

September/October 2012  
Vol. 6, Issue 1

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TOM CARPENTER

# Food Factor Grouse

## To locate ruffed grouse, find what they're eating

When the first frosts settle upon the autumn landscape, knocking bracken and fern down to the forest floor and turning popple leaves yellow and brittle to clatter in the breeze, many Wisconsin hunters turn their attention to ruffed grouse. The thought of a good dog on solid point in the alders, or of simply wandering an aspen-lined forest trail and hoping for a partridge to flush, warms our hearts mightily.

No matter what kind of hunter you are—obsessive grouse fanatic, occasional partridge chaser, or somewhere in between—you will find more birds and produce more flushes when you consider this critical factor in your hunting strategy: grouse feeding habits and food preferences.

Know how and when the birds are feeding, where they're doing it, and what they're eating. Food drives a grouse's daily schedule, and you need to hunt accordingly to find the birds.

### Breakfast Bar

"Grouse hunting is civilized," a guy at a party once informed me. "You can sleep in, do your hunting in the middle of the day, and finish up in time for supper." I smiled and nodded.

Truth is, grouse hunting isn't quite that civilized. Partridge flutter down from their roosts and start feeding soon after sunup. On a cloudy, dreary or rainy day, they might stay up in their tree a little while longer. But in general, once it's light, the birds want to get down and get busy feeding.

That's when you need to be hunting. Start your circuit during the first hour of daylight. You need to be working the good cover—the prime feeding areas—during the first three or so hours after sunup, until at least midmorning. Scenting conditions for your dog are prime in the cool moistness of early morning.

Frost and dew bother hunters more than grouse. Just hunt!

### Supper Club

The second feeding session of the grouse occurs at another time that might not be convenient for the



easygoing hunter. The last two to three hours of daylight are great. The birds are out actively feeding now, trying to fill their crops and fuel up before a long, chilly night on roost.

Many hunters worry about their own stomachs at this time of day, but I'd rather be out in the woods hunting. Scenting conditions for dogs improve as the air cools, sinks and moistens. Strong breezes lie low in the evening, leaving a gentler flow for your dog to work.

Hunting the split shift—breakfast bar early, supper club late—presents your best chance for grouse hunting success.

### Early Season: Berries, Fruits and Seeds

Partridge feeding habits shift with the changes in the season, and an understanding of the foods that the birds are focusing on is essential.

Early in the season, September, many berries and fruits become ripe. These make prime grouse food. The attractiveness of berries and fruits continues into October and only wanes as their supply dwindles.

Gray dogwood is a grouse favorite. These small round berries, colored gray, blue-gray, green-gray or light green, grow in bunches on low-hanging bushes. Many dogwood subspecies have bark that is colored red or burgundy. That, and the abundant berries, make dogwood easy to spot.

Grouse love other berries too. Winterberries, snowberries, highbush blueberries and cranberries, rose hips and others all make the list.

Crabapple is a top fruit for attracting grouse. The tiny apples are

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DON KIRBY

# Drought Ducks

## What's in your plan?

As I write this, it is late July and the southern two-thirds of the state has seen the worst drought conditions in nearly 25 years, all summer long, along with much of the rest of the middle section of the continent.

While we have gotten a good blast of rain here in the Green Bay area in the past couple of weeks and some limited relief in all but the southern-most part of the state, this year's conditions couldn't be much more different than last year's situation where everywhere we looked, it was wet, wet, wet.

### The Good News

While there are very few positive aspects of the drought that can be found, there are two things that should keep interested waterfowl hunters from "throwing in the towel" on hope for this year. First, thanks to last year's ideal breeding conditions, there are more birds in this year's spring counts than ever recorded. Second, if we were

to beat the odds and did experience an improved rainfall rate over the late summer and early fall, the birds that migrate through will find incredible amounts of food in the wetland areas of the state—food which grew because water levels were down due to the dry conditions.

### The Bad News

This category is pretty obvious. If you usually hunt a shallow, marshy area, one that requires regular precipitation to exist, your hunting opportunity is going to be impacted, very negatively. Migrating birds won't stop and stay at a wetland that's not wet.

### The Plan

To avoid taking the role of the victim to this year's expected conditions, pro-active hunters should consider implementing these actions:

**Scouting.** Pre-season and pre-hunt



scouting is always important, and the most successful hunters will make it a regular part of their routine. However, this year it will be critical. The old practice of heading out to "where we always go," is a sure-fire plan for disaster or disappointment this year. Start now. Begin by checking water levels and observing bird activity at some of your old haunts and make yourself start thinking about where you might ask for

permission, or find new public areas that you haven't used in the past. Bring your binos, your GPS, and a scratch pad; start making some notes!

**Flexibility.** Even if you've never traveled to hunt before, this might be the year. The northern third of Wisconsin, roughly, areas north of Highway 29, has been nearly unaffected

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## TO CONSISTANTLY HARVEST TROPHY BUCKS, YOU NEED TO HAVE THE RIGHT STRATEGY IN PLACE.



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7/12

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BILL SCHULTZ

# Kayak Fishing Wisconsin

## Fall kayak fishing

Canoeing, Hiking, Kayaking.

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Fall is my favorite time of the year. I just wish it wasn't the prelude to a Wisconsin winter. It's also a great time to be on the water fishing in your kayak. After Labor Day, most of the recreational boaters and jet skiers are off the water and fish become more active, feeding for winter. We all love how the color of the leaves begins to explode by mid-fall, which is just another bonus when on the water. So don't put the paddle or pole away. Get on the water and enjoy our Wisconsin fall!

As the weather and water cool, you should be taking a few more precautions with your clothing and other gear for kayak fishing. If you have not been wearing your PFD, you should begin wearing it. Even if you are a good swimmer, spending any amount of time in colder water can be dangerous. If you're like me, you search for secluded bodies of water, so taking precautions becomes even more



important. Be sure to let someone know where you are fishing, and take your phone and put it in a plastic Ziploc or kayak dry bag.

Fishing on cool fall days, I begin

adding layers of clothing to stay warm. First will be a Columbia fleece, then maybe a sweatshirt underneath. If it's windy, I like using the jacket from my Frogg Toggs rainsuit as a windbreaker.

I have a number of kayak friends across the country who fish open water right through the winter. Of course, that requires even more layers and some sort of gloves. A good choice is something like the Glacier Glove fleece-lined neoprene fishing gloves or the lightweight fingered or fingerless fleece fishing gloves.

I usually launch my Wilderness Systems kayaks from locations where I'm in the water from ankle to knee deep. As the water gets cold, I get double duty out of the breathable/lightweight waders and wading boots I use for wading rivers for smallmouth bass. Bass Pro Shops and Frogg Toggs both make high quality chest and waist styles that are more reasonably priced than products made specifically for colder weather kayaking. Both companies also make comfortable lightweight wading boots. They're a great windbreak, with plenty of

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LEE GATZKE

# NextBuk Outdoors

## Early season vulnerability

As summer fades into fall, a new archery deer season takes shape. Keeping track of deer movement through the summer and into the new deer season will play an important role for success, as we are now able to close in on those deer and put our tags on them. Having glassed, shined, and caught many deer on trail cameras right up to the time we hunt them, we become familiar with the local deer herd and their habits. Some of the deer I have been scouting this year are the same deer I've scouted in years past. I've seen how some deer stay in the same general area most of the time while others come and go.

Early bow season, especially the first few weeks after the opener, find deer still in their summer patterns. This makes their movement patterns very predictable for those who scout throughout summer and into fall. Bowhunters who glass, shine, or use trail cameras to scout prior to, and into, the early bow season tend to be the ones who are most successful at tagging out early on deer they know inhabit their hunting area.

A friend of mine, Justin Hollandsworth, had a hunt last year that illustrates this point. Justin is a dedicated bowhunter who glasses and uses trail cameras religiously. He is able to keep tabs on bucks throughout the summer and into fall by being diligent about glassing his hunting spots and placing trail cameras in areas he can't glass from a road or monitor when the deer are active and on their feet.

Based on sightings and trail camera pictures, Justin develops a list of bucks he will target once the season opens. Movement patterns become evident when repeated pictures and/or sightings are compiled to provide information that reveals where the bucks will be moving in daylight hours. Justin's "hit list of bucks" contains those bucks that are active in daylight hours on ground where he has hunting access. Having knowledge of bucks that are active during hunting

hours gives him the choice of which bucks to target given the weather conditions of any particular day. If a certain buck's movement pattern is vulnerable during a west wind, for example, he will target that buck on that day.

Many hunters pay little attention to the early season, saving their vacation time to hunt during the rut, hoping to stumble onto active deer. Justin plans to hunt whenever a deer is vulnerable based on scouting information he gathers. Many times his best hunting occurs during the early season, prior to the rut, when deer are on a predictable pattern.

The 2011 season began with a weather front that prevented Justin from moving in on a big nine pointer he had patterned. A few days into the season, the front finally passed on while Justin checked his trail camera as the last of the systems' rain storms passed through. It was noon and he checked this camera during his lunch break from work. Pictures showed the nine pointer had been active the last two days during the evening prior to sunset, feeding on an apple tree 20 yards from a treestand Justin had set up previously. The shifting north wind predicted for the evening would allow for hunting this spot, and he felt he needed to take advantage of the opportunity while it presented itself.

Slipping quietly into the treestand overlooking the apple tree, he settled into his stand late in the afternoon. As evening unfolded, he watched as the big nine pointer circled the area to come in to the apple tree from the south, or downwind. The treestand was also located downwind, but the slight northwest wind concealed his presence as the buck approached. Waiting for the buck to give him a lethal shot angle, Justin watched the buck feed on fallen apples. Finally, a broadside shot was offered and the arrow was on its way. The fatally hit buck ran a short distance before piling up, and Justin's season was over before most hunters had even started theirs.

Mid-September to late October hunting is a very rewarding time for those who have done their pre-season/in-season scouting. The weather is comfortable, deer are on predictable patterns, and you have the ability to formulate a game plan and wait for the conditions to be just right to put your best laid plans into action. It all adds up to a quality hunt that only the early season can offer. 

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



Scouting by glassing and using trail cameras revealed when and where early season bucks were vulnerable to Justin. This big nine pointer was his reward for many hours studying bucks' patterns.

### CARPENTER, from page 2

nutritious, they hold up to frost, and they drop from the branches slowly over time, all of which helps hold birds through early and midseason and into late autumn.

### Midseason: Greens, Oaks and Aspens

Plenty of berries and fruits hang on until midseason. But once October hits its stride and frost starts changing the landscape, ruffed grouse begin shifting toward their winter food supply of assorted tree buds and catkins. This is a transition time, and a wide variety of foods are still consumed.

Grouse love greens too, and partridge will eat the leaves of many species of low-growing plants. Clover is a favorite. One Wisconsin study of the contents of ruffed grouse taken in autumn showed that 21% of total contents consisted of clover.

Other favorite grouse greens include the leaves of wild strawberries, dandelion and plantain. These plants all like some sun, so look for them—and clover—along trails, clearings, meadows and other forest openings.

Oaks also attract grouse. Acorns make ideal grouse food because the nuts are highly nutritious and they fill a grouse's crop fast.

As everyone knows, aspen (popple) is a grouse magnet. In the Wisconsin study mentioned before, 29% of crop contents were aspen (buds and leaves), and that percentage increased in the diet as autumn moved toward winter.

### Conclusion

Avoid the trap of hunting only the "easy" midday hours. Instead, concentrate your time early or late in the day, or hunt both shifts with a break in the middle, so you're working the cover when grouse are actually out and about. You'll find and flush more birds.

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



Justin caught this buck on his trail camera the day before he killed him. This picture told him this buck was active during shooting hours and led to his decision to hunt the buck that day.



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DICK ELLIS

# On Wisconsin Outdoors

## Doves usher in hunting season

We walked into a new hunting season, a worker's lane cut through the standing corn on the Waukesha County farm where we had found permission to hunt the morning before. Micah and Dylan meandered in front of Scott Heitman and John Ellis, a one-year-old retriever and five-year-old yellow lab slicing into the corn, traveling up the rows, then reemerging again briefly to work the stalks and slight wind on the other side for any sign of mourning dove.

They know this game, despite the long break. Later it will be northern grouse. Then pheasant in Wisconsin's southwest and northwest. Any upland gamebird will trigger the instinctive frenzy in the dog that each individual owner comes to know so well. It means, simply, be ready. The bird is here. It is the dogs' job to find it, put it to flight, and find it again when the bird folds.

