

FREE

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Vol. 9, Issue 3



On Wisconsin Outdoors



with the
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A True Blessing

Wisconsin collegiate scholarship angler finds inspiration in success of challenged professional

Sometimes it is hard to filter through a lot of today's media, being filled with self-pretention, hypocrisy, and negativity. Fortunately, though, great stories and remarkable human beings still exist and continue to make a tremendous impact among society. It is worthy to talk about the people in our outdoor community who are incredible heroes, inspirational icons and genuine individuals.

An example that continues to inspire outdoorsmen and women is professional angler Clay Dyer. The sport of bass fishing is extremely dependent on coordination. The ability to stand, cast and fight fish during an eight-hour tournament day relies

constantly on working with the hands and feet. Imagine if those parts of the body didn't exist. Fishing would be impossible, right? Not for Clay Dyer.

Clay, of Alabama, was born in 1978 without any legs and only one partial arm with no hand. He was introduced to fishing at age five, and from there a natural obsession of competition took hold of him. He fell in love with bass fishing and wasn't going to let his setbacks deter him from being able to fish. By age 15 he began fishing tournaments, and in a matter of only two years he became a pro at age 17 by entering in the FLW Tour. He's won several state and regional tournaments and proves that he can

compete with any level of angler.

So exactly how does he do it? Clay's abilities to cast, retrieve and fight fish are among the most impressive athletic feats in all of sports. He first taught himself at an early age by watching anglers' (both on TV and in person) mechanics. Then, when he was able to possess his first rod and reel, the challenge of finding his comfort level began. Clay tried several styles, forms and techniques until he found the ones that fit and made him most efficient.

He uses strictly baitcasting rods, and he finds balance by placing the rod handle on his shoulder while controlling the reel under his chin. Then he uses his body for



Clay's abilities to cast, retrieve and fight fish are impressive.

momentum to cast and reels in with his arm. To see how efficient Clay has become with all of these mechanics and how fluid everything "seems" is incomprehensible. Just watching him fish is a true blessing in itself and can humble a man in any shoes he stands in.

Clay coined a phrase in which he uses as motivation to those he speaks in front of, be it a charity, church, school, or company, and it really puts things into perspective: "If I can, you can." He doesn't use this advice

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PHIL SCHWEIK

Open Water Homework

Hardwater payoff

“Where in the heck are we going?” my client asked as we headed across the hardwater on the middle of the lake. When we stopped at a location nowhere near any visible structure or shoreline, he looked at me in disbelief. There were no old holes, no tire tracks and no people; virgin territory stretched on.

He gave me an incredulous look. But what he didn’t know is that I had worked the spot previously, just not when there was ice on the water. Two months earlier during a late summer trip I had used my boat to gain an education on this precise lake, knowing that the ice fishing season would be here soon enough. I was doing my homework, knowing that by spending time on the water early the effort would make ice fishing later easier, more enjoyable and a lot more productive.

As professional guides year round whose job security

depends on our clients catching fish, we target numerous lakes and rivers on the open water that we know we will also be fishing on the ice. To gain that education on a particular body of water, we tour the lake ... without fishing. The lake is slowly scouted and documented by running several courses back and forth and around the perimeter of the lake in our boats, using our side imaging units as our essential research tool.

Where traditional sonar units and locators will cover approximately a 3-foot diameter in 10 feet of water, our side-imaging units are set to capture a large area of bottom set anywhere from 150 to 300 feet across depending on the system. By doing this I can make a few passes across the lake and effectively locate and record every piece of structure that looks promising. I run a Hummingbird 1199 with side imaging and an 11-inch screen, which makes all the difference in the world when locating and evaluating specific structure.



Jarod Leudtke, Andy Hoppa, Duane Creviston, and Andy Teller with some jumbo perch they caught from a central Wisconsin lake while fishing with Hooksetters guides Phil Schweik and Adam Rasmussen.

By scouting the lake with side-imaging you can mark anything from weed beds and weed points to drop-offs and break lines, to cribs and other structure. Putting your side-imaging unit to work finding underwater structure provides an unbelievable advantage. What in

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WAYNE MORGENTHALER

A Fun Piece Of Ice Fishing Equipment

Make yourself a tip-down for pan fishing

Just as I thought that life was getting a little boring on the ice, my friend introduced me to a piece of ice fishing equipment that is a lot of fun as long as the wind doesn't blow too hard: the tip-down. Using odds and ends from your wood working projects, it is very inexpensive to make.

To create your own tip-down, use 2 X 2 boards, two bolts with fitting wing nuts, four short wood screws, and part of a coat hanger. As shown in the picture, the longest outside two



A typical tip-down.

pieces of wood are 18 inches and the inside two shorter pieces are 16 inches. I then cut two 6-inch wood pieces and use them to connect all four pieces of wood going across.

I took my old ice fishing pole and drilled a hole through the handle big enough to get a short piece of a metal coat hanger through it. You might have to drill more than one hole through the pole in order to get it

to balance correctly. I cut a groove in the top two boards for the coat hanger to lie in. The trick is to get the pole to balance in an up angle so that when the fish bites, the rod tips down. I like to use a small treble tipped with a crappie minnow. Make sure to tighten the line so that the reel will not let any line out.

There is a lot of trial and error that needs to take place at home in the garage. My favorite practice is to set the tip-down up on my bench and wait for my lovely wife to come home. When she gets out of the car and slams the door, the rod



Tip-downs in action and ready for a bite.

should tip down.

I love to use these set-ups for crappies that are a few feet below the ice. I also like to put a really small orange bobber about six inches above the ice. This way, I can see if the minnow is getting excited because of a fish in the area. If you are slow a foot, keep the tip-down a short distance away. This is also a great way for youth to fish and lets them get up and walk around.

Try a tip-down and see how you like it. When you make something and then have success, it gives you a sense of satisfaction. This type of ice fishing is super toward spring when the fish are just below the ice. I think the pictures will give you enough information to come up with a good prototype.

Enjoy the winter and take a friend fishing. *WM*

Wayne Morgenthaler has fished southwestern Wisconsin for the past 45 years. He has written outdoor articles for MidWest News' website under the name Little Bobber. A retired high school teacher and coach, Wayne is married with three children.

MIKE YURK

Bassology

MIDWEST ICE FISHING HOTSPOTS - PART TWO:

Red Lake and Lake of the Woods

The Midwest is blessed with some of the best ice fishing in the country. Two of the finest walleye ice fishing lakes are Upper Red Lake and Lake of the Woods in northern Minnesota. Last issue we covered the similarities between these lakes along with Devils Lake in North Dakota. Now we focus on northern Minnesota.

Upper Red Lake

Upper Red Lake has a most unique history. It is a split lake. Lower Red Lake and the southwestern half of Upper Red Lake are controlled by the Red Lake Indian Reservation, where only tribal members are allowed access. However, the eastern half of Upper Red Lake, consisting of 48,000 acres, is open to all fishermen.

The town of Waskish on the eastern side of Upper Red Lake is ground zero to the lake's great ice fishing. There are numerous access points to the lake. Most places charge a \$10 per day fee to use them, but they also maintain plowed roads throughout the eastern part of Upper Red Lake.

There are several local bait shops providing baits, lures and information as well as resorts, dining and ice house rentals.

Many ice house rentals have sleepers where you can stay on the ice the entire time. The company I have used is Spider Johnson's Fish House Rental. They can be contacted at 320.304.1617. When researching resorts, ice

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Daniel Wiggins, grandson of Terry and Marlene Virden of Minocqua, shows off a walleye he caught while ice fishing with his grandparents on Red Lake.

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DAVID DUWE

Ice Fishing For Kids!

Making memories that will last a lifetime

With the existence of the Internet it has been almost impossible to get kids to play outside or enjoy the outdoors. Most kids are always “plugged in” to their phones or computers. This is a big factor in the decline of the fishing industry as a whole. Given that fact, I take every opportunity to introduce someone to the sport I love and make my livelihood at. Teaching people how to fish is my small way to pay it forward.

Taking first timers ice fishing is a little trickier. The air is cold, the snow is deep and, quite frankly, the fish don't usually bite as well as they do in the summer months. All considered, you need to really plan for the trip out on the ice. Safety is paramount, so safe ice is the number one requirement. After that, factor in the best way to stay warm and comfortable.

Ice fishing is a fun family activity that will create memories for a lifetime. As a professional fishing guide, I have been teaching both young and old to fish for over 25 years. Most of my clients think that fishing in the winter is crazy. When taking beginners ice fishing, the key is

to make it enjoyable. If you get too cold, you probably aren't having fun. Warm boots and dressing in layers is the most critical first step. With young kids involved, it's also wise to bring plenty of extra mittens and a few snacks.

It seems to be easier for the novice if you choose a lake with a shallow water fishery. When with first-timers, I like working water depths of less than 10 feet. Some of my favorite lakes in southern Wisconsin are Lake Mendota in Dane County and Lake Como and Delavan Lake in Walworth County. Lake Mendota and Delavan Lake have an ample supply of both bluegills and northerns that dwell in the shallows. Lake Como is a numbers lake for the northern pike.

I know that keeping it simple allows more success and less aggravation for everyone; ice fishing is no exception. When panfishing, I like to use quality, inexpensive jig poles. A reel is not needed in shallow water. As a rule, when I am jig fishing, I use 2-pound line or smaller; however, when novice anglers are involved, I go a bit larger to 4-pound test. The jigs I prefer are from Lindy, especial-

ly the Lindy Toad in a dark color. I prefer a size 12 or 14 for panfish, tipped with spikes or waxworms.

The tip-ups I prefer are the Arctic Fisherman-Beaver Dam. The sturdy construction and smooth spindle can take the abuse an inexperienced fisherman can give them. The baits of choice are large golden shiners. A good rule of thumb is placing your baits about a foot off the weeds.

If available, a good fish locator will add to the fishing success. I usually have my Vexilar FL-12 along, which adds some extra entertainment. It also gives you a better indication of where the fish are in the water column.

As mentioned earlier, safety has to be the top priority followed by snacks and drinks. When my son was little, it was not uncommon for me to have five pair of extra gloves, socks and more warm clothes. When you are cold, you will not have fun. That is a fact for any outdoor activity.

Take a kid ice fishing. You won't regret it. Pay it forward to the future of the



Author's son, Nathan, checking to see if he has a big one.



Bryan Mazer with a Lake Como northern.

sport. Remember, it's not so much about how much or what you catch; it's about being there together. *WD*

Dave Duwe is owner of Dave Duwe's Guide Service and guides the lakes of southeastern Wisconsin, specializing in Delavan Lake and Lake Geneva. Find him at fishlakegeneva.com or fishdelavanlake.com or contact him at 262.728.8063.

JERRY KIESOW

Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

Will you be taking advantage of Wisconsin's new trout rules?

An email from the Department of Natural Resources came the other day. (It's November as I write this.) It said: “An expanded early trout season that opens Jan. 2 will give Wisconsin anglers one more reason to love winter.”

“Ok. That's good,” I thought to myself. “That means I can scratch my itch to fly fish for trout in a greater number of places.”

Then I wondered how many of our readers know about this and decided to spread the word. So now you know, but,

of course, there is more to the story.

Normally, when I wanted to fish for trout after the first of the year but before the first Saturday in March, I'd drive down to the Paradise/Scuppernong Springs in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit. They were the only trout waters that opened that early. Now I have other options.

