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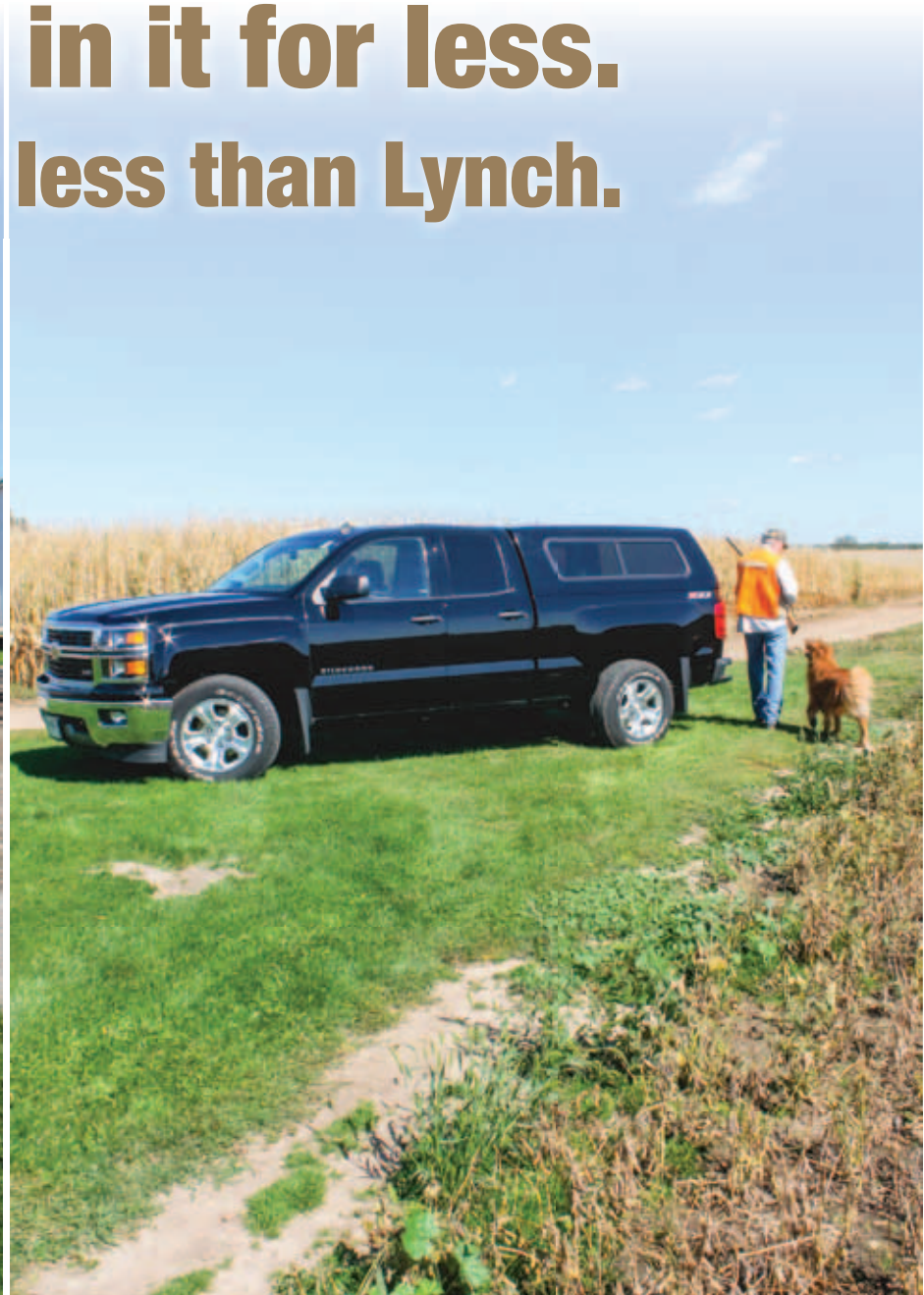
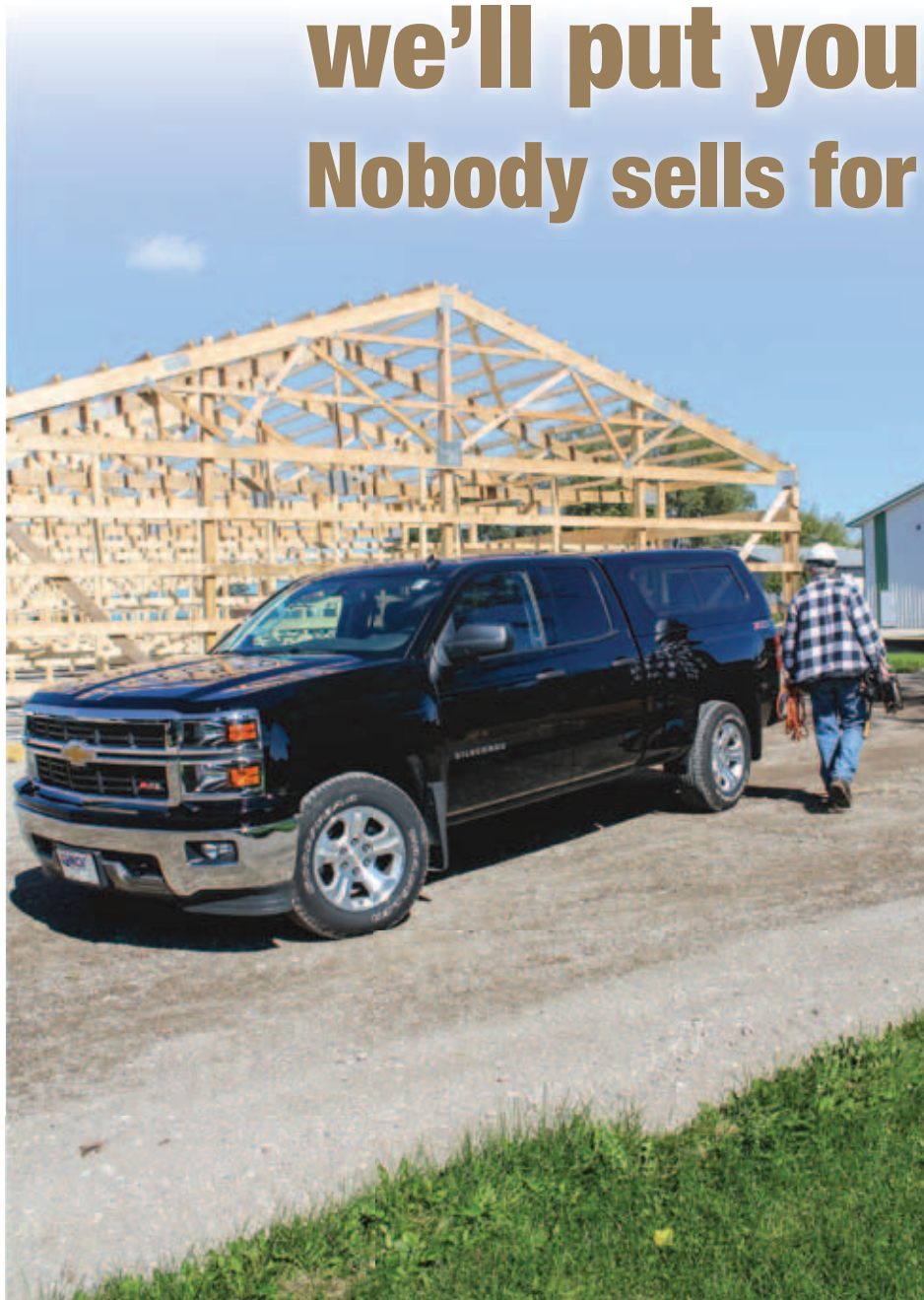
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JARROD ERDODY

NextBuk Outdoors

Five reasons to support youth hunts

I was eight years old and anything but calm as the lone doe approached my dad and me hidden in a ground blind ... the kind that didn't pop up in eight seconds. We're talking a handmade sticks and brush ground blind. Since I wasn't old enough to hunt yet, I accompanied my dad on his hunt and managed to talk him into letting me bring my own little 20-pound compound. Since this doe was not something he was going to shoot, he whispered, "You want to take a shot at her?" knowing full well my lightweight, wooden arrows (yes, I said wooden) would merely bounce off if by any stroke of luck I managed to hit it.

"Yeah!" I answered back.

Dad talked me through when to stand, when to draw and when to shoot. I remember it like it was yesterday. I missed that deer by a mile. But what stuck hard were the memories of the hunt: the smell of Dad's skunk cover scent, following his exact footsteps into and out of the woods, the little diner we ate breakfast at before daylight, the camouflage face paint, Mom's too-big-for-me Army camo.

Today, I'm a father with my own eight

year old son. I took Jacob on his first youth deer hunt recently, and in many ways it felt like I was back in that blind with my dad 30 years ago. I don't know what Jacob will remember about this in 30 years. If his drawings from school are any indication, the hunt ranks pretty high on his list of fun. Here are five good reasons to take part in youth only hunting:

1) Fresh Perspective

We didn't used to mentally measure G2s before shooting a deer or look for Roman noses or swaybacks, and we didn't measure trophies in inches. Kids are just looking for fun and excitement and they don't judge their hunt's success on what their buddies will think or how many "likes" they'll get.

I was sitting with Jacob in the rain in an eight-second pop-up blind, and suddenly he explodes with excitement as he points out the window. I'm thinking he's just spotted a big buck.

"Tree frog!"

"Huh?" I'm puzzled.

"Right there on the tree!" Jacob exclaimed.

He didn't need to constantly see deer. He was taking it all in. Almost every experience in the woods for a child is brand new and unexpected. Observing this really puts my own hunts in perspective and makes me appreciate everything else going on out there.

2) Time To Focus On Your Child

When the adult isn't distracted by his own motivations for being in the woods, he will focus more on the child's needs and interests. Kids cherish individual attention from their parents and will thrive when given the "wings" to star in their very own adventures.

