

FREE
OWO's 60th Issue!

July/August 2017

Vol. 10, Issue 6



On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the
Dick Ellis Experts

- **Our 60th Issue!**
Win a Henry lever action 30-30 at DeerFest, Win an ATV from Kwik Trip
- **From Wisconsin streams to the Great Lakes**
More fish, bigger fish with the OWO experts
- **Wisconsin Deer Hunting**
The trail camera edge
Don't miss, Grandpa!
- **Bear Hunting the Mammoths**
Planning ahead pays off big
Mating season best time to meet a monster
- **Dog Talk**
Puppy-picking advice
Camp dog diary
- **Waterfowl Prep**
Refurbished decoys in 7 easy steps
Memories from an old hunter
- **From the OWO Gun Cabinet**
Stock options-fitting your shotgun
Concealed carry - education a must
Midwestern Shooters' Fall Fest
- **Outdoor Recreation Alliance**
Get spoiled in La Crosse
- **Nut Knowledge**
Know the fruit crops now,
fill the tag in autumn

READ MORE ONLINE

OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

Hunting/Fishing Reports, Tips, Stories from the Field

**KWIK
TRIP**

LYNCH
TRUCK CENTER

LYNCH
BURLINGTON
Your Superstore!
CHEVROLET BUICK GMC

LYNCH
BURLINGTON • KENOSHA
CHEVROLET

HUNT • FISH • TRAVEL • EXPLORE • WISCONSIN

PHOTO BY STEVE MOERICKE

FREE



FIND MORE TRUCKS AND VANS ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LYNCHTRUCKCENTER.COM

<p>#8615 2015 GMC SAVANA G3500 EXT. CARGO 6.0L GAS. \$25,995</p> <p>#B-9-325511</p>	<p>#20123T 2016 ISUZU NPR DIESEL CHASSIS, AT, PW, PL, 13,000# GVW.</p> <p>#B-10-138574</p>	<p>#8654 2015 RAM PROMASTER CITY 2.4L, AT, AC, PW, PL, 38,000 MI. \$21,995</p> <p>#T-40-183760</p>	<p>#20425T 2017 GMC SAVANA 3500 EXT. CARGO 6.0L GAS, PL, PW, BACK-UP CAMERA.</p> <p>#T-3-325589</p>	<p>#19906T 2017 HINO 268A 26' VAN BODY, DIESEL, 2 PASSENGER BENCH, 2,500# LIFTGATE, 90 GAL. FUEL TANK.</p> <p>#B-13-138574</p>
<p>#8718 2016 RAM PROMASTER 1500 CARGO 2.4L, BULKHEAD, 19,000 MI. \$21,995</p> <p>#B-40-138561</p>	<p>#8592 2012 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 CREW CAB LTZ 4WD, 6.6L DURAMAX DIESEL. \$39,995</p> <p>#B-11-132511</p>	<p>#19808T 2016 GMC SAVANA 3500 14' HI CUBE, 6.0L GAS, AT, TRANSLUCENT ROOF, ROLL-UP REAR DOOR.</p> <p>#T-38-183760</p>	<p>#8590 2006 CHEVY EXPRESS 4500 12' HACKNEY BODY, DIESEL, 3-PERSON SEATING, BACK-UP CAMERA. \$17,995</p> <p>#T-43-183760</p>	<p>#8729 2010 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500 EXT. CARGO 4.8L V8, LADDER RACK, BULKHEAD. \$9,295</p> <p>#T-24-138597</p>
<p>#20025T 2016 GMC SIERRA 3500 4WD, 9' DUMP BODY, DOUBLE ACTING ELECT. HOIST, 6.0L V8, AT, BRAKE CONTROLLER.</p> <p>#B-1-138681</p>	<p>#20224T 2017 HINO 268 24' STAKE BED, 7.8L DIESEL, AT, 25,950# GVW.</p> <p>#B-12-138574</p>	<p>#8393 2012 GMC SAVANA W/12' VAN BODY, 4.8L GAS, AT, ROLL UP REAR DR. FROM \$17,995 3 TO CHOOSE FROM</p> <p>#B-3-186943</p>	<p>#20076T 2016 GMC SIERRA 2500 4WD, 8' MONROE SERVICE BODY, 6.0L GAS, AT, PLOW PREP PKG., HITCH.</p> <p>#T-19-183793</p>	<p>#19758T 2016 GMC SAVANA 3500 CARGO 6.0L V8, "DEMO", AT, BACK-UP CAMERA, 9,600# GVW.</p> <p>#T-2-138681</p>
<p>#8503 2014 HINO 268 24' VAN BODY, 7.8L DIESEL, ALLISON AT, ROLL-UP REAR DOOR, 25,950# GVW.</p> <p>#T-39-183760</p>	<p>#8734 2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 DBL. CAB LTZ 4X4, LEATHER, BACK-UP CAMERA, AT, 5.3L V8, 32,000 MI. \$29,900</p> <p>#T-1-138520</p>	<p>#20365T 2017 GMC SAVANA 4500 W/14' SUPREME SPARTAN BODY, 6.0L V8, AT, TRANSLUCENT ROOF, SOLID BULKHEAD, COMPARTMENTS, LADDER RACK.</p> <p>#B-15-138515</p>	<p>#20587T 2017 CHEVY 4500 LCF W/16' PROSCAPE BODY, 6.0L V8, ALUM. RAMP DR.</p> <p>#B-23-138637</p>	<p>#8640 2007 CHEVY 5500 W/18' VAN BODY, 8.1L, SIDE DR., WORK STATION IN BODY. \$27,995</p> <p>#B-38-138561</p>
<p>#20550T 2017 HINO 268A W/26' REFER BODY, CARRIER SUPRA 860 W/STAND-BY, 7.8L DIESEL, 2-MAN PASS. BENCH SEAT.</p> <p>#T-16-138615</p>	<p>#8501 2014 HINO 268 24' VAN BODY, 7.8L DIESEL, ALLISON AT, ROLL-UP REAR DR., TUCK-UNDER LIFTGATE.</p> <p>#T-25-325586</p>	<p>#8641 2003 FORD E350 W/10' VAN BODY, 4.8L, ROLL-UP REAR DR., TRANSLUCENT ROOF, 72,000 MI. \$11,995</p> <p>#B-39-138561</p>	<p>#8589 2008 ISUZU NPR HD 12' HI-V-CO BODY, DIESEL, AT, 3 PERSON SEATING. \$19,995</p> <p>#T-18-183741</p>	<p>Call today!</p>