Now I can go to any of the streams in the 2015-2016 trout regulations listed under “Early catch and release season for trout,” “March 7 to April 26, 2015,” check

out the counties for which streams are open, and fish them (per the regulations, of course: catch and release, artificial only). This expanded early season runs from 5:00 A.M. on January 2 until Friday, May 6, 2016. The regular trout season opens Saturday, May 7, 2016.

According to that press release email: “Joanna Griffin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources trout specialist, said the expanded early season was developed in response to feedback from anglers, and the resulting rule received extensive public review.

“We appreciate the angler interest in our world class trout waters, and we believe the early catch and release season will provide exciting opportunities while protecting the resource.”

Griffin added: “We hope that by providing more opportunities we will recruit more people to trout fishing and the extended seasons will have a positive impact on the local economies.”

How did all this come about?

The Department held more than 30

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GARY ENGBERG

Gary Engberg Outdoors

Lake Wisconsin's winter hot spots

Recently, I did a driving tour around south-central Wisconsin's Lake Wisconsin to check out the ice conditions and if any fish were biting. This 10,000-acre flowage is located in Sauk and Columbia Counties, within a few miles of Interstate 90-94 (exit at Highway CS and go west). The lake, or flowage, was formed by damming the Wisconsin River at Wisconsin Dells and Prairie du Sac. The water between the two dams is Lake Wisconsin, though it actually is a flowage. Alliant Power Company, which owns and operates the dams, maintains a constant water level due to the high-dollar homes on the lake. With high water, more water is pushed through the dams to prevent flooding. This constant water flow allows the lake to totally replace its water every four days.

The constant current in the main lake makes fishing near the lake's channel dangerous, so the majority of the fishing is done in the lakes' many bays and backwaters. Lake Wisconsin contains every game fish you can find in Wisconsin. Though known mostly for its walleye fishing, few walleyes are actually caught during the winter months. Sauger seems to be more aggressive and to bite better in the winter. The best spots that I have found for saugers are on the inside breaks off the main channel of the lake. The area between Okee and the ferry crossing is a good spot for setting up tip-ups. (Beaver Dam or Frabill make good ones.) Northern and musky are rarely caught in the winter, so I prefer to use fathead or chubs as bait versus shiners.

The set-up I use is very simple and regularly catches fish. I spool my tip-ups with HT's Polar Ice Line (in 40# test), which is a braided, low-stretch Dacron line made for cold weather fishing. To this line I tie a barrel swivel, then one to two feet of Berkley Vanish fluorocarbon in 8 to 10# test, and finally a sharp VMC treble hook in 8# or 10. Now bait your set-up with a nice 3- to 4-inch fathead and you're set for some action. Make sure that your treble hooks are sharp and use enough split shot to get your minnow to the bottom. Saugers, like walleyes, are going to be close to the bottom, so set your bait six to 12 inches off the lake's bottom.

Most ice anglers come to Lake Wisconsin in the winter for panfishing. Crappies and bluegills are common in most of the bays and inlets. Anglers use super sensitive rods, light line (4# or less), a reel lubricated with graphite powder, and have an assortment of ice jigs in all sizes, shapes and colors. Dots, teardrops, rat finkies, rockers, shrimpos, and the new Cobra jig by Bait Rigs should all be in your fishing arsenal. If you're fishing dark stained water, glow jigs seem to out-fish conventional colors.

The numerous bays of Lake Wisconsin hold panfish. Places worth trying are North and South




Eric Olson and family fishing the Triangle in Madison.



Nice Lake Wisconsin bluegills.

Weigan's Bay, Okee Bay, Sunset Bay, Moon Valley, Whalens Grade, Gallus Slough, and Harmony Grove. A good map (try Mapping Specialists) of the lake will show these spots and give you a place to start. There are numerous springs in these bays, and the warmer water seems to attract fish. There are crappies in the 10- to 12-inch size and some bigger, while the bluegills run 7 to 8 inches with the occasional 9- to 10-incher. The limit is any combination of panfish adding up to 25 fish. By the time you read this there will be plenty of ice on Lake Wisconsin. But stay away from the main channel and any pressure cracks that you may see.

Finally, a good flasher makes fishing easier. (Vexilar, MarCum, and Nature Vision all make good units.) Electronics are great when fishing deeper water where you can mark individual or schools of fish. Most of the fishing in the lakes' bays doesn't require electronics because you're fishing in water only six feet and less.

Lake Wisconsin is a good winter panfish lake well worth fishing. But remember to be careful and keep moving till you find the active fish. 

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208 or gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com, or visit garyengbergoutdoors.com. Contacts: Wilderness Fish and Game: 608.643.2433, McFarland's True Value: 608.643.3321. Guides: Wally Banfi: 608.644.9823, Ron Barefield: 608.235.7685.

ENGBERG, from page 5

house rentals and fishing reports, make sure to check size and possession limits for walleyes as it can change during the season.

Fishing minnows under slip bobbbers has been the most productive. Tip-ups also work well. In addition to walleyes, Upper Red Lake has yellow perch, big crappies and huge northern pike. Northern pike in excess of 40 inches is not uncommon.

Lake of the Woods lies a little over an hour drive north of Red Lake. It continues to have the reputation of being the premier walleye fishing destination in the Midwest. The western half of this massive lake is American waters with the other half belonging to Canada.

Lake Of The Woods

From Baudette to Warroad on the southern end of the lake, numerous resorts and ice house rentals cater to both experienced and novice ice fishermen. They make ice fishing easy and comfortable. One of the unique features at many of the resorts is the bombardiers. They are tracked vehicles holding up to a dozen fishermen with all their gear, dropping them off at their heated ice house.

Lake of the Woods has a diverse fishery. Most fishermen are there for the walleyes and saugers. There is a very generous bag limit during the ice fishing season, allowing eight combined walleyes and saugers to be kept. Of the eight, only four of them can be walleyes and all walleyes from 19 1/2 to 28 inches must be released.

In addition, we normally catch several nice-sized yellow perch. There are also northern pike, crappies, tullibee, and eelpout.

The key to catching fish on Lake of the Woods is to keep your bait close to the bottom. I normally have one rod with a hook and split shot sinker under a slip bobber positioned two to six inches off the bottom.

The other rod is rigged with an ice jig. Any number of jigs works well. My favorites are Buckshot Spoons by Northland, the Jigging Shad Rap and the Jigging Rap by Rapala, and the old standby, the Swedish Pimple. Jigs in 1/8- to 1/24-ounce work well. Gold is hands down the most productive color. On the few days when gold isn't working try anything with chartreuse.

The resort I have been frequenting for a number of years is Arnesen's Rocky Point Resort near Roosevelt, Minnesota. They can be contacted at 800.535.7585.

For more information on Lake of the Woods, other resorts and ice house rentals, contact Lake of the Woods Tourism at info@lakeofthewoodsmn.com, or call them at 800.382.3474.



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.



Bombardiers are tracked vehicles taking ice fishermen to their ice houses on Lake of the Woods.

KRIS NEILSON

Starting A Musky Lure Business

The first question to ask yourself is, "Why?"

In 2012, I became part owner of Nauti Lures. I was one of very few women in a male-dominated business. Our first show was in Madison in 2013. We were excited to promote our lures with catchy names, fun shirts and a brand that made you think twice. We had three career salespeople with extensive experience in retail and business management, though only one of us had ever musky fished. Our show season was hugely successful and we had a lot of fun at those shows. The lures were a big hit, as was the brand.

I talked to other vendors at the shows and remember wondering why some of them seemed so gloomy. Why weren't they having fun? Why weren't they more excited about their lures? Over the next year I found out why.

In addition to the full-time jobs we had, the business consumed a lot of our "free" time and eventually it was no longer as fun. Ultimately, I became the sole owner of the business and had not even caught a musky yet. That shocked many people until I explained that I was experienced in running a business, the fishing was a small percentage of it, and I had people helping me with that part. That's what a pro staff and great guides are for.

The reasons why people run their own musky lure business are varied. Some want to fund their fishing habit and make their boat payment, and some actually

think they are going to make lots of money. The reality is you have to take the words "musky lure" out of it. You are running a business. By doing so, you are choosing to take on the roles of research and development, production, sales and marketing manager, website administrator, social media guru, graphic designer, apparel buyer, brand manager, bookkeeper, tax accountant, videographer, customer service manager, inventory manager, public relations manager, etc.

Where does fishing fall on the list? At the very bottom.

This is my advice to anyone wanting to start up and run a musky lure business:

- Define the difference between having a hobby and running a business. (Don't confuse them.)
- Do your research. (It's a niche market with a lot of competition.)
- Know your competition! (Be unique; set yourself apart.)
- Make friends. (You can't afford enemies. Bad blood will sink you.)
- Be prepared to sacrifice. (Time on the water, hunting time, family time, ice fishing time. Your holidays may be shortened so that you can make more lures in time for the fishing shows.)

- Have a plan and know your goals. (Identify exactly what you hope to gain and talk to someone who has been successful in the business.)

- Learn how to run a business. (It is mostly sales and marketing. Be credible and knowledgeable. Tournament anglers are no good if they have no personality and don't know how to aggressively sell and market your product).
- Seek advice. (Know what you don't know; set aside your pride; ask for help.)
- Have fun. (It can be done. Be creative; be different.)

I sold my musky lure business earlier this year to a group of guys in central Wisconsin in order to focus my efforts on being more involved with connecting women to outdoor adventures, such as musky fishing. It's an exciting sport, and I will continue to follow my passion for the outdoors. I am running a new business now, taking all my own advice. *W*

Kris Neilson is the former owner of Nauti Lures and has just started Miss Guided Adventures, directing people to the best resources in fishing and other outdoor experiences. She lives in Wausau with her dog, Harry.



Kris Neilson, Owner of Miss Guided Adventures

DICK ELLIS

On Wisconsin Outdoors

Thank you ... and help wanted

From December 2014 through November 2015 more than 326,700 unique visitors delivered 5,202,955 hits to our website at onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Six times annually, 50,000 copies of our print issues disappear from the shelves across the state, anchored by the greatly-appreciated distribution help of 270 Wisconsin Kwik Trip stores.

We thank our readers, and we appreciate, too, every Wisconsin-based and national advertiser that helps us hand

you *On Wisconsin Outdoors* at no cost. We literally could not do this without them.

On Wisconsin Outdoors has almost 50 writers from Lake Superior to Lake Geneva, talking about their own areas of hunting and fishing expertise whether they're professional guides or outdoor journalists. We have a great designer in Ali Garrigan and a great editor in Heidi Rich, who really make this operation hum.

And what about you? If you are a Wisconsin fishing or hunting guide, at no cost we will post your outdoor reports, including your field photos and contact information, every week, online. Same thing with the calendar events or competitive results of other outdoor organizations like fishing clubs, dog training, shooting sports, etc.

If you are a talented writer, ethical, preferably with a love for Wisconsin and

continued on page 26

Dick Ellis and everyone at OWO wishes you a healthy New Year.... and more field time.



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TOM CARPENTER

Outdoor Journaling

A window to lasting memories, future success

You've probably heard this this age-old (and hopefully only theoretical) question asked during the course of some casual conversation: *What would you grab if your house were burning down?*

After the wife, kids and dog, the answer for me is clear: I'd go back in for my outdoor journals. (Note to wife: Yes, the pre-digital-age family photo albums are important, too, but they're your department.)