3) New Life For Old Equipment

We're all guilty of wanting the latest and greatest gadgets and technology. Yet, I look through some of my older hunting equipment and see that it's still perfectly fine. It's time to pass it on down!

4) You Won't Have To Hunt For Your Kids

There are so many facets of the outdoors to be enjoyed beyond deer hunting. Give kids an exposure to the outdoors and you won't have to worry about them hanging with the wrong crowds in the wrong places.

5) Be A Teacher

Ben Franklin said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." Having to explain what you know to someone else really tests your true knowledge of it and enables you to retain that knowledge even better. Taking kids hunting improves your own skills as a hunter because they'll put your theories to the test.

One afternoon last November, a typical 7 x 6 made his appearance out of the thicket just 50 yards away. I reminded myself of my dad's advice from years ago to take deep breaths. I calmly kept repeating, "You can do this." As the 140 class Wisconsin bruiser worked a few scrapes and made his way into my shooting lane at 22 yards, I had years of instruction, trial and error and the right



The author's son, Jacob, is now making hunting memories of his own.

perspective to help make that shot. I celebrated a beautiful buck that night and was thankful that 30 years ago someone took the time to take me hunting. *W*

Jarrod Erdody is an owner of NextBuk Outdoors where he makes instructional hunting videos aimed at DIY hunting in specific terrain, and to help those who may not have a hunting mentor. He also operates Erdody Studios, serving a national clientele with creative services from graphic design to photography and video production to web development.



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TOM CARPENTER

How To Round Up A Whitetail

Partner up and push a whitetail into your sights

I'm dating myself here, but this happened back in Wisconsin's "party permit" days when four deer hunters could apply for one antlerless tag for the gun season. As the youngest hunter in our family, and the one who completed the mail-in application for us, I wore the coveted armband indicating me as Official Doe Shooter for the Carpenters.

It was the Saturday after Thanksgiving and I had yet to shoot the doe. Pressured deer weren't moving, and we were running out of options. Standing next to a sprawl of thick, second-growth Iowa County timber, my brother, Chuck, said he had an idea.

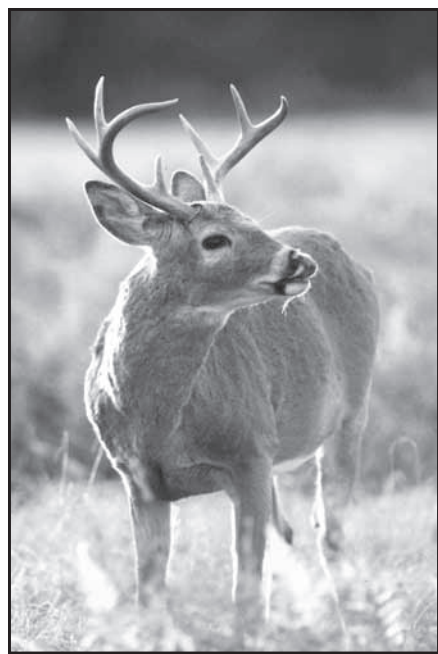
We worked our way back in and found a spot on a small rise where I had a little view. "Stay here," he said. "I'm going to hunt a circle around you."

I was skeptical, but the clock was ticking down on the season and I was willing to try anything. Twenty minutes later a twig cracked. Glancing left and expecting to see Chuck walking back, my heart jumped into my throat at the sight of a nice doe trotting my way, head down. I didn't miss the easy shot, and Chuck just laughed when he walked up a few minutes later.

Get Up And Move

Deer hunting has gone sedentary and solitary. Most folks sit and wait for their whitetail and only see hunting buddies back at camp. But sometimes the deer aren't moving and you need to make things happen. Recruit a hunting partner, put this circle drill maneuver to work and move whitetails into each other's sights.

The circle drill works best in extended blocks of cover—big woods or brush country on flat or gently rolling terrain. Many areas of Wisconsin offer such landscape features, particularly the northwestern, north-central, northeastern, central and some west-central areas of our state. You can round up a whitetail in most any kind of cover. We first



To kill a whitetail, sometimes you have to get into the cover with them and get one moving. Put the circle drill to work this season and try to round up a buck or doe.

put the technique to use in the southwest.

Rather than trying to drive deer the old-fashioned way with a gang of hunters, the circle drill concentrates on a small and manageable section of cover, works it in an effective but low-impact fashion, then moves you on to another block of habitat to repeat the process. Rounding up your whitetail is also the perfect way to hunt with just one partner. Here's how it works.

Tactic Details

One hunter posts at a likely spot: along a deer trail, at a crossing of a couple game trails, on a slight rise where visibility is improved, or near the edge of a thicket or glade that could funnel deer. This poster faces into any breeze but keeps his head on a slow swivel to the sides and occasionally downwind.

The other hunter walks directly away, downwind, for 50 to 75 yards, maybe

100 in more open woods. The exact distance depends on the thickness of the cover, but generally the pusher needs to work out of sight of the poster. The pusher slowly still-hunts a circle around the poster.

The pusher tries to shoot a deer on his own, while keeping the poster's location in mind for safety's sake. More likely the whitetails get up and sneak away into the sights of the stationary and silent poster.

Wind is always a consideration, but in close quarters whitetails sometimes don't know which hunter they're smelling. Deer might head into the wind or cross it, but bucks often like to travel with the wind at their backs so they can smell what's behind and see what's ahead. That's why the poster needs to wait with the utmost stealth and monitor all directions, especially the sides.

Once a circuit is complete, move on to another section of cover and repeat the process. Trade posting and pushing duties as agreed. I'm a fan of pushing,

relishing the rare chance to be on the move hunting whitetails and thrilling at the crack of a partner's rifle, slug gun or muzzleloader when he shoots a deer that I moved into his sights.

You can also circle drill in expansive wetlands or marshes or sprawling grasslands. In grasslands, the hunt circle's diameter can expand beyond the 100 to 150 yards it might be in forested cover or dense wetlands. I used the technique last fall to push a grassland doe into my boy's sights.

Conclusion

Don't be afraid to try to make something happen with the whitetails this gun season. A circle drill like this may be just the ticket you need to punch that tag. When the whitetails quit moving, get out there and round up some venison for the freezer! *OW*

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



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MIKE FOSS

Bear Homework

Hunter preparation means 20 tags filled

The 2014 Wisconsin bear season will go down as the most successful ever for Northern Wisconsin Outfitters (NWO). The sizes of the bears were astonishing. Of 20 bears tagged by 23 hunters (100 percent shot opportunity), only four bears were less than 200 pounds, with the largest weighing 405 pounds. Two bears were a Wisconsin-rare chocolate color phase. We left several bigger bears in the field that we had targeted aggressively after capturing them on our trail cams. One of those bears now weighs between 600 and 700 pounds. Our eyes are already on 2015.

What can a future Wisconsin tag holder learn from our success? Of many calls already pouring in regarding our Zone D hunt and the 2015 season, one hunter asked what is the most important and difficult aspect of bear hunting. Tag holders must apply for seven to nine years in Wisconsin before receiving the precious tag. Most have no experience hunting bears and are walking into a situation they know little about.

"Do your homework and come mentally prepared," I answered.

NWO helps with that homework. As professional guides, we prepare for the hunt in the offseason, bait for the hunt over five months, and lead the hunt over a few action-packed weeks each year. Our pre-hunt educational process is the

most important element, offering hunters a chance to fill their tag.

Throughout the summer, our clients receive e-mail photo updates educating them on the size of cubs, yearlings, adults and those monstrous, elusive black ghosts every hunter dreams about. The hunter must recognize legal bears. As the baiting season progresses and September approaches, the number of our bait stations expands and we track bears with trail cameras. We have the routine down so that bears will be habitually returning to bait when our hunters are on stand, a fact proven again in 2014 with our success rate.

One hundred percent shot opportunity is our goal as guides. The hunter can help his own quest immensely by educating himself about the size of the bears, mentally preparing to believe that the bear will come despite long hours on stand, and visualizing proper shot placement when he does come. Our hunters' bear tags have been filled after 10 minutes on stand and on the last day in the final minutes of the hunt.

Bob Richardson of Jackson, Wisconsin, experienced one such hunt in 2014. After interviewing Bob, we tailored his hunt to meet his needs. The hunter is 6'5" and 300 pounds and needed an easily accessible stand due to bad knees. We set him up on what we were confident

Bob Richardson of Jackson, Wisconsin, with his first black bear.

was the perfect ambush spot, but there are never guarantees. No bear came for two days on stand.

When the first bear came on day three, Bob was uncertain of the shot and didn't shoot. The look on his face in camp was the same as if he had tagged a bear. Just seeing these elusive animals is often enough to make the hunt. After listening to the position of the bear in relation to the stand, I told him that he could have shot. We tell our clients, "When in doubt, do not shoot," and Bob didn't. He acted ethically. The next day I could imagine his torment, second guessing his decision with the thoughts of the tagged bear that might have been.

Bob caught movement on day four, and the big bear emerged cautiously from thick cover before picking up the pace as he neared the bait. Before the bear even reached the bait pit, a shot rang out, and the call to camp came in.


The bear weighed 344 pounds. The most important facet of the hunter's success was his willingness to listen to his guide, remain focused on the task at hand despite the uneventful time invested on stand, and to believe a bear would come. Bob came in mentally ready and followed the plan.

Dues were paid, certainly. But when we recovered the bear just 20 yards from the hit and I told Bob that the bear was



very big, I thought the Packers had won another Super Bowl. Bob's reaction and the look on his face were priceless.

That is the moment when I give thanks for the opportunity to fulfill my childhood dream to be a bear guide. I remember past hunters, and I remember my father, who I wish were still with us. I give thanks to the wonderful helpers at NWO and, most of all, I give thanks to the ultimate authority, God Himself, for putting these animals on the earth for us to enjoy.

The 2014 Wisconsin bear season is officially over and in the books, and that means only one thing: the 2015 Wisconsin bear season has officially begun. 