Mourning dove season, the doormat for it all, is for little boys and dogs. I brought Micah on a Friday, the first time he had played the dove game since amazing me with two rock solid retrievers in Winnebago County in 2010 at just 14 weeks of age. The little boys,



Like the bluegill angler, the mourning dove hunter must harvest a number of birds if he is to enjoy a meal. The writer found the breast meat excellent grilled with vegetables, wild turkey and venison on shishkebab.

though, were in school, leaving three gray haired little boys to play the role; a simple task since all outdoorsmen turn into little boys when the air turns cool, the leaves turn colors, and thoughts turn to the hunt.

The dove season that launched September 1 and will conclude November 9 was earned by Wisconsin sportsmen after a long, hard won battle over the issue in the state legislature in the early 2000s. Rightfully so. Banding and harvest data from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicate that four to five million doves migrate through Wisconsin each fall. The bird is prolific, with the nesting season running from April to September and each pair producing multiple broods annually. According to the Wisconsin DNR website, "the mourning dove population in Wisconsin can sustain hunting without limiting the population."

Mourning doves are one of the most abundant and widely distributed birds in Wisconsin and throughout North America, with populations stable and growing. The breeding range extends from central Canada in the north to central Mexico in the south and encompasses all of the lower 48 states. Continent-wide hunting mortality is estimated at 10-15 percent of the fall population annually. That level is believed to be below the level which would significantly decrease long-term dove abundance or hinder expansion of geographic area. Natural mortality is high. Approximately six of 10 birds do not survive from one year to the next, with dove mortality caused by a variety of factors including predators, disease, accidents, hunting, and weather extremes. Nationally, 41 million doves are harvested each year.

Our state, according to Assistant

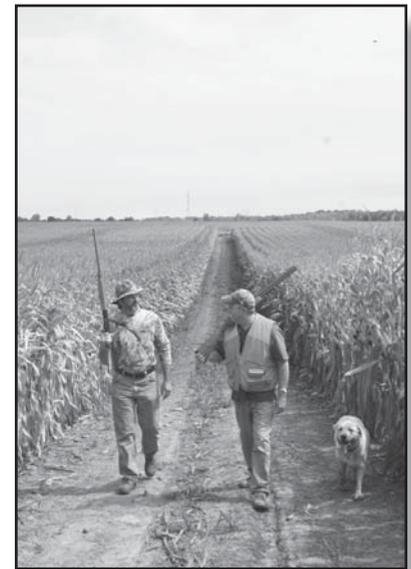
Migratory Game Bird Ecologist James Christopoulos from Madison on Packer Thursday, manages fields specifically for dove hunting mainly in the eastern and southern parts of Wisconsin. Typically, sunflower seeds provide attractive feeding areas for dove and cover for hunters. The state managed fields located in Dane, Green, Rock, Jackson, Kewaunee, Columbia, Richland, Grant, Dodge and Jefferson County are listed on the DNR website with GPS coordinates included.

Christopoulos said 10,000 to 20,000 Wisconsin hunters annually harvest between 100,000 and 200,000 doves. Most hunters, like Micah and me, don't access the state fields groomed for mourning doves but rather private lands where the birds feed on weed seeds or grain. Preferred weeds seeds, in addition to sunflowers, include pigweed, ragweed and foxtails. Preferred grains include corn, sorghum and millet.

Mourning doves are highly adaptable to a variety of habitats including coniferous forests, deciduous forests, residential, urban, and agricultural landscapes. Habitat needs include trees for nesting and roosting, a food source and a source of water. Doves move an average of two to eight miles for food. It's that ritual both in the early morning and toward dusk that allows the hunter to set up on food sources or roosting areas, respectively, to set the ambush, although the early bird doesn't always get the dove.

"I liken dove hunting to bluegill fishing," Christopoulos said. "It's perfect for introducing kids or new hunters to wingshooting. There's nice weather, you don't have to get up early. If a 12-year-old kid is still unsure if he likes hunting, the regular action often found in a dove hunt will keep his interest up?"

Dove hunters must be HIP



Scott Heitman, John Ellis and Dylan work another lane through the standing corn to flush more mourning doves during the first week of the season. Biologists estimate that six of every 10 mourning doves, a prolific bird that raises several broods per pair each year, will die annually from causes other than hunting.

certified to be in compliance with state and federal law. The certification can be requested when purchasing a small game license. The national HIP registry allows biologists to more accurately survey hunters about important harvest information and participation. Because they are migratory birds, hunters must use a plugged shotgun with a capacity not to exceed three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. Non-toxic shot is required to hunt doves on all DNR managed lands.

At the end of two hours, two dogs were dog-tired, four doves were in the bag, and three hunters would find one more reason to hunt them. Wrapped with bacon as an hors d'oeuvre or as part of a wildlife shishkebab with vegetables, wild turkey and venison, it's hard to beat.

Let the hunt begin. 

Dick Ellis is publisher of On Wisconsin Outdoors. Read Dick's blog on the website at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com.

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TOM CARPENTER

# Cubs Corner

## Kids and wood ducks go together

There's something magical about wood ducks. And kids love to hunt them.

Drake wood ducks are so colorful, they look almost tropical. The head is iridescent green and purple, with white stripes coming up from a white chin, and there is a long green crest edged in white. A burgundy chest is flecked with white and flanked by elegantly patterned sides. Purples and blues show on the back, but the belly is creamy white. The bill is red, white and yellow, and the eyes are bright red.

Hen wood ducks are not colorful, but they are still attractive in their olive-gray plumage with sheens of purple and green. Hens have crests on their heads too and a white ring around each eye. The chin is white, like the drakes'. Both hens and drakes have metallic blue speculums (wing patches).

Wood ducks aren't large. A full-grown wood duck weighs about a pound-and-a-half. But their big beauty makes up for their small size. And wood ducks are great to eat.

Some of the coolest things about wood ducks are all the noises they make. These calls are best described as whistles and squeals. Wood ducks don't quack. Relaxed and feeding ducks make *oo-eeek, oo-eeek* whistles to each other. Alarmed or flying wood ducks make a squealy *cre-eeek, cre-eeek* call.

### Finding Wood Ducks

Early in duck season is the best time to find and hunt wood ducks. Take advantage of Wisconsin's youth waterfowl hunting weekend. A few frosty nights and cold days can send wood ducks flying south. But that also



The author's son, Noah, with a big smile and a trio of September wood ducks he shot.

brings wood ducks from the north into your area.

Woodies like small waterways best. A shallow, secluded pond is ideal. As their name suggests, wood ducks like to be around trees and forests. River backwaters make great wood ducks spots too, as do creeks and small streams, especially those that meander through woods or are enveloped in brush. You'll also find wood ducks in marshes and sloughs.

Oak trees and wood ducks go hand in hand. Woodies love the nutritious acorns as food. Find a pond, slough or persistent puddle with oak trees around it and you've found wood duck heaven! Acorns in the water are best, but wood ducks will walk on land to get the nuts too. Wood ducks will also feed on the

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and they'll probably be close.

**Setup.** Get out well before dawn and set out your decoys in two small groups, with an opening (for real ducks to aim for) in front. Use actual wood duck decoys, but teal decoys and even mallards will do. Build a little blind, or hide in the reeds, bushes or vegetation.

**Calling.** Call to flying wood ducks to get their attention. Use a wood duck call to make their squeal and whistle sounds. If a flock turns, quit calling and let them come. If a group of woodies flies past and lands somewhere else, you can often get them to swim toward your setup by making little whistles on your wood duck calls.

**Shooting.** Wood ducks flying past will see the decoys, hear the calls, and turn to come in. Shoot when the ducks are buzzing past close by. Some wood ducks will just set their wings and dive bomb right in, so be ready! Challenge your young hunter to not take shots at ducks sitting on the water or ducks that swim into your decoys. Instead, stand up and flush them, taking the shot in the air.

### Conclusion

Any young hunter's hands will shake and heart will beat hard when they pick up a beautiful wood duck that you worked so hard together to hunt and shoot. Experience it this fall! 

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

### SCHULTZ, from page 4

room for layering underneath. Snugly wearing your wader belt is important in case you tip in the colder water. You don't want the waders to fill with water. Being warm and comfortable will make kayak fishing on a crisp day much more fun.

As noted earlier, cooling water temperatures trigger fish to begin feeding for winter. Those finicky fish that are deeper during the summer can now be found in shallower water, so it's a great time to be out catching

and releasing your favorite species. For me, that's chasing smallmouth and largemouth bass. As many of you know, I will be casting those 4- and 5-inch Kalin's Lunker Grubs on the 3/32-ounce Gopher Tackle Big John's jigs for those fall bass. My best color in clear water is Smoke Salt and Pepper, with the Blue Pearl Salt and Pepper great for water that's murky. For kayak fishing, I prefer longer rods in the 7- to 8-foot lengths, and I'm using small diameter braid or superline with a fluorocarbon leader.

The longer rods add casting distance while seated in a kayak and better leverage for fighting that lunker.

Another great finesse presentation is a wacky-rigged 4- or 5-inch YUM Dinger. I suggest that you experiment with colors, but one of my favorites is Ozark Smoke. Also, depending on the bottom structure you are dealing with, a 3- or 4-inch tube in shades of green or motor oil produce nice results.

If you're thinking about a new fishing kayak, this is a good time to

check out your local outfitter. The current models may be on sale to get ready for next season's offerings.

I wish summer would hang around another month or two, but fall is on the horizon. So, like me, get on your favorite body of water and enjoy some fall kayak fishing. 

*Bill Schultz has caught thousands of small-mouth bass on the waters of Wisconsin. He is an active outdoor writer/speaker and can be reached at [www.smalliecentral.com](http://www.smalliecentral.com).*

JOHN LUTHENS

# Fencerows

## Fishing Rocky Run

I had a day coming all to myself in northwestern Wisconsin, the small town of Brule, to be exact. My daughter wanted to spend a week with Grandma, and I heroically volunteered to drive her up. I could easily squeeze a day in to do that.

No need for Grandma to meet us halfway. No need to bother my wife with hectic packing and a seven-hour pilgrimage; I would shoulder that burden. Besides, my wife wouldn't know the fly rods I needed or what kind of flies, and my waders are quite bulky if they're not folded just right. Sometimes I'm so obviously shallow that I even disgust myself.

The Interstate 94 corridor that slants across Wisconsin is a long stretch of road. I've driven it so many times that I could do it in my sleep. There are parts of the drive when I'm afraid I'll do just that, so I usually end up fiddling with the radio, rolling the window up and down to stay awake, and yelling at cattle and horses in the passing fields to drive back boredom. My daughter

thinks I'm not quite right in the head.

It may have been true on this trip, because I had a coming day to myself, and for the life of me, I couldn't decide where I was going to fish. It's easy to get overwhelmed with the possibilities in the northwestern corner of the state.

The situation resolved itself when a passing thunder cloud dropped a torrent of rain and wind on my daughter and me. It was a little south of Eau Claire and right in the middle of a rousing game of 20 questions. The high, dark clouds passed quickly, breaking apart and opening a filtered shaft of sunlight. The clouds billowed up, and bright spots of

blue sky shot through. It looked like a banded mountain of rock, with sunlight shining over and through the peaks and valleys. And it came to me just like that; I was going to fish my way down Rocky Run.

Rocky Run is a tumbling spring creek that cuts through a cedar-lined valley and empties into the Brule River. There are many such springs along the

stretches of the Brule. Because of them, the great river runs cold all summer and the Brule thrives with trout.

I've been up and down some of the Brule spring creeks. There are native brook trout in them along with some browns. They are far-reaching waters, not heavily fished, and very hard to fish because of thick

***"They are far-reaching waters, not heavily fished, and very hard to fish because of thick vegetation and storm-blown deadfalls.***

***Usually my reason for exploring them boils down to the sake of exploration itself.***

***You never know what you will find."***



Searching for banded agates.



A brown trout falls for a Muddler Minnow fly on the Brule.

vegetation and storm-blown deadfalls. Usually my reason for exploring them boils down to the sake of exploration itself. You never know what you will find.

Some years back, a stream improvement crew found an elk antler in one of the creeks. It was a preserved memory of the time when elk roamed free in the state: a time before eradication and long before the Clam Lake reintroduction.

When I was a kid, jumping from rock to rock and playing the day away on one of the creeks, I found some old moonshine still tucked away in a side valley. During the Prohibition years, I'm told, (not from personal experiences, or ones that I remember, anyway) spring waters made for some pretty good hooch.