ALWAYS CALL TO VERIFY SPECS WITH ONE OF OUR COMMERCIAL SALES PEOPLE. MILEAGE MAY VARY - Taxes/Fees not included. *\$18,900 is stock number 8393

TOM LUBA

Take A Kid Fishing

The right way

Several years ago, our bass club hosted two May evenings dedicated to showing kids how to fish. I was in charge of the lure post because, you know, bass fishermen live and die by the artificial bait. Despite bringing samples of the newest realistic bait patterns, the kids weren't too excited.

The next year, on a whim, I grabbed containers of crawlers and leeches from the local bait shop. When we opened the containers, the kids saw live, wiggly entities (none of them had seen leeches before) and they went bonkers. The Live Target hard baits, the Yamamoto soft plastic stick baits and the frogs that looked like they could snap a bug out of mid-air didn't count. All they wanted was to touch the leeches so they could tell their schoolmates the next day, "Yeah, I grabbed a leech right by the suction cup, and I'm here to tell you that *was* cool."

If you want to take kids fishing and give them a chance to continue in the sport, they need to catch fish. Live bait gives them the best chance to hook up. The key thing here is to get them on fish. It doesn't matter what kind as long as it bites and fights. The first time I took out our 5-year-old great-grandson and 8-year-old great-granddaughter, I parked above a push on a Fox River riffle, baited up two rods and it was game on.

In the first five minutes, a hungry sheepshead grabbed one bait and immediately the leech on rod two was attacked. In the next hour, it became a contest. Last report I remember was that the great-granddaughter was up to 19, including a nice smallmouth that spit the bait at the boat. And that didn't even phase her.

Summer is the perfect time to get out. The weather is warm, the sun usually shines and the kids won't get chilled. It also pays to have refreshments and snacks available (most larger boats have built-in coolers) for when the bite slackens, as you will need to rehydrate and fill the growl in their stomachs.


Don't bring the G Loomis rods or expensive spinning reels. This is the time to rely on your old friend Zebco. Five-foot spincast rods and Zebco 202s are the ticket. Set the drag so a couple-pound fish can set it off. Bring several set ups, because strange things can happen. Using a snap swivel helps with line twist, but tying the hook direct can help find a game fish like the smallmouth.

Zebco's push buttons make for quick casting lessons. Practice at home, if possible. Most kids can pick it up pretty quick, as they want to do it on their own in the boat. Adults usually end up being the designated hook baiters.