Mike Foss was born and raised in Washburn, Wisconsin. As a guide and owner of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters, he has harvested bear and many deer, including several record book bucks. Off season, Mike is constantly scouting for new hunting areas and adventures. Visit northernwisconsinoutfitters.com or call them at 715.373.0344.

DICK ELLIS

On Wisconsin Outdoors

Walk-in waterfowl hunts adjust to conditions

The pair of greenheads, already educated from heavy scattergun pressure, swung again on the grey skies and turned into the winds to scrutinize the decoys beckoning from the pothole. One final time, the mallards took in the calls rising from the wild rice, surrendered to the invitation, cupped their wings, and fell in to the promise of rest and food.

It would be the final mistake....

The Wisconsin duck season was aging and my brother John Ellis and I were playing it slowly like a cabin whiskey. Our hunting in both zones has evolved to include walk-in hunts—early season in southern Wisconsin on the creeks of Kettle Moraine oak ridge country targeting wood ducks, and as long as we can on dam-controlled water that can pull the rug out on the wild rice potholes in the northern zone. Access to the birds becomes the unknown.

On this October hunt, Mother Nature would change her person-

ality often. The Sunday afternoon lamb of warm temperatures and sunshine turned to the lion on Monday morning. We watched our world lighten slowly over the decoys in a pounding rain and the cold sting of a fast-moving southbound Canadian front. By Tuesday temperatures would climb again and blue skies would slowly reclaim main stage. This time, high winds would be our ally.

We had stood vigil from a familiar blind near the Manitowish feeding the 10-lake chain by the same name on Sunday evening and Monday. But with few birds on the wing after consistent pounding by hunters and only one mallard in the bag, we changed the game plan for the Tuesday morning finale.

We would hike in on bordering ridges on the edge of a lake where before the season we had watched ducks dump in behind a curtain of cattails and wild rice. We packed light but ready. Eight

John Ellis shows five greenheads taken on an October walk-in hunt in the northern zone.



continued on page 9

JIM SERVI

Wolf Workshops Offered Across Wisconsin

Learning to trap from the experts

Throughout September and October wolf trapper education workshops were conducted across the state. Expected to draw more than 200 prospective wolf trappers, this informative event was held as a collaborative partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Trapper's Association, and USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services with one goal in mind: to give wolf trappers the knowledge they need to be confident on the trap line this fall.



Instructors demonstrate how to properly set a foothold trap for wolves.

John Irwin began teaching Trappers Education in 1994, has held numerous positions in the Wisconsin Trapper's Association, and routinely teaches trapping courses to college students throughout the state. During our conversation, he revealed several tips that can only be gained from years on the trap line and building connections in the trapping community. His expertise and experience is the reason he was asked to be an instructor for this new course.

As John says, the agenda is "... packed with more

information than we can cover," but the presenters work together to make sure that wolf trappers have an advantage when they hit the woods. Wolf management in terms of the reactive response to depredations and proactive methods, such as the wolf harvest season, are discussed in great detail. From there, the program gets into specifics covering Best Management Practices, rules and regulations and trap setting. John said they also discuss ethics at length, adding, "Trappers have an added responsibility to portray their sport in a positive fashion." This included conversations about communication with the public, transporting their harvest, site selection to avoid interactions with the public, and, of course, social media.

A new agenda item was added this year at the request of the Sporting Dogs Association. Covering wolf hunting with hounds, a representative from the Sporting Dogs Association discussed the finer points of their sport along with tips on how to be successful.

The class concluded with arguably everyone's favorite part, the demonstrations and hands-on set making. Experts covered the popular dirt hold and flat sets along with post sets and cable restraints. Students then attempted to replicate the sets with help from the professionals. This allows them to figure out what they're doing before they get in the forest.

Although this course is voluntary, Irwin introduced a proposal at the spring hearings two years ago to make it mandatory. It passed and is supported by the Wisconsin Trapper's Association. John expects there to be some action with it in the upcoming years.

Robert Barteck, who took the class last year, had this



WDNR professionals provide valuable insights during the classroom portion of the Wolf Trapper Education Workshops.

to say about the course, "My son and I attended the Wolf Trapper Education class on November 3 at the Mead Wildlife Center. It was an excellent class and very helpful. Yesterday we successfully trapped a large male wolf. Thank you for putting such a quality program together. I am teaching my son to be an ethical and responsible woodsman, so I especially appreciated that ethics and BMPs were discussed at length."

When asked if there was one piece of advice for wolf trappers, John replied, "Believe in what you do. If you don't think the set will catch a wolf, it won't."

The attendees of this class will no doubt have more confidence in their wolf sets this fall thanks to John Irwin and the other knowledgeable instructors. *WO*

Jim Servi is an outdoor writer, educator, consultant, and a Local Field Director for the US Sportsmen's Alliance. He is currently serving in the US Army Reserves and is a veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq. This lifestyle gives him maximum time to hunt, fish, and trap everything that is fair game in Wisconsin. Jim lives in the middle of the woods on the family farm outside Wausau with his wife and two boys. Contact Jim at Jimservi10@gmail.com.



Micah finishes the job.

ELLIS, from page 8

mallard decoys were loaded in bags on our backs. Flashlights cut the way well before sunrise. Our cargo was complete with cased shotguns and ammo boxes laden with shells, calls, face masks, gloves and a few cigars. Micah and Dylan, sensing a new game after two days of anticipation without reward from the blind, led the way through the forest. Pushing on foot deeper than we had ever hunted before, a pothole hundreds of yards off the main channel, and painted especially for the duck hunter, called.

The 40-yard by 50-yard piece of open water lay in front of us, bordered by wild rice, cattails and black timber submerged since the manmade, dam-made chain was born. The northern forest rose behind us, with mature pines offering a blend-away backdrop from keen eyes above, anxious to reveal trouble below.

John gave the pothole life with his decoy placement, and we settled in for a new morning. Natural shore cover was manipulated to give Micah a ringside seat next to me and the ability to watch any ducks flirting with the water from high in the sky to final set. Dylan settled in next to John, hunkered down to my right. We were ready for the big show. And it didn't take long for the curtain to rise.

The enthusiastic welcome from John's call fell off to a contented feeding chatter as the greenheads dropped in. Over two hours,

three mallard drakes had already approached as singles and had each paid the price. Two birds had been cleanly missed. Larger flocks of mallards and divers had passed on with nary a nod at the decoys and resting place. These two greenheads, though, fell into the fire and fell dead on the wild rice. Not waiting for a command to fetch with the reports from the shotguns, Micah and Dylan were in the pothole almost before the birds. With the double retrieve complete, our final morning was too. But not our season.

It's November now. A must-have kayak laden with gear allows one duck hunter to enter this backwater from the main lake to crack through skim ice, negotiate just inches of water, and drop decoys far out on the pothole. Even with waders, quicksand-like mud left in the wake of the water draw-down leaves decoy placement from shore impossible. With the dogs, the other hunter carries just the shotguns and camera along the ridges to rendezvous at the ambush; only the gear too valuable to risk in a dumped kayak.

If you've been rained on by a 1000-bird mallard tornado moving down from Canada, or watched a huge flock of newly arrived ring-necks turn into the decoys, you also already know why just being there is worth this effort.

This is November. This is Wisconsin. Enjoy the ride. *WO*

LISA M. ADAMS, MEDIA RELATIONS SPECIALIST
SSM HEALTH CARE OF WISCONSIN

To Stay In The Field

Prepare your body for a successful season

As the air grows crisp and fall takes hold, the urge to head out for the hunt comes to the front of any outdoorsman's mind. This year, before heading out into the field or up into your tree stand, Dean & St. Mary's Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Richard Glad has some tips on staying healthy and injury free during the fall hunting season.

As you plan, round up your equipment and secure your hunting license this fall, make sure you're also getting your body ready by doing routine conditioning exercises.

"Hunting can be very stressful and difficult on your body if you aren't in good shape to go out and try to drag a deer in," says Dr. Glad. "Participating and working on a conditioning program before going out on the hunt is important."

Dr. Glad suggests packing up your gear, pulling on your boots and heading out for a hike on local trails and hills to get your body back into hunting shape. This will not only help your body acclimate to the movements and strain of being out in the field, but it can also help you identify areas that may need extra attention.

Some things to think about if you notice pain in your hips and knees while conditioning:

- Walking sticks can help to better distribute weight while you are hiking to your ground blind or tree stand. These can be particularly helpful in hilly areas.
- For lingering aches and pains, over-the-counter anti-inflammatory medications like acetaminophen or ibuprofen can help manage the symptoms.
- If you suffer from arthritis but want to stay in the field, ask your doctor about cortisone shots to help manage your pain.
- For hunters with serious disabilities, special hunt-from-vehicle permits can be obtained.

Another important consideration is choosing appropriate cover.

"You need to be realistic about your expectations," says Dr. Glad. "If you have an arthritic condition, a ground blind is a better choice than a tree stand."

Dr. Glad says a ground blind can be much safer, because arthritis can lead to problems with proprioception, where you lose your body's ability to identify where your joint is in space. This can

cause a loss of balance, which makes climbing into a tree stand a much riskier activity.

If you do use a tree stand, remember to utilize proper safety precautions both when placing the stand and when hunting from the stand. Every year, many hunters fall from tree stands causing serious spinal and open fracture injuries.

Some smart safety measures include:

- Place your tree stand securely. It should be solid and tied to the tree with ratchet straps.
- Tree stands with railings are extremely helpful in preventing falls.
- Use a quality harness. Put the harness on and attach it to the stand as soon as you climb into the stand.
- Always use a haul line to raise and lower equipment, including unloaded firearms.
- Never place your tree stand higher than 20 feet off the ground.

Once your body is ready and you've chosen the right cover for your hunting trip, Dr. Glad also reminds hunters to be prepared for the weather and weather changes.

"Hypothermia can be a big danger



Orthopedic Surgeon and Wisconsin hunter Dr. Richard Glad offers advice for a healthy hunt.

because you are often sitting and not moving," says Dr. Glad. "Having quality outdoor wear and gear is important."