While all this childhood playing and exploring was going on, I'd somehow neglected Rocky Run. But with my daughter and Grandma off shopping in Superior, or sightseeing Bayfield, or wherever it is girls go, I found myself parking in a small turnout and climbing down the steep banks of the Brule tributary.

The parking spot is on one of the multitude of back country roads here, and to explain how to get there is more confusing than counting the spring creeks on the Brule. I will say that it isn't far from The Hungry Trout, a roadhouse tavern in the small province of Waino, which is not really a town but more a state of mind. Anyway, stop at The Hungry Trout and ask directions. When you leave the bar, you'll be in the proper state of mind to find Rocky Run.

I explored the reaches above my parking spot, climbing down the steep road bank and rigging up my fly rod while sitting on a dead cedar giant covered in rich green moss. I tied on a grasshopper fly—always a good starting point in late summer. The going was difficult, so I was tangled more than I was in the water.

The stretches of the run I was able to get at were crystal clear. I could see brook trout darting out of their bank cover to take a look at my grasshopper. They'd hit at it with some abandon, but they were too small to mouth the fly. The brush-strewn homes of the big fish were impossible to fly fish. I made a mental note to leave the grasshopper flies at home next time and bring a good gob of night crawlers instead.

Cutting back downstream, I crossed under the road through a stone culvert, with the creek pouring through, crouched down and sloshing through the darkness. There was a deep pool at the end of the tunnel. I actually fished the pool from the shadowed exit of the culvert.

Further down, I crossed beneath ferns and shadowed white pines, skirting over rock and gravel beds, stopping frequently to indulge my passion of searching for arrowheads, lost relics, and agates.

Lake Superior agates are banded quartz rocks that were deposited on rock beds by retreating glaciers. Depending on the specimen, some collectors will pay big money for a banded agate. I'm not always certain how to identify them because geological

*continued on page 10*

JERRY KIESOW

# Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

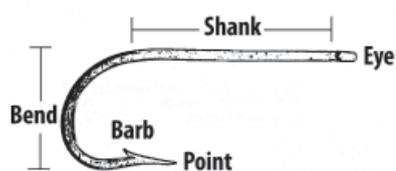
## Hooks, part two

**Online Fly Fishing Q&A** with *Jerry Kiesow*  
Check it out at [OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/FlyFishing](http://OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/FlyFishing)

Last issue we began our discussion about the hook and how each component is important to fly fishers. We gave a bit of history and started on the hook's anatomy, taking it apart piece by piece. We dissected the point and the barb. We continue that analysis now.

### Hook Anatomy Continued

The next portion of the hook to consider is the bend. The bend and the space between the point and



the shank, known as the gap, go hand in hand. If you are a tyer who is concerned

about the actual style of the bend a hook has—Aberdeen, Limerick, Sproat, Carlise, etc.—then you are a tyer who has become a student of the art. Generally, tyers, including myself, rarely, conscientiously notice what type of bend a hook has. Allow me to clarify: Tyers notice the bend and gap and both are considered when selecting a hook, but most tyers don't have a clue what style the bend is called. Most tyers only know what works.

When I select a hook, the bend is a consideration but not my first thought when choosing the proper hook for the job at hand. (I will admit that, on occasion, I will open the bend, just a tad, to give me a slightly larger gap and a better hooking angle, but not often.)

The shank is that straight, sometimes curved portion of the hook to which 99.9 percent of the material that creates the fly is attached. Its length, shape, and weight (which reflects the overall hook weight), after selecting the size hook I will be using, is my first consideration.

Streamers require longer shanks than wet flies or nymphs. Straight shanks will work for all flies; however, a curved shank provides a much more effective profile for caddis, shrimp, or scuds. Of course, if you are creating poppers, you want the humped, kinked shank so the popper head will not twist and spin, as it would on a straight shank. Yes, shanks are very important when selecting your hook for a specific pattern.

Finally, we come to the eye of the hook. Eyes come turned up, turned down, or straight. Most hooks have ringed eyes, which means the eye is bent to come around in a perfect circle and almost touch at the spot where it began being formed, leaving a slight crack. Some eyes are brazed to eliminate that crack. This brazing makes a very strong eye and eliminates the chance of getting the leader snagged or cut, as it might with a ringed eye. (Although, that rarely happens.)

Some hooks come with looped eyes. A looped eye is slightly elongated, and instead of almost touching

the shaft, as the ringed eye does, the wire continues parallel to the shaft for a limited distance. (Don't plan on using beadheads with a looped eye hook. The bead will not slide over the double thickness of the wire.) Salmon hooks have looped eyes.

### Comments From Others

I asked a few friends what kind of hooks they prefer for their flies. Here are two replies:

"I have not tied the different kinds of eyes. Mostly, I tie inland trout flies in straight hooks (nymph) or scud hooks for scuds. It seems the different eyes are more for salmon flies. I do use the wide gap hooks for egg patterns (mostly because everyone else does), but I also think they provide a better hook set in bony mouths. I would think the different eyes on clousers and the like keep it swimming in a more natural way (like nymphs and scuds)." —Judy

"Since I don't tie, I'm at the mercy of what the tyers provide. In general, I think I prefer upturned eyes because those hooks have a wider gap, but there may be something to the physics of pull direction with turned down eyes that make those hooks bite better, but I'm not about to try to figure that out." —Dan

### Personally

My reply to my own question: I tie different patterns on different hooks. For example, I like to tie some medium and large streamers on straight eye hooks, because I often troll them behind a spinner as I canoe from spot to spot or if the wind comes up or I am heading the wrong way in a current and I can't paddle and cast at the same time. (It works.) Straight eye streamers follow much better than those with turned eyes.

However, I like heavy salmon hooks for larger, deep running streamers and even buggers when I need to fish slow and near the bottom. They help me to *not* add additional weight to my leader.

I prefer straight eye dry flies, but my main concern here is weight (or rather the lack thereof), so eyes are not my primary concern. I need extra fine wire for dries.

I am beginning to tie more and more nymphs and caddis and even some wet fly patterns on curved shanks, and I totally agree with Judy's opinion using curved, heavy wire, short shanked hooks for egg flies.

So if you tie your own frauds, you can help yourself by being selective with that piece of metal that holds all of your material—the fur and feathers and other good stuff—and also keeps the fish on your tippet until you can net, admire, photograph, and then either release or keep it for the pan.

I hope this series has helped. Keep a good thought! 

*Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors. He is conducting fly fishing/tying classes at Riveredge Nature Center, Newburg, into September. [www.jerrykiesowoc.com](http://www.jerrykiesowoc.com).*



*Whatever species you fish for, like this brookie, and whatever type of fly you choose to use, the hook size, style, and weight of the hook will either help you or make your fishing life a bit more difficult.*



### Hooks, Hooks, Hooks

Left column, top to bottom:

#8 Mustad, nymph sproat, 3X H/STD

#12 Tiemco, nymph, down eye, standard wire, 3X long

#12 Tiemco, dry, straight eye, 1X fine, wide gap

#18 Tiemco, dry, down eye, 1X fine, wide gap

Right column, top to bottom:

#2 Partridge, single low water, (looped eye)

#6 Temco, caddis pupae & shrimp, down eye, 2X heavy, 2X wide, 2X short

#6 Daiichi, bead-head nymph, 2X-long, round bend, straight eye, curved shank

#8 Daiichi, streamer, straight eye, 4x-long, round bend, 1X-strong

A small number of the different styles and types of hooks the author uses when tying his flies. The descriptions are quoted from the manufacturers' packages. Generally this chart tells you the size, manufacturer, recommended use, wire weight, plus or minus, and shank length, standard or plus.

PRESENTS

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# — Fishing Guide — DENNIS RADLOFF

DENNIS RADLOFF

## Green Bay: Big muskies, big water, big fall days



Green Bay anglers such as Steve Brezinski above score when the author pieces together seasonal patterns, the location of migrating baitfish and a big musky's need to feed.

While nature's clock would say fall doesn't start until September 21st, my "musky clock" says it starts Labor Day weekend on Green Bay for big muskies!

Catching a musky is always the goal when we hit the water on a "Musky Hunt," but targeting BIG muskies becomes more consistent on a fishery like Green Bay in the fall. There are three reasons this consistency occurs: seasonal pattern, baitfish, and the need to feed.

### Seasonal Pattern

Any and all kinds of fish have a seasonal pattern that consists of pre spawn, spawn, post spawn, spring transition, summer, peak summer, fall transition, fall staging, and winter. In regard to Green Bay fall muskies, we are looking at fall transition and fall staging.

Fall transition is the migration of muskies from suspended open water and deep break lines to main lake structure like weed edges, points, and shoreline structure.

Fall staging is what happens when muskies begin to establish and occupy destinations that are adjacent to where they will spawn the following spring.

### Baitfish

The musky population on Green Bay thrives on two particular types of baitfish, which are shad and whitefish.

Shad are on the smaller side of the spectrum, usually ranging from 6 to 8 inches in length. Shad are temperature sensitive, and usually around early September, as the main waters of Green Bay begin to cool, the shad will begin flocking into the lower bay of Green Bay as they seek remaining warm water temperatures.

Whitefish are another staple to the Green Bay musky forage base. The whitefish are generally located in the deeper waters of Green Bay, but as water temperatures cool, they will seek shallower waters and actually spawn in the shallow waters at night.

### The Need To Feed

A final element to the equation is the need to feed in the fall. As fall water temperatures begin to cool, muskies are just genetically engineered to feed heavy. The cooler the water temperatures get, the slower the muskies' metabolism becomes, so they are getting as much winter reserve built up while they can. Another factor is that all the females have fully developed spawn sacks which are in need of daily nourishment to reach maturity for next year's spawn. This is why fall muskies are always running at maximum weight.

### Big Results

When you combine the seasonal patterns of the Green Bay muskies with the baitfish migrations and the need for feed, you get some BIG results!

Keep in mind the bay of Green Bay is approximately 520 square miles of water. That's a lot of "hiding room" for even a 40-pound musky. Fall is the season where you will find a higher concentration of muskies, in smaller concentrated regions of the fishery.

Trolling the bays and flats adjacent to the rivers feeding Green Bay offers fantastic destinations as you'll find fall transition muskies taking advantage of the present baitfish opportunities. Trolling makes for a great presentation since you can cover the large flats effectively that would otherwise be tough to cover with traditional casting. Using "shad style" crankbaits for this presentation is always a good starting point, switching to larger "whitefish style" crankbaits later in the season.

Casting can be an effective technique as these fish move into the rivers. In the rivers we will target small feeding shelves adjacent to the deep river channel, along with any type of river structure like bridge pilings, docks, or shoreline rip-rap. When casting the shallow flats and shoreline rip-rap, we use smaller shallow running crankbaits and buck tails that are similar to the 6-inch shad. When casting the deeper river waters around bridge pilings and docks, we use deep diving crankbaits and larger soft plastic lures to get down deeper into the strike zone.

Using your locator is going to be a critical factor in getting your BIG results this fall. If you are trolling the large open flats, or casting spots in the river, spend some time searching for baitfish with your locator. Be sure you are marking schools of baitfish to ensure you are in the zone!

Combine these tactics and you will be set for netting a 40 pounder this fall. 

Captain Dennis Radloff operates Sterling Guide Service. He guides on the waters of Green Bay and Southeastern Wisconsin seven days a week April through November. Contact Dennis through his website [sterlingmusky.com](http://sterlingmusky.com) or at 262.443.9993.

### LUTHENS, from page 10

knowledge has mostly eluded me, but I'll pick up a neat-looking treasure rock here and there, filling my wader pockets and wondering why it gets harder to walk the longer I go.

While I was belly down on a rock bed, a doe and her fawn crossed into the stream. Their ears twitched when they saw me, and they paced nervously into the brush. I've seen a lot of deer in my life, but when they stand in the brush and snort and it's so close that you can nearly feel their breath, it's an experience that never gets old.

By the time I reached the spillway into the main river, I had nearly forgotten that I had a fishing rod. But the sun was setting just right, so I switched to a sink-tip line and waded the river, casting a Muddler Minnow and being careful not to step too deep, because with a load of potential treasure rocks in my waders, I figured I might sink like one if I went down.

