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November/December 2016

Vol. 10, Issue 2



# On Wisconsin Outdoors

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## MIKE FOSS

# Boogeyman On The Bear Stand

## Conquering fear first hurdle for some hunters

At Northern Wisconsin Outfitters (NWO) we can bet on the probability that each hunter will have an opportunity to take a shot at a bear, if they so choose. Simply, those odds are based on our hard work as guides and guide's assistants baiting for months before the season. We know the bears will come to the hunters on stand.

There is another certainty that we see with each new bear season that we have little control over. Many of our hunters have never before hunted bear. Many tag holders come to this Bayfield County wilderness having never seen a bear or wolf in the wild. Almost without exception, a hunter or two will abandon their stands well before dark and the legal close of hunting hours. With that decision, they also abandon or greatly diminish their chance to tag a bear.

Call it the Boogeyman Syndrome. But a hunter's fear, often an unexpected and always unwelcome companion when it rears its ugly head, is your mental enemy waiting to wreck the dream hunt you've looked forward to for years.



*Knowing that very big bears and wolves specifically work the areas of bait stations for food can be unsettling for some hunters leaving their stands after dark.*

The big bad wolf will not eat you. The bear you pursue will not attack you. The odds of being struck by lightning are greater than having a dangerous encounter with these or any other Wisconsin animal.

So what can a hunter do to combat these awful but natural feelings of fear? First, ask yourself if a bear hunt in the big woods is really for you. You don't want to jeopardize the time and money you will invest in a bear

hunt if you won't be comfortable alone in the wilderness.

1. Share bad thoughts with your guide, be honest and share your reservations. Most guides I know will work with you. They will place bait stations so that you will feel comfortable staying on stand until the end of shooting hours, and your exit to a waiting vehicle will be short and quick.
2. View Wisconsin YouTube bear hunts, and only Wisconsin. Watch as many as you can as often as you can. Pay close attention to the mannerisms of those bears. You will learn much, including the fact that a bear has no inclination to harm you. In fact, he is afraid of you naturally.
3. Talk to experienced bear hunters and reap the benefits of their experience. It might offer a little comfort to know they are still here with the living and talking to you after spending time in the field with the bears.
4. Buy bear spray. In addition to your own firearm of choice, the security of knowing you carry it as you exit the field can be priceless.

5. Prepare yourself physically and mentally. Months before your hunt begins, strap on your headlamp, grab a flashlight and enjoy a walk in the woods after dark. This will help your mental toughness and make you more comfortable and acclimated to a dark and personally foreign environment.

NWO Owner Robert Haas likes to say there are three things we cannot control once the season begins: weather, bears and hunters. But hunters, if you are uncomfortable alone in the big woods, especially after dark, don't be embarrassed to let us know. Together we can slay your Boogeyman so you can ultimately tag your bear.

For booking information, connect with Northern Wisconsin Outfitters at 715.373.0127 or (cell) 715.209.1089. [NW](http://www.northwiout.com)

Mike Foss was born and raised in Washburn, Wisconsin (Bayfield County), and spent years as a professional bear and deer guide. He now assists Robert Haas Northern and Northern Wisconsin Outfitters. Connect with NWO at 715.373.0127 or northwiout@att.net.



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### MIKE HART

# First Bear Hunt Surpasses Expectations

## 12-hour vigil, well-placed arrow drops boar

After eight years applying for a harvest tag, I arrived at Northern Wisconsin Outfitters in Bayfield County prepared for my first bear hunt but unsure of the outcome. From the moment I arrived it was evident I was in the right place.

On day one I towed my gear into the beautiful lodge that would be home for five days. With 25 hunters gathered for the opening of the 2016 season, NWO owner Robert Haas and assistant Mike Foss coordinated a camp meeting where hunters learned how camp would operate and the procedures to follow when a bear was shot. A delicious fish fry followed before hunters broke up to view trail cam photos, discuss stand sites and determine what strategy would be best utilized to give each hunter any advantage to harvest a bear.

Due to wind direction that could bust my ambush, I would be among the 12 hunters who would not be on stand opening day. Although disappointed, I knew these guides



Mike Hart of Dousman made a perfect shot with his bow on his first bear, a 195-pound boar, after 12 hours on stand. The bear traveled 40 yards.

were the professionals with my best interests in mind. With the hunt delayed, I used the time for more practice with my bow and to recheck my gear. It was also extremely gratifying to help successful hunters find and retrieve their bears. One hunter, Brian Bergmann of Waukesha, had arrowed a nice 215-pound sow on his first-ever hunt. "Tomorrow," I hoped, "that hunter would be me."

I slept well but was up before my 6:00 AM alarm sounded to be on stand by 8:00. After a small breakfast, camp butcher/skinner Bill Engler followed me to my stand and replenished my bait pile while I took the stand, making the routine appear to any bear in the area identical as it had been every day since May. With a quick wave and a thumbs-up, Bill was gone. My first ever hunt was here.

The day was cool with a slight breeze and I was anxious, excited and prepared to sit until dark. At 10:00 AM I spotted my first bear, and being the rookie I am, it looked huge.

*continued on page 8*

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LEE GATZKE

## NextBuk Outdoors

**ON THE COVER:** NextBuk co-owner Jarrod Erdody with one of three tremendous Wisconsin bucks taken during an opening morning to remember. See Jarrod Erdody take his buck in the NextBuk Outdoors's video Hill Country Bucks: <http://nextbukoutdoors.com/shop/hill-country-bucks>

### Three friends team up for a hunt they'll never forget

A few years ago some friends of mine teamed up for a gun deer hunt on a property not far from where my clan hunted. Jarrod Erdody, Shawn VanLandingham and Dan DeRosier set up shop in a tent camper that Jarrod had borrowed from his aunt. Being young and full of optimism, they reasoned a good sleeping bag trumped the unreliable heater in the camper, so this shelter would work just fine. Food would be limited to anything that didn't require cooking, and they'd keep hydrated with water and soda.

Opening day unveiled itself gradually under cloudy skies to reveal a snow-covered landscape. It was pretty cool in the camper overnight, which, coupled with being jacked up sky-high in anticipation of the coming hunt resulted in very little sleep for the group.

All three hunters had been on stand since well before first light, and now it was go time. Visions of large antlers would prevent this bunch from pulling the trigger on young bucks, so they were prepared to wait for the right buck to show or go home empty handed. Jarrod had watched two small bucks walk past him shortly after legal shooting hours began, and by mid-morning his chance came. Just after 10 o'clock, a heavy racked 10-pointer appeared out of nowhere, following a doe. As the two deer moved slowly down a logging trail Jarrod dropped the buck in his tracks with one well-placed shot. Jarrod's shot was the first one the group



A Wisconsin opening day to remember.


fired that day but would not be the last.

At noon Shawn made the most of his one opportunity with a shooter buck, adding another mature 19-pointer to the game pole. Things had been slow in his neck of the woods but he kept alert, hoping that his pre-season scouting would have him in the right spot. Knowing that on opening day the deer would be seeing an increase in human activity resulting in them being bumped around when they would normally be bedded, he chose a spot he figured would pay off under those conditions. His wait resulted in his wrapping his tag around the antler of the second buck shot that day by his party.

Meanwhile, Dan was feeling like the odd man out. He had

heard his buddies' shots and received their texts telling of their success. Deer sightings had been rare from his stand. Just before 3:00 in the afternoon, another group of hunters gathered close by to begin a drive. As the drivers headed past within a stone's throw of Dan's location he thought every deer that may have been hunkered down close by would now be chased off. A day of being patient on stand would end unceremoniously.

Not long after the drivers had gone out of sight, a deer appeared, doubling back through the drivers! One glimpse of the deer revealed a giant set of antlers. Thick brush made it difficult to get a clear shot, and the buck nearly made his getaway. A small opening offered what Dan thought would be his only shot and the buck was headed for it. As the buck entered the opening it was greeted by Dan's bullet. Buck number three on opening day was a 22-pointer that scored 208 inches.

The three friends set out to fulfill their dreams of putting their tag on a mature buck, and on this opening day all three succeeded. A rare accomplishment indeed. 

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.



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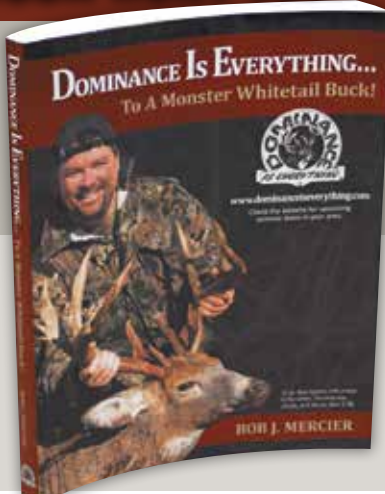
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**JOHN CLER**

## Following The Blood Trail

### Tips for finding deer after the shot

If you are a deer hunter, November is the month you look forward to all year. Bow hunters anticipate the deer activity that the rut brings early in the month, while the blaze orange crowd spends the year awaiting the opening of the gun season toward the end of November. The muzzleloader hunts run for 10 days following the gun season. December also brings more white-tail hunting opportunity in the form of the late archery season, the statewide antlerless hunt and the Holiday Hunt in some parts of the state. Whether you hunt with archery gear, a muzzleloader, a rifle or all of these, the last couple months of the year are full of opportunities to collect some venison.

One skill required by all types of deer hunting is following the blood trail to your animal. The first step in recovery of the animal comes immediately following the shot. The hunter should make mental notes of how the deer reacted, where it was last seen and any sounds the animal made in leaving the area. This will be a huge help in finding the beginning of the blood trail. Of course, it's best to allow some time for the animal to expire before taking up the trail. If the shot was taken just before dark, it will probably be best to quietly leave the area and return with some help and a few trailing tools.

Nighttime trailing tools are simple. They begin with a Coleman lantern. The bright white light from the lantern makes droplets of blood show up like no other type of light. The lantern can be improved as a trailing tool by adding a reflector. This keeps the light out of your eyes and concentrates it on the ground. Reflectors can be found online. It may be tempting to simply use a piece of aluminum foil wrapped around half of the lantern's glass globe. This will, however, hold in the heat generated by the lantern and melt the glass. (I will leave it to the reader to speculate on how this lesson was learned.) Be sure that your lantern has adequate fuel prior to taking up the trail. It is also a good idea to tape a pack of spare mantels to the bottom of the lantern.

The second tool is a roll of toilet paper. This is handy for both day and night trailing jobs. One of the trailing crew should be assigned to mark each drop of blood with a piece of toilet paper. The paper should not be placed on the ground but attached to brush, trees or plants well off the ground. This allows for easily determining the direction of travel should the trail be temporarily



*Tools for trailing after dark: toilet paper and a lantern with a shield.*




*Looking back along a blood trail marked with toilet paper.*

lost. It is important that the person with the lantern go slowly to allow the toilet paper person to keep up.

That last drop of blood may hold the key to unraveling the trail. Should the trail suddenly be lost, it is best to leave someone at the last drop while others make semicircles to find the next drop in the trail. This way you may return to the last drop and begin again if the first attempt fails. Once the trailing job is done the toilet paper may be picked up or left, as it is biodegradable.

Blood trailing is a skill that improves with practice. Be sure your hunting buddies have you on their list of trailing partners.

*John Cler is a retired principal and science teacher residing in Richland County. He and his wife, Vickie, have two grown daughters, three grandchildren and a black lab that keep them on the move. *



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# After The Deer Hunt

*The excitement can resume when a deer is down*

There can be as much afterglow and enthusiasm once a deer is killed, has been e-registered, and has been field dressed as when the animal appears at dawn.

In addition to photographing the deer and caring for the venison, there should be consideration for saving some items including antlers; mounting various parts; selling, giving away or using the hide; and thanking the landowner where the deer was taken.

Some items, including the antlers, can be used as art objects, decorations and gifted to someone who uses them. Ralph Barten, 62, of Ladysmith, Wisconsin, is a blind man who still makes items using antlers. His display includes key chains, zipper pulls and lamps. His charity, Shedding Hope, is all about helping those less fortunate by giving them hope in fighting disease. He needs antlers. Give him some.

Venison itself can be donated to a food pantry through a meat processing business or given to friends.

Various groups receive or buy deer hides. Some individuals make items from tanned deer hides and will sell a product back to a donor.

Thanking the landowner should be part of the ritual and tradition of a hunt. Don't forget that family or individual. You may want to return in 2017.

Dan Palzkill, of Mount Horeb, will take



*Photographer Steve Davis used a night sky to display his buck's antlers. Serendipity played a part when snowflakes fell.*

your antlers and make a piece of them into a hunting knife handle, attach a blade and make a leather sheath. He has shown a few hunters the techniques of making a meaningful keepsake from a special deer antler. The antlers can be sheds or deer killed during a hunt, such as a child's first buck. Or it could be the child's first knife.

Documenting a hunt is rarely accomplished to perfection, even by a photograph that should be worth a thousand words. Words are important, too, and a note should accompany a photograph for others who

may wonder who is in the picture 50 years later.

My son, Steve Davis, of Onalaska, Wisconsin, is an archer in addition to being a professional photographer ([www.aperture-bystevedavis.com](http://www.aperture-bystevedavis.com)). While taking photographs of deer hunters and their deer are not part of his business, he has shown by his and his wife's own examples how someone might make a dead animal look presentable, even palatable to a non-hunter.

His technique starts with setting the scene, putting the animal in a position so



*Dan Palzkill makes knife handles from pieces of special deer antlers.*

blood is not showing, the tongue is inside a closed mouth, and the antlers are not obscured by tree limbs, buildings or people. This may require moving the deer from the kill and tag validation location and waiting until later in the day. At the very least, get the deer out and away from a vehicle.

Clothing does not need to be all that safe-but-unattractive blaze orange. And please, no sitting on the animal or putting a youngster there. The bow, crossbow or gun need not be part of the photograph and at the very most should not be the main attraction in the picture. Deer, particularly the antlers, should not be made to look larger than life as anglers habitually do with trout and other fish.

