens who do not live in that particular state is a national reciprocity law. I'm not an advocate of federal government getting involved, and I'm pro-states' rights; however, in this instance the states are clearly violating the rights of U.S. citizens. Further, since this does deal with interstate law, the only recourse is through the national legislative action. Of course, this will never happen with the current administration. But the seed can be planted now, and, with persistence, the fruit of this tree of liberty will be ready to pick under an administration that is not anti-gun.

No other right gets trampled as does the right to own and carry firearms. While other rights are treated as inherent, it's a shame that for this right we have to wait for government to grant it to us. I should say “re-grant” it, since it was already granted in the Bill of Rights when it was written. As a free people—while we are still free—we need to ensure our full rights under the Second Amendment by using our pens and paper and our votes in the ballot box. 

*Robb Manning served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nearly 11 years where he developed a passion and knowledge for firearms of all types. Since 2010 Robb has been a gun/hunting writer, and also films gun and gear videos for his YouTube channel 762x51n80.*

CARPENTER, from page 13

### Mind Game

Your attitude makes a hunt good or bad, happy or sad. With the busy lives we lead today, who has time to entertain negative thoughts during our precious days, hours, and minutes in the deer woods? Hunt hard every second, knowing that success is always just a moment away, and you'll be ready when it counts.

**Thinking positively**—imagining hunt scenarios, knowing a deer could appear at any moment, planning what you'll do when it does—keeps your mind on the hunt: where it should be and where it can react quickly and effectively to any developing situation.

**Stand Hunting.** It's hard work to really hunt on stand. Keep your mind on

the hunt or at least in a hunting frame of mind. I intently watch bird life and activity because it keeps me alert, engaged and looking. With this trick, you'll see white-tails sooner and you'll be in a better frame of mind to act quickly and positively when a deer appears.

**Still-Hunting.** It's easier to maintain a positive attitude edge while still-hunting. Concentrating on what's ahead and working slowly and methodically through cover requires focus. The possibilities are exciting—a deer appearing around the next bend or standing up as you peek over a knoll. Your mind stays on task.

**Pushing.** Perhaps you like to put on little deer “pushes” with family or friends. Put positive thinking to work when you're a pusher. If the group's safety rules al-

low and you know which directions you can shoot, don't turn a push into a stroll through the woods. Make it a gun-at-the-ready hunt. Be ready for quick shots at any time.


**Posting.** Too many posting hunters don't get set early enough, they relax too much, or they let down their guard too soon. With whitetails, be ready all the time, even when the push is not yet on and especially when it appears to be ending.

**Just Huntin'.** This is one of my favorite ways to use the “Ten Seconds to Success” mindset. Maybe you're walking to or from your stand during hunting hours, eating lunch in the woods, having a quiet strategy session with a hunting partner, preparing for a small push, or taking a little walk because you're cold. Many deer get shot

in our state every year by people “just out huntin'”!

### Conclusion

Only with a positive hunting attitude can you be ready when every opportunity arises. In 10 seconds or 30, or any other measure of time you choose, you can have deer hunting success.

You're not hunting the problems that life brought you yesterday or the challenges tomorrow will bring. You're hunting right now—for the potential in this moment and the next one and the one after that—and for the gift that comes very quickly indeed, in the form of a russet-coated whitetail silently trotting your way. 

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



S. WILKERSON

# Something For The Sake Of Nothing

## *Banning the importation of “military grade” rifles will do nothing to curb gun violence*

Given the choice between doing something constructive about gun violence and making a pointless executive action, the Obama administration chose, to no surprise, the pointless executive action. Something constructive would have been related to fixing our nation's long-broken mental health care system. Something easy would be the recent executive action that banned the re-importation of “military grade” weapons.

Reinstituting some of the laws that kept violent, mentally unbalanced people off the streets and institutionalized, for instance, would go a long way in preventing vicious crimes of all sorts. These laws were gutted by state and federal legislators in the 1970s and '80s to save a buck, and society has been paying the price ever since. Changing mental health laws would have been difficult, controversial and, undoubtedly, costly. On the other hand, it might have received bipartisan support and actually prevented future tragedies.

