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Jon Thelan with a nice Lindy-rigged walleye.

Live bait fishing has been part of my fishing repertoire since I was old enough to hold a pole. Using natural bait will increase your odds of success. Some 40 years later, I am still fishing and making a career out of it by being a professional fishing guide.

With clients and young people, live bait is the easiest and most productive way to catch fish. Anyone who has fished with me over the last 20 years of guiding knows my love of Lindy rigging. It is one of the easiest and most effective ways

DAVE DUWE

Lindy Rigging Approaches of pro fishermen

to present live bait. I rig for walleyes, smallmouth and northern pike.

The Lindy rig is a Walking Sinker or Lindy No-Snagg sinker, a ball bearing swivel, a snell from two feet to 10 feet and a hook. When fishing nightcrawlers or leeches a #4 or #6 size octopus hook is one of the best. For minnows I choose a larger #2 hook. The size of the weight is determined by a couple of factors. First is the water depth you are fishing; the deeper the water, the heavier the weight. Walking sinkers come in a whole bunch of sizes, and 1/8 ounce to 1 1/2 ounce is what I use the most. Secondly, how fast you are trolling makes a difference. You want the rig on the bottom and the line at a 45 degree angle off the bottom. A simple rule: the faster you troll, the heavier the weight. The snell length is a bit more complicated. There are a myriad of factors including clarity of water, where the fish are located in the water column and how skittish the fish are. The most important component to the Lindy rig is the quality ball bearing swivel. Without one you will have a day

full of line twists.

When rigging with customers I almost always position fish or back troll very slowly. A heavy weight isn't necessary. I choose a leader length of 2-3 feet.

For bass or walleye I use a spinning outfit, a Pflueger President reel spooled with 8-pound Silver Thread monofilament and a 6-foot 6-inch medium action Fenwick rod. For Northern Pike I use 20-pound monofilament on an Abu Garcia 6500 with a bait clicker on a 7-foot medium heavy Berkley lightening rod. The areas I concentrate on are "spot" on spots, which make my presentation stationary and vertical.

The bait of choice for walleye is nightcrawlers or leeches. For smallmouth I use minnows, chubs and leeches, and for Northern Pike I use exclusively meat suckers or chubs.

As an avid Lindy fisherman, I wanted to gain some pro walleye angler's perspective so I called a couple of buddies who are in the know. I

Fish Like A Pro.

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contacted Brad Davis, a Skeeter boat pro who fishes the pro walleye trail, and Jon Thelen, field promotion manager for Pradco Outdoor Brands, the company that now owns Lindy Legendary Fishing Tackle.

Jon's and Brad's approaches to rigging were similar to each other, however, very different from my application. Brad covers water trolling 1.4 - 1.5 mph but slows down to 1 mph when he finds fish. By moving faster he believes he puts his bait in front of more fish. The sinker of choice is a 1 ounce to 1.5 ounce weight. Brad always keeps his line angle at 45 degrees and adjusts the weight accordingly. The snell length starts at 5 feet and goes up from there. As a rule, the clearer the water, the longer the snell. Areas of the lake he rigs range from 15 - 35 feet of water. Brad keys on scattered weeds and rock, and, if he had one bait to choose, it would be a 5-inch red tail chub. If he finds the areas holding fish are too "snaggy," he will shy away from Lindy rigs in favor of a

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TOM CARPENTER

Cubs Corner Time to take a trout trip

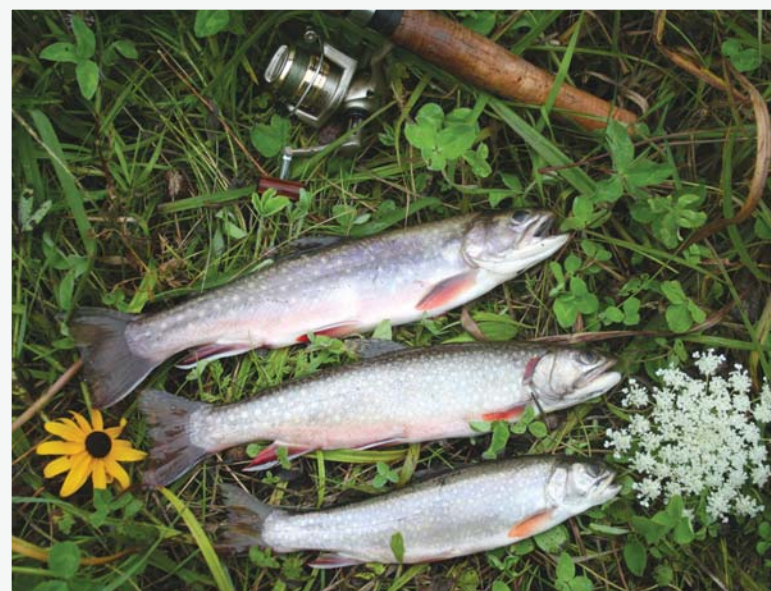
Many folks think trout are beyond their reach in the skill department. Actually, nothing is further from the truth. In fact, trout fishing some of Wisconsin's fabulous streams is a great way to get outdoors with your young sportsman or woman. And late May and early June—when the vegetation is still under control and mosquitoes aren't a problem—is the perfect time to go.

Name another kind of fishing that provides you with an easy-to-follow guidebook that also shows you all the best fishing spots. It's called "Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations 2013-2014." Printed copies are available at most license vendors. In it you'll find maps showing the general location of practically every trout creek in the state, along with

straightforward regulations for each one.

Wisconsin is rich in trout fishing opportunity. The best areas in which to start kids out are the western and southwestern counties for three reasons: an abundance of good streams, plenty of "pasture" creeks that run through more open country (not brush) that are easy for kids to fish, and gorgeous scenery that can't be beat on a late spring or early summer morning.

Richland, Crawford, Vernon, Monroe, Lacrosse, and Trempeleau counties are all great places for trout fishing, with an abundance of beautiful trout-filled streams. Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, and western Dane County run a close second, with lots of good water too. With kids, it's nice



to target streams that allow fishing with live bait (because trout can't resist a plump nightcrawler) and where you can keep a few trout to eat.

Yes, I said keep a few trout! It's true that trout are the kings of catch-and-release. But it's also true that fisheries managers wouldn't allow that

practice on waters that can't handle the harvest. Kids love to keep a few fish to take home or eat back at camp.

Trout fishing is easier than you think, and it's actually perfect for kids because you're not sitting around for hours at one spot or stuck in a boat.

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DAVE HRAYCHUCK

Winter Tactics For Summer Bluegills

After a long ice fishing season for panfish, it's nice to get in a boat, shed the gloves, coats, and Sorel boots and enjoy the sunshine. To catch more and bigger panfish, however, keep a winter tactic and apply it to your open water fishing. That tactic involves your winter equipment: light line, small baits, small bobbers and small lures. Custom jigs and spins, 2 spots, 'gill pills, rockers, shrimpos and cubby jigs top the list of lures. Favorite colors are pink and white and fluorescent green and gold.

Four-pound extra limp line works best for a natural presentation; tie your lure directly to the line.

When it comes to baits, I prefer wax worms year around. Gulp baits, Uncle Josh baits, nightcrawlers and red worms also work well. Remember to use just enough of these baits to cover the hook.

When using bobbers, the smaller the better because you want the bobber to float the bait, but you want to have it neutral buoyant so that there is little or

no resistance when the fish hits the bait.

Small dime-sized, pear-shaped bobbers or lightweight stick bobbers work best.

Over the past few years, I have shown many clients how important these winter tactics and equipment are for not only catching lots of bluegills but being able to consistently catch the big bull bluegills in open water fishing.

Now that you have the equipment ready, it's off to find the best locations for pre-spawn and post-spawn bluegills. At this time of the year bluegills relate to the weed beds and weed edges.

Spawning fish stay in the shallow, weedy areas during the spawn. After spawning is completed, or if a cold front moves in during the spawn, the fish move out to the deeper edges of the weeds.

These fish relate to the deep weed edges and feed heavily on these edges for two to four weeks after spawning. In northwest Wisconsin I



Winter or summer, Ann Hraychuck agrees, the tactics are the same!

consistently fish the weed beds using the rigs that I have described. Lure colors and baits may vary when the bite slows down, but the presentation is always the same.

Polk and Burnett Counties can lay claim to some of the finest pan fishing in Wisconsin. For information

on lakes, landings and bait shops in northwest Wisconsin, check out the "Wisconsin Focus" section of OnWisconsinOutdoors.com. ^{OW}

For fishing information or to book a guided fishing trip in northwest Wisconsin, contact Dave Hraychuck at 715.553.0578 or hraychucks@centurytel.net.



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—Dick Ellis, Publisher
On Wisconsin Outdoors

TOM CARPENTER

Out-Maneuver Your Gobbler

Got a gobbler giving you trouble? Back off or flank him

“What’s that old definition of insanity? Continuing to try the same thing but expecting different results.”

It’s a gobbler ploy as old as the Wisconsin hills: the bird is answering calls but just won’t commit close enough for you to pound his red noggin with a load of 5s. Hung up is what we call it. Frustrating is what it is. So close but yet so far.

Who knows why a tom does it? He could be with hens. Perhaps he’s not as hot-to-trot as you think. Maybe he’s just lazy. In some way, he is suspicious of the situation. So what are your options?

Be conservative. Stay put and call (perhaps trying some new kinds of sweet talk) while praying and hoping his mood changes.

Get aggressive. Leave your setup and move in, easing into his comfort zone, setting up again and calling some more so he commits a little farther ... or just sneaking right in and outright bushwhacking him.

Both scenarios are tough. If you sit

tight, do you really think he’ll magically change his mood and obstinate mind? If you sneak closer, you’re taking a big risk of spooking that paranoid bird when he sees or hears you.

But there’s another option: back off or out-maneuver him. Although it may seem counter-intuitive, the tactic makes sense when you consider that:

Real live turkeys seldom stay put in one place for long. They feed, turn, move, walk ... but you’ve been holed up calling from one spot for an hour.

Moving in a direction other than toward the gobbler mimics natural bird movement and could get a tom jittered-up that you (the hen) are leaving.

Either way, backing off or flanking him encourages the bird to break his stand and come looking for you. There are three ways to conduct these maneuvers.

1) Partner Up

It’s worth mentioning if you’ve never tried it. If you’re hunting with a partner, leave him or her set up and silent, gun at the ready, as you move away and call. This can get that gobbler to break out of his rut and enter the kill zone, because he thinks he may be losing the target of his affections.

If you’re hunting solo, you don’t have an assassin to leave at the original setup spot. But you can still get the job done.

2) Retreat Play

Backing off works on your own too. It adds that element of movement that makes you seem like a real bird, and it can get under a gobbler’s skin to think a once-interested hen is getting away. Here’s how to do it.

Get up and sneak away. Yes, just do it. What do you have to lose? Call a couple times as you retreat. See if you can get that gobbler to break. Pick a good setup spot and back up against a tree again—maybe 30, 40, 50 yards or more away.

A great trick now is to throw a gobble call or two into the mix. Sometimes that’s just what you need to get that previously lukewarm gobbler all worked up over a competitor hornning in on the action.