A dark sky is perfect, whereas a sunny sky is the worst. How about a night sky with stars and the moon? Wouldn't an October

*continued on page 15*

## HART, from page 4

Soon, the long pointed ears told me this was a young bear, my first in the wild, and I sat back and enjoyed a special moment. The bear fed quickly and walked away. Once again I was alone. For the next nine hours, two gray squirrels were the only visitors to the bait.

Suddenly, I noticed a large black figure creeping through the woods, slowly making his way toward the bait. After what seemed like an eternity, the bear was behind the tree and walking directly underneath me. The moment I had been waiting for was near and I was surprisingly calm as the bear went to his meal. On the station, he lay down and started eating the scraps the squirrels had left for him. I was in the game, though, and I knew it was only a matter of time before the bear would adjust his position, hopefully, to offer the broadside shot I was told to wait for. Within minutes, that's exactly what he did.


Immediately, I pulled back and settled my pin on the

bear's lung area for a 17-yard shot, released, and watched the red luminok arrow disappear in the thick black fur. With an intimidating growl the bear ran off and disappeared from sight. I liked the shot and knew he didn't. Within seconds, I heard sounds that were unfamiliar to me but common to veteran bear hunters. I texted the guide with the details and was instructed to leave my stand immediately.

As I gathered my things not one but two more bears approached my area, preventing my departure. A larger bear began chomping its jaws together in an effort to claim the bait, which in turn made a smaller bear leave. The dominant bear now was standing over the pile and directly in my path. Leaving did not seem like a good idea at that moment, so I started making noises by tapping my stand to alert him of my position. With bear mace in my pocket, I climbed down the ladder while the bear and I stared at each other.

The minute my foot touched the ground, the bear exited on the same path my bear had taken. I retrieved my blood-covered arrow from the bait, and headed toward my

truck. With the arrival of Foss and crew, we went in to look for the bear. After surveying the shot site, we followed a good blood trail and found the 195-pound boar sprawled on the forest floor just 40 yards from the hit. Harvesting my first bear with a bow had left me with an unexpected sense of accomplishment. In fact, although my friend Dick Ellis still does not believe me, the experience was more thrilling than my first hit in the major leagues 30 years before.

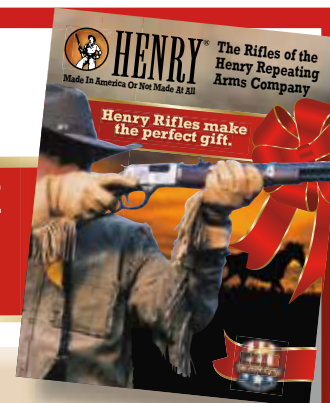
This hunt was made possible and supported by many people. From friend Dick Ellis, who suggested this outfitter, to my wife, Kerry, who doesn't understand my passion but supports me in it, and to Robert and Mike, thank you all for making this adventure extremely satisfying. To you readers out there, I hope you have enjoyed this journey with me as well. 

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



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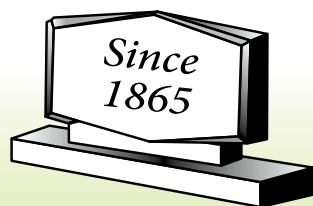


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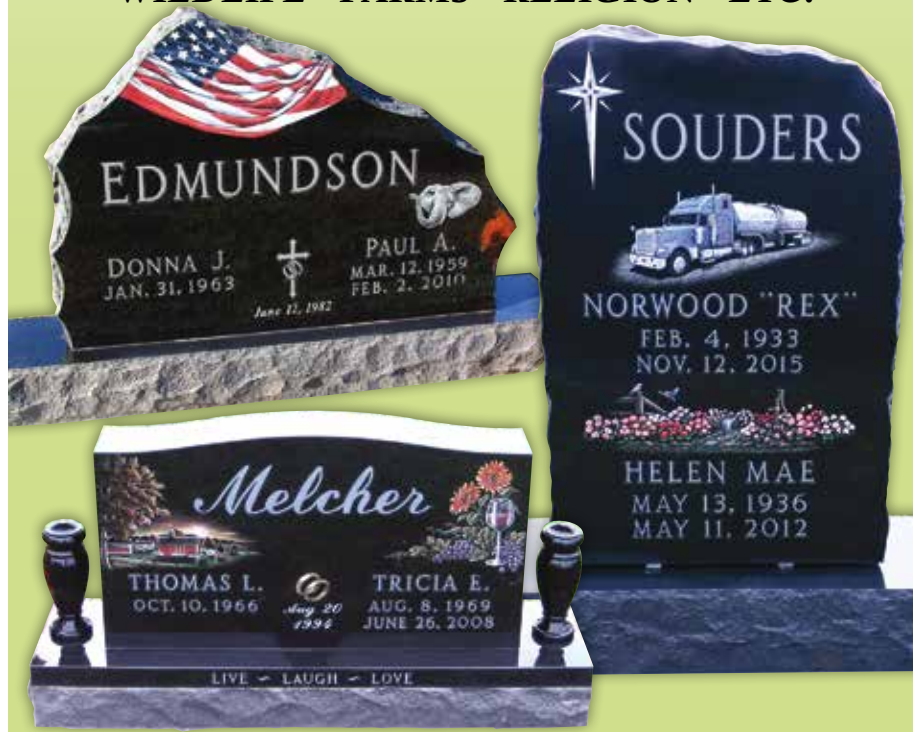




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**TOM CARPENTER**

## Cubs Corner

### *Hunt like a kid this year*

In July I made the long trek back to my hometown for my 35th high school reunion. These days, with Mom and Dad passed on, summertime visits to my southern Wisconsin homeland are rare. I chase wild turkeys there as spring bursts forth upon the landscape and deer as winter closes in and firearms season whitetails are fair game. It was nice to be back in those lovely green, rolling hills again while summer was at its peak.

As conversation does in any rural Wisconsin town worth its salt (which is all of them), the talk often turned to hunting as I reconnected with some of my classmates. It amazed me that so many of them had given up the gun deer hunt.

Some still bowhunt, and I think the crossbow is helping there as our 53- to 54- year old bodies start to show some wear-and-tear. But some never did bowhunt. Both groups exhibited a clear decline in gun hunt participation. It got me to exploring “why” over a few Minhas beers. Here are five themes I found:

#### **The Challenge is Gone**

The thrill of archery hunting has stolen some of gun season’s luster. Some hunters just think it is unsporting or easy to kill a deer in gun season.

#### **It’s Not Like It Used to Be**

When we were kids, anticipation for the approaching gun season reached a fever pitch. These days, with so much hunting opportunity overall, it’s just another season.

#### **My Kids Are Gone or Don’t Want to Hunt**

The presence of young hunters to push us can go a long way toward keeping a mature hunter in the woods. If kids have fled the nest or have no hunting interest, it can be hard to get motivated.

#### **CWD Has Taken the Fun Out of It**

For many hunters, the presence of CWD right in our own county is enough pressure (or an excuse) to skip the hunt.

#### **I’m Too Busy**

Some people are just too busy with careers and life, and apparently woods-time no longer serves as a prescription for what is ailing the mindset.

It got me to thinking about why I still love the gun hunt so much and what I have done to keep it important in my life. Maybe some of these concepts can grow your excitement for the upcoming season or get you back in the woods if you are considering sitting things out.


Basically, I think about the gun season like I did when I was a kid. It’s deer season! It’s a special time for family and community. I can shoot a deer with my shotgun!

Even though my blood family is gone or moved away, I’ve attached myself to another couple of deer hunting families. I call them The County M Gang. Feeling like a part of something bigger than just hunting itself is essential.

So is the right approach. Maybe gun hunting isn’t as challenging as bowhunting ... to some people. But it’s plenty challenging to me. It’s hard work to get up early, wait long hours, make a good shot and butcher a whitetail. But then I get to eat it.

If your kids are gone, I bet you can find one to take hunting.

CWD is a fact of life, but I’ve refused to let it change my love of the countryside or the whitetails that roam it. I have yet to shoot a whitetail that I wouldn’t cut a steak right off of and eat that evening!

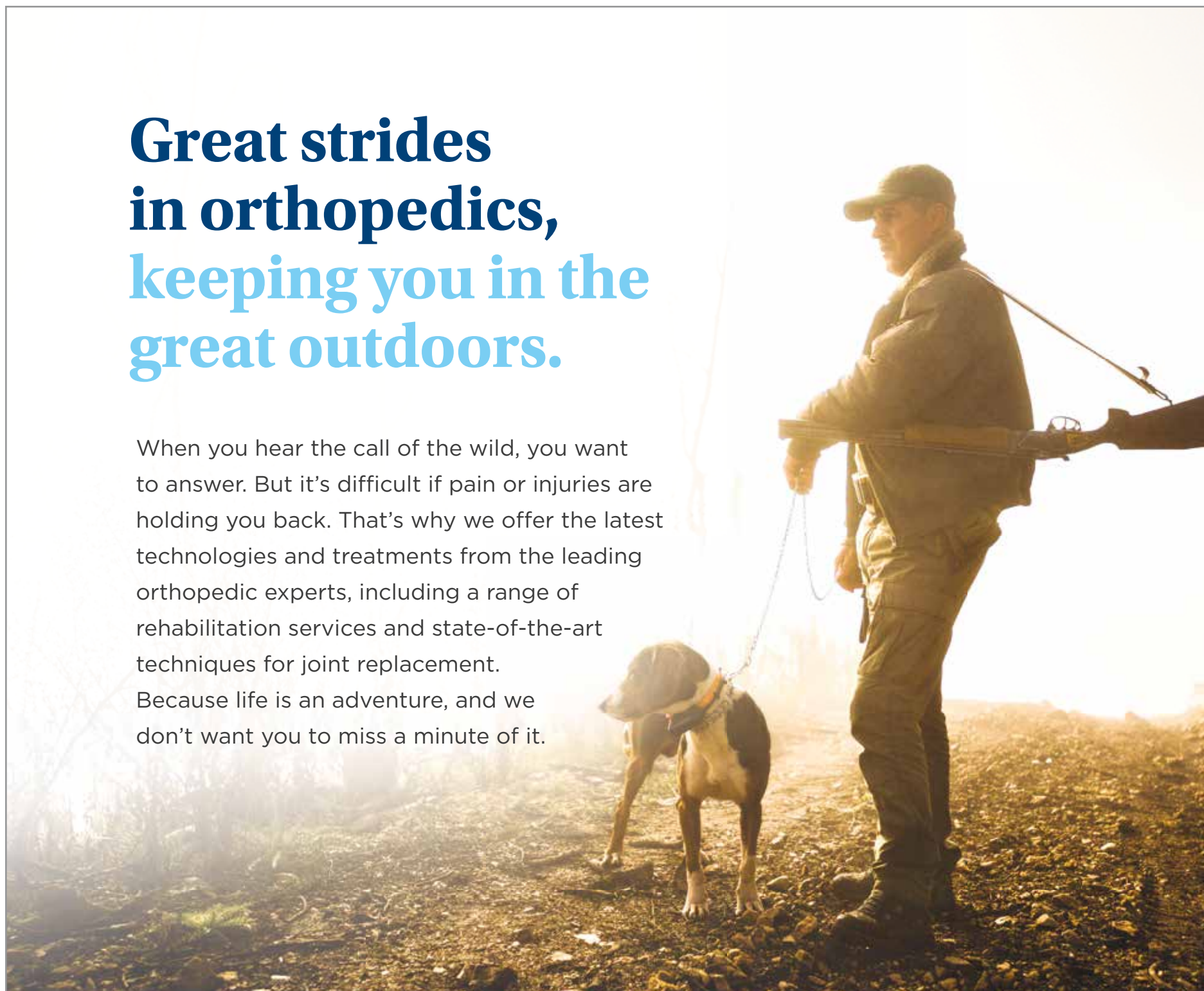
Gun season is special. It’s a Wisconsin tradition. If your traditions have faded, make new ones. Rekindle that gun season flame. Hunt like a kid (even if you keep that feeling deep in your belly) and you’ll feel like that kid again. 

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



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FRED SCHAFFHAUSER

## Crossbows

### Keeping families hunting together

As the days become shorter and the best of the whitetail deer hunting season approaches, I reflect on how crossbows have changed the dynamics of hunting in Wisconsin. This article focuses on the positive changes ... and there are plenty.

Bowhunting, for most of us, has become a lifetime sport and a way of life best shared with friends and family. Since crossbows have been made legal to use in Wisconsin several years ago, many elderly relatives, children and spouses have been able to share our hunting experiences with us.

Several of our current crossbow customers have bowhunted for years but find as they get older family and work responsibilities have caused bowhunting to take a backseat. Bowhunting demands practice to condition our muscles and hone our skill. If we don't have the time, strength or energy to practice, we can't effectively bowhunt. For example, my dad started bowhunting in the late '50s. He and many who hunted at the time blazed their own path shooting

longbows and recurves. Dad loved hunting with a bow so much he made archery his business, and from 1964 to the late 1980s operated one of the most successful indoor archery pro-shops and ranges in Wisconsin.

As Dad got older he found it difficult to hunt with the high poundage he was used to and shoulder injuries all but stopped him from bowhunting. He even switched from right-handed to left-handed for many seasons so he could still bowhunt. It worked but with diminishing strength he was becoming less lethal. He was not thrilled with the idea of giving up hunting with his bow.

Around age 70 my brothers and I gave Dad a crossbow for Christmas. That was 16 years ago, and if not for that weapon change I'm afraid he would have stopped bowhunting. He took a deer this season at age 86, and I don't believe it will be his last. Using a crossbow has kept my father in the woods doing what he loves. It has allowed his children and grandchildren to share hunting traditions with him.


Successful bowhunting takes dedica-

tion, skill, strength and conditioning. There is no greater rush than taking a deer with bow and arrow. I also take joy in sharing a hunt with my family. Wisconsin law allows youths to hunt with a mentor starting at age 10. In outfitting youths for bowhunting it has been rare when a 10 year-old possesses the strength and skill to bowhunt. Now with a crossbow and the proper training, youths of all ages can have a weapon in their hands to responsibly take game at any strength level. I wish these laws were in effect when my children were younger. They would definitely have been hunting deer sooner.