Dr. Glad recommends using hand and toe warmers as an inexpensive way of keeping your extremities warm while out on the hunt. These warmers easily tuck into gloves and boots to provide some warmth and work well in combination with quality hunting gear.

By taking these extra steps to prepare your body and protect against injury, you'll be more likely to head out more often and hunt for the full season. *WO*

To learn more about Dean Care's Steady Strides Total Joint Replacement Center or connect with Dr. Glad, call 844.201.STEP (7837) or visit steadystrides.com.

JIM SERVI

Pond Jumping Is Family Tradition

Drives keep hunters, ducks moving

When people think about duck hunting, what do they imagine? For many it invokes images of decoys spread across a marsh, call in hand, waiting in a blind for ducks to approach their spread. My family prefers to cover ground and jump the ducks from ponds we've hunted for years and ones that we just discovered. My dad often talks about coming to the same ponds with his grandpa in a tradition that has now spanned nearly a half century. In a few more years my boys will join and make it five generations.

Hunting this way is not for the faint of heart. Instead of having ducks that are locked up, coming into your decoys, they are usually quickly gaining speed



Tyler Drake, the author's cousin, with his first two ducks.

by the time they're in range. Walking around ponds can also be rough on the body.

Knowing the ponds is the key to success. No decoys or calls are needed; rather, location is the essential element. Ducks often fly out at the lowest point in the tree line, giving them the quickest escape. Beaver dams, dikes and bays with smaller trees are used as their escape routes. Points jutting into the pond are another great ambush location, since the birds are often required to skirt these edges while flying. Sometimes it takes trial and error to figure it out, but once you do, you'll see that ducks will often repeat the same behavior each year.

After assessing a pond, we place ev-

eryone at their designated location. Oftentimes, the ducks will start flying in and out minutes later, precisely where we set up. Once the shooting starts, others will follow and they too fly right into our pinch points. Year after year we shoot ducks from the same locations. Knowing this information helps us quickly set up and get ducks when a new pond is discovered. Once the shooting has settled, the designated walker will circle the pond to kick up any stragglers. More shooting, more ducks. After admiring our harvest and giving the dogs an extra treat for their hard work, we're off to the next pond. Always on the move is our key to success.

continued on page 15



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TOM CARPENTER

Cubs Corner

Kids love phast phood (pheasants!)

Many kinds of hunting—deer, turkey and duck hunting, for instance—are best done “on the sit.” While waiting motionlessly in silence is certainly effective, it also gets challenging for young hunters.

Sometimes it’s fun to get out, move around and take your hunt to the game. Ring-necked pheasants provide some of the fastest-flying action, “funnest” hunting and finest eating afield. With the corn in and the weather colder, November and December are the perfect times to chase pheasants, Wisconsin’s greatest “phast phood.”

Pheasants love farm country. They thrive in a mix of grasslands, grain fields, hedgerows, thickets, creek bottoms and un-mowed ditches. As they provide cover, cattail sloughs are also an important component of prime pheasant habitat. During hunting season look for birds around harvested corn and soybeans fields.

One reason pheasant hunting is so fun is you don’t need a lot of gear to find

success. It’s nice to have upland bird hunting pants with the canvas chaps, but blue jeans work just fine. Wear a couple layers of clothes so that you can shed a layer or two as the walking heats you up. Don a blaze orange hat and hunting vest or canvas jacket with orange on it for safety.

Footwear is important. Good pheasant country often has a lot of marshes, sloughs and creek bottoms, so waterproof boots are essential. If you’re going to invest in pheasant hunting gear, buy footwear that will support your feet and keep them dry so you can walk all day.

Carry a shotgun in 12, 16 or 20 gauge. While an improved cylinder (open) choke is best early in the season when shots are close, use a modified choke now when shots might stretch out. Use size 4, 5 or 6 lead shot.

When hunting, walk slowly and pause often. Don’t go straight, but zigzag, loop and backtrack often. If you get into a pattern, the birds will figure it out and sidestep you.

Pheasants are creatures of the “edge.” They love areas where different types of cover come together. Zones between a grass field and crop field, a slough and a crop field or meadow, or a thicket and a pasture are all places where habitat features come close to meeting all a pheasant’s needs.

Hunt grassy fields early and late in the day. In the middle of the day, head for thicker cover such as creek bottoms, sloughs, fence lines, thickets and brushy abandoned fields.

It helps to have a dog along. Fortunately, most dogs have good enough noses and instinct to make decent pheasant hunters. When I was a boy, a landowner’s German Shepherd accompanied me for a whole season and we got a lot of birds together. Keep the dog within 15 or 20 yards so that when he finds and flushes a bird, it is in range for a shot. A dog 100 yards away does you no good.

Today my boys and I hunt with Rascal, a Brittany. Like other pointing dogs,



The author’s son, Noah, displays some of nature’s best “phast phood,” a hard-flying ring-necked pheasant that didn’t get away.

Brittanies find birds, point them and hold them until you walk in to flush them. But I still make her hunt close to us, because pheasants are skittish and might flush before the dog gets a chance to point them.

A dog is also valuable for helping find birds you shoot. Actually retrieving a bird to hand is ideal, but just having a dog track down a bird or chase down a runner so it doesn’t get away is great.

Cleaning pheasants is easy. Make a slit above their chest to get under their

continued on page 15

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STUART WILKERSON

Rifles That Will Make Wisconsin Famous

Henry Repeating Arms making some of their most popular models locally

Colt Firearms thought highly of Lou Imperato's and his son Anthony's work. So highly, in fact, that for many years the illustrious firm contracted with the Imperatos to build reproductions of classic cap 'n ball revolvers under the Colt banner. Today, Anthony Imperato builds traditional styled lever-action rifles, and others, under the name of another famed American gun designer and manufacturer, Benjamin Tyler Henry.

Benjamin Henry created the legendary Henry Repeating Rifle, known during the Civil War as "the gun you load on Sunday and shoot all week." Imperato's firm recently began production of an extremely accurate replica of the original Henry Repeating Rifle. The firm has also started production of the Model H009 and H010 lever-action rifles in calibers .30-30 and .45-70, respectively, in its new Rice Lake, Wisconsin, plant. In honor of their new home, each Wisconsin-made rifle has a serial number prefix of "w." Henry currently employs

approximately 100 workers at the Rice Lake facility and also produces firearms at a plant in Bayonne, New Jersey.

The H009 lever-action rifle is a serious deer hunting rifle, as is readily apparent by its modern Ghost ring sights for fast aiming and tracking, pistol grip stock, and receiver drilled and tapped for scope mounts. The .45-70 H010 shares similar features but is also powerful enough to easily take down larger game such as bear. A recoil pad helps tame the kick of the .45-70 round.

Unlike many lever-action rifles, which load from a gate on the receiver, Henry rifles load from a magazine tube, not unlike some .22 caliber rimfire rifles. The beauty of a tube-fed magazine is the fact that it can be quickly unloaded by opening the tube. Gate-fed rifles require them to be unloaded by operating the lever.

Henry lever-action rifles have been in production since 1996 when the .22 rimfire H001 model was introduced.

A couple of years later the Golden Boy with its brass plated receiver was introduced, a characteristic it shares with the original Henry rifles of the 1860s. The Golden Boy was followed by the Big Boy series that fire .357, .38, .45 Colt, and .44 magnum calibers.

I recently had an opportunity to view some Henry lever-action rifles in person at Shorty's Gun Shop at 2192 S. 60th St. in West Allis. Shorty's, by the way, has an incredible variety of new, used and collectible firearms. His shop is definitely worth checking out.

What especially struck me about the Henry lever-actions was how competitively priced they are and how expensive they look. Bluing is dark and luxurious. Wood is traditional walnut, just as it should be, and fit-to-metal is excellent. Checkering is crisp and the finish is evenly applied with just the right level of sheen: not too dull, nor too shiny. Moving parts are all slick in their operation. Brass-framed models gleam.

Henry products are held in very high regard by their owners, according to Shorty. They have a reputation for extreme reliability, accuracy and pleasing aesthetics.

Henry is best known for their lever-action rifles, but other action-types are also available. The .22 rimfire and .22 Magnum octagon-barreled pump-action rifles would look right at home in 1920s Americana. The pump-action repeaters are extremely credible alternatives to the original rifles, which are now expensive collector items. They would be a hit with anyone who owned a pump-action .22 decades ago or who appreciates classically styled, practical, fast-shooting rifles.

Backpackers and others whose adventures take them from the off-beaten path should take a look at the Henry AR-7, the firm's rendition of a rifle once issued as a survival weapon for U.S. Air Force pilots. The semiautomatic rifle holds eight rounds in a detachable magazine,

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— Gregg Borneman
OWNER



SERVI, from page 10

Opening weekend for our group began at our traditional first stop, Rick's Pond, named in honor of my uncle who loved duck hunting. Geese flew over seconds after we arrived at the dike. My uncle quickly dropped one and my hunting dog, Maple, carried it across the open water. Moments later, I had a nice wood duck land in front of me. From there, the ducks had the advantage and we couldn't hit anything. Opening day rust was obviously to blame. The next day was different. Set up at the same locations at first light, we had eight ducks within an hour: a bunch of wood ducks and one mallard. The next pond brought more success with my cousin harvesting his first two wood ducks. Only two wood ducks

away from our limit, we decided to head in and watch the Packers. We'd save the secret ponds for a different day.

Talking with others who were using decoys, we clearly saw and shot more ducks in a lot less time. If you want to keep moving and explore new ground, consider exploring local ponds and do some duck drives with family and friends. 


Jim Servi is an outdoor writer, educator, consultant, and a Local Field Director for the US Sportsmen's Alliance. He is currently serving in the US Army Reserves and is a veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq. This lifestyle gives him maximum time to hunt, fish, and trap everything that is fair game in Wisconsin. Jim lives in the middle of the woods on the family farm outside Wausau with his wife and two boys. Contact Jim at Jimservi10@gmail.com.

