July/August 2016

Vol. 9, Issue 6



with the **Dick Ellis Experts**

- Fishing the Badger State 20 how-to features from the OWO experts
- Explore Wisconsin Kayak opens whole new world, Outdoorswoman targets adventure
- Northern Treasures Blueberries, browns and the Bois Brule River
- Fruits of the Bloom Black raspberries begin the harvests
- Filling the Deer Tag Summer time is practice time, Overhunting your favorite stand?
- From the OWO Gun Cabinet Henry's Big Boy Steel, Clay shooting fun to wing-shooting success
- Bear Hunting 2016 Why wait to bait? Using scents and attractants, Lessons continue for rookie hunter
- Canine Concepts Retriever training and old math
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ER CHELMINIAK **Wisconsin Youth Fishing Clubs** Humble beginnings lay foundations for success

t was chilly that night. I was nervous. My dad drove my brother and me up to a small, old and weathered building. On the outside its only color was the shining white light of the full moon reflecting off the glass-calm river behind it. Inside there was a cafeteria, like one from a Boy Scout campsite, and there were six long, wooden tables gravitating ten or so kids from the ages of 11 - 17 around them. They were all laughing about someone named "Cindy" from their school and one of the boy's embarrassing crush on her.

It was our first time becoming part of a fishing club, and I hid by my brother. From the look of it, the kids sitting at the tables had known each other for years already, and I felt that it would be hard to try and fit in with their close-

knit group. But as the meeting began, I started to feel more comfortable. Our club director, Sam's dad, took time right away to congratulate his son on winning the State Championship the summer before. He explained that because of his accomplishment, he won a savings bond from The Wisconsin Bass Federation and, even more importantly, an incredible invitation to the following year's National Guard Junior World Championship. When I had heard that there was an opportunity for us to try to qualify for a World Championship, I was immediately hooked harder than a largemouth with three Mustad treble hooks in its face! The NGJWC was everything I had dreamed it would be, if not more.



From a youth club in Watertown, Wisconsin, to the 2013 National Guard continued on page 6 Junior World Championship on Caddo Lake, Louisiana.

TOM LUBA Reed Bed Bass Setting the Shawano Lake ambush

here's a rule of thumb that I follow when I'm looking for fishable water: pay attention when two different elements meet. It may be where bottom content changes or where weed growth changes as it meets a second type of aquatic plant. Usually, these areas produce because they offer more to the fish like ambush points, cover and food.

Shawano Lake has loads of cover: shallow, deep, points, docks and weeds at a variety of depths. It also has a plethora of pencil reed beds, which hold a lot of bass in the summer. But not all areas of a reed bed are created equal. Finding the good spots will put you on fish.

A lot of reeds grow on light bottoms. These areas are generally shallow and not the ones I like. Instead, look for the reeds that are closer to a darker bottom. Sometimes that can be at the other end of the reed bed. Typically, these will grow very close to aquatic weeds that provide large-

mouth with the aforementioned ingredients. These weeds will generally be a little deeper. It might not be much more than six inches to a foot, but that may make all the difference.

When you talk about weeds, think how you fish weedlines, because you may have to get your bait through the cover without snagging. Reeds can seemingly dart out and grab a bait hook first. Reed snags can be nasty, and by the time you pry one loose, you have probably wrecked the area.

Surface frogs can work on fish that are tucked into the reeds. Using a jig with the eye coming out the front helps it slide through the aquatic weeds. Well-placed casts are essential; however, my top choice for this fishing is a 5-inch Senko stick worm. Stay away from wacky rigging, though. Instead, rig it Texas style. This allows the bait to move through both reeds and weeds without hanging up. I like a Gamakatsu 3/0 round bend worm hook. Gamakatsu also

makes a 3/0 O'Shaughnessy bend. This hook does not have as wide a bend and is more of a flippin' presentation hook. I feel better with a little wider gap.

Color-wise, I like the black with blue fleck but also catch fish on watermelon/red fleck and watermelon/gold and black fleck. I'm not sure color always matters.

Some of the areas can be fairly small, and when the bass are tucked in, a bait dropped right on top of them will get sucked in as soon as it starts sinking. In fact, a lot of the " bites" may not really qualify as solid bites, since I don't feel them or even see the line twitch. A lot of the fish grab it without moving and you don't know it's been picked up until you start tightening the line. I suggest taking up line slowly so you can feel if there is weight on the business end. Then set the hook.

Shawano Lake is an excellent fishing lake and has a lot of largemouth bass and a lot of reed beds spread out over the entire lake.



Don Keenan with a Shawano Lake largemouth taken on a black/blue fleck, 5-inch Senko stick worm.

If you are not in the immediate vicinity of Shawano, you might want to try this approach on the lakes in your area that have a nice combination of reeds with weeds close by. It's a pattern that pays off throughout the summer. Wh

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

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette Clean out for a new harvest

t's that time of year when we do "freezer cleanout" in our home. Even though we enjoyed the bounty of each harvest through the fall, winter and spring, we had a tendency to grab from the top of the freezer where things were easier to see and find. So we make it our goal during the summer months to bring up those packages of meat, fish and fowl from the bottom of the freezer and surprise ourselves with what we find. Here are a few of the favorite recipes we use to make room for a new harvest. Enjoy!

Salmon Hash

34 to 1 pound skinless salmon fillet 2 T. grapeseed oil (canola oil will work also)

1 T. lemon juice

Salt & pepper to taste ¹/₄ cup canola oil

cups diced potatoes (Russet of Idaho)

2 cups diced bell peppers (a variety of colors is best)

¹/₂ T. minced garlic

1 tsp. dried thyme

- 1/2 cup diced onion

Salt & pepper to taste

Cheese (optional)

Eggs (optional)

Cut salmon fillet into 1-inch pieces; toss with grapeseed oil and lemon juice, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Set aside.

In large frying pan, heat canola oil over medium-high heat. Fry potatoes, stirring regularly until golden brown, about 10 to 15 minutes. Add peppers, onions, garlic, salt and pepper to pan. Continue cooking until onions are translucent and potatoes are fork tender, about 10 more minutes. Reduce heat to medium.

Move vegetables to the sides of the pan and place salmon pieces in the middle. Cook until lightly browned on all sides. Turn off heat; mix all ingredients well, then sprinkle with thyme and cheese of your choice. A really good piece of aged, shredded cheddar is wonderful, but use sparingly so as not to overpower the flavor of the salmon. Swiss cheese is also a good choice.

Serve warm with either a fried or poached egg on top for a real "stick to your ribs" breakfast.



2

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Venison Sausage Stuffed Acorn Squash

2 T. olive oil

1 lb. ground venison sausage (spicy sausage is great in this dish)

1 medium red onion, diced

8 oz. baby bella mushrooms, chopped

5 - 6 oz. package of fresh spinach

5.2 oz. package of herb-flavored Boursin cheese

2 acorn squash, seeded and cut in half Preheat oven to 350°

In large pan, heat oil over medium high heat. Add venison sausage and onions. Sauté for about 5 minutes and then add mushrooms. Continue cooking until onions are translucent and sausage is no longer pink. Add spinach and stir until spinach wilts. Remove from heat. Stir in Boursin cheese and mix well.

Place cut halves of squash in a large baking dish or shallow baking pan. Fill each squash with sausage mixture; any extra filling can go in the pan surrounding the squash.

Bake for 1 hour or until squash flesh is fork tender.

Duck Tacos

2 duck breasts, cooked with Mexican seasoning blend** and shredded Small flour tortillas Avocado(s), sliced

- Lettuce, shredded
- Sour cream

Fresh cilantro

Warm tortillas and fill with shredded duck breasts. Top with avocado slices, shredded lettuce, sour cream, cilantro and fresh salsa.

Fresh Salsa

- 2 large ripe tomatoes, quartered
- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 2 T. diced green chilies
- 1 T. jalapeno pepper, chopped
- 1 tsp. lime juice
- 34 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- ¹/₄ tsp. sugar

Place all ingredients in food processor and pulse until fine consistency. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour to allow flavors to blend.

*Make your own Mexican seasoning blend by combining 2 T. chili powder, 2 T. ground cumin, 2 T. oregano, 2 T. paprika, 1 T. garlic powder and 2 tsp. cayenne pepper. Store in air-tight container.

Suzette Curtis, of Oshkosh, cooks for a family of hunters and fishermen and 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.



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Bassology Wind walking technique is a breeze

Rest is hing a stretch of deep water against a rocky bank, my line bowed out with the wind, drifting my plastic worm through the water. I saw a slight jump in the line. Quickly reeling in the slack, I pulled back to set the hook.

I felt the weight of a fish on the other end and it took off, doubling over my spinning rod, rod tip plunging. I turned the fish and got it coming toward the boat when it rocketed for the surface. It tried to jump to throw the hook, but I pulled back on the rod so the fish only swirled on the surface. A moment later I was reaching over the side to grab the fish, a thick, feisty largemouth bass.

Watch the Line

"So what are you doing?" my wife, Becky asked.

"Nothing," I told her.

"What do you mean, 'nothing'?" she said.

"It is just as I said; I'm doing nothing. I am letting the wind do all the work."

"Show me," she said.

I flipped my bait upwind toward the bank and told her to watch. The brisk wind picked up the light braided fishing line, drifting the plastic sinking worm as it dropped in the water.

"Now watch the line," I told her. If the line should stop or suddenly start to move off or even just bounce a bit, set the hook. You will have a fish."

Five minutes later she yelled she had a fish on. "I didn't do a thing," she said. "I just let the wind blow the line and it stopped, so I set the hook."

It is said, especially in business, people

have to do more with less. The same concept can work to catch more bass.

There are a number of ways to work plastic baits. They can be jigged, slid, bounced and worked in various retrieves. But what about doing nothing and letting the wind do the work? I have been doing that for the last several years. It catches as many bass (sometimes more) than the more aggressive forms of fishing.

How to Do Less

I use sinking worms. The density of the plastic allows the worm to sink without any additional weight. Available in several sizes, I use 5-inch worms. They slowly drop in the water with a tantalizing side-to-side movement, triggering strikes. Because they sink slowly while simultaneously moving sideways with the wind, it is a very natural presentation.

Normally, I fish them wacky style with the hook through the center exposing the hook. But if there is a lot of brush or fallen timber in the water, I Texas rig them because the hook is buried in the plastic worm resulting in fewer hang-ups.

Flip the worm upwind so the wind picks up the line, drifting the worm as it is sinking. I particularly like using this presentation in deeper water closer to cover or rocky banks. It is critical to watch the line carefully as it is moving. Most of the time strikes will be subtle. Often all you might see is the line stopping or just the slightest jump. Immediately set the hook.

This also works very well on bass that are suspended as the worm is drifting through them as it is dropping. It is a much lighter approach to presenting a plastic worm, which, for some reason, seems ideal



Doing less will help catch more bass like the one Mike Yurk is holding.

on summer bass. This also works well on fish that may be finicky due to too much fishing pressure or changes in weather.

Doing nothing will help you catch more bass. Let the wind do the work and watch your line carefully. This lighter, more subtle approach will catch fish other fishermen won't. Wo

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

CHELMINIAK, from page 3

I graduated from the youth club about three years ago and already wish I could go back. Making some of the best friends of my life, like Mark and Sam; learning how to fish from the most experienced mentors in Wisconsin; opening up packages of red-ear handtied swimjigs, hand-poured tube jigs and Rayburn Red Rat-L Traps from club sponsors; and going through Mondays at school with more Hot Spots lake maps than textbooks in my backpack marked only the beginnings of the enjoyment I was granted from being a part of a youth club. Had it not been for the blessing of a camp cafeteria on a cold March night, incredible friends, a bass fishing scholarship, nor divine intervention would have ever intersected my life. It only takes six members to create a club, so I urge anyone with the slightest interest in investing into the lives of the Wisconsin youth to call or e-mail the state directors from TBF and BASS as soon as you can. Kids don't stay kids forever, and if they can become involved with the fellowship and mentorship of bass fishing, it could significantly impact our entire community as outdoor men and women. When the youth feel valued and are given light, it gives them hope. Every road begins with hope.