We tell customers at the shop that every family should own a crossbow because you never know when you will need one. With a crossbow we can get our kids deer hunting earlier. We can introduce our spouse or a friend to hunting without needing them to dedicate many hours to become proficient with a bow. Lastly, a crossbow can save a season for a bowhunter with an injury or condition that would end their season. God forbid!

Al Schaffhauser (86 years old) with his 2016 deer taken in northern Wisconsin.




As a personal choice, I always hunt with a recurve or compound bow. But I'm glad there are more choices to hunt deer in Wisconsin so I can continue to share my love of hunting with my entire family, especially my dad. 

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](http://westtownarchery.com).

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DENNY MURAWSKA

## Betting On Benches

### A great place to sit

When it comes to deer hunting, most of us know the fundamentals. Deer like edge habitat. Forget the deep piney woods. Deer will be moving along boundaries between woods and cornfields, food plots and woods, and edges of thick cover along lighter cover or fields. Some areas can be natural deer funnels, and we seek these as well: holes in fences, narrow strips of woodland connecting a feeding and bedding area, and gullies where they can move covertly.

One overlooked deer magnet that should be sought out is a bench. I can recall vividly one of my first deer hunting excursions after moving out to Colorado right out of college. Old John Hill, my rancher friend gave the "greenhorn" from back east some sound advice.

"Go up on my place along Salt Creek and you will find some benches. Hunt there."

I was ecstatic but a bit perplexed. It occurred to me that this must be one helluva spot if he took the time to build a nice cushy bench up there. Heck, I would be able to sit for hours. I never did find the bench. As I was later to learn, a bench is a flat spot on a hillside. Deer love to hang out in such areas.

I got to thinking about this fact as I was checking out a new hunting area in Trempealeau County. My friend has a narrow property with a high ridge top studded with a couple of nice stands. As he was describing the boundaries of his property, we hiked along some hot trails just below the top of the ridge. There were many more tracks and some nice rubs along here as opposed to the very apex of the ridge. Yes, we were walking along narrow benches. I believe deer will use trails that suit their needs. While I won't say they are lazy, I don't often

*continued on page 15*





*Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing*

**RON STRESING**

## Slugging It Out With Whitetails

### *Proper slug selection assures success*

The 9-point buck cut out the side of the drive and almost got away. I say “almost,” as I was standing 40 yards away and dropped him like a bad habit. That buck was the tenth deer to fall to the winning combination of Federal Premium TruBall slugs and my Winchester pump. When you find a combination of slug and shotgun that gives you reliable accuracy, stick with it.

Wisconsin still has some shotgun-only counties. States like Iowa are shotgun-only statewide. Whether you use a smooth bore or rifled barreled shotgun, it's easy to find a slug that will give you optimum results down range. Trial and error and some range time will pay off with more deer!

**Smooth bore guns:** Millions of deer have been harvested with smooth bore shotguns and Foster-style slugs. The 12-gauge, 1-ounce rifled slug is sort of the American standard load, made by a variety of manufacturers. Every shotgun tends to shoot those slugs to a different point-of-impact. My Winchester shotgun will print Remington Slug-

gers low and left every time. It does better with Winchester slugs and best with the Federal TruBalls. Open chokes tend to work better, but Foster-style slugs will shoot through full-choked guns. The rifling grooves engraved on the sides allow the slug to “crush fit” in the constricted bore.

European-made slugs running 1-ounce to 1 1/8-ounce are full bore diameter and *should not be used* in full chokes. Deer, moose, bear and wild boar are shot with slugs in Europe on a regular basis, as rifles require special permits. Heavier Euro-slugs also tend to drop quicker and produce more recoil.

If your smooth bore barrel lacks rifle sights, don't despair! You can aim by using the bead on the end of the barrel and the back of the receiver as a rear sight. You may have to experiment to find if you need to take a “fine bead” with very little of the bead exposed, or a “coarse bead” with more of it exposed. My son, Adam, figured out how to use the middle bead on his 20-gauge for shooting slugs and made a perfect



*The author with his whitetail.*

60-yard heart shot on a buck on 2014's opening day.

**Rifled barrels and sabot slugs:** Sabot slugs come in a variety of weights and styles. They should *only* be used in guns with rifled barrels. They are extremely accurate but cost about three times the price of Foster-style slugs. The type of rifling and rate-of-twist will determine what brand will give you the best accuracy. Some barrels are better with rounds using a soft plastic sabot, others with hard plastic sabots. Once again, trial and error and lots of range time will help you select the right round for your gun. Most manufactur-

*continued on page 15*





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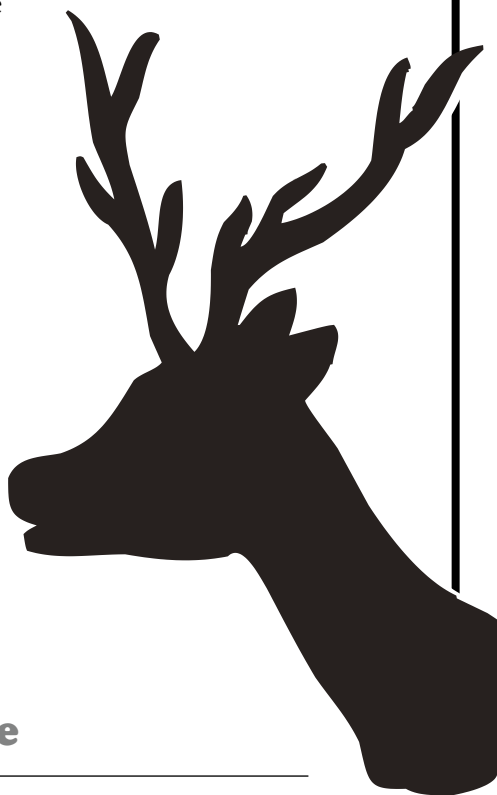
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**SUZETTE CURTIS**

## Recipes By Suzette

### Meatballs

Mmmm ... meatballs! I like making them, my family loves eating them and they are really versatile in cooking. The following recipes are each a little different (especially the cocktail meatballs with apple jelly instead of grape); however, I use the same method to shape the meatballs in each one. Enjoy!

**\*\*Shaping meatballs:** Spread meatball mixture onto a cookie sheet or jelly roll pan and pat down evenly. Using a knife, score the mixture into approximately 2-inch squares. With moist hands, roll each square into a ball.

#### Cocktail Meatballs

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 eggs                  | ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| 1 lb. ground venison    | 1 T. dried parsley           |
| ½ lb. ground pork       | 2 T. olive oil               |
| ½ cup onion, chopped    | 2 cups ketchup               |
| ½ cup plain breadcrumbs | 1 cup apple jelly            |

Crack eggs into large bowl and beat slightly. Add venison, pork, onion, breadcrumbs, cheese and parsley; mix thoroughly. **\*\*Shape meatballs** (see above).

Heat oil over medium high heat in large skillet. Add meatballs and brown evenly on all sides. Remove meatballs and place in slow cooker.

Add ketchup and apple jelly to pan; scrape up browned bits and stir until jelly turns to liquid. Pour sauce over meatballs in slow cooker.

Cook on low for 6 hours.


#### Meatball Soup

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 egg                             | 4 cups beef stock             |
| 1 lb. ground venison              | 1 can diced tomatoes, drained |
| 2 cloves garlic, chopped, divided | ½ tsp. ground cumin           |
| 1/3 cup fresh cilantro, chopped   | ¼ cup green onion, chopped    |
| ¼ tsp. Himalayan Pink salt*       |                               |
| ½ tsp. pepper                     |                               |

Crack egg into large bowl and beat slightly. Add venison, 1 clove garlic, cilantro, salt and pepper; mix thoroughly. **\*\*Shape meatballs** (see above).

Bring beef stock to low boil in a large saucepan. Carefully place meatballs into stock one at a time; return to boil. Add cumin and remaining clove of garlic to pan; reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 25 to 30 minutes.

Sprinkle green onion atop soup when serving.

\*May substitute ½ tsp. regular salt. 

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](mailto:recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com).

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GARY ENGBERG

# Gary Engberg Outdoors

## Wisconsin pheasant season is here!

The Wisconsin pheasant season opened Saturday, October 15 at 9:00 AM in the entire state, but the vast majority of the native or wild birds are concentrated in the southern third of the state. The pheasant season had always opened at 12:00 noon. Wild or native pheasants are getting harder and harder to find unless you know someone with a game farm or who raises them.

Since the 1930s, the State of Wisconsin has raised their pheasants at the Poynette Game Farm in Poynette. Finally, the State of Wisconsin decided to build a new pheasant facility, since more time was being spent painting the building every year and performing other maintenance on the aging structure. In 2015 the Wisconsin DNR decided that it was time to build a new facility to use in raising their pheasants. Construction was finished this year on a new first-class facility where the DNR employees can spend their working hours.

The DNR Game Farm incubates over 3000,000 eggs annually from early April till June. Every year about 250,000 eggs are hatched for stocking with some going to local conservation clubs that raise the day-old chicks (DOC) for release. Hen chicks are also raised and sold to the public.

The old Game Farm Buildings are not going to be used for anything except to show the public the history of the Game Farm in Wisconsin. The new pheasant facility is a modern state-of-the-art building and will allow workers more time in raising and caring for pheasants instead of



*Catfish Stephenson and Gladys, author and Katie with two opening day pheasants.*


wasting man hours in outdated production facilities. The new structure is easy to clean, much more efficient and reliable than the old "Farm." The new buildings all have washable surfaces from floor to ceiling and floor drains. The old buildings' walls were rough and cracked and had to be painted every year. Now, more time can be spent for productivity and not cleaning. The new building will have a better layout with separate rooms for each function: cleaning, holding eggs, incubation and hatching.

The DNR originally raised pheasants for release on public hunting grounds and to bolster the wild pheasant population and to provide quality pheasant hunting opportunities for hunters. But research over time has shown that pen-raised birds do not have the survival instincts to evade predators or hunters long enough to add to the wild pheasant population. The current pheasant stocking efforts are aimed at providing quality pheasant hunting opportunities on public hunting grounds for all hunters. There are areas in the state where there still are wild and native pheasants,



*Pheasant hiding in cover.*

but they are few and far between. Most of these birds are on private lands that do not allow public hunting. You can still find native pheasants in the southern third of the state on private lands, but you have to do some scouting and knock on lots of doors asking permission to hunt.


Every year the DNR does a Rural Mail Carrier Route Survey where 649 carriers in 32 counties counted 439 pheasants from April 19 - 21. The statistics are based on the number of birds seen per 100 miles driven. Pheasant hunting should be about the same as last year with 75,000 birds released in 92 public spots. You must have a small game license and stamp. Opening weekend you may shoot one rooster per day and two per day after the opening weekend until the December 31 closing. Visit [www.dnr.gov](http://www.dnr.gov) for more details. 

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208 or [gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com](mailto:gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com), or visit [garyengbergoutdoors.com](http://garyengbergoutdoors.com).

### MURAWSKA, from page 12

see trails straight up or down a steep hill. Rather, almost like human highways, the trails hug flat areas and go up, down, or straight ahead on a horizontal gradient, with only a slight incline. In essence, a deer funnel!


Of course, I mark these trails with tacks that glow in the dark. When it comes to blood trailing, deer will use these trails just as they do for everyday use. It also helps me if I get lost at night, which is pretty much a given. Despite the massive rains and heat plaguing us in this neck of God's country, I am begin-

ning to get excited about this new spot to hunt this year. We older fellows enjoy high, enclosed wooden blinds with sturdy ladders to climb up and down. The large platform allows for a sweet spot to sit in a comfortable canvas chair with a nifty beverage holder on its arm. I am all into comfort at this juncture in life, and, while the stand is not a park bench, there is a deer bench just below it. 

*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.*

### STRESING, from page 13

ers suggest sighting-in two inches high at 50 yards.


Some slugs have been designed to work in both types of barrels. Good examples of this are the Brenneke M&P slug or K.O. slugs. These were made with plastic base wads to help engage the rifling on a rifled barrel or ride down a smooth bore barrel. 

*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.*

### DAVIS, from page 8

full moon, the hunter's moon, be perfect?

It doesn't take expensive photography equipment, just a little forethought to move a photograph from so-so to spectacular. Review the digital product before moving on.

Hunters spend many hours preparing for a hunt. The least they can do is spend a few more minutes documenting a beautiful animal they have taken. 

*Jerry Davis, a Wisconsin native, retired from university teaching and now lives in Iowa County. He applies arts and sciences to writing and enjoying Wisconsin's outdoors. Contact him at [sivadjam@mhtc.net](mailto:sivadjam@mhtc.net).*



WAYNE MORGENTHALER

# December Is A Good Time To Join The Christmas Bird Count

## Explore the woods and contribute to research

Every year the Christmas bird count is an early-winter census taken between December 14 and January 5. The Christmas bird count is taken every year in the United States, Canada and Western Hemisphere countries. There are over 70,000 observers participating in this event. The first Christmas bird count took place in North Freedom, Wisconsin, by Alexander Wetmore in 1900. On that count, Alex counted 14 species. He went on to a distinguished career in ornithology and became the secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.

Richland County, where I am a field observer, has been recording birds for 49 years, with Bob Hirschy as coordinator. I have been involved for the past nine years and enjoyed every minute of observing and tallying bird sightings. Our team had the territory of the Wisconsin River bottoms from Muscoda to Avoca. Every year seems to have different variables dealing with weather conditions from walking through deep snow, no snow or below-zero temperatures looking for birds.

Last year's count results were very interesting with the sighting of gold eagles once again for the second year in a row. Also, 2015 was the first year trumpeter swans were sighted. There were 54 species and almost 8,000 birds tabulated for the December 2015 count. In 2007 we had over 500 robin sightings in our county due to a mild winter. The




Ringnecked pheasant was one of 54 bird species tabulated in the 2015 count.

number of grouse sighted is usually zero. Not too long ago there were large numbers of grouse in Richland County. This year I will be observing a 200-acre farm that we hope will hold some rare birds. We will be helped by a small group of college students.

