

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the

## Dick Ellis Experts

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- **Planning for Success**  
Shooting tips to tag your gobbler
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The real reason for the  
population decline



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So You  
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**PHIL SCHWEIK**

## The Spring Fishing Rush

### *A final goodbye to Old Man Winter*

Early spring can be a fun and productive time for fishing. During March, a few diehard anglers can still be found hitting the last remaining ice. At the same time, some hardy souls are digging out their boats and fishing any open water that they can find. Anglers taking to the ice will find that some fish have moved into shallow waters while others will be found suspended.

With most inland lakes closed to large gamefish, the very plentiful and easy to catch panfish will be the primary target of choice for ice anglers during early spring. In March and April, anglers can often find panfish among shallow weeds in three to eight feet of water. Small teardrop ice jigs or tungsten jigs that have been tipped with plastics or live bait like wax worms or spikes work well. Use the same arsenal in the few lakes where fish are still found suspended over deep water. Locating these fish can be somewhat difficult because they are constantly roaming and on the move. This is where your electronics make time on the hardwater easier.

River fishing for walleyes is just getting started in early spring with pre-spawn fish



Late ice crappies for a mom and her son.

staging in deep water haunts within the main river channel. Walleye season remains open on the Wisconsin River year-round and at this time of the year, I target fish in 14 to 18 feet of water and sometimes even deeper. This is not only some of the best fishing you will find throughout the year, but the best time of the year to hook a really big fish.

Fishing a sunny day, don't hesitate to move up shallower to eight to 10 feet of water because the walleyes will slide up with the warming of the sun. For targeting these early season walleyes, I typically run lead head jigs tipped with plastics or live fathead minnows. I work them very slowly on the bottom of the river.

A variety of great fishing opportunities await anglers as Old Man Winter heads out and spring rushes in. Get out and enjoy what this time of the year has to offer you!

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Andy Teller and his buddy with some nice early spring walleyes.

## CALLING ALL WISCONSIN SPORTSMEN & WOMEN

### WCC Delegate Elections, Spring Hearings Looming...

Delegate elections for Wisconsin Conservation Congress will take place during the WCC/DNR in-person Open Houses to be held April 3-6 in each of 72 counties from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

The WCC and the DNR will hold the Spring Hearings online.

The link will be placed on the WCC and DNR's Spring Hearing webpage and can be found at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) by searching "Spring Hearings."

The link will "go live" on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 12:00 PM and will remain open for 72 hours until 12:00 PM on Thursday, April 13, 2023.



## On The Cover

### First Amendment to the United States Constitution

*Prevents the government from making laws that regulate an establishment of religion, or that prohibit the free exercise of religion, or abridge the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the freedom of assembly, or the right to petition the government for redress of grievances*

### Second Amendment to the United States Constitution

*A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*

### The United States Constitution

*Earned on the ultimate sacrifices of American patriots-to protect and secure God-given individual rights to life, liberty, and property. Know it. Defend it now with the Ballot.*

*Constitutional Justice Daniel Kelly will defend it. Radical Left Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz will destroy it.*



**VOTE EARLY**  
**VOTE DANIEL KELLY**

**On Wisconsin**  
*Outdoors*  
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EXPLORE WISCONSIN

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# DEFEND WISCONSIN'S FUTURE



✓ VOTE FOR  
**DAN KELLY**  
ON APRIL 4TH

Justice Kelly is a proven defender of our constitutional rights and an unwavering advocate for the rule of law. With his extensive experience as a litigator, law clerk, special prosecutor, and Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, he is uniquely qualified to uphold the principles of judicial conservatism that make Wisconsin a great state.

At a time when our constitutional rights are under attack from all sides, we need Justice Kelly's Constitutional Conservatism more than ever. Whether it's defending our freedom of speech, protecting the free market, or standing up for religious liberty, Justice Kelly has been a consistent voice for conservative values throughout his career. His opponent, Janet Protasiewicz, represents a threat to the rule of law, with a record of imposing her political beliefs on legal decisions.

By supporting Justice Kelly, you can help ensure that our Wisconsin Supreme Court remains a bulwark against judicial activism, defending our constitutional rights and liberties for generations to come. Join us in supporting Justice Daniel Kelly for Wisconsin Supreme Court and make your voice heard in defense of our fundamental values.

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**Janet Protasiewicz is a politician pretending to be a judge. Learn the truth.**

**Judge Janet Protasiewicz has a long history of letting murderers, child rapists, and dangerous criminals go free.**

**Janet Protasiewicz's soft-on-crime agenda has put Wisconsin families at risk. Learn the truth.**

**When they needed her the most, Judge Janet Protasiewicz REFUSED to protect child victims of Sexual Assault.**

**Lies, deceit, & deception. That's what you get with Judge Janet Protasiewicz.**

**Janet Protasiewicz is more focused on personal political gain than public safety.**

**Wisconsin needs the rule of law. Not the rule of Janet!**

**We can't have judges putting their own agendas above the law. It's time we start prioritizing justice again, not politics.**

**As Milwaukee County Judge, Janet Protasiewicz refused to put dangerous criminals behind bars. Learn the truth.**



**BOB SPIERINGS****Bob's Bear Bait***Question & answers on bear baiting*

Spring is here and with it the bear baiting opener. If you've drawn a tag, you're one of the lucky few. Many wait several years, some over a decade, just to draw a tag in hopes of harvesting a Wisconsin black bear. While the harvest quota has been increasing, so have the number of applicants. If you're new to the sport, chances are you have googled "tips on hunting black bear" and have found that bear hunting information is about as elusive as black bears themselves. So to help you get off on the right foot, here are a few tips to get you started.