Niko Burow hoists up his catch. A good fight, but Niko and his Zebco 202 combo prevailed.

For rivers, I use a medium sinker and a #6 Eagle Claw Aberdeen hook fished tight-line. Save the floats for shallow, weedier lakes. I always use a slip bobber to limit line so the kids can cast easier. Also, make sure all the kids have suitable life jackets on, especially on rivers.

Summer is tailor-made for teaching kids to fish. Though 202 combos and worms or crawler pieces seem almost medieval by our current standards, spincast and live bait are really the right way to teach a kid how to fish. 

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.

Gary Engberg Outdoors

Lake Mendota Bronzebacks

The Madison Chain of Lakes all have good fishing for all fish species. The largest lake in the Chain is 9,842-acre Lake Mendota, which, besides having trophy walleye and northern pike, has big smallmouth bass.

Anyone who fishes Lake Mendota should have a quality map and decent electronics for locating the abundant mid-lake structure, sharp breaking drop-offs and the numerous points, which are prime smallmouth locations throughout the summer. Study a lake map before going fishing on Lake Mendota. Mapping Specialists' maps are very accurate with a GPS coordinate grid that will help you find the prime underwater structures that Lake Mendota contains. The minimum size for smallmouth on Mendota is 18 inches, but there are larger fish and many 14- to 16-inch smallmouth.

Spawning is completed on Lake Mendota by the end of May most years. The first key in fishing Lake Mendota smallmouth is to fish the deep weed edges around the lake that range from 12 to

20 feet deep. Try anchoring outside the deep weeds and make long casts with a slip float, a 1/16-ounce or lighter orange Slo-Poke jig, and a lively leech. Because of the late spring this year, the weed growth is behind schedule. But some stable weather like we've had lately should get them growing. Fan cast with a 1/8-ounce Slo-Poke jig and a leech or half a nightcrawler. If you don't like anchoring, try working slowly off your bow mount trolling motor. I suggest using a 7-foot rod, because the longer rod allows for a longer cast, which won't spook the smallmouth. Fish on Lake Mendota relate to the weeds, so fish both the shallow and deeper weed lines.

Another key is to concentrate on the lake's rock bars and humps that are located in the main basin and off the numerous points. Smallmouth in Lake Mendota like the rock and gravel bottom that attracts their favorite food, the crayfish.

A live bait rig is good for fishing outside the weeds and up and



**When your truck is down...
You're out of the field.
Wisconsin sportsmen have
no time for "down and out".
We'll keep you in the game.**



- **Engine & Transmission Exchange** is your one-stop shop for all vehicle driveline needs.
- Transfer case and differential repair.
- Quotes provided 24/7 at www.enginetrans.com.
- Two convenient locations; Milwaukee & Waukesha.
- Serving our customers with quality and service since 1984.

**Stay in the field reliably with
Engine & Transmission
Exchange.**

**When your inboard boat motor
needs an ETE expert, we'll
keep you on the water too.**

**1604 S. West Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53189
262-548-0000**

**2727 S. 27th Street
Milwaukee WI 53215
414-645-7000**

SPONSORED BY...

Amherst Marine

amherstmarine.com

RECREATIONAL BOATING SALES & SERVICE FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS

GIVE JERRY A CALL AT 715.824.5635

PHIL SCHWEIK

High Water Alternatives

Take advantage of fish on the move

Mid-summer can be a trying time to catch fish even on a river system. With warm water temperatures and a reduced current flow, most species become very lethargic and, in some cases, unresponsive to our offerings. At this time of the year it can be hard enough to find fish, let alone catch them. Now add into the equation high water and it opens up a whole new can of worms. But maybe...just maybe...it's not a bad can of worms.


A heavy downpour can totally change the way the system operates. Fish that have for the most part been very reclusive are now forced out of their summer haunts and are in search of new locations. They are looking for places that will offer them a little retreat from what Mother Nature has dumped on them. As opposed to what many may think, this can be your best opportunity at catch-

ing some very nice fish.

Anytime we get a heavy downpour and the water levels are altered the fishing changes. High and typically faster water flows will force a change in the fish's daily behavior and pattern. Generally, this type of scenario will force fish tight to shoreline locations or into areas where they don't have to fight the heavy current. When fishing high water, I typically look for current breaks and transition areas in the river itself that create a seam. I also search out backwater locations where the fish will move. Some of these locations can be over a mile from the main river system and in areas that didn't even hold fish the day before.