As you walk through the swamps and woods, you will see what the animals have been up to. My favorite is seeing the slides that the otters make along the river banks. This is also a good time to work on your tracking skills and try to determine the type of animal and where they are going.

The bird group will start in the evening counting owls. My team will begin at daylight and continue through the day. We will have a clipboard, binoculars and bird identification book, along with a tally sheet of about 70 different bird species. When we spot a bird, which is usually with binoculars, we mark it on our tally sheet. The tally sheets are then totaled and submitted to our event coordinator at the end of the day. This is also a good time to visit with other birders over soup, snacks and hot chocolate.

If you would like to participate, there are a couple of ways to do so. If you have a bird feeder, you can sit in your warm house and run a tabulation. There are rules set up for how to do this count, and when you contact your local bird group, they will inform you of them. The other way to go is to join an outdoors team. A great website that shows all the Wisconsin bird count information is: [einwisconsin.org/resource/about.aspx?s=117305.0.0.2209](http://einwisconsin.org/resource/about.aspx?s=117305.0.0.2209). This bird count program is a long-standing part of the National Audubon Society.

Enjoy the outdoors and help the bird research to continue. 

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

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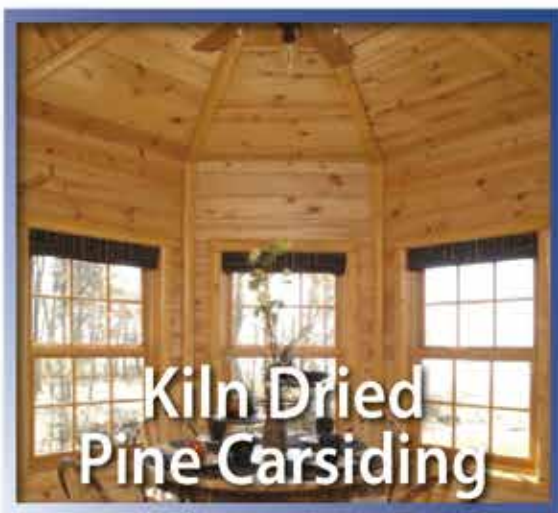


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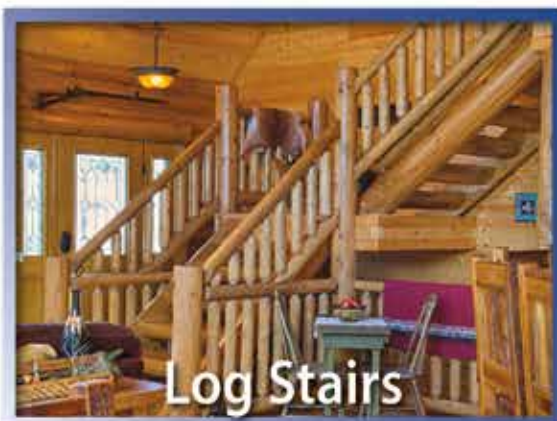
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GARY GREENE

# Memories From An Old Hunter

## Finding the X

As we became better goose hunters, we learned you need to find the X. The X being the location where the geese want to be, in contrast to where you want them to be.

When we started hunting in the Horicon Zone, we were not on the X. We always set out our decoys in the same field and we camped in the same fence row under the same three giant oak trees. The field crops rotated between cut corn, cut wheat, cut soy beans or even standing alfalfa. Some hunts were successful and others were not. Through trial and error, I have also learned that I should retire my goose call because I am among experts and our objective is to attract geese, not repel them.

Our group leader, Jesse, has taken it upon himself to find that X. We always hunt on Sundays, and late Saturday afternoon Jesse will glass the fields for feeding geese. When finding geese, Jesse checks his plat book maps and contacts the owners for permission. With this current system in place, we have had some nearly perfect hunts. Occasionally, our X does not produce geese because of altered weather patterns or an improperly set decoy spread or because the feed has disappeared. At this time, my fellow hunters will check to see if I snuck out my goose call.

Over the years it has become harder to get permission, because previous hunters have not always left the hunting fields as they found them. We always attempt to pick up all

of our spent shells and plastic wads. One farmer claims his cow died after digesting several wads from the field. We always pay the farmers an agreed-upon per hunter amount, but that minimal amount of money sure wouldn't cover the loss of a cow.

Around 11:00 AM one morning during the 2014 early goose hunt period on the lake where I hang my hat, I noticed a flock of a dozen geese landing near a small island of cattails. The next day I decided to investigate if those geese were again present. I found no geese until 11:00 AM, when apparently the same 12 geese flew in from the south and circled west and landed in front of the same cattail island. I remember thinking, "That was kind of neat!" The next two days at 11:00 AM those dozen geese would repeat their route. I called my son, Nate, and told him: "I do believe I have found the X."

The next morning Nate and I hid our canoe on that cattail island. We patiently waited for the witching hour of 11:00 AM to arrive. We didn't put out decoys, we didn't alter the natural habitat and we didn't plan on using goose calls.

The entire morning the skies had been absent of any type of waterfowl. As the time inched toward 11:00, my son gave me that stare, without saying but meaning: "Oh, sure, those geese will come." Then, from the south, we began to hear Canada Geese advancing. We looked at each other and began to grin, and I do believe I heard my ex-Army Ranger



The author's son, Nate Greene, with an early season harvest.

son giggle.

Approaching our lake, the geese circled west and cupped their wings to land in our laps. As they came in head on, we dropped five in the cattails. We definitely were on the X.



Gary Greene is a lifelong bird hunter and for years has been a pheasant hunting guide. He also writes a weekly column for the OWO website. Gary, his veterinarian wife, Chris, and their five labs live in East Troy. You can contact Gary at [ganggreene2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ganggreene2002@yahoo.com).

TOM MUELLER

# Choosing A Retriever Pup Continued

## The second half of the process

In the September/October issue of OWO I wrote about the process of picking a retriever pup. The initial part of the process is more about finding and selecting a breeder. The obvious starting point should be searching for and checking references of breeders. Once you've narrowed your list it's time to start asking questions.

The first questions are ones you should be asking yourself. What kind of dog do I want? This not only refers to the breed of retriever you're interested in, it also refers to the dog's demeanor. Most retrievers that are bred for hunting come out of field trial and hunt test stock. Therefore, they tend to have a lot of energy that has to be dealt with. Some more so than others, especially during the puppy and young dog stages.


The next question you should be asking yourself is, "What kind of dog can I handle?" High energy retrievers are impressive. Everyone admires them. What you have to know is that what makes them impressive is that they have been trained. An untrained pup or young dog can wreak havoc on any home and family. An extremely high energy retriever pup demands time and training right from the beginning.

Other things to consider are lifestyle and home and family environment. Does your lifestyle allow you the time and effort to train and exercise your dog, especially if you are leaning toward one with a lot of drive? Training a retriever, particularly in the beginning, is a daily process. Initially, the time spent is just minutes. As your retriever grows and matures, the time spent for each training session grows to hours. To get to the point where you have your non-slip hunting companion takes hours of training over months and even a year or two depending on which and how many concepts you want it to learn.

The next questions are those which you should be asking the breeder(s). In my previous article I stated that puppies inherit their abilities and demeanor from their parents and grandparents. That being said, you want to ask the breeder about the personalities of the sire and the dam and also about the grand sire and grand dam, if possible. All of the letters before and after a dog's name on its pedigree don't tell the whole story. Things that you want to know include how high energy they are. This is especially important if your answers to your home and lifestyle questions tell you

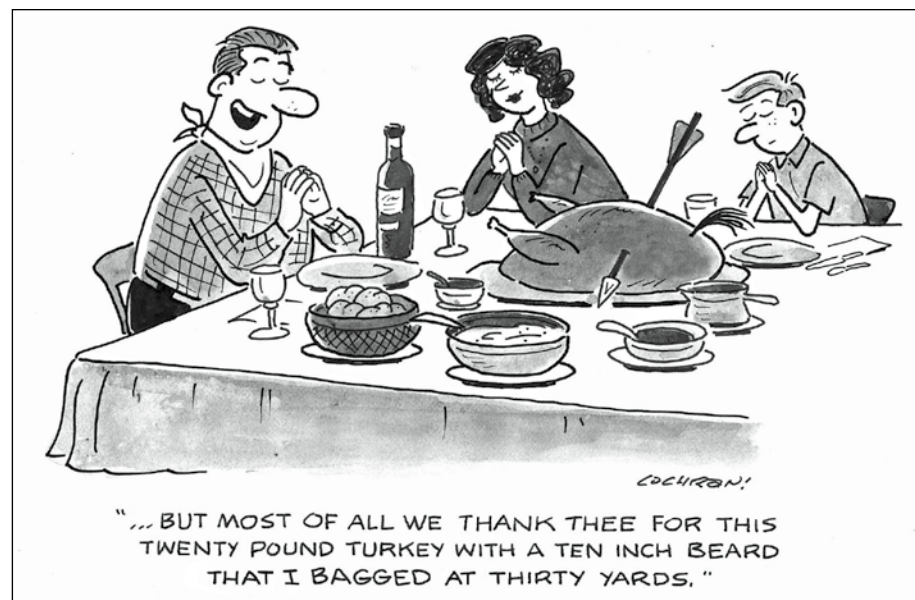
that you should be seeking out a dog with a more low-key personality. You want to find out about how biddable and trainable the parents were. Did they learn training concepts quickly or were they learned over a gradual process? Were they headstrong, stubborn or willful? Were they trained by a pro or with the help of a pro, or were they amateur-trained? What personality quirks did the parent s have? All dogs have them. Oftentimes they're harmless. Once in a while they can affect a dog's training.

Other question you might want to ask include: "What are the dog's faults?" and "What problems did it present during training?" You may have a little difficulty getting straight answers to these questions. Breeders are very proud of their litters and rightly so. They also like and need to sell their pups. If presented in the right manner, you should get a respectful answer.

To be continued.... 

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 questions regarding retriever training contact Tom at [winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com](mailto:winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com).





TOM CARPENTER

## Badger Birds

### Pine siskin

**A**s winter arrives in Wisconsin, so do pine siskins. When seed supplies dwindle and the air turns frigid in their arctic summering grounds, these northern finches often *irrupt* (make a large migratory push) into southern Canada and the continental U.S. on a feeding mission. Siskins will frequently spend the entire winter in Wisconsin.

Pine siskins feed hard ... in tight little flocks packed with high-energy individuals that scurry, flutter and shuttle for position in a weed patch, on a tree or at a feeder. But these nomads are often here today and gone tomorrow.

Pine siskins share the species name *Carduelis* with goldfinches, and the species act similarly, eat the same kinds of seeds and make parallel sounds.

**Look** for a slim, sparrow-sized bird with a streaked belly and yellow patches within the tail and on the wings. Winter goldfinches are a solid olive color; siskins are mot-


tled. That's one way to tell the two apart; another is the goldfinch's dark winter cap.

**Note** the pine siskin's forked tail and its slender, pointed beak. These traits help you identify a siskin from any species of sparrow.

**Listen** for the pine siskin's three-note *chew-chew-chew* song and the birds' rattling *bzzzzt* calls as a group feeds.

**Watch** pine siskins fly in their roller-coaster flight pattern that is designed to confuse predators.

**Attract** acrobatic pine siskins with niger thistle seed in tube feeders or feeder sacks. Hulled sunflower is a second favorite seed.

**Did you know** that the pine siskin's name is no coincidence? The bird loves pines and other conifers for seeds to eat and as places to nest. 

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



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**AN 'UP NORT' REPORT** BY DAN MOERICKE

**DAN MOERICKE**

## An 'Up Nort' Report *Enough already!*

**G**od Bless America! What a country! A place where anybody can still invent anything and make a buck on it. American ingenuity is alive and well. That said, it seems that technology (like the current presidential election) has gotten a little out of hand, and I'd just like to say: *enough already!*

Fifty years ago we were awed at the creation of the "fish finder," flasher units that would magically show us the depth of the water and not much else. Today, locators with more computing power than NASA had during the first moon landing reveal detailed images of *everything* under and even around the boat. And, of course, with GPS navigation, secret spots can be revisited (or even shared!) with precision ... a far cry from the old days of lining up shoreline landmarks just hoping to get in the general vicinity.

On the open water, we've got self-deploying, remote-controlled trolling motors, electric anchors and Power Poles. GPS dictates where to fish and the route you'll take to get

there. Computer chips store detailed lake maps for thousands of lakes showing underwater contours and coordinates for "hot spots."

On the ice, tip-ups can be equipped with wireless transmitters to alert us via smartphone of a bite. Heck, some will even set the hook for you. (Have we lost our ability to pay attention? And isn't setting the hook half the fun?) I've seen ice "shacks" that cost more than my car and have swankier gadgets.

In the woods, trail cameras are *everywhere*. Television hunting show hosts have even fabricated a whole new vocabulary around them. Photos/videos allow them to "inventory *their* deer herd," name and rough score *their* "shooter bucks," and compile a hit list for the coming season. Makes me puke. There are even trail cameras that will automatically transmit photos to a cell phone so one doesn't have to actually set foot in the woods anymore.

One TV show that I've seen features rifles capable of ac-

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curately shooting 1,000 yards or more. While impressive, if the closest I can get is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from my quarry, what does that say about *me* as a *hunter*? Is it even hunting or is it just shooting?

On the archery scene, in the last five decades we've gone from stick bows to recurve bows to compound bows to crossbows. Nope, you don't have to be able to shoot a bow

*continued on page 22*

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**KYLER CHELMINIAC**

## Is Tournament Bass Fishing A “Sport”?

*The age-long question answered through research*

What actually makes a sport a sport? SportAccord, an organization of both Olympic and non-Olympic international sports, has clarified whether a federation can be deemed a sport or not. This definition emphasizes on having an element of competition, an absence of reliance of luck, and the harming to living creatures as being the most important aspects. Can tournament bass fishing fit these standards? Let us investigate....

Well, how can you be competitive at fishing? Isn't it all luck? Absolutely not. Bass are one of the few species of freshwater fish that are able to be seasonally and conditionally patterned, which means that anglers can study and learn about their tendencies to predict their activity. They follow a timely schedule, and the anglers that understand their patterns perform better in competitions.