My outdoor journals date back to the time when I was old enough to put a written sentence together, which means the late 1960s. Other than a few fishing outings I must have taken before the age of seven, those journals document every outing or day I have spent fishing or hunting in my lifetime. That's a treasure on two counts.

First, the memories are recorded forever, and I can still picture the days like it was yesterday if I turn back to some random page—let's say the pheasant opener in 1983—and read the entry. (My brother was late coming down from Madison for



Pictures capture special moments in the outdoors. But an outdoor journal will make the entire adventure come alive again.

the noon start, so I left at 11:45, drove out to Albany alone, and shot my pre-scouted rooster from the weed-and-bramble patch around an abandoned homestead at 12:10.)

Second, the documented observations of the situations, scenarios and conditions provide a valuable source of data for future reference. My journals taught me that a soft October rain really puts whitetails on the move, the peak of the


spring white bass run out of Lake Pepin typically happens the first week of May, and turkeys gobble just as much on overcast mornings as clear ones.

The early fishing documents are rudimentary at best. On a big sheet of paper I created columns for every species of freshwater fish that lived in Wisconsin. The rows recorded the dates and places we went fishing. I would enter the number of species caught that day in the appropriate cell. Not surprisingly, it seems that the bluegill and bullhead columns were most used those early days, though trout started to show up a little later, and our annual Wisconsin River outings always helped add variety.

As time went on, my journals evolved with my commitment to the outdoors. I graduated from a simple sheet of paper recording only places and what was caught or killed to spiral notebooks with a paragraph or two of story and notations. For the last couple decades my journals are handwritten in blank leather-bound books, and sometimes I can't get all my thoughts about the day on one

page or even two.

While I still note what was caught or put in the bag and what the conditions were, the content these days seems to focus more on the experience. What Jupiter looked like hanging off the tip of a crescent moon as I walked to my stand under a million stars. The cedar waxwing that used my boat's gunnel as a perch from which to fly out and snatch flying insects. The jet-roar sound of a flock of blue-bills, wings locked against a November gale. The smell of bracken and aspen on a warm October afternoon in the grouse woods.

I suppose I should get busy this winter, start scanning all those old journals and save the pages to the digital cloud, just to be sure they're safe. I'll keep all the paper versions, of course. They are hands-on history, written on the days that every outdoor adventure of my life happened. Then I can be the one to go back in after the family albums! 

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

KIESOW, from page 7

public meetings, conducted three surveys, and convened additional task force meetings to develop these regulations.

Earlier we mentioned Paradise Springs. If you have not been there recently, it changed this past June. The

dam that holds the water from the springs in the springhouse collapsed. The pond all but dried up.

Since then the Department has removed some of the big trees that led to the collapse of the dam and are getting bids on fixing and/or replacing the dam.




For information on how you can become involved, go to saveparadisefish.com.

I have been assured by Anne Korman, superintendent KMSFSU, that some of the trout are still in the main channel holes, but, admittedly, it is not like it used to be.

Additional regulation changes include: the fall harvest season will extend from the current September 30 to October 15 in 2016, and there will be some simplifications in the regulations for the catch and digest season. I'll tell you about those next time.

Meanwhile, if you want additional specifics, visit DNR.wi.gov and search "trout review."

But now I have to organize my fly boxes and get to my tying bench. I am sure I will need some replacements sooner than I normally do.


See you in the river. 

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.

CHELMINIAC, from page 3

to force guilt or to have pity for him, rather by his situation he teaches the community something very special. Clay teaches about gratitude: being able to give thanks for what you do have instead of always asking the question "why this?" or "why me?"

This world isn't about living up to others' expectations or trying to prove something to someone. Instead, each person has the decision to either make the most of what they have or be content with mediocrity. Clay Dyer is the perfect example of this. He could've just accepted his disability at an early age, but, rather, he chose the other direction because he knew there was something more. He's not motivated by money, fame, or pride but is constantly empowered by what his father told him as a kid, "God doesn't make mistakes."

See Clay in action on the OWO homepage video at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com. 

Kyler Chelminiak grew up in Greenfield, and graduated from Whitnall. He is a collegiate angler on academic and fishing scholarship at Bethel University in McKenzie, Tennessee but still call Franklin, Wisconsin home. Aside from his devotion to bass fishing, Kyler embraces any and all activities in the outdoors with faith, family and friends.

MIKE FOSS

Field Lessons

Little details important to tagging big bears

Roused by the familiar sound growing louder in the distance, the big bear sluggishly lifts himself up from his midday slumber and into a sitting position. With hearing focused in the direction of what has become a routine and welcome clatter, he hesitates and stops breathing for moments at a time. He listens intently once again to the ATV motor he has learned to associate with the arrival of another meal.

The habitual feedings since spring is the reason he has staked claim to this bait station, never venturing too far from the sure thing that feeds his enormous hunger. As always, he is hungry on this day but he waits. He has gained experience the hard way and lived many years because of it. He has battled other bears and eluded man just to survive. The nasty scar delivered from another boar has healed nicely over the past winter's hibernation. But it is man he instinctively knows brings the greatest danger. He has become a mature, well-educated bear.

For the guide, today is different than all the months of visiting the bait stations have been since the first April day when the melting snow allowed him to start a few teaser baits. This is September and opening day. The guide nervously waits for the bear hunter to quickly but quietly become settled in his stand, and more time ticks by than he would like. The guide stalls on the

bait and delays his departure with one eye on the hunter. He knows the listening bears eager to approach the station are not far away. But with the delay the guide's established routine is broken or, at best, different. The old bear instinctively knows this; his survival skills are heightened further still.

As the sun fades the bear's growing hunger finally moves him. Mother Nature is prodding him to put on more weight for the coming winter. The big bear slowly makes his way to the bait station, methodically placing each padded foot softly on the well-worn trail he has made by approaching and leaving the bait day after day after day. He pauses every few steps. His mouth opens and closes. He sucks in great amounts of air, testing for any danger that may lie ahead. When it's there, his tremendous sense of smell has never failed him.

As he inches closer, the unfamiliar sounds from a few hours ago and the length of time it had taken the clatter of the bait station to depart inspires another change. He adjusts the approach slightly to more acutely play the wind for danger.

Behind the man now perched high in the tree, but still hidden and unrevealed, the monster bear that the hunter has high hopes of tagging is a mere 30 yards away. On this day, the black ghost waits for an hour, lifting his enormous head into a slight wind periodically until



A nice bear caught on a Mike Foss trail camera.

finally he finds the source that is delivering an uninterrupted message of danger. The bear slips away, never to return again during daylight hours.

The hunter will return to camp and report that no bear appeared on the bait this day. The big bear that has recently been on the station trail camera several times must have found another bait.

Unknown to most bear hunters, the story is too often real. The black bear, especially the animal that has survived many seasons, is wary and intelligent.

Whether you decide on a solo hunt or turn to a guide, proper preparation is mandatory to increasing your odds of

filling the tag. Little things can make a huge difference for a successful hunt.

Come along with us in each issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors* as we prepare for the 2016 hunt in September. As usual, we expect 100 percent shot opportunity for our clients. You can expect the shot, too. Find out how. *WO*

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. Go to northernwisconsinoutfitters.com or call them at 715.373.0344.



Mike Foss baits as his client climbs to a nearby stand.





LEE GATZKE

Necessary Coyote Control

The time has come for more coyote trapping and hunting

Coyote predation has always been an issue in rural areas, and now they're feasting on urban protein as well. Having coyotes arrive at a fresh deer kill you've made before you do and losing half a hind quarter to them before you chase them off is an all too common occurrence. Letting your schnauzer out the back door of your home in the city to relieve himself and having him disappear forever is another way coyotes make their presence felt. If coyotes only fed on rodents and backyard bunnies, we'd probably appreciate their cohabitation among us. When they eat our livestock, game birds, deer, and pets, they quickly earn our disdain. Coyote control is becoming a high priority and it's time to take action. When coyote numbers are high, as they are these days, getting their numbers down to levels humans can tolerate takes a lot of effort. Trapping is the most effective way to control them, and hunting is a distant second.

A trapper who runs coyote sets on some private ground my family deer hunts took five 'yotes in the field adjacent to the woods we hunt. He took 34 this year on his entire trapline of a few miles, all in the neighborhood of our



After trapping had removed dozens of coyotes in our local deer hunting area, we still saw plenty of them during the gun season.

hunting area. You'd think he'd have just about wiped out the local coyote population. Not so. We saw plenty of 'yotes during the gun deer season and managed to shoot a few more.

Opening morning of gun season my thoughts are concentrated on bagging a deer, bucks in particular, but this year when a pair of 'yotes showed up at 7:00 A.M., I didn't hesitate to shoot. My son had a similar experience on opening day, and together we took out a pair of them. Reducing coyotes at any opportunity is a priority for us since their num-

bers are so high where we hunt.

Although hunters see a fair amount of coyotes, we only lay eyes on a small percentage of their population since they are highly nocturnal. Trappers have a much better feel of how many 'yotes inhabit the landscape. Trappers also harvest many more coyotes than hunters do. While talking to trappers about their success at reducing coyote populations, you will find that it takes a lot of trapping over a number of years to be effective at reducing the population. If trapping is halted in an area for only a few

years, coyote numbers rebound quickly. I personally can't thank trappers enough for their help in controlling coyote numbers. Coyotes kill a lot of whitetail fawns, and at certain times of the year also take their toll on adult whitetails.

With deer numbers on the decline, controlling coyotes is important to help deer try to maintain their population. If you are fortunate enough to have a trapper harvesting coyotes in your hunting area, be thankful for their efforts and treat them like the valuable partner they are. We need more of them. Even the non-hunting city dwellers are beginning to understand the valuable role trappers play in controlling varmints. Thank you, Wisconsin trappers.

Hunters need to do more to harvest these over-abundant carnivores. Take up coyote hunting this winter and do your part to help reduce coyote numbers. *WG*

Lee Gatzke is co-owner of NextBuk Outdoors, producers of tactical hunting videos. In grade school he chased rabbits with his homemade bow and arrows, which lead to a passion for hunting bigger game all over the Midwest and western states. In between hunting seasons Lee is usually scouting for his next buck.

TERRY RUSS

Terry's Coyote Tips

The best daytime calling can be before and right after winter storms because this is when coyotes try to fill up their bellies. They are very hungry after the storm due to a day or more of inactivity waiting out the bad weather.

Try using doe and fawn bleats this time of the year. They can be very productive.

Calling over gut piles that are a day or two old can also bring good results. *WG*

For coyote control services, connect with Terry Russ at 414.422.9298 or at russtreeservice.com.

SCHWEIK, from page 4

the recent past would have taken a lifetime to cover in open water and virtually impossible with ice on the lake is now done in just a few hours. Pre-season scouting enables you to have all future locations locked and loaded on your locator for upcoming fishing excursions.

So when you head out on a lake, familiar or not, instead of heading to the old standby spots or following the crowd, rely on your own past homework and the education you earned by investing a few quality hours on the water without even fishing. You will be looking to an arsenal of locations to fish on a particular lake, even if you never ice fished it before.