Kyler Chelminiak is a collegiate angler at Bethel University in McKenzie, Tennessee, but still calls Wisconsin land his home. Aside from his devotion to bass fishing, Kyler embraces any and all activities in the outdoors with faith, family and friends.

Soft Plastic Swimbaits Versatile bait for numerous bass fishing applications

The swimbait is thought of as a big fish bait by many anglers, and because of the high cost of some swimbaits, many anglers shy away from throwing them. With the soft plastic swimbaits on the market now, anglers have a versatile bait that they can present to bass in a natural manner.

One way that soft plastic swimbaits, both solid and hollow-bodied, can be rigged is on a Texas rig. By rigging your baits this way you are able to fish your bait through heavy cover, presenting a very natural-looking presentation in the dense cover that bass live in.

Some of the areas in which this presentation shines include shallow vegetation, such as eel grass flats and lily pad fields. You can fish this bait along the edge and let it just tick the vegetation or cast it into the grass and bring it through the cover. This will look like a baitfish or bluegill fleeing a predator.

Two other areas in which a Texas-rigged



A healthy largemouth engulfed a soft plastic swimbait.

swimbait is a good choice are laydowns and boat docks. The bass that inhabit these areas see endless options of other lures, so if you can present something different to those fish, you are likely to have more success. Around boat docks there is a plethora of baitfish and bluegill, so a swimbait mimicking that forage will tempt bass to come out from underneath the dock to hit your presentation.

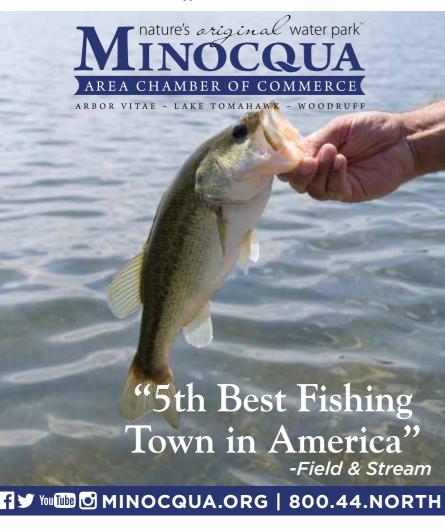
The two hook options you have include a standard extra wide gap hook with a small tungsten weight in front of it, or a specialty swimbait hook that has a corkscrew up at the hook eye and a weight on the shaft or bend of the hook.

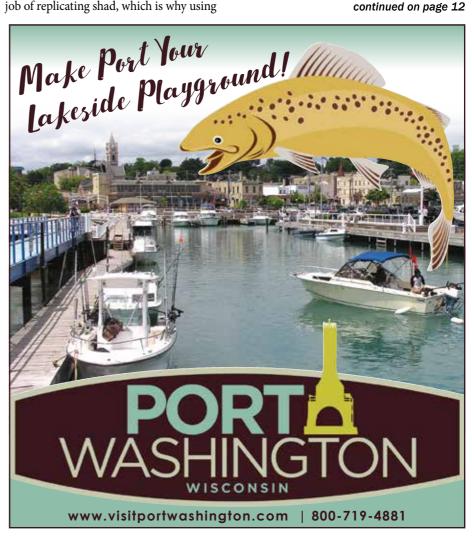
When fishing a swimbait in open water such as underwater points, humps, flats and sand drops, rigging a swimbait on a jighead is a good choice for rigging the bait. This is because you make long casts with a compact presentation and you'll get a better hook up ratio in open water. Fishing a swimbait on a lead head jig in open water does a great job of replicating shad, which is why using it in the summer and fall as bass are feeding heavily on baitfish in open water is a great option.

The size of your jighead will depend on the depth of water you are fishing and what depth the bass are sitting at. If they are sitting close to the bottom and the bait is down there as well, you'll want to use a heavy enough jighead that puts your bait at that same depth. Likewise, if the bait and bass are suspended, using a lighter jig allows you to target that depth with ease.

I'll start out with 3/8-ounce jighead for most of my applications but will go down to a 1/8- or ¼-ounce head if I need to keep my bait higher in the water column. I go up to a ½- or ¾-ounce head if the bass are holding in deeper water. Whichever size jig and brand you go with, be sure that the jig has a good, strong and wide gap hook it in. This will help increase your hook up and landing ratio.

Another reason that the swimbait is so continued on page 12







GORDON PAGEL Stack The Deck For Late Summer Smallies

Picking the right time, location and presentation for river smallmouth

t's not just coincidence that some of the best river fishing for smallmouth bass happens during the dog days of summer. When the Dog Star, Sirius, starts appearing in the early morning sky, it's time to get serious about planning the logistics of a float trip for smallmouth. The Old Farmer's Almanac specifically identifies the 40 days from July 3 to August 11 as the "dog days" of summer, and I know that July through early September can be the most fun and predictable time to be chasing river smallies. These same days of the year also account for the least amount of rainfall in the Northern Hemisphere, and that fact plays prominently in any effort to stack the deck for a successful float trip.

So now that we know when to go, where

are we fishing? I'm a river guide, so rivers it shall be. During late summer and early fall, small to medium river systems are my target. As a guide, I prefer waters with strong potential for quality fish. To me, quality means good numbers of fish 15 to 19 inches in length, with the likelihood my clients will connect with at least one fish 20 inches or larger. This is how I narrow down possible destinations.

I am familiar with three major waterways with smallmouth populations meeting those criteria: Green Bay, the Wisconsin River and the Wolf River. Any of the tributaries feeding into these three waterways has the potential for tremendous late summer smallmouth fishing, often even better and more predictable than the waters they feed into.

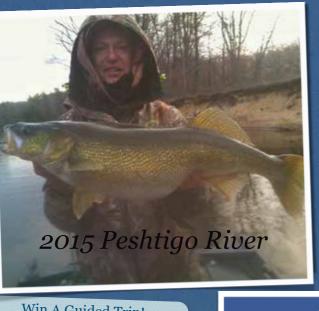


Once you've stacked the deck in your favor, it's easy to predict where the fish are but not always that easy to go in and get 'em.

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Trophy Walleye March/April - Smallmouth May ARiverGuide.com 920-841-2118 Here's why. Fish from those larger bodies of water migrate up into the tributaries on a seasonal basis. Some fish make their move in early May to spawn. Others migrate up as the summer progresses, following baitfish and in really hot summers seeking cooler, swifter water. By August there is a mix of resident and migrating fish concentrating in the tributaries. And that's when the hot, dry dog days of summer come into play.

Water levels start dropping about the same time the fish population is peaking. On the rivers I fish there can be expansive sections with only a foot or two of water depth and with the lack of rain, water clarity is high even in the more turbid rivers. These conditions further concentrate the fish. I like rivers with a lot of wood cover. Where do you suppose the fish are hiding? Mid-day fishing can be as good as early morning or evening, because fish will be even more inclined to tuck tight under cover. Remember that old expression, "as easy as shooting fish in a barrel"?

Local conditions on each river will determine your ultimate bait of choice, but if I could only take one lure, it most likely would be a safety pin style spinner bait with some sort of plastic trailer. It's the most efficient way to get into and back out of heavy cover. If the fish aren't chasing, I switch to a weedless skirted swim jig and plastic trailer. Other standard smallmouth baits will work: wacky worms, tube jigs and various top water lures, but this time of year the fish are aggressive more often than not.

You can't beat the efficiency of a spinner bait. So with the dog days of summer upon us, take advantage of the stacked deck before you. $^{C}\!W_{O}$

Connect with Captain Gordon Pagel at ariverguide.com or 920.841.2118, or on Facebook at ARiverGuide.com.



Catching Slab Sunfish Six secrets to a sunny summer

In spring, it's easy to be a sunfish expert. But once their procreation duties are over, bluegills start drifting back to progressively deeper water, weed growth explodes, and the fish aren't as accessible to anglers. But with just a little work—and the right arsenal of tips—you can catch good-sized sunfish all summer long. Here are six approaches for catching more and bigger bluegills during the height of summer.

Light Line

Trying to catch hand-sized bluegills now makes for one of the year's toughest fishing challenges. These fish are wary and suspicious, so spool up with light line to make a lowimpact, finesse presentation. At other times of the year you can get by with 6-pound line, but in high summer switch down to 4-pound monofilament. Use 2-pound line if you can.

Deep Weedlines

Despite the marvels of modern-day fish finders and electronic gadgetry, one of your best summer bluegill-finding weapons is a good pair of polarized sunglasses that will help you discern the deep edge of any weedline. Summer bluegills really congregate here. Depending on water clarity, the outside edge of the weeds will end anywhere from 8 to 10 feet down in stained water and 12 to 16 feet down in clear water. Drift along this weed edge if the wind is right, using a slip bobber rig. Alternatively, inch slowly and quietly along, vertically jigging tiny 1/16- or 1/32-ounce jigs tipped with waxworms right up on the edge of the weeds.

Weedy Mid-Lake Humps

Mid-lake humps, reefs, sunken islands and other struc-



Sunfishing season isn't over when the spawn ends. Just adjust your approaches. The author's son Jeremiah displays a chunky summer sunfish caught on 4-pound test line.

ture that sports visible weed growth are perfect spots for summer sunfish. Start deep, at the base of any structure and work your way up looking for that magic transition zone where the fish are holding that day. Usually, the sunnier the weather the deeper the fish will be during the daytime. Cloudy days, windy days, early mornings and late evenings see fish coming up into the 6- to 10-foot range.

Minnow Time

By summer, there are a lot of small fish fry swimming around and bluegills eagerly feed on the bounty. Use the

smallest minnows you can. For a natural presentation, impale a minnow in the lip on a size 8, light-wire, shortshanked hook. When using minnows, you might not catch as many bluegills as you otherwise would, but the sunnies' average size will run larger.

Cricket Crunch

Crickets make great summertime sunfish bait for three reasons. One, bluegills are very insect-oriented in their feeding habits. Two, when hooked, crickets emit fish-attracting scent. And three, a cricket represents something new and juicy that a wary old sunfish hasn't seen much of. Hook crickets along their body length (to prevent bait stealing), and fish them wet below a slip bobber.

Secondary Spawn

Nature employs an insurance policy against the potential failure of the year's main hatch. That tool is a second spawn in July (or sometimes August) tied to those months' full moons. These spawns involve different fish than those that participated in the first spawn. And the action takes place in water that is a little deeper, usually 6 to 8 feet. Look for these second spawn fish when a full moon rides the sky.

Conclusion

Your sunfishing season doesn't have to end after late spring's spawn. The slabs are still there feeding hard all summer long. You just need to adjust your attitude and approach to react to what the fish are actually doing. Wo

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

Hot Summer Panfishing When, where, and how to catch more

uly and August can provide some of the best pan fishing action of the year if you follow a few simple rules. Number one is to have everything ready for bluegills, crappies, and perch. That means get your poles rigged up before you leave the house. I have found that 4-pound test with an ultra-light rod works the best. I like to use monofilament line but any light line works fine.

Number two, and most important, is to use the right bait. I always use the small MiniMite jig in pink and white. There are two larger sizes of MiniMites: the MiniMite 2 and the Big MiniMite. You want the smallest size because this jig gives more natural action with the light line. The curvature of the white plastic tail adds action to the bait as it sinks. You will also notice that the jig is very light and helps make the drop look more natural to the fish. I generally have four poles set up, as you will get an occasional northern pike that likes to cut you off. I have landed a 32-inch northern on this bait, but you have to be lucky and hook it in the side of the jaw.

Number three is know when to go. The weather is the big deciding factor. Anytime I know that the wind is going to be low to-ward evening is when I hit the water. Usually, there are about two hours of peak fishing, so I start around 6:30 PM. The calmer the lake, the easier you can locate surface-feeding fish. I cannot tell you how many times this jig brings one bite after another as long

as you keep moving. Fish the weed lines or edges of lily pads. Early in the evening I cast out and let the jig go near the bottom. Bring the MiniMite in with short up-and-down jerks. This gives the bait a good swimming action. I like to fish deep first as I will pick up some nice perch if they are in the area.