Anglers can also eliminate the “luck” factor by figuring out how bass adapt to changes in the environment. Because bass are coldblooded, even the slightest changes in climate affect their attitude and mood. Cloud cover, barometric pressure, presence of wind, sun intensity, temperature fronts, boat traffic, forage type, bottom composition, shoreline habitat, water clarity, along with many other natural features all affect where, when and why bass are. As explained by three-time FLW Angler of the Year, professional fisherman David Dudley, “I should be able to write a one-page report for every bite I get.” Bass can challenge an angler to continue to learn and follow not only their natural changes but their behavior as well, which demonstrates why there



*Edwin Evers proudly presents his 2016 Bassmaster Classic trophy to a crowd of tens of thousands of fans on the stage of the BOK Center in Tulsa, OK.*

will always be competition to catch them.

SportAccord also declares that in a sport the activity cannot be harmful to any living creature. When most people think of fishing, they immediately imagine a hook set driving a sharp wire into the fish and having him flip and flop around to try to escape. Some may also think that bass anglers keep and kill their catch. And those people tend to believe that the fish and their population are being seriously hurt. However, scientists from Germany, Europe and the USA have disproved the existence of the “pain feeling” neocortex in bass. An article titled, “Do Fish Feel Pain?” from Canadian Angling states, “Mammals have nerve fibres and

can experience pain; however, boney fish do not have these fibers. Now, they do have simplified nociceptors and do show some reactions to injuries, but is it perceived as pain? We think not. We have seen many fish with multiple hooks in their mouths and they continue to react as if they weren't even there.”

Regardless of any argument, it is not the anglers' intention to hurt the fish. When anglers catch a fish in competition, they immediately place it into an oxygenated and electrically-run live-well and add a chemical additive like “Rejuvenade” to revitalize and replenish bass's energy to increase their survival rate. Then, after competition hours and following the weigh-in, the fish caught are immediately released back into the lake safely to keep them alive and preserve the health of that fishery. Tournament bass anglers are not barbaric; they care deeply about conservation of our resources. And if fish do get hurt in the process, it is unintentional, just as injuries in any other sport, be it football or sports alike.

As a result, it is appropriate to recognize tournament bass fishing as a sport because of how it meets SportAccord's credentials. So the next time we see any tournaments come to our town or air on TV, we now have the knowledge to argue that tournament bass fishing is a sport.

*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.*

**JERRY KIESOW**

## Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

*Why do we need more than one rod?*

To ask that question another way, do we really need more than one rod?

The answer: If you are a sometime fly-fisherman, fishing for panfish, bass, and/or trout, you don't. A 5- or 6-weight rod is all that's required. But if you are passionate about the sport of fly fishing, as I am, then you never have enough rods.

I have two fiberglass rods in my truck at all times, a 6-weight and a 9-weight. I had one 7-weight glass rod refurbished but have not used it. (It was my father-in-law's.) I

have two bamboo rods, one 9-weight and one 7-weight. The nine was my first-ever fly rod, and the seven was given to me. I have another 6-weight glass rod, like the one in the truck, that needs to be redone and two graphite rods, a 3-weight and an 8-weight, which are my go-to rods. That makes eight. Of those, only three are not used throughout the year. (I do not have a reel for each rod. I interchange them.)

Why do I have so many rods? Mainly because I have acquired them over the years.

Some I bought, but many I got from other people. Also, I need different weight rods because I fish for different species of fish, so I need the rods in order to cast the different sized flies on different leaders. Yes, the size of the flies and weight (X) of the leaders do make a difference. (I will discuss leaders at another time.)

The bigger the fly the more air resistance it has and the heavier the rod, with more backbone (flex), must be to cast the fly so you can present it properly. Of course, the

size fish you are hoping to land makes a difference as well.

Let's look at the flies.

I cannot cast a popper tied on a #2 hook properly on my 3-weight rod. I need at least a 6-weight or larger. I have some streamers that are six inches long. They require an 8- or 9-weight to cast properly.

I use my 8-weight graphite or 9-weight bamboo for salmon and steelhead not because of the size of the flies, but rather



*continued on page 24*



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PHIL SCHWEIK

## Small In Fall

### Downsizing for late fall muskies

As we get into the fall musky season, many anglers are throwing large lures and running super-sized suckers under big bobbers to catch fish. Year after year the guidelines have been set and those rules have been laid out in black and white. But not in my book!

As we transition from summer to fall fishing, you may see me change up the size of both live bait and artificial presentation. But as the season heads into late fall fishing and the water temperatures really start to drop, expect the exact opposite. Instead of continuing with tradition and going with the “bigger is better” theory, I go against the grain and downsize to some of the smallest baits of the year. My tackle box consists of a couple of 1/8- and 1/4-ounce lead head jigs and an extra spool of 10-pound test monofilament. That is it!

My theory on late fall fishing is simple. As the water temperatures begin to drop from the 60-degree range down to the 40s, muskies start to become really active and put on the fall feedbag. Once the water temperature falls below 40 degrees things really

start to change, and when temperatures are in the 30s, muskies become dormant and won't move much. Certainly, they don't want to chase moving bait, and only seldom will they make a move on a live sucker.

At this time of the year, I tie up a small 1/8- or 1/4-ounce lead-head jig tipped with a 4- or 5-inch sucker minnow, presented with 10-pound test monofilament on a medium action spinning rod and reel setup. Slowly work an area by vertically jigging and precisely dropping the presentation right in their face. Target deeper pools in a river system (slower moving current areas like inside turns and eddies on a river system) and break lines on reservoirs and lakes. I look for water depths of at least 10 feet deep and at times will target areas up and over 30 feet deep as long as it has the components that I am looking for.


This slow, tantalizing presentation offered right in the face of a lethargic musky is more than they can take. The meal is just too easy to pass up. Without exerting any energy at all, the musky will grab your presentation and suck it down. Once you



Jennifer with a 49-inch river musky.

feel the strike, all you need is a quick solid hookset and nine of 10 times the jig is perfectly buried tight in the corner of their mouth! Fish on! One change to note: instead of the arm-wrenching strike that we are accustomed to when fishing musky under normal conditions, you may only feel a light “pick” similar to that of a walleye pick-up, or you may simply feel added weight as the musky sucks in your bait.

If you're interested in late fall musky fishing but don't favor throwing large lures, give

this method a try. You may end up catching the largest musky of your life! But you will be pleasantly surprised. 

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.


MOERICKE, from page 20

anymore to bow hunt. The final straw came last week when I saw an ad for something called an “Airbow,” an air gun that uses 3,000 p.s.i. of compressed air to fire arrows at 450 feet per second. The ad proclaimed the introduction of “a new era of hunting, via a whole new category of weapon that is safer than a crossbow, easier than a compound bow,

and just as easy to use as an air rifle.” Really?

The way things are going, eventually we won't leave our homes. I'll aim and fire my pneumatic bow using a cell phone app while watching my food plot via satellite feed from a fleet of drones. Our fishing will also be done using remote controlled boats, motors, anchors, and self-winding reels. Rain gear sales will plummet since nobody will actual-

ly have to venture outdoors during inclement weather.

Please excuse my rant, but I really think that technology just needs to hit the pause button before it takes the sport out of outdoor sports. Enough already! 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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TOM LUBA

## Making The No. 1 Big Bass Bait

### *An offseason project you can do yourself*

**M**ention spring bass fishing and my thoughts automatically turn to jigs. A silicone-skirted weedless bass jig is the Number One cold water bait for big largemouth bass.

There are a lot of commercial jigs on the market. But the nice thing about jigs is that you can make them yourself, without much trouble. That gives you the option of testing out these baits. If you find you really like them, then you can zero in on the commercial versions that best suit your needs.

Jig making is definitely much easier today. No more dealing with strands of living rubber that need to be separated, or wire that we used to employ to affix the skirt to the jig. Nowadays, most skirts are made from silicone. You can buy them finished. Or buy rubber skirt collars and pre-slit silicone material to make them yourself.

For starters, all you really need are just weedless jig heads and skirts. A good tackle shop may have materials. Otherwise, look

online. A site like LurePartsOnline.com can provide what you need, as can a number of other sites.

I recommend going with Weedless Bass Jigs, which have the eye coming out the front of the head so it comes through the weeds without hanging up. Weeds are a mainstay in virtually all Wisconsin waters.

Since spring is more shallow water fishing focused around the spawn, ¼-, 3/8-, and ½-ounce heads should cover deeper staging areas and the skinny water. Skirts can be bought already made, so all you have to do is slide it on the head.

A combo of black heads with blue/black skirts will work pretty much anywhere. For secondary colors, I'd go with green pumpkin head and skirt in watermelon seed with a watermelon baitfish-colored skirt. The greens work well in clearer waters.

I mold my own jigs and insist on complicating my life by having about 50 different skirt colors available. Make it easy on your-

self by starting with the basics.

When the water temperature rises to above 50 degrees in spring, the fish will be moving. They'll spawn at about 62 - 65 degrees.

I used to use Uncle Josh number 11 pork frogs for all my cold water fishing, as the pork was supple, felt alive and held scent. Unfortunately, Uncle Josh has ceased making pork products and should be out of that game by the end of 2016. Pigs always added bulk to the jig presentation, which made it appealing to the big girls. I still have a bunch of pork frogs and will continue to use them until they're gone.


Berkely's Power Bait three- and four-inch Chigger Craws work year round as trailers. Large chunks like the NetBait Paca Craw Senior are also an option.

You can do other things to your basic jig, like find some dollar store glitter fingernail polish to give the heads a little sparkle and pizzazz. And you can get rattles and holders



**Black and blue is a universal jig color combination that works in most of Wisconsin's waters.**

to slip over the hook if you want to give the jig a bit of sound. Sometimes it helps.

If after setting the hook on a few good fish you find that you want to get more into head sizes, types and color patterns, and visions of jig molds start creeping into the corner of your mind, don't worry. Making jigs might seem addictive, but there are good therapists everywhere. I talk to them ... as long as they don't try to make me get rid of my 50 skirt colors. 

*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.*

JOHN LUTHENS

## One Of Those Places

### *Twin Gables provides a welcoming haven for northwest Wisconsin travelers*

**S**helters grow naturally along the reaches of the outdoor trail: a whispering pine above a mighty river where fishermen meet at sunset or, perhaps, an overgrown trail and the crunching shadows of a towering oak for wandering hunters to share a story and a sandwich. Landmarks of fellowship beckon travelers to sit a spell and ponder why the rest of the world wants to move so fast.

Tucked along the northern Wisconsin corridor of Highway 2 in Douglas County in the crossroads village of Brule, the comfortable inn of the Twin Gables is one of those places. While not a natural landmark, it has stood the test of time as long as a towering tree. Rising from the mists of the cutover forests, it was built with reclaimed material from an abandoned lumber company building in the early 1920s. For nearly a century since, the Twin Gables has built itself into the land with the steady-ringed growth of a red pine seedling.

In the same way that ancient pines lean over the historic Brule River to whisper the lay of the land, the paneled walls of the Twin Gables speak of northern life. Black and white photographs of the past sit side by side with colorful local crafts and paintings. A giant chalkboard menu fills one wall and calls out the special foods and daily news, and a mounted brown trout stares from above an entryway in an endless watch for brethren of the river.

Corner booths become a murmuring shelter for fishermen to tell of lurking shadows. Hunters dust in from the morning trails for breakfast, sliding tables into the center and resting their cases in the corner. Church-goers in their Sunday best eat chicken dinners side by side with orange-jacketed deer hunters who have not had time for a proper shave since the season started.

Seven generations of proprietors have come and gone beneath the gables, taking watch of the rivers and trails and

keeping the fire burning to beckon the traveler. Sheri and Larry Hendrickson are the current keepers of the flame.

Larry is a methodical carpenter by trade. He sets the windows trim and neat for summer travelers, not to mention air-tight and cozy for the hearty breed of snowmobilers, cross-county skiers and winter hunters who brave the snowstorms rolling off nearby Lake Superior.

Sheri, meanwhile, is a bundle of pure energy, jumping between kitchen and dining room, stopping constantly at the tables to chat, all the while laughing and bantering with one of the heartiest staffs in the north woods. Somewhere in the bustle she finds time to bake enough pies and cakes to feed an entire logging camp.

As is true with any gathering rendezvous, it is the people who bring the true meaning and color to the place. The Hendricksons have lived in the wooded reaches of Douglas

*continued on page 24*





## Presents... — FISHING GUIDES — Dan Diedrich & Clay Heller



MIKE YURK

### Bassology

## The blades of November

November and early December is a great time to be fishing Wisconsin's rivers for walleyes and sauger. Unlike the spring, fall fishermen do not have to contend with high water and strong currents, as water conditions remain fairly consistent.

Fall fishermen will have to deal with cold weather, which gets colder as the season goes on, and there will always be the occasional snowstorm and ice. But it is the last open water fishing with the chance to catch a few meals of tasty walleye and sauger fillets.

I fish the Mississippi River because it is close to my home in northwestern Wisconsin; however, late season fishing for walleyes and sauger can be found in any number of other rivers in our state. The Fox and Wolf Rivers as well as the Wisconsin River all have great late fall walleye and sauger fishing.

#### Blade Spoons For Fall Fishing

One of my favorite fall baits for river walleye and sauger fishing are blade spoons.

Although blade spoons will work in both spring and fall, to me they are most productive in the late season. Walleyes and sauger start feeding aggressively as the cold weather of fall sets in, packing on weight to get them through the lethargic months of winter. Because of that walleyes and sauger have a greater tendency to attack a rapidly-moving bait like blade spoons.

There are a number of blade spoons on the market such as the Heddon Sonar, the Cicada by Reef Runner and a wide variety of different designs by Worden's Baits. In addition, there are numerous smaller bait makers who offer blade spoons. They all work well.

When fishing the often stained waters found in rivers, color does seem to make a difference. My top three choices are firetiger, gold, and orange. It has been my experience that on any given day one of those colors will catch fish.