**When should I start baiting?**

Ask 10 hunters and you'll get 10 different answers. Most importantly, though, it depends on your budget, time and if you want to increase your odds. If you can start baiting in late spring that would be ideal. As bears travel through looking for a mate during this time, they'll take note where they found an easy, reliable meal and you won't need to go as heavy on the amount of bait or as frequently. We've heard of hunters placing bait two weeks

before season, but we don't recommend it. During this time bears seek out other ripening food sources and quit hitting bait sites, greatly reducing your odds of even getting a bear to hit. The sweet spot though, is the beginning of July.

**Where should I place my bait?**

Picking a site that is brushy and secluded with minimal human traffic can make a bear feel more comfortable, resulting in them coming in even during daylight hours. About two weeks prior to the season opener, bears may quit coming in because they are feeding on ripening corn, acorns and other crops. Plan ahead for this by placing a bait site adjacent to hardwood ridges, corn fields, clover patches, and other habitats that are bountiful in natural foods which will keep bears close to your bait site even when the natural forage ripens.

**What do I need for bait?**

You'll want a dry bait that acts as a filler,

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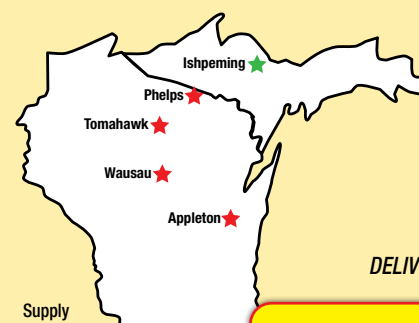
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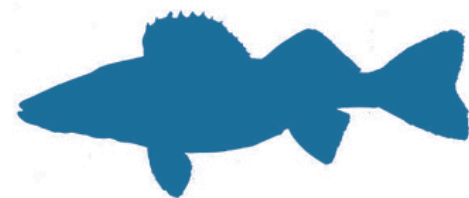
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JOHN ELLIS

# Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory

## *The real reason for their population decline*



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Zachary Feiner of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, want you to believe that “climate change” and not mismanagement is responsible for declining walleye numbers in our state. They say Wisconsin lakes where walleyes have always thrived, have suddenly become too warm for them. Feiner of the UW Limnology Department, and a liaison to the DNR, said in a recent article, “Much of the work in the future is, I think, going to be on the social side, laying the ground work for people to be able to accept changing fisheries.”\* Feiner and the DNR want to condition you to believe the ridiculous, so you don’t look too closely at the obvious. That is, walleyes are doing great all over Wisconsin except in the Ceded Territory.\*\* There, the walleye population has been decimated by poor management of the fish by the people in charge: Chippewa Tribal Leaders and the DNR. For nearly four decades they have presided over the continuous removal of walleyes from the lakes as they tried to reproduce. The method used for their removal has been tribal spearing. Get your calculators out and follow along. Here’s a look at what actually happened to the walleye

population in Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory.

It takes roughly 1,000,000 walleye eggs to produce 125 “keeper walleyes”. These are very nice sized fish that weigh between 1 ¾ and 2 pounds. The average egg drop per walleye during spawning is 85,000 eggs. This means that it takes 12 female walleyes to produce 125 keeper walleyes.\*\*\* The math rounded to the nearest number is:  $1,000,000 \div 85,000 = 12$  female walleyes.

According to the Wisconsin DNR the number of walleyes speared in Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory between 1985 and 2022 is 1,040,789. Ten percent of those were females, or 104,079. The math is:  $1,040,789 \times .10 = 104,079$  female walleyes speared.

Because of the 104,079 female walleyes speared, 1,084,156 keeper walleyes never hatched. The math is:  $104,079 \div 12 \times 125 = 1,084,156$  keeper walleyes that never hatched.

Because a 50/50 male to female ratio is the norm in nature, if half of the 1,084,156 keeper walleyes that never hatched were females that only spawned once, we have an additional 5,646,646 keeper walleyes that never hatched. The math is:  $1,084,156 \div 2 \div 12 \times 125 = 5,646,646$  keeper walleyes that never hatched.

Because it takes a female walleye four to five years to reach maturity, and the average age of walleyes in Wisconsin is seven years, we can conservatively assume two spawning years or an additional 5,646,646 keeper walleyes that never hatched.

**The total impact of 37 years of spearing Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory.**


- 1,040,789 walleyes were directly removed from the lakes as they tried to reproduce, and 104,079 of those were females.
- 1,084,156 keeper walleyes never hatched because of the females speared.
- 5,646,646 keeper walleyes never hatched because of the loss of one spawning year.
- 5,646,646 keeper walleyes never hatched because of the loss of a second spawning year.