When your bait hits the water, always let it sink and watch your line. Crappies have a tendency to swim with the bait sideways and make it tough to feel the bite. Anytime your line looks different, give a short setthe-hook jerk. Bluegills are aggressive and you will know when they hit. I have found that the last hour of sunlight is the best crappie action, and they are generally close to the surface, swimming in schools. They



MiniMite comes in a tube

can be close to shore or just out in open water. If I see fish surfacing, I move in on them and cast right into where one has jumped. Again, watch your line for any sideways action or slack in your line since they will swim at you. Make sure to keep the white tail of the MiniMite up toward the head of the jig, as they tend to get pulled down after a number of fish have been tugging on the plastic.

CHRIS REHLINGER Feeling The Bite Catching perch using walleye tactics

 \mathbf{T} ears of walleye fishing as a young boy brought frustration and some boredom. The method of learning to walleye fish with a jig and live bait was to observe older anglers and see what they did prior to setting the hook: slow pumps of the rod to gain tension or a release of rod pressure by dropping the rod tip. Standard practice after-bite detection was to provide the fish time to fully inhale the bait. Once you put together what seemed to work best was how you fished. This slow bite, along with a need to feel the bite made walleye fishing tough.

Pulling the rod tip just right and feeling the subtle taps seemed to last an eternity until it was time for the final hook-set. This type of fishing takes practice and years of experience. Like anything else, practice means getting better and having more fish in the cooler.

As a father I have to admit I enjoy seeing my boys get frustrated trying something new. Why? Once they feel they have learned something or gotten good at it I can see how proud they are of their accomplishments.

Summer perch fishing can accomplish two things: practicing the technique of jig fishing and catching enough for an awesome fish fry. Since yellow perch and walleye are from the same family of fish, they actually bite very similar. Even though the yellow perch have a quicker tap, tap of a bite, they generate the same bite sensation. Why not fish yellow perch to provide a classroom for this type of fishing along with adequate action? Yellow perch are notorious for being aggressive and abundant yet adequately finicky to provide a challenge.

Instead of a jig let us keep the rig simple and easily replaceable (and inexpensive). Use a #2 gold Aberdeen hook with a split shot big enough to feel the bottom. Tip this offering with a chunk of crawler and a spike or a crappie minnow. No bobbers allowed! You must feel the bite and not see it.

Put the live bait rig either straight down

from an anchored boat or casted out from shore. In the boat get the rig to the bottom, then take out the slack line and keep a tight line. Slowly lift six inches, stop and then drop the offering back to the bottom. Continue this movement of the rod until vou sense resistance. From shore cast out, let fall until your line is slack, then recover line until it is taut. When two quick taps occur, pull slightly until the taps happen once more. For this method do not use more than one rod, maintaining direct focus. Eventually, each person can have a technique that they feel catches the most.

Another thing I have noticed is that the use of the underwater camera, the flasher and spring bobbers during the winter months completely take my feeling of bites away. Getting back to this method early in the open water season really helps with all live bait fishing for the open water season.

This method can be used in early spring when the perch are moving/feeding prior to the spawn or during the summer when



Maxwell with a pair of live bait rigged yellow perch.

schooled on the flats or structure. Utilizing this technique with a school of active biting yellow perch can provide both the novice and experienced angler a chance to learn or enhance the feel of a live bait bite. Practice makes better. Wh

Wisconsinite Chris Rehlinger is a native of Neosho but has called Lake Wisconsin home for the last 18 years with his wife, Lori, and sons Maxwell and Lucas. He works in the engineering/ construction management field but always has something regarding fishing or hunting on his mind



MORGENTHALER, from page 9

Give this bait a try and you will see what I mean. Remember, the prime time to use this jig is in July and August. Don't forget to take a friend fishing. I wish you the best of luck. Wh

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



A 32-inch pike caught on the MiniMite.





GARY ENGBERG Gary Engberg Outdoors Devils Lake is more than just trout

hen Wisconsin anglers think of Devils Lake, they usually think of the fantastic trout fishing that this 369-acre spring-fed lake offers. Devils Lake was formed where the glaciers stopped in central Wisconsin thousands of years ago. When the glaciers receded, what remained were rock hills and cliffs with gin-clear Devils Lake in the middle. The lake is now part of Devils Lake State Park, which receives over one million visitors annually to camp, climb the cliffs and swim in the lake. Few visitors take advantage of the good fishing, and if they do, it's usually shore fishing, which does little to diminish the fishery.

Devils Lake is managed for brown trout by the WDNR. This spring the DNR released about 17,000 legal trout (9 inches) into this 50-foot deep lake. Boats are allowed, but you can only use electric motors, which may deter some people from fishing the lake. You'll find some sailboats and canoes on the water but few people—except the locals fishing. What makes Devils Lake so appealing to fishermen is the good depth, rock structure, abundant forage, varied fishery, and the lush green weeds. Besides trout, the lake has some big northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, and plenty of good-sized panfish.

The panfish fishery consists of mainly bluegills, crappies and some sunfish. The key to catching panfish on Devils Lake is to find the abundant green weeds. The weeds are mainly coontail and cabbage. Try fishing for panfish near the weed edges, the open pockets in the weeds, and near any



Good-sized crappies.

downed wood and timber.

The best technique for catching bluegills and crappies is to use a small jig or an ice fishing jig tipped with a wax worm, spike, or leaf worm under a slip float. Use light monofilament line like Berkley XL or Vanish fluorocarbon in 4# test since the water is so clear. There's a big difference in 6# and 4# test line. In these waters use the lighter line if you want to catch fish. I suggest clear line rather than green or blue for Devils Lake. Make sure that you have your drag set properly. The east side of the lake has some of the better weeds, but the lake is small enough where it's worth moving around till you contact fish. The south end of the lake, where the creek exits the lake is also a good panfish



Devils Lake State Park.

location, all depending on the water level. Anchor outside the weed edge and cast to the openings and pockets in the weeds, or slowly work the weed edges with your trolling motor for active fish.

Devils Lake is located an hour north of Madison off Highway 12 in Sauk County, just south of Baraboo and Wisconsin Dells. There are good boat landings at both the north and south ends of the lake. Signage along Highway 12 directs you to the park's entrance. If you wish to camp, be sure to check ahead, because the park can get crowded on weekends.

The Baraboo and Sauk Prairie area has everything you may need. Remember, you need a valid fishing license for the lake and if you plan to keep trout, an inland trout stamp. Licenses are available at the state park headquarters. $^{\circ}W_{\bigcirc}$

Contacts: Gary Engberg: 608.795.4208 or gengberg@ garyengbergoutdoors.com, or visit garyengbergoutdoors.com. Guide Wally Banfi: 608.644.9823. For bait and equipment: Wilderness Fish and Game, Sauk City, 608.643.5229; McFarlanes' True Value, Sauk City, 608.643.3321.

Fishing Brings Tight-Knit Community Together Bluegill fishing contest more than competition

Reel-good stories seem a little harder to come by these days, considering all of the negative things we see in everyday media; however, a fishing contest in the small town of Chetek (located in Barron County) helped reassure attendees, including myself, that there still are good people in the world doing good deeds. Seeing hundreds of smiling faces, young and old, gathered to support a worthy cause is one of those aspects of life that is priceless.

The annual Bluegill Fishing Contest is sponsored by the Chetek-Weyerhaeuser football players and coaching staff and allows anglers of all ages to compete for the heaviest bluegill in the Chetek Chain of Lakes. Sure, there's a competitive spirit in the air, but bigger than fishing, the contest has become a tradition where the C-W football program follows a theme of giving back to its local communities. The outpouring community support and bond formed between the players, coaches and tight-knit community stretches much further than the winners or losers from the contest.

Raffle tickets are sold prior to and during the event with various prizes— as large as \$1,000—up for grabs. A portion of the proceeds from tournament fees, raffle tickets and silent auction items are then donated to several community charities. The money that is raised goes toward a variety of things.

"Last year we were able to use some of the money to play a game against Westwood in the Upper Peninsula. That was a great experience for everyone involved," explained C-W offensive coordinator Reese Elwood. "We have also been able to give back to many other programs, such as Joshua's Camp, Kinship and to families in need. Giving back is a very important part of our football program. This year we are looking to upgrade the equipment. The support we get is unbelievable ... we have so many local businesses and people that sponsor us. We cannot thank them enough. It is great knowing that so many people are behind us both on and off of the field."

The fishing contest has been a huge success. Eleven years ago when the contest began, it was just a handful of boats,

Fly Fishing In Wisconsin Popper is simple to make, effective

The line shot through the rod's guides, carrying the little yellow popper to its destination, one of the many large, protruding, Precambrian slabs of granite rising from the shores of the Peshtigo River. The fly bounced off the rock face, as intended. I let it sit. The slow current caught the fly and drifted it downstream toward the fallen oak.

I mended the line so the fraud floated without a drag, then popped the bug and brought it back toward the canoe with more pops and a few burps. It never made the complete trip. A smallmouth bass came from below and inhaled the fly. I set the hook. The 3-weight bent, the reel screamed, and the battle was on.

A few minutes later I slipped the net under the bronzeback and brought it into the canoe. It measured 18 inches. I removed the barbless hook from the fish's lip and put the fish on the stringer. This one was destined for the grill. (I keep an occasional smallie for grilling.)

In the last issue, I was asked, "What fly do you use most?" My reply included this caveat: "... as long as the crappies and bluegills (and smallmouth bass) are not sucking in poppers..." I concluded the fly I toss most often is the streamer; however, you will note, I did mention *poppers*.

If I ever had to choose one fly that is the most fun to

fish, it is the popper. There is nothing more entertaining than having fish slurp this fly from the water's surface. And nothing beats catching those fish on poppers you have built yourself. Tying them is fun and easy, although it does take a bit of patience while you wait for the coats of paint to dry.

Today most popper heads are made of pre-shaped hard foam. I prefer the old cork heads, if I can find them, because they are easier to shape in a variety of ways: flat faced, cupped, grooved so the lure dives when retrieved. It is also simpler to put legs in the body. Many fly fishers use poppers with legs.

You can also make heads from soft foam. These make very little waves and no noise to speak of. Some tiers form heads out of stacked deer hair so they can mix colors within the head and sculpt the head in a variety of shapes. (Those guys are good!) Personally, I do not consider them poppers. I categorize then as terrestrials: bugs or frogs. That is a story in itself.

To make a simple popper, all you need is: a special hook with kinks in the shaft so the head will not turn with use; a head, generally hard foam; paint for the head and eyes, which are optional but look nice; and four/six hackle, the color and size of your choice.

Glue on the head. Paint the head, then the eyes. Tie two/



This smallie fell for an all-yellow popper and ended up on the grill.

four hackles back to back so they fan out, then finish by palmering another one/two hackle(s) between the tail and the body. Whip finish and you are done.

So what are you waiting for? Tie a few and have some fun.

See you in the river. Keep a good thought! Wo

We know Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors. That was proven in his first book, "Tales of The Peshtigo Putzer." His second book, "Photos, Poems, and a Little Bit of Prose" reinforces that truth. Check it out on his website: jerrykiesowoc.com.



An array of poppers from the author's box. From top left: brown and white, soft foam head; all yellow, hard foam head; brown, minnow-shaped, grooved, cork head, so fly dives when retrieved; orange, flat front, cork head; yellow/black, cork, head with legs.

WALKER, from page 7

versatile is that it makes a great trailer for several lures. Using a swimbait as a trailer on a swim jig, vibrating jig or spinnerbait is something different than a standard grub, thus giving your bait a bigger profile—different from what other anglers are presenting to the bass.

If you are looking to catch bass in tough situations and increase your chances of snagging that big one, give soft plastic swimbaits a try. $^{O}W_{O}$

Glenn has been fishing tournaments for over ten years, spreading his passion and knowledge of the sport via articles and videos. For more information, check out glennwalkerfishing.com or facebook. com/glennwalkerfishing.