By the way, the lake that introduced this column despite the skepticism of my client? We limited out that day. We were on a very heavily-fished lake, but the lo-

cation we decided to fish was a weed bed situated on a small hump in the middle of nowhere and not revealed or published on any available mapping. I had found the spot on a previous summer scouting expedition while touring the lake. When the spot was discovered and recorded, all I could think was, "Boy, I can't wait to get back here and try this spot this winter!"

Where the heck were we going? To hardwater heaven. And if you do your summer school homework, I will see you there.

Have a great winter. *WG*

Phil is the owner of Hooksetters Guide Service in central Wisconsin and Hookset Adventures in Eagle River, Wisconsin, which keeps him on the water over 200 days a year. Phil lives in Mosinee, Wisconsin, and can be reached at pschweik@dwave.net, on his website: hooksetters.biz or hooksetadventures.com, at 715.693.5843 or on Facebook at Phil Schweik.

JIM SERVI

Learning To Trap Again

Snaring predators and wily weasels

By now open water trapping is a distant memory and it's next to impossible to keep your dirt-hole sets from freezing. Luckily, the dedicated trapper still has plenty of options during the winter months.

Many diehard trappers live for this time of year to trap fully prime beavers and muskrats through the ice. This type of trapping is definitely not for beginners, though, and it's important to properly prepare. Targeting winter food sources, the area surrounding lodges and the runs between them is the most effective method. Conibears can be placed directly on these runs if there is a well-established travel path; otherwise, using a food source to lure them to the trap works best. Peeled aspen/poplar sticks works great for beaver, and any kind of fruit or vegetable will tempt a muskrat.

Other trappers continue to focus their efforts on fox and coyotes with cable restraints. Similar to snares, they differ in one big way in that they keep

the animals alive rather than kill them since they can't be set next to anything that will allow them to become entangled. Both fox and coyotes have excellent senses that allow them to bust many dirt-hole sets without being caught. However, those who use cables don't seem to have the same problem with scent during the winter.

The tricky part is finding areas where these critters move on a regular basis to guide them through the cable. Areas that work well are trails with long grass, raspberry brush and other thick cover, or areas where there is a carcass that they are eating. They often form well-established trails that are perfect locations for cables. Once the deep snow comes, many trappers take their ATVs or snowmobiles out to make trails through the long grass. Predators follow the trails and create a perfect opportunity to catch them.

For the basics on cable restraints, you'll need a stake, cable and stability wire. Once you have your stake in

place, attach your cable restraint. A 4- to 5-foot 3/32 cable that comes already set up is ideal for both fox and coyote. Form a 6- to 8-inch loop and place it approximately nine inches off the ground for fox and 12 inches off the ground if you're targeting coyotes. From there, use 36 inches of thick stability wire to hold the cable in place. The set will then be ready next time a predator wanders through.

Another exciting furbearer to pursue in the dead of winter is the wily weasel. There are three types of weasels that are found in Wisconsin: short-tailed weasel, long-tailed weasel and least weasel. Those who have trapped for a while have probably seen them all, but the short-tailed is by far the most common. These small predators have long, slender bodies that enable them to explore nearly any nook they encounter for small rodents. Because of this, most trappers build boxes specifically designed for weasels.

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TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Common redpoll

Winter means redpolls! When crops of arctic birch and willow seeds fail, these handsome northern finches *irrupt* (make a mass, temporary migration) southward into gardens, yards and countryside. About one Wisconsin winter in three will see an irruption of redpolls in our state. Maybe this will be a lucky year! January and February are prime months to see these understated but breathtaking songbirds.

You'll find redpolls anywhere there

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TOM CARPENTER

Cubs Corner

Hunting January bushytails: why and how

The reality of winter hits hard after the holidays fade. But hunting fun doesn't have to end. Did you know that squirrel season is open until January 31 across our state?

Maybe the idea of sniping a few bushytails from the treetops doesn't get your own heart beating hard. But I bet you know a young hunter who would jump at the chance to get out in the brisk wintertime woods with a .22 rifle in hand, put the stalk on some challenging and elusive game, and bring home the makings of a game meal fit for a king.

Why Squirrels?

Although we as adults have good intentions, we often focus our young hunting partners on deer and wild turkeys: the big, challenging game that we are interested in.

Somewhere along the line we lost our focus on small game. That's a mistake and squirrel hunting still provides the perfect solution: a training ground where you can help the young hunter develop a love of the outdoors, learn lifelong skills to use in a wide variety of hunting pursuits (including big game), and gain a real sense of accomplishment.

Here's why squirrel hunting is a per-

fect hunting pastime, especially in winter:

Action. You're almost guaranteed action. Every young hunter wants to see game and feel the related adrenaline rush. Yes, a squirrel provides that to young hearts.

Woodsmanship. Whether you stalk bushytails or sit still and wait for them, valuable hunting techniques and skills are learned ... especially in the leafless winter woods.

Shooting. You'll likely get shooting. Every kid wants to shoot. When armed with a .22 rifle, good marksmanship is emphasized.

Fun. If a squirrel is spooked or missed, there's usually another one around the corner or over the hill. No one, teacher or student, needs to get up-tight.

Access. Some of the best squirrel hunting is on private land. With young hunter in tow, I have yet to be refused permission to pursue squirrels in a chunk of woods. Try that with deer or turkeys!

Hunting Secrets

A squirrel hunt keeps everything in low-key perspective ... just right for a wintertime outing where the main goal is fun.

Chances are you know where some bushytails live. Look for forests or woodlots with oaks and hickories. Walnut trees are good, too. Proximity to farm fields (especially corn) is always a plus. Squirrels tend to like a more open forest versus one choked with brush.

One of winter squirrel hunting's attractions is that the best hunting happens on sunny days in the late morning and early afternoon. No need to get up early or stay until dark!

There are two ways to hunt.

Still-Hunt. Slide from tree to tree, breaking up your silhouettes. Tip-toe along. Look and listen more than you move. Look for the flick of a tail or the odd bump on a tree limb. Listen for cackling or the pitter-patter of nut casings as a squirrel eats. For a better shot, sneak closer once game is spotted.

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DAN MOERICKE

The 'Up Nort' Report

Northwoods deer camp more than filling tags

During the 2014 gun deer season, I hunted seven of the nine days in Wisconsin's Northwoods and saw zero deer. Not while I was in the woods, not driving to the woods, not driving home from the woods. Zero. Given those results, why on earth would I return to the Northwoods for the 2015 campaign? I'll tell you why ... big woods and deer camp.

Growing up in central Wisconsin farm country, deer season was a real "whack 'em and stack 'em" event. Meat poles frequently strained under the weight of multiple deer. Shooting a deer was no big deal. You *expected* to see dozens of deer during a day of hunting. You

actually worried whether or not you had enough slugs.

I last hunted farm country in 1986. That was the year that the sun came up and I could see three other orange coats in the 40-acre woodlot on which my uncle had assured me I would be the only hunter. The next year I headed north to hunt with the Krueger brothers in the big woods and I've never looked back. You see, in our little corner of the Nicolet there may be few deer, but there are even fewer hunters. A guy can get up and roam for miles without crossing another human footprint. You are truly *hunting*.

The 2015 deer season saw me in the

Nicolet National Forest on five days of the nine-day gun season. I actually saw deer on three of those days. Hallelujah! Since back-to-back horrible winters in 2012 and 2013, seeing deer (say nothing of actually *shooting* one) has been a tough ticket.

Make no mistake, we've had some great years hunting "up nort." There have been years where most tags were filled on opening day. It's the memories of those years and the undying optimism that they will one day return that keeps us coming back to the magnificent landscape that the Nicolet has to offer. That and the camaraderie of deer camp.

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With the scenery the Nicolet has to offer, any deer is just a bonus.

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The Next Generation

Passing on the bowhunting tradition

I was eight years old as I watched my dad and older brothers load up the station wagon with gear. They were heading up north to go bowhunting, and it killed me that I wasn't old enough to hunt. After what seemed like centuries, my time came to go along, and I eventually took my first whitetail at the age of 13. Many deer later, that memory was still my favorite. That is, until I watched my children down their first deer with bow and arrow. Watch-



The author's 11 year-old son, Ben, took his first deer with a bow out of a groundblind with a 37-pound pull bow at 22 yards.

ing my daughter and son take their first deer ranks at the top of my hunting memories. Bowhunting is an important tradition in my family, and passing on that tradition has been nothing but a pleasure. Here are some things to consider when preparing your young ones for the bowhunt.

Take your kids hunting with you. Years before either of my kids could legally hunt I had them out in groundblinds with me and eventually two-seater treestands. Groundblinds are an awesome way to introduce kids to hunting. The concealment of movement, scent control and safety of being on the ground is a great way for them to experience hunting with you while not jeopardizing your success. At age five my daughter was in a groundblind with me when I took a deer. She had a sleeping bag to keep warm and a book in case she got bored. She didn't.

It's never too early to start kids shooting archery equipment. I started my kids off at about age three with a small

fiberglass longbow painted up camouflage to look like "Daddy's bow." At that age you will need to do most everything from loading the arrow to helping them pull the bowstring. They will catch on quickly.

At age six to eight it's time to get them their first quality compound bow. If you do your homework, you will find several models that will grow with them for years. When outfitting the young bowhunter with their first bow, don't take that old bow from grandpa and try to scale it down for them. That older model bow might have been fine in its day but will perform very poorly when fit to a smaller archer with a short draw length and less pull strength.

Today's youth compound bows are designed to grow with young archers from around six years into adulthood. More importantly, the bow is proportioned correctly to give the small-framed bowhunters the most killing power possible. This is especially important for 10 to 13 year-olds pulling the legal minimum



The author's niece Stephanie made a great shot with her crossbow late October on a food plot.

bow weight of 30 pounds.

In Wisconsin, youths are able to legally hunt at age 10. I believe very few kids at age 10 have the strength to pull enough weight to take a deer responsibly but some will. The earlier you start them the better. Crossbows allow hunters of any age to immediately possess enough killing power to successfully pursue game when standard archery equipment may be too difficult ... a great weapon to get young hunters out on stand in the beautiful weather of early fall.

continued on page 25

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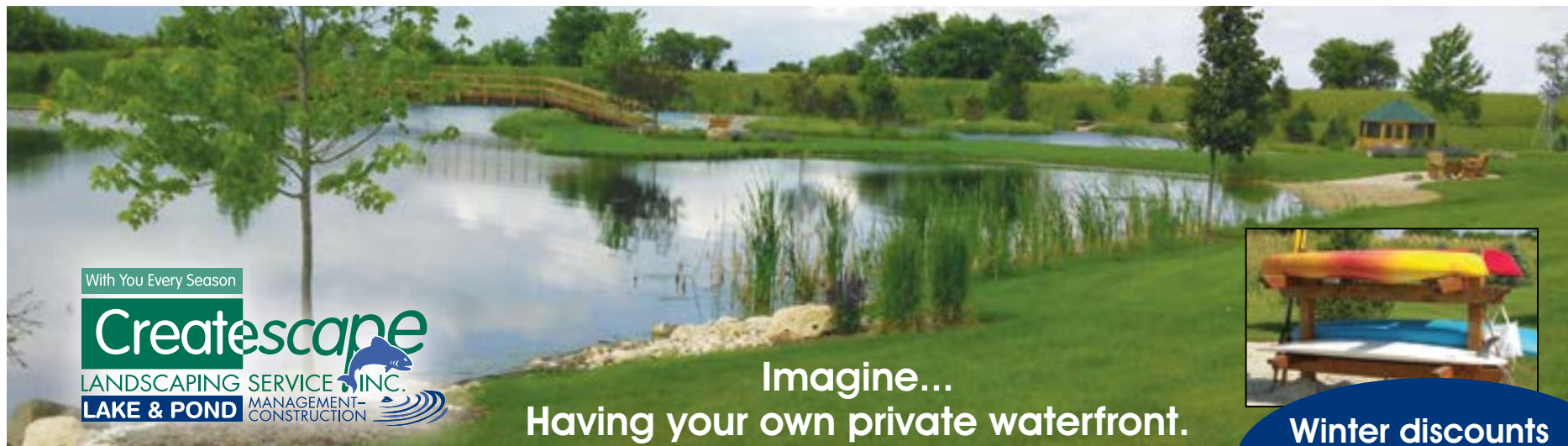
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BILL CUNNEA

Pointer Puppy

Tinker's graduation

Last issue I talked about training Tinker, a German Wirehaired Pointer puppy, that I'd taken in when she was a year old and which had little house training and no hunt training. I talked about "waking up her DNA," for hunting was the foundation in the establishment of this breed. I explained the detailed increments of yard training with her and had high hopes for real hunting on state pheasant properties.