**When it’s all added up, 13,418,237 keeper walleyes (1 ¾ to 2 pounds) were removed from the Ceded Territory by spearing. Some lakes were speared more than others, but if you divide 13,418,237 by the number of lakes speared to date (331), you get an average of 40,538 keeper walleyes removed per lake.**

Math and biology are reliable tools that can be easily understood and proven when applied properly. Walleyes are not a fragile fish. They have been around a long time and do great in Wisconsin where their reproduction is not abused. From Green Bay and the Winnebago Chain, to the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, walleye fishing is excellent. Climate change has absolutely nothing to do with the declining walleye population in Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory. But extremely poor management of the resource, by those it was entrusted to, does.

\*Resistance is (Sometimes) Futile: Study says that, in many lakes it’s time to accept change and plan for the future of fishing. Adam Hinterthurer. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

\*\*The Ceded Territory is approximately the northern third of Wisconsin. There, Chippewa Tribal Leaders and the Wisconsin DNR have joint responsibility over walleye management.

\*\*\*Walleye Tactics, Tips and Tales. Mark Strand. North American Fishing Club. 

JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER

# Government Abuse of Power

## *Mobilizing Freedom Loving Americans*



The Biden Administration’s approach to COVID-19 has been an exercise in deceit and betrayal of the American people. Our justifiable anger must mobilize us against their war on freedom. Aided by public health officials, who put dogma over science, this administration has caused real harm to many.

The dishonest media took a pass on engaging in serious investigative journalism and opted instead to serve as a mouthpiece for the government. They helped suppress the voices of those who questioned the science and government mandates, calling them COVID deniers, anti-maskers and anti-vaxers.

The Biden administration decided there was a single, correct response to the virus and disagreement was a punishable offense.

They rejected concerns that the pandemic was caused by a leak from a Wuhan lab in China and called those who raised the question racist. They declared the mRNA vaccines safe and effective, despite being a new technology never before used on humans. They called for mandating vaccinations and completely ignored the natural immunity that results from infection. They demanded masks be worn and distances kept, both arbitrary interventions. They advanced the idea of essential and non-essential workers which destroyed many

small businesses and the livelihood of millions of Americans. They trampled on the First Amendment by calling healthy debate “misinformation” and encouraging social media to oust those who expressed divergent points of view. They closed the schools and masked and vaccinated children, despite irrefutable evidence that young, healthy children are not at high risk.

The CDC and FDA, along with the medical community, allowed science to be politicized. They silenced the debate within the medical professions, essential to the scientific pursuit of truth. They threatened the jobs, licenses, and certifications of physicians and other professionals who had the courage to speak

up. They banned off-label uses of therapeutics that were working. They showed no interest in the numerous reports of adverse reactions to the vaccines, while spending \$30 billion procuring the drugs from Pfizer and Moderna, guaranteeing them a market.

Many American corporations became instruments of the government, issuing mandates and punishing those who would not comply. Never in our lifetime have we experienced our government so willing to lie, stifle free speech and impede the decision-making autonomy of free people.

The more we learn, the more we understand how wrong they have been. They

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10





Think of the most important conservative policy initiatives that have been enacted over the last few decades in Wisconsin - welfare reform, Act 10, and Right to Work to name just a few - and then realize they could all be repealed by judicial fiat if Justice Dan Kelly does not win the upcoming election for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice. Basic protections for unborn children would also be at grave risk.

Unfortunately, the radical left has targeted our Supreme Court election and is pouring millions of dollars into our state to elect a radical left wing judicial activist. She must be defeated. We probably won't be able to match the dollars flowing in, but we certainly have enough conservative voters to overwhelm the left's efforts.

In April 2019, after the disappointing November, 2018 gubernatorial election loss, our conservative grassroots rose to the challenge and defeated another liberal Supreme Court candidate. We can do it again – we must do it again.

We won the April, 2019 election with little over 600,000 votes. I won my 2022 election with over 1.3 million votes – 700,000 more votes than we garnered in 2019. So we know we have more than enough potential conservative votes to win the upcoming election. The only question is whether our county parties and conservative grassroots volunteers can raise awareness and sufficiently turn out the vote.

I am asking every conservative in the state of Wisconsin who understands how crucial the April election is to talk to every friend, neighbor, fellow worker, and family member and get them to vote for Dan Kelly. We are encouraging early voting and voting by absentee ballot. The more votes we log in prior to election day, the further our GOTV dollars will go to turn out the remaining vote on Election Day.

Thank you for all you have done, and will do to win this crucial election.

- Senator Ron Johnson



JOHN ELLIS

# Polar Bears and Walleyes

*One is properly managed, and one is still abused*

For years, organizations like the World Wildlife Fund and Humane Society International have told people that Polar Bears were in danger of extinction because of “climate change.” They subjected us to heartbreaking television commercials that showed the bears stranded on icebergs, or swimming for their lives as their homes melted.

But none of it was true. Before 1973 the Polar Bear population was in trouble, but climate change had nothing to do with it. They were simply over hunted. After 1973, countries started to manage them properly and their numbers rebounded. Today, the global Polar Bear population is more than three times larger than it was in 1960, and growing.