On its face, banning the re-importation of military grade firearms for use by civilians might make some sense if you don't know beans about firearms. Let's say you are such a person. If you were, you'd be thinking, “Good and about time. I didn't even know that deadly machine guns could be re-imported and sold to gun nuts. You don't need an instrument of mass destruction to shoot deer, and besides, the authors of the Constitution were talking about muzzle loaders; you can't spray bullets with those.” If you weren't thinking that, you'd be thinking something along those lines, and, in any case, you'd be wrong.

Military grade, selective fire weapons made after 1984 are illegal, even if you are fortunate enough to have a Class III firearms license. None have been imported, let

alone re-imported, in nearly 30 years. The military grade weapons that the President banned are certifiable antiques sold to other countries by the United States government and re-imported for resale in this country. The last of these newly banned rifles was made in 1957. Sure, there were fully automatic and selective fire weapons back then, and well prior to that, but that's not what this executive action addresses. This action affects primarily bolt action Springfield rifles and semi-automatic M1 Garands and Carbines. If I understand this law correctly, it will also ban the re-importation of WWI era Model 1917 bolt action and Model 1895 lever action rifles.



**“Military Grade” rifle banned from re-importation to the United States by executive action: a bolt action, 70 year-old, Model 1903A made by Smith-Corona.**

The firearms this executive action targets are not the tools of gang bangers. With the exception of the M1 Carbine, these are heavy, cumbersome, slow-to-load, and really long guns. They are very popular among shooters and collectors. Again, with the exception of the Carbine, they also (to many shooters) kick like the proverbial mule. These are not lightweight, handy, selective fire M4s. It would be easier to hide an elephant in a Mini Cooper than it would to conceal an M1 Garand during a drive-by shooting. Except for those practiced in its operation, the Garand is not an easy rifle to load, and one fraught with danger, as anyone who has ever experienced “M1 thumb” can attest.

By no means is the Garand an assault rifle, although the President and his minions may have hoped folks thought it was when

deigning it “military grade.” The Garand is not select fire, quick to load, nor will it accept large capacity magazines. In fact, Garands do not have any of the features that the BATF uses to define assault rifles, like the ability to accept a removable, high capacity magazine.

Truly, only someone well versed in its operation can quickly load an M1 Garand, and even with that it only holds eight rounds. A Garand is on no gangbanger's short list of tactical guns. At nearly 40 inches long, it is about as maneuverable as an oil tanker, and, because of its limited magazine capacity, muzzle blast and heavy recoil, it can't exactly spray bullets.


The bolt action rifles that this executive action targets load and fire even slower and are limited to fewer bullets—five to be exact. Granted, the M1 Carbine can hold as many as 30 rounds in a removable magazine, but Carbines are not exactly common items found at a gun store or during a home burglary. They are also pretty costly, and .30 caliber Carbine ammunition is nearly as hard to find as .22 rimfire has been lately.

The President's executive action is nothing more than political theater and was as easy as it was meaningless, requiring nothing more than grandstanding, a photo op, and a presidential signature. Throwing around words like “military grade” might sound like these rifles are more dangerous than most, but they're not. This is a totally meaningless gesture that won't reduce gun

violence one iota. What is does is give the appearance of doing something. To the uninformed, i.e., most people, simply saying that military grade weapons are being banned probably sounds like a good idea, and it might be if we were talking about anti-ballistic missiles, but we're not. We're talking about guns that in some cases are more than 100 years old. They may have been weapons grade at Verdun or Normandy, but in actuality they haven't been in decades.

Predictably, this may not be the last executive action the President will make regarding imported firearms, and he has said as much. In September he told a group of big-city mayors that it was his intent to take more executive actions aimed at curbing gun violence. That should have gun collectors and owners of all stripes concerned.