#### Size Does Matter

Weight of blade spoons also makes a huge difference. Although fall fishermen on rivers

do not have to deal with the great fluctuations in water levels and currents found in spring, fishing river currents in the fall can offer some challenges. The selection of what bait sizes and weights to use will also depend on whether you are anchored or drifting.

I normally carry a variety of sizes ranging from 3/8-ounce to 1/2- to 3/4-ounce. If you are drifting with the current, you can use a lighter blade spoon since the boat is going the same speed as the current. In those cases I can use a 3/8- or 1/2-ounce and keep it bouncing off the bottom.


If the boat is anchored, the current is going along at its normal speed while you are not moving. It then takes a heavier bait to get to the bottom and stay there. That is when I use 1/2- to 3/4-ounce blade spoons.

Fishing a blade spoon is easy. Drop the bait to the bottom and bring your rod tip up rapidly about two feet, letting it fall back to the bottom again. Some fishermen refer to it as ripping a bait. Most fish will hit the bait as it is coming up. Since you are bringing

*The blade spoon is an ideal bait for late season walleye and sauger fishing on Wisconsin's rivers.*



the bait up anyway it is easy to set the hook. Sometimes fish will hit the bait as it is dropping. Watch the line and if it jumps, set the hook. It is tougher to get a good hook set in that situation, but it can be done.


Blade spoons deserve a special spot in any late season fisherman's tackle box. They are simple to use and highly effective on river walleyes and saugers. 

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

#### LUTHENS, from page 23

County nearly all their lives, growing to understand that friendship and trust are more important than mere walls.

"Our staff makes this place what it is," says Sheri. "Everyone pitches in, and if anyone has a new idea, we all sit down and try to make it work together. We grow in this area by understanding what it means to laugh and cry together. It's a special atmosphere."

So if it should happen that your trail leads into the reaches of northwest Wisconsin, if you find yourself crossing the mighty River Brule in your travels, and if you happen to develop a hunger and are longing for a smile and want to hear a story, remember, the Twin Gables is one of those places. 

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



*Sheri Hendrickson and Jessi Lydon stand ready to greet travelers into the smiling confines of the Twin Gables.*

#### KIESOW, from page 21

er because of the size and strength of the fish. I lost a big steelhead on my 6-weight because it did not have a strong enough backbone. I could not bring the fish to net; on the fourth run, it just ran.

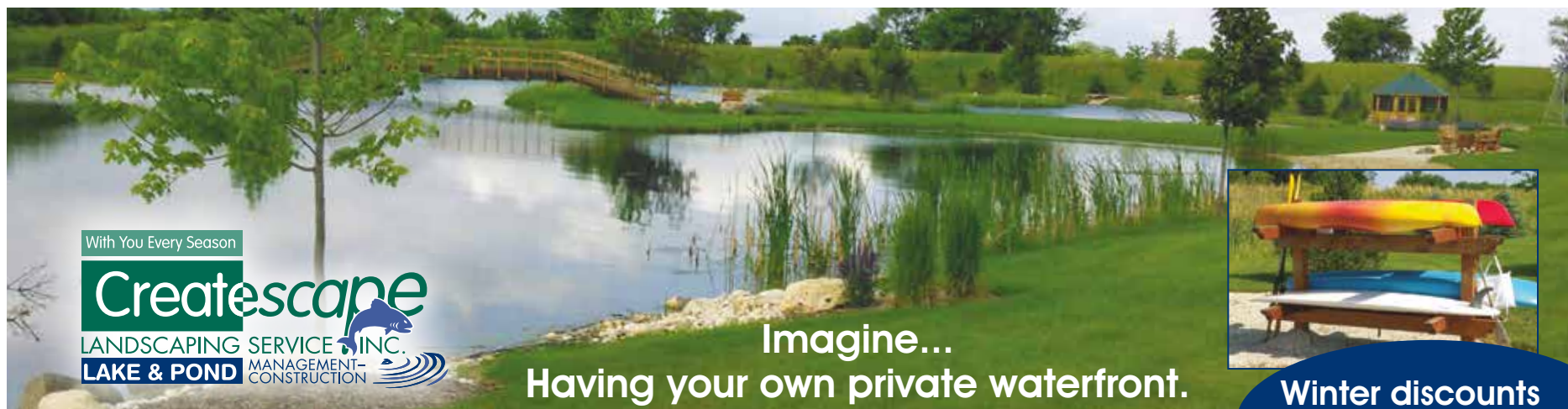
Most of the summer I fish with my 3-weight because I have reached a point in my fly fishing life where I want to see how big a fish I can land on that rod. So far the biggest I have landed is a 20-inch smallmouth that took some doing and a 24-inch carp. When the suckers are in, I use the 3-weight. One of these days I will hook into a steelhead. I wonder if I will be able to land that fish? I doubt it, but it will be fun trying.

Depending on where you are in your fly fishing life, remember: a new rod always makes a nice Christmas gift.

See you in the river. Keep a good thought! 

*We know Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors (not only fly fishing). 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, [jerrkiesowoc.com](http://jerrkiesowoc.com). The books make great Christmas gifts.*





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DAVE DUWE

# Fishing First Ice

## Bluegills in the shallows

Shortly after the yearly ritual of Wisconsin's whitetail deer season is complete, the next "season" is upon us. That season is the first ice for ice fishing. As a rule, the first ice is the most productive time to catch the fish in the shallows.

My favorite quarry is the feisty bluegill. In most lakes they will be in the shallow weeds, likely 4 - 8 feet of water. The shallow water has everything a bluegill requires: food and cover from its predators. The best shallow weeds will have pockets in them with hard bottom, such as sand or stone. I like the pockets in the weeds because it sets up ambush points for the actively feeding bluegills. When I get to a prime area I intend to fish, I drill anywhere from 10 to 15 holes to move to and from. This is called "hole hopping."

Being first ice, the thickness of the ice doesn't warrant using a power auger, so I will use a 4- or 5- inch hand auger. In the lakes where I fish in southeastern Wisconsin there are a lot of people fishing, so I won't spread the holes too far apart. I tend to fish a hole three to five minutes and if nothing

happens, I move to the next hole.

It seems that fish will bite consistently the first time the bait goes down the hole if they are present. While fishing those holes for the first time around, I carry my Vexilar FL-12 to check out what the hole is like under the ice. By doing this I can eliminate holes that are unfishable due to weeds extending to the surface. Shallower waters will freeze first, so choose lakes with a lot of shallow water. My favorite bluegill hot spot in southeastern Wisconsin is Monona Bay in Madison or Delavan Lake.

I like to use a long pole about 42 to 48 inches. The beauty of the longer pole is that you never have to bend down or sit while fishing. This makes moving from hole to hole easier. The poles are spooled with 1/2- to 1-pound tests. The lightest line you can get away with the better. When using light line, practice caution while lifting the fish out of the water; you don't want to break your line on a nice one. I use a quality spring bobber on the tip of the pole for the bite indicator. The resistance of a bobber going under



Dave Duwe with an early ice bluegill.




Jeff Wolters with a nice Delavan Lake bluegill.

when a fish is biting will reduce the hooking success rate. Bluegills will feel the slight resistance and let go of the bait. They are notorious light biters, so you need to watch your line. Any movement could be a strike.

My preferred bait is a small number 12 or 14 teardrop ice jig or the Lindy Toad in chartreuse. I tip the jig with one waxworm or two spikes. I believe you have better success with smaller profile bait. Fish can be positioned throughout the water column. I start three or four inches off the bottom and

work it upwards to at least two feet from the bottom.

The most important factor on fishing first ice is safety. Always be aware of the thickness of the ice and never venture out alone. When in doubt, stay off the ice. 

Captain 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](http://fishlakegeneva.com) or [fishdelavanlake.com](http://fishdelavanlake.com) or contact him at 262.728.8063.

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3/8" DRILL/DRIVER AND  
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**WOW SUPER COUPON**  
**60 LED SOLAR  
SECURITY LIGHT**

(Bunker Hill Security)  
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**US\*GENERAL PRO  
30", 5 DRAWER  
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DICK HENSKÉ

# Canada Fishing Is Still The Best!

## Voyage to Sturgeon Lake

The over-the-hill gang has been fishing Ontario for over 50 years. We've added some new members—replacements for those now fishing upstairs. Our group has done it all: fly-ins, drive-ins and boat-ins. The last eight years we have driven in because the guys have found great resorts with outstanding walleye fishing at reasonable prices.

We try to keep our travel distance to nine hours from northern Wisconsin. We cross the border at Pigeon Forge, an easy, low volume entry. We fish north of Ignace, often on lakes connected to the English River, which eventually dumps into Lac Seul. Our English River trip in June cost less than \$700 each for cabin, boat, motor, gas, license, bait, and food.

In August four of us went to Sturgeon Lake Lodge, located 40 miles north of Ignace on Sturgeon Lake. The resort is owned by Margaret Chambers and her family. We had a great cabin on the water, which cost \$250 a week, plus boat and motor rental. We trailered a boat and also had a rig from Margaret, which was part of my bear/fishing package. The boat we brought stayed on Sturgeon Lake and the two guys caught walleyes, northern and a few lake trout. My other friend and I took Margaret's boat to smaller lakes that were loaded with walleyes. One big lake right off the highway was terrific. We found a bar in the middle of the lake using my portable locator. The 20-foot hump was loaded with walleyes 18 - 22 inches. You can only keep one walleye over 18 inches per person, but the next spot we fished held eating size, 15 to 18 inches. We had four fish licenses, so we ate well.

I bear hunted for a couple of hours for five nights but never saw a bear. This is my third trip to this lodge, and I have shot bears in the past. My grandson shot a nice 350-pounder last year. The bears this year hit every day but at all different hours. A young hunter on his honeymoon came in on Thursday and shot a 228-pound cinnamon bear, which went to a taxidermist. I would still rather fish than sit all day waiting for a bear.


Margaret and her dad, Jim, will do everything in their power to make your stay comfortable, and they will put you on fish. Super people! I have cleaned up lots of fish

and bears in their fish-cleaning house. See their website, [sturgeonlakelodge.com](http://sturgeonlakelodge.com), to get details and prices. They are right off a black-top, road-easy access.

### Some suggestions that may be of help to you:

- Take along an extra fish locator.
- Buy your license and fishing card ahead of time, online.
- Passports are a must. You will NOT cross the border if you have a DWI or other legal restraints.
- You do not need to exchange Canadian money. They want our U.S. dollars, but if you are buying anything, charge it!
- You'll pay G.S.T. (gift and service tax) of 14%.
- Gas up your vehicle along with extra gas for boat use before you enter Canada. You'll save big dollars! We bring lots of gas cans.
- Alcohol use is restricted to one quart or one 24-case of beer per person.
- Do not over-bag on fish. Fines are huge. Prepare fish going home so the warden can tell size and species. Read the rules. Do not cheat!
- Bring all sizes of jigs.
- Night crawlers must be packed in special bedding. No U.S. dirt when you order them in the states.
- No live minnows are allowed. Salt them with canning salt, then freeze for the trip.
- Use the Internet and friends to find productive lakes.
- Don't speed! It is Canada!
- Tip your resort owners!
- Dress for the weather.
- Make sure the resort has a phone in case of emergencies.

Enjoy your search for a great fishing trip. The area we fish in is not musky waters but has great walleye, northern and trout with a few smallmouth and perch areas.

Life's a game. Fishing and hunting are serious. 

Dick Henske is a retired Wisconsin elementary school principal who hunts and fishes Wisconsin, the western states and Canada. He winters in St. George Island, Florida, where he pursues many species of ocean fish.

TYLER FLORCZAK

# Sustaining A Strong Fishery One Walleye At A Time

## Walleyes for Chetek aids lakes with stocked fish

With 15,074 documented lakes in Wisconsin, sustaining healthy fish populations in a particular lake or body of water is vital for a number of reasons. Not only does it ensure future fishing opportunities, it also keeps anglers coming back and the tourism economy booming.

A small organization located in Barron County known as Walleyes for Chetek continues to take initiative by increasing the walleye population in the Chetek Chain of Lakes through a self-created stocking program. Walleyes for Chetek stocked 10,000 juvenile walleye (6 - 12 inches) into Chetek's six-lake chain in late September—the most fish stocked in one year by the organization to date. The organization has released more than 75,000 walleye at a cost of approximately \$135,000 over the past 14 years.

The extended-growth walleyes are hatched, raised and delivered to Chetek by Gollon Bait & Fish Farm of Dodgeville. Owner Tim Gollon noted that by stocking walleye in the 6- to 12-inch range, the survival rate is close to 80 percent.

A staggering 87,000 walleyes or more have been stocked in the Chetek Chain of Lakes—73,000 walleye released by the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources through the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative Program (37,630 in 2013) and 34,959 in 2015—since September 2013.

The four members of the Walleyes for Chetek organization have always been and continue to be dedicated anglers but opted to find a way to help increase the walleye population and give back to the lakes they all grew up fishing.

“Our town relies heavily on tourism, so having a healthy fishery is an essential part of Chetek. Our lakes draw many people to the area, and it seems like the fishing is only getting better each year. Why not protect our fishery and continue to increase the walleye population? We are extremely appreciative for all of the donations and community support we receive each year to make the stocking possible,” said Ryan Gonzales, one of the four Walleyes for Chetek members and manager at the local Rod & Gun Sport Shop in Chetek.

“Walleyes for Chetek is definitely starting to pay off. According to my own experiences and talking with other anglers, the walleye population has drastically improved and fishermen are catching more walleyes! With continued support from the commu-

*continued on page 38*







A country is only as good, or bad, as its individual citizens at any point in time;  
what they believe and how they live.

What kind of country the United States is right now, begins with and depends on you;  
what you believe and how you live.

Fundamental to this is truth.

Do you look for it?

When you see it do you acknowledge it, or deny it?

What is this a picture of?



DICK ELLIS

# Enemies Within

## Corrupt government, corrupt media threaten America

This editorial is solely the opinion of the OWO Publisher and in no way reflects the views of any advertiser or contributor working with On Wisconsin Outdoors.

The marriage of a corrupt government with a corrupt media means the most dangerous enemy the American people have ever faced is at the door.