## Global Polar Bear Population Estimates\*

- 1960 - 10,000 Bears
- 2005 - 22,500 Bears
- 2014 - 25,000 Bears
- 2015 - 26,000 Bears
- 2021 - 32,000 Bears -Plus

Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory are exactly like Polar Bears before 1973. Their population has been severely damaged by 37 years of mismanagement, not climate change. The walleyes can

recover just like the bears, but only if those responsible, Chippewa Tribal Leaders and the Wisconsin DNR, start managing the fish properly. 🐻

\*Susan Crockford, Ph.D. Zoology, University of Victoria, B.C. Canada. The State of the Polar Bear 2021, and The Polar Bear Catastrophe that Never Happened. Polar Bear Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



## BOB'S BEAR BAIT, FROM PAGE 4

such as granola, cereals, cookies or nuts. Bait can be made tastier and attract more bears with the use of a topping. Fruit fillings are popular, but frosting and peanut butter are must-haves. These are easily spread inside your bait stump and will keep bears preoccupied longer while you wait for the perfect shot. In addition, it helps shield your dry bait from any water. Soggy, muddy bait is a no-go for most bears. Most importantly, you'll want a scent lure to consistently draw bears into the site.

## Hunting over bait must be easy

Far from it. Your first year will most likely be humbling, but trust us, you'll want another round.

For more great tips, stop in and visit one of multiple Bob's Bear Bait locations. We've been in the bear bait business for 13 years and our staff has years of bear hunting experience. We carry the largest variety of bait in Wisconsin, including scents, bulk bait, fruit toppings, dry bait, and more. Once the season hits, bait sells out fast. Don't wait long!

See our advertisement in this edition of On Wisconsin Outdoors for contact information and our latest news, products and sales' events. Just ask for Bob to reach him direct.

As always, happy baiting! 🐻

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DICK ELLIS

# The Great Wolf Divide

## *The people speak, DNR ignores*

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation held a listening and sharing session in Solon Springs focusing on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (W-DNR) DRAFT Wolf Management Plan February 18. According to WWF Representatives Matt Lallemon and Laurie Groskopf the session was an opportunity for people to share their personal experiences with wolves and concerns with the DRAFT plan.

The event was organized by the WWF in response to the DNR's refusal to hold public hearings on the draft plan. The DNR was invited to the event and chose not to send representation. The listening and sharing session recording was sent directly to the DNR so they could hear the concerns of people in attendance.

### Individual experiences shared included:

- A pet owner's experiences with dogs killed by wolves that had broken into their kennel. The pet owner was later stalked by a wolf as she searched for one of her missing dogs.
- A grandmother's experience encircled by wolves over her deer harvest after returning to the carcass on an ATV with her 3-year old granddaughter.
- A taxidermist has experienced a transition from large numbers of local deer being brought to him to deer coming to him from other states. Wisconsin hunters are leaving the state to hunt.
- A farmer shared his cattle depredation experience and the added cost and burden depredation places on the small farmers, including lost pasture land, increased feed

cost, reduced weight gain and aborted calves.

- A Douglas County farmer shared how they lose 15 to 25 calves annually to wolf depredation and only receive a small percentage of their value.
- Due to recent encounters with wolves, a horseback rider never before afraid in the field has purchased her first firearm to protect herself, her horse, and her dog as she trail rides.

### Comments on the DRAFT plan included:

- The plan itself is an expansion plan and not a management plan.
- Buffer zones around the tribes give management to the tribes.
- Private property owners who live in the buffer zones around the tribes are given unequal treatment.
- Demands for the 350 population goal to be added back to the plan.
- The wolf advisory committee was heavily weighted by wolf expansionist groups.
- DRAFT does not have a good compensation plan for cattle and dog depredations considering the time and genetics in these animals.
- Concern that wildlife managers "fall in love" with the species they are obligated to manage and they no longer manage the species but turn to expansion.
- The wolf population goal has been moved from 80 to infinite over the decades.
- Questioning who at the DNR should be held accountable for the plan.

### Common themes included:

- Deer hunting is not fun in Wisconsin anymore.
- Wisconsin hunters are leaving the state to hunt and non-resident hunters are finding other states to hunt.
- The Wisconsin DNR has Madison and Milwaukee interests in mind and not those living with wolves and directly impacted by wolves.
- The Great Lakes states have approximately double the wolf population of the Western states.
- Wolves do not make good neighbors.
- The people of rural Northern Wisconsin impacted by wolves do not support the DRAFT wolf Management plan.

### Noteworthy:

- Numerous requests to the DNR were made but ignored by WWF representatives to hold public hearings as DNR does with every major management plan. Previously four listening sessions to be held in wolf country requested by WWF were ignored. DNR responded "nobody attends public hearings and it would be a waste of time."
- WWF responded that any public hearing regarding wolf management particularly in wolf country would be well attended. With minimal public promotion, WWF/Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dogs, Farm Bureau, Farmer's Union, Cattlemen's Association, and the Douglas County Board Chairman drew 60 concerned residents to the remote location of Solon Springs. In contrast the DNR zoom public input session

February 7 advertised widely had just over 120 registered and ultimately 55 speaking.

- WWF sent 20 invitations to DNR personnel with direct impact on wolf management for the in-person Solon Springs listening session. None were allowed to attend. Newly appointed DNR Secretary Adam Payne did attend via zoom.

### OWO Publisher Note:

DNR held a virtual listening session via zoom for the Proposed Wolf Management Plan February 7. DNR stated in media releases that all people who registered to speak would be taken in order of registration.

That did not occur. Wisconsin tribal leaders were granted first right of speaking "out of respect for tribal sovereignty and deference," DNR said at the zoom session. In response OWO specifically inquired "Was that decision announced in any pre-meeting DNR media release? Who made that decision? Should tribal members be given more respect or deference than any other registered speaker to the point that tribal members are given priority in presenting?"