Weekend Freedom Machines

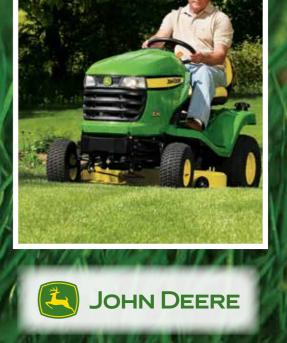




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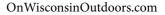


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An 'Up Nort' Report The pupil becomes the teacher

For 50 years in a row I found a way to wet a line somewhere in the state on opening day of Wisconsin's fishing season. That streak came to an end this year. Don't feel bad for me, because I still got to go fishing. This year, though, opening day found me on a trout stream in southeastern Minnesota with my son, Steve.

As a kid growing up in central Wisconsin, opening day *always* meant trout fishing. When I turned 8, my dad deemed me big enough to tag along, and thus began "the streak." Somewhere in my late 'teens trout fishing gave way to walleye fishing on opening day. Since I had two uncles who owned cottages on Pelican Lake, that's where many openers were spent ... jigging for walleyes on the weed edges.

JOIN US

Life and all that goes with it—college, career, marriage, kids, etc.—did not interrupt my streak of opening days on Wisconsin waters. The past 15 years or so have generally found my buddy Mark Krueger and me on some Vilas County lake, since that's where our cabins are located. This year would be different, however.

Presents...

An 'Up Nort' Report by Dan Moericke

My wife and I became grandparents last October, and a whole new set of priorities have been sandwiched into our schedules. My son, Steve, was almost embarrassed, I think, to call and inform me that his church had our grandson's dedication ceremony scheduled for Wisconsin's opening fishing weekend. As it worked out, it was a great opportunity for Steve to play guide and take me to one of the many trout streams he's be-

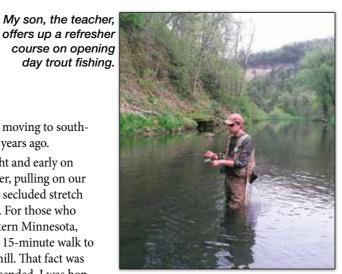
THERE

come familiar with since moving to southeastern Minnesota a few years ago.

So there we were, bright and early on Wisconsin's fishing opener, pulling on our waders and hiking into a secluded stretch on the Whitewater River. For those who haven't been to southeastern Minnesota, this is bluff country. Our 15-minute walk to the stream was *all* downhill. That fact was not lost on me as we descended. I was hoping that Steve had some magical way to get us back to the car when we were done. He didn't. The walk out was all uphill and took considerably longer.

The hike was well worth the effort, though. This was a beautiful stretch of stream and we were the only ones on it. Since Minnesota's trout opener was three

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weeks prior, the opening day crowds were long gone. We enjoyed the solitude surrounded by bluffs, eagles and a picturesque stream.

The trout cooperated, and in less than two hours we each had our five-fish limit. All were brown trout between 10 and 13 inches, perfect for the frying pan. I'd like

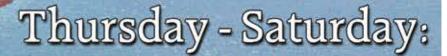
continued on page 25

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Exploring Wisconsin Waters By Kayak Seeing your favorite rivers from a different perspective

Every fisherman has their secrets, and this is a tale of mine It might be the Brule or Kickapoo or maybe the small hidden pine But that secret I'll never reveal, because I know if I do, I'll never have that trophy trout dangling at the end of my line

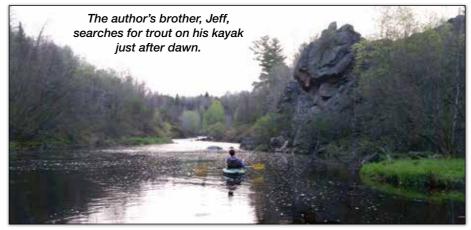
My brother, Jeff, and I know the river well and have fished it since we were kids, but we have never seen it like this. Starting well above our favorite holes, our opening day plan was to kayak the six or seven miles back to town, fishing the entire way. Our target was trout, brookies and browns, but more so we were after adventure. In our youth we fished different stretches of the river but never explored the connecting water. Our sense of adventure always left us wondering, what was upstream and down? Finally, we decided to set out on kayaks and put the wondering to rest. This was our chance to see the river differently, and we certainly weren't disappointed.

Like many good fishing adventures, it started well before dawn. There is something magical about watching the sunrise over your favorite body of water. The day was perfect. Warblers fluttered on the bank, eagles soared overhead and a mink even showed its face with a minnow dangling out of its mouth. Both of us had waders on, so we could hop in and out as we pleased to fish the most inviting holes slowly.

Everything was going according to plan. We had enough trout for a meal. The brookies were nothing huge but perfect for eating. We stopped for lunch on the bank by one of our favorite childhood holes. While I cleaned the fish for dinner, Jeff cast out a line. Within seconds that familiar twitch of the rod tip told me he had another trout. We added it to the grill and thoroughly enjoyed our catch before continuing on our journey. Although we didn't catch any trophies that day, we found some hidden holes to fish another time. We got to relive our childhood fishing memories one hole at a time as we floated downstream. Our won-



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dering was finally put to rest, but like all good adventures it left us longing for more.

In Wisconsin, there are rivers, lakes, and streams perfect for kayaking in every corner. It's the perfect place to start your next adventure. For starters, you can't beat the Wisconsin River. It spans the entire state, and accessibility is never a problem. With the exception of the headwaters, it's easy to paddle with plenty of sites to see and fish to catch. You'll find some faster water below the many dams and a slow, peaceful paddle on the reservoirs.

If you want a little more challenge, nearly any tributary will provide some faster water with tight banks. Some of the best are the Tomahawk, Baraboo, and Kickapoo Rivers. Around Eau Claire the Chippewa River is tough to beat.

Every corner of the state has a place to float: the Brule River in the northwest, Milwaukee and Root Rivers in the southwest, Black River leading into the Mississippi River, and Sugar River near the southern border. My favorite rivers, Bois Brule, White and Namekagon Rivers, lie in the northwest corner of the state with their historical fame from presidential visits. They are all world-class trout fisheries as well.

These are some favorites around the state, but it really doesn't matter where you go. When you set out by kayak or canoe, you'll see your favorite waters from another perspective and maybe discover a new spot on your journey. Either way, you won't be disappointed. Wo

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

FLORCZAK, from page 11

most of which were filled with people related to the coaches. Now there is a great mix of locals, tourists and families coming out to support the football team.

"It's amazing to see the number of people that pack the shoreline to see the big bluegills weighed in," said Bill Knickerbocker Jr., C-W's varsity head coach.

This year was especially great, because the crop of bluegills that were weighed in were huge! The contest saw some monster 'gills tip the scales, including a 14-ounce fish that took home first place honors.

"All of the fish in the top five were heavier than last year's winner, and there were several others that didn't make the top five that were impressive," Knickerbocker noted.

As a lifelong fishing fanatic, I've often

wondered if any other fishermen relish the similarities between life and fishing. One excursion can be filled with big fish, full stringers and high fives, while the next will include epic blunders with lost fish and lures, tangles and defeat. But then there are a few special outings where you may teach a young niece/nephew how to fish or a new trick that was passed on to you. It could even be a simple adventure with a longtime fishing companion. In those instances the unscripted memories and laughs outweigh any fish on the end of the fishing pole.

Tyler Florczak is a sports and outdoors editor for The Chetek Alert newspaper in Chetek. He has been working as a writer, photographer and videographer for more than five years. His 182-inch whitetail buck harvested in 2015 was recently accepted into the Boone & Crockett Club and was featured in Field & Stream, Deer and Deer Hunting and North American Whitetail.

Cubs Corner Summer pike secrets: fishing for the water wolf

Rishing for the water wolf is fun. Pike are hungry, strong and mean. They are a blast to catch, and a 28- to 32-inch pike will weigh anywhere from six to eight pounds. Armed with knowledge of pike habitat and habits, as well as some fishing approaches, you can catch these aggressive predators all summer long.

The first step to success is to understand your quarry. Pike like weeds, not the thick "slop" you might associate with bass but sparse to medium density beds of cabbage and other broad-leaved weeds. Here, pike lurk and hide, waiting for a meal to swim into range before rushing in for the kill.

Pike will eat most anything that swims. Fish make up the bulk of their diet, but ducklings, baby muskrats, frogs, leeches and crayfish all find their way into pike stomachs.

The same rod-and-reel you use for panfish won't cut it on pike. Go for a sturdy, medium to medium-heavy action spinning or baitcasting combo, spooled with 10- to 20-pound line. One piece of terminal tackle is essential: a steel or wire leader. Pike have unbelievably sharp teeth. Those teeth will slice any kind of line, from monofilament to fluorocarbon, like nothing.

The most productive way to catch pike is with live bait. Even on a slow day a northern just can't resist a free, easy meal dangled in front of its nose. Sucker minnows and chubs work best. I like baitfish about six to eight inches long. Nice-sized 5- to 10-pound pike will easily and willingly take a bait like this, yet the big bruisers—12- to 15-pounders (and up)—are still interested.

The best rig for fishing live bait is a slip bobber rig. Consisting of a bobber stop, bead, bobber, weight (1/4- to ½-ounce egg sinker), steel leader and sturdy, sharp hook (size (2/0 to 4/0), you have the flexibility to fish for pike in shallow weeds, on deep weed edges or over structure.

On lakes, find the deep outside edge of weedbeds where the bottom drops off. This is where you will find summer pike—fairly deep down, lurking on the fringes of the



The author's son, Noah, displays a nice summertime pike caught on a weedline drop-off.

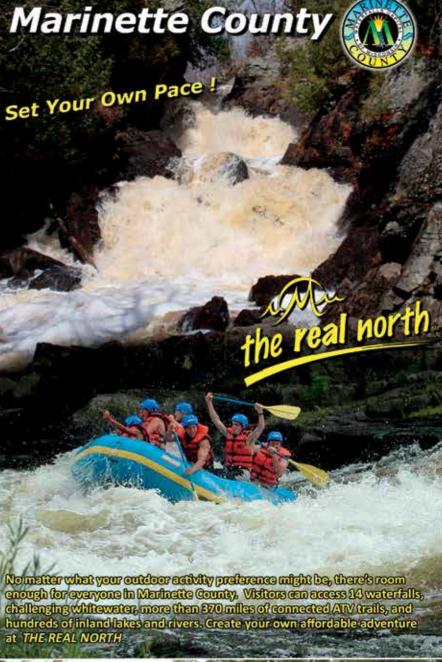
weeds. A typical situation is a weedbed dropping off from 8 or 10 feet of water to 18- or 20-foot depths. You want to set your slip bobber knot so your bait rides 10 or 12 feet down, then drift row slowly along the edge of the weeds.

You can also fish up in weedy bays early and late in the day. Adjust your slip bobber knot so your bait just brushes through the weed tops, maybe four to six feet down in 10 feet of water.

It's tempting to rear back and set the hook as soon as your bobber submerges and starts freight-training away as a big pike takes the bait. But wait a bit. A pike will grab a baitfish and swim away then stop to turn the meal around so it can swallow it headfirst. Wait for the initial run of the bobber to end, then when it starts moving off again, count to 10 and set the hook with everything you've got!

These are some of pike fishing's most exciting moments: watching a bobber plunge under and then swim away, feeding line as the fish runs off, waiting and deliberating on when to set the hook. This is when my knees knock a little, my hands shake and my breath comes shallow. It's time to finally set the hook and feel the powerful surges of an angry water wolf down below. Wo

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









Live Bait On Deep Water Breaklines Late summer presentation scores walleyes, bass

hen the hot summer days hit southeastern Wisconsin, I switch to my favorite presentation: the Lindy rig. This method is one of the most effective ways to present live bait in deep water. In the dog days of summer I look for hard bottom associated with weeds. Some of these spots can be as small as 10 feet by 10 feet. These prime locations will school the largemouth bass and the walleyes. There are several key areas I fish where you can literally catch one fish right after the other.