Should we be surprised? According to the Center for Public Integrity, professional journalists originally born to protect our nation from a tyrannical and corrupt government donated \$382,000 to the Clinton campaign, or 94 percent of total donations, with \$14,000 designated to Donald Trump. That 27-to-1 disparity mirrors the print space and airtime ratio the media devotes to alleged Trump inappropriate conduct toward women .... and an open but seldom covered pipeline of governmental misconduct.

Because you won't read it in the New York Times or hear former Bill Clinton Communication Director George Stephanopoulos ponder it in his established role as ABC News anchor, web-search "Clinton WikiLeaks," "Administration bribes FBI," "DOJ scandals," "IRS targets conservatives," "Vets care poor, delayed at VA," "Obamacare on brink of collapse," "Whitehouse intimidates Chief Justice John Roberts in Obamacare ruling," "E-mails bleached, 30,000 missing," "100 agents outraged at FBI decision to not charge Clinton with felony," "Clinton campaign and media collusion," "Clinton argues for common market, open borders," "Clinton spokesman mocks Catholics and evangelicals as severely backwards," or Hillary's War Room assault on women Bill assaulted." And now you've scratched the surface of news not reported.

No worries, though. The same networks that bring your 10 year-old son the filthiest assaults on women 24/7, in full color yet, stand ready to bring you the "Donald Gropes Marathon." There is, after all, a queen to coronate.

Instead of relying on a selectively blind watchdog stuck on one issue, vote on just one issue yourself November 8. The United States, the Constitution and your freedoms guaranteed by it will live or forever perish with the presidential nominations of three to five lifetime appointments to the Supreme Court.

Trump recently released a highly praised and expanded list of 21 candidates from which he will nominate to the Supreme Court. Each was selected, first and foremost, based on constitutional principles, with input from respected conservative leaders. Clinton's list remains as lost as an e-mail ... or 30,000.

"We have a very clear choice in this election," Trump said. "The freedoms we cherish and the constitutional values and principles our country was founded on are in jeopardy. The responsibility is greater than ever to protect and uphold these freedoms, and I will appoint justices, who, like Justice Scalia will protect our liberty with the highest regard for the Constitution. This list is definitive and I will choose only from it in picking future Justices of the United States Supreme Court. I would like to thank the Federalist Society, The Heritage Foundation and many other individuals who helped in composing this list of twenty-one highly respected people who are the kind of scholars that we need to preserve the very core of our country and make it greater than ever before."

But your presidential choice goes so much deeper than the Supreme Court, which hears fewer than 100 cases a year. The 13 federal courts of appeals handle 35,000 cases. More than one-third of the 179 judges on federal appeals courts were appointed quietly by Obama, who also successfully appointed 268 judges to the U.S. District

Courts, which are the lower federal courts.

"It's hands-down the most fateful issue of the election," said Texas State Supreme Court Justice Don Willett, who is on Trump's short list. "When Americans vote in November, they're choosing not just a president but thousands of presidential appointees, including hundreds of life-tenured judges."

Obama's promise to fundamentally transform the United States of America by reshaping the federal judiciary has been comprehensive, dramatic and under the radar. When Obama entered the Oval Office, liberal judges controlled just one of the 13 circuits of the U.S. Court of Appeals. Fifty-five successful presidential nominations later, liberal majorities now control nine of those appeals benches, or 70 percent. And the transformation will continue with Clinton.

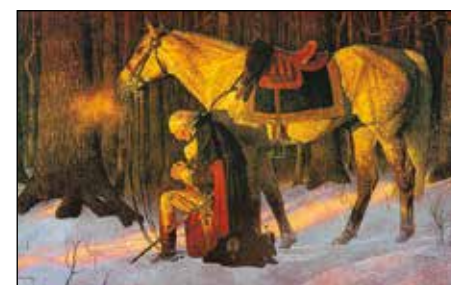
Knowing that we can remove Trump in four years if warranted, but an obese and tyrannical government lead by the radical courts appointed for life will still be our great-grandchildren's enemy, the real question for the American voter is, why not stop Clinton now with the ballot? Our country depends on it.

### When Our Country Hangs in the Balance....

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible." —George Washington

Arnold Friberg painted "The Prayer at Valley Forge" to celebrate our country's bicentennial in 1976. His now famous painting has been an important part of American history, reminding us of the days our country hung in the balance.

It was during the cold, long winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge that General Washington sought God's help, in the woods,



alone and on his knees, a story well documented in the historical records. Isaac Potts, 26 years old, was a resident of Valley Forge and a Quaker opposed to the war. He supervised the grinding of the grain that Washington ordered the neighboring farmers to bring to his army and came upon the scene never to be forgotten.

"I tied my horse to a sapling and went quietly into the woods, and to my astonishment I saw the great George Washington on his knees alone, with his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other," said Potts. "Such a prayer I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying. I went home and told my wife, 'I saw a sight and heard today what I never saw or heard before.' We never thought a man could be a soldier and a Christian, but if there is one in the world, it is Washington. We thought it was the cause of God and America could prevail."

To the best of my ability, I will follow God's Commandments. To the best of my ability, I will follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Dick Ellis, Publisher

The Constitution offers the greatest gift we have as Americans, the ability to remove or elect leadership non-violently, with the ballot.

Before you vote, ask for help.


## County Teasers

Just because the marina closes November 1, don't think that means fishing is done for the year. Thanks to our lakeside parks, there is still great fishing from shore. In fact, you can find fishermen casting a line any day of the year ... and successfully! For all the activities we have to offer [click on Ozaukee County](#).

The Minocqua area truly is Nature's Original Water Park(TM), with thousands of lakes, rivers and streams, plus hundreds of miles of trails. See for yourself why we were named "one of the 25 best bass lakes in the central U.S." by BassMaster.com. [Click on Oneida County](#).

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**BEN GRUBER**

# Embracing The Depths Of A Wisconsin Winter

## Snowshoeing and cross country skiing

Soon the grass will be a memory. Fall's colors will fade to white and snow will be our companion on the countryside. But we need not be snowbound for the winter.

To enjoy winter I like to embrace different ways of getting around. Sure, a snowmobile will do the trick, but I prefer methods a little less noisy that allow me to really enjoy the crisp, clean air. Soon I will be taking down the snowshoes and cross country skis to enjoy our longest season here in the Midwest.

I used to just plow through the snow with some boots, which worked fine. But when I discovered snowshoes, life got better. I use them for ice fishing, checking a late trap line, a family hike, and late season bow hunting and scouting. The opportunities are endless.

Cross country skis are really nice when you have a trail that is groomed or at least packed down first with snowshoes, but for going off trail I prefer the flexibility of the snowshoe. My daughter loves going in the backpack for a winter hike. Properly clothed for the weather, she is typically asleep within 10 minutes and usually sleeps the whole time.

If you haven't tried either form of snow travel yet, I'll share some of my lessons learned. A good pair of gaiters is a huge plus. They keep the snow off of your pants and boots so when you are done, you don't find yourself with frozen boot laces and pants. Just take the gaiters off to nice, dry boots and pants.

Snowshoes with a good binding that you can operate while wearing mittens is handy.

*continued on page 39*



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JIM SERVI

# Wisconsin's Dispersed Camping

## Disappear into the middle of nowhere

**S**tars shine so bright that it nearly hurts your eyes despite the fact that it is pitch-black outside. With no one around for miles, the only sound you hear is the trickle of a nearby stream and the occasional owl call echoing through the trees. Images like these often conjure up thoughts of an out West or Alaskan adventure. However, there are plenty of opportunities right here in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to disappear into the woods for some backcountry camping, hunting and fishing.

There is no better location in Wisconsin than the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the northern part of the state. Over one million acres of wild forest make up the Chequamegon with lakes and streams around every corner. Dispersed camping is what it's referred to here in Wisconsin, and you don't even need a permit. Recent easing of regulations for deer transportation and registration, including quartering in the field and phone/online registration has created a perfect opportunity for backwoods hunters. For those adventurous souls, what better opportunity to take advantage?

Hilary Markin, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Public Affairs Officer, recommends that "People that want to participate in dispersed camping call the local offices before proceeding because they can point you in the right direction. Plus, they can update you on storm closures, es-

pecially this year, and make sure the area is open. It's best to narrow down what experience you're after since there are so many opportunities out there."

Trout fishing, mountain bike riding, fishing remote lakes, hiking, grouse hunting, deer hunting, snow-shoeing ... the list goes on and on, and there are certain places that are better than others. The local offices can provide you the best places based on the experience you are seeking.


- **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Headquarters:** 715.362.1300
- **Lakewood/Laona Ranger District:** 715.276.6333
- **Park Falls/Medford Ranger District:** 715.762-2461
- **Eagle River/Florence Ranger District:** 715. 479.2827
- **Washburn Ranger District:** 715.373.2667
- **Great Divide Ranger District – Hayward/Glidden:** 715. 634.4821

Markin stressed the importance of "leave no trace." Quite simply, when you leave the area, it should look like you were never there. According to the Dispersed Camping manual, it's not just for hikers and campers, recreation vehicle (RV) enthusiasts can take advantage of this program as well. They are able to park their RVs at pull off areas on Forest Service roads. This is a perfect opportunity to set up a hunting camp

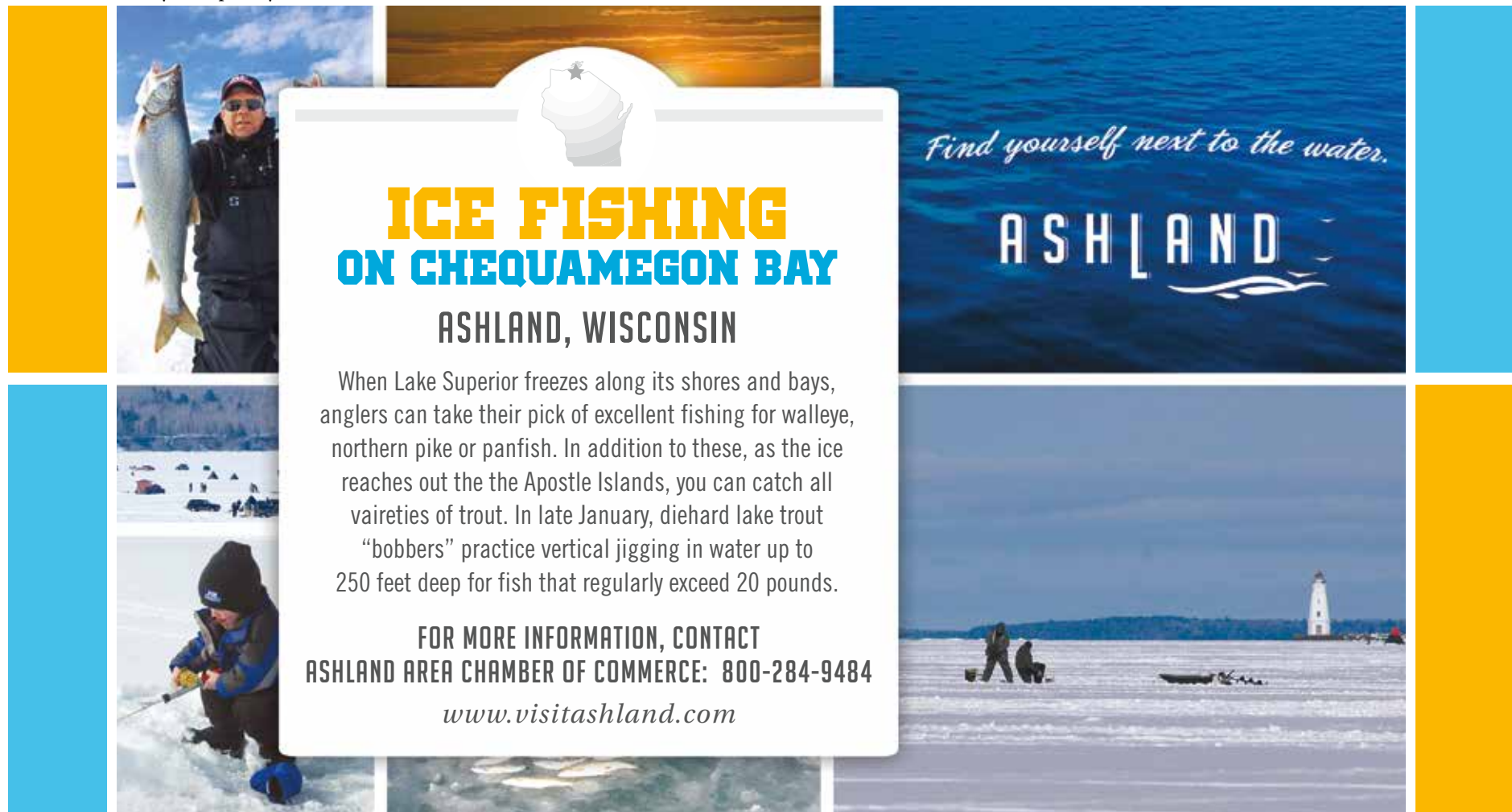
this fall or plan an adventure next summer.

The Chequamegon may be the natural place to start given the size, but it is certainly not the only opportunity to disappear into the woods. County and state forests, as well as state parks have been expanding opportunities in recent years. "Our members are exploring all over the state," says Jeff Guerard, Chapter Chair for The Wisconsin Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. "I'm actually going after ducks in the Chequamegon this weekend."

Formed in March 2016, this group is new to Wisconsin but one to which many people passionate about the outdoors can relate. "Our focus is on preserving public lands," Guerard explained. "Our goal is to stop the transfer of federal land to state control, where the state sells it to private ownership. We've seen this a lot out West already, and now with the bill in 2013 here in Wisconsin to sell state land our plan is to lobby the Natural Resources Board not to sell."

To do that, they are currently trying to expand their membership to give their organization more clout with state politicians and ultimately protect the great places that so many of us hold dear. 