DNR responded: "No, that wasn't announced, except at the event. The practice of allowing elected officials and tribal representatives to speak first is a long-standing practice at both DNR and NRB functions. As stated...It's intended to be a sign of respect"

Public Review and comment for the Draft Wolf Management Plan ended February 28.



## Vote Constitution First April 4th

### *Daniel Kelly for Wisconsin Supreme Court*

The 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court election will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, to elect a justice to a 10-year term. The election will turn the court 4-3, conservative or liberal.

Candidate Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz is liberal embraced by the radical left. She is an activist who will disregard the Constitution. Former Wisconsin Supreme Court justice Daniel Kelly is conservative with an established record of following the Constitution.

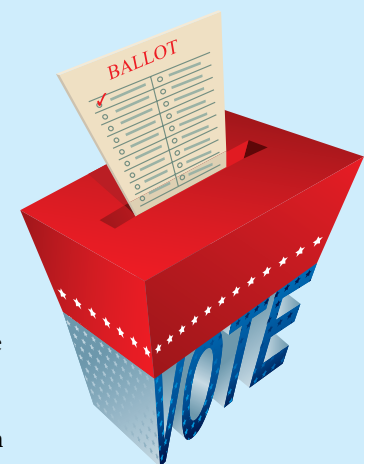
At all levels, judicial activism ignores existing law, disregards judicial oaths to defend the Constitution and seeks to establish from the bench rulings based on personal or political consideration. Judicial activism is a potentially lethal threat to the Constitution and your freedoms guaranteed by it.

The US District Judge in 2022 who reversed the Trump Administration decision to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list presides in Northern California and ruled in favor

of the Humane Society of the United States and other animal rights groups. Huge money to the Protasiewicz campaign has come in from radical donors in Illinois, Minnesota, California, New York, Washington, Washington D.C., Maryland, Vermont, Virginia, Maine, Nevada, and Texas.

The Constitution offers the greatest gift we have as Americans; the ability to protect our freedom with the ballot.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, vote Daniel Kelly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.







## Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

**RON STRESING**

# Easy As One, Two, Three Getting into clay target shooting

Spring is in the air, and soon thousands of Wisconsinites will take to the trap, skeet, and sporting clays ranges. Twenty-week summer trap and sporties leagues and high school trap competition will be starting up. So how can a novice shooter get in on the fun? It's simple really. All you need are a few basic items, initial instruction, and practice time.

**Safety First:** All shooting ranges require eye and ear protection. My advice: Don't cut corners. Yes, the Dollar Store safety glasses will suffice. The little foam ear cones or the hardware store's \$4 ear muff hearing protectors will meet the requirement and are better than nothing. However, you are only issued one set of eyes and ears; don't skimp! I wear prescription, amber tinted shooting glasses.

The polycarbonate lens will protect from target fragments, unburned powder blow back, and even an errant pellet. The tint highlights orange clay targets. I wear well-fitting muff-type hearing protectors. If I wanted to upgrade, I'd get the electronic ones that allow you to hear normal conversation, but damp out gunfire. A vest to hold your ammunition and spent shells makes life a lot easier. Yes, you can use a hunting-type vest, but a vest designed for clay target sports works better.

**Basic Instruction:** Most shooters have a mentor that helps them get started. A dad, uncle, cousin, grandfather, or friend who helps instruct you in basic form and swinging of your shotgun. Most experienced shotgun hunters usually break right around 50 percent

of the clay targets. Talk to your local gun club. Often they will allow you to instruct a beginning shooter on an out of the way trap house. For example, a local gun club gave my cousin permission to use a trap house all to himself to mentor his grandson. McMiller Shooting Center offers a do-it-yourself clay target range. You rent the time, bring your own shells, and launch your own targets. For more advanced shooters, they offer a course to help you improve your sporting clays game. I also suggest watching trap, skeet or sporting clays videos on YouTube. I've gleaned a lot of good information out of the videos.

**Firearm:** Yes, you can shoot clays with your hunting shotgun. With a modified choke, you can get away with shooting trap and sporting

*It's easy for beginners to safely enjoy the shooting sports.*



clays. If your shotgun has an improved cylinder choke, you can shoot skeet. Will your scores be as good as someone with a gun made for competition or with a stock adjustable for gun fit? Nope. But it's a good way to get in the game. Learn now, upgrade later.

Finally, before you walk up to the line for the first time, sit back and observe. Watch how the shooters wait for and then engage the target. You can learn a lot just by watching others shoot. 🎯

**STUART WILKE**

# Spring Powered Airguns A powerful, economical, accurate alternative

Ralphie's Daisy Red Ryder BB gun certainly could have put an eye out and help tame the Wild West in a young boy's daydreams. In real life, the Red Ryder, star of the movie, "A Christmas Story," and similar airguns, have their limitations. They aren't particularly accurate and they are absolutely incapable of humanely downing anything larger than a grasshopper at spitting distance.

High-velocity, spring-powered air guns, however, are perfectly capable of harvesting small animals and assorted vermin while providing incredible accuracy. These guns, sometimes referred to as "springers," are activated by breaking open their barrels or cocking levers located along side or beneath their barrels. Springers can propel .177 and .22 caliber pellets up to and in excess of 1,000 feet per second (fps), compared to about 200 fps from a Red Ryder. A Red Ryder can put out an eye, but a high power spring airgun will humanely dispatch rabbits, squirrels and pigeons.