CARPENTER, from page 13

skin and peel it all off. Save the breast meat by cutting off the wings, neck and the thighs/legs. Fillet off each half of the breast for two beautiful boneless fillets. Save the thighs/legs to use as chunk meat in chili.

Fry up pheasant strips just like you would fish fillets. Or marinate fillets in Italian dressing and then grill them. You don't have to get fancy to get great meals from your bounty of pheasants. Remember, pheasant is "phast phood" that's

good for you, lean and full of nutrition.

Chasing pheasants is about as much hunting fun as a person can have. We all do plenty of sitting and waiting in other hunting pastimes. Ring-necks offer a chance to get out and walk some fine countryside in pursuit of a gloriously-colored and great-tasting game bird—a real trophy of the uplands. 

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

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Glock G42: to shoot it is to love it



The G42 is the best-shooting .380 around.

Let's just get this out of the way from the start. When the G42 came out, I was disappointed that it wasn't a 9mm. I didn't understand why they would make a .380 ACP, and, furthermore, why they would make it so big compared to other tiny .380s such as the Ruger LCP.

Then I held one at the Glock armorer's course. It felt very nice in my hand—comfortable and light—and I knew I needed to shoot one. So I got my hands on one for testing and evaluation. I pulled the trigger the very first time, and all I could think was “wow.” It went like

this: Bang. Wow. Bang. Nice. Load and repeat, 150 times.

Now I understand Glock's method to their madness. Yes, it is bigger than some of the other .380 ACPs on the market, but Glock has a reason; shoot-ability. I can get one full finger on the LCP, the second one dangles. When I shoot it, I pull the trigger and hang on for dear life. It's not pleasant to shoot. The G42, on the other hand, is very pleasant to shoot. I could literally shoot it all day at the range. It's big enough to fill your hand a little, so you can get a solidarity grip. After shooting a box of ammo through my Walther PPK, the web of my hand aches. It's not a big recoil but it's very sharp. To me, it's more comfortable shooting bigger calibers such as 10mm and .357 Magnum. The G42 feels just as a .380 ACP should feel.

The other side to shoot-ability is trigger pull. The G42 has one of the best trigger pulls I've found in a .380. It is essentially the same trigger that you find on any other Glock pistol (aside from some minor internal differences). It is the same length of pull, it has the same 5.5-pound weight, and it has the same outstanding short reset. It also has the same clean pull and crisp break, relatively speaking. It's not a \$1,000 - \$3,000 1911, nor is it a \$900 revolver. But compared to other polymer duty/combat pistols, which is what a Glock is,

the trigger is very good.

Many forget there always has been a demand

for a .380 Glock. We want what we cannot have, and Glock has two .380 ACP pistols, the G25 and G28, but they're not available to civilians on these shores. The few that are even in the U.S. belong to Law Enforcement agencies. Due to import restrictions, they would never be available in the U.S., which made us want them more. The G42 gets around those restrictions by being made in the USA, the first Glock to be such.

The G42 also has some pretty good sights. In fact, compared to other pistols in this category, I would say they're excellent. It's the same basic Glock U-Shape, which means you can hit your target quite nicely. I found it to be more accurate than I thought it would be. While the sight is scaled down, the “U” and notch are the same size as a standard Glock.

If you customarily carry or shoot a Glock, you'll appreciate all the controls, not just the trigger. The slide catch and magazine release are all in the same place and require the same manipulation. The parts do have some internal differences, but the interface that the user touches is the same.

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SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer/Model: Glock G42
Caliber: .380 ACP (9mm Kurtz)
Action Type: Striker Fired
Frame: Polymer
Barrel: Hexagonal rifling
Magazine: Six-Round
Trigger: Glock Single-Action, 5.5 pounds
Weight: 13.76 ounces
Overall Length: 5.94 inches
Height: 4.13 inches
Width: .94 inches (.74 inch slide)
Accessories: Two magazines, cleaning kit, hard case
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Website: us.glock.com

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STUART WILKERSON

With Some Help From Your Friends

Midwest Industries specialists can help you build a high quality custom rifle

You can spend a lot of money on a custom-built rifle, or you can build one yourself with help and guidance from Midwest Industries. That's what I did, and the results speak for themselves. Midwest Industries can help you put together any kind of AR15, from "mild to wild and everything in between," according to Troy Storch, owner of the company. In my case, I decided to build a target rifle for 100-yard shooting that could also double as a varmint rifle.

In the last issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors* I described how I learned the correct way to put together an AR15 in a course taught by Midwest Industries technical support specialist and former military armorer Andy Yohnk. I explained how, with instruction from Andy and some basic tools, a high quality AR15 can be assembled even by an amateur. For my very first AR15 project I chose a Midwest Industries billet aluminum lower receiver, one of the finest in the industry.

Since I already had one of the best lower receivers on the market, I decided to match it to one of the best uppers, the Midwest Industries billet aluminum model. The upper and lower are made in Wisconsin. In fact, all Midwest Industries products are made in America and most of them right here in Wisconsin.

While the primary goal of this project was to assemble a functional, dependable and accurate rifle in 5.56 mm/.223 caliber, I also wanted one that looked good.



Technical specialist Andy Yohnk demonstrates the proper installation of a barrel into a receiver during a Midwest Industries AR15 Basic Assembly and Trouble Shooting class. Midwest Industries' staff can help ensure that you will get the most out of your custom AR15.

That was accomplished with a Midwest Industries Gen 2 SS one-piece, free-float aluminum handguard with an MIL-STD 1913 rail, including lots of room for accessories. I also installed a low-profile Midwest Industries gas block.

The maximum range for targets at my gun club is 100 yards, and the optic on this rifle is a 3-9 x 40 power Leupold VX-I that I have had for years. For my present purposes, a standard 16-inch, M4-type chrome moly vanadium barrel from Midwest Industries with a 1:9

twist rate will serve just fine. The scope sits in an extremely rugged Midwest Industries one-piece mount.

With an MI flash suppressor, the barrel is not only functional but also looks cool. The bolt carrier group is made by a government contractor. Both the barrel and bolt carrier group are very reasonably priced at Midwest Industries.

Every part went together on this project without a hitch. In fact, I would go so far as to say that in terms of assembly I had at least equaled what most companies sell to consumers, and it worked when it was done. This is my fourth AR15, and the Midwest Industries billet upper and lowers are the best finished and strongest of them all.

After I put the project together, *On Wisconsin Outdoors* publisher Dick Ellis brought it to Andy to inspect. (My schedule didn't allow me to go in person.) I provided Dick with a magazine and some ammunition so that Andy could test fire it. The gun functioned, but Andy wasn't done. While I had done an adequate job putting it together, he found a number of things that could be tweaked to make it perform better. Among the parts Andy aligned, torqued-to-spec and loc-tited—at no cost—were the gas block, barrel and handguard. He also tightened and staked the castle nut on the back of the lower receiver. All of these adjustments are essential

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DAVID DUWE

Choosing The Right Ice Jig

When to use lead or tungsten

For years ice anglers only had one option when choosing an ice jig, a lead jig; however, the trend for the last few years has been a change to tungsten. Tungsten is a metal that has a higher density and weight than a comparable-sized lead jig. Like all new tackle trends, the tungsten jig has become the rage in the ice fishing community, outselling its lead counterparts by a significant margin. Ice anglers are careful, though the lead ice jig still has an important application in the ice fishing world. First let me discuss the benefits of the tungsten jig.

Because of the density of the tungsten the jig falls at a faster rate than a lead jig of comparable size. I use a tungsten jig in a water depth of greater than 15 feet. Due to the weight of the jig no sinker or pencil weight will be needed when fishing deeper water. Your line will remain straighter and the bites will be easier to detect with a tighter line in windier conditions. Jon Thelen, TV host of Fish Ed, says he uses a tungsten jig in shallow water when he needs to punch through

weeds to get to the fish beneath. One of the drawbacks to the tungsten ice jigs is that because of the small size of the jig, the size of the hook is also small. This can reduce the hooking percentage on deep water fish. For fish with a bony mouth, like a yellow perch, choose the Lindy Tungsten Toad in a size 10. It has one of the biggest hooks for its size on the market.

Personally, I use more lead ice jigs than tungsten. It is probably due to the fact I fish less than 12 feet of water. Gary Snyder of Snyder's lures, inventor of hundreds of ice jigs, prefers and only manufactures lead jigs. He believes the neutral buoyancy of the lead jig will catch more fish on any given day. Neutral buoyancy is the natural fall of the forage that the panfish are feeding on. Tungsten falls unnaturally, which will not usually entice a strike when the fish are in a negative feeding mood. To allow the lighter lure to fall more naturally I use a lighter line, no more than 2-pound test. With a lighter jig the ice angler must watch the

line closely to detect the light biters and the fish striking on the fall of the lure.

No matter which type of jig you use, color is always critical depending on the lake you fish and the mood of the fish. For some lakes that I fish, the dark colors are always productive, but a lake a few miles away may have fish that prefer chartreuse or yellows. It is necessary to have a nice assortment of colors.

As Jon Thelen states, and I agree, you can't have only one kind of jig in your box. Depending on your depth, wind and weed conditions, it is important to select the right kind of jig. Both lead and tungsten, in a wide array of colors, have their place in your tackle box. *WD*

Dave Duwe is owner of Dave Duwe's Guide service and has been guiding the lakes of southeastern Wisconsin for 15 years, specializing in Delevan Lake and Lake Geneva. Find him at fishlakegeneva.com or fishdelavanlake.com.

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CLAY HELLER

The Late Season Musky Chase

Setting the quick-strike trap

When chasing late season muskies, a live bait presentation can be hard to beat. As the water continues to cool and the muskies become more sluggish, they are looking for maximum reward for their feeding efforts. Chasing down fast-moving bait may require more energy than it's worth. A large sucker hanging over the side of the boat can provide the easy meal muskies are looking for with little effort.