*continued on page 27*

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DIANE SCHAUER

# State Properties

## *More than deer and ducks in a drought*

**B**ack in 2009 I wrote an article for OWO titled “Public Hunting Grounds—More than Deer and Ducks.” In it I outlined some of the many ways that public hunting grounds and state properties in Wisconsin enhance our lives, even for those of us who don’t use them for hunting. In the subsequent years, I’ve come to appreciate and respect our state properties even more.

Just last weekend my husband and I headed out to do some birding. We went to Collins Marsh in western Manitowoc County. The pond there still had water and stunning numbers of birds. There were more than three dozen great white egrets, a few dozen great blue herons, and too many sandhill cranes to count. An osprey was in the water, seeming to float, then suddenly flew off with a fish. Glorious! Additionally, there were shore birds, ducks, and white pelicans. The pond at Collins was a bird magnet.

It’s not just the larger ponds that are helping our wildlife through this drought. Many properties have been manipulated by the DNR with scrapes, which are shallow pooling areas to aid wildlife. These draw the birds, of course, but also gather the amphibians, invertebrates, and mammals to the life-giving water.

Many of our state properties, including the Brillion and Killsnake Wildlife areas here in Calumet County, are managed for wildlife production. In addition to the scrapes, they have a much greater diversity of vegetation than surrounding areas. Having done a



*Scrapes on the Killsnake Wildlife Area such as this one are used extensively by all manners of wildlife, especially in drought conditions like this year.*

***“The diversity of the plantings on managed lands has a much greater capacity to provide food and shelter, in addition to water, during the drought.”***

winter raptor survey along a 20-mile stretch of Calumet County for five years, I have seen the amazing Wildlife areas. The route begins in standard rural Calumet. We see a few red tail hawks, a kestrel here and there, and a random harrier. The middle of the route is through the Killsnake Wildlife Area. Upon entering the Killsnake, the difference is astounding as the sheer number of raptors more than doubles. In addition to the “regulars,” we get more rough legged hawks, shrikes, eagles, and owls. The numbers and variety of birds are far greater on the state lands than on surrounding areas.

Well, how does that apply to the drought?

The diversity of the plantings on managed lands has a much greater capacity to provide food and shelter, in addition to water, during the drought. The prairie plantings are flourishing this year as many of the species have

extremely deep tap roots, extending 12 feet or more into the soils. The Silphium family of prairie plants, compass plant, cup plant, and prairie dock, are having a banner year. Many of our state-owned properties are doing well during this drought and provide great relief for our deer and ducks, plus amphibians, dragonflies, butterflies, and every other critter out there.

Other than great wildlife viewing and fantastic photo opportunities, how do the properties help people?

In times of severe drought, our state properties are used to help local farmers. In recent memory, it happened in 1988, 1993, and now in 2012. Nearly 160 wildlife areas in 50 counties around our state are opening up grasslands for haying for free. Approximately 11,500 acres of both warm and cool season grasses have been made available to local farmers for harvesting. Locally, some farmers are taking advantage of



*Plants of the Silphium family such as the compass plant are doing well in the drought of 2012.*



*Ospreys still find good fishing and open waters in the public lands, such as this osprey with a fish at the Brillion Wildlife Area. (Photo by Ken Koehler)*

this free hay to provide additional bedding for their animals. Others intend to mix the grasses with corn to stretch the food source for the animals in need.

Ok, so 11,500 acres of haying isn’t going to solve the problems produced by this drought of 2012. But isn’t it nice to know that our state properties are being used to help?

So the next time you read that another parcel somewhere in Wisconsin has been purchased by or donated to the state, smile and be pleased. It’s one more small refuge to aid and assist not only deer and ducks, but all other manners of creatures that inhabit our state, including us. 

*Diane Schauer is the aquatic invasive species coordinator for Calumet County.*



*Even the smallest creatures derive assistance from the extreme weather, such as this viceroy butterfly on a blazing star.*

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GLENN WALKER

## Blades For Fall

### More spinnerbait bass

Some signs of fall that we all recognize include leaves turning colors and days getting shorter. More importantly, the water temperature begins to drop, which means it is time for some fantastic fall bass fishing!

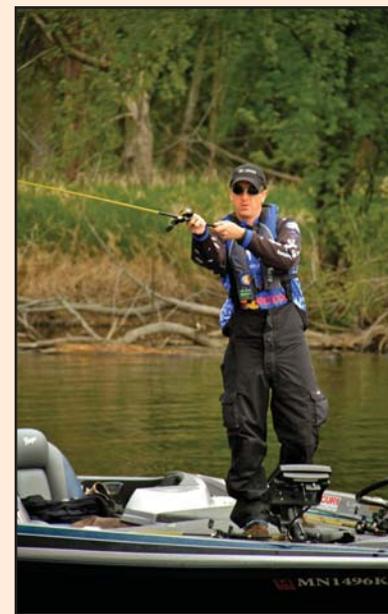
This is a time when an angler has the opportunity to catch not only numbers of bass, but also bass of good quality. Anglers can use many lures and techniques to catch these fish, but my favorite tactic to catch largemouth bass in the fall is to throw a spinnerbait.

Bass have one thing on their mind in the fall ... food! They are bulking up for the long winter ahead and gorge themselves. The shad that the bass are feeding on are going to be in shallow water, along flats, or located on a point, and, in most cases, grouped in big schools. This water will warm as the sun rises, which will attract the baitfish and, in turn, bring the bass in.

Numerous forms of cover will hold bass in the fall as long as they have food present and are located near or on the way to deeper water. Points with moving water on both sides and flats with deep water close by are two areas to find these largemouth hiding.

Shorelines with weeds or wood will also have baitfish and bass next to them. Many times the bass will roam these

flats to feed on the shad. If one day you are catching them on the cover and the next day they aren't there, just back off of the cover. More than likely the bass will be out roaming and actively feeding on that flat.



Making long pinpoint precision casts is key.

Having deeper water close by is important, because these are the areas where bass will winter. There doesn't have to be a huge difference in water depth for it to be considered deeper. On a recent fishing trip to the Mississippi River, we found the bass located in an area with several forms of vegetation in it with a slight to moderate current going through the area. Instead of just casting to the visible cover and catching short bass or bass up to 14 inches, we backed off and ran our spinnerbaits through the 3- to-5-foot water column and yielded bass in the 3- to 4-pound range.

The equipment that I use to throw a spinnerbait in the fall is a high speed reel with 15-pound test Fluorocarbon spooled on it. With this reel and line combination I'm able to make long casts, burn my spinnerbait and fish in any cover that I may come across.

Every angler has their favorite spinnerbait that they like to throw, and pretty much every tackle company makes one. It is just up to you to find



Big smallmouth will cover a lot of water to hammer your spinnerbait!

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MIKE FOSS

# Diary Of A Wisconsin Bear Guide

## The hunt arrives

As daylight slowly approaches, there is no need for my alarm clock anymore. I now automatically awake the same time each day. I am sore, and as I grow older, I am like an old locomotive train; slowly I start and eventually ... once I get going ... I am hard to slow down.

The daily task is here. The stands are set. The bears are hungry. My responsibilities are overwhelming at times, but the hunters are relying on me. I think positive. With hard work, I should come through for them. Hard work has a way of paying dividends in anything. I am confident that what we have accomplished baiting over 30 square miles of Bayfield County these past few months will once again mean almost 100 percent shot opportunity for the 20 hunters coming to Northern Wisconsin Outfitters opening day, September 5.

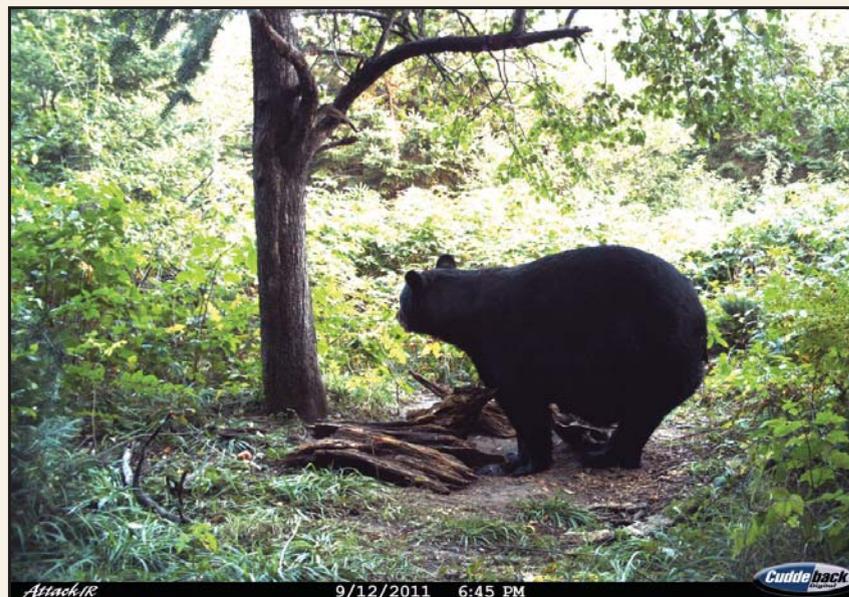
Before the baiting season, I listened to the complaints and concerns of business owners holding over 4,000 acres of private, prime bear country. One of Wisconsin's best and fastest growing seed companies had recruited Northern Wisconsin Outfitters to thin out the bear population on some of its properties. I knew the task ahead of me was going to be enormous.

I know personally that a bear can be a very destructive animal, but my work overwhelmingly has been in the unbroken forest country of the far north. I guide on the fringe of agricultural land but have not ventured in it. I looked at it all: the power and destruction of a bear from a different perspective as I looked at each photo

handed to me by the property owners. I had no idea the destruction bear cause once in a cornfield. Now I think I may have just solved the mystery of the crop circles.

My new friends' concerns didn't just stop with the destructive bears. They are also intensely into deer hunting. Within these huge sections of 640 acres are safe zones, or sanctuaries, for the deer that no one, not even the landowners, is allowed to venture inside. Food plots are also planted. I had to work around these obstacles, but there was plenty of room for bear baits. As I sat and tried to digest all the information from the owners, I was also wondering just how I was I going to pull this off in such a short amount of time.

To cut the time in half that I would need to effectively bait the bear, I relied on my PC and the program, "Google Earth." Google Earth is one of the greatest aerial scouting tools we have. I created a folder that included aerial maps, a permission to hunt contract, and my signed "Sportsman's Pledge" to the family and company. As I looked at each piece of property, I worked around food plots and the sanctuaries, picked out my target areas, and finally began to scout. I was overwhelmed by the ruggedness and stark beauty of the areas. I was like a kid at Christmastime. It was difficult to wait to see what the next property would hold. Bear sign was everywhere, signaling more accurately a bear "infestation." In a short 10 weeks I have placed 16 new bear stands and bait stations. I am sure as time goes by that I will eventually



Wood Tick, so-named for his enormous belly and one of the 600-pound boars working the Mike Foss stations in Bayfield County, stood his ground at 15 yards when a guide tried to replenish the bait despite three shrill blasts on a hand-held foghorn. The guide finally decided the station could be baited ... later.

move stands and fine tune the areas best for bears. Now, though, we are ready.

★★★★★

Every now and then I receive an email or phone call asking for advice and help. I am always willing to answer any questions the best I can or even lend a hand. I received a call in early July from a local resident and hunter who drew that long awaited bear permit, asking if I would have time to check out his bait stations and offer any advice that might be needed. A half a day was set aside. I was excited to shop in a "different store" than the wilderness I have come to know so well. I grabbed my compass and headed out the door.

I had time to think about how I might approach, without offending

him, any issue with the hunter that just might give him a better opportunity to fill the tag. I do not consider myself a big bear guru. But what I do know is how to ambush bears with great stand placements and good, proven baiting techniques. Almost without exception, a bear that has lived to see 500 pounds, for example, will not wear your tag unless you, the hunter, are perfect.