Generally speaking, an air gun capable of shooting an eight grain, .177 caliber pellet at 600 feet per second from the muzzle and generates about 11 foot pounds of muzzle energy is powerful enough to stop small game at distances up to 150 feet.

By way of comparison, a typical 40 grain, .22 rimfire long

rifle bullet exits the muzzle at about 1,200 fps and delivers around 140 foot-pounds of muzzle energy and is accurate up to 100 yards. Firearms chambered in .22 long rifle are more powerful than pellet guns, but they may not be as practical for many people, especially urban dwellers with limited places to shoot. For those folks, target shooting can be an expensive proposition, even with inexpensive .22 rimfire ammunition. Many gun shops have target ranges, but the cost of using them can be exorbitant. Range time is usually in the neighborhood of \$40 an hour. For just about the same price, an airgun range can easily be put together in a typical basement. All that's needed are targets and a safe back stop. NRA-sanctioned competitive airgun matches take place at 10 meters and are similar to small and large bore competitions and a great way to enhance shooting skills.

Decent, spring-powered air rifles are commonly available for less than three shooting sessions at a typical gun store range. Good quality .177 caliber target pellets cost about \$15 for 500 rounds, as opposed to \$50 for a similar amount of generic .22 rimfire. Whereas an adequate spring-powered air rifle can be had at any big box sporting goods store for around \$125, that same establishment will charge upwards of \$250 for any .22 rimfire rifle barely worth owning.



*Spring powered airguns are a powerful, economical, and accurate alternative to rimfire firearms.*

Which means that you will have money to spare towards the purchase of a super high quality spring-powered air rifle, most of which will cost upwards of several hundred dollars, or the price of a mediocre .22 rimfire rifle. Perfectly adequate airguns are made (like most things on earth) in China. They are built to a price point and some are better than others, but virtually all of them share one common trait: lots of plastic parts. Most very high quality airguns originate in Europe and will exhibit better materials, workmanship, accuracy, and durability. They are comparable to match grade rimfire and centerfire guns and well worth the cost.

If you're frugal by choice or circumstance, consider a high quality, spring-fired airgun. But be careful that you don't put an eye out. 🎯

Contact Stuart at [submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com).



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**DAN MOERICKE**

## An Up Nort' Report Going, Going, Gone

All across America, hunters are losing access to public land. Not all at once, just a little at a time. Forty acres here, 100 acres there. It's death by a thousand cuts.

The Wisconsin Recreational Immunity statute was enacted at least in part to encourage municipalities to keep public land open for all sorts of recreational activities. In a nutshell, the act says that the municipalities cannot be sued by somebody who is injured while recreating on the land or by someone recreating on the land. So liability is not an issue.

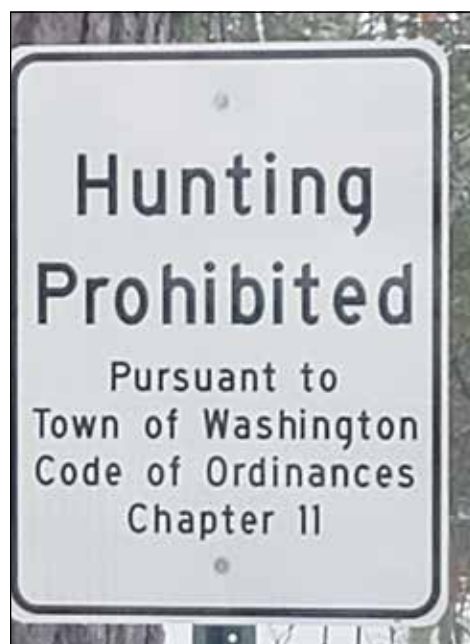
For over 20 years, I have bow hunted on a nearly 100 acre parcel owned by the Town of Washington just east of Eagle River. Located on this parcel is the town transfer station, which is open three mornings a week during the hunting season. Otherwise, the entry road is gated shut. The town board had previously banned hunting during transfer station operating hours. Fair enough. Since I didn't really want to be hunting when there was traffic going in and out anyway, that wasn't a big deal.

On one corner of the property, covering three acres, is a sledding hill. This past year the sledding hill opened around Christmas, so it overlapped the bow hunting season by about a week. Now, no bow hunter in their right mind would hunt anywhere near a bunch of kids and the sledding hill has been there for over a decade without incident.

A year or two ago, the board banned hunting with firearms on the property. Since the transfer station building/equipment is there as well as a cell phone tower with an LP tank, I could understand that.

Then, out of the blue, this past November the town board made the decision to ban bow hunting on the parcel too. Somehow, after decades of bow hunting on this property, it had suddenly become a safety issue. For the record, I've never seen another person while hunting there.

Board members stated repeatedly that it was purely a safety issue. This despite the fact



*Signs like this signal the end of public land hunting.*

that there's never been an incident of a bow hunter harming anyone on this property, or anywhere else in the state for that matter. This despite the fact that many municipalities have archery hunts within the city limits. This without any firsthand knowledge of bow hunting, any research as to its safety record, or any input from archery hunters.