I took her out for her first real test of skills and interest, wondering if I had a nice pet or a real, committed pheasant hunter. (*Cue tension-building music.*) Wirehairs can be excellent versatile hunting dogs, but they can also be congenial airheads with little discipline and no sense of purpose except to be your buddy.

Well, let me tell you, if I ever wanted a puppy-in-training to show off and act like a professional guide's dog, Tinker would be able to pull that off for me,

because she did it in spades! She was like an astonishing, professional guide's dog.*

An old friend came down from northern Wisconsin and we hunted for a few hours before the skies opened and torrents of rain came. It was very windy, with gusts up to 30 m.p.h. We had the property to ourselves, given the weather forecast. I was sure my friend was already preparing to make excuses for the puppy's shortcomings and suggest that time would bring out the dog's abilities.

Tinker was better than I had any right to expect. She trailed, she air-scented, she paused, she retraced her steps to check on scent trails, she worked the ground between the two hunters like she'd signed a contract for equal time with each ... and had never, ever, hunted with two guns before!

She pointed and held one point for minutes while we repositioned ourselves, and then, when both birds got

continued on page 27

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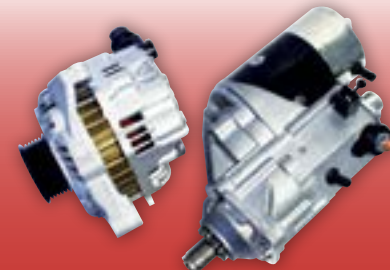
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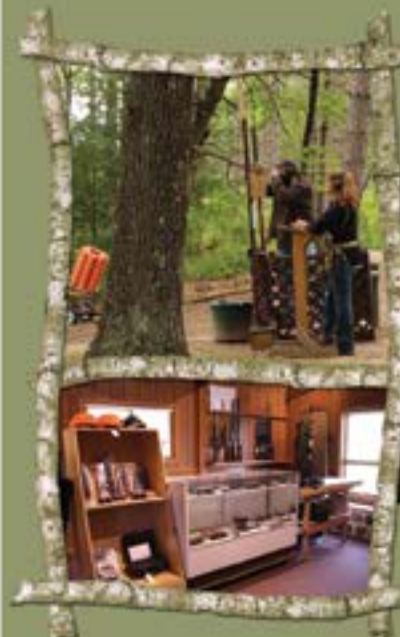
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Out & About with Dick Henske



On the third day of a three-generation hunt for bear from Sturgeon Lake Lodge in Ontario, army sergeant and Wisconsin native Brendan Henske, on leave from Fort Campbell, Tennessee, tagged a 350-pound boar. His Grandpa, Dick Henske of Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin, followed with his own tag filled the next evening.

With bear tags filled, Dick Henske, son Steve of Stevens Point and Grandson Brendan turned attention to the fabulous Ontario fishing offered from Sturgeon Lake Lodge. Grandpa is shown with a few nice walleyes. Read the story at onwisconsinoutdoors.com under Inland Fishing.



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Second Chances

Success after a missed shot

After logging over 105 hours in the stand since opening morning, mid-November was starting to heat up and I had an opportunity to take a wallhanger from Dunn County, Wisconsin. As he came in on the trail not five minutes after a hot doe walked through, I knew he was going to give me a good broadside quartering away shot. I took the shot, missing just under his belly and he trotted off, giving me a few snorts. I called a few friends to talk me through the miss. They helped me realize that if you truly are a hunter, missing is just part of the game.

On November 14, I was on-stand in the morning and sat all day. It was the peak of the rut, so I periodically called with a series of estrus bleats and low grunts. Around 1:00 a nice buck walked from across the road, grunting in response to my calls. He stayed about 85 yards in front of me and walked down into the bedding area. He had his head to the ground the whole time, so I figured he was tending to a hot doe and would be impossible to pull in my direction. Throughout the afternoon I kept with the same calling series, mostly out of habit and a bit out of boredom. In the last 15 minutes of shooting light I spotted a buck coming from the feeding

area, making his way right at my stand, nose to the ground, with a quick pace.

He was walking the exact trail that the bruiser from a week before had walked. I grabbed my bow, nocked my release, and he walked right into my shooting lane. I made a loud bleat, and the buck stopped dead in his tracks. I let the arrow fly. It was a solid hit, slightly back. He ran and I lost sight of him around 80 yards out. Still shaking from the adrenaline, I got down from my stand and immediately went to his running track. Hair and my arrow—covered with blood and broken in half with the broadhead end—lay 10 yards from the hit.

It was just about dark. I put my coat where I found the broadhead and headed back out to the road. I decided that with the shot being back and the cool temperatures it was best to let the deer sit overnight and resume tracking at first light. It was one very sleepless night. Due to the facts that the shot placement was back and I had immediately backed out from the track, I hoped to find the deer dead.

Before sunrise I got back in my trees-stand. I replayed the entire hunt, focused on where I shot, what I remembered the deer doing, and the landmarks in the area where I last saw the buck. After I



Skye Goode with her trophy, taken with her 1996 PSE Nova bow.

was certain that I memorized every detail, I resumed tracking from the spot where I left my coat.

Blood was scarce, so I was careful and diligent, hanging a piece of toilet paper on every droplet, scuffed track and broken sapling. Forty yards into the track, the blood ceased. I became frustrated when I entered the swamp opening and saw that his track was not noticeable in the heavy swamp grass. I continued on into the track job, and after a few more yards, I looked up and saw my buck dead. The feeling that came over me was indescribable!

The miss from the week before played

an intricate role in teaching me valuable lessons in resilience and perseverance. I had pushed my shooting limitations, but if I would have put down the bow the moment I missed that deer, I would not have learned and would never have had the amazing opportunity to experience this hunt the way I did. *WO*

Skye Goode lives and works in Neillsville and has a young son who she takes hunting. She enjoys hunting and trapping. Skye is a member of Whitetails Unlimited, Wisconsin Trappers Association, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, and Wisconsin Turkey Dog Federation. When she's not in the woods, Skye enjoys hand sewing fur hats from the animals she's harvested.

SCHAFFAUSER, from page 16

Wisconsin's mentored hunting program allows hunters 10 years old and older who do not possess a hunter's safety certificate to hunt with a licensed mentor. This is a tremendous way to expose youngsters to hunting without requiring them to dedicate the lengthy time needed to complete a hunter's safety course.

Pass on the bowhunting tradition. Instill in the next generation your vast experience. Have patience and teach them not only *how* to bowhunt but *why* we bowhunt. No matter the outcome, the memories created will last a lifetime and the stories retold for generations. *WO*

Fred is co-owner of West Town Archery in Brookfield, Wisconsin. An avid bowhunter, archery technician and target shooter, Fred has two national titles and several state titles in indoor target archery to his credit. Connect with him at westtownarchery.com.



At 10 years old, the author's young cousin took this doe from a treestand on the edge of a cornfield in Crawford County in early November.



Sophie, the author's niece, took this beautiful doe early season bowhunting in northern Wisconsin.



After a few years to get one with a bow, Rachel, the author's daughter, finally took this young buck with a perfect shot at age 16.

TOM MUELLER

Retriever Training Tips

Best kept secrets for successful retriever training

Everyone likes to hear a nice story about how a good waterfowl or pheasant hunt was made great because of a well-trained retriever. Every now and then, though, you hear about how disappointing or frustrating a hunt became because the dog wasn't that great, or more than anything, because it just wasn't trained well enough, or had no training at all.

My reason for going in this direction is to let you know of some little-known secrets to having a well-trained hunting retriever. With the end of another waterfowl and pheasant hunting season, now is the time to look back to plan ahead for next year.

The first secret to a well-trained retriever is that you have to work at it consistently. I have a motto that I use when helping an owner with their dog: "be persistently consistent and consistently persistent." You have to persist with training and work with your dog on a consistent basis.

Between the end of one hunting season and the start of the next the owner of a well-trained retriever has a plan and a schedule for making sure his dog stays at the top of its game. For the individual who has a dog that needs some improvement, this is the time to look back



Tom and his three best friends.


to plan ahead. What did the dog do or not do that needs to be improved upon? What steps are you going to take to build a training program to accomplish this? For the aspiring owner of a new pup, consistency is the key to a successful start of any puppy training.

A second secret for retriever training is to train with someone else. You can do a lot by yourself, especially when

working with a pup or a young dog, but in order to bring your dog to the level that you envision and teach it all of the concepts it needs to learn, you're going to need others to help you achieve that.

You can enlist the help of your hunting buddies or a family member, but a surefire way to accomplish this is to join a retriever club. One of the best kept secrets in the metro-Milwaukee area that

I can share with you is the Fox Valley Retriever Club. Established in the late 1960s, this club was set up to enable retriever owners to help each other better train their dogs for the field trial game. It has since evolved into a club in which its members now train for hunting and hunt tests. The club has regularly scheduled weekly training sessions running from April to September. Hunting and hunt test scenarios are set up at these sessions involving pretty much everything one would need for training one's retriever, including birds, gunfire and decoys.


Additionally, sessions can be set up for individuals who need help working on any particular retrieving issue. Quite a few of the members have been training retrievers for many years, so there is a lot of knowledge that can be tapped into. I can honestly say my retriever training program accelerated when I joined the Fox Valley Retriever Club. 

Tom has been avidly training retrievers since the early 1980s. His passion has evolved into helping others achieve the satisfaction that he has had. For more information about the Fox Valley Retriever Club visit their website at foxvalleyretrieverclub.com. For a gift certificate for three free training sessions contact Tom at winddancer.trtrvs@hotmail.com.

CARPENTER, from page 14

Wait. Sit or lean against a tree in a good spot and wait. Squirrels will often freeze when you arrive in a woodlot, top a ridge or enter a hollow. After a few minutes, their activity resumes. This is a great way to train your young hunter on the value of sitting still, while easing into it for short stretches.

Conclusion

Spend a little time taking a youngster squirrel hunting this January. It's relaxing and fun, it gets you out of the house, you'll create memories that will last two lifetimes, and your young hunter will hone his or her skills for those even bigger outdoor adventures to come again next fall. 