When it comes to locating and catching fish under high water conditions, you must really think outside the box. Start by looking at locations that you wouldn't normal-

ly fish. Some of the locations that I target under these conditions are places that may have been dry land a day or two before. You cannot rule anything out.

Throughout my career, one of the things that I have learned is that fish can and will move a lot. As a matter of fact, fish will move much farther than you may think, and they can do this in a very short period of time. Unseasonably high and fast water conditions will force the fish to move more often and to locations you normally wouldn't even think about fishing. Take this into consideration each and every time you head out and it will make you a much better fisherman in the long run. 

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



Hooksetters guide and OWO columnist Phil Schweik with a nice musky.

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.

JERRY KIESOW

Fly Fishing In Wisconsin

Soft hackle flies

The soft hackle fly is the first fly my students learn how to tie in my Beginning Fly Tying classes. Why? Because it is easy and it catches fish. We tie it to teach students two things: how to handle a bobbin of thread and to introduce them to one of the most versatile materials used in creating flies—hackle.

All hackles come in a variety of colors and sizes, but all hackles are not equal. Some are stiff and ridged. These are used when tying dry flies, and some are soft and flexible. All come from a variety of birds: chickens, ducks, pheasants, partridge, starlings, you name it. If it has feathers, it has hackles. Today, we emphasize the soft, flexible hackles (feathers).

Most soft hackle flies are thought to be tied on short shanked #6 or smaller all the way down to #24 hooks. (I have never tied a #24 but know someone who does and he also fishes them and catches trout on them). That said, there are a multitude of exceptions to that common conception.

Soft hackles are used to imitate appendages of one kind

or another, mainly legs. Their flexibility allows them to move with the water, as legs do. Fish see that movement and gobble them up. Designed and fished mainly for trout, these flies readily take bluegills, crappies and bass. Remember that these represent real bugs, particularly when you fish them to do that.

The way a soft hackle fly is most efficient is to make it move (swim) in a short, jerky motion so the “legs” collapse against the body when pulled and open and move when tension is released. When fishing in a lake, I do this by simply pulling the line in a variety of lengths while coiling the line in my rod hand. When I am fishing a river, I cast cross-stream and as the fly drifts, I occasionally flip the tip a bit making the fly move and wiggle until the drift ends. Then I “swim” it back upstream a few feet before making the next cast.

I use these hackles not only in the flies shown here (the relatively plain flies with only a tad of additional dressing and the foam bugs) but also when I tie Woolly Buggers,



A sampling of the author's collection of soft hackles.

nymphs, etc. I like them for certain streamer patterns but not all.

I do not use soft hackles on dry flies or anything that I create to sit on top or in the film of the water. That is what dry-fly hackles are grown for. And, yes, hackles are specifically grown (on chickens) for special flies. They have got this “science” down to a point where they can grow long, straight, dry fly hackles in sizes that match specific hook sizes.

continued on page 6

WAYNE MORGENTHALER

Crappie Fishing During The Sweltering Summer Months

Watch for schools of fish near the surface

The best way to cool off during those dog days of July and August is to go crappie fishing in the early evening. Crappies swim in schools and can cover a lot of territory chasing bait fish and feeding on surface bugs. The best time in the evening is the last two hours before sunset. Fish usually come up from deeper water in schools or out from lily pads and begin their lake tour just outside the weed bed lines. As the evening continues, they head out to deeper water but will stay close to the surface. Just before darkness, they head back down again. Fish perform the same routine in the morning right at daybreak. I prefer the evenings, because the wind is usually negligible and makes the hungry fish easier to locate.

When you are within 10 yards of a school, try to cast just ahead of the direction they are headed. Any type of small plastic that weighs about 1/16-ounce will work. I like beetle spins with white, yellow or pink plastic curly tails and retrieve them in a slow, steady motion. Another favorite is the small mini mite in pink and white. Toss the mini mite out and let it sink for a couple of seconds. Then bring the bait in small up-and-down jerks. Light tackle is preferred with 4-pound test and an ultra-lite reel. Crappies have a different type of bite, so you need to watch your rod tip very closely. The first



Gaige Wertz with a nice Lake Redstone crappie.


sign of a bite, set the hook. Bluegills will hit your offering hard.

Another key to catching crappies is to watch the line, as they tend to swim with the bait and the rod tip will not show any movement. When you have caught several fish on plastics, make sure that the plastic body is moved all the way up to the jig head. Crappies tend to pull on the bait, and your action will be different if not presented correctly. Most of the time I will remove a

worn-out plastic and put on a new one.