Don’t be afraid to make a couple retreats. Once that gobbler is moving, he’s more likely to keep going.

3) Flanking Maneuver

Sometimes a gobbler starts drifting off. Rather than sit there and plead, you need to get up and make a move. A


gobbler just will not turn around and retrace ground he has already covered. But sometimes you can get him to veer off course. That’s where a flanking maneuver comes in.

Of course, the gobbler has to still be sounding off so you can keep track of him. Back off and get moving parallel with that bird. Make mini setups as you go, seeing if you can get him to veer off course and swing a little bit your way.

It can be difficult to get ahead of a moving bird, and sometimes flanking him is the best you can do. Once again, don’t be afraid to toss a gobble call into the mix to get his aggression up.

Conclusion

What’s that old definition of insanity? *Continuing to try the same thing but expecting different results.*

Of course, you need to work that gobbler hard at your original setup and give him plenty of opportunity to come on in. But when you sense it just isn’t going to happen, it may be time to maneuver your way to a successful hunt. 

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

JOHN LUTHENS

Trout Camp: Taking a page from Hemingway

“Hemingway’s character had to walk a long way before he found the exact spot. You might end up doing the same, but eventually you will find a path to trout camp.”

Ernest Hemingway may have cast the perfect storyline when he placed a lone character in a trout stream camp in his classic short story “Big Two-Hearted River.”

The story’s protagonist, Nick Adams, hops off a freight train and packs along a burnt-over logging river in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. He sets up camp beside the stream, cooks over the coals of a fire, and

basically whittles away the days doing nothing but fishing the submerged logs and tangles for wild trout.

Of course, Nick sorts through a host of psychological issues and tries to clear his mind while on the river, which is a central theme to the story. Arguably, Hemingway had his own issues when he wrote it, drinking away his days in quaint Paris cafés and jotting down notes on cocktail napkins. Still, the setting of a trout camp is so fundamentally sound that I take some of my own issues every season, not to mention my trout rod, and find my personal trout camp.

With over 13,000 miles of trout water here in Wisconsin, and with a little help from a map and some exploring, there is always a place to set up a camp within a short cast of promising water. When you’re tucked in close, it’s easy to hit the early morning holes at the best time, the logs with the current curling over and the fish hungry for breakfast before the sun strikes the water. It’s an easy drift in the dark too,



Dividend of a Wisconsin trout camp.

along the deep undercut banks where the big brown trout prowl out on the humid nights of summer.

I’d warrant that a trout camp can be as elaborate

continued on page 8

DENNY MURAWSKA

What's The Buzz?: Good vibrations lure fish

“Even if the fish is not all that hungry, it may strike out of pure irritation at a smaller invader with the audacity to buzz right past its nose!”

Walking into a bait and tackle store to shop for a surefire lure can be likened to a trip to the candy store. Lots of baubles are displayed to catch your eye and tickle your taste buds. The green gummy stuff could be lime or maybe sour apple. Reds remind us of cherries and raspberries. Let's face it. Lures are contrived to appeal as much to anglers as they are to fish. Those prismatic rainbows of color and flash have a genuine bling factor. Plastic baits are only a step away from gummy bears. The truth is many of the most effective fish snaggers look nothing like genuine food items.

Earthworms do not regularly swim around lakes and rivers yet they remain tempting morsels to most fish. Spinners flash, as do spoons. Flies look buggy. Plugs wobble and churn and slurp like a bait fish. While razzle and dazzle might sell lures to anglers, many of us overlook a sense possessed by fish that we cannot see. This is the sense of hearing. While you will not see ears on a fish, deep inside the skulls of many are small, hard objects known as otoliths or ear stones. These are more like stones than bones. As the fish ages, growth rings appear and increase in number. They can provide data on not only age but temperature changes and growth rates. Much like a human ear, these



“While razzle and dazzle might sell lures to anglers, many of us overlook a sense possessed by fish that we cannot see. This is the sense of hearing.”

stones give a sense of balance to the fish and detect changes in pressure. It is thought they are of some use in picking up vibrations.


About one third of the way down from the back towards the belly is the real vibration sensor. Known as the lateral line, it looks like a row of small stitches. Some taxidermists, including myself, have received complaints about the stitching on the show side of the fish. Actually, it is a row of sensitive nerve endings placed in tiny pits. They contain hairs that bend with changes in pressure. This bending stimulates nerve impulses to the brain and allows the fish to hear. Additionally, a swimming fish can produce its own pressure waves that bounce off objects and are interpreted by the fish, much like echolocation. In a

sense, they can navigate their environment without actually seeing anything.

To the angler, a vibrating lure is a tool to send out fish-attracting noises. Buzz baits are some of the most obvious. These combine sound, flash, and color to entice and infuriate fish to strike. The universal success of the Mepp's spinner also has to do with this deadly trio of attractors. Even plastic baits, with their vibrating tails, are “heard” underwater. Many are the dark nights I have fished with black, twister tail grubs and taken numerous fish that I doubt could see their intended prey. However, these predators could feel each subtle jerk and vibration given off by these efficient baits. Add to them tiny rattles inserted in their soft bodies, and you have a tantalizing treat that

will often out-fish live bait. Unless you know you are sitting right on a school of fish, you can cover a lot more water by fanning casts or trolling a vibrating lure than by jigging a live minnow or drowning a worm.

Fish, as well as prey animals like crayfish, make plenty of noise. A coral reef, especially at night, is full of clicks, grunts, and squeaks coming from all types of life. While some fish, like catfish, may be less prone to succumb to clamorous baits, most of the larger predators we like to catch will have their curiosity piqued by vibrations. Perhaps it is for this reason that muskies are reputed to show an uncanny interest in boat motors.

While I am not suggesting you tie a small outboard to the end of your line, do think about how that lure might sound to a big, grumpy largemouth. Even if the fish is not all that hungry, it may strike out of pure irritation at a smaller invader with the audacity to buzz right past its nose! Ever wonder why, when fishing with two similar lures, one seems to out-catch the other? It could be that it is vibrating at just the right frequency to trigger a bite. Tune your lures, make sure they wiggle freely, and add rattles when you can. Any little change in the vibratory characteristics of your bait may be just the ticket to increasing your catch. 

Denny Murawska is an award-winning writer for The Week, Wishigan, UP-Magazine, and several other publications. He retired from science teaching to hide from humankind on a sandstone bluff near Black River Falls. Here, he gardens, hunts, fishes, and forages for wild mushrooms. His business, Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy provides museum-quality trophy mounts for anglers of all ages. Contact Denny at aa-taxidermy.com or call 715.964.1159.

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JERRY KIESOW

Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

Follow-up: jig flies and loop knot

Inland. Great Lakes. Fly.

Check it out at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/WisconsinFishing

In the last issue I mentioned I would give you a follow-up on using the new jig hook flies I tied. Well ... I can't. As you read this, the fishing season is probably going, or soon will be, full-steam-ahead. However, as I'm writing this, April 3, I have not yet wet a line. Hopefully, that will change soon but not as of today. I guess you will have to wait a bit. Oh, well. You will get a more complete report that way. I also said I would tell you about loop knots. This I can do.

To refresh your memory, in the story about tying jig hook flies I said that one of the advantages, according to another writer, was that the flies undulate better than when using normal hooks. I disagreed with that based on my use of a loop knot. Here's the scoop on that.

I began using loop knots out of necessity when I started fishing a fly called the Wiggle Bug. Without the loop knot the fly's action was not only lessened, it twisted the leader big time within three casts. I now use the loop extensively, with the exception of true dry flies. This knot allows all other lures to move and look much more life-like. The reason I do not use it on dry flies is because the loop lies on the water, creating an unnatural profile to what the fly is depicting as a hatch.

There are a couple of different varieties of loop knots—the Duncan loop, the Rapala knot, and the Non-slip Mono loop knot. Any of them will work. I use the Non-slip Mono. Why? In my opinion, I find it easier to tie.

Here's the tie, as illustrated (See Illustration 1):

(Top) Begin by making a common knot near the end of the tippet but don't pull it tight. Allow about 4 inches of end tippet beyond the knot. Run the tippet through the eye of the hook

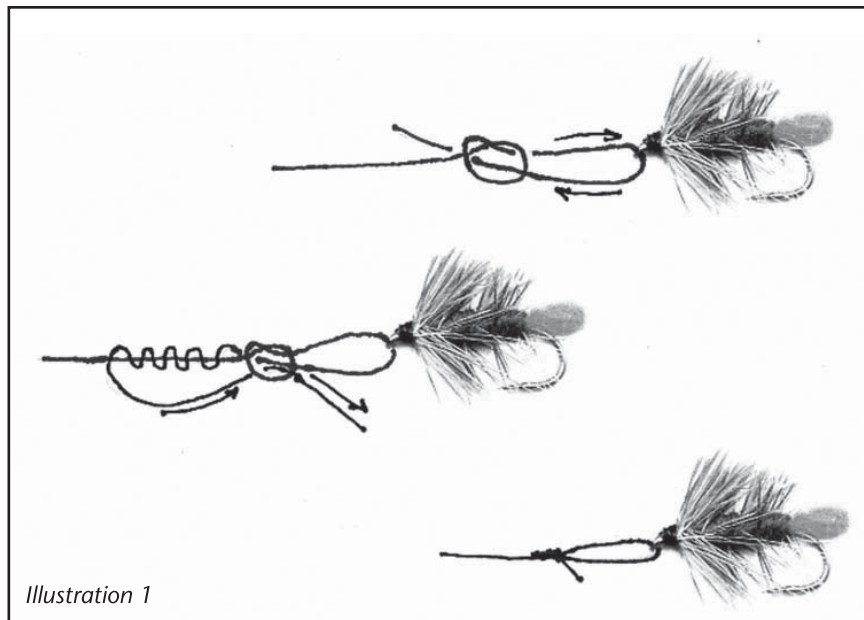


Illustration 1

and bring it back through the common knot, BUT, and this is important, bring it back through in the opposite way you formed the knot, then tuck the end tippet under the main tippet.

(Middle) While holding the common knot open with one hand, twist the end tippet six times around the base of the main tippet with the other. Now bring the loose end back through the loop of the common knot from underneath, then out on the top side.

(Bottom) At this point the position of the knot and, therefore, the size of the loop can be slightly adjusted. Tighten the knot.

When tying a loop knot, it is extremely important to remember the way you formed the initial simple knot so you come back through that knot correctly immediately after threading the eye of the hook and again when you come back through after the twists. If you do not do it correctly, the knot will untie itself instead of tightening into the knot.

To keep this knot, or any knot, as strong as possible, here are a few general rules to remember.

First, with the exception of this loop knot, knots must be snugged tight against the eye of the hook. They must also be snug within themselves. If the knot is not tight, it leaves room for movement, no matter how slight, which can: a) create friction, which creates heat, which weakens monofilament; or b) actually loosen and untie itself. Yes, it can. How do I know? Experience.

Second, always wet your knot before tightening. Wetting with water from the lake or stream is fine—or with your own saliva. Either way reduces friction, and, as stated previously, friction is not good.