While using live bait for muskies, Wisconsin state law requires the use of quick set rigs on any suckers eight inches or longer. A quick set rig is a bait rig that has one or more treble hooks attached to the minnow behind the head. There is a wide variety of quick set rigs

available on the market. I have used many different rigs over the years with mixed results. I have gone away from the rubber band rigs and prefer rigs that use a small hook through the snout to attach the sucker to the leader. It makes rigging the sucker a little easier and requires less time with your hands out of your gloves.

I like to use an 8-foot heavy rod paired with a line counter reel. The use of a line counter reel is not a necessity, but it makes it much easier to duplicate a successful encounter. Running multiple sucker rods also allows you to easily vary the depths of your presentations. If you are not using line counter reels, make sure that your reels have a bait clicker.

My typical set up for sucker fishing includes three to six sucker rods, depending on conditions. When running six rods, I have two rod holders in the middle of the boat, one on each side, angled at 45 degrees toward the front of the boat. At these positions I have sucker rods set up with suckers on quick set rigs directly under the boat. I vary the depth on these rods with the inside rod slightly higher in the water column than the outside rod. (Depth at this point is relative to the body of water that you are fishing. The key is to mix it up and let the fish tell you where they are.) Behind these rods I have one rod holder on each side, pointed straight out from the side of the boat and angled upward. In these positions I run my float rods.



A nice late season sucker musky.

A float rod is a sucker on a quick set rig underneath a large slip bobber. I set the floats at different depths and run them back behind the boat about 15 to 20 feet. Behind these rods in my final two positions I have my rod holders angled

continued on page 24

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JERRY KIESOW

Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

A guided trip on the Menominee

Anyone who knows me knows I never spend money on guides. One reason for that is that our freezer is rarely void of wild things to eat. Plus, as my wife says, "You're cheap!" I prefer "frugal."

Earlier this year I turned X0. The X is deliberate. My two daughters, son-in-law, three grandkids, and my wife pooled their resources and bought me a guided fly fishing float trip down the Menominee River in northeastern Wisconsin with the Tight Lines fly shop in De Pere.

After much debate, I scheduled my trip, which was distinctive because it was guided and I did not pay for it. My wife was to join me but couldn't, so our oldest daughter, Chris, filled in.

"A tough chore, but someone has to do it," was her comment. (She is becoming an ardent fly fishing woman.)

The Menominee River is only about an hour's drive from our cottage, so, naturally, we stayed there prior to our trip.

My morning began as it always does: early, with tea and cookies. The temperature was a pleasant 48 degrees and the sky was clear.

Chris and I left the cottage about 8:00 AM and headed east. We arrived at our destination, a small park along the river, but could not immediately locate the landing. Eventually we did and were still

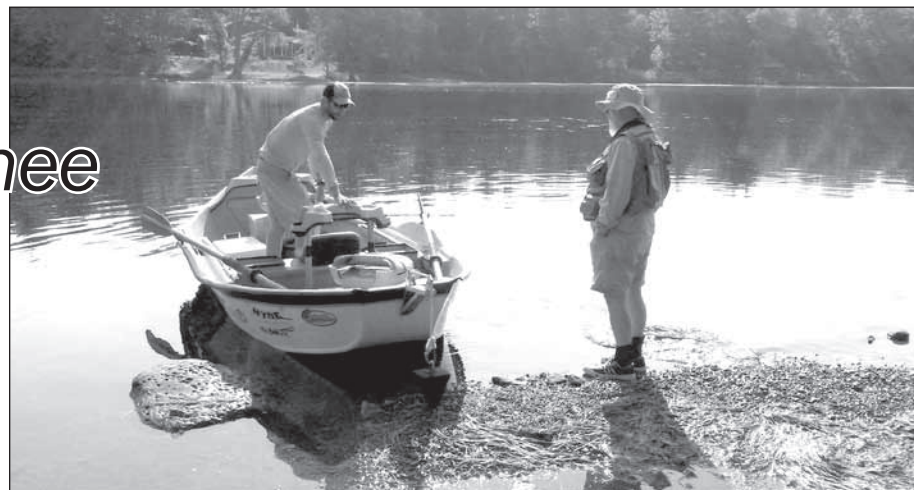
there ahead of our guide, Mike Reynolds.

The boat was one of those popular, high-ended river-float-boats of the west. The guide sits in the middle while the clients sit/stand at each end, casting flies, hoping to catch fish. The boat has special supports against which the fly fishers can lean, if necessary, while standing and casting. The guide supplies everything: boat, rods, reels, flies, and lunch.

We eased the boat from the shore about 10:00 AM. Immediately after pushing off, Mike gave us a brief lesson as to how he wanted us to fish. "Cast out, leave the fly sit, then wiggle it to get the fish's attention. Move/rest it a couple of times, then pick up and cast again. Simple. Now let's catch some fish."

The object of the float today was to catch smallmouth bass. "Seven- and 8-pounders," the owners of the shop had told me a few months earlier. We began casting medium-sized poppers on seven and eight weight rods outfitted with long, 10- to 11-foot leaders with 8-pound tippets.

Chris and I found where we fished interesting: over underwater grasses. The kind we normally avoid in our river, the Peshtigo. We also cast to shallow rock bars and drop-offs, which would be normal.



Our guide, Mike, readies our western style riverboat for our float down the Menominee River in northeastern Wisconsin.

We fished the surface all day. Mike explained that was because of all the weed cover. At one point I did try a large streamer for toothier critters—pike and musky—but could never get a complete retrieve because of those weeds, proving Mike's point.

We tossed grasshopper frauds and a large deer hair bug, but the fly-of-the-day was poppers with rubber legs, in a variety of colors.

We caught maybe 25 fish, give or take a few (I didn't keep count), but no 7- and 8- pounders (I think that might have been a bit of puffery on the owners' part). The best part of the trip for me was that Mike coached us all the way. As a bonus, Chris learned a lot about casting a fly.

We saw plenty of wildlife: eagles, ducks, geese, deer, gulls, and fish: carp, suckers, bass and sturgeons—big sturgeons—lying on the bottom in three to six feet of water, among the rocks.

We left the river about 6:00 PM. We could have spent another hour if we had wanted but told Mike the day was long enough. Our arms were getting tired from casting and fighting fish all day. Mike drove us back to my truck and we thanked him for a great day.

We were back at the cottage by 7:00. After a quick swim, a couple fingers of Wild Turkey and some snacks, we relayed to my wife how the day went, complete with photos.

Not a bad way to celebrate an X0th birthday: a guided fly fishing trip that I did not have to pay for.

See you in the river.

Keep a good thought! *W*

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

JOHN LINDEMAN

Call An Audible: Fall On Sturgeon Bay

Those who decide to make fishing their passion quickly learn that rolling with the punches is required to obtain success and keep your sanity. In other words, if what you are chasing is not eating, you have to be willing to call an audible.

No crappies, how about 'gills? No bass, how about catfish? Waves too big, how about heading for calm water? The only concern should be doing whatever it takes to get an opposing force on the opposite end of your fishing line. That's the audible I'm talking about.

Can I get an Amen up in here?

That is precisely why I've grown to love the waters of Lake Michigan's Green Bay over the past several years. It's an audible calling heaven. On a recent fall trip I stumbled into an audible that paid big dividends while fishing the bay—Sturgeon Bay, to be specific. Since that day I learned that particular audible was far from new, but it was new to me.

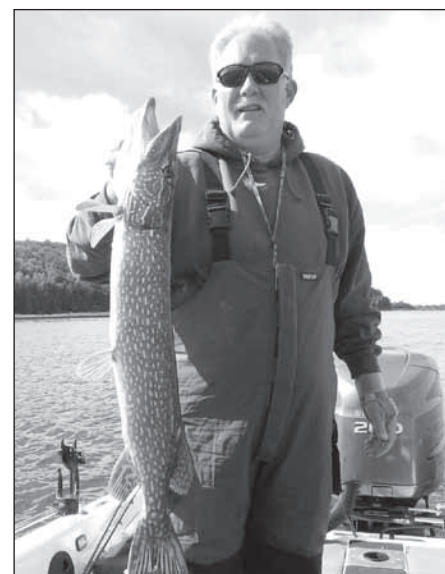
The day started at the Leathen Quarry Boat Launch, an excellent facility worth the time to get there. We wanted to check out all that rocky structure at depths from 10 to 20 feet to the north when exiting Sturgeon Bay. I'm sure this is where all those TV guys fish.

The boards were going in when the boat's forward progress suddenly stalled. When I turned to look, a wave was crashing over the Yamaha and into the boat. To our credit, we didn't panic. Then came our first audible: "Let's get back to Sturgeon Bay."

The 15-minute trip out turned into a slow 55-minute return. We ended up by Sawyer Harbor over a few humps near Cabot Point. We weaved around several boats either anchored over perch or escaping the wind and waiting for their stomachs to return to normal, like I was.

We trolled 700 series Reef Runners behind KFin quick-re-

continued on page 29



Appleton's Jon Markley was recently dialed in on Sturgeon Bay's fall northerns. He planned on targeting walleyes but was more than happy to battle one of Wisconsin's favorite predators.

GARY ENGBERG

Gary Engberg Outdoors

DNR works to get more people involved in the outdoors

These days it seems that fewer children and adults are taking advantage of the tremendous outdoor activities available in Wisconsin and other states. Some individuals spend most of their free time on the computer and social media. Everyone needs basic computer skills to exist in today's world, but it doesn't have to be at the expense of enjoying time in the outdoors. I'm lucky enough to live in a state that is constantly developing and promoting new ways to get people to take advantage of our magnificent natural resources.

This summer, I was part of a program that just celebrated its 14th year, the "Take an Adult Fishing Tournament" at the Wilderness Fish and Game store in Sauk City, Wisconsin. This family-oriented event's purpose is to get families, children, grandparents and friends together in the outdoors. The event has few rules, except for following the state's regulations, having a license and returning by the 2:00 PM weigh-in. You can fish anywhere you choose from boat or shore. The tournament, in a town of less than 3,000 people, attracted 103 teams with 142 children fishing and almost 300 people participating. Every year this number is increasing, and people call



Sam Vils of Mazomanie, Wisconsin, with his first turkey.

it one of the summer's highlights. This one-day event has gotten many families fishing regularly. Several parents have told me that if it weren't for this event they never would have started fishing.