I watched this hunter from start to finish. I watched him load the bait buckets and was in tune to what kind of bait he filled them with. I watched where he parked, his approach to each bait station, and took in each tree stand placement. Finally done, my constructive criticism was well received, and to tell you the truth, there wasn't

*continued on page 23*

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- Florence County

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- Green Lake Country Visitors

#### GREEN COUNTY

- Monroe Chamber of Commerce

#### GREEN LAKE COUNTY

- Green Lake Country Visitors

# County Teasers

## Find out what our Explore Wisconsin Partners are planning for you ...

Enjoy the beautiful fall colors in scenic **Adams County**. Launch your boat, catch your supper, relax and watch the seasons change at Petenwell and Castle Rock Parks, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> largest lakes in WI, which are **open year round for camping** with heated shower/restroom facilities, concessions, and game rooms. [Click on Adams County.](#)

Explore **Washburn County's** fall colors by road or trail. **Hundreds of miles of ATV & Hiking Trails**, back-country roads, and scenic train rides make fall a great time to tour the area. Call for your free ATV map or Fall Color Tour Brochure to plan your fall getaway today. [Click on Washburn County.](#)

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

In **Marinette County** —the real north— you can set your own pace! Try our exciting **new zip-line tour through the forest canopy, fish for your trophy walleye or musky, or just relax on a hike to some of our waterfalls**. No matter your pleasure, we have what you crave! [Click on Marinette County.](#)

Located in the heart of **Wisconsin's "Big Woods,"** Eagle Point Cabin is the perfect location

for a relaxing vacation away from the hustle and bustle of your daily routine. **Some openings are still available for September and October!** The four wheeling is great, and the fishing gets real good in the fall. [Click on Iron County.](#)

**Ashland** has **primo Bass fishing**, plentiful game for hunters, excellent shopping, dining & lodging, South Shore Brewery, German Cookies & Chocolates, a local market with over **40 varieties of homemade sausages, colorful autumn leaves**, murals & friendly people; all waiting for avid hunters & anglers to plan a visit to **Lake Superior's Hometown**. [Click on Ashland County.](#)

Fall is fun, fall is great, come out and celebrate! Check out the 150th Richland County Fair in September. Come back in October and take a drive to enjoy the fall colors during Center Color Fest and stay for the "Lights Parade" or let loose at Hybrid Redneck Rally. [Click on Richland County.](#)

The **Hayward Lakes Area** would like to welcome you to our Northwoods. **Rich in small town atmosphere, Hayward is an ideal fall destination**. Whether it's the variety of accommodations, fantastic fishing, excellent dining, unique shopping or just a quiet secluded setting you're looking for, you're sure to enjoy your getaway. [Click on Sawyer County.](#)

Everything you need is at **Rice Lake!** Fall is a beautiful time to connect with hundreds of miles of ATV & UTV trails. **Fish, canoe, bike, golf and dine ... we have it all**. When the day is done, relax in one of our 7 excellent hotels. Download our visitor guide. [Click on Barron County.](#)

Autumn in **Clark County** brings breathtaking views of **flaming foliage from Levis Mound and Highground Veteran's Memorial Park**. You won't want to miss our many family friendly festivals and celebrations such as **Thorp's Pumpkin Fest or Granton's Fall Festival**. Visit numerous greenhouses, farmer's markets and roadside stands for fresh produce. [Click on Clark County.](#)

Join us in **Hurley, WI** for the **Festival Italiano, September 1, 2012**, downtown Silver Street. Great Food, Entertainment, Craft Vendors, Children Attractions, and much more. For more information, contact the Hurley Chamber of Commerce at 715.561.4334 or [click on Iron County.](#)

The **Waukesha Gun Club** is Wisconsin's largest shotgun only club. It features **29 Trap houses, a Sporting Clays course, 7 Skeet ranges, two 5-Stand courses and a spacious clubhouse** perfect for business or family outings. Contact our manager, Karen Gerbensky, at 262.547.9785. [Click on Waukesha County.](#)

**Door County, Wisconsin — Your Stories. Our Setting. Like Nowhere Else.** Few destinations offer a more diverse array of activities in a picturesque setting than Door County. For all things that fuel your passion for the outdoors, call 800.527.3529 or [click on Door County.](#)

Outdoorsmen and women will find close to 300,000 acres of public land and 18,000 acres of water to blast and cast upon this fall in **Price County**. You'll find **grouse, deer, walleye, musky and more**. With **200 miles of trail, ATV and UTV** enthusiasts are sure to enjoy the fall colors in the scenic forest. [Click on Price County.](#)

Outdoor **Port Washington** in fall is great—with warm days & cooler nights. **Fishing is still in full swing. Bike our trail or hike natural areas through the crisp air & fall foliage**. Kayak or canoe off South Beach or take the new trail into the wildlife sanctuary. It's near perfect. [Click on Ozaukee County.](#)

**Iron County** offers a wide range of activities for the outdoor enthusiast. Ruffed Grouse hunters will find 170,000 acres of public forest land including **two grouse management areas**. Contact us for a Sportsman's Map for more information. Fishermen can explore over **200 inland lakes** including the **Turtle Flambeau and Gile Flowages**, and, again, our Sportsman's Map will guide you. [Click on Iron County.](#)

## Explore Wisconsin online!

Explore at [OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/ExploreWI](http://OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/ExploreWI)



Celebrate fall at the Wisconsin **State Chili Cookoff September 8, Harvest Festival September 29-30, or From the Land Festival October 27-28 in Green Lake.** Or observe young whooping cranes flying with Operation Migration's aircraft as part of the Whooping Crane Festival on September 22 in Berlin. [Click on Green Lake County.](#)

Color has never been so bright as it is in **Manitowish Waters.** Come see the beautiful red color of our **cranberry marshes** during harvest time or cruise by water or road to see **the fabulous changing colors of our Northwoods!** Come and enjoy our many events this fall! [Click on Vilas County.](#)

The **gorgeous colors along the beautiful Mississippi River**

**bluffs** will impress and amaze you this autumn. **Grandview Motel** and **Todd Lensing's Flyway Fowling Guide service** welcome you! Fall is also a great time for fishing, duck hunting, and visiting the many apple orchards nearby. Come to Ferryville and see! [Click on Crawford County.](#)

There's no denying the lure of autumn's vibrant colors, earthy fragrances and the crisp, clear sounds that are only found when you venture outdoors. **Take to the trails in Douglas County** for an unforgettable fall color ride. Or head out onto the water for some of the **finest fall fishing.** [Click on Douglas County.](#)

Sept. 15, 2012—**Ferryville Fall Fest at Sugar Creek Park** on Hwy 35. Food, vendors, fun. In the area ... "The Brave Ride" on 9/15/12 – **bike the**

**valleys and bluffs of the Kickapoo.** Art Festival in Solders Grove, WI 9/15 & 16. Fall Colors Fantastic along Hwy 35. [Click on Crawford County.](#)

**Walworth County** in SE Wisconsin has some of the best fall beauty and awesome fall fishing. As the summer heat dissipates, the fish become more active in the shallows giving anglers ample opportunity for great success. For some **fantastic fall fishing**, contact **Dave Duwe's Guide Service** at 608.883.2050 or [click on Walworth County.](#)

Fabulous fall colors can be enjoyed in the **Park Falls Area** whether you walk, ride or float. **One million acres of public lands**; the mighty Flambeau River; rustic roads; plus thousands of miles of connected trails provide recreational opportunities for everyone to enjoy the beauty of northern Wisconsin. [Click on Price County.](#)

Join us in **Polk County** for Fall Colors! Drive through the countryside or along the **St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.** You'll see Farmers Markets, Pumpkins, Apple Orchards and fabulous scenery. Fall fishing at its best in over 400 lakes. How about a bike ride on the **Gandy Dancer or Stower 7-Lakes Trails?** Stop at the Polk County Information Center in St. Croix Falls which is open every day to help you. [Click on Polk County.](#)

**Minocqua**—find out why *Field & Stream* named us the **#5 fishing town in the U.S.** Minocqua is the kind of place where you **fish all day and sit on the porch at night** to watch the sun set over the lake." Yeah, that's life our way. [Click on Oneida County.](#)

**Treeland Resorts in Hawyard** offer four different resort locations on **Lake Chippewa Flowage** to meet the needs of your family, extended family, friends, business associates or get-a-way corporate retreat. Enjoy heated swimming pools, children's playgrounds, kayaks, paddleboats and fire pits in the beauty of the northwoods. [Click on Sawyer County.](#)

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- Hurley Area Chamber
- Iron County Development
- Eagle Point Cabin

### KENOSHA COUNTY

- Wildlife Visions

### KEWAUNEE COUNTY

- Why Knot Charters & Guide Svc

### LACROSSE COUNTY

- LaCrosse Area Visitors Bureau

### MARATHON COUNTY

- Hooksetters Fishing Guide
- Lakeview Log Cabin Resort

### MARINETTE COUNTY

- Marinette County Tourism
- A River Guide (Jason Guarke)

### MILWAUKEE COUNTY

- Fish Chaser Guide Service

### MONROE COUNTY

- Sparta Area Chamber

### ONEIDA COUNTY

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### OZAUKEE COUNTY

- Port Washington Tourism

### POLK COUNTY

- Polk County Information Center

### PORTAGE COUNTY

- Stevens Point Area CVB

### PRICE COUNTY

- Park Falls Area Chamber
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- Wounded Warriors in Action

### RICHLAND COUNTY

- Richland County

### RUSK COUNTY

- Rusk County

### SAWYER COUNTY

- Hayward Lakes Visitors Bureau
- Treeland Resort

### SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

- Sheboygan County Tourism
- Wolf Pack Adventures

### VILAS COUNTY

- Manitowish Waters Chamber

### WALWORTH COUNTY

- Dave Duwe's Guide Service

### WASHBURN COUNTY

- Washburn County Tourism

### WAUKESHA COUNTY

- Waukesha Gun Club
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### WAUPACA COUNTY

- Fremont Area Chamber
- Manotak Lodge, Ontario
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- First Weber Real Estate

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

DICK ELLIS

# A Pier Without Peers

## Problems inspire better design

Like anyone who owns or maintains a pier, Carl Surges faced problems when putting in and taking out his parents pier in Conover twice each year; damaged framing and deteriorating decking, rusted hardware and the time-consuming transportation of pier sections and accessories to and from the lake and over-winter storage were all too familiar companions. In Wisconsin, ice often magnifies the aggravations or flat out reaps havoc on permanent structures.

It is often said that necessity is the mother of invention. When professional skills and personal passion include product design and development, perhaps Mother calls a bit louder and with a bit more urgency. From the roots of his own calling as a sculptor and designer, Surges's very nature inspires him to improve on the already-established, or to design and create what may never have been thought of before.

Raised in northern Wisconsin, Surges was sculpting his entire life and turned professional in 1979. Partnering

with a friend, his career took off in California from 1979 through 1990 including a focus on sculptural work for numerous movie projects, and gift companies, which included Universal Studios Tours, Knott's Berry Farm and others.

Back in Wisconsin by 1991 Surges said his idea of developing a better pier design was already in its infancy. In the summer of 2002 he took a break from sculpting and started experimenting with the flexibility of brass tubing and coupling mechanisms to determine how each could be used in pier design. His design in part needed to have uncompromising strength, require no bolts or other hardware to fasten, no tools even when lowering or raising the structure in the water, guarantee one-person installation and removal, and offer easy storage virtually immune to the elements.

"After putting in and taking out my parent's pier for years and watching people with their own piers I thought there had to be a way to carry the sections upside down from a position

in the middle of the frame like carrying a pair of nicely balanced buckets of water," he said. "The legs would be folded when carrying and part of the frame."

Each section, in his inventor's vision, would be tilted down by the installer with swiveling hooks meeting and coupling with the previous section already in the water, then simply flipped over to take its place in line. He also wanted to develop a way to drag each section from the water that would ultimately prove even easier than installation and to make "T" or "L" extensions to the pier as easy as the rest for the purchaser.

"I had questions during the design process," he said. "Had these things been tried? I was investing time not knowing if any of these ideas could be patented or were they already patented."

The fundamental design was completed and incorporated in a miniature working model by the summer of 2002. He presented the model to an intellectual property firm

specializing in patents which embarked on an exhaustive patent search. Waiting for the report, he began to introduce the pier to the public with excellent response.

"The patent report came back free and clear," said Surges. "Everything in our design is so logical. Why wasn't it done before? The patent office said we had to break our design down into five or six different patents. I was flattered but concerned because of the multiple costs. They ultimately issued one patent that gave us everything we wanted."

Pier of d' Nort was officially born in a garage in Conover in the summer of 2003. The pier offers standard welded aluminum frame sections of 4-feet by 8-feet with dual-braced folding legs on one end and swiveling hooks on the other. There is no bolting or unbolting between seasons. Each frame is topped with two 4x4 foot deck panels of optional color and material. Simple one person installation and removal is guaranteed.