President Obama's use of executive action powers to prohibit certain firearms is by no means unprecedented. In 1989, again by executive action, President George Bush banned all imported semi-automatic rifles that had such scary features as bayonet lugs, flash hiders, pistol grips, and folding stocks. Clever importers easily circumvented this law by removing those features, which made the exact same banned rifles importable, although some of their efforts made for some pretty ugly guns. In 1994, again by executive action, President Bill Clinton banned virtually all Chinese-made firearms and ammunition and put a complete end to the importation of militaristic-looking foreign rifles.

History has a tendency to repeat itself. Plan accordingly. 

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

HENSKE, from page 12

tag yearly and you must use a guide who will have a large area for you to hunt.

The bonus is the fishing. We caught hundreds of nice walleyes and released lots of northern in the 35- to 40-inch range. You can fish upstream to a great falls area and downstream to some huge lakes. This is the kind of water you'll never “fish out,” but you'll need to use a locator to find the fish.


In late August of 2012 I went to Cozy Camp with six old guys for a five-day fishing trip. We caught even more walleyes in 2012, but not the huge northern we caught on this trip. The English River provided endless miles of water, but you need to find the feeding fish. Bring lots of heavier jigs. We lost a lot to rocks and northern pike. We dressed our jigs with plastics and bait for best results. We constantly used locators to find the fish on the bottom.

The cost for a complete hunting and fishing adventure is \$1,550. If you're only interested in a week of great fishing, the price is \$565, so the cost for an excellent chance to kill a bear is only \$985. Our other costs included the gas for the nine-hour, 500-mile trip from northern Wisconsin; the cost of a conservation fishing license, \$29.40; and a bear license, \$230.31, sold at the camp.

If you love to hunt and/or fish, I suggest Cozy Camp. The river is full of fish and

bear are plentiful.

Contact Dan and Anne toll free at 877.934.6901. Visit them at [www.cozycamp.com](http://www.cozycamp.com) details for hunting and fishing trips.

Remember, if you rest, you rust! 

OWO writer Dick Henske is a retired Wisconsin elementary school principal who hunts and fishes Wisconsin, the western states, and Canada.



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# County Teasers

A new website has been developed for ATV riders that will help you plan your action packed north woods vacation with information on lodging, trail conditions, maps and more. Sawyer County has over **200 miles of groomed and marked trails** year round. UTV's are allowed everywhere except the National Forest. *Click on Sawyer County.*

150,000 acres of public land and over 900 lakes for hunters and anglers make Washburn County the **perfect destination** for your fall and winter trips. Stay in a north woods cabin, enjoy a home-cooked meal at one of the area restaurants, and enjoy the north woods in every direction. For up-to-date fishing reports *click on Washburn County.*

Come experience **waterfowl migration** where U.S.F.W.S. counts can number over 550,000 birds in Pool 9 of the Mississippi River. Duck hunting, fishing, deer hunting, bird watching—it's all here in November, with ice fishing around the corner in December. Stay at the best lodging in the area, Grandview Motel in Ferryville. *Click on Crawford County.*

**November:** Follow the Mural Brick Road. View the murals in Ashland County, play the game and you may win \$1000. 9th: Chick-uamegon Women's 5/10K. 23rd-Dec. 1: Hunting Season! 29th: Day after Thanksgiving Sales. **December:** Christmas Cash Raffle. You could win Chamber Dollars. 7th: Garland City Christmas Parade, 4:00 PM, Main Street. *Click on Ashland County.*

Clark County is all about monsters this time of year! **Monster** bucks, **monster** outdoor snow activities, **monster** holiday shopping, **monster** fun for everyone. Centrally located, just a short drive from Minneapolis/St. Paul, Green Bay, and Madison areas. Clark County ... for all the seasons of your life! *Click on Clark County.*

November and December in central Wisconsin are a perfect time for early season ice fishing for walleyes and possibly your best chance at a real **monster**! *Click on Marathon County.*