Third, count the number of twists. The number of turns is normally determined by the diameter of the tippet (there are one or two exceptions); the heavier the material, the fewer the turns. If you have too many turns, the knot will not snug up

properly. If you have too few, the knot will open, eventually, on its own. (More experience.) A good rule is: never more than eight or less than four turns. Six is a good number to remember.

Remember these rules and you are on your way to landing more fish; or more properly stated, losing fewer fish because of the knot. Remember, the weakest link between you and the fish is the knot you tie.

And one final note: this knot works well for spin fishers and bait casters too.

Now, get out there, wet a line, and enjoy. See you in the river.

Keep a good thought! 

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



Knot shown just before snugging up tight. Here is where you can do a little adjusting to the position of the knot and size of the loop.



Completed knot. Ready to catch fish with security and added action to your lure.



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TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds: Wood duck

Nature's brush used a full palette of colors to create the exquisite drake wood duck. Iridescent greens, purples, blues, blacks, russets and whites combine to make an ornate and elegant masterpiece—one of Wisconsin's most beautiful spring and summer birds. Wood ducks nest in tree cavities and will often go some distance from water, so you have a good chance of attracting "woodies" to your yard.

Place a wood duck nest box in a tree in your yard or near the shore of a pond nearby. Find plans on ducks.org or woodducksociety.org. Add wood chips so the box seems like a natural cavity. Always use a predator guard!

Listen for wood ducks' plaintive, squealing cries—*hoo-eeek, hoo-eeek* or *creek, creek*—when they are flying. No quacks here.

Look for female wood ducks. Hens are pretty in their demure plumage of gray and brown, accented by blue on the wing feathers and a distinctive white eye ring.

Provide food for hungry wood ducks. Spread some corn or rye. Their favorite food, acorns, comes to them naturally.

Did you know that wood ducks hate cold weather? They are the last waterfowl to arrive as spring pushes northward and the first to head back south at summer's end. Woodies are almost tropical in



habits as well as looks. 

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

LUTHENS, from page 5

as a full-blown travel trailer hooked to the electric grid of a private campground, complete with shower facilities and a nearby supper club where the dress code overlooks the fact that you come to the dining table clad in waders. If the club bar has enough napkins, you might even detail your own Hemingway-like account of your day's fishing adventure.

A trout camp may also be as simple as a sleeping bag on a ridge or maybe a hammock strung between two fragrant pines with a canoe pulled high on the banks of a glassy river bend, falling asleep to the noises of a rustling breeze in the treetops and the heavy splashing rises of night-feeding trout.

My own camps usually fall somewhere in between primitive and luxury: a tent and a lantern, usually a campfire and a frying pan for bacon,

and hopefully, a trout or two. Those are the constants, but the location drifts and varies like the wind.

There was the Ounce River, flowing down into the spongy wash of northern Washburn County with stretches jumping for miles between the fire lanes. I found that camp by sheer chance, as the trail leading into it was all but hidden by leaning tamaracks. It was narrow to the point of sanding the paint off of any vehicle. At the end, a small pile of firewood and just enough room to swing a truck around, and the river gliding slowly right below the clearing.

You wouldn't imagine there was a trout in the river if you fished during the day. Even nightfall brings a scant rise at best, but light a fire with the small pile of wood and fall asleep early, watching through the tent screen as

the logs burn into coals. Listen as the crickets and frogs contest each other.

Rise early and wade into the stream below the camp, with only a hint of orange dusting the eastern horizon. Then the water comes alive in a splashing and tugging festival of brook trout. They dart from the banks, hitting nearly any offering with abandon—until the first rays of the sun hit the water. Then all becomes still and once again you wouldn't think there was a trout in the whole barren place.

I always replace the woodpile before I leave. Whoever else comes to the place does the same. We have never met, but someday we might. Time to move on with the morning breeze.

There was a cow pasture camp in autumn on the Big Green River in the Driftless Area of Grant County. I paid a farmer a few dollars to tent under a hickory tree with the only stipulation being that I shut the gate behind me so the cattle couldn't escape. I laid on a flat rock outcropping and watched the golden colors of spawning brown trout fanning in the current.


Hickory nuts dropped like hail on my tent. I cracked them open and ate my fill. There was frost dancing heavy on the grass in the early morning. Trout season had been closed for two weeks, so I never wet a line. It was a trout camp nonetheless.

Perhaps my favorite trout camp is in the town park of the small village of Mason in Bayfield County. The grassy confines sit on the banks of the White River, where the water comes rushing over the rocks on its exit from the formidable expanse of the Bibon Marsh.

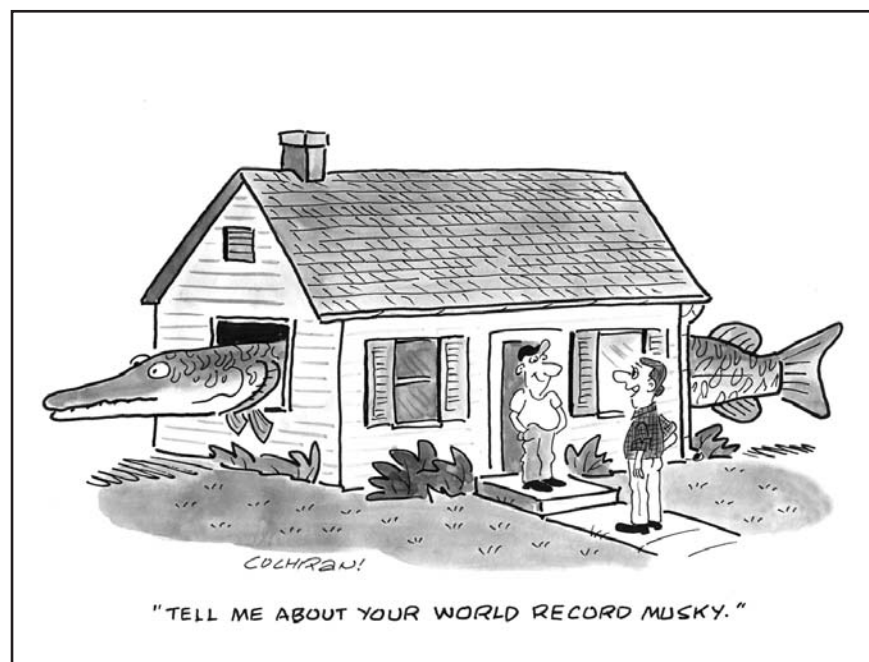
There used to be a donation box

for camping, but it has long since disappeared. Now I simply hike into town for dinner at the local tavern, giving back what I can in return. There is also a small coffee shop that doubles as a welding garage. If you don't mind brewing your own coffee when the front is unoccupied, then it's the best place to go in town. The owner usually rolls in from the garage when he smells the coffee and sits down for a friendly chat. Everything you want to know about White River trout can be learned before the pot is empty.

Within a 20-minute drive of Mason there is more trout water boiling out of the Chequamegon Forest and down to Lake Superior than anyone could rightfully hope to fish in a lifetime. And if that isn't enough, along about dark, beneath the curving banks of the park, the brown trout fishing can be phenomenal.

Pick one of those little tent symbols out on a map this summer, take a trout stream map too, and give it a try. Just remember that sometime maps lie. You might find the stream you are looking for, or maybe you'll find yourself somewhere totally unexpected. Hemingway's character had to walk a long way before he found the exact spot. You might end up doing the same, but eventually you will find a path to trout camp. 

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.



LEE GATZKE

NextBuk Outdoors

Turkey season surprises

As the darkness slowly fades, songbirds begin their pre-dawn warm up. Their music captivates me as I adjust my camouflage face mask one last time prior to striking my box call. My turkey season has finally arrived, this first week of May, and the big oak I'm seated against has played host to me on many turkey hunts. As this day's first gobbles ring out from roosted toms, I add some hen talk to the mix. My calling won't win me any contest awards, but it's good enough to fool a tone-deaf tom on occasion. I mostly resist the temptation to respond to gobbling from roosted toms, waiting for them to fly down before giving them some more of my hen repertoire.

From the base of the oak I'm able to monitor my decoys set up in the field 20 yards away. Distant gobbles reveal that toms have recently flown down and are on the prowl looking for receptive hens. I begin my lovesick hen calling. No response. A half hour later I tease a variety of hen talk from my

box call and, again, no response. Since the morning sun is making things comfortable and the presence of deer and other critters are entertaining me, I decide to stay put. Every half hour my calls solicit zero response from hens or toms, and my mind wanders from turkeys to other things.

had an unusual amount of problems recently with shotgun misfires. My shotgun, and two that I've borrowed from an understanding brother, have performed less than admirably at the moment of truth when I've had a tom in range. Over the past five years I've had seven misfires while pulling the

"To my left, a bobcat is startled by my appearance and he runs off also."

Three hours into my sit, and long past the time my behind has gone numb, I consider relocating. One last pan of the field and I'm shocked to see a tom 200 yards away sprinting towards my decoys. He is coming on fast and enters a dip in the field. I lose sight of him long enough to raise my shotgun and aim at my decoy spread. The tom soon reappears, kicking up a rooster tail of dust as he closes the distance.

It should be noted that I have

trigger on a tom. Only a few while sighting them in and checking my pattern, mind you. During this span I've used six different kinds of turkey loads. Only one has not failed me ... yet. It's gotten to where I'm surprised when I hear a bang instead of a click as I squeeze the trigger on a tom.

At 25 yards the tom is still barreling down on my jake decoy as I squeeze the trigger. "Click!" As a testament to a turkeys' sense

of hearing, that misfire caused the sprinting tom to turn 180 degrees and hightail it back the way he came.

Turkey hunting is so much fun that having all these gun issues hasn't dampened my desire to go after them. It just means that my season isn't over yet and I'm still able to play this game. I get to hunt some more!

Gathering up my decoys, I head towards the area where I last heard some gobbling a while back. Drawing near to that spot I see a vulture flying low, doing circles over it. Scanning the area from a distance reveals an adult doe acting strangely. She is running back and forth through a clearing, but nothing is chasing her. I carefully close the distance to 100 yards. All the while the doe runs in one direction, stops, then runs back the way she came from, repeating this over and over. I'm sensing she has a fawn in trouble close by, so I creep forward, alertly scanning the landscape. After 10 minutes, the

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GLENN WALKER

Simple Stickbaits Go A Long Way!

Texas rigged and wacky style



Fishing a wacky rigged stickbait around rock works great for spawning or post spawn smallies!

When Gary Yamamoto introduced the Senko back in the late 1990s, no one would've imagined that the soft plastic stickbait would have grown into one of the most popular and common plastic lures that bass anglers rig up. The simple design that is similar to a Bic pen has countless tournament wins from coast to coast.

Most tackle companies have taken the time to mold and come up with their own variation of the original Senko. Some have more salt in them than others; others are made up of a softer plastic. Regardless of what brand it is, their basic shape is the same.

The reason this type of plastic bait is so effective is that no matter what the conditions are, this lure will catch bass! What makes me choose one brand of stickbait over the other is the different sink rate and texture. The situation in which I'm fishing dictates how fast and how soft I want my bait to be. There are

several ways that a soft plastic stickbait can be rigged.