Height adjustment is also simple  
*continued on page 19*



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**ELLIS**, from page 18

and reliable. If the consumer wants to raise the pier, he lifts the pier and steps down on the footpad designed by Surges. “The secret is a one-way cam,” he said. “The leg can slip one way but not the other. We mount the cam so that it holds the pier up rather than the other way around. Oddly, it just worked better that way. When you lower the pier all it takes is a quarter turn of the wrench to loosen the cam mechanism. When you let go of the wrench, the pier stays.”

Surges also said that storing and caring for the pier is just as easy. Frames are stored upside down with folded legs without leg-caps removed and can be stacked as high as the owner likes. Panels are stacked vertically top-surface to top-surface and bottom to bottom.



“We’ve weight-tested our pier,” Surges said. “The more weight you put on our pier the more secure it is. Each 4 by 8-foot section will hold over 7,000 pounds. That’s about 40 people. If you do get that many people on one section of our pier, send us a photo. We’ll send it to the Guinness Book.”

After several company moves to answer expansion needs, 14 employees making up the “best crew ever” currently work for Pier of d’ Nort in St. Germain. Sales reflect the beauty of the design and the workmanship behind it.

“In 2004 we sold 10 piers and in 2005 we sold five times that many,” Surges said. “We’ve grown by a minimum of 25 percent each year since then. The company has sold 2000 piers all over the USA including Alaska, Canada, and Europe.”

Persons interested in the product send their inquiries by e-mail and discuss needs directly with staff. Depending on conditions, a seven-section pier is likely to take less than two hours the first time and considerably less time with experience.

“We don’t operate on a huge profit margin,” Surges said. What people pay for in the product, mostly goes in to the product. Nothing on our website is exaggerated or untrue,” Surges said. “People with piers are sophisticated; they live on lakes, they’re doing well, they’re smart. To put things on the website that are untrue would be counter-productive. We understate the quality of our piers.



To have customers discover that it’s even better than they expected leads to more referrals than the other way around.”

“We’ll let the product speak for itself,” he said. “We think we offer a pier without peers.” <sup>OW</sup>

*Publisher’s Note: Like all of our sponsors who help bring this paper to you at no cost, we encourage you to visit Pier of d’ Nort if you are in need of a pier before deciding. I pursued this company exclusively after research when my family was in need of a pier on the Manitowish Chain. Connect at [www.pierofdnot.com](http://www.pierofdnot.com).*

*Dick Ellis is publisher of On Wisconsin Outdoors. Read Dick’s blog on the website at [OnWisconsinOutdoors.com](http://OnWisconsinOutdoors.com).*

TOM CARPENTER

## Badger Birds *Ring-necked pheasant*



Every bird lover’s heart beats fast at the sight of a big rooster pheasant, strutting proudly along in his feathered finery, from bold red eye patch, iridescent purple-green head, white “necklace” and burgundy breast to powder blue lower back and that long, elegant tail. Originally imported to North America from China in the 1880s, these adaptable game birds inhabit grasslands, wetlands and farmland across the southern half to two-thirds of Wisconsin.

**Look** for hen pheasants too—subtly beautiful birds cloaked in mottled feathers of sandy brown, cream and gray.

**Listen** for the rooster’s loud, raspy *kyik-kuk* mating call in spring. He’ll also cackle on frosty fall mornings.

**Let** a few corners of your property go wild. Ring-

necked pheasants need brush and grass for hiding but come out to feed in open areas on sunny mornings and late afternoons.

**Feed** pheasants shelled corn spread on the ground. In winter, keep snow off the grain with a simple “lean-to” built from plywood and two by fours.

**Did you know** that pheasants, while primarily seed eaters, also love fruits and berries? Crabapple, dogwood, viburnum, highbush blueberries, Russian olive, mulberries and raspberries will all attract pheasants. These small trees and shrubs also provide important wintering habitat. <sup>OW</sup>

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



### ON THE COVER:

Bear hunter Craig Cichanofsky of Green Bay with his 639 pound black bear taken September 17, 2009 in Bayfield County with guide Mike Foss of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters.

MIKE YURK

## Bassology

### Following the wind

The wind is one of those things all of us fishermen have to deal with. Without it, fishing our lakes on a hot summer day can seem like sitting in a sauna. Too much of it makes it hard to control your boat as you are trying to work the shoreline. However, the wind may just be the key to finding the best bass fishing locations.

Where we might find the biggest bass of the day may be determined by where the wind pushes the smallest organisms in the water. Ultimately, everything in the water is in something else's food chain. Plankton and other small organisms are food for minnows and other bait fish. Small bait fish then become food for bigger fish. Bigger fish become food for even larger fish. Essentially, finding bass is a matter of following the food chain, and it all starts with the wind.

One of the first things I do when I get on a lake is look which direction the wind is going. Then I start fishing by initially targeting areas into which

the wind is blowing. Even areas that might not normally hold fish can be productive once the wind is in that direction.

On an evening several years ago, I was fishing with my nephew, Scott Wegener, of Random Lakes, Wisconsin, on one of my local lakes. The wind was blowing into the east bank of the

***“Where we might find the biggest bass of the day may be determined by where the wind pushes the smallest organisms in the water.”***

lake, and we had worked our way along the shore and were catching fish. We got to a shallow sandy stretch of water where I seldom caught any fish. But the wind was blowing into that bank, so we flipped some crankbaits into that area. I watched Scott catch two bass on back to back casts. The only reason that happened was because the wind was in our favor.

## Fishing Trips. Fishing Tips.

More fishing at [OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/FishingWisconsin](http://OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/FishingWisconsin)

I especially like to fish rocky banks and points. Those types of structures always seem to hold bass but are even better when the wind is battering them. Fishing windy points and rocky banks is exceptionally good during the fall. The storms that we see in the last couple of months of the season can be strong and turbulent. Bait fish will be pushed



Following the wind will help you catch more fish like the one that Mike Yurk is holding.

into these areas, and, of course, the bass will follow. In some cases the waves and current will be strong enough to trap bait fish against the banks, which will create an eating frenzy with game fish. For them it is like sitting down to an all-you-can-eat buffet. Bass will have enough muscle to charge back and forth through those areas where the wind is blasting and the waves are rolling, but

the bait fish are stuck there.

One blustery fall day my son, Todd, and I were fishing a lake in Polk Lake in northern Wisconsin. It took us about an hour and a half to discover the pattern. It was a stormy day with dark

*continued on page 21*

**KIRBY**, from page 3

by drought, and conditions will be much better here than in other areas of the state. The shopkeepers and resort owners of the northern part of the state could certainly use your business after a winter that wasn't, and there's plenty of public land and water to explore. Likewise, the big waters of the Mississippi River and Green Bay

are less affected by our recent weather than smaller migration stopovers. These areas tend to have a need for bigger gear and specialized regulatory requirements, especially for boaters, but for the well prepared, the results can be fantastic. Remember, if you're going to try something new, the first part of the plan, scouting, becomes

even more important for a successful outcome. Who knows? You might start a new tradition!

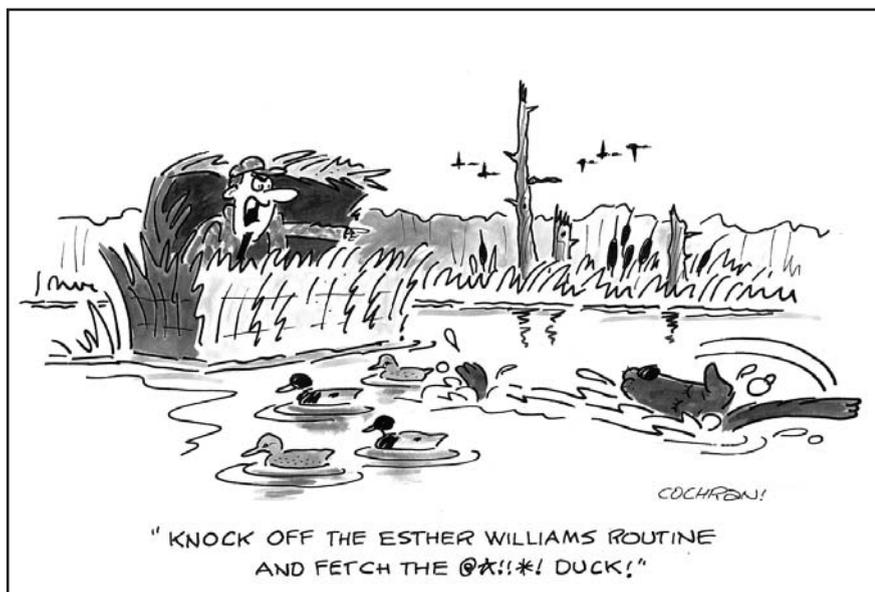
**Take a partner.** I don't mean the same old band of miscreants you normally hang out with! This might be the year when it's time to reach out and expand your horizons. Finding new hunting friends, whether at the boat launch, on an Internet hunting forum, at a conservation fundraising event, or any other place or time that hunters gather, might be just the ticket to helping each other through a dry year. Many of WWA's chapter groups started or have expanded as hunting partners or groups have come together not only to support their sport with good works, but to have the camaraderie of shared passions. Scouting becomes a group effort, with many more eyes peeled for the horizon. Someone else is going to play hooky on a weekday, so you don't have to head out solo the morning after the big north east wind comes through in late October. Quick field reports of the day's action, shared by text

message, give hope, or a quick change of plans, for your outing the next day.

**Don't know where to start?** Look at our web page, [www.wisducks.org](http://www.wisducks.org), and see if there's a chapter chair near you. Their contact information is right there. Some groups meet regularly, all year long, others more infrequently. Either way, you'll be one step closer to having a source of interaction with other outdoors-minded folks near you, and that's never a bad thing.

These steps may sound simple, but I can tell you from experience that these are the best ways to "move on" from what you've always done to doing something new. Not only will expanding your horizons potentially be a lot of fun, but it's the best way to be sure that you don't miss out on what could be a fall migration to remember due to a "honey hole" that's too dry this year. <sup>WO</sup>

Don Kirby is Executive Director for the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association at [www.wisducks.org](http://www.wisducks.org).



"KNOCK OFF THE ESTHER WILLIAMS ROUTINE AND FETCH THE @\*!!\*! DUCK!"

JOEL KUNZ

# On Wisconsin's Rivers Return to the river

**W**e have had a near historic low water summer here on Wisconsin's lower Wolf River, which can mean a couple of things as we look toward fall. If water levels stay low, the fall run of white bass and walleye could be quite slow. After all, it's the influx of water into the system that we typically get in the fall that brings those fish out of the lower lakes and into the lower Wolf River. How far up they travel and the sheer numbers of fish that show up usually have a direct relationship to that rainfall. And actually, lower water levels in summer MIGHT actually help bring large numbers of fish into the lower end of the system. That is because even average amounts of rain will change drastically the levels we have at this time. So even with water levels at near record level lows for the summer, we could have one of the better fall runs of both walleye and white bass. It might be concentrated in small areas of the river, but the dynamic is there for what could be some very good fishing. Walleye and white bass tactics are simple; a jig and minnow is pretty much all you need.

Then, think of the mouth of the river at Lake Poygan as the opening of the corridor and start working upstream from there. Deep water and outside bends in the river where fish can sit and wait for food are prime locations. Mid-river humps and eddie currents also provide areas where fish like to sit and feed. This food becomes available as the young of the year fish and minnows leave the backwaters and

tributaries and enter the main river. This is a yearly event as those areas cool because the main river has much greater flow, better oxygen levels and plenty of deep water for the fish to use as temperatures start their descent towards the cold water period. As the days shorten and night temperatures cool the water, this activity increases, and the more rain we have, the better chance there will be good numbers of fish. Resident fish and a good percentage of the walleye and white bass that summered out on Lake Poygan will almost surely visit, but if we are going to have a big fall run, we need the rain flow to draw fish from farther down the system, even Lake Winnebago.

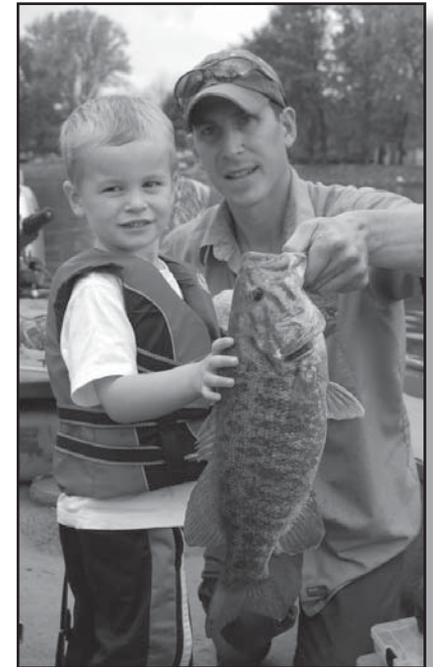
I like brightly colored jigs in the fall. I'm not sure why but it seems that multi-colored patterns work the best. Pinks, greens, yellows and blues in combination always seem to do well. I will still use leeches when I can get them and often try to buy a pound or two from the local bait shop before they run out. If leeches are not available, then a nice sized emerald shiner is my go-to bait.