Big crappies tend to school together and are in smaller groups. Bluegills will join in the action and swim in the schools of crappies. The key to good fishing is to keep moving, as crappies are chasing whatever attracts them. Try to find spots on the lake that do not have high boat traffic. Mostly, I fish lakes that have few boats or fish small waters like the backwaters of the Wisconsin River. Crappies give a good fight and like to get to surface for a hearty splash. Their paper mouths make it hard to land them when lifting them into the boat, especially those big slabs, which I usually grab by the lip.

If I am keeping panfish during warm evenings, I make sure to have a 5-gallon bucket filled half way with ice. As soon as I catch a keeper, in the pail it goes. Another way to keep fish is to use a live well or fish basket. When I have filleted the fish out, I put them in chilly water and into the fridge. I like them to sit overnight, which firms them up and keeps them moist.

Good luck. Maybe you will catch the state record! 

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.

ENGBERG, from page 3

down the lake's deeper structure. Put a bullet sinker (1/4-ounce) above a barrel swivel, tie on 4 feet of fluorocarbon line, then use a good hook baited with a leech or a piece of nightcrawler. This rig can be slowly dragged up and down breaks, over the rocks and along the lake's bottom.


Here are some prime smallmouth areas to fish on Lake Mendota:

Try fishing the deep weed edges on both sides of Picnic Point, Second Point, Governors Island and off Maple Bluff.

Work the rock bars and the humps north of the Brearly Street Bar on the east side of Mendota. Here, there are rocks and weeds and numerous inside and outside turns with some open pockets for casting.

Dunn's Bar is another prime location. Cast slip-floats and leeches up to the rocks, weeds and bar edges. Also, drag jigs up and down the steep breaks for smallmouth.

There's structure north of Second Point where the depths and contours change rapidly from 20 to 40 feet. Try fishing the sharp contours with a jig or a rig.

West of Second Point is the Commodore Bar, which tops off at 15 feet and drops down to 60 feet. Use your electronics to see if fish are on the bar and again either jig or rig the fish. 

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208 or gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com, or visit garyengbergoutdoors.com. Guides: Tony Puccio, 608.212-6464; and Ron Barefield, 608.838.8756.



Pro Duffy Kopf with an average Lake Mendota smallmouth.



RIDGE/BACK™ RB100

2/5oz - 1-7/8"
16 colours
Casting, trolled or jigged, a versatile multispecies lure.




H
Classic ½ & ⅓
silver & gold

Genuine silver,
24k gold &
copper finishes

PROVEN COLOUR ACCENTS + GLOW

YO



NEW COLOUR

GLOR



GLOW

BKCH



Brecks

 /williamslures
www.williams.ca



JOHN LUTHENS

River Town

Fly fishing in Grafton offers a unique blend of natural beauty and urban history

The Milwaukee River pours over the ledges of Grafton, Wisconsin, like a frosted mug on a sultry day. The banks are chin deep in the overhanging green of summer and the air sings with urban secrets. Grafton is a river town and its water is home to some of the most rough-and-tumble smallmouth bass fishing in Wisconsin.

I've lived in Grafton for 20 years, so I'll admit to a bit of a hometown bias. And while spoons and spinners are equally lethal, I'll also admit that I'm partial to fly fishing the Milwaukee, although not necessarily in the traditional way.

Oftentimes the sport of fly fishing likes to portray a designer image: thermal waders, wispy rods and shining reels that can cost as much as a mortgage payment. The Milwaukee River wants no part of that nonsense. It is blue-collared water, and the bass are feisty and rough around the edges. They may well

decide to snap a \$1,000 rod in half just for spite.

The rocky backbone of the river seems more comfortable in tennis shoes and shorts than stuffy waders, and the smallmouth roar out of the rapids to hit any fly that looks big and buggy. I'm not certain if the river even knows the Latin names of any insect hatcheries, but I know it speaks the languages of the Native Americans and immigrants who built upon its winding foundation.

Two dams have been removed from the Grafton stretch of the Milwaukee River over the past 17 years, boosting oxygen content and setting the river loose over the broken dam shelves. The remaining dam is fitted with spotlights that change colors and sparkle in the watery mist of the night.

Below the lighted dam the river tumbles through a rare mixture of natural and urban beauty. It starts beneath shadows of

the Grafton Mill, a looming brick building with ivy climbing rampant up the walls and a high windowed tower. The mill produced woolen yarn in the early 1900s and has since been renovated to house local artisans.