I got the hunting ordinance put on the agenda for the next board meeting to try and convince them to reverse their decision. However, their minds were made up and they didn't want to be confused by the facts. Apparently, repeating the same fallacy often enough makes it a reality.

Though they are non-hunters, the board members adamantly denied being anti-hunting and proudly displayed a map detailing other township property on which all hunting is allowed. So I guess we're supposed to feel good about the fact that they only took 95 acres away. I don't. Never will. Just sayin'. 🐾

**B EGLINGER, FROM PAGE 5**

hope we'll forget. We won't.

The Cochrane Policy Institute, a highly regarded source for the best available medical evidence, recently reported that there is no compelling evidence that wearing any type of mask, including the N95, helps slow the spread of respiratory viruses.

A recent study published in the Lancet, one of the oldest peer-reviewed medical journals, concluded that natural immunity to COVID-19 provides protection "at least equivalent to, if not greater than, that provided by two-dose mRNA vaccines."

There are numerous reports of pericarditis, myocarditis, and sudden cardiac arrest in young, healthy people after receiving the vaccine.

In January, 24-year-old DeMar Hamlin, a Buffalo Bills football player, suffered a cardiac arrest during a game. He fully recovered after days in the ICU. The NFL mandated vaccines for the players and is part of the government's "We can do this" campaign to promote COVID shots. Pfizer spends millions advertising during NFL games. In a post recovery interview, Hamlin declined to answer a question about what his doctors think caused the arrest.

Yasmin Vossoughian, a 44-year-old reporter on MSNBC, who talked openly about being fully vaccinated, was hospitalized twice with pericarditis and myocarditis. She insisted her illness was the result of a common cold. MSNBC is an official partner in the "We can do this" campaign. She and her cardiologist appeared together to talk about her illness. They would not say the vaccine could be the cause, despite the fact the FDA sent a warning to all cardiologists that the vaccine could cause heart damage.

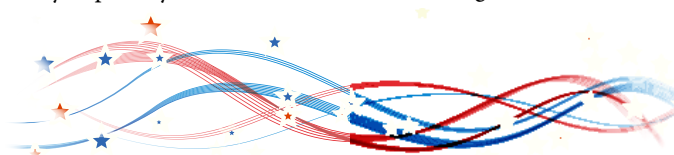
Dr. Peter McCullough, a cardiologist, has been one of the real heroes of this pandemic. He has continued to speak the truth to the public despite threats to his livelihood. He unequivocally stated that whenever an unexpected cardiac event occurs, finding the cause is always a priority and called

physicians who are not considering vaccine-induced myocarditis and arrest "willfully blind." The CDC has recorded 4,800 cases of post-vaccination myocarditis.

Last month, MIT Professor and expert in drug safety analytics Retsef Levi called for the immediate end to administering the COVID vaccine due to "mounting, indisputable evidence of unprecedented levels of harm, including death to young people and children." He went on to say vaccines cause sudden cardiac arrest as a sequel to vaccine-induced myocarditis. He's been ignored.

Last Tuesday, Christopher Wray, Director of the FBI, finally confirmed that the FBI believes the pandemic was caused by a Wuhan lab leak.

It's time to mobilize in a big way to defeat those who are destroying our country. In Wisconsin, the April 4 Supreme Court election is high stakes. It is a battle between an activist judge, Janet Protasiewicz, who will legislate from the bench and Daniel Kelly, a constitutionalist who will protect our freedom. The conservative majority is on the line. Millions of dollars are pouring into our state from outsiders who want to dictate how we live. Our path to victory is straight and clear. We must get out the conservative vote throughout the state, overwhelm the liberal vote, and elect Kelly. There are just over 3.6 million registered voters in Wisconsin. 25% reside in the liberal counties of Dane and Milwaukee. The 2021 election of Glenn Youngkin to Governor of Virginia is a roadmap. Terry McAuliffe, a powerful Democratic operative, was backed by Barack Obama and Joe Biden, yet Youngkin mobilized the rural, conservative voters in numbers rarely seen. They trounced the liberal urban centers. We can do this in Wisconsin. Last Tuesday's defeat of liberal Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot is another encouraging sign. Do not delay. Engage with your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and co-workers. Lock in your vote as soon as early voting opens. Our outrage at the abuses of this government must fuel our unwavering resolve. 🇺🇸





## TOM CARPENTER

# Planning the Happy Ending

## Shooting tips to tag your gobbler

If you haven't missed a turkey, you haven't been hunting turkeys very long. Missing a turkey is no sin, but failing to learn from the experience is inexcusable.

### The Reasons We Miss

Didn't sight-in. It's amazing how many hunters don't shoot their shotgun before the season to know where things are hitting and make sight adjustments.

Not ready for a turkey to appear. Arriving unannounced, within range of an unsuspecting and unready hunter, saves many gobblers their feathered skins.

Panicked and rushed shot. Fear of losing that turkey causes misses when we shoot too quickly.

Didn't get butt of stock up, and head down. Failing to get the butt of the gun's stock up on your shoulder and your head down on it starts the bad cycle of shooting high - turkey hunting's most common miss.

Peeked. In their excitement, some hunters will lift their heads while pulling the trigger to see him drop. Except he doesn't.

Failed to line up sights. Wait until the sights

are lined up (and then double check them) before shooting.