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


MOERICKE, from page 15

Visiting other deer camps is always a highlight of the hunt. This year we had the pleasure of visiting the Ridderbusch, Yadro, and Zingler deer camps. All with their own traditions. All with their own cast of characters.

At the Yadro camp, the lone buck hanging on the pole belonged to the youngest hunter in the group who connected on opening morning. When asked about the buck, Christian Yadro spoke more words in the next 10 minutes than I'd heard from him in the previous 10 years. Funny how a big buck will help a kid open up.

At the Ridderbusch Dirty Shame deer camp, spirits were high with a spike buck on the meat pole. The one-room log cabin is a true deer camp in every sense of the word. No electricity, no indoor plumbing ... just lots of cold beer outside and lots of nasty-smelling air inside.

The Zingler camp invited us back again this year to their Monday night feast that is fast becoming a "must attend" event. There was more food than the 19 hunters assembled could consume. Two bucks were on the meat pole and smiles were on the faces of all those assembled.

Yes, deer camp in the Northwoods is far removed from the whack 'em/stack 'em days of my youth. On the downside, the deer are less. On the upside, the landscape is strong and the traditions are stronger. And a box of shells can last a lifetime. Just sayin.' 

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.

ELLIS, from page 9


some business experience, and are interested in shining the spotlight on Wisconsin travel and tourism, please contact me.

If you are a talented writer interested in the medical profession and focusing on our "To Stay in the Field" features that help mostly aging sportsmen and women stay active, call me.

If you are a salesperson first working as a private contractor and interested in learning more about *On Wisconsin Outdoors*, call me.

Other than that ... a healthy New Year to you and your families. Thank you for connecting with *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. Shoot straight.

Dick Ellis, Publisher

Connect with me at 262.549.5550 or at ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com. 

SERVI, from page 13

While there are many styles, the basic requirement is to have an enclosed box with only a small hole to enter. The trap is placed just inside the hole, and pretty much any kind of fresh meat works well as bait. When the weasel comes searching and pops into the hole, the trap is waiting. Cattail marshes, long grass, culverts and bridges are all great areas to place these boxes. The best trap is a rat trap from your local hardware store, but

smaller long spring traps also work well.

Don't let winter keep you from the trapline if you're eager to give it a try. Predators and weasels are abundant throughout the state and can make the winter a little more exciting.

Up next for Learning To Trap Again: spring beavers and otters. *WO*

Jim Servi is a freelance writer who spends every opportunity he can in the great outdoors with his wife and three boys. Contact Jim at jimservi10@gmail.com.

CARPENTER, from page 13

are seeds: old fields, abandoned pastures, grassy roadsides, forest thickets, or your backyard. Redpolls arrive in a swarm of happy energy, each bird decked out with red cap, black chin, gray striping and a beautiful rosy-pink wash on the breast. They are lovely to behold and delightful to observe.

Listen for redpolls' hoarse *swee-ee-ee* calls. They sound almost like goldfinches and are, in fact, closely related to those familiar birds, belonging to the family *Carduelis*.

Look for redpolls when the weather is bitter cold. The birds will irrupt as far southward as the southern United States. You can find redpolls anywhere in Wisconsin in winter, but there are generally more birds in the northern third of the state.

Try to spot a hoary redpoll—this subspecies is larger, paler-colored and sports an un-streaked rump—amidst a flock of common redpolls.

Feed redpolls thistle seed from hanging tube feeders and thistle bags. Flocks are big, so spread thistle seed, sunflower chips and crushed peanut hearts on the ground to accommodate birds that can't land a spot on the feeders.

Did you know that redpolls are held in reverence by the Cree, Inuit and other native tribes of the far north? Some redpolls always stay at home in the arctic—the only songbird to do so—and that brightens a long winter for these hardy people. *WO*

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

CUNNEA, from page 21

shot, she retrieved as flawlessly as a training video.

Tinker found and held four points and was approaching six (one group of three) other birds, which flushed in the gusty, windy day as she moved in on her stalk. Her breeding had awoken and filled the neophyte with skills and drive of which I had only dreamed! Some birds flushed before she came up to them, but those



Graduation! Tinker with two points on long stalks in gusty winds.

that held got pointed.

She was a fulfillment of my hopes and ambitions for the last seven months. No question all her abilities were in her, but I'm sure in my small ways I nurtured them out so that they were assets in the field and not misbehaviors in the home. I opened the door and let the DNA come out and flourish.

It was really, really satisfying for me, and she has the rest of her life to get better. Taking in a Craigslist question mark puppy is a risk, but one I'm very glad I took.

(*That is, "professional" by my standards but perhaps not a real hunting guide.) *WO*

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

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette

Tender venison

This year's deer hunting season has proven to be relatively fruitful in our group. Our son shot a 12-point buck, and he generously gave us all of the meat that was harvested from that deer with the exception of the tenderloins and backstraps. We were touched by his gesture, but we were left with some pretty tough cuts of meat from that old buck. A lot of slow, moist cooking has usually been the answer to this dilemma. However, I have also found that marinating as well as barding (laying fat over the outside of the meat before cooking) or larding (inserting fat through slits in the meat) are good remedies. Here are a few ideas to tenderize that trophy!

Italian Venison Roast

3 pounds roast
1 ounce prosciutto, thinly sliced
1 tsp. fennel seeds
1 tsp. black peppercorns
1 tsp. kosher salt
Preheat oven to 450°.

With a very sharp knife, cut vertical slits into the roast from the top almost to the bottom, being careful not to cut all the way through. Stuff prosciutto slices into the slits.

Crush fennel seeds, peppercorns and salt with mortar and pestle and rub into all sides of the roast. Place in roasting pan. *

Cook uncovered in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° and continue to cook roast until desired doneness: rare, 30 - 35 minutes or medium, 40 - 45 minutes.

*Once you have rubbed the spices into the roast, you can cover it and let it sit for several hours before cooking, which will enhance the flavor and give the salt a chance to break down the tough fibers in the meat.

Bacon and Port Venison Roast

3 pounds roast
½ pound thin cut bacon
2 cups tawny port wine
¼ cup butter, cut into pieces
Preheat oven to 250°.

Wrap roast with bacon and secure with toothpicks. Insert meat thermometer. Place roast in roasting pan and dot with butter pieces. Pour wine over all.

Cook until meat thermometer reaches 145°, while periodically basting the roast with wine. Remove roast when done and let it rest on cutting board or tray for at least 10 minutes before slicing.

Apple Vinegar Marinated Venison Roast

3 lbs. roast
Kosher salt
3 cups water (divided)
1 ½ cups apple cider vinegar
1 sweet onion, sliced
6 whole cloves
10 whole allspice
10 black peppercorns
1 bay leaf

Rub salt all over roast; set aside. Mix 2 cups water and remaining ingredients in saucepan. Cover and boil 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool. Pour cooled marinade over venison in either plastic bag or glass container with a cover. Place in refrigerator and marinate for two days, turning meat periodically.

Preheat oven to 325°.

Remove meat from marinade and place in roasting pan. Pour ½ cup of the marinade mixture over roast along with the remaining cup of water. Bake for 1 ¼ to 1 ½ hours, basting frequently.

Remove roast from pan and let sit for about 10 minutes before slicing. The remaining marinade can be thickened with cornstarch and poured over the roast for serving.

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.

Enjoy!

WILLIAM KENDY

Choosing Your Hunting Knife

Much to consider

Hunters obviously need to pack along the appropriate knife, but with so many options out there, how does one choose?

Knife Type

There are two different types of knives: folding and fixed blade. Each has its own benefits and disadvantages.

Many folding knives are locking blades, which eliminate the knife opening or closing on your hand when in use. They are convenient to carry either in a sheath or pocket. They are more difficult to clean than fixed blade knives and can break if used in heavy duty scenarios.

Fixed blade knives, especially full tang knives, are designed for heavier duty, because the blade tang extends through the handle. Partial tang fixed blades are not as sturdy and may break in half while chopping or in hard use. They are easy to clean, fit in a sheath and are bulkier than folders.

Handle Material, Feel and Weight

Bone, antler and wood handles are warm to hold, strong and classy looking. Composite or rubber handles are rugged and provide a good gripping surface. It is critical to make sure that the knife feels comfortable in your hand.

Blade Shape and Size

Knife blades come in a number of shapes and sizes, each tailored to a specific need. In the hunting platform, there are two shapes that work for most of the basic tasks of field dressing and skinning game.

Clip point - The clip point blade is concavely ground to a crescent tip (slight upward sweep), which makes the tip thinner and sharper. It is best suited to general purpose use, detail work, cutting in tight places, and for creating holes (like in a belt). It is not as durable as a drop point since it has a thinner blade and tip, which can break.

Drop point - The drop point is a heavier bodied knife with a thicker point and is suited for heavier work. The top of the blade drops down toward the tip, resulting in a thicker tip and reducing the possibility of puncturing during field dressing. It is a versatile knife but not as good for fine tasks as a clip point.

A large blade isn't necessary for small game or deer-sized animals. A blade between 2 1/2 to 4 inches is all you need and is easier to work with in tight places.

Blade Steel

There are three main considerations in choosing knife blade steel: edge retention, ductility (flexibility and the ability to bend without breaking), and corrosion resis-

tance.

When it comes to knife blades, you can get carbon steel or stainless. Carbon steel is strong, can be sharpened relatively easily, and keeps an edge but can rust easily. Stainless steel, depending on the hardness of steel, will lose an edge quicker but is not as corrosive as carbon steel.


As a rule of thumb, the harder the steel the better the blade will hold an edge. It will also be more brittle, meaning it is more likely to break if it is hard hit or in rough use.

There are tons of types of steel, all with assorted attributes and designed to accomplish different things at various costs.

The Sheath

Last but not least, you need to figure out what you are going to carry your knife in. Look for a sheath that is comfortable to wear on your belt, is durable and allows you easy access.

In the Woods

Take a drop point for the tougher tasks and a smaller folding clip point for detail work. 

Bill Kendy is a professional 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.



The Buck 110 Folding Hunter features a 3 3/4-inch locking clip blade, closed length of 4 7/8 inches, a Dymondwood handle, weighs 7.2 ounces and comes with a sheath.



The Buck 102 Woodsman is designed for fish and small game. It has full tang construction, a 4-inch clip blade, finger guard, thumb grip ridges and weighs 2.5 ounces.



Meant for large game or general use, the Buck Vanguard offers a 4 1/4-inch drop point blade, a contoured handle, safety guard and weighs only 6.3 ounces.

DENNY MURAWSKA

A Sharp Cure For The Winter Blahs

Creating your own custom knife

The winter doldrums are about to set in, at least for those of us not engaged in ice fishing or some other winter activity. This is always a reflective time for me. I often stare out at the icy, blue-white blanket enveloping the hillside we live on, dreaming of the warm days planting and harvesting the garden. Wild mushrooms have been preserved and tucked away. The last of the hardy Brussels sprouts languish in the garage, and any venison has been carefully packaged and sits in the freezer. Still, this is prime time to dream.