A bit bigger minnow seems to perform the best in the fall because it matches the size of the young of the year fish and other forage that the walleye and white bass prey on.

Another good tip would be to hover your bait a few inches off the bottom if you are seeing a good number of fish on your locator but they don't seem to be biting well. Often the more

aggressive fish are feeding "up," while the less aggressive fish stay near the bottom. Find bottom with your jig, then raise the rod tip about 6 inches and just wiggle it slowly, dropping it to the bottom every once in a while. Another good trick is to hook your minnow through the mouth and out the side of its body, wrapping it a bit around the hook of the jig. That sideways fall slows the descent and also mimics a wounded minnow, which is what the fish are most likely to attack. The Wolf River is also a fall crappie hot spot if we have enough water in the system to cover the flooded timer and bushes that they like to inhabit. Backwaters with current and fallen trees in the main river over deep water are the prime locations. Some schools of crappie will still suspend in the swirling eddie currents located on sharp bends in the river, but it's the flooded wood that they like the best. Both do their job to gather baitfish in the fall, and where you find minnows, you will find crappies.

Smallmouth bass are also quite active as the fish that migrate far up tributaries such as the Waupaca, Little Wolf and Embarrass Rivers move back to the main river to feed and get ready for the cold water period. And, even though we had a fairly significant die-off of northern pike this summer due to extremely hot river and lake temperatures, pike populations remain very strong in the system, and fall is one of the best times to catch them as they start to put on the feedbag prior to winter. Typical bass and pike patterns



Even with a low-water summer, expect great fishing on multiple species on the Lower Wolf River system.

such as plastic tubes, crayfish and other bass baits will catch fish. As far as the pike, a spinnerbait, spoon or jerk bait will catch fish. So get out this fall and enjoy the "Return to the River." We need a little rain, but typically this is the best time of year to take advantage of the great fishing that the lower Wolf River has to offer. From New London south to the mouth at Lake Poygan, we got it. Come get it. <sup>OW</sup>

For more information about the Wolf River system from Joel "Doc" Kunz, visit his website at [DocsWaters.com](http://DocsWaters.com) or his video magazine at [LifeOnTheWolf.com](http://LifeOnTheWolf.com). You can find both of those pages and his personal page on Facebook.

## YURK, from page 20

clouds swirling overhead. It looked like it was going to rain but didn't. The wind seemed relentless and it sent waves crashing into the banks. We found bass holding tight to those rocky points.

It was an afternoon of incredible fishing. Every point that we fished, we caught anywhere from one to four bass at each spot, and by the end of the day we caught and released over 30 bass. It seemed like the storm had just energized those bass. The fish slammed our baits and tore off with

a bulldog kind of fight. All of the fish were close to the banks and sometimes against the rocks as we cast almost right on shore.

The wind had obviously created the circumstances for that day of fishing to happen. Since that occasion, I have fished that lake several more times but have never again had such good fishing. The wind made all the difference.

Especially when fishing points, the wind not only pushes bait fish into the side that it is blowing into but also creates another interesting and

productive spot on the leeward side of the point. As the wind swirls around the tip of the point, it many times will create an eddy on the backside. Again, in this situation bait fish will be pulled into this swirling water, making it easy for bass to prey on them.

During the summer any number of different baits will work well on windy banks. Everything from plastic worms to spinner baits will be effective. But in the fall it seems that the bass are looking for bigger and meatier forage. In situations like that

I have found that crankbaits are the ideal bait. Matching the bait is critical here.

Following the wind will help you catch more bass. Where the bait goes, so will the bass. Be prepared, especially now, for the windy days of fall. <sup>OW</sup>

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

S. WILKERSON

# Surplus Firearms

## *A dream come true*

Sometimes, if you wait long enough, dreams come true. I've had a dream since 1968. It finally was realized this year and had been in my basement for years.

In 1968, I was 10-years-old and already a gun nut. I couldn't wait to go hunting and target shooting. I had actually shot my first gun at the age of three, a Llama .38 automatic pistol that my dad helped me hold in my teeny, tiny toddler hands. I can still remember the deafening blast of sound that it emitted; real men didn't wear ear protection in 1961. In addition to it being the first time that I shot a firearm, it was, in all likelihood, the shot that initiated the tinnitus that has plagued me for most of my life.

I was in fifth grade in 1968 and not doing particularly well in school. You always remember your best teachers and your worst ones. I had one of the worst that year. I sometimes think she became a teacher just to torture children she took a dislike to. Certainly, she did not enter the profession because she needed the money, and she certainly did not like me. Her husband owned a new car dealership, and they lived in a fine old house. The fact that my aunt turned down her son's proposal for marriage not all that long before my arrival in the Old Bag's classroom probably didn't help matters either.

My biggest problem at school, outside of a lack of athletic prowess and a teacher with no real interest in teaching to other than a select few, was math. Everything arithmetic was a struggle, and nothing more so than learning the multiplication tables. I couldn't do it, and it didn't appear that any amount of studying was going to fix it. In fact, I was so demoralized, I think I stopped trying. Math wasn't the only subject I was doing poorly in. Like my teacher, I had pretty much given up on me. Having to repeat fifth grade was looking like a distinct possibility.

What I needed was inspiration. This came to me via my dad, who promised to give me the family .22 rifle if I finally learned my multiplication tables. Dad, no doubt, sympathized with me. He struggled in math, and, in fact, did so at the one-room school located in the same spot where my school stood at

the time.

The rifle I was to get as reward for learning my tables was a Remington Model 341 Sportmaster .22 caliber bolt action repeater that had entered the family during the Depression when my grandfather bought it used from an Allis-Chalmers co-worker. I'm not sure if the rifle was really my father's to give me, but Grandpa wasn't using it anymore, except to occasionally shoot rats that wandered onto his farm at dusk from his goofy neighbor's ill-kempt horse farm. When he needed the Remington, he just limped over to our house (Grandpa walked with a cane because he wouldn't get his hip operated on) and got it since we lived nearby.

***“Like magic, the prospect of owning the .22 inspired me to learn my multiplication table(s) practically overnight.”***

Like magic, the prospect of owning the .22 inspired me to learn my multiplication tables practically overnight. Within a week, the gun would be taken away from me because I showed it to some of the neighborhood kids. I had been specifically warned by the Old Man that the gun would be taken away from me if I showed it to anyone without him being present, and I solemnly promised that I wouldn't do so. Of course, I did, but, in my defense, it was hard not to show it to anyone or see it, for that matter, considering it was kept, unsheathed—and none too discretely—in our home's entranceway closet. The sixties were a simpler, and, in many ways, more dangerous, time.

I had a lot of fun with the Sportmaster and was pretty sure I would have even more if it had a scope. Alas, it was not dovetailed for a scope mount, and I had to rely upon iron sites for hunting and target shooting. The rifle was very accurate, but the scope would have made it more so.

## More Firearm Columns.

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



*Remington Model 512 Sportmaster*

As I got older and my eyesight got worse, I lamented the old gun's lack of scoping ability. Eventually, it was put away because I couldn't see the sights well enough to justify shooting it, and I was not going to start drilling and tapping what was now a family heirloom. For years, I looked for a Remington Sportsmaster, or similar Remington, dovetailed for a scope and fed by a magazine tube. Nothing else would do.

As luck would have it, 45 years later, my friend Tim had matured and found reason (poor bugger). He decided that guns he hadn't shot in 10-plus years probably weren't needed and what he needed to do now was to fulfill one of his own dreams: purchase a Colt Detective Special.

I was willing to help him out. He had a Winchester Model 1917 rifle which I had been trying to convince him to sell to me for years, even though I couldn't really remember what it looked like. I did know that this particular gun would complete my 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States Main Battle Rifle collection. Tim offered to bring it over for a look-see, and I told him that I would also return his Remington Model 512 Sportmaster .22 caliber bolt action, tubular magazine fed, dovetailed-for-a-scope rifle. I did some minor repairs to the stock finish of this rifle several years ago, but Tim and I got different jobs in the meantime and didn't see each other all that often anymore, so I still had it. I also offered to buy the gun from him on numerous occasions, but he wasn't interested in selling.

Tim brought his teenage son over to my house with him, who, I was happy to learn, was also a budding gun nut. The kid could identify every gun from my collection that I showed him and demonstrated exquisite taste in firearms, i.e., he liked the same kind of guns as I did. Unhappily, the Winchester, while in

good shape and an excellent candidate for restoration, wasn't quite what I was looking for. What I was looking for was something that I wouldn't be tempted to refinish.

Since I was not going to buy it, Tim and his son were going to head off to a gun show to see if they could sell the Winchester there. I remembered the Remington, brought it out to return to Tim and asked, without much hope, if he wanted to sell it to me. Tim asked me what I would give him for it. Neither he nor I knew what it was worth, but he took my offer.

After Tim and his son left, I looked the Remington over closely, something I had not done when Tim wasn't interested in selling it. Close inspection showed that it was virtually new. A little research showed that it was built sometime between 1948 and 1960.

The next day I went to a Bob and Rocco Gun Show in Waukesha and found a genuine, made in the United States, 1960s vintage Weaver K1 scope for \$10 in excellent shape. When I got home, I immediately put the scope on and took it shooting the next week. Within 20 shots, I was shooting quarter-size groups at 15 yards with bargain basement ammunition—the same ammunition that my legendary, imported, big bucks, big name, .22 semi auto chokes on fed flawlessly in the Remington. I can only imagine what the Remington will do with decent ammo.

Being at the right place at the right time is always important. Luckily for me, I was in the basement with a rifle that I had pined for over 40 years when its owner decided to sell it to me. How often does that happen? In my case, probably once in about half a century. ☺

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

ZACH SEITZ, NIC GERHARTZ AND MATT NELSON

# Schwacking To A Record

## Huge carp falls to bowfishing trio

### More Fishing.

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

**B**owfishing (or, as we call it, schwacking) has been one of my favorite pastimes for several years. I started about three years ago when my friends Nic Gerhartz and Matt Nelson introduced me to it. After shooting my first few carp, I was hooked. Nic, Matt, and I, a/k/a "Team Schwack N' Stack," eventually saved up enough money to rig up a 14-foot rowboat with three halogen lights and a small generator so we could start going out at night.

Last year was our first year going at night on our rig, and we were very successful, at times shooting over 400 pounds of carp in a night. We had landed a few fish that weighed in the upper 30s, and this year we were hoping to break the 40-pound mark. Needless to say, I was very excited to start shooting again this year. We got off to a good start this spring, even shooting over 500 pounds of carp in one night, but we weren't expecting what our next expedition held.

My friends and I planned to go out on a Friday night, and even though the weather looked quite iffy, we decided to give it a try. Matt started out in front

of the boat, I stood behind him, and Nic was on the oars. After a while, Matt pulled back on a small carp, about 10 pounds, and tried to shoot, but as he pulled the trigger, the arrow came dislodged from the string and he ended up dry firing the bow.

We decided to rotate positions anyway, so Matt took the oars, and I stood up in the front of the boat with Nic behind me on the shooting deck. Matt rowed for a short distance, maybe 15-20 yards, and then I saw two carp swim out from the darkness and into the light that our three 300 watt

halogen lights emit. I quickly drew my bow back and took aim, but then a golden glow in my peripheral vision caught my attention. I glanced at the shape and instantly realized it was one of the biggest carp I had ever seen. Even though this fish was

a couple yards further than the two underneath me, I decided to take a shot at it anyway. I instinctively took aim and let the string slip from my fingers as the carp was swimming straight away. The arrow entered the fish near the dorsal fin, penetrating deep into the center of its body.

*continued on page 24*

**"I couldn't believe it!  
This fish would break the  
previous bowfishing re-  
cord by 7 pounds  
and the previous rod  
and reel record by 2."**



Bowfishermen Matt Nelson, Zack Seitz with record carp, and Nic Gerhartz.

**FOSS**, from page 15

much to give.