Adams County Petenwell and Castle Rock Parks, on the 2nd and 4th largest lakes in Wisconsin, are **open year round for camping** with heated shower/restroom facilities. Enjoy winter camping, ice fishing, and over 200 miles of scenic snowmobile trails in Adams County that may be accessed from either park. *Click on Adams County.*

**A family memory** ... are you getting together with family and friends on fall hunting trips, for Thanksgiving, Christmas? How does one say "Thank You" for a great experience? Give a lasting memory! Wolf Pack Adventures can help with a certificate for a great adventure, fishing, hunting, dining, relaxing. Don't miss out on what Sheboygan County has to offer. *Click on Sheboygan County.*

November and December set a slower pace by the lake. Fishermen have a new spot to drop their lines—off of our newly opened Coal Dock Park. It's already a local favorite. And if you hunt with your camera, it's a great place to bird watch! *Click on Ozaukee County.*

The Waukesha Gun Club is **Wisconsin's largest shotgun only club**. It features 29 Trap houses, a Sporting Clays course, seven Skeet ranges, and three endorsed 5-Stand venues. The Waukesha Gun Club lies on 88-plus acres and has a spacious clubhouse. Banquet, shooting event, private party, or just a place to hold a meeting. *Click on Waukesha County.*

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- 1 Connect with [onwisconsinoutdoors.com](http://onwisconsinoutdoors.com)
- 2 Click on the "Explore Wisconsin" page tab
- 3 Click on any county ... and explore!

Late fall in Walworth County is the best time of the year to catch the **trophy fish of a lifetime**. From walleye pike on Delavan Lake to huge smallmouth bass on Lake Geneva, Walworth County lakes have it all. Contact Dave Duwe's Guide Service for all your fishing needs. 608.883.2050. *Click on Walworth County.*

Sparta is known as the **"Bicycling Capital of America"**. The town offers ready access to nationally known bike trails including the Elroy-Sparta State Trail. Sparta has a lovely historic downtown district. There is no better way to enjoy the season than to bike outdoors on our trails and roads. *Click on Monroe County.*



**EXPLORE WISCONSIN at [OnWisconsinOutdoors.com](http://OnWisconsinOutdoors.com)**



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Bohemian Waxwing

Few Wisconsin birds look more elegant than a regal Bohemian Waxwing. Flocks of these handsome fruit-eaters head south from the boreal areas of Canada to the northern and central U.S. as winter descends. Bohemian Waxwings are highly nomadic and social, traveling in large, tight-knit flocks across the countryside. Perched in a crabapple tree and back-dropped against a clear blue November or December sky, they make stunning sights indeed.



**Look** for a gray/olive bird with black mask; yellow tail tips; jaunty crest; and brilliant red, waxy-looking tips on the wings.


**Distinguish** a Bohemian Waxwing from a Cedar Waxwing. A Bohemian Waxwing has white wing patches and rusty-colored feathers (called coverts) under its tail. Cedar Waxwings have white undertail coverts. Also, Bohemians are larger, plumper, and overall grayer. Cedar Waxwings are sleeker, with a yellow/olive sheen to their feathers.

**Know** what Bohemian Waxwings love to eat: fruit. By the time these migrants arrive in yards, gardens, parks, and countryside near you, most of this food comes in freeze-dried form. Crabapples, wild grapes, snowberries, plums, dogwood, viburnums, dogwood, and sumac are favorites.

**Listen** for the high-pitched, raspy, lispy call “zree, zree” as a flock moves through the trees or bushes.

**Attract** Bohemian Waxwings with apple or fig pieces or raisins in a tray feeder.

**Did you know** that Bohemian Waxwings get their name from their nomadic, gypsy lifestyle?



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

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette

Canned venison dishes and bear tenderloin

This is the year of canning. I don’t know why I never tried it before, but it finally came time to venture into this seemingly mysterious world of food preservation. I started small and canned 10 pints of dill pickles. It took me all day, and I was so afraid I would do something wrong that I stopped at every step and read through the entire directions again and again. Happily, I must not have made a mistake, because they turned out really well. That being said, I knew I wanted to not only can more vegetables, but I also wanted to try my hand at canning venison. So I consulted with some “experts” and am pleased to share their canned venison recipes with you. I was also kindly given a bear recipe that I have yet to try, but it sounds fantastic. Enjoy!