Last year I decided to create my own knife just because I thought it would be a hoot. Now, I am not talking about

taking a bar of steel and playing blacksmith, but since I am a taxidermist and carver of gemstones, I have lots of gadgets to assist my endeavors. The goal was to make a unique Damascus blade with a handle of mastodon ivory. Yep, you can get this material ready to trim up for a functional outdoors tool for much less than you might think—less than \$50, in fact. What could be a more Paleolithic power trip than holding a mammoth tusk in your hand? Many other exotic choices are out there as well, and with some basic tools the knife you conjure up can be truly special.

A number of companies make the process very simple. Jantz is one that

comes to mind. You simply find the style of blade you like, choose some metal pins or rivets to help hold the handle material (scales) in place, then pick the type and size of handle material you wish. By taking this path, no fancy equipment is needed. A Dremel with a sanding drum is great for rough shaping the handle material. Use a small hammer for securing any pins and some additional grades of sandpaper for hand sanding. Most catalogs devoted to knife making offer a wide array of materials for the handle. Laminated wood composed of various shades of colors always looks exceptional when sanded down, exposing the contrasting layers. Stag



Center: mammoth ivory. Others have bone handles. Finger hole is great to keep from slipping when you field dress a buck.

horn and bone are traditional favorites.

Blades come in every conceivable shape and style. Many are stainless, but some of us prefer a softer, easier-to-hone carbon steel. It is exciting to see the variations you can work with: everything from odd-looking ulu blades to large, intimidating Bowie styles. I tend to get a

continued on page 29

ROBB MANNING

Product 6-Pack

Great gear for the woods, fields, and waterways

ULTIMATE WILD FLASHLIGHTS

Longtime maker of outdoor gear, Ultimate Wild has released a line of great LED lights, all durable and weatherproof. I got to test three. The Micro (\$29.95) puts out 150 lumen of light out of a compact package. The H-Tac 750 (\$99.95) puts out a blinding 750 lumen on max output but also has low and strobe modes. Both come in green light versions that allow you to see but not be seen by deer and other wild game. The third light is the Ultra-Bright Handheld spotlight, which puts out a mind-numbing 1000 lumen. It's a precise beam that allows you to pinpoint a single animal out of a herd, 100 yards away. Rechargeable and runs for well over two hours of use. OWO tested and recommended.

ultimatewild.com



HORNADY ELD-X BULLETS

ELD-X stands for Extremely Low Drag - eXpanding. The most technologically-advanced bullet on the market, it has match accuracy and controlled expansion throughout the entire penetration path at all hunting ranges and features the highest-in-class ballistic coefficients (BC). The Heat Shield tip prevents the deformation found in other polymer tips caused by aerodynamic heating, thus maintaining the BC over the entire trajectory, offering excellent accuracy. \$48.53 - \$54.08. Also available in the factory loaded Precision Hunter line of ammunition.

hornady.com



weight of the tungsten enables it to get to the bottom fast. The hook is designed for improved hook-up. Comes in 1/64, 1/32, and 1/16 ounces and six colors. \$4.99.

iceforce.com



LEE DELUXE QUICK TRIM CASE TRIMMER

Allows you to efficiently trim your case to the proper length while simultaneously chamfering the inside and outside of the mouth. It's very precise, yet requires no calipers, measurements or adjustments. Just attach it to the caliber-specific Quick Trim Die body (\$10.95 rifle, \$14.95 pistol) and mount in your press. Also comes in a Power Quick Trim (\$26) for attaching a power drill. \$26. A great Wisconsin company out of Hartford.

leeprecision.com



STRIKEMASTER LAZER LITE 6-INCH AUGER

When you're hoofing it by foot across a large, snowy lake, all the weight of your ice fishing gear adds up. This light, compact auger will trim a little off. The 6-inch Mora twin stainless steel blades are powered by a 2-stroke, 32cc, 1.5 horsepower Solo motor and punch a hole through ice faster than a Black Friday dash to the toy section. 21 pounds. \$399.99.

Strikemaster.com



VMC TUNGSTEN FLY ICE JIG

VMC has taken hackle, fur and hair and tied them to a tungsten jighead. The result is a little too much for most panfish to take standing idly by. The ultra-compact size and

AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY NETWORK - X-SIGHT HD


It uses an obsidian core instead of conventional intensifier tubes and produces a digital image just like looking at a video camera screen. It can be used in day or night mode with no fear of damaging tubes if turned on in bright light while in night mode. It records 1080p video, takes photos, geotags, has an e-compass, is equipped with smooth zoom, and has WiFi. Can also be controlled and viewed from a smartphone. Comes in 3-12x (\$599) and 6-18x (\$699). OWO tested and recommended.

atncorp.com



MURAWSKA, from page 28

bit carried away adding to my collection. I love my small neck knife that is worn on a cord ... very easy to get at fast in a pinch. If you are hanging from your safety line on a treestand, it will work great! Of course, with all the tactical hand-to-hand street combat situations I encounter in my nightmares, I have acquired an impressive collection of wicked-looking stabbers. Japanese tanto-style blades and claw-like karambit knives are popular.

Be ready for the Zombie Apocalypse and have fun in the preparation! 

Denny Murawska has been a contributor to the wacky UP Magazine, Wishigan, Verse Wisconsin, and The Pulse. His church is the pine cathedral that surrounds him at his home near Black River Falls.

County Teasers

Don't pack those fishing rods away! In winter, fishing continues in open water from the shore at our Coal Dock Park. Even on the coldest days, you can see people pulling in good-sized lake trout. After you get yours, check out the winter hiking in the area. **Click on Ozaukee County.**

Discover the winter charm of Wisconsin's northwoods in Ashland, *the heart of Chequamegon Bay!* January 9: Northwoods Harness Club Sleigh & Cutter Rally. February 13: Book Across the Bay. February 20: King of the Bay Snowmobile Drag Races. We also offer 220 miles of scenic snowmobile trails, fabulous ice fishing, and superb shopping, dining and lodging. **Click on Ashland County.**

Winter brings lots of frosty fun to Washburn County. Ice fishing on one of the over

900 lakes is a great way to spend a winter day. In addition, there are great opportunities for fat bike riding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and much more! Trail maps, winter accommodations and more are available on our website. **Click on Washburn County.**

Ice Fishing is a big time draw in Ferryville on the Mississippi River. Pan fish are a favorite. Use the Ferryville Boat Launch to access the best fishing on the river. March 5, 2016 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. is Bald Eagle & Raptor Day, co-sponsored by the Friends of Pool 9 and featuring live Eagle programs, Lois the owl who flies around the room. You will hear about eagles in the Upper Mississippi River Refuge and Chris Lowe will provide a Native American program all at Village Hall, Ferryville, WI. FREE. **Click on Crawford County.**



Explore Wisconsin
County-by-County at
www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com

S. WILKERSON

Rifles Built For Success...In Rice Lake

Henry's new model born from tradition

An old name in firearms history has taken up a new residence in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. The company, Henry Repeating Arms, traces its history back to 1996. That year, founder Lou Imperato and son Anthony began manufacturing .22 caliber lever action rifles in Bayonne, New Jersey. The Imperatos named their new company "Henry Repeating Arms" in honor of Benjamin Tyler Henry, the inventor of one of the first successful lever action rifles. Lou Imperato passed away in 2007, and Anthony is now president and owner.

In recent years, a number of firearm manufacturers have been struggling. Not so Henry. To find out why Henry is finding such great success, *On Wisconsin Outdoors* interviewed Henry Repeating Arms General Manager Andy Wickstrom. The questions and answers follow:

Q: Why are Henry rifles so popular?

A: There is something fun about shooting a lever action rifle. It's not just the history or its portrayal in TV and movies; it's just fun. Henry rifles are modern lever actions that are made with the latest technology and they are not just fun. They are reliable, safe and extremely accurate, which is something I can't say about my grandfather's .30-30. And to top it all off, Henry rifles are made in the USA and affordable. Our formula is pretty simple but rare these days. We make a good product, stand behind it with extreme customer service, and treat every customer like they are our neighbor, because that is who they are. Hopefully, that neighbor shows it to another neighbor and recounts the positive experience ... and repeat.

Q: Why did you choose Rice Lake to manufacture the Lever Action Rifles?

A: Receivers for the Golden Boy and Henry Le-

continued on page 34



Shorty's Shooting Sports is one of many distributors of Henry Rifles in Wisconsin. Owner Shorty Govas holds the lever-action 30-30 made in Rice Lake in front of his Henry display at 2192 south 60th Street in West Allis. Connect with shortysshootingsports.com.

ROBB MANNING

Everyday Carry

Noble Empire's World of Guns: Gun Disassembly

I've played with a lot of gun software. Some of it is more useful than others, and a lot of it looks cool but ends up being more gimmicky than anything else. Gun Disassembly, from Noble Empire, ranks up there with the most innovative and useful gun software that I have ever used.

Gun Disassembly is software with 3D renderings of firearms that you can explore, inside and out, 360 degrees. It's detailed down to every single part. Take it apart piece by piece, then put it together again. You can do just about everything with this software that you can with a real firearm except load real bullets into it. It currently has over 123 different firearms, with more being added regularly: everything from a Harper's Ferry Flintlock to the Colt SA, from the Glock 19 to the Browning M2 .50 Cal., to the FNP90. Most common classic and military surplus firearms are included as well as many current top sellers. It's quite remarkable.

The software is set up like a game. You have to complete one stage to earn access to the next stage — though it's much more than that. The first stage is field stripping, and you must go through the process as if it's a real gun, starting with removing the magazine and clear-

ing the weapon. The attention to detail is so good that as an example, to remove the slide stop on a CZ-75, the slide must be pulled back so that the takedown lines line up, just like on a real CZ-75. Once it's field stripped and reassembled the next stage unlocks, which is a detailed disassembly. When I say detailed, I mean every last part. Once disassembly is completed, the assembly stage is unlocked.

One of the most interesting elements of the software is firearm operation. You can change the view of the firearm so that it is a cut-away gun, or you can take an x-ray view. You can also slow down the firing process as much as you want so that you can see each part in the process. There's also a game stage, with three different levels of difficulty, in which you do a timed disassembly/reassembly, competing against the times of people from around the world.

The software can run on Mac, Windows and Linux as well as iPads and other tablets. It requires a free software download from Steam (steampowered.com), which is the engine that World of Guns runs off of. The software is free to download and use, and a couple of free guns are included. Other firearms can be purchased, or you can complete

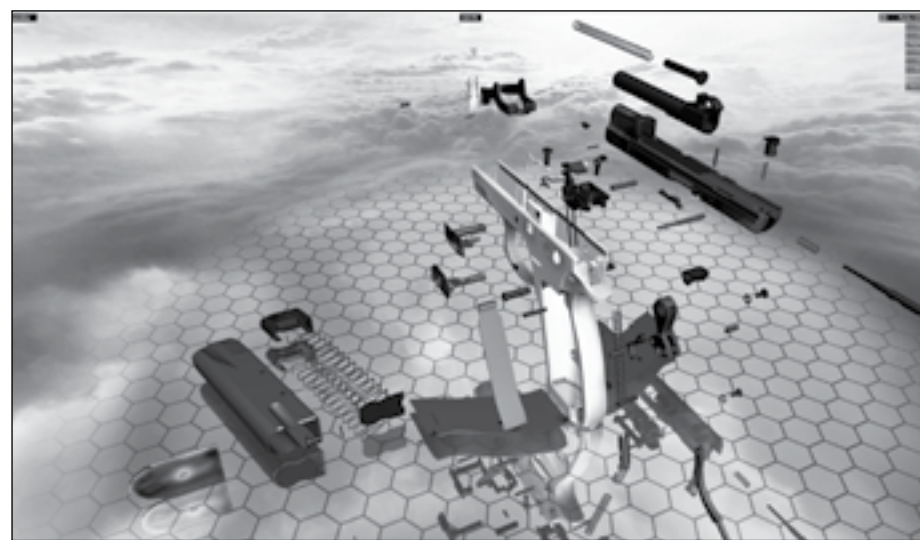


Image from World of Guns: Gun Disassembly.

levels to gain experience and credits to unlock other firearms and levels. For \$49 you can unlock lifetime access to all firearms.