The rig is a simple one: a 1/16- or 1/8-ounce Lindy sinker and a small Mustad Kahle hook on an 18-inch leader. I peg the sinker with a small split shot. The split shot is more effective than a swivel, because if you have to cut a deeply-hooked fish, you simply slide the split shot up the line again to create the leader length. With rigging I prefer to use a nightcrawler or leech. I always use a whole crawler and am a firm believer in using big bait to catch big fish. I almost always use 8-pound Silver Thread due to the heavy weeds. A lighter line will break if the fish takes you into the weeds. I like to use a 6-foot, 6-inch medium heavy spinning rod with a standard spinning reel.

The best way to find the hard bottoms is to follow and trust your electronics. I use a Humminbird graph. The color graph will show the contrast in the bottom hardness. I like to concentrate on main lake points or transitions between soft and hard bottom. Once I find the location I vertically present the live bait right on bottom. I experiment on the leader length; sometimes they will be three to four feet long. I always fish with the bale open. When I get a strike, I release the line, giving the fish about six feet. Given enough time, I will reel the slack line in, and when there is weight, I will set the hook. Prematurely setting the hook will cost you a ton of money in bait.

With enough practice there is no way you can mistake being bit. I always try to keep my line vertical with bottom. This makes it easier to detect a bite and also helps work the bait through the weeds. The weight is determined by the wind. A good rule of thumb is the stronger the wind the heavier the weight. This presentation will produce walleyes, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and bluegills.

As with most fishing, the key is location. I like working water depths from 20 to 28 feet

of water depending on the density of the weeds on the weedline. I always work into the wind, which helps with boat control. Working into the wind also helps keep your presentation slow and deliberate. Look for little turns in the weedline. Those turns with the right bottom can produce a lot of fish. As previously mentioned, hard bottom with scattered weeds is the best.

Lindy rigging is one of the best late summer techniques you can employ. With some practice it will increase your catches of a multitude of species. W

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

Targeting Adventure Outdoorswoman challenges Wisconsin's outdoors ... and herself

hen people see the name or my license plate, the first question I'm asked is, "What do you guide?" The name is often misread, thus misinterpreted. Trust me when I say you do not want me guiding you through anything unless you want to pay for a day of mishaps, mistakes and misery. The name stems from the misfortunes of my learning to become an outdoorswoman and the missteps in the process.

My introduction to fishing started with owning a musky lure business and trying to learn in a short time what the accomplished guides and anglers had built lifetimes learning. I was on a mission to learn in order to succeed. One misconception was that I wanted to become an expert angler. The other misleading notion was that with a business called Nauti Lures I was ready for some mischief. That was a misjudgment on my character, which misled some guides to misbehave. I learned some miserable and expensive lessons.

In 2014, I almost gave up on all of it when

my friend Nate Sparbel introduced me to Phil Schweik, owner of Hooksetter's Guide Service in Mosinee. Though not a fishing guide himself, Nate is a lifelong outdoorsman. In the world of coveted fishing spots, he was one of the people I met along this journey willing to help guide me in the right direction where others were resistant to share their secrets.

The three of us spent several hours fishing, and they both got to experience a mishmash of my ridiculousness, sometimes at the risk of bodily injury and potential blood loss. By the way, if you want to know the true test of a man's character, step onto his boat after just having met him, immediately fall and break his fish finder. That's exactly what I did-introducing Phil to what became a day of miscasts trying to catch fish in trees. It certainly didn't help when I nearly hooked Nate in the head or catch Phil in the face with a musky lure. Nate and Phil were both perfect gentlemen about the incidents, but I am quite certain some four letter words wanted to be spoken at my expense.

Surprisingly, Phil has accepted me back on his boat several times.

That day was by far one of the best I've ever had fishing, not because of the fish I didn't catch or the equipment I broke, the many birds' nests I created, the lures caught in trees, or the lack of preparation for the rain we fished through. It was because of the adventure and the realization that some of the best guides are great teachers and that some of the best teachers aren't guides at all. The conversation, the laughter, the lessons I learned, and the overall experience with all my grace and elegance of a bull in a china shop reminded me why I was learning to love fishing. Nate and Phil, along with other friends and guides I've met on my adventures, have continued to encourage and follow my pursuits despite the learning curve and challenges I've encountered and the fact that I am a world-class klutz.

My decision to pursue Miss Guided Adventures was set in stone that day. I will continue to pursue adventures and let experience be my guide. Whether it's a guided



The author with her 22-inch smallmouth caught and released with Hooksetters Guide Service guide John Sparbel.

fishing trip, a guided hunt, or taking a long self-guided ride along one of our great bike trails, I'll share my stories and reviews of the experiences, the guides and whatever misguided adventures happen along the way.

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



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Igniting The Mid-Day Bite Vertical jigging the clutter

Y ears ago it seemed like I always had to get up at the crack of dawn to catch fish during the summer months. We would get up early and fish until about 9:00 a.m. By then the bite slowed and, like most everyone else, we would head in. A lot of our fish were caught by trolling crankbaits with the long-lining technique or by anchoring our boat to work slip bobbers. We always caught fish, but by mid-morning our bite was done.

Fast forward a few years. With a lot of time and effort on the water as a professional guide, I've learned how to catch fish all day long.

When the water temperatures climb in the summer months, fish become lethargic but they still have to eat. Most of the feeding is done early in the morning or late in the day when the sun is low and the temperatures are at their coolest point. These are fish that are out roaming and feeding at popular and well-known locations. But where do they go after the sun is up?

Fish are always feeding at some point. The trick is finding the fish that will eat all day long and placing your presentation in front of them, triggering the strike. On the river system my most productive method for catching mid-summer fish is by simply searching out structure in at least 6 to 8 feet of water. I typically look for downed trees, stumps and brush. Fish search out these locations after their early morning haunts and hold tight within them for cover and safety throughout the daytime hours. Once they set up in the structure, they're not done eating but they are harder to get at.

There are several ways to get fish out of thick structure, but my favorite presentation is to jig fish them. I run a medium weight rod by Elk River Rods, which offers a good backbone but a fast tip for sensitivity. I spool my rod up with 8- to 10-pound test monofilament and run a 1/16- or 1/8-ounce weedless lead head jig from my good friend Rick Jaroch at Baitmaker Tackle. I bait the jigs with either a fathead minnow or half a crawler. The real secret is running the weedless jigs in a vertical presentation. You do not want to cast to the structure or you will get snagged.

Second tip is water temperature in correlation to bait. My rule of thumb is that when the water temperature is above 70 degrees, run crawlers and when the water temperature is below 70 degrees, work minnows.

Start right over the top of the structure. Slowly drop your bait in between the branches and twigs to where the fish are waiting. As the bait slowly falls you will feel the jig bouncing off branches and wood. Take care as you negotiate the clutter to the river floor. Let your bait work its way all the way down to the bottom and then slowly lift the presentation up a few inches and jig it. To avoid snagging don't lift fast or hard but slowly work it up through the branches, lightly jigging as you move toward the surface.

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A 22 ½-inch smallmouth bass caught throwing a Rapala crankbait toward submerged structure.

When a fish strikes, set the hook hard, pull back fast and reel. You don't want to give the fish any time to wrap up in the branches. You're basically hauling them out of their comfort zone littered with snags as fast as you possibly can. Any slack in the line and they will wrap you up. The maze may seem like a nightmare, but it's actually one of the most productive tactics I've found for all species of Wisconsin game fish.

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

Wisconsin Spearfishing Hunting for fish

There is a small but dedicated group of sportsmen and women in the Badger State that use the warming waters of summer to combine their love for hunting and fishing. They pursue fish underwater with spearguns! While this might sound easy, I guarantee it will test your shooting, stealth and swimming skills.

Wisconsin law allows spearfishing for panfish and roughfish in all counties except a few in the far north. (Be sure to check the netting and spearing regulations before heading toward your favorite lake.) Panfish include white bass, yellow bass (striped), rock bass, crappie, bluegill, perch, pumpkinseed (sunfish) and bullheads. Rough fish are non-endangered suckers, carp, goldfish, drum, burbot, bowfin and gar.

What kind of equipment is required? First, of course, you will need a speargun. These are guns that use a big rubber band to propel a metal spear toward your target. They have a trigger and safety and a small cable or string that attaches the spear to the gun, so the spear cannot be lost. Pole spears may also be used. These have a rubber tube at the back that fits between the thumb and forefinger and launches the spear when released. Prices start around \$50. A snorkel, facemask and swim fins will help you get to where the fish are. The snorkel allows the spear fisher to look underwater for fish or fish-holding structure while breathing at the surface. The snorkel fills with water when submerged but is easily cleared at the surface with a forceful exhalation. A facemask must have a way to pinch your nose and clear your ears to avoid ear problems due to increased water pressure at depth. Swim fins should fit comfortably and allow for moving easily with some gentle kicking. It is legal to use Scuba gear while spearfishing in Wisconsin, but most serious



Speargun, dive float with dive flag and a nice bunch of carp.





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Daylight Breaking Peace in the early twilight

In a world of mandated work, sleep and wake cycles, there are far too few opportunities to absorb the special hours of early dawn. On those days we have the luxury of not having to tramp off to a job it is easy to simply roll over in bed and fall back to sleep, exhausted from a week of work. Nevertheless, there is much to be missed by not rising early enough to greet the day's first rays of light.

First is soul-stilling quietude. If you happen to be near water, sliding a canoe into the mist hovering over fluid blackness gives a feeling of leaving the world behind. In this brief interlude between sun and shadow senses become magnified and there is a need to tread ever so lightly and noiselessly. Even the invisible makes its presence known. Spider webs glisten with condensed dew, sparkling at every turn. Soon they will sink back into invisibility. Fish that spend the heat of the day skulking under cover are taking advantage of the dawn, cruising shallows in search of prey, their wakes knifing through placid hunting spots.

All things wild seem easier to sense during this calm. A stealthy approach may allow you to glimpse a stalking heron, statuesque and regal as it scans the glassy stillness for minnows. A close encounter with a doe and her fawn lagging behind is always a welcome treat. Animals everywhere seem to be employing this time to full advantage. They do not possess the luxury of using these hours for slumber. Chattering squirrels and chipmunks seem to chastise any human bold enough to invade their domain, alerting all forest dwellers of the impudent intruder.

Part of the hush during these peak moments comes from the still air, not yet being heated into rising convection currents that will rustle the leaves and dapple the waters. In a perfect world I would reset my biological clock so as to be more in tune with the rhythms of life. Each dawn and sunset would be an event to behold and pay homage to.



Chores can always wait, and there is no shame in a good catnap when the opportunity presents itself. Most of our lives are spent living out of synch with what is natural. It has been calculated that North Americans put in more hours of work than even peasants did in medieval times.

A revered sage was once asked the secret to his wisdom. His answer was profoundly

simple. "I eat when I am hungry and sleep when I am tired." If that could only be so for all of us! $^{O}W_{O}$

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



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NextBuk Outdoors Are you overhunting your favorite deer stands?

s deer season approaches hunters are busy getting ready to take to the woods. The effort we put into our preparation varies widely depending upon the hunter, but we all share one thing in common: picking out the best place to hunt that we feel gives us the optimum chance of success.

Ideally, we pick out more than one spot to pin our hopes on. These locations can be chosen based on past experience since some places historically have produced sightings more than others. Maybe you rely on information from others to zone in on good places to hunt. I feel the best way to choose a spot is to do the scouting yourself and formulate a strategy based on facts you have gathered. Whatever way you choose a site, we tend to have a favorite or two and we want to hunt there as often as possible. Too many times I have been guilty of loving a spot to death by hunting it repeatedly, turning a honey hole into a skunk hole. Those experiences have taught me a thing or two about over-hunting spots.

Hunting during bow season means we will encounter deer on their normal patterns as they move about. Hunting with a gun all too often finds deer movement altered by the influx of the blaze-orange-clad army. As conditions change, be it pressure from other hunters or a new food source becoming available, deer movement changes, causing us to relocate to "stay on the deer." Sticking it out on your favorite spot in hopes that deer will return typically makes for a poor hunting experience, resulting in progres-



One of my favorite places to hunt. I limit my time there to avoid over hunting it, resulting in another ruined spot.

sively fewer deer being seen. Deer quickly change patterns in response to discovering our presence.