There have been days beneath the mill where I've hooked bass on every cast, drifting streamers across the current and losing myself in the river. I still hear the noon whistle above the rushing water, and it's easy to imagine the mill workers of old weaving their names in history.

High banks are shaded in trees as the river corridor continues through town, with the faint hum of traffic sounding like a distant memory. Deer wander down to drink along the banks, and sunshine slants golden through green islands that tail deep into the water on the downward side. Slab-sided smallmouths lurk in the shadows of theses islands, and the commotion they cause when they leap in the spray will send the deer running for cover.

The urban wilderness along the Grafton stretch of the Milwaukee is unique, but my favorite run cascades across the ledges of one of the removed dams below the former site of the Paramount recording studio. In the 1920s, the studio witnessed the early



Luthens1: A Milwaukee River smallmouth comes to net from the Grafton waters.

legends Delta blues music, picking guitars and blowing harmonicas in rhythm with the spraying water below.


The pools are deep and inviting, and rumor has it that when the studio closed in 1932, some of the original master-track recordings were cast into the dark water below. The tracks would be priceless treasures today, and, like the smallmouth bass, they have hatched into a part of Grafton river lore.

The age of blues was a wild time, and the Milwaukee River in Grafton is still a wild place. Riffs of history echo in the roaring water. When the line swings taut, set the hook right away. Odds are it is one tough smallmouth on the other end.

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.

KIESOW, from page 4

Now I am looking forward to tying a new style of soft hackle fly—ones designed for Tenkara fishing. These flies are tied with the hackles reversed, or so I have read. (Yes, I have a new Tenkara rod.) This will give me something new to learn about and explore, including the flies used. As I do, I hope to tell you all about it.

See you in the river. Keep a good thought! 

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 them out on his website: jerrykiesowoc.com. They make great gifts.



Two soft hackle flies that the author ties to catch trout and bluegills. Even an occasional bass will take the foam bugs.

Wisconsin's most unique Musky Tournament!

The 2017

Bob Ellis Rowtrolling Classic

Saturday, July 15

**Start Location and After Fishing Dinner at Skyview Resort
Presque Isle, Wisconsin**

- **Row Trolling Only**
- **View New and Classic Row Trollers**
- **No Entry Fee, No Prize Money**
- **Catch and Release Only**



For more information and registration, go to www.row-troller.com or call (608) 220-0989



REACH PEAK PERFORMANCE

From injury treatment and prevention to therapy and training, our sports health experts work together to provide personalized, comprehensive care to keep you healthy and doing the things you love. So keep going, because we'll help you get there.

aurora.org/sports

 *Aurora Sports Health*

DAVE DUWE

Big Bass On Big Bobbers

Tried-and-true presentation equals more fish

Being a fishing guide, it is my obligation to put customers on fish. With the many weather patterns and fronts that come and go throughout the summer months, sometimes that is a real challenge. In the late part of summer, the bite has a tendency to slow down. This time is also known by some as the dog days of summer. When fishing gets tough in the dog days, I have to resort to more live bait presentations to ensure happy customers.


One of my go-to presentations is a slip bobber rig. It is basically the same presentation Florida guides have been using for decades for monster bass using balloons

and golden shiners. On hot summer days, the bass are on the deep weed lines, but with a change in weather like a cold front or rain event the largemouth bass will move into the shallows. I like areas with scattered weeds associated with hard sand bottoms adjacent to deep water weeds. These areas in the scattered weeds provide an ambush point, which enables bass to feed. Once you locate a prime area, the bass have a tendency to be in large schools and you can catch many fish in a small space.

For the Walworth County lakes that I fish the best depth is typically less than 10 feet. The slip bobber set up is the standard

presentation: a slip bobber knot, a bead, a slip bobber, sinker and a 1/0 hook. The key part of the rig is the bobber I use. My preferred choice is the Thill Big Fish slider. This is a large bobber tapered at both ends that lays flat on the water when the bait is inactive. But when a fish gets close and excites the bait, the bobber will stand upright alerting the angler to the potential for a fish even before it strikes. Unlike bluegills and walleyes, the bass will strike aggressively without hesitation. I do not give the bass any time to eat the bait once the bobber has gone under; I set the hook immediately. Doing this prevents the possibility of getting the fish deeply hooked. When fishing any slip bobber, the hook set is the key. One must always reel all the slack in before setting the hook. This will increase your hook-up odds.

My bait of choice is medium or large suckers. They have the ability to survive being cast more than a fragile golden shiner. The golden shiners are fragile because they cannot withstand the higher surface water temperatures. Even though the suckers are durable, you still need to have a