Tournaments like this can take place in any town with help from the DNR, some energetic outdoor-minded adults and support from local businesses. Every child under 16 years old receives

a goody bag with gear, equipment and reading material. It isn't easy to get donations anymore, but there are many organizations and businesses that will help if asked. We have a stage, PA system, digital scale, DNR exhibits and awards for the top three fish in six different categories. This winter, try to get a core group together and promote a family fishing event in your town!

Speak with your friends and club members about how to introduce more children and adults into the hunting tradition. Last year Wisconsin had 2,500 people take part in "Learn to Hunt" programs. There's been growth in the number of adults looking for other sources for sustainable food. Why not develop your own program and bring families out into the field to see what hunting is all about? Your goal is to add a few more people to an activity that we treasure and love. I recommend getting the whole family out and sharing your knowledge with beginners who have an interest in hunting. The WDNR will assist you and even provide free pheasants for hunting events.

Wisconsin is constantly introducing new programs to get more people involved in all that it has to offer. There

are hunting mentor programs, hunting seasons have been lengthened, youth can hunt at an earlier age with an adult, new seasons are being added such as dove and wolf, licenses are being issued for shorter time periods at a reduced price, and the DNR is regularly adding seminars and how-to classes for beginners, to name a few. I just read about a new program to get people involved in deer management. The state DNR wants people to help count deer and report their findings so that we have a greater grasp on what is out in the woods. You can report your findings online at their website. There are numerous activities where volunteers are needed to assist the DNR, from helping maintain state parks to releasing pheasants on public grounds.

I've given you some ways to get more families and individuals involved in outdoor activities. If you don't want to hunt, go to the WDNR website, dnr.wi.gov, and you'll find diverse activities in the outdoors for all. Try some of the new things that are being offered. Most of them are free. Enjoy! 

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208 or gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com, or visit garyengbergoutdoors.com.



"NOW THERE'S AN ENTERPRISING YOUNG MAN."


HELLER, from page 21

backwards 45 degrees, again dropping suckers down directly under the boat. All rods are set in place at the desired depths with a tight drag and the bail open, bait clickers engaged.

When you get a take on a sucker rig, the bait clicker will be your indicator. It may take a while to determine what is a fish and what is just an anxious sucker, but after you get bit a couple times, it will be pretty easy to tell the difference. The trick to converting these takes into fish in the net is a good solid hook set. You want to make sure the fish is moving away from you and then set the hook hard back into the fish.

Occasionally, the muskies will just grab the suckers and not move. When this happens, I like to try to thumb the spool and put some pressure on the fish to see

if I can make him move. Sometimes it works, sometimes he still won't move and sometimes he just drops the sucker. If he drops the sucker, just put it back down. May times he will come right back and hit it again. If he still won't move, use your trolling motor to get right on top of the fish and give it a good solid hook set from directly above.

Remember, fall feeding windows can be short but intense. This is not a run-and-gun technique. Pick a location or two that you believe are holding fish and work them thoroughly. There is a good chance that when you get bit there are a couple more opportunities coming your way in short order. 

Clay Heller operates HP-Outdoors. He guides on the waters of southeastern Wisconsin from April through November. Contact Clay through his website at hp-outdoors.com or at 920.256.0648.

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BUSHNELL: SCOUT DX 1000 ARC

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bushnell.com



BREAKTHROUGH: GUN SOLVENT

I find that I date myself a lot in these reviews, but I grew up in an era where if a gun cleaning solvent didn't stink up the room and eat your skin, it probably wasn't working. Times certainly have changed. Breakthrough is a powerful cleaner that conforms to MIL-PRF-68C, Type II, which

means that it's not toxic or a carcinogen and isn't a hazardous air pollutant. In a nutshell, it's user- and eco-friendly. While I haven't done a scientific test on it, I will say that it cleans just as well, if not better, than any other gun cleaning solvent I've used. There isn't a sacrifice of performance for it to be a green product. It's also not water-based, for those who object to water in their gun cleaners. Non-corrosive, does not freeze, and non-flammable. Spray bottles come in 2-ounce (\$8.95) and 6-ounce (\$16.95), as well as various bulk sizes. OWO tested and recommended.

breakthroughclean.com



RINEHART: WOODLAND 20-INCH ARCHERY TARGET

In case you haven't heard, this Janesville, Wisconsin, company makes the best archery targets in the business. Using their FX series foam, Rinehart targets have a reputation for toughness, and the Woodland 20-inch holds up that reputation. It consists of six sides with over 40 shootable dots and a molded-in carry handle. It stops field points and broadheads, and I've used it for bow and crossbow. (It's rated up to 320fps.) It's listed as being good for fixed and mechanical broadheads, but I've only used fixed on it, so I can't confirm mechanical. It allows for easy arrow removal, though I've found crossbow bolts to be a little tougher to remove, due to much higher penetration. It's a tough target with enough mass so that it's not moving around or falling over with every shot. \$159.99. OWO tested and recommended.

rinehart3d.com

AMERICAN EAGLE: AR 5.56 FRESH FIRE PACK, 30-ROUNDS

This is quite possibly the best packaging of ammunition ever. It's completely waterproof and nitrogen packed to prevent corrosion and to make it impervious to any weather condition. This means that taking it from the freezing outdoors to the balmy

confines of your car or dwelling won't cause condensation. It's smaller than it looks in pictures, so a food label, such as Vienna Sausages, wraps nicely around it for the ultimate in inconspicuous storage. It's also smartly packaged with one 30-round can filling one 30-round magazine. It's rugged, stackable, has a pull-top lid, and comes with a plastic lid for resealing. It's 5.56x45 NATO and comes in XM855 62 grain FMJ (\$20.95) and XM193 55 grain FMJ (\$18.95). OWO tested and recommended.

federalpremium.com



GOPRO: SPORTSMAN MOUNT

I love recording my outdoor experiences, whether hunting or fishing. The camera that I've found to produce the best image quality in a compact camera is the GoPro 3. GoPro has always had a vast array of mounting options, but until now there's been a lack of options for the hunter and fisherman. The Sportsman's mount changes all of that. It allows the mounting of the GoPro on fishing poles, bows, crossbows, shotguns, revolvers and rifles. It mounts onto any of those items that has a diameter of .4 inches to .9 inches, and I've mounted mine on a 1-inch scope. Can be mounted centered or to the side. It even comes with a mount for two cameras—one pointing outward towards the target and one pointing rearward towards the shooter. Great for



catching your expression as you make that shot of a lifetime. It also works with the GoPro 4, just released as I write this. \$69.99. OWO tested and recommended.

gopro.com

CARBON EXPRESS: CROSSBOW XT DUAL BLADE, SERRATED

If ever a broadhead looked wicked, this one does. It's essentially a single-blade broadhead, with a small perpendicular blade. Except, instead of having one perpendicular blade as is customary, this one has two. It very much resembles an F-18 Tomcat Fighter Jet. All of this equals six



cutting edges, which Carbon Express boasts as providing 250 percent greater wound opening, which means more blood, thus faster expiration. It also makes for a larger blood trail and quicker recovery. It has fixed serrated blades and cuts on contact. Its aerodynamic profile gives it field point accuracy with minimal point of impact shift when switching out between the two. I have switched to these this fall and am very happy so far. I have not taken a deer with it yet, so I cannot attest to the wound opening but am happy with accuracy and durability. One hundred percent spin tested. They are priced to not break the bank. \$28.99 (Retail) OWO tested and recommended.

carbonexpressarrows.com

If you have recommendations for good gear that works for you, tell us about it at ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

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- 1** Connect with onwisconsinoutdoors.com
- 2** Click on the "Explore Wisconsin" page tab
- 3** Click on any county ... and explore!

The charter fishing season draws to an end for the year with the closing of the marina on November 1. But never fear, the fishing from shore is great this time of year. Drop a line; you will have plenty of company, regardless of the weather. For all the activities we have to offer, **click on Ozaukee County.**

Follow the Mural Brick Road through Ashland County. View our stunning murals, play the game and you could win \$500! **November:** 8th - Chick-uamegon Women's 5K/10K Run/Walk & 20-Mile Bike Race. 28th-day after Thanksgiving sales. **December:** Christmas Cash Raffle. Daily drawing for Chamber Dollars! 6th - Garland City of the North Christmas Parade, 4:30 p.m., historic Main Street. **Click on Ashland County.**

With hundreds of miles of ATV and snowmobile trails, over 300,000 acres of public forest land and 18,000 acres of water, including 174 lakes, trout streams and three major rivers, it is not difficult to understand why your next vacation destination should be in Price County. Order trail maps today! **Click on Price County.**

Sparta offers a lot this time of year. Motorcycling, horseback riding, kayaking, hunting and fishing—you name it. Bring your snowmobile up for 300 miles of groomed trails. Enjoy the local shopping, dining and peaceful, friendly relaxing times. Sparta—a great spot in Western Wisconsin. **Click on Monroe County.**

A Wisconsin tradition, **ice fishing** offers some great family time as well as team-building opportunities for corporate groups. Professional ice guides target crappie, walleye, white bass on Lake Winnebago and Fox Lake. Don't forget about the spring and summer Lake Michigan charters and fall river fishing opportunities with Wolf Pack Adventures. Looking for a unique gift idea? Consider a gift certificate for outdoor fishing and hunting adventures! **Click on Sheboygan County.**

November 1 is Bird Migration Day. Fall colors fantastic along Hwy 35. Raptors migrating south, so bring binoculars. Fall fishing and hunting in full swing. Walleye fishing on Mississippi River is fabulous! **Click on Crawford County.**

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SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes by Suzette

Tried and true venison recipes

The fall hunting season is well under way, and I am busy planning new menus for our household. It's always fun to try some new things, but these are a couple of my tried-and-true favorites that I know will find their way to our table in the upcoming weeks. Enjoy!