But as I drove away I had this feeling that I was missing something; there was something wrong as I stood by each bear bait pit. It was a frustrating feeling, and I couldn't put my finger on it. Then it hit me, and unless you do this for a living like I do, you may not understand. None of the bait stations smelled like my bait stations; not that they should, but a key ingredient was absent that I think is imperative. The scents were missing ... there was no strong odor of a scent attractant.

Each time I have baited since 1988, I spray either Bacon or Anise scent from the Bear Scents Company in Lake Mills, Wisconsin ([www.bearscent.com](http://www.bearscent.com)) all around my bait pits. My theory has evolved to this: when you're not able to bait and the bait is long gone for a few days, Bear Scents is still attracting and working for you and it also makes a great cover scent while you're hunting. A reliable scent also helps you condition those bears; if used every time you bait, the aroma is so strong a bear downwind one-quarter mile will know the bait has been placed and the buffet is now open.

◆◆◆◆◆

Remember Wood Tick? Last year, just before Snaggle Tooth was killed, a giant of a bear we nicknamed Wood Tick because of his enormous belly showed up. Well, Wood Tick is back as expected in 2012 and is all of 600 pounds or better. Unlike Snaggle Tooth, he has a bigger range and is often visiting two of my bait stations. In early June, during the bear mating season, one of my guides, while baiting, had a five minute standoff, stare-down with this monster of a bear. Not even several blasts on his handheld foghorn made the monster bear surrender the bait.

While my guide, with a serious look on his face was telling the story, my genuine concern finally gave way to the burst of laughter I just couldn't control.

"I forgot my bear spray. I was only 20 yards from Wood Tick," my guide whispered. "He wouldn't move, so I talked to him. I said, 'I guess I can come back and bait another time.'"

*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. Contact Mike at [www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com](http://www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com) or call 715.373.0344.*



"I WONDER WHY THEY HIBERNATE EVERY NIGHT."

SUZETTE CURTIS

# Recipes By Suzette

## Delicious dove

What a summer we have had in Wisconsin! It makes you wonder what kind of fall and winter we have in store. Hopefully, they are the kinds that promote good hunting. We have a few people in our family who are itching to get out there and do some dove hunting. So in keeping with that theme, I decided to feature dove recipes in this column. 

### Dove Breast Toast Points

By Erika Delfosse

Dove breasts (2 halves cover about 5 slices of bread, so plan accordingly)

French bread

Goat cheese

Avocado slices

Balsamic glaze

Place dove breasts in shallow pan in about 1/8 inch of water; cover and cook over medium heat about 15-20 minutes adding water as needed. Remove from heat and set aside to cool. Once they have cooled, drain off any excess water and shred meat using two forks.

Meanwhile, slice bread into 1/4-inch slices and arrange in single layer on a dry cookie sheet. Bake in 425° oven about 3-5 minutes until lightly golden. Remove from oven; set aside to cool slightly.

To serve, spread each bread slice with goat cheese, top with an avocado slice and a mound of shredded dove meat. Arrange in single layer on serving platter and pour balsamic glaze over all.

### Grilled Barbecue Dove

Dove breasts (about 20 halves)

1/2 cup chopped onion

1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup beer

2 T. minced garlic

1/4 cup barbecue sauce (honey flavor)

Melt butter in small saucepan over medium heat; add onion and garlic and cook about 2 minutes; add beer and barbecue sauce and stir until smooth. Set aside.

Cut four pieces of foil large enough to hold five dove breasts and sauce in each. Place the breasts in the foil and pour sauce evenly over all. Tightly crimp edges of foil to make four packets.

Grill packets over medium heat on gas grill or over indirect heat on charcoal grill about 25 minutes; gently shake with tongs occasionally during cooking to prevent sticking.

Serve with brown rice or egg noodles.

### Spicy Hot Pepper Dove

Dove breasts (about 20 halves)

1 T. chopped fresh oregano

1/4 cup Dijon mustard

1 T. ground cumin

1 T. minced garlic

1/4 tsp. ground allspice

1 T. minced ginger

1 T. sea salt

2 T. chopped green onion

1 T. ground black pepper

2 - 4 peppers, chopped & seeded (your choice depending on the amount of "fire" you like)

2 T. chopped fresh cilantro

lime wedges

In large bowl, combine all ingredients except dove breasts, cilantro and lime wedges; stir until smooth. Add dove breasts to coat completely.

Grill dove breasts over medium-high heat on gas grill or over direct flame on charcoal grill, turning occasionally until desired doneness (about 4 to 8 minutes total).

Place breasts in large shallow bowl, sprinkle with cilantro and garnish with lime wedges. These are a nice alternative to hot chicken wings on game day!

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

SEITZ, from page 23

My line started tearing from my AMS retriever reel, and I knew I had hit it. Hitting a fish is only half of the battle, though; I then faced the task of getting this beast of a fish into the boat. As I was dealing with my carp, Nic pulled back and shot one of the two that I had aimed at originally. My fish fought for five to ten minutes, which is a pretty long fight for an arrowed carp. I got it up to the boat multiple times, but it kept making runs and I couldn't hold the fish close for a long enough period of time to get it gaffed solidly. After a few minutes of this, I was finally able to hold it at the surface long enough to gaff it just behind the head. It was too heavy to lift up using only the gaff, so Matt took the gaff while I grabbed the fish by its gill plates, and Nic pulled up on the arrow. The three of us dragged the carp up on the deck. I started freaking out a bit when I saw it, and I even said that it might be the state record, but we thought there was no way that we were that lucky. Shortly after we boated the fish, it started to rain and we began seeing lightning, so we decided to call it a night.

The next morning I put the fish on my bathroom scale, and when it read 60 pounds, I started to realize how big the fish actually was. I then proceeded to take it to Loehr's Meat Market in Campbellsport where it was weighed on a certified scale. We set the fish on and the scale read 59 pounds on the dot. I couldn't believe it! This fish would break the previous bowfishing record by 7 pounds and the previous rod and reel record by 2.

As I was leaving Loehr's, I stopped in their shop and bought some of their amazing venison sticks to chew on while I thought about what had transpired in the last 12 hours. My friends and I had just shot the biggest recorded common carp in the history of Wisconsin. All I had to do after that was get the fish verified by a Wisconsin DNR biologist. In this case Travis Motl was the man for the job. I took the fish up to his office, and he verified that it was indeed a common carp and that it had no foreign objects inside of it that would add extra weight. He signed off on the application sheet and sent it in.

Now all I have to do is wait for the DNR's acceptance letter to make it official: Team Schwack N' Stack has taken the Wisconsin bowfishing record! 

WALKER, from page 13

one that you like and learn how that bait runs.

I like to use a #4 gold Colorado Blade on my spinnerbaits. This blade puts off a lot of vibration, which brings the bass to it. Since oftentimes in the fall the water has a slight stain due to the leaves and dead weeds, my favorite color and skirt combination in the fall is white. I have tried other colors but have the best of luck with white. The flash off the blade and white skirt attracts hungry fall bass from the depths.

Many anglers consider the spinnerbait their bread and butter lure, so with the tips in this article, I hope you can increase your catch this fall. 

For more information, to see instructional videos, and to follow Glenn all season long, check out [www.glennwalkerfishing.com](http://www.glennwalkerfishing.com)

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OWO STAFF

## Product 6-Pack

Great gear for the woods, fields and waterways

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

### WEAVER KASPA SERIES TACTICAL SCOPE

With four options under \$325, Weaver's Kasper Series tactical scopes provide tactical performance and appearance at bargain prices. Standard features include fully multi-coated lenses; nitrogen-purged, fog-free viewing; and crisp 1/4-inch MOA adjustments.



"This 3-12x44mm scope is perfect for any AR-style rifle. Tactical features of the scope include one-piece 30mm tubes, reset-to-zero turrets, a tactical-ballistic, illuminated reticle, and flip-up, protective scope caps."—J.J.R.

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

### APEX GEAR GAMECHANGER QUIVER



For \$70, this handy quiver has an adjustable tension Cam-Lock that moves the quiver snugly against the bow riser to reduce torque and provide superior balance. The full adjustability allows the quiver to mount behind the sight. The mounting bracket is adjustable up and down to better fit all bows.

"This quiver is versatile and high quality. It fits 5 mechanical or fixed broadheads. Other features include easy one hand removal, soft-feel technical coating, and secure double gripper design. It's available in a variety of camo patterns."—D.E.

[Apex-Gear.com](http://Apex-Gear.com)

### QUANTUM EXO SPINNING REEL

For \$200, this sleek spinning reel is made of high-strength aluminum and a lightweight composite material. EXO's super-strong rotor is made of C4LF, a carbon fiber-infused composite. Quantum's CSC drag system is built to take the heat and operate smoothly based on the carbon, stainless and ceramic disks. A soft EVA foam handle knob adds a comfortable final touch.



"The new EXO is built with an all-metal frame featuring an exoskeletal design that looks very futuristic. I think anglers will love the combination of lightweight and tough reel that also has cutting-edge looks and great performance."—D.E.

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

## Product Reviews.

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

### BROWNING BUCK MARK CAMPER

For \$419, this classic .22 LR pistol features a CNC machined aircraft grade 7075 aluminum alloy frame, an Ultragrip RX soft rubber ambidextrous grip, an accurate bull barrel, a large manual thumb safety and magazine safety, plus an adjustable rear sight and TruGlofiber optic front sight.



"This quality .22 caliber pistol is known for dependability and accuracy. It's a must-have training gun for new shooters and old pros alike. I think of it as the Remington 870 of the shotgun world ... everyone should own at least one!"—J.J.R.

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

### CHAMPION ZOMBIE VISICOLOR TARGETS

At \$9 a 6-pack, these VisiColor 18-inch by 12-inch Zombie targets are reactive when struck. The heads of each Zombie reveal a radiation green color, and Zombie bodies react in fluorescent yellow. This multi-pack consists of three different designs with two targets each of: "Loony Hyena," "Crazed Wolf" and "Warped Wolverine."



"Zombies are 'in' right now. So practice your zombie-stopping skills with these engaging targets. Have some fun. When you are headed out to the range this fall to sight-in your deer rifle, grab some of these entertainingly ugly targets."—J.J.R.

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

### PURE GOLD TEMPEST CHOKE TUBE

For \$65, these turkey chokes are made from a top-grade 17-4ph heat-treated stainless steel for maximum strength and durability. The Pure Gold Tempest series chokes are specifically designed to use with Federal's ammo featuring the FLITECONTROL wad. But, all other loads are acceptable too.

"This turkey choke consistently produces deadly tight patterns in my shotgun. New for 2012, is a Tempest series choke made with a .660 restriction that's perfect for shooting Federal Heavyweight #7s. The smaller #7s allows for 100+ more pellets in the hull and the Heavyweight alloy travels downrange longer than lead load. So, it's a deadly combination that's super effective at harvesting fall or spring turkeys out to 50 yards or more."—J.J.R.



[GameAcc.net](http://GameAcc.net)

Product 6-Pack contributors include Dick Ellis (D.E.) and JJ Reich (J.J.R.). If you have recommendations for good gear that works for you, tell us about it at [ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com).



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**LUTHENS, from page 27**

Brown trout from Lake Superior can start their spawning run up the Brule in early August. I thought there could be a chance that I might connect with the advance guard. Right below the mouth of Rocky Run, the first splashing rises started.

Brown trout started darting from underneath the banks and from the deep runs to hit my fly. I hooked and lost several before finally connecting on two of them that went a solid 14 inches. Later in August, the really big browns start coming up, and they could probably swallow those 14-inchers whole.

I wasn't complaining. It was one of the best rises of fish I'd seen all summer. I topped it off by landing a 15-inch rainbow that stripped line like a torpedo and nearly hooked me in the brush twice before I got him in my net.

The fish were still rising, and although it was still light enough to fish, I had to head back. Not only was I unsure of where I was, I was unsure how to get back without tracking all the way up Rocky Run. It sure gets

dark a lot quicker as summer wears on.

I'd released my fish. I wasn't worried about bears. I guess I could have spent the night. But like I said, I only had one day to myself. I had to leave early in the morning, and I wanted to get to The Hungry Trout to see what kind of libations I could get in trade for my treasure rocks. I made it, but that's a whole other story. <sup>W</sup>

*Read John Luthens' adventure columns weekly online at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com, and his perspective on the fight to preserve the historical Brule River State Fish Hatchery, "Politics of a Fish Hatchery" at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/InlandFishing.*

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

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