As a gun writer, gun collector/enthusiast, armorer and tinkerer, I consider this software a reference guide and find it indispensable. A lot of gun software on the market is developed by people who clearly do not know a lot about guns, or it's developed by gun guys to fill a need, but they're not software guys, so it comes off as amateurish and crude.

Neither is the case with World of Guns: Gun Disassembly. It's obvious they have a love for guns, and the software is excellent.

Visit noble-empire.com and steampowered.com. 

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.

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

No Mystery To Better Shooting

Adjusting the gun to the shooter

There was absolutely no time to set my feet or otherwise prepare for the shot when the rooster burst out of the cattails. As he rocketed out of the ditch, I swung on him and slapped the trigger in one fluid motion. An ounce of #6 steel shot canceled his flight, and my cousin's dog, Phantom, made a classic retrieve. I knew when the bead on my SKB autoloader passed his beak he was a goner. I've owned that gun for almost 40 years and it fits me better than any other shotgun I hunt with.

Gun fit can be mysterious and a little intimidating with terms like "length of pull," "cast," and "drop at comb." It all boils

down to lining the shotgun up with your eye and pointing as closely as possible to where you are looking. A rifle or handgun shooter can take a solid rest, line up the sights and take aim. A shotgunner engaging a flying target or game bird has split seconds to mount the gun, lead the target and fire. Let's go through the how and why of making your shotgun more ergonomic and user-friendly.

Please make sure your shotgun is *unloaded* before any home fit testing!

Length of pull: When properly mounted, the distance from your thumb on the shotgun grip and your nose should be 1 ½ - 2 1/2 finger widths. You can check this

by placing the butt of the shotgun in the crook of your elbow and seeing if your finger reaches the trigger. Proper length of pull makes a big difference in mounting your shotgun consistently.

Drop at comb: The comb, or top, of the buttstock should not be too high or too low to allow the shooter's eye to line up with the rib on the shotgun barrel. Make sure to have your head down on the stock when checking comb height. Having to lift your head in an attempt to line up on the target often results in what trap shooters call "topping the bird," or shooting over your target. If the rib on your barrel has a center bead, the beads should line

up, forming a figure eight. Some years back I had the comb on the stock of my Browning O/U trap gun adjusted. The small amount of French walnut removed from the top of the stock made all the difference in my scores! Of all the adjustments you can make, or things to look for in gun fit, I class this as the most important.

Cast: Cast refers to a slight bend in the stock to allow for offset of the shooter's shoulder. Cast off is a bend to the right; cast on refers to a left bend. This can be achieved by actually bending the wood stock or adjusting the butt end

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S. WILKERSON

Midwest Industries' Basic Bargain

M4 Basic rifle built to perform, competitively priced

Retail prices of AR-15s have dropped significantly over the past couple of years. Once an expensive rifle made by a single manufacturer, the number of companies making AR-15s now probably numbers in the dozens. With increased competition, "America's Rifle" is now more accessible and affordable for average Americans than ever.

AR-15s remain extremely popular due to their accuracy and versatility, but not all ARs are created equal. Some are definitely better than others. Among the more common problems from lesser brands are improperly-staked gas keys, gas block ports that don't properly align to barrel ports, and incorrect recoil buffers. Either or all of these in combination will make for a rifle that can't be counted on.

Among the best of today's AR15s is the surprisingly inexpensive—less than \$800—Midwest Industries (MI) M4 Basic Rifle in 5.56 NATO caliber. Made in Wisconsin with all American-made



The competitively-priced Midwest Industries M4 Basic Rifle has features found in much more expensive AR-type rifles.

parts, the Basic Rifle has a 16-inch carbine length barrel with a 1/7 barrel twist and a removable A2 flash hider and front sight. A 1/7 twist will generally fire heavier bullets more accurately than the usual 1/9 twist found on many ARs. The Basic Rifle has a proper M4 feed ramp and correct gas tube, which helps to ensure reliability. Stock furniture is typical M4 variety, meaning a six-position collapsible stock and the standard GI-type pistol grip. MI offers a vast array of parts and accessories to customize the Basic Rifle to meet the needs of any owner.

What separates the MI Basic Rifle from the rest of the pack is attention to detail, strict quality control and proven

components. For instance, according to MI Retail Store Manager Peter Bratz, "We use the same premium MI bolt carrier group in the Basic Rifle as we use in all of our guns, and our carrier keys are staked." The carrier key is a critical component of every AR-type rifle that uses the gas impingement system for operation, which is the vast majority of them.

Gas impingement means that gas bled from the barrel when a bullet is fired travels through a tube to the carrier key, which is attached to the carrier. The carrier houses the bolt which chambers unfired cartridges from the magazine. The bolt also ejects empty cases when the spent gas from the fired

bullet pushes the carrier back. Some competitively-priced AR manufacturers don't stake the key, or, because of quality control lapses, ship rifles with improperly-staked keys. If a key becomes loose, the operation of the bolt is compromised and functioning becomes erratic, or worse: the rifle jams.

Like much more expensive ARs, each M4 Basic Rifle bolt is magnetic particle inspected (MPI) for possible flaws. MPI is a method to detect cracks or other defects by covering the bolt with a magnetizing powder and magnetizing the bolt. Any variation in the powder indicates a material flaw. Many lesser AR manufacturers don't MPI bolts or do so only in batches. Bolts operate under a lot of pressure. Knowing that each Basic Rifle is MPI and structurally sound certainly provides a sense of security.

Basic Rifle receivers are built to spec, and that being the case, a target barrel or trigger will fit without a hitch. An upgraded barrel or trigger is by no means a

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WILKERSON, from page 30

ver rifles were made in Rice Lake since 1999. The company supplied these parts to Henry until late 2006 when Henry Repeating purchased the building and assets of its former supplier. Seventeen of us from the former company started business on January 2, 2007, when we continued making the popular Golden Boy and Henry Lever receivers. The process for making these receivers is very specialized, and capabilities available in the Rice Lake factory allow these parts to go from raw material to finished receivers under one roof with nothing outsourced. Growth beyond these receivers was natural, and projects were prioritized based on new designs, quality and other improvements. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we are able to retain and hire technical people, which today amounts to over 170 people. Some have degrees, and some worked their way up. The people in Rice Lake have education and life experience that produces.

Q: Is there a possibility that other models of Henry rifles will be produced at the Rice Lake plant?

While this article was originally being written, Mr. Wickstrom noted that new rifles were in the works. Since then, Mr. Wickstrom has shared the exciting

news with On Wisconsin Outdoors that a new and innovative rifle would be entering production. The following is his announcement:

A: The H014 "Henry Long Range Lever Action" is a lever action with a locking multi-lug bolt and box magazine. The first three calibers will be 223, 243, and 308. It will have a free floated barrel, aluminum alloy receiver, and a straight grip American walnut stock and forearm. We have added a brand new barrel manufacturing cell in the Rice Lake plant that is the latest technology in barrels. The barrel, receiver, bolt, and other key components are 100% made in Rice Lake from raw material and they will be ultra-precise and so will the bullet groupings from these guns. While we are not guaranteeing MOA, I could have written my name with the 243 that I tested. This lever action will meet or exceed the typical bolt action expectations, and we are all very excited. Stay tuned for information.


Q: How have your employees contributed to Henry's success?

A: The 17 original employees of Henry Wisconsin went through the slow decline of Henry's former supplier, whose manufacturing fell victim to offshore competition and the bureaucracy of a publicly-traded company. When

we had a shot to be a part of the Henry family, it was obvious that the entire group was "all in." Obviously, the company has grown and we have had some growing pains, but that culture is still there. Expectations are high and people work hard to get the results that their team depends on to succeed. We also train and promote from within, and we keep it loose and do our best to enjoy our time. When asked, some have said, "It's never boring," but they say it with a smile.

Q: I was extremely impressed with the quality of the .45/70 I shot. The bluing, wood, checkering, and machine work were excellent. How can you manufacture such a well-made product for such a reasonable price?

A: When we began planning the move to Wisconsin of the .30-30 and .45-70, opportunity for improvements and cost reduction were the first topics. Design changes and improvements by our Rice Lake team yielded good results. We added new equipment and went "all the way" with machinery fitted with the latest technology. And, of course, Henry rifles are made by people that are passionate about what they do. Wisconsin people know what a good rifle is supposed to look like. I may be a bit biased, but our people are the best.

For more information about Henry Repeating Arms, visit their website at henryrifles.com. 

S. Wilkerson is a freelance writer specializing in historical firearms and collecting.


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of the stock where it meets the pocket of the shoulder. I had the butt stock on my Browning adjusted at the recoil pad, which also helped.

I asked Maryland outdoor writer Carol Cherington about her 12-gauge Arrieta that was custom fitted. She related that women often find youth-stocked shotguns fit better than standard stocks. When asked if the process of custom fitting was worth it, she enthusiastically agreed. Carol was measured, fitted, and shot patterns with a "try gun" until the proper adjustments were found. The payoff is a shotgun that points naturally and puts patterns on target, much to the displeasure of doves and waterfowl.

Try before you buy: Various brands of shotguns will fit shooters differently. I suggest not only trying several brands

but different models of the same brand. Mount the shotgun and pick a spot on a wall. Check to see if you are looking level down the rib and if the bead is aligned with the spot. If you are way low, high, left or right, try again. Pick the brand or model that fits you best.

You also need to make sure you are mounting your shotgun the same way each time. A consistent gun mount and good "cheek weld" on the stock are essential to aligning your shotgun and hitting your target. A little time spent checking or adjusting your gun fit will pay off with better scores or more birds in the bag. Good luck! 


Ron Stresing has been an outdoor writer since 1996 and has had articles published in Midwest Outdoors, Fur-Fish-Game, and Badger Sportsman magazines. He lives in South Milwaukee with his wife, Donna.

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necessity. The Basic Rifle has a trigger pull weight of about seven pounds. Target groups of two inches or less can be expected at 100 yards with any decent ammunition. Money saved by keeping the standard trigger and barrel could be put into purchasing a good optic.

Each MI Basic Rifle is built with care. "Unlike other manufacturers, our rifle is built from start to finish by one person right down to the test fire," Andy said. "We do not build assembly line guns where steps can be missed. At periodic points in the process, the gun is checked

to ensure that there are no flaws or issues with it. We take great pride in what we manufacture and assemble and will not put our name on a rifle or part without ensuring we have done everything we can to make it of the best possible quality. This is true with both our premium rifles as well as our Basics."

For additional information, visit the MI retail store at W292S4498 Hillside Road, Waukesha, or see their website at midwestindustriesinc.com. 

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