Venison Stew

- ½ pound bacon
- 2 pounds venison, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 2 medium onions, sliced into rings
- 3 cups boiling water
- 6 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces
- 8 oz. mushrooms, whole (I like them whole or sliced once in half)
- 3 T. cornstarch

Sprinkle paprika, salt and pepper over venison and set aside. Over medium high heat, cook bacon in a Dutch oven until crisp. Crumble bacon in pan with wooden spoon; add meat and onions and sauté in bacon grease until meat is browned and onions are translucent. Add boiling water to pan and stir into meat mixture. Cover pan; turn heat to low and continue to cook until meat is almost tender (one to two hours depending on cut). Add potatoes and mushrooms; cover and again continue to cook over low heat until potatoes are cooked through.

Once potatoes are cooked and meat is tender, remove both from pan along with mushrooms and onions; set aside and keep warm. Place cornstarch and about ¼ to ½ cup stock in small jar with tight-fitting lid; shake vigorously to mix. Pour cornstarch mixture into pan; raise heat to medium high and stir constantly until mixture has thickened. Add meat, mushrooms, potatoes and onions back into pan. Serve immediately.

This dish is wonderful with a crusty bread and olive oil dipping sauce on the side.

Mediterranean Venison

- 1 lb. venison, sliced into strips (preferably a tender cut)
- 1 T. butter
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 medium onion, sliced into rings
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- ¾ cup flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dried dillweed
- 1 cup ripe olives, sliced
- 1 tomato, cut into wedges

Heat butter and oil in large pan. Sauté garlic and onions until onions become translucent; add venison and continue to sauté until meat has browned. Cover pan and lower heat to keep meat mixture warm. (I like my venison rare, so I just barely brown it before I cover the pan; however, if you prefer, you may cook the venison more thoroughly before lowering the heat.)

In saucepan over low to medium heat, combine mayonnaise and flour; gradually add milk while stirring. Continue to cook and stir until mixture thickens; blend in salt and dillweed.

Place meat on serving platter; pour sauce over meat mixture and top with sliced olives and tomato wedges.

This is great served over extra wide egg noodles.

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.



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Red-tailed hawk



Few birds are as adaptable as the red-tailed hawk. From farm country, prairie grasslands and light woods to roadsides, parks and even yards and gardens, these amazing raptors thrive across Wisconsin's open areas. It's especially common to see red-tails perched on roadside light poles and signposts as the hawks watch for prey in the grassy right-of-way.

Look for a large raptor (over two feet tall), brown on top with a creamy, streaked belly. The namesake tail is cinnamon- or brick-red above and pale orange below. An impressive wingspan spreads four feet.

Appreciate the red-tail's service to humans. These hawks hunt mice, voles, gophers and rats. Red-tails will also take a few rabbits and squirrels and, rarely, some songbirds.

Understand red-tailed hawk hunting techniques: perch and peer for prey,

then launch and pounce; or soar and watch for rustlings below, then dive and hit.

Listen for the red-tail's haunting call as it flies: a descending keeee-arrrr scream that could be described as hoarse, raspy or shrill.

Did you know that a red-tailed hawk's vision is eight to 10 times better than a human's? We can see a mouse at 30 feet; the red-tail can see it from a football field away! *WO*

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



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- 17-1/4" x 12" foot platform
- 19-1/2" x 15" seat
- Attaches with one ratchet strap and two ladder stabilizing ropes
- Includes full-body harness
- Rated load capacity: 300 lbs. 175-8671

16' TRAIL BREAKER LADDER STAND

- 17-1/4" x 12" foot platform with flip-up foot rest
- 19-1/2" x 15" padded seat
- Padded arm rests and shooting rail
- Attaches with one ratchet strap
- Includes full-body harness
- Rated load capacity: 300 lbs. 175-8681

17-1/2' LANCER LADDER STAND

- 24" x 23" foot platform with flip-up foot rest
- 25" x 13" padded flip-up seat with back rest
- Padded arm rests and shooting rail
- Attaches with one ratchet strap
- Includes full-body harness
- Rated load capacity: 300 lbs. 175-8684

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LINDEMAN, from page 23

lease trolling weights hoping something, preferably walleyes, would be looking to load up on a big fall meal. Our trolling passes skirted the shallow humps to position boards shallower to one side and deeper to the other. Our classic recon set up was put in motion. Each of the six rods pulled the same shallow diving lures with equal line distances. Only the size of the KFin weight varied.

It didn't take long for the outside/shallow board to drift back. After clearing the two inside boards, my fishing buddy, Jon Markley of Appleton, had a nice battle with a fat Sturgeon Bay smallie and I boated a drum.

A bit later we yielded to an anchored boat and headed into deeper water farther off the hump when the inside shallow board was crushed. Sometimes it pays to be nice. Buddy Jon didn't know it at the time, but he had just begun an epic battle with a 47-inch northern.

After landing the brute, we almost passed on a picture. Jon's arms were toast from the fight. Since I got the board and weight off without losing the fish, then completed the deal with an awesome net job, I thought I earned the right to pose with the fish. So I did.

Pretty sure I boated another drum when Jon hooked up with another re-

spectable northern. The 34-incher was game but seemed tiny compared to our earlier monster. Jon was able to hoist that fish for a photo. If you haven't noticed, Jon and I take turns when we get bit. We have friends that pick a side of the boat and take only the bites from that side. Crazy!

Not only had we audibled to sheltered water to fish, but we also found fish to catch.

Another audible is the quarry boat launch side of Sturgeon Bay. Waves were battering that shoreline all day long. This area has large shallow flats that fall off into much deeper water. All that moving water was pushing baitfish up on that ledge.

Sturgeon Bay is also home to Larson's Reef and Sherwood Point Shoal located out in the bay. On calmer nights this is a premier destination for trophy walleyes November to freeze up. The audibles don't stop there. Consider the edges of Sturgeon Bay's shipping channel, as well as shoreline drop offs heading south out of Sturgeon Bay.

By calling an audible or two and fishing an area like Sturgeon Bay, you can quickly turn a potentially lost day on the water into something worth your while. Unfortunately, I could not check on all

those spots since my innards started turning the moment we left our protected area. Here's to a stronger stomach next time. *OWO*

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.



The fall day was nearly lost to monster waves on Green Bay's open water, but OWO contributing writer John Lindeman called an audible that lead to this Sturgeon Bay trophy.

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WILKERSON, from page 14

has simple, yet rugged, sights and even floats. Weighing less than four pounds, the little rifle's weight would hardly be noticeable while hiking in the hinter lands.

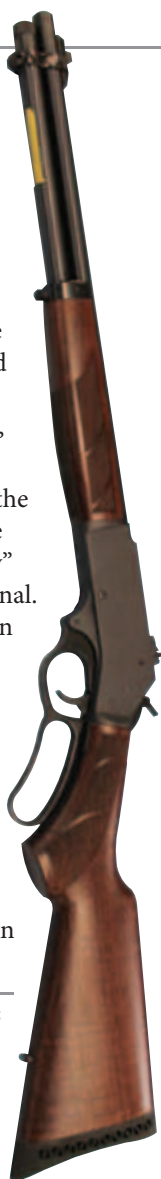
Traditionally-styled firearms are what Anthony Imperato has been best known for over decades. Anthony and his father made thousands of replica pistols for Colt. The first series of Imperato- manufactured cap 'n ball revolvers were delivered to Colt for final inspection. Colt was so impressed with the Imperatos' work that they later allowed them to use the Colt name on the final Signature Series of revolvers, which did not go to Colt for final inspection.

The Colt Signature Series was discontinued in 2003, but the firm's Henry Repeating Rifle replica is destined to enjoy the same respect as the Imperato Colt reproductions. The "new" Henry Repeating Rifle is a near duplicate of the 1860s original. The only, barely, discernible difference is that today's version fires the .44-40 round rather than the antiquated and virtually un-obtainable .44 rimfire of the original.

Whether it's a stunning recreation of an original historical firearm, pump, lever, or semiautomatic action, rimfire or large caliber, all Henry rifles are a great value "Made in America or Not Made at All," according to the company's slogan. Many of these fine firearms are now made here in our state.


They may be destined to be the guns that make Wisconsin famous. 

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

**MANNING, from page 16**

This isn't to say the G42 is flawless. For one, it holds six rounds and I would have loved to see it in seven or eight. However, Glock is the master at cramming as many rounds as possible into a magazine, and I do believe that given their target grip size, engineers packed as many rounds as they could into it. Second, I still wish it were 9mm.

There have been reports of feed issues with the G42. I don't have confirmation on this, but other articles and reviews speak of issues with overpowered loads (+P) and underpowered loads, primarily those under 90 grains. Even though this is still uncharacteristic of a Glock pistol, it doesn't affect standard loads. I fired 100 rounds of Remington UMC 88 grain JHP and 50 rounds of Blazer 95 grain FMJ and I had the same ol' Glock reliability. I didn't have one single issue other than a bad case of love at first shoot.

I bought my sample though I promised myself I wouldn't. I don't need a .380 because I already have two. Then I held it, fired it and found out the problem: my other two .380s aren't Glocks. I like the G42 for the trigger, the accuracy and the Glock reliability. So I bought it. 


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

WILKERSON, from page 17

to accuracy, and this kind of attention to detail isn't going to be found on most factory firearms.

Help, guidance and attention to detail are yours for the asking when you purchase your parts at Midwest Industries. Trust me, you can assemble an AR15, and with Andy's help you know it will be in-spec and rival many factory models. I cannot overemphasize his assistance. I have a much better gun than I would have had it not been brought to Andy for review.

My AR15 is an ongoing project. In the future I will be purchasing a butt stock, pistol grip and optic geared towards making a more specialized target rifle. Who knows? I may one day buy a target barrel and trigger. In the meantime, I have a good-looking, accurate, reliable AR15 inspected and brought to spec by a trained armorer.

For more information about Midwest Industries, visit their retail store at W292 S4498 Hillside Road in Waukesha, call them at 262.896.6780 or see their web site at midwestindustriesinc.com. 

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

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