Texas Rigged

I like to use a Senko when I am Texas rig fishing because I like their sink rate. Depending on the size of the bait, I will use a 3/0 to 5/0 Extra Wide Gap hook. These hooks are the sharpest hooks available and give the plastic enough room to move on the hook set, so you can get a solid hook up on the bass.

Skipping this bait around docks, over hanging trees and around vegetation is when you will see this rig tied up to a spinning rod around 7 inches in length, as it gives you the ability to feel a light bite but also provides the backbone to get a bass out of the thickest of cover. I'll use braid if the water clarity will allow me to.

Just by casting the Senko out and letting it slowly sink to the bottom is

the easiest and most productive way to fish a weightless soft plastic stickbait. The slower and fewer moves you can make with your rod and reel the better. Figuring out how the bass want the bait is crucial. Sometimes the bass just want the bait on its initial fall. Other times you can keep bringing the bait back to the boat and they will still eat it.

Wacky Rigged

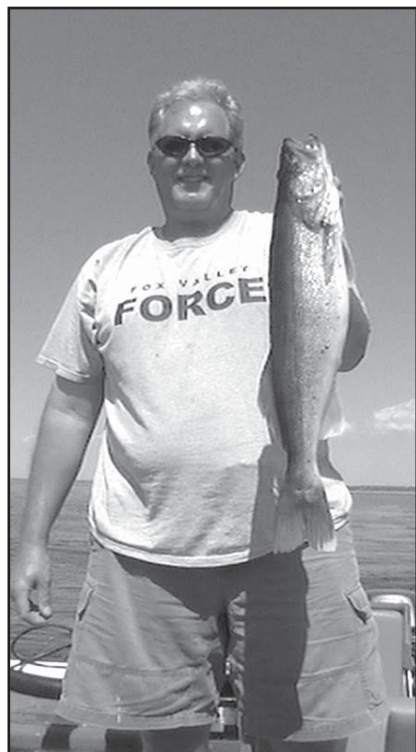
A wacky rigged soft plastic stickbait is great to use when fishing around open water such as rip-rap, docks or other structures that aren't as threatening to hook up an exposed hook. To rig the soft plastic stickbait wacky style, simply put the hook point through the center of the bait. This way each half of the bait will dangle on either side of the hook. Another situation in which a wacky rigged soft stickbait works very well in is when you

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JOHN LINDEMAN

Spring Cleaning On 'Bago Mud Flats

The bite is on



Long-time Lake Winnebago fisherman Jon Markley hoists a healthy walleye that was roaming the May mud.

Every year is different, but anglers across Wisconsin and the Midwest can bank on some sort of Lake Winnebago mud bite to kick into high gear when mid-May rolls around. When the first big chew of the year is on, this premier recreational destination provides a fantastic setting to get your fishing season up and running.

In 2012, the hot action lasted around three weeks before returning to normal. The temperatures warmed up early (April) and stayed there. As a result, an early mud bite that started fast and furious ended just as fast after about three weeks. Public boat launches surrounding the lake were jammed each weekend and everybody was enjoying some sort of success. Walleyes and white bass were the most cooperative, and a mixed bag of everything else in the lake made an occasional visit in the net.

When I finally got in on the action, my lifelong fishing partner, Jon Markley of Appleton, Wisconsin, and I enjoyed a 40-fish day. Jon moved to the Fox Valley area in the early 90s and has been fishing area lakes ever since.

With a plan in place, you can

capitalize on this year's action; however, you must first recognize some signals that announce the bite is on. In other words, if you hear the fish are chewing in the mud, get your boat on the water ASAP.

What are some of the other signals? Well, the folks at *On Wisconsin Outdoors* are known for timely information. Hint: it's either prime time or close to it RIGHT NOW! You might also notice a sudden increase in fishing boats heading down the highway toward 'Bago. Other reliable sources include numerous

if nothing else is working. Speed also plays a role in determining the species of fish you encounter. If you troll at 1.5 mph and all you're hooking up is White Bass, speed up or slow down to check for speeds walleyes are keyed in on. The opposite, of course, works if you are looking for White Bass.

As for lures, cranks and harnesses are the way to start. Last year we pulled both together and each caught fish. The cranks, however, were much easier to manage during that fast action.


Another key to locating the mud

the same spot again. Make sure to place an icon on the locator after each bite; you may just notice the direction schooling fish are heading. Jon and I have noticed—and it may call for a separate article—that active walleyes schooling over expansive flats seem to move heading into the wind.

Now it's up to you. Start fishing with confidence. Don't forget fishing is always better when you have someone along to share the experience with. Take a spouse, friend, kid or co-worker. Who else is going to net the fish and take the pictures?

Lake Winnebago is loaded with fish. Harvest a few and pair them up with potato salad and beans.

All and all, the mud is a great way to get your open water fishing season started. Get out there and have some fun on 'Bago. When you find the bite has started, shoot me an email.

My day job requires an eight-hour notice before I can tell Jon to get his boat ready. "I'm taking off and coming up!" 

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

"All and all, the mud is a great way to get your open water fishing season started."

fishing reports on various websites. Each of these reporting sites offers good information, especially when posts are backed up with pictures.

If you are like most anglers, you probably use one or more of the aforementioned techniques to find a good bite. The only problem with that methodology is timing. When you finally get enough information to act on, it's already the tail end of all the fun. With an organized approach, however, you will be able to get in on this mud bite early. That simply means you will give yourself an opportunity to cash in on the fun in the mud more than once before it's over.

Here We Go

The mud flats on 'Bago are expansive. Productive flats can be found from just about any of the launches that surround the lake. To start, pick an area that's 15 to 19 feet deep. Maybe choose the area that was hot last year; I know you saved your GPS coordinates. There will be other boats doing the same thing, so keep an eye on them. If nobody is reaching for the net on occasion, move to another area. Be responsible, though. Give everybody the space they deserve.

To cover water fast during your initial search, the preferred method for this bite is trolling. Flat lines, planer boards, or a combination of both, all work well. Trolling speeds generally range from 1 to 2 mph, but don't forget to bump that speed to nearly 3 mph

bite is maximizing your search efforts. The translation there is making your searching pay off as soon as possible. That is done with quick-release trolling weights. A quick-release trolling weight allows an angler to pinpoint the depths at which shallow diving cranks and harnesses are positioned in the water column. When a fish is contacted, you simply duplicate the successful weight/lure combination.

Jon and I do this by starting our initial search with a unique trolling spread. Choosing between cranks and harnesses becomes secondary to where we are presenting those choices in the water column. Each of our six rods begins the day with a different size quick-release trolling weight. The variables that don't change in our trolling spread are the distances between lure to weight and weight to rod or planer board. That is commonly known as the 50/50 trolling rule. That combination will place each of your offerings in its own unique position within the water column.

With the entire water column covered, it's up to the fish to announce a preference. The quick-release trolling weights help adjusting to those preferences by easily duplicating the weight size to the successful setup. It's easy to adapt when you don't have to cut the wrong weight off and tie the right weight back on your fishing line.

When you locate that first biter, turn the boat around and run through



Double! John Lindeman, owner of Kingdom Fishing Innovations, holds the results of using KFin Kwik Clips to pinpoint different depths when searching for active fish. The catfish bit much deeper in the water column in comparison to the walleye, but both were over mud.

Weekend Freedom Machines



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“May and June are prime times for panfish on the Wolf River.”

Certainly you have heard Fremont and the Wolf River referenced as the White Bass Capital of the World. Were you also aware white bass find the scent of blooming lilacs to be an aphrodisiac? I mean, hey, why else would they so frequently time their procreative escapades with those popular purple, pink, and white blooms? Yep! If I wanted to introduce someone to fishing and get them hooked—hook, line and sinker, so-to-speak—I would take them white bass fishing in May!

Ohhh ... but there is so much more to be had!

Eventually you tire or get bored while cranking in your umpteenth white bass of the day. For me, it is simply a matter of boating table fare. I am not going to debate the quality of white bass cuisine. Let's just agree, when the alternative is walleye, it's a no-brainer. And walleyes should remain high on your list of fish to target in Wolf River Country during the months of May and June. In fact, even during the white bass run, it's easy enough to boat a limit of walleyes. The spawned-out females will hustle their way back to the lakes they journeyed from, but the males will linger into June, some even spending the summer in the river. Captain Bob Caryl confirmed, “If I wanted to catch walleyes during the

GORDON PAGEL

Wolf River Country

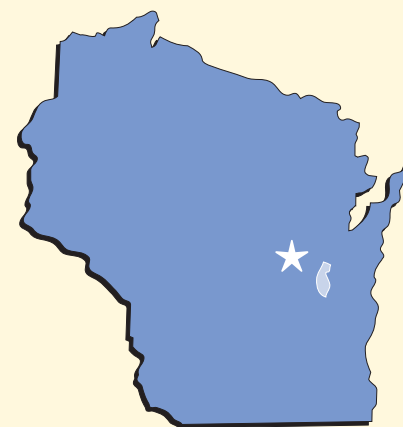
An alternative to white bass mania

white bass run, I would simply tip my jig with a piece of crawler rather than a minnow. The walleyes, especially the eating size males, are here with the white bass and in good numbers.”

Later in June you can still target the river for walleyes, but for a change of pace I would make the quick run down the river to Lake Poygan. This is the month typically dominated by the guys out motor trolling, but there are other effective methods that don't require expensive or specialized equipment.

Chris “Critter” Boucher, from Critter's Wolf River Sports, in Winneconne, believes the summer

patterns for walleyes out on the lake start when the white bass numbers explode in the river. “That's usually in May,” he said. “Their exact arrival is dictated by water temperature, but when they get here they kind of push the other fish out.” Drifting and jigging on Lake Poygan can be a highly effective way to target those other fish, including walleyes. The best time for this approach is the first two hours and last two hours of daylight. By targeting this time of day you avoid the stronger midday winds and the majority of the trollers. The only specialized equipment you might consider would be a drift



sock. Quarter ounce jigs dressed with Powerbaits or Gulp are the bait of choice. Adjust weights and colors based on results and conditions. A lindy rigged “slow death” hook with plastics or live crawler is another effective presentation for drifting. Start shallow and drift deep, but remember that shallow and deep can be relative terms. On Lake Poygan it can mean going from six feet to eight feet.

And then there is the most common fish caught by anglers in Wisconsin, the panfish, including bluegill, yellow perch, and crappie. May and June are prime times for panfish on the Wolf River. The crappies are here and available at the same time the white bass are demanding every one's attention. They will be spawning in the wood and brush of the many backwaters where you can present small plastics or slip bobbers for them with live bait. In the main channel look for current breaks created by permanent docks and downed wood. If the two are found in combination, you have a sure bet. Vertical jigging is the only option here. Don't be afraid to tie up right in the trees. Look for wood in the shallows during May, and in June hit the wood in the deeper outside turns.

Bluegills will be spawning on Partridge Lake, Partridge Crop, and the multitude of backwaters at the start of June. When they are done satisfying their need to procreate, many will move into the main channel of the river. Current breaks and cover are what bluegills are seeking. Wood is the most common provider of both. Find some wood and move right into it with your boat. Vertical jig with the lightest jig possible tipped with a small piece of crawler or leaf worm. Don't stay on wood that isn't producing. Move until you find fish. Then look for similar wood, noting the depth, position, etc. of the area that produced fish. This is a pattern that can be fished all summer long.

Wolf River Country Resources:

FREMONT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | travelfremont.com

CAPTAIN BOB CARYL | redbanks.net

CHRIS “CRITTER” BOUCHER | critterssports.com

GORDON PAGEL | wolfrivercountry.com

WALKER, from page 9

are bed fishing/sight fishing for bass. This bait is subtle and will not spook the fish as it enters the water.

To fish this bait just cast it to the target or skip it underneath a dock and let it slowly sink down to the bottom. Now gradually bring it back to the boat by slightly popping or shaking your rod tip. This makes the tails of the bait pop a little. This subtle action will help you put more bass in your boat this season.

I like to use a hook that is specifically designed for wacky rigging hook in a 1/0 or 2/0.

Using a 3- or 4-inch wacky rigged stickbait on a drop shot rig is another situation in which this bait shines. Its subtle action and profile does an excellent job in coaxing heavily pressured bass into biting.

I use the same rod and reel set up for wacky rigging, except now I switch to 10-pound test fluorocarbon. This line is sensitive and abrasion resistant

yet remains undetectable to bass under water. Using a larger sized spinning reel, such as 3500 size, allows the line to flow more freely off the reel. In turn, you'll have less line twist.

Regardless of the situation in which I'm using a soft plastic stickbait, I rely on several key colors. Natural colors such as green pumpkin with various flakes work well in cleaner water, while black/blue and junebug shine in dirty water. A white stickbait does an excellent job when you are throwing a

stickbait into a school of shad or when the bass are feeding heavily on shad. 

Glenn has been fishing tournaments for over 10 years, spreading his passion and knowledge of the sport via articles and videos. He keeps busy fishing events across Minnesota and on the Mississippi River. Glenn's sponsors include: Humminbird, Jeff Belzer Chevrolet, LakeMaster, Mercury Marine, Minn Kota, Onyx, Plano, Rayjus, RC Tackle, Seaguar, Snag Proof, The Rod Glove, TroKar and Wright & McGill. For more information see glennwalkerfishing.com.

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GATZKE, from page 9

doe settles down and is now out of sight. Five minutes of inactivity later, I step into the clearing, the hidden doe snorts and runs off. To my left, a bobcat is startled by my appearance and he runs off also. "So that's what had that doe all upset," I realized. My next thought was the bobcat either killed the doe's fawn or was about to, so I

should do a little investigating to see if I could find her fawn. I went to where the bobcat sprang from the tall grass, expecting to find a dead fawn. The spot revealed a dead deer all right, but it wasn't a fawn. A year-old buck was half covered by weeds the bobcat had been gathering to conceal its kill.

It's not every day you walk up on a predator busy hiding its kill. I peeled off the layers of goldenrods and weeds to



A year-old buck killed by a bobcat that was in the process of covering it with weeds when the author startled him.



Note the suffocating bite mark just below the jaw and how the bobcat fed on the brisket prior to burying its kill.

inspect the bobcat's kill. A bite mark on the buck's throat below the jaw revealed how the bobcat's bite had suffocated him. The bobcat fed on the brisket area of the buck before attempting to hide the carcass by covering it with weeds.

Another example of how deer

never get a day of rest when it comes to their survival. ^{OW}

Lee Gatzke is a member of NextBuk Outdoors, creators of tactical deer hunting videos. Gatzke can be reached at www.nextbukoutdoors.com.

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ROB AND STEVE TOBIN

The Eyes Of March

Wisconsin River walleye run hot through May

With the exception of last year, the third month of the year can be just another back-breaking month of snow shoveling, cold temperatures, sleet, and rain—a time of year when most people continue to hunker down at home with a warm fire and a movie at night. But then there are the diehards, many of whom have been caught by their wives just sitting in the boat in the garage dreaming of the days to come. (I may or may not be talking from experience.) We are the diehards that already have the boat de-winterized, the reels greased, and a fairly substantial Cabela's credit card bill. This time of year is what my friends and I like to call the Wisconsin River Walleye Run.

The lower part of the Wisconsin River near the Dells is one of the most scenic stretches of river I have ever had the opportunity to fish. It consists of beautiful rock formations, an undulating bottom contour consisting of rock and sand, and many other prime characteristics that make this such a superior walleye factory.

Every year hundreds of fisherman from across the Midwest travel to get in on the action. It is not unheard of to have people chasing these fish in as early as February and even into late May. During the colder months of February and March the water temperature will typically range from 33 – 40 degrees. As the days grow longer and the water begins to warm into the 40s, you can bet you will find yourself surrounded by more than a fair share of boats all in search of the elusive 10-pound female.

For the Tobin Boys, we are dying to get off the ice and into the Lund. A three-day trip to the Wisconsin River at Rivers Edge Resort gets us excited every year. We like to go the last weekend in March. Last year the females had already spawned and we ended up catching them in the shallower slack water with crankbaits.

With the colder weather this year, the males were still bunched up in 20 – 25 feet of water and the jig and minnow was the ticket. Slow presentation working the bottom with a ¼-ounce jig and a slow retrieve all caught fish. What worked for us was casting up river so your jig hit bottom, almost letting the river current push your bait down river while making bottom contact but also keeping your line taut for a fast hook set.

Slow drifts working your bait vertically off the bottom also produced many fish. Very simple tackle and techniques are what makes this fishing a blast and what keeps me returning year after year. No need to load up the boat with every rod and reel you own. Keep it simple!

This April, fishermen switched to a ¼-ounce jig and 4-inch twister tail, which has been producing larger fish than the live minnow. If you have a fishing partner with you, make sure to never throw the same bait when starting out. Let the fish tell you how they are feeling that day. Once you figure out the bait, experiment with size and colors. If you can get the fish to answer those two difficult questions, you better hold on tight.

The walleye spawning period is fairly quick and to the point. That is, however, if the water levels and temperatures in the river are adequate. Being a river system, we all know that it can change dramatically from day to day this time of year depending on temperature, melt off, and precipitation. Last year the walleyes moved out of Lake Wisconsin to spawn much earlier than this year due to colder temps. The greatest part of this river system is that no matter what time you show up in the spring, there is always fish to be had. Many of those fish might be the eager short male, but after a long winter with the short rods, I'll take what I can get. A few slot-sized eyes and the opportunity of a freakin' giant are just the icing on the cake for us. DNR regulations states that walleyes or saugers less than 15 inches must be returned to the water. Fishermen are allowed to keep fish

between 15 and 20 inches and one fish over 28 inches with a five fish limit.

You also don't need a boat; shore anglers have tons of access from the dam down to Rivers Edge Resort, which brings the opportunity to catch just as many, or more, fish. Many times the shore fishermen dominate in producing larger fish as the eyes begin to move shallower.

Since we don't live locally, we need a place to stay when we come up to fish for the weekend. Rivers Edge Resort is such a great place. We rent a two-bedroom apartment that has a full kitchen to prepare the day's catch with a big deck overlooking the winding river. We also can dock our boat at their pier overnight, which is a bonus, and their Saturday night prime rib special is why I think Steve comes fishing here. The bait shop is stocked with today's new baits, jigs, and live bait to get the job done. If you are not familiar with the river, the experienced owners will give you a map and put you on fish right way. It is all the accommodations we need and much more!

So if you are itching for a fantastic weekend getaway, we highly encourage you to test your luck on this stretch of the river. The run is still going strong ... get out there!

We also wanted to let all of our readers know that our Tobin Jewelers location in New Berlin is currently having a Moving Event! All in-stock jewelry is on sale at 50% off through the end of May. We will be relocating just one block north to the southeast corner of Moorland Road and Coffee Road in New Berlin this summer. Come




Rob Tobin with a tasty walleye.



Steve Tobin with a 24-inch slot female walleye.



Brett Ewig with a legal sauger.

see us at our locations in New Berlin and Mequon and let us help you get on the water with a little more ease ... if you know what I mean. 

Rob and Steve Tobin are avid deer hunters and waterfowlers and fish throughout Wisconsin.



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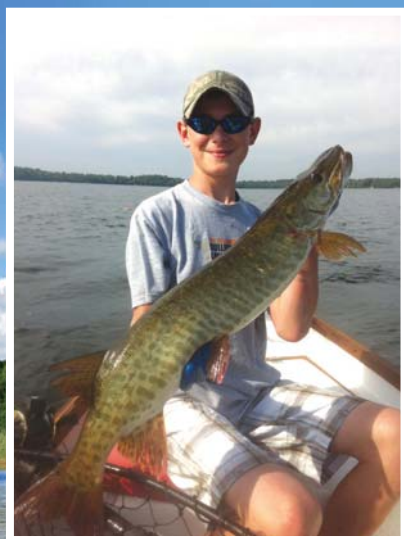
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KEVIN WALLENFANG, DEER AND ELK ECOLOGIST—WISCONSIN DNR

Wisconsin DNR Report—April 24, 2013

Wisconsin's deer herd showing signs of stress from prolonged winter

Although winter didn't arrive in some areas until well into February, it has persisted longer than normal and the impacts on individual deer are being seen in some areas according to the DNR.

"Hard winters are not something new to Wisconsin's deer herd," says Kevin Wallenfang, state big game ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "Winter severity is a variable, natural process that can reduce deer numbers in some years. Our herd handles it well in most years, but we are seeing stressed deer in all areas of the state including direct losses due to starvation in farmland areas where you wouldn't normally expect it."

DNR wildlife biologists annually monitor the effects of winter weather on the deer herd using a Winter Severity Index (WSI) which uses a combination of cold temperatures and deep snows to gauge winter stress levels and the ultimate survival of deer.

The WSI measurements are recorded annually at 43 stations spread primarily across the northern third of the state as well as several east-central counties, and are recorded from December 1 through April 30.

"Each day that the temperatures fall below zero degrees Fahrenheit and/or the snow depth is more than 18 inches, the conditions are noted for each station," Wallenfang explained. "For example, a day with 20 inches of snow and a temperature of five-below-zero would receive two points for the day."



A stressed fawn feeds in northwest Wisconsin in mid-April. The DNR said they are expecting direct losses and lower fawn production in some areas of northern Wisconsin with 30 inches of snow on the ground in late April. Door County is also experiencing losses.

Winter conditions are considered mild if the station accumulates less than 50 points, moderate if between 51 and 80 points, severe if between 81 and 100, and very severe if over 100.

At the end of March, two stations were in the severe category (both in Iron County), six were

moderate, and the remaining stations were considered mild. However, several stations are likely to move into higher severity classifications after the April data is tallied.

"While it's a good indicator, WSI doesn't always tell the full story," says Wallenfang. "That may be what we are seeing this winter. The readings alone are saying winter in most locations isn't all that bad, but add in other factors that the index doesn't acknowledge like hard crust, compacted wet snow, or long-term snow cover and the impacts can be deadly to individual deer even when temperatures are moderate."

Another factor to be considered is the duration and timing of winter conditions. "The later winter arrives and the longer it hangs on, the greater the impacts can be. Deer have burned through their fat reserves by late winter and are in critical need of food," Wallenfang said. "Most reports of stressed or dead deer have occurred during the past few weeks."

Department staff have been in the field investigating reports of noticeably stressed or dead deer, and monitoring habitat conditions.

In the northeast portion of the state, DNR's Wildlife Health Team recently investigated an area in Door County with extremely high deer numbers where the natural winter browse has been depleted and dead deer have been reported.

continued on page 21



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ROBB MANNING

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OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/Firearms

It is the cartridge made famous in the 1980s by the Bren Ten, and nothing says “the 80s” like seeing Sonny Crockett—played by Don Johnson—carrying his Bren Ten on Miami Vice. Well, the Bren Ten has died and gone to heaven, only to be resurrected by Peregrine Industries, then to die again, only to be resurrected a second time by Vltor Weapons Systems under the Fortis Pistol Project, which has faced production delays. Miami Vice occasions late night cable but is best seen on Netflix. The 10mm Auto ... it’s still one of the most powerful semi-auto cartridges and enjoys a very loyal cult following. The 10mm is now showing resurgence and gaining in popularity, especially amongst those that live in areas with dangerous animals, such as in Alaska.

Much has been written about the history of the 10mm, and since space is limited, I will only touch on the subject. It was designed by Col. Jeff Cooper in 1983, then improved and produced by Norma of Sweden. It was selected by the FBI in 1986 then subsequently dummed down into a much weaker version now called the “FBI load.” The round was dropped by the FBI, where the weakened version was shortened and created into the .40 S&W, which they officially adopted. Conflicting reports state why the FBI dropped the 10mm. Some say the recoil was too much for most agents (even though the “FBI load” doesn’t recoil much more than a .40 S&W), but it was most likely that the grip was too large for small hands and the larger frame was more difficult to conceal under FBI suits.

I admit to being slightly biased towards the 10mm. I fell in love with it this past spring, and it’s rapidly become one of my favorite calibers. It’s hard not to fall in love with it. To shoot the 10mm is to not only become a fan but to become an advocate of the round. The 9mm is still my go-to round and the .45 a sentimental favorite, but the 10mm is just pure power. If you’re in a situation where an encounter with a threat would mean your life, the 10mm is the way to go. Mountain lion, bear ... all easy fodder.

One of the most interesting testaments to the power of the 10mm is its adoption by the Danish special forces unit, Slaedepatruljen Sirius, in the form of the Glock 20. The Sledge Patrol Sirius patrols the isolated arctic region of northern Greenland to protect



L-R: 9mm Luger, 40 S&W, 45 ACP, 10mm Auto, 357 Mag.

“To shoot the 10mm is to not only become a fan but to become an advocate of the round.”

Danish sovereignty. It’s a 25-month duty in which the unit sees other people only twice: during the annual resupply by ship. During winter months the unit runs their patrols in two-man units that last four months. Let me stress that—four months with one other person and a team of sledge dogs. Temperatures sometimes get down to -41 degrees. Polar bear run-ins are frequent; that’s where the 10mm Auto comes in.

Unfortunately, most off-the-shelf 10mm ammunition from the major manufacturers is the weakened FBI load. However, you can still find the full power 10mm load by some of the smaller and boutique ammo manufacturers. I have shot loads from Buffalo Bore, who makes an outstanding round, and I’ve been able to find that on the shelves of most gun stores. It’s high time that manufacturers who do offer 10mm make it in the original full power load, not the watered down load. Maybe the watered down load was fine for the FBI, but shooters who own the 10mm know what it offers and they want full power loads. If they didn’t want the full power, they wouldn’t buy the 10mm. There are many other rounds that are a lot cheaper and a lot easier to find.


The FBI load has slightly more power than the .40 S&W, but full power loads fall between the .357 Magnum and the .41 Magnum. The true benefit,

though, is the ability to carry 15 rounds in a magazine (in the case of the Glock 20) with split-second reloads. In the case of the charging bear, with one magazine loaded and two spares, you would have 45 rounds of magnum power that you could unload in about 15-20 seconds. Now that’s impressive! It’s equivalent to carrying almost eight fully loaded magnum revolvers.

At commercial loadings, a 10mm 200 gr load has 750 foot-pounds of energy—over twice the energy of .45 ACP, 230 gr Army Ball FMJ (352 ft-lb). Cor-Bon lists their .45 185 gr JHP at 544 ft-lb. I point this out due to the popularity of the .45 ACP, and many see it in competition with the 10mm. While I would love to delve deeper into ballistics and performance of this round, space limitations prevent that. But here are some specs of 10mm auto and other calibers. (Note: I tried to use commercial ammo loaded to the original caliber specifications. That is tough with the

10mm Auto, since most commercial ammo from major manufacturers isn’t loaded to original caliber specs, as I noted earlier. Also, there’s a wide variation in .357 Magnum velocities and energy, since it can be chambered in 6-inch and 8-inch barrels, as well as in rifles; 5-inch barrel unless otherwise specified.) (See chart below)

While there are semi-auto cartridges that are more powerful, they are restricted to Desert Eagle sized handguns, which are not anywhere near being practical for everyday carry. While the Glock 20 is a large handgun, with a carry vest or coat it’s still concealable, even with an outside the waistband (OWB) holster. A Glock 29 is a subcompact that is completely concealable and still holds 10 rounds with an optional 15-round magazine.

With performance levels as high as they are, it’s a shame that the 10mm Auto isn’t more popular than it is. It is a thumper of a round that in a self-defense role will plant whatever critter it’s used against, whether two-legged or four. It runs circles around the beloved .45 ACP. American shooters have been trying to replicate the ballistics of a .357 Mag in a semi-auto for decades. Here it is. It actually passes the .357 Mag in performance. A magnum powered cartridge in a semi-auto platform—you can’t beat it. If you haven’t looked at the 10mm Auto and/or fired it, I recommend you do. I’ll give this advice with only one warning: watch out; it’s addictive. You’ll find yourself a 10mm fan just like I did. 

For additional information and sources for information provided in this article, please read this column at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/Firearms.

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

| Caliber | Manufacturer | Mass | Velocity | Energy |
|------------|--------------------|--------|----------|------------|
| 10mm Auto | Buffalo Bore JHC | 180 gr | 1350 fps | 782 ft-lbs |
| .45 Auto | Federal Hydra-Shok | 230 gr | 900 fps | 414 ft-lbs |
| .357 Mag.* | Federal Hydra-Shok | 158 gr | 1240 fps | 539 ft-lbs |
| .40 S&W** | Winchester Super-X | 155 gr | 1205 fps | 500 ft-lbs |
| .41 Mag* | Federal Hydra-Shok | 210 gr | 1360 fps | 862 ft-lbs |

* Barrell length unconfirmed ** 4.0" barrell

BILL CUNNEA

The Crik: Spring's arrival

The “crik” manages to evoke wonder anew at the world and the good fortune I have to live above it. It runs through cornfields and pasture down in the valley below the house. It is, or has become, a friend, a resource, and a harbinger of renewal over the years and yet still supplies fresh senses of the richness of life.

Yesterday I took Mick for a ramble in the fields that the crik divides. The sun was shining, temps were in the mid-40 and the winds at about 10 mph. I had no agenda, just the walk for me and the dog to savor our environment. Winter has been long, and although I know

spring is here, it has been hiding for the last few weeks.

The ground was not quite dry but OK for walking as long as I remembered to scrape off the mud when I got home. Mick and I entered the field about 200 yards from the bank of the water. The bank is about 6 feet high and steep in most places, so the water can't be seen until one approaches it.

I noted some movement ahead. In the far distance about 25 ducks had flushed and were giving alarm calls as they swept up from the water and bank and flew, first away, then circling back, higher up, to curl around me and follow

the lowland back to downstream resting places. Mick and I were far from them, but perhaps it was us who moved them up to safer sites.

As we approached and then paralleled the stream, I saw two Canada geese at the water's edge. I stopped Mick, seeing him notice them, and stood as the two birds fussed at each other and muddled around the crik bank. They moved up on the grass above the bank. I heeled Mick and we approached slowly. The geese muttered to one another. Then one spotted us and extended his neck to better be on the alert. The second bird settled down a little but moved as Mick and I approached. They walked a bit, stopped to examine us 100 yards away, then, finally, voiced complaint and started the jog-trot into takeoff speed. They fought gravity and achieved flight, and I told Mick “OK” for him to charge down in endlessly optimistic pursuit. With disdain, the geese flew higher and then leveled off at about 50 feet and showed me their command of their element, flying away honking (no doubt in annoyance; they certainly weren't scared) to less frequented spots.

Along a tad further, as Mick plunged into the snow-melt heightened water, two Sandhill cranes cranked out their cacophony as they lifted up from

another field a half mile or more ahead of us. They flew and gave me profiles of the long necks and trailing legs, flying as noisily as possible. While I appreciate the occasional encounter, what nuisance neighbors they would be if they stayed within earshot of your home. They just don't shut up. What happened to stealth in nature?

Mick and I turned back and retraced our steps. The cranes' honking still reached us. Seven of the ducks had circled around and were returning to their previous resting spot, and miscellaneous and sundry small birds—song birds and grackles, blackbirds and such—fretted back and forth in the skies near the woods and fields. Spring was conspicuous.

The day before I had hunted pheasants at a game farm and had come home dissatisfied with the experience. This day ... was satisfying.

The crik makes me rich. I'm a lucky person. *WO*

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



CUBS CORNER, from page 3

Rather, you're out in the countryside doing some walking and hiking as you sneak up to fishing spots on the stream and gently lob in your offerings. Fish awhile, then move on to the next likely hold.

Work your way upstream (with the current coming at you). Stay hidden and keep your shadows off the water. Look for “trouty” spots like these: riffles, runs, pools, deep bends, and undercut banks. Remember that trout like to be near fast water but just out of the main flow where they can hide, wait, and watch, quickly darting out to grab food that tumbles past.

The best approach is to toss your bait above (upstream of) where you think the trout will be and let the current carry your offering naturally. Lift the rod up to bounce the bait along and let it keep moving. Trout will hit hard with a thump and usually

run back to their hiding spot. It's hard to teach a kid to wait to set the hook, and usually things will turn out okay, but if the fish are finicky that day, the young angler will soon learn to wait a little while.

“Super simple” are the words of the day for setups and rigs. Any light spinning or spincasting outfit will work. Four-pound test line is ideal, but 6-pound will work. Use a short-shank size 8 or 10 hook, and pinch on a small- to medium-sized split shot 18 inches ahead. Bait up with a lively half-nightcrawler. Use whole crawlers if you're after monster trout!

You don't have to hit the water before the sun is up, but it's wise to fish the first couple hours after sunrise and then when shadows get long again in the evening. Trout stay active all day long on cloudy days, so don't let overcast skies dampen your spirits. A nice soft rain can make the fish go nuts. Kids love it too; fishing in the rain



is an adventure!

Trout and kids make the perfect match. Pink-striped rainbows, bronze-sided browns, and wild-painted brook trout await. Load up a couple rods, stow away a few boxes of nightcrawlers in a cooler, and take off for the day or a

weekend. It's the perfect time to take a trout trip. *WO*

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

TOM LUBA

A Quick Jig-N-Pig Primer

A pork fat thing

Mention the words “bass jigs” today and it’ll take you a couple of hours just to go through the companies that produce jigs and the colors available. In today’s hurry up world, many anglers have substituted a piece of plastic shaped like a crawfish to hang on the back, because, once again, nowadays anglers jump from one bait to another looking for the one that will get bitten the quickest. That might be the one thing I don’t like about tournament fishing.

The Uncle Josh No. 11 Pork Frog was the first serious trailer I used when I learned how to fish a jig. That fish catching confidence led to fishing it more and more, in all seasons, not just spring. And before long, I was catching fish regardless of the time of the year.

Due to that early success, I’ve always stuck with the Uncle Josh frog as my trailer—most of the time. If I’m planning to fish a jig a lot on an outing, I’ll put on my pork. Otherwise, when I’m using the bait for select situations only, I am more inclined to use a plastic trailer.

I just think I will catch more big bass on the jig-n-pig than on any other lure in my box. That makes it mandatory that I fish it in the spring and in the fall when bigger fish are more mobile and aggressive. And, I put my money on a jig because I can also modify it a lot easier than any other

bait.

You can find jig heads that have the jig eye in different positions. At one point the eye was out the top of the head only. Now, you can also get heads with the eye at various other angles. The eye out the front was a major breakthrough for me as it lets the head slide through weeds a lot cleaner. The old heads got fouled time and again with weeds. In my area of Wisconsin weed growth is the number one fish cover, so there was a major conflict.

You can also trim the weed guards on most jigs. This still allows the guard to deflect weeds, but when a fish takes it, the bristles depress easier making for a better hook set. This usually means using the guards that have the bristles or fibers make up the weed guard. The plastic Y-type guards on some baits aren’t as flexible, and I feel that may mean some missed fish over the day.

Another thing you can trim on the jig is the skirt. When you want a smaller profile, trim the skirt tighter to the hook shank bend to make it look smaller. A lot of heads that don’t come with a rattle can have one added fairly easily. I believe Northland Tackle produces rattles already in holders that can be slipped over the hook and up into the skirt area of the jig. When switching from clear to more stained water, or from daylight to night fishing, a rattle can be vital in helping bass

home in on the bait. As a side note, you can bend the hook shank up a little to give it a better chance to set. I always look for the widest gap I can find when looking at bass jigs.

Overall, I use pork because I think it offers me more positives than plastics. First of all, it’s supple, so when a fish grabs it, it thinks the pork is real. Secondly, pork is tough. While a fish could rip off part of a plastic trailer, like a craw claw, on the strike and quickly disengage, the pork won’t rip loose, so the fish holds on longer, which could be vital in getting a good hook set.

For that same reason it is good to use scent on your pork so it not only feels real but tastes real as well. I can’t count the times over the years that a bass has slurped up the jig-n-pig and nonchalantly started to swim away. As far as scenting the pork, I usually marinate the frogs in a fish scent both over the winter and in the jars I use to

take in the boat. That marinade will cover up human scent from handling the bait when rigging—an additional bonus.

While you can get plastic trailers (a number of which are already scented) in shapes from a chunk to a craw, I find that a black frog can work with virtually any skirt color combo. For those clearer waters, consider an off-white or frog-colored chunk as a substitute.

Call me old-fashioned, but I’m extremely confident when a No. 11 Black Pork Frog is on the back end of my bass jig. Speaking of ye olde pork frog, I might have to agree with renowned TV Chef Emeril Lagasse. Like the secret to his cooking, maybe the secret to catching bass on a jig-n-pig is simply a “pork fat thing.” *W*

Tom Luba is a free-lance outdoor writer and bass fishing fan from New London, WI. Tom fishes as much as he can and never gets tired of setting the hook.

DNR REPORT, from page 18

“The situation was very indicative of malnutrition,” according to Jeff Pritzl, DNR Northeast District wildlife supervisor. “All but two of over 20 carcasses were last year’s fawns. It’s symptomatic of a deer population out of balance with its habitat.”

Each of the state’s 136 deer management units has a target over-winter population goal. “As hunters, we all like to see lots of deer, but unfortunately this year in some farmland areas we’re seeing the downside of high deer numbers,” says Pritzl. “We’re not only seeing direct losses of deer, but the damage they are doing to their habitat will take years to recover, and that’s assuming less browsing pressure by fewer deer. It’s very rare that we see deer starvation problems in farmland units, but that’s where we are hearing of a significant number of cases.”

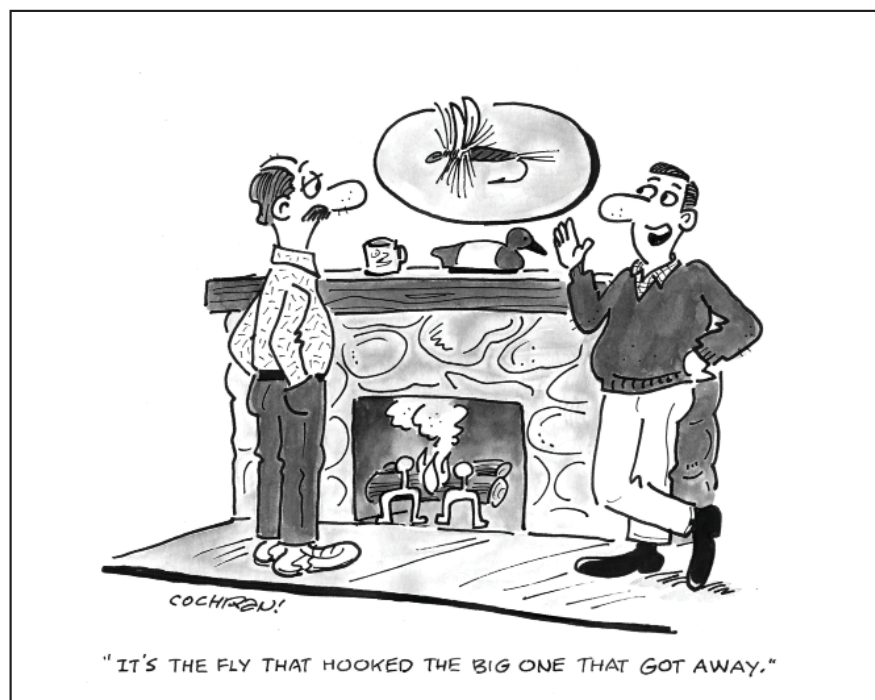
In northern units, local biologists are also seeing stressed deer and have had reports of some starvation losses. In general, deer appear to be faring somewhat better because deer densities in the northern forest tend to be more in line with what the habitat can support, or in many units are still below where they could be. However, going into

late April the snow continues to fall in significant amounts and direct losses can be expected until snow melt.

Although this will not be considered one of the more extreme winters since the department began recording winter severity and its impacts on the herd, varying amounts of mortality will occur throughout the state due to starvation and increased predation of weakened animals. In addition, reduced fawn recruitment and survival can be expected as some does will have come through the winter in poor physical conditions and absorb their fawns.

State biologists have already considered winter’s effects on survival and recruitment when developing 2013 harvest quotas which will be released in early May. With more snow in the forecast, they are continuing to evaluate the situation. According to Wallenfang, already conservative quotas may be reduced even further in some areas of the far north. *W*

For more information, contact Kevin Wallenfang, Deer and Elk Ecologist at 608.261.7589. Readers are also asked to email comments for posting at OnWisconsinOutdoors.com to ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



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Ashland, Lake Superior's Hometown, is the Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin. Take a walking tour of the beautiful murals downtown. Check out these events: Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival, May 16-18; House-to-House Garage Sale, May 18; Apostle Islands Inline Marathon/ALMT Half Marathon on Madeline Island, June 15; Superior Vistas Bike Tour, June 22. **Click on Ashland County.**

School is almost out; summer is here. Walleyes are hitting on the Bay and Brown and Rainbow Trout are still close to Lake Michigan's shorelines. **Wolf Pack's boats will be hitting hot action off Sheboygan's scenic shores.** Grab the kids and start the summer with a memory. **Click on Sheboygan County.**

Richland County is the place to be as the weather heats up. Celebrate "FUN" in Wisconsin, Richland County Style! April showers not only bring May flowers in Richland County, but time to get ready for **Motorsports Mayhem and the Wisconsin State High School Rodeo Finals** at the Richland

County Teasers

County Fairgrounds. **Click on Richland County.**

Hayward Lakes ... home to 5 World Record Muskies. With over 200 lakes, we offer outstanding fishing for trophy musky, northern, walleye, crappie, bass and pan fish. Visit our Northwoods accommodations, ideal for family getaways and fishing vacations. Join us for Musky Fest June 21-23. **Click on Sawyer County.**

People are heading to the harbor with fishing pole and net in hand. Bicycles have started to roll down the trail, and kayaks and paddleboards are being launched from our South Beach. Port Washington is heating up—all we need is you! Visit the website for more info. Download our free mobile app! **Click on Ozaukee County.**

Elk River Custom Rods & Outfitters opened the doors to a new retail store in Phillips in Price County. The store offers a wide variety of merchandise and services geared toward outdoor enthusiasts. A viewing window will enable customers to witness the quality and care that goes into the rod building process. Check out this and other area businesses. **Click on Price County.**

NEW—Treeland Farm RV Resort! Chippewa Flowage—75 premium patio sites over 64 open and wooded acres! Big Rig Friendly! Heated swimming pool, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, playground, recreation area and building, private baths, game room, convenience store, laundry, WiFi, hiking trails, fire pits, kayaks and paddle boats included. 25% off already discounted spring rates through June 15! **Click on Sawyer County.**

Adams County Petenwell and Castle Rock Parks, on the 2nd and 4th largest lakes in Wisconsin, are open year round for camping with heated shower/restroom facilities, game room, concessions, swimming, and boat launch. **Enjoy the summer relaxing on the beaches or fishing Adams**

County's many lakes. **Click on Adams County.**

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Canoe the beautiful La Crosse River from Sparta, Wisconsin. This canoe/kayak trip takes you through one of the most scenic stretches of the La Crosse River as it winds its way through Monroe and La Crosse Counties. With miles of beautiful biking trails and canoeing/kayaking on the La Crosse River, Sparta has been a choice destination for decades. **Click on Monroe County.**

Wisconsin's Largest Weekly Outdoor Flea Market in Princeton, offers everything from tools to antiques, plants, produce, cheese, sausage and more. Shop Saturdays through October 12 in the tree-shaded City Park on Highway 23 starting at 6:00 a.m. Parking and admission are free. **Click on Green Lake County.**

After such a long winter and cold spring, it's finally time to get out on the river. **The Mighty Mississippi has so much to offer and Pool 9 is about as good as it gets.** Check in with the Grandview Motel and we'll help you check out all there is to see and do in the area. **Click on Crawford County.**

Over 100 miles of ATV Trails are waiting for you to explore in Washburn County. Trails open Memorial Day weekend! Be sure to check out the new Minong ATV Campground located on the Wild Rivers State Trail! For your FREE trail map, **click on Washburn County.**

This is the month that Fremont, WI earns its title as **"Whitebass Capital of the World!"** If you want to get somebody turned on to fishing, head for Fremont and the Wolf River in May! At

the peak of the run, 100 fish days are the rule, not the exception. For local fishing reports **click on Waupaca County.**

Visit Clark County this spring! Each season offers a delightful change of pace. The reawakening of spring is impossible to resist. Stop at our many greenhouses; they are bursting with color! Shop our Farmers Markets for fresh local produce. Grab your fishing and camping gear and enjoy the great outdoors! **Click on Clark County.**

Planning your Northwoods getaway? Fish, canoe and kayak our rivers, inland lakes or Lake Superior. Hike, bike or ATV our 1200+ mile **network of Douglas County Forest roads and trails, including 30 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail.** Explore the waterfalls at Pattison and Amnicon Falls State Parks. FREE Travel Guide, **click on Douglas County.**

Early summer in Walworth County provides some of the best fishing of the year. Largemouth bass and walleyes are actively feeding, providing almost constant action. The shallow water bluegill bite is hot, providing fish fries for hungry anglers. For guide parties, contact Dave Duwe's Guide Service. **Click on Walworth County.**

Fun time in Ferryville on the Mississippi River. Use the Ferryville Boat Launch (Pool 9) to access the best fishing on the river. Trout fishing on Rush Creek, Sugar Creek, Copper Creek is fantastic. Remember Ferryville when you are in the Bass Fishing Contest – La Crosse. **Click on Crawford County**

The Waukesha Gun Club is **Wisconsin's largest shotgun only club.** It features 29 Trap houses, a Sporting Clays course, 7 Skeet ranges and three enclosed 5-stand venues. The Waukesha Gun club lies on 88 plus acres and has a spacious clubhouse. Banquet, shooting event, private party or just a place to hold a meeting. **Click on Waukesha County.**

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Surplus Firearms

Just stop it: no reason to hoard ammunition

“At the federal level, there is virtually no chance that an assault weapon or high capacity magazine ban will be happening in the foreseeable future.”

Several generations of family members, myself included, learned how to shoot with my grandfather's Remington Model 341 Sportsmaster .22 caliber bolt action repeater. Manufactured and purchased during the height of the Great Depression, the Sportsmaster has taken its share of rabbits, pheasants, squirrels, paper targets and tin cans over the course of nearly eight decades. When the time came to introduce my 12-year-old daughter to the sport of shooting, it was only fitting that she learn how to shoot with the same rifle that her great-grandfather bought and was the first non-BB gun shot by her grandfather, father, and numerous aunts and uncles.

Despite its age and patina, and having lived much of its life in a chicken coop, the 341 has always been reliable and accurate. It was no different when my daughter shot it her first time. She nailed the target with each shot and had no problem manipulating the bolt, which, after thousands of rounds and years of use, was as smooth as butter. The iron sights, which probably haven't been touched since my grandfather initially adjusted them, were spot-on at 25 yards. The trigger was tight and crisp. Everything worked, as you would expect of a firearm from an era when guns were made by skilled craftsman from forged steel components.

There were only two things that put a damper on my daughter's first foray into shooting. The Sportsmaster was far too big for someone so petite, and we didn't have enough ammunition. I solved problem number one by recently purchasing her a youth-sized .22 rifle, a CZ Model 452, which is put together in



every way as well as the Sportsmaster, and I expect will last just as long. Maybe even longer at this rate since I can't buy ammunition for it. Only those who had the foresight to purchase significant amounts of ammunition before the Great Panic of 2012/13 are in any position to shoot a .22 firearm or, heck, virtually any firearm at this point.

This is now the fifth gun buying panic that I have experienced. The first was in 1989, followed by 1994, 2004, 2008 and 2012/13. All of these were associated with actual or highly likely assault weapon bans. In each case, things settled down within a year, except for 1989 and 1994, which resulted in actual assault weapon bans (which, to a large degree, were rescinded in September of 2004). None of those panics was accompanied by a run on ammunition that I recall. If they were, they sure didn't include .22 caliber ammunition.

The 2012/13 panic is unprecedented. The price of assault rifles went through the roof during past such episodes, but no one lived in fear that ammunition was going to be banned, certainly not .22 ammunition.

What's fueling the current panic? Primarily Internet rumors that the gullible are swallowing hook, line and sinker coupled with shysters taking advantage of the weak-minded. Jack-booted thugs are not going to go door-to-door confiscating ammunition. There is nothing before Congress that would tax ammunition. The rumor that the Department of Homeland

Security is buying untold billions of rounds of ammunition to keep it out of the hands of civilians is just that, a rumor. Even if this rumor were true, the 100,000 agents that DHS employees aren't issued weapons that fire .45 Colt, 7.62 x 25 or .221 Fireball. So why are people hoarding ammunition even in calibers of such limited appeal? Generally speaking, it beats me. On the other hand, when you have politicians like New York Governor Andrew Cuomo publicly stating that firearm confiscation might have to be considered and some states are banning Internet ammunition sales, it does give one pause. Gun enthusiasts residing in some states have more to be concerned about than others. Assault weapon and high capacity magazine bans will soon be going into effect in Colorado, New York, and Connecticut. On the other hand, those bans are not going to be happening anytime soon, if ever, in Wisconsin.

At the federal level, there is virtually no chance that an assault weapon or high capacity magazine ban will be happening in the foreseeable future. There are simply not enough votes in either the House or the Senate.

Taxing ammunition is also currently going nowhere, although it might in some states. Wisconsin isn't one of them.

What may prove to be worrisome, depending upon how it is interpreted, is the recently ratified United Nations Arms Treaty which would regulate, among other things, the importation and exportation of small arms and ammunition. Depending on which source you refer to, this treaty is either a serious threat to the Second Amendment or yet another toothless UN resolution. While it may have been approved in the UN, with the support of the United States, it has virtually no chance of being ratified at the present time in the U.S. Senate. On the other hand, according to some sources, the treaty could make it more difficult to import firearms and ammunition from other nations that signed on to the treaty. Time, as it always does, will tell.

Contrary to my main contention in this article, i.e., that hoarding ammo is, in most situations, silly, the exception may be the case of once common Eastern Bloc rounds, such as 7.62 x 39, 7.62 x 54, 5.45 x 39 and 7.62 x 25. Stocking up on these rounds may not have been a bad idea. It would be a little late to do so now. They're also difficult, if not impossible, to find, and their importation may eventually be curtailed or stopped by presidential order.

But .22 ammunition? There is absolutely no reason to think that it is going to disappear. It's not going to be outlawed, taxed out of existence, or confiscated. Please, people, stop hoarding it. My daughter, like millions of others, wants to go shooting and you hoarders are preventing it. *WO*

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

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SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette

Skewers on the grill

It's been a long winter in terms of what we've been used to in recent years, but I personally love winter and was thrilled with all of the snow. However, one of the reasons I so love Wisconsin is that I truly appreciate each of our four seasons. There have been many signs that spring is truly upon us, and all of them have been wonderfully welcome. Spotting the season's first robin, noticing the fresh buds on the trees, and seeing the flowers poking up out of the ground are all signs of spring, along with the increased use of the outdoor grill. Even though we use our outdoor grill year round, I must admit that the warmer weather makes it a little more comfortable. So, I thought I'd share some of my favorite recipes for different skewers on the grill. *WO*



Venison Skewers

- 2 lbs venison, cut into cubes
- 2 whole green peppers, seeded & quartered
- 2 whole onions, quartered
- 1 lb whole mushrooms (try baby bellas)
- 1 cup dry vermouth
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

Place venison chunks and whole mushrooms in a large Ziploc bag or covered container. Combine vermouth, olive oil, and garlic; pour over meat and mushrooms to coat completely. Refrigerate 2-3 hours.

Alternate meat and vegetables on skewers, discarding excess marinade. Place skewers over hot coals or high temperature on a gas grill. The trick is to cook them quickly to sear the meat and allow the vegetables to remain semi-crisp. It only takes about 5 minutes for rare, so adjust your timing according to the desired doneness of the meat.



Fish Skewers

- 1 to 1½ lbs firm white fish, cut into bite sized pieces
- 1 large red or orange bell pepper, seeded and cut into 1-inch pieces
- ½ lb fresh pineapple, cut into chunks
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 1 large onion, cut into wedges
- For marinade:*
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 2 T. dark sesame oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 2 T. grated fresh ginger

Combine all marinade ingredients in a large, shallow dish. Add pieces of fish. Let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to make sure all fish is coated.

Remove fish from marinade (reserving liquid) and thread on skewers with desired combination of vegetables and pineapple. Place on hot grill and brush with marinade. Grill 8 to 10 minutes, turning once, until fish is opaque.

Duck Skewers

- 2-3 lbs duck breasts, cut into chunks
- 2 onions, cut into wedges
- 1 lb button mushrooms
- For marinade:*
- 1/4 cup brandy
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 1/4 tsp. ground allspice
- 1/4 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf

Combine all marinade ingredients in large Ziploc bag. Add duck and mushrooms. Close bag and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight, turning occasionally.

Remove duck and mushrooms from bag (reserving liquid) and thread on skewers, alternating with onion wedges. Grill over hot coals until desired doneness (we like them more on the rare side—about 5 to 7 minutes), turning once and basting with reserved marinade.

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

DUWE, from page 3

bottom bouncer with a shorter snell.

The most interesting tip Brad spoke about was that the length of time he waits after the hook is set is approximately 90 seconds. He waits that long to make sure the walleye has the big chub down. His rod/reel combo is a 7-foot medium heavy rod and a baitcaster spooled with 14-pound Fireline with 10-pound fluorocarbon snell. I asked him if he snapped fish off with the Fireline and light leader, and he explained that you don't want a very aggressive hook set and you should use more of a sweeping motion than a hard jerk upward. His number one philosophy is that you have to cover a lot of water.

"The Lindy rig is a Walking Sinker or Lindy No-Snagg sinker, a ball bearing swivel, a snell from two feet to 10 feet and a hook."

Jon's approach to Lindy rigging is quite comparable. He fishes defined edges with scattered rubble deeper than 15 feet of water. He uses a medium sized walking sinker 3/8 ounce to ¾ ounce or Lindy No-Snagg sinkers with at least an 8-foot snell. Jon trolls at 0.7 to 1.0 mph, half the speed of Brad Davis. The rod and reel combo is exactly the same as Brad's, the only exception being his reel is spooled with monofilament. Jon only uses a fluorocarbon snell in a 10-pound line diameter. Jon believes the Lindy No-Snagg sinkers allow him to catch more fish on a given day. Once a walleye bites, Jon waits about as long as I do to set the hook: 10-15 seconds.

To recap, here are the keys to Lindy rigging everyone should use:

1. The deeper the water, the heavier the weight.
2. Ball bearing swivels are a must.
3. The clearer the water, the longer the snell.
4. When trolling make sure your line remains at a 45 degree angle to the bottom.

Lindy rigging is decades old and still effective. It should be a part of every fisherman's repertoire. *WO*

Dave Duwe, owner of Dave Duwe's Guide Service, has been guiding the lakes of Southeastern Wisconsin for 15 years, specializing in Delavan Lake and Lake Geneva. Go to www.fishlakegeneva.com or www.fishdelavanlake.com.

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