Jerked trigger. Jerking the trigger pulls your sights off the bird. Squeeze the trigger

Turkey moved. Turkeys are nervous. They take steps and bob their melons at inopportune times — such as when a hunter is pulling a trigger.

Turkey too far away. Taking a poke at a too-far gobbler is a sure miss. Worse, you could cripple it.

Turkey too close. Full chokes and special turkey chokes leave little to no room for aiming error when things are up close and personal.

### Plan for Success

Positive Attitude. Expect a turkey at all times while hunting. If you get passive or pessimistic and your gun is on your lap or lying at your side when a bird shows up, the extra movements you need to make are sure to spook it. Be ready.

Nestle In, Make Adjustments. As the turkey approaches, get ready to shoot. Bring your stock up, pull your head down tight onto

it, and nestle your cheek in. Actively make adjustments to keep a good shooting angle on the bird. Shift only slowly, both when and at the speed he moves. Better yet, shift only when his head is out of view.

Know Ranges. Know your outside range limitation and your ideal distance. Don't shoot beyond the first. Strive to bring the turkey into the second. Believe it or not, don't let the bird get too close. The sweet spot is between 20 to 30 yards.

Confidence and Patience. Be patient. Don't rush. Unless he's getting spooked, that gobbler has nowhere else to go. Shoot when the time is right.

Double Check Sighting. This is the most important step to ensure getting that turkey. Really think about your sight picture, and take time to double check your sights' alignment. I shoot with two beads, lining the back one up with the front one to make sure I'm not shooting high. If I take an extra couple seconds to really consider those sights' alignment and placement — back one lined up with front one, front one placed on the bird's wattles — it's a dead turkey.

*Remembering basic shooting tips at the moment of truth can mean the difference between a photo with your gobbler, like the author's son Ethan Carpenter, and kicking yourself on the ride home.*



Squeeze Trigger. Slamming the trigger can mean missing the bird, especially when he's close. There's little "give" in a full choke tube, and even less in today's special ultra-tight shot-squeezers ... especially when the bird is real close.

### Conclusion

We all miss turkeys. But you can minimize bad shots and increase your success rate. Understand the reasons we miss, then put together a simple and personalized process for thinking positively and acting confidently to make shots. 🦃

## LEOVARDO AGUILAR

# The Prairie Chicken Love Dance

## Stunning display attracts mates, appreciative audience

Every spring this dance troupe returns to select stages for their annual performance. Sporting a striped suit with orange accents, the greater prairie chicken's mating ritual is the biggest show you haven't heard of. That's right, we're talking about a wild bird - not some underground rock band. In patches of central Wisconsin grassland, they perform a well-rehearsed song and dance mix that's best seen with a guided tour. Let's shine a light on our stars before the season peaks in April and the curtain drops once more.

A state threatened species, greater prairie chickens are a group worth looking into. Relatives of grouse and turkeys, these medium-sized birds are covered in deep brown, crème and white barred feathers. Females are dressed simply while males boast orange eyebrows, orange air sacks with pink streaks, and a pair of black neck feathers

that are raised and lowered on command. As their name suggests, large swaths of prairies, grasslands and meadows are preferred habitat - a rarity in modern Wisconsin.

It's here in locations known as "leks," where the birds host their courtship dances. Leks are strategically located to guarantee food and shelter alongside aerial and terrestrial visibility. Small groups can be found performing in patches of farm fields and other open areas, offering viewing opportunities from afar. For those of us who prefer front row seats, you'll need VIP access. Lucky for us, environmental groups in the Stevens Point area sell tickets annually for trips into local nature preserves to experience the active "booming grounds," a term of endearment inspired by the call of male chickens.

To prevent stressing the birds, dedicated ticket holders must first jump through some hoops of their own. Meeting at designated

parking areas around 4 AM, groups head out in search of their seats before sunrise. Reflective metal poles are illuminated by flashlight to guide everyone through the sea of grasses, receiving the odd sing-song of a waking bird in the distance as encouragement. After a generous walk into the heart of the preserve, the blind eventually reveals itself. People are quietly seated before erupting in whispers and smirks of anticipation. Vocal exercises of all types become more common as daylight slowly washes over the land.

Rapid foot stomps, 180-degree spins, head bobs, puffed up throat sacs and raised neck feathers make up a fraction of the scene. A booming wooo-wrooo-wooo call sends a mass invitation across the horizon to females and competitive males looking to prove themselves. The whip and snap of feathers, clashing of competing males, calls of aggression or high alert - it all comes together



*With good dancing space at a premium, chasing away competitors is a must. Photo by Sparky Stensaas/theptonaturalist.com*

with the chorus of other bird species. Year-long residents or migratory visitors, these curated plots of land are vital for an array of plants and animals. The greater prairie chicken just happens to be the headliner for a few weeks.

With the bird's hypnotic dance lasting from sunrise to early afternoon, human guests aren't allowed to leave the blind until the chickens exit the stage first. As for those who prefer more interactive sports, you're out of luck. Wisconsin hasn't held an open season on the upland birds since the 1950s when shifting land use caused local populations to plummet. Western states like the Dakotas, Kansas and Colorado - those with strong, intact grassland habitats - still hold stable populations and open seasons. But before you head out of state to pursue prairie chickens, go out to see the local ones perform first. They put on a great show and deserve our attention. 🦃



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