Finding where the deer have relocated can take a bit of effort. Once we find them we naturally tend to concentrate our hunting there. Too often we hunt these spots repeatedly until deer sightings drop drastically before setting out to find out where the deer have now moved. It would be much better to have other spots picked out ahead of time, hunting a site once or twice before moving on. This keeps you from over-hunting your favorite locations. A more productive method is to hunt a spot one day and then move to another spot the next, rotating each time through your chosen spots as conditions permit. Choosing to hunt one spot multiple times in succession before moving to the next is a recipe for over-hunting locations and educating deer to look for you there.

Over-hunting a site can ruin it for more than just the current time period; it can ruin it for the season or even multiple seasons. It also increases the odds a deer will have seen or smelled your presence there. Once deer repeatedly detect human presence in a place, they will avoid it. Years ago my number one spot used to be a thrill to sit. Overhunting has made it a waste of time to hunt to this day.

Having multiple spots to rotate your hunts allows you to hunt fresh sites and decreases the chances of deer detecting your presence. Where deer have not detected us they move about naturally in daylight hours giving us a chance to effectively hunt them.

It takes access to a fair amount of land to keep from over-hunting our favorite spots. In addition to private land I have permission to hunt, public land figures into my plans to accomplish this.

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

CLER, from page 20

spear fishers prefer the freedom afforded by just the snorkel, mask and fins.

A dive flag warns boaters that there is a diver below the surface. This is a square red flag with a diagonal white stripe. The dive flag can be on a boat near the diver's location or can be attached to a buoy towed by the diver. If towing a buoy, divers should use a floating line to avoid getting tangled while submerged. The buoy is also a great place to attach a stringer should you meet with some success. A lake with decent clarity is a requirement. If you can only see a couple of feet, you will not see many fish. Water clarity changes daily, so it may help to have a local contact that can check this prior to your making a long trip. Another option is to have a Plan B lake should your lake of choice be murky when you arrive.

My favorite tactic is to spot a hole in the weed cover while snorkeling at the surface. I dive into the hole and wait motionless for as long as I can. Fish that have taken to the surrounding weeds as I approach will return to the opening after 10 - 20 seconds and may offer a shot. Be aware that fish appear 20 percent larger underwater and there is no catch and release with a speargun.

Spearfishing is a great way to get some exercise, find out where the fish are in your favorite lake and perhaps get some fish for dinner. $^{O}W_{O}$

John Cler is a science teacher at Ithaca High School in Richland County. He and his wife are owned by a black lab named Zeb and have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.

Preparing For The Bow Season Summer time is practice time

hen it comes to practice, bowhunters generally fall into two categories: those who practice year-round and those who practice right before the start of the season. The thing we all have in common is that if we are going to be successful, we need to practice. Whether we need to check the sight settings on our favorite bowhunting rig or condition our bow-shooting muscles, a bowhunter needs time on the practice range to insure proper arrow placement on this year's trophy. There are many reasons and ways to practice.

Conditioning. The best way to prepare our muscles for bowhunting is to shoot. The muscles used in archery are rarely used in conjunction with each other, and if not for practice, we may be unable to draw our bow comfortably and with minimal movement on a cold November morning.

Sighting In. Not my most fun form of practice but the most important. Every bowhunter spends a good portion of their first shots sighting in when they initially purchase their bow. It was obvious at the time to get to know the bow and how it shot with the sighting system you chose. It's important to remember that as a bow ages (specifically the strings and cables) it tends to shoot differently. Some time on the practice range each preseason checking every sight pin or sight tape for accuracy is a must.

Video Archery. The most dynamic, realistic, frustrating and revealing way to practice. It's the only practice that lets you shoot at moving animals on a huge video screen backstop with your equipment. Check online for a shop with a video range near you and book a time to shoot. You will be dying to go back and do it again.

3-D Archery. This has to be the most fun type of practice with bow and arrow. I like to refer to it as "redneck golf." But instead

of roaming through 18 holes on a wellmanicured golf course, a 3-D shooter roams through a course shooting at lifelike, threedimensional animals and novelty targets in a realistic setting. Most courses are set up to shoot at 28 targets per round, sometimes shooting multiple arrows at each target.

This type of shooting allows bowhunters to approach a target and judge its distance, which is an extremely valuable skill. You could use a rangefinder, but I prefer to go through a course estimating and shooting first and then check to see how close my guess was. It's amazing how a target's distance seems to change when viewed down a narrow trail as opposed to a target standing in an open field. Although there are some public 3-D ranges in Wisconsin, the best can be found at your local archery clubs. Not a member and just want to try a 3-D shoot? Not a problem. Most clubs hold events for the public regularly and charge very reasonable rates to shoot their course.

Leagues. Many clubs and archery pro shops offer leagues to the public. I highly recommend this as it is extremely fun and forces you to practice once a week, which takes care of the conditioning I mentioned earlier. Don't worry if your skill level is not topnotch. You will improve throughout the league and have loads of fun doing it. Many leagues can be shot together as a family or with friends. With over 300 archery clubs and countless archery pro shops in Wisconsin, there is a place for you to get in that much needed practice!

Bowhunting opens September 17. Are you ready? $^{O}W_{O}$

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

MOERICKE, from page 14

to report that they were all taken on #20 midge imitations, but that would be a lie. We were dunking worms, just like I did as a kid fishing with my dad.

I don't know who was more proud: Steve, for being able to guide his old man to some great trout fishing or me for being able to call him my son. The kid I taught to fish had become the teacher. (He actually is a high school science teacher, by the way.) Once back at the car, we cracked a cold Leinie's and toasted the day, the trout, the place, each other and life. There's nothing quite like a morning beer with your son and a limit of trout in the cooler. Just sayin'.

Dan Moericke is an avid and successful Wisconsin fisherman from Wausau and an occasional guest on outdoor fishing programs. On the water, he always tells us some version of the truth.



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Why Wait To Bait? You've already waited years for the bear tag

s spring slowly creeps into summer, I hear and see another transformation as our hunting instincts kick in. The bear tags are out and have been distributed, and like a disturbed hornets' nest the hunting forums throughout Wisconsin are buzzing with bear excitement. Questions from novice and experienced bear hunters will be asked with many opinions offered.

One of the more frequently asked questions is how early a hunter should begin to bait and why. This is a great question that I have addressed as a professional guide on countless occasions and is worthy of a reminder now.

Bears are habitual animals. They adapt very well to situations over time, but what works here in the forested area of northern Bayfield County might not work elsewhere. But the routines that we have developed here are time tested over decades and probably will help you get the same results anywhere in Wisconsin. Since competition among hunters and bears also plays a significant role in baiting success, I am convinced that the earlier one can bait the better chances you will be filling that precious bear tag.

I begin to bait the first April day legal to bait in Wisconsin, and I carry a welcomed excitement with me, as well as the bait pails, into the field. I recall the conversation I had this past winter with a successful 2015 bear hunter who tagged a very good bear after initiating his baiting three



During early spring most bears forage on fresh, lush vegetation. This respectable sow and yearling were caught on a trail camera in mid-May feeding on a food plot planted last fall.

weeks prior to the season. "Why start so early?" he asked.

Although he succeeded in what he set out to do, I asked him a couple questions as a hunter. What did you get out of the short three weeks of baiting? Would you rather hunt on a well-established bait station that has probably attracted every bear within miles periodically before the season, especially during the breeding season, or would you rather hunt a station that was just recently started and has certainly attracted comparatively fewer bears? Baiting early and as often as possible as the season draws nearer can create a wealth of information and priceless appreciation of what it takes to truly earn a successful bear hunt, especially when you target a specific bear. Ringing the dinner bell early and often is not only necessary to increase the odds of tagging one of the monster bears you see often in *OWO* from our camp, it offers other bears an opportunity for repeated visits. Whether they make your bait station their own is up to them. More bears mean more memories for the hunter and the heightened chance that the bear of dreams will return while the hunter is on stand.

Bait as early as possible and frequently. Use fresh bait. Use reliable attractant scents such as Bear Scents LLC Bacon & Anise gel or spray. The use of a trail camera is priceless. Mentally, you will hunt harder knowing what bears are coming in. Play the wind with your stand placement.

If the eight-year wait for the priceless bear tag is the price we pay for an opportunity to finally hunt, why wait to bait? $^{\circ}W_{\bigcirc}$

Mike Foss was born and raised in Washburn, Wisconsin (Bayfield County). As a professional bear guide he has harvested bear and many deer, including several record book bucks. Off season, Mike is constantly scouting for new hunting areas and adventures. Connect with Mike at 715.373.0344 or at northwiout@att.net.

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Find more Bear Hunting info online: OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

Bear Baiting 101 Using scents and attractants

It is a common fact that bears have an extremely powerful sense of smell, perhaps the best in the animal kingdom. This can be attributed to the fact that although a bear's brain is roughly a third of the size of a human's, the part that is devoted to smell is *five* times larger. It is estimated that scent can be detected by bears up to five miles away. Bears rely on this keen sense of smell, and, as hunters, we can use this knowledge to our advantage to encourage a bear to become comfortable with a site.

In addition to traditional baiting methods, it is common practice to utilize purchased scents and attractants to lure bears back to a site. Attractants do just as their name implies: they attract bears to a site. They have no nutritional value. When used on a regular basis, layering attractants on and near a fresh bait pile will condition bears to return to this spot. In addition to consistency, it is imperative to keep up a bear's curiosity in order to entice him back to the bait pile. The tantalizing smell will alert the creatures that the site has been freshened and raises their curiosity to return for more tasty treats.

Some all-time favorite scents include: anise, vanilla, and blueberry. My personal favorite is maple sugar as it attracts whitetails in addition to bears. Scents may be purchased in concentrate form or pre-mixed and can be easily shipped to your home in just a few days. Scents also work well to cover human odor and other smells from hunting gear. It is essential, however, to remember not to apply these scents to your body or hunting clothes as you may become a target for that curious bear!

Next issue ... Time To Hunt. Wo

Bob Spierings is a native of northeast Wisconsin. The owner of Bob's Bear Bait in Appleton, WI, he has been in business for over eight years. You can shop and pick up bait and supplies at his large warehouse conveniently located off Interstate 41, just north of Appleton, or select from the Bait Menu posted online at bobsbearbait.com to have products shipped. Connect with Bob at sales@bobsbearbait.com or 920.419.1238.

Little Time, Much To Learn *Preparation continues for fall bear hunt*

ith the turkey hunt in the rearview mirror, my first-ever Wisconsin bear hunt is approaching quickly and I have set my sights on filling the tag with my Matthews bow. Let the practice begin.

As of this writing, shooting practice time has been very inconsistent with some rough spring weather and time commitments to other "priorities" that will shortly be put on the back burner. After months of inactivity, my form is not yet where it needs to be and the bow and I do not seem to be getting along. The consistent, tight patterns that result only from hours of practice aren't here yet.

But the more I climb into that stand for practice the sooner I know the arrow will fly truer and consistent form and accuracy will appear. Using my bow for this hunt has invited some strange looks and people questioning my reasons for doing it. Don't get me wrong; I will be using a gun to shoot a bear should a killing shot not present itself with a bow. But first I want to challenge myself to attempt to take a bear with my bow. I am not out to prove anything to anyone but myself.

I am mentally and physically preparing to open the bear season with my bow at the ready. As I begin preparation, I imagine a brute of a bear coming to the stand area. I ready my bow and begin the process of "picking that spot" and focusing on the shot, not the bear. My breathing is slow but I can almost feel the pounding in my chest as the moment to shoot nears. "Follow through" plays in my head, and without further delay, the arrow is on its way. Then I do it all over again.

A suggestion from my brother, Tom, to use video and articles from the Internet to help determine the size of a bear has also proved invaluable. Is the approaching bear large or small? Without experience, some hunters make a mistake and take the shot on a bear smaller than they thought. Looking at the size of the ears or its body in relation to a 55-gallon barrel helps to accurately evaluate whether the shot should be taken.