*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.*



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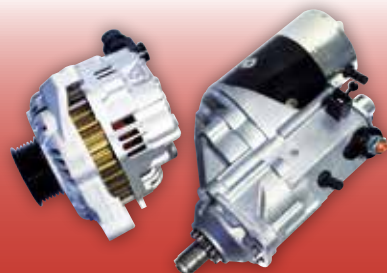
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STUART WILKERSON

# High Standard Sentinel

## Cost-cutting measures slowed sales of innovative revolver

An ill-conceived cost saving measure may have diminished the legacy of one of the most innovative revolvers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1955, High Standard introduced the first truly new revolver in half a century, the “Sentinel.” Designed by Henry Seifried, who would later earn acclaim as the inventor of the Ruger 10/22 rotary magazine, the Sentinel was a nine-shot, .22 rimfire, double action revolver. Seifried came to High Standard from Winchester where he had been awarded a number of patents. His primary firearm interest appears to have been handguns, a market of no relevance to Winchester. When an opportunity presented itself to join High Standard, famous for its semiautomatic pistols, Seifried left Winchester in 1950.

Approximately five years into his tenure, High Standard tasked Seifried with the design of a revolver, a first for the company. Within three months, the 33-year-old Chief Pistol Developer had designed the “Sentinel” revolver, which was brought into production in 1955.

Featuring a precision die-cast aluminum frame, a three- or five-inch barrel, anodized finish, a simple but effective cylinder lock, an unusual ratchet and an extremely comfortable grip, the Sentinel was a great success upon its introduction. *Guns* magazine in June of 1955 called it “The First New Revolver in 50 Years.” The Sentinel was a mixture of modern production methods and materials, innovation and borrowed ideas.

Aluminum alloy and cast parts were still fairly unique in the 1950s, and the cylinder lock mechanism was borrowed from an experimental Winchester design dating to 1876. The Winchester mechanism dispensed with the traditional cylinder release lever. Instead, the cylinder is unlocked by slightly pulling the cylinder pin forward and swinging the crane and cylinder out. Like the turn-of-the-century Mauser C96 pistol, the Sentinel has but one screw in its assembly, that which holds the grip panels.

The first Sentinels did not have conventional ratchet teeth. Instead, the ratchet has nine recessed detents at the rear of the star-shaped extractor that is operated by a conventional pawl. The replacement of sharp ratchet teeth by recessed detents is said to have made for a more durable and precise



*The High Standard Sentinel was a hot seller... at first. The lack of a spring would soon end its allure.*

pawl and ratchet operation.

The Sentinel cylinders were counter-bored to encase the head of the rimfire ammunition, and an extended forcing cone helped to reduce lead shaving when the revolver was fired. All of this combined with a pistol grip shaped like that of a Colt percussion pocket pistol made for a pleasant and accurate shooting experience. Indeed, the Sentinel was known for its accuracy. There are reports that, when rested on a bench, the revolver is capable of groups of less than two inches at 20 yards.

Initially, the Sentinel was a huge success, with sales far outpacing expectations. Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the revolver's one real defect made its appearance. That defect often made itself known the first time a cylinder was unloaded and latched back into the frame. Apparently, for cost saving reasons, the extractor rod did not have a return spring, as did virtually every other known double action revolver at that and at this time. If the shooter forgot to manually push the extractor rod back into place prior to pushing the cylinder and crane into place, the rod would crash into the frame, leaving a hideous scratch in the anodized finish.

Unless it was never fired, it appears that every Sentinel owner did this at least once. An early Sentinel without a scratched frame is a rarity, indeed. About five years after its introduction, High Standard realized the damage the lack of a spring was doing to the Sentinel's reputation and sales and finally put one in. Sales, however, would never reach what they had been at the gun's introduction and the revolver was discontinued in the 1970s, which is a shame, because the Sentinel was otherwise a great little revolver. Thanks to those scratches, it is also an inexpensive one to buy, shoot and collect. *OWO*

*Stuart Wilkerson is a longtime OWO contributor, award-winning Wisconsin journalist, and firearms expert specializing in historical firearms and collecting.*



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STUART WILKERSON

# This Election Will Have Consequences

## The future of firearms hangs in the balance

Yes, it is a cliché, but elections have consequences, and the upcoming presidential election may have more consequences to gun owners than most. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has already proclaimed her support for another assault weapons ban, and, in all likelihood, it will be tougher than those passed into law under Presidents George Bush in 1989 and Bill Clinton in 1994.

In the event of a Clinton victory and a Democratic Party sweep of the House and Senate, there is a very good chance that Senator Diane Feinstein's proposed Assault Weapon Ban of 2013 will be given serious consideration by congressional liberals. If passed, there is a strong likelihood that the bill would be challenged in the Supreme Court. Were it to pass there, Feinstein's bill could have a chilling effect on gun owners and manufacturers.

Feinstein's bill would go far beyond the Assault Weapon Ban of 1994, which sunset in 2004. The 1994 ban defined an "assault rifle" as having at least two of the following parts and/or characteristics: a folding or telescoping buttstock; the ability to accept a detachable magazine; a flash suppressor; bayonet lug; a pistol grip that conspicuously protrudes from beneath the action and a threaded barrel; among others. The 1994 ban also eliminated the sale of detachable magazines with a capacity of more than 10 cartridges.

The 1994 Assault Weapon Ban was easily circumvented by gun makers. For instance, by pinning a folding stock open, removing the bayonet lug, and replacing the flash suppressor with a muzzle brake, an AR-15 went from being banned to legal. Millions of high capacity magazines were still available on the market. In reality, the ban was a sham. Either way, the number of crimes committed with pre- or post-ban assault rifles was and remains minuscule.

Feinstein's proposed assault weapon ban is far more restrictive and virtually impossible to circumvent. The 2013 Feinstein bill, according to her website, forbids the following:

All semiautomatic rifles that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: pistol grip; forward grip; folding, telescoping or detachable stock; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; barrel shroud; or threaded barrel. (*Author's note: short of burglarizing an armed forces armory, I don't know where you purchase a grenade or rocket launcher. They are not legal on the civilian market.*)

All semiautomatic pistols that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: threaded barrel; second pistol grip; barrel shroud; capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside of the pistol grip; or semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm.

All semiautomatic rifles and handguns that have a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.

All semiautomatic shotguns that have a folding, telescoping or detachable stock; pistol grip; fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than five rounds; ability to accept a detachable magazine; forward grip; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; or shotgun with a revolving cylinder.

All ammunition feeding devices (magazines, strips and drums) capable of accepting more than 10 rounds.

There is a misperception among some gun owners that the right of law-abiding *individual* citizens to own firearms for self-defense purposes was settled by the Supreme Court in 2008 in the case *District of Columbia v. Heller*. In that year, the court struck down, on a 5-4 vote, the District of Columbia's law prohibiting the possession of handguns. The D.C. law also required that rifles and shotguns be unloaded, disassembled or bound by a trigger lock. These parts of the D.C. law were also struck down.

Not long after *Heller*, the Court found a similar Chicago law unconstitutional in 2010. The end result of these two cases was that for the first time the Supreme Court determined that individual citizens had a general, constitutional right to keep arms for self-defense purposes.

*continued on page 38*



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STUART WILKERSON

## Concealed Carry

### Compact CZ Rami does its ancestors proud

During the late Cold War era, the CZ 75 had an aura of mystery. The Czechoslovakian-manufactured, 16-round, full-size 9 mm semiautomatic pistol was virtually impossible to obtain in the United States, adding to its panache. Those “in the know” described the pistol as phenomenally accurate, reliable and impeccably well-finished. The CZ was so good, it was said to be the pistol of choice among many Soviet Spetsnaz troops.

The CZ line of firearms is now commonly available in the United States, and unlike so many Cold War legends, those about the CZ 75 turned out to be true. The 75 is a great pistol, and, unlike it was during much of the Cold War, is affordable. Presently, more armies and law enforcement agencies issue it than any other pistol in the world.

Among the most popular firearms in the CZ line is the 9mm RAMI, which is basically a subcompact version of the legendary CZ 75. The RAMI frame is made of aluminum, while the barrel and slide are constructed of steel. The black polymer

finish, while not as aesthetically pleasing as high polished blue, is far more durable and practical. Grips are rubber and controls, such as the safety and magazine release are easily accessible. The RAMI comes with both a 10-round and an extended 14-round magazine.

Like every CZ product the author has owned and examined, the RAMI displays a high degree of craftsmanship. Internal and external parts are expertly machined and finished with no sharp edges to snag on clothes or cut hands.

A cursory examination shows that the RAMI is similar in appearance to the classic John Browning-designed 1911 pistol. In fact, field stripping both guns is remarkably the same, although the RAMI is easier to do so. In single action mode, the RAMI, like the 1911, can be carried with its external hammer cocked and the safety engaged. In fact, the safeties are basically in the same position on both guns and operate in a similar fashion. When the safety is swiped downward, the pistols can be fired. RAMI

single action trigger pull weight is about 7 pounds and slightly gritty. Fortunately, CZ triggers are known to smooth out with use.

The RAMI will also fire in double action mode, and the specimen tested did not have a de-cocker, although the RAMI BD does have this feature. In double action mode, the slide is racked to the rear and a cartridge lifts up from the magazine and is inserted in the chamber, as it is in single action mode. Double action is accomplished by simultaneously squeezing the trigger and pulling back and dropping hammer down in position. The RAMI can now be fired in double action mode that is simply pulling the trigger, rather than first cocking the hammer and then pulling the trigger. This procedure should not be done without first practicing with an unloaded gun. Double action weight is about 10 pounds.

While the RAMI has many attributes, being lightweight is not one of them. The pistol weighs about 31 ounces fully loaded and would probably be more comfortable to carry in a waistband holster as opposed to a



The subcompact CZ RAMI is in high demand.

pocket. The RAMI is compact, with an overall length of just 6.5 inches and overall height of only 4.7 inches.

Once in hand and fired, the RAMI proves to be a very accurate pistol. At 25 yards, 3-inch and less, five-shot groups are possible, depending upon the ammunition. The sample piece required some adjustment of the driftable rear sight to correct for windage. Function was perfect, and while recoil was stout, it was manageable.

Much has changed in the world since the inception of the CZ 75 and the fall of the Eastern Bloc; others have stayed the same. The CZ 75 remains one of the best pistols ever made, and its offspring, such as the RAMI, are just as good as well as affordable.



Stuart Wilkerson is a longtime OWO contributor, award-winning Wisconsin journalist, and firearms expert specializing in historical firearms and collecting.

#### WILKERSON, from page 37

Make no mistake; this is an entirely different proposition than forbidding individual governmental entities from imposing restrictions on firearms that they don't believe should be available to the general public. (The sunset of the Federal Assault Weapon Ban did not disallow individual states and communities from enacting their own bans.) In fact, this summer, the Court declined to hear a case concerning Connecticut's assault weapon ban, thus upholding the state's ban.

Granted, some firearm owners have no interest in so-called assault rifles and may even be in agreement with Feinstein's proposed ban. There is another bill, introduced early this year and co-sponsored by Feinstein and Clinton's Vice Presidential nominee Tim Kaine that they may not find at all palatable. This bill, S.2469, “A bill to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act,” would undo leg-

islation that currently shields gun manufacturers, distributors and dealers from liability suits when their products are used illegally, such as in a murder. In other words, if a gun dealer or manufacturer legally sells a firearm later used in a murder, for instance, the dealer or manufacturer could be held criminally liable. This is akin to an automobile manufacturer being held liable for the actions of a drunk driver. This does not impact just the manufacturers of “assault” rifles but every other kind of firearm. Feinstein's proposed bill, which Hillary Clinton supports, could put every firearm manufacturer in the nations out of business.

Give serious thought about who you vote for this year. Elections have consequences.




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#### FLORCZAK, from page 29

nity and ethical fishing practices from anglers, the walleye fishing on the chain will be second to none in the near future. We will continue to do our part as an organization to raise money and stock the Chetek lakes to ensure this happens,” stated Josh Akins, another Walleyes for Chetek officer.

Walleyes for Chetek relies strictly on funds raised through raffles, apparel sales and donations to purchase juvenile walleye that are stocked annually. Each year the local organization hosts a Labor Day Weekend raffle drawing and party, giving away thousands of dollars in cash and prizes, along with guns, crossbows, YETI coolers, kayaks and many other door prizes. The funds raised at the event are then used to purchase the walleye for fall stocking.

It's easy to take the sport of fishing for granted. Some anglers may fish a lifetime without considering the logistics that have created a healthy fishery. But hopefully, there will be more anglers willing to enhance the fishing for everyone by taking on similar fish stocking projects. A little effort can go a long way. 

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 accepted into the Boone & Crockett Club and was featured in Field & Stream, Deer and Deer Hunting and North American Whitetail.






*Snug and warm and fast asleep at the end of a hike.*

**GRUBER, from page 33**

This seems to be the difference between cheap snowshoes and ones that cost a little bit more, but they are worth the extra money to me. Make sure that you get a pair with adequate floatation. Factor in added weight of clothing and any pack you may carry. A good sport shop will be able to fit you with the proper design and size.

Cross country skiing is something I have not done a lot of yet, just venturing into the sport last year. But I do know that the most important part so far has been having proper boots. Unlike snowshoeing, you can't just strap your winter boots in but must have a boot made to fit the ski binding. Most of the boots are not well-suited to hiking, either, so if you plan to get off your skis and hike, you may need to pack a second pair of boots.

Usually when I take a passenger or gear along, I pack it on my back; however, I have pulled it in a sled as well. A longer, narrower sled works nicer than a shorter, wider sled as it will ride in your tracks better. If I am trapping in deep snow, this is usually the route I will go. A plus is if you can rig up a rigid pole instead of a rope pull system, your sled will not try to run you over on a downslope.

The possibilities are endless once you get comfortable on your snowshoes or skis, only limited by your energy and imagination. A friend and I are currently planning a winter camping expedition into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for late this winter, and I can't wait to pull in a sled and ice fish for some lakies! 

*Ben Gruber lives on a hobby farm in central Wisconsin. He has a passion for enjoying all Wisconsin outdoors has to offer with his family and introducing kids to the great outdoors. He is Vice President of Kids and Mentors Outdoors, or KAMO.*

**JIM SERVI**

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