Canned Venison

By Bob Laus

Venison  
Canning salt  
Lipton onion soup mix

Cut venison into 1-inch cubes and pack into clean quart jars leaving about an inch at the top. Add 1/8 to 3/4 tsp. canning salt to each jar along with a pinch of onion soup mix. Cover jars and place into pressure canner along with water specified by manufacturer’s instructions.

Cook in canner 25 minutes at 25 pounds or 45 minutes at 15 pounds.

Canned Venison Stroganoff

By Stephanie Floyd

8 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced  
Butter  
4 oz. cream cheese

DUWE, from page 11

eyes spooky in the shallower water of less than 10 feet. My preferred bait is the Smithwick suspending rogue. The only color choice is chrome/blue or chrome/black. I like using 10-pound Silver Thread on a medium action spinning combo. My jerk-bait rod is a 6-foot, 6-inch medium action Fenwick teamed with a Plueger President XT reel.

I find the best fall fishing occurs when there is wind. I always fish on the windward side of the lake. Like trolling, the main lake points are the best place to fish. Water depth varies greatly. I have caught suspended walleyes in 20 feet of water and as shallow as 6 feet of water. Keep in mind these fish are feeding, so where the bait fish are, the walleyes will be. I have caught 20-30 walleyes in one small location, so fish an area out before moving along. The retrieve I find most effective is a couple fast cranks to get depth, then a couple cranks and a pause. With water temperatures cold, I don’t aggressively jerk the lure. Most of the time the strike will feel like extra weight or a weed. I use

1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1/2 soup can milk  
1/2 to 3/4 packet of Lipton soup mix (beef)  
8 oz. sour cream  
1 quart canned venison

In large pan, sauté mushrooms in butter until soft; set aside. Using same pan, pour in contents of canned venison and heat through over low to medium heat. Add cream cheese, soup, milk, and sour cream; stir until cheese melts and sauce is well combined. Add mushrooms.

Serve over extra wide egg noodles.

Bear Tenderloin Steak

By Shirley Badtke

1 whole bear tenderloin  
1 medium onion, diced  
1 clove garlic, chopped  
1 or 2 cans of mushrooms (or fresh sliced)  
1 can cream of mushroom soup \*\*  
1/2 cup water  
Salt, pepper, and Lawry’s Seasoned Salt to taste  
1/2 bag egg noodles, cooked

Cut bear meat into chunks and brown in oil in large skillet on medium to high heat. Add salt, pepper and Lawry’s. Stir in onions and continue cooking until onions are almost done. Add garlic, mushroom soup, water and mushrooms; reduce heat to simmer until meat is cooked through and tender.

Serve over egg noodles.


\*\*If desired, add two cans of soup to make more gravy.

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

a normal hook set when fishing a jerkbait. You have more slack in the line and need to get the hooks embedded.

Good lake choices for crankbait walleye fishing in southeastern Wisconsin are Delavan and Geneva Lake in Walworth County, Pike Lake in Washington County, and Lac La Belle in Waukesha County.

Make sure if you are fishing at night in fall that you are aware of your surroundings. Most lake districts remove their navigation buoys late in the year. Before keeping any walleyes, check the fishing regulations for any special rules.

You will find the last days of open water season will provide exceptional successes. Be prepared; it is fishing for the heartiest of souls. 

Dave Duwe, owner of Dave Duwe’s Guide Service, has been guiding the lakes of Southeastern Wisconsin for 15 years, specializing in Delavan Lake and Lake Geneva. Go to [www.fishlakegeneva.com](http://www.fishlakegeneva.com) or [www.fishdelavanlake.com](http://www.fishdelavanlake.com).



ROBB MANNING

# Product 6-Pack

## Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

Fall is here and the deer are near ... or so we hope. Here are six products that will help you bring home that bruiser.



### BONE COLLECTOR GAMECHANGER SIGHT

Features interchangeable fiber that allows for quick and easy color changes without disturbing the pin position. Innovative pin design minimizes gaps, and extra-long fibers routed through the bracket increase durability and exposure to UV light. A soft-feel coating reduces noise so you don't spook game. Ultra-fine click adjustment allows for quick and accurate windage and elevation adjustments. Two-inch inner diameter with glow-in-the-dark shooter's ring. The tool-less design means you won't be searching for tools in your pack or on the forest floor to make changes. (Apex Gear, MSRP \$148)

[apex-gear.com](http://apex-gear.com)



### DEADSHOT TREEPOD

Get benchrest accuracy from your tree stand. Fully supports any gun or crossbow. The gun can be kept in the ready position while you use both hands to glass, or keep them tucked in your pockets during that cold Wisconsin deer season. Multi-piece arm system allows for maximum range of movement covering just about every possible shooting angle. Retention strap secures the gun or crossbow to rubber over-molded front and rear forks. Works with most tree stands. 14.6 pounds. The ADD-A-BASE allows you to place additional support bases in more than one tree stand, so changing deer stands doesn't leave you without benchrest accuracy. 8.1 pounds. (Caldwell, MSRP: \$169.99, ADD-A-BASE \$59.99)

[battenfelddtechnologies.com](http://battenfelddtechnologies.com)



### GRAND SLAM RIFLESCOPE

Totally redesigned, Weaver's flagship series is rugged, versatile, and packed with new technology that affords excellent accuracy. Precision ground multi-coated lenses provide a crisp image edge to edge. The Argon purged one-piece tubes are fog free. Externally, the redesigned Grand Slam has a clean, modern look. Comes in Matte Black with three reticle choices. (Weaver, MSRP \$415.95 to \$706.95)

[weaveroptics.com](http://weaveroptics.com)

### KODIAK-LITE SLING

Made from Limbsaver's proprietary NAVCOM material (Noise and Vibration Control Material), the Kodiak-Lite has a lightweight contour design that reduces shoulder fatigue and absorbs the transmission of vibration. Non-slip ridges prevent the sling from sliding off your shoulder. The ergonomic handgrip is one-piece with the sling and provides complete control of the rifle while at sling. Black or Camouflage. (Limbsaver, MSRP \$24.99)

[limbsaver.com](http://limbsaver.com)



### 79-PIECE DELUXE CLEANING KIT WITH TOOLS

Before the hunt, proper maintenance keeps your rifle in tip-top shape for that chance encounter with a big one. After the hunt, it's also important to clean your rifle since she served you well this season. Out-



ers has just the thing; this Deluxe set comes with a 28-piece universal gun cleaning kit for shotguns, rifles, and handguns, plus a 51-piece screwdriver and bit set for light gunsmithing. It's all tucked inside a nice-looking wood chest. It also has built-in room to add cleaning gear and tools as you need them. (Outers, \$59.99)

[outers-guncare.com](http://outers-guncare.com)



### X-1 SIT & CLIMB TREE STAND

One of the lightest climbing stands on the market, coming in at 12 pounds. Made of 60/61 T6 Aluminum with flexible fiber-glass arms that hug the tree when weight is applied to the stand. It has a generous 31 by 21 inch platform and is rated to 300 pounds. Two piece and rattle-free when carried on back. Uses Quick Attach Cables and comes with backpack straps that double as tether straps. Includes full body harness. (X-Stand, MSRP \$349)

[x-stand.com](http://x-stand.com)

## More Products Reviews.

[OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/FeaturedProducts](http://OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/FeaturedProducts)

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](mailto:ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com).

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### YURK, from page 24

two crankbaits in 15 minutes to northerns, I began to rethink that.

To prevent northern pike from ripping off my bait, I found a couple of light 5-inch, 12-pound leaders, which had no effect on the action of the crankbaits. These leaders are made by Eagle Claw and South Bend. Since I started using them I haven't lost any crankbaits to northern pike, yet I still catch lots of bass.

For over a century, crankbaits have been one of the most productive baits for bass fishing. In June of 1932, George Perry caught the still-standing world record largemouth bass on a perch-colored Creek Chub Wiggle Fish. There is no greater endorsement of crankbaits than that.

George and a friend were fishing and between them had only one rod and one bait. One would row while the other fished. When it was George Perry's turn to fish, a huge bass struck his bait. It must have been an epic fight. That fish, weighed at a local grocery store, was 22.4 pounds. That record has stood for over 70 years.

How can you not feel the love for crankbaits? 

Mike Yurk has published more than 600 articles in national and regional outdoor publications. He has published five books, on outdoor subjects. He is a retired Army officer and lives in Hudson, Wisconsin. Contact Mike at [bassinmajor@yahoo.com](mailto:bassinmajor@yahoo.com).



**CARPENTER, from page 14**

cut cornfield along the Pecatonica River. In the early 1970s with its three-day, any-deer season in that part of the state, that was not a bad success rate. And I was hooked.

I still strive to regain the same wide-eyed, youthful enthusiasm for every gun hunt each year. It's a time to escape everyday life and just concentrate on friends and family and hunting whitetails. My goal? To double my count from 40 to 80 deer seasons! So begins the second half.

The gun deer season is a Wisconsin treasure and tradition to be savored. Live it well, live it now. As long as you are vertical and out there breathing the fresh November air—whether it carries the scent of cut corn, plowed ground, oak woods, cattails, tag alders, willow brush, pines or cedar swamps—consider yourself lucky enough indeed.

Good luck out there this year. Be safe and take a few moments to feel the cold air in your lungs, close your eyes to live in the “now” for a moment, and be thankful for where you are and what you’re doing. *W*

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

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14 for 14. Wisconsin bowhunter Dan Chervenka was one of 14 hunters who fastened the tag at Mike Foss's Northern Wisconsin Outfitters bear camp in Bayfield County. The 2013 success rate was 100 percent.



OWO writer and archery consultant Scott Heitman used his RER Longbow made in Merrill, Wisconsin to drop a doe on family property in Adams County October 12. Connect with RER at 715.536.3503 or [info@rerbows.com](mailto:info@rerbows.com). In various Club shoots around Wisconsin, Heitman in 2013 was inevitably a top five finisher. In the 2013 State Traditional open shoot for longbows and recurves, Heitman finished in the top 8 of approximately 300 archers.

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#### MOERICKE, from page 16

Oh, and if you miss, the string tracker will *definitely* help you find your arrow.

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Properly used, the sting tracker will neither cause nor make up for a poor shot. It also does not add to the ambiance of the forest, so make sure to pick it up and dispose of it properly after tracking your deer.

As I head out to the woods this fall, there

will be a 2,500-foot spool of nylon string mounted on my bow where the stabilizer normally resides. Make fun if you must, but it works for me. Check future issues to see what I find at the end of my string. In theory, it'll be a big buck. I hope. Just sayin'. *OWO*

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



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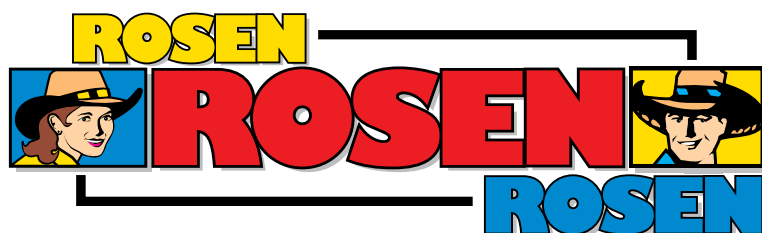
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The image features four men with long beards and sunglasses, dressed in various camouflage outfits, standing in a wooded area. Above them is a large, stylized logo of a duck in flight, with the words "DUCK COMMANDER" in a circular border. The background is a soft-focus forest scene.

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