When is the time to take a shot that provides the best chance for a double lung or pass-through hit on the vitals? All of this information is being gathered now, so when and if that moment to shoot is upon me, I will make an ethical decision and an accurate shot.

Later in July I will be meeting up with my guide, Mike Foss, and going through the baiting routine he performs all summer long in order to provide his clients an opportunity to harvest a bear in September. I look forward to hearing his reports on the various bear activity captured at each station on trail camera and hope to pick his brain on the Dos and Don'ts of the bear hunt.

Being a first-time bear hunter leaves me nervous; I won't be totally comfortable in this environment. When I mentioned these feelings to Mike, his words only made me feel that much more uncomfortable.

"You won't have anything to worry about unless I leave you in the woods all night," he said. "Then you will have something to be worried about."

Ah, so glad I chose Mike to take me bear hunting.

I hope my ongoing education helps you with your future hunt, and I welcome any information you would like to pass on to help me fill that tag. We will "talk" again as the season approaches.

Right now it's time for me to get back in the stand. There's more rust that needs to be knocked off, and September is coming like a bear to a Mike Foss bait pile. W

Mike Hart is a former MLB player (Minnesota Twins/ Baltimore Orioles), retired Physical Education teacher (Greenfield Schools,) and outdoor enthusiast.



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Time To Buy Time Supreme Court threatened by judicial activism

Reader Note: This editorial is solely the opinion of the OWO Publisher

Relisting of the Gray Wolf for federal protection as an endangered species is a reminder of the vital importance of what president we elect in November, and who will appoint the next Supreme Court Justices. Will the high court follow its sworn duty to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, or will it be an instrument for creating law by the far left?

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

Relisting of the wolf as endangered came by judicial order of U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell in Washington, D.C. and ruled that U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service removal of the wolf from protection violated the Federal Endangered Species Act. The ruling came after the Humane Society of the United States (USHS), an anti-hunting organization disguised from its very name down, filed a lawsuit against the Great Lakes States of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

Animal protection advocates repeat-



The tracks tell the story in Iron County. A deer runs for its life with a wolf in close pursuit.



Too many wolves have been one major factor in severe declines in northern Wisconsin deer numbers.

edly have sued over federal efforts to drop federal protections in both the Great Lakes states and the northern Rockies where the wolf is well established.

Howell rendered her decision despite her own acknowledgement of a stable and growing wolf population in the three Midwest states and despite contrary opinions on relisting from expert wildlife biologists. Wisconsin's deer numbers in northern Wisconsin will continue their severe decline with an unchecked wolf population. If you hunt Wisconsin's northern counties, you already know that wolf predation of deer is a major contributor to that decline, with hounds and domestic dogs so often killed by wolves that the Wisconsin DNR routinely issues detailed depredation reports. Twentyfour hounds and three domestic dogs were killed by wolves last year.

"The science clearly shows that wolves are recovered in the Great Lakes region, and we believe the Great Lakes states have clearly demonstrated their ability to effectively manage their wolf populations," said Fish & Wildlife Service spokesman Gavin Shire after the December, 2014 ruling. "This is a significant step backwards."

A step backwards that will take years from which to recover. That reality works well for the USHS and other activists. "We are pleased that the Court has recognized that the basis for delisting was flawed and would stop wolf recovery in its tracks," said Jonathan Lovvorn, Senior Vice-President for the Humane Society of the United States.

The next president will nominate as



Canine Concepts Retriever training and old math

Provide a state of the sense of

When my grade school education started, the way lessons were taught was to have us memorize whatever it was we were being taught. Arithmetic was taught as 1+1=2, 1+2=3, 1+3=4, and so on until the whole addition table was memorized. From there it went to subtraction, multiplication and division. Spelling meant memorizing the words until we knew them perfectly. Everything was repeated over and over until we could give the correct response. Without realizing or understanding any of this, we were being taught irrefutable concepts. Two is always the answer when you add one and one. Dog is always spelled "d-o-g." Applying this to retriever training is the same. Teaching each of the obedience commands, "heel," "sit," "come," or "here" is teaching a concept.

The single marked retrieve can be broken into four concepts. Sitting and looking out at the thrower to mark the fall is the first. Most young retrievers do the marking part pretty well but often need help with the sitting steady part. Running out to the fall to pick up the bird or dummy is the second concept. Most young retrievers excel at this. The third concept, returning with the bird or dummy, is often where things start to fall apart. Most of the time the young dog will return with a full head of steam, deciding at the last minute to start a game of "keep away" by trying to run by or around you in hopes that you'll join its game and give chase. The last concept is the delivery to hand, something expected of all retrievers.

These last two concepts are easily taught right from the beginning but seldom ever are. They become problems to be corrected by breaking down the four elements of the retrieve, then teaching/correcting each as an individual concept. Responding to whistle commands, lining up properly for a mark or a blind retrieve, or taking hand signals are all concepts that a retriever learns in its training process. How well they perform them is dependent upon how well they were drilled during the dog's training.

Back to the days when I was in grade school, the learning technique was mostly by rote. That is the process of memorization through repetition. The same applies to training a retriever. They mostly learn by being taught a response to a command, then repeating it over and over until it becomes the conditioned response to the given command. Additionally, applying positive or negative reinforcement at the appropriate time helps cement the concept being taught into the dog's memory. Wo

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



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Fruits Of The Blooms Black raspberries are first

o not put away all that turkey hunting gear just yet. You won't need the shotgun or box call, but a facemask will come in handy when hitting the brambles and canes in search of ice cream toppings, pie filling, wine starters, or tiny juice packages to drop over a bland breakfast cereal bowl.

One of the best things about gathering wild berries is they are omnipresent. State parks, wildlife areas, bike and hiking trails and private lands contain wild raspberries. July 4 is often the season opener, but the biggest berries are the first, so don't miss this flex date, depending on the weather.

Necessary equipment includes an ice cream pail to snap on a belt and that turkey gear. The aforementioned facemask and bug spray are needed to combat mosquitoes and other pesky insects. Some pickers use thin camouflage gloves. They get stained, but the pigments in berries are water-soluble, so machine washing or hand washing with the gloves still on will clean them up. Stetson makes a good sun shield hat, and some models are sold as "No Fly Zone" versions.

With the buckle belted, hands and face covered, and head sun-shielded with a hat, both hands are free and you are ready to get picking.

First on the list of fruits from flower blooms are Wisconsin's black raspberries, better known in some parts as blackcaps. Be forewarned, wild raspberries are not domestic and are a bit smaller than the hybrid garden variety, but they make up for it in flavor.

Most raspberries and blackberries flower and fruit on second year canes, so during the late pickings one doesn't have to be too careful about stepping down these fruitbearing bushes. They die at the end of the season. Be careful of new canes emerging. They are next year's fruit crop hangers.

A real surprise is finding that one bush in a thousand that has pale instead of black fruit. These blond berries are the ones to eat on the spot; they are that special.

While black raspberries are the first and likely the most significant wild berry crop,

117 locations

across the state



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Kids enjoy eating berries as they pick them.

wild strawberries, which arrive a bit earlier, are sweeter. Though tiny, they are worth the work in a good patch.

Wisconsin is home to many more wild fruits, enough to last until frost. Blackberries are later and are similar to black raspberries. Blueberries and elderberries are common and highly sought after by some wild fruit gourmets. Give them a try! Some people's grandmothers used to mix elderberries with apples in their pies.

As soon as the bucket has enough fruit for your purpose, stick the container in a refrigerator or ice chest. Do not wash until you're ready to eat, preserve or use in a recipe for cake, muffins or jelly.

There are additional advantages for this all-family outing. Youngsters may want to sell some berries to groceries, give them to Grandma or have their own wild foods

ELLIS, from page 28

many as five Supreme Court justices to a lifetime appointment on the highest bench in the United States. With the recent death of conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, the nine-justice court is currently divided evenly with a 4-4 conservative-to-liberal split. Clearly from their own voting records, several of these justices already seated do not follow their oaths to defend the Constitution.

As just one example of the imperative nature of this election, your second amendment right to bear arms is already squarely in the crosshairs of the liberal left, and the liberal press who would define terrorism on American soil as a gun control issue. Donald Trump has publically released a closely scrutinized list of 11 candidates from which he would party as an evening snack before closing the tent flap.

While out in the woods in July, take part in some pre-autumn scouting activities like turkey flocks, ginseng digging, deer populations, bear sign and firewood availability.

Gathering foods is an ecology lesson for the kids. What else can you gather and eat at the same time?

P.S. There is a country restaurant in Argyle, Wisconsin, that makes a mixture of apple and blackberry pie. The apples stain purple, the flavor is just as wild, and no one would slide this slice of pie aside. ^{CW}O

Jerry Davis, a Wisconsin native, retired from university teaching and now lives in lowa County. He applies arts and sciences to writing and enjoying Wisconsin's outdoors. Contact him at sivadjam@mhtc.net.

nominate for the Supreme Court. Each is evaluated as a constitutionalist committed to render rulings from existing law, not to creating law. Trump's list is not a guarantee of "constitutionalist" nominations post-election. The far left's history however, is a guarantee of radical nominations.

If Trump does not meet expectations as president, use the gift of the ballot and remove him from office in four years. We can outlast any party's presidential term. We cannot outlast a radical Supreme Court majority appointed for a lifetime.



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Badger Birds Cedar waxwing

Summer is high-time for watching elegant cedar waxwings in Wisconsin. The birds are in full and sleek color as they flutter out from tree branches to grab flying insects. These beautiful black-masked nomads will only stick around as long as their favorite foods—those juicy bugs earlier in summer followed by juicy fruits and berries later in summer—are abundant. Once they have picked over a swarm of insects or crop of berries, the waxwings will move on to the next opportunity.

Look for the cedar waxwing's unmistakable and gorgeous plumage: silky-looking yellow/olive body, handsome crest, black mask and beak, waxy-red wing tips and bold yellow tail margin.

Listen for the waxwing's call, a lispy, trilling *tseeee* the birds utter as they roam for fruit or hunt insects from their perches.

Plant trees and shrubs that bear



fruits and berries to attract cedar waxwings. Cedar, juniper, crabapple, mountain ash, cotoneaster, chokecherry, bayberry, Russian olive, hawthorn and grape all benefit cedar waxwings and other fruit-loving birds.

Attract cedar waxwings to a tray or platform feeder any time of year with raisins or small chunks of apple or fig.

Did you know that in the late 1800s, ladies' hatbands almost caused the extinction of the cedar waxwing? The elegant feathers were used as adornments, and before it was stopped, market gunning endangered cedar waxwing populations. Wo

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

County Teasers

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Sparta, the "Bicycling Capital of America," is awesome this time of year. Motorcycling, horseback riding, kayaking, hunting and fishing, and, of course, biking. Sign up for a ride. Sparta—a choice destination in western Wisconsin. *Click on Monroe County.*

Port Washington celebrates summer outdoors! Fishing is great. Book a charter, launch your boat, or drop a line. We even have a fish market that will smoke your catch for you. Launch a canoe, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard from South Beach. Rent a bike and hop on the Interurban Trail for a spin. *Click on Ozaukee County.*

Explore Washburn County's streams and lakes this summer for incredible fishing. Over twenty

streams in the area offer a variety of trout fishing opportunities, and there are more than 900 lakes in the area offering Musky, Northern Pike, Walleye, Bass and Panfish. A full list of area lakes and trout streams are available by ordering our Washburn County Highway Map & Outdoor Guide. *Click on Washburn County.*

Ashland is the "Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin." **July** - 4: Parade, band concert, fireworks. 13-14: Maxwell Street Days. 15-17: Bay Days Festival. 17: Sprint Triathlon and Little Minnow Kids' Triathlon. **August** - 6: Kids Fishing Party sponsored by North Wisconsin Rod & Gun Club. Come to Chequamegon Bay, a world-class smallmouth bass fishery and four-season fishing destination! *Click on Ashland County.*

Exciting fishing and boating in Ferryville. Use the Ferryville Boat Launch (Pool 9) to access the best fishing on the Mississippi River. July 23 is River Bluff Daze, a great festival with free fireworks, tractor pull. Visit us! *Click on Crawford County.*

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garmin.com



SAVAGE GEAR 3D MAYFLY NYMPH

Nymphs are nothing new to trout and smallmouth fishermen, but this 3D Mayfly Nymph takes a new approach to the traditional style. The realistic design aims to replicate a stonefly nymph or hellgrammite but is made of 1/10-ounce plastic. The triplejointed tail and long legs make it irresistible to fish and are perfect for targeting finicky biters. (\$4.29)

saveagegear-usa.com





BIOLITE CAMPSTOVE

Having just returned from a backpacking trip crossing Isle Royale National Park, this stove would have come in handy. Instead of fuel, it burns wood, pine needles and other natural material for a heat source while also producing electricity. Cook meals and boil water fast, all while charging your personal devices. Downfalls are rainy weather—have a supply of good, dry kindling available and fire bans. Endorsed by National Geographic and Popular Science. (\$129.95)

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moultriefeeders.com





RAPALA SHADOW RAP

Rapala has a long history of helping anglers put fish in the boat, and this is sure to be another success. Their new design allows this flat-sided jerkbait to cut left and right while slightly sinking, rather than using all of its movement going forward. Mimicking a dying minnow, it will surely trigger a bite. Available in four varieties and 24 colors. (\$9.99)

rapala.com

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Twice The Bang For The Buck Henry's Big Boy Steel is the perfect match for a variety of Old West revolvers

mmunition could be a scarce commodity on the Frontier. Months might pass before cowboys and trappers had an opportunity to purchase cartridges for their pistols and rifles. Living off the land meant travelling light. Lugging around two different calibers wasn't practical when all of your worldly possessions had to fit in your saddle bags. Thus, it only made sense for the major firearm companies of the time to manufacture revolvers and longarms in such handgun calibers as the .45 Colt, .44/40 and .38/40, among others.

Pistol caliber rifles and carbines were generally lighter and better handling than their larger caliber brethren. In pump and lever action, they had the added benefit of being repeaters. Large caliber repeating rifles did not become commonplace until after the Frontier had been settled.

Many of the same factors that made pistol caliber rifles popular during the Old West remain true today. They are light, easy to handle in the brush, accurate and powerful enough to humanely harvest deer-sized game at reasonable distances. Recoil is light and ammunition is often more affordable than large caliber rifle cartridges.

Among the most popular pistol caliber long arms today is



The new Henry Big Boy Steel in .357 Magnum/.38 Special is a fast-handling deer hunting carbine.

the Henry Repeating Arms Company Big Boy series of rifles and carbines, which are available in a number of calibers, including .357 Magnum/.38 Special and .44 Magnum/.44 special, some of the most popular and easily obtainable pistol cartridges made. Brass-framed Big Boys have been some of Henry's most popular products for many years. Recently, they have been joined by the Big Boy "Steel" series.

Steel rifles and carbines feature round as opposed to octagon barrels, matte blue steel receivers, and rubber recoil pads rather than the brass buttplates found on the Big Boys. In addition to their more subdued appearance, the Steel series is lighter and even handier than the original Big Boys, because steel receivers and round barrels weigh less than brass receivers and octagon barrels. The Big Boy Steel carbine .357 magnum/.38 Special is only 34 inches long, weighs 6.6 pounds, and holds seven rounds of ammunition.

Henry recently submitted a Big Boy Steel in .357 Magnum/.38 Special for testing by *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. Like the .45/70 Lever Action Rifle that previously appeared in these pages, the Big Boy Steel featured a flawless blue finish, excellent wood-to-metal fit, a superb trigger that broke at less than four pounds, and absolute reliability. The American walnut stock had nice grain, and the checkering was nigh near perfect. "The Rifleman," portrayed by Chuck Connors in the 1960s TV series, would have loved the large loop of the lever action, as would anyone hunting with heavy

continued on page 37







RON STRESING

Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

Summer League Clays Shooting *Practice now to bag more birds later: part 2*

Sporting clay, or sporties, as it's commonly called, is the most recent British import to the shooting sports. First organized in Britain in the early 1900s to duplicate shots at game, it arrived here about 1925. It's also called "golf with a shotgun" due to the various and challenging ways sporties courses are laid out. Shoot a round of sporting clays and just about every shot you will see in a season of hunting will present itself. Its popularity has exploded, and many larger gun clubs and shooting ranges now have a sporting clays course and league competition.

A round of sporting clays usually consists of 50 targets. Shooters shoot from a single spot at each station. Target sizes often change between stations, and targets may be thrown as singles or pairs. There are "report pairs" and "true pairs." For a report pair, the second target is thrown when the sound of the gun, the "report," is heard.

True pairs are pairs of targets thrown at the same time. To complicate matters, the targets may be thrown at various angles. Some targets, like the "springing teal," are tossed almost straight up, while others, simulating landing geese, are falling.

Rabbit targets are heavy clay discs sent rolling along the ground, often bouncing as they go. Unlike trap or skeet, the target throwing machine is often hidden from the shooter's sight. Sometimes listening for the sound of the machine throwing the target helps alert the shooter to when it is launched.

Shooters do not start with the gun mounted like trap or skeet. The gun is held at the "ready" position, and you mount the gun as you call for the target. British shooters are taught to "move, mount, shoot" in one smooth motion. This is a valuable skill and great for grouse, quail or woodcock hunters. It paid off for me when a deer suddenly jumped up in a field of CRP grass. In one smooth motion I was able to fire and harvest the deer before it even took off running.

Guns and Loads. Most shooters you see on the sporties

course will have over/under or semi-auto guns, the 12-gauge being the most popular. If possible, use the gun you plan to hunt with. My personal favorite has been my BSA brand 20-gauge over/under. It's the same shotgun I use to hunt doves, pigeons and rabbits, often using similar loads. Open chokes work best. I have used improved cylinder and modified in both my 12- and 20-gauge over/under with good results. If you shoot a semi-auto, try improved cylinder or light modified choke. Standard trap or skeet shells are fine for sporting clays. You may want to carry a few lighter loads like 1-ounce loads of #8 shot for close targets and heavier 1 1/8-ounce loads of 7 ½ shot for farther shots. Save the heavier loads of coarse shot for rabbit targets.

A good tip for beginning sporting clays shooters is to visualize the path the bird will take as it leaves the house and figure out where to break it. Remember, you will also have to engage the other target, and this is where a little planning

continued on page 38



Northern Treasures Blueberries, browns and the Bois Brule River

In the far northwestern corner of Wisconsin a legendary trout river springs from a hidden desert. It is a historic nirvana full of mysterious rumors, sand-shifted logging roads, pine-shrouded glens, and cascading rapids. Like any good legend, there is hidden treasure involved. A deep shade of blue meets sparkling brown and gold in the pine barrens of Douglas County.

Sand and prairie grass spill beneath rows of jack pines. A whisper of days gone by ripples in the breeze and rattles the branches of fire-blackened scrub oaks, hearkening back to over a century ago when the logging barons cut the virgin timber to build the cities of our country. Islands of new-growth red pine shimmer in the distance like mirages. Beneath it all, like a green and blue carpet, the smallest of treasures thrive.

Logging roads and gravel paths give way to wild blueberry patches that are regarded by some to be as valuable as a lost stash of coins. I'm not sure if I'm ready to make that comparison, but a day of exploring untamed fields of wild-growth blueberry bushes is far more enjoyable than buying them in a grocery aisle. And in my estimation, fresh blueberry pie tastes better than buried money.

Flowing from the center of the blueberry trove is a resource that many trout-seekers

find more valuable than coins or blueberry pie. The Bois Brule River wells from a corridor swamp, bridging over from the St. Croix River. It was named by French explorers and fur traders that first trekked through the fireprone barrens and translated the Brule to the "river of burnt wood."

The upper reaches are home to sparkling native brook trout, but around about the middle of August when nights began to cool with the hint of coming autumn and the mornings are sparkled in dew, just about the time the blueberry bushes began giving up their harvest, the Bois Brule River starts to take in a steady stream of spawning brown trout from its mouth on the frigid waters of Lake Superior.

Trout run in waves up through roaring rapids, resting beneath the banks and wallowing in the spring waters of tributary creeks. A 12-inch fish fresh from the lake can put up an unimaginable fight. Of course, there are also monsters that lurk in the deep that would swallow a 12-incher like a minnow.

Imagine a thrashing brown trout flashing to the net from a shaded pool while the sun rises in mist through towering pines, then spending an afternoon tracking down a bucket full of blueberries. When the day's

WILKERSON, from page 34

gloves in the winter.

Unlike some other lever action rifles, the Henry does not load through a receiver gate. Instead, cartridges are inserted at the end of the magazine tube, not unlike a typical .22 caliber rifle and like the original Henry rifles of the Civil War era. One of the advantages of the Henry system is that the magazine plunger can be removed, allowing unused rounds to be emptied from the magazine tube. Most other lever action rifles must be unloaded by ejecting unfired rounds by operating the lever. The Henry rifle ejection process is safer.

Henry Big Boys do not have a manually operated or half-cock safety. Instead, they utilize a transfer bar safety that prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin unless the trigger is completely pulled to the rear. The lever and action also must be completely closed before the Henry will fire. On the range, firing the Big Boy Steel with .357 magnum rounds is a hoot. Recoil is practically nil and accuracy is great. Depending on the load, expect groups from less than an inch to two inches at 100 yards. Be forewarned, however, the buck horn sights on the Henry may not work well with aging eyes. The Henry is drilled and tapped for a scope, which would solve any sight problems.

The Henry Big Boy Steel would be the perfect complement to a Single Action Army-type revolver in the same caliber. Ammunition is comparatively inexpensive, power is more than adequate, and they would make a really good-looking couple.

For more information on Henry products, visit their website at henryrifles.com or Shorty's Shooting Sports in West Allis.

Stuart Wilkerson is a longtime OWO contributor, award-winning Wisconsin journalist, and firearms expert specializing in historical firearms and collecting. exploration gets tiring, spread a blanket in the breezy shade of a red pine and watch the clouds roll across the barrens. That's more than enough to make any northern treasure hunter feel rich. Wo

John Luthens is a freelance writer from Grafton, Wisconsin. His first novel, Taconite Creek, is available on Amazon or at cablepublishing.com, or by contacting the author at luthens@hotmail. com.

> Blueberries in the pine barrens of Douglas County.





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Every Day Carry Final call

have been writing for Dick Ellis at *On Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO)* for almost four years now, and love doing so. For one, it is a great place to connect with other "sconies" about the great outdoors and to talk about my love of guns. And also, Dick, Heidi and staff are just great people and great to work for.

But it's time for me to put down the keyboard at *OWO* and move on. I have been hired as the new Editor of *Gun World* magazine, which means I will no longer be able to write for *OWO*. Taking such a position is a huge step up from being a freelance gun writer and will allow me to keep following my passion: guns.

I can't say enough about what a pleasure it's been writing for you, the readers. I don't know if you always enjoyed reading what I had to write, but I can tell you that I always enjoyed writing it, and, even more, I enjoyed the prep work that I did before writing the column, i.e., shooting guns.

Special thanks to Heidi for your patience when I turned stuff in late and for fixing my drivel so that it was presentable. And thanks to Dick for the wonderful opportunity!

Keep your powder dry, and God Bless! Wo

Robb Manning served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nearly 11 years, where he developed a passion and knowledge for firearms of all types. Since 2010 Robb has been a gun/hunting writer and also films gun and gear videos for his YouTube channel, 762x51n80.



STRESING, from page 36

can add birds to your score sheet. Try to set up the shot so you can shoot the second target with as little movement of the gun barrel as possible. Learning to switch between multiple targets will be a big help when that flock of teal suddenly swoops into your decoys!

The \$20 for a round of sporting clays is a good investment. The time spent honing your wing shooting skills will pay off in more birds bagged in the field. It's also just a lot of fun to challenge family or friends in a little friendly competition. Try a round of sporties, and I'll bet you will agree! $^{\circ}W_{\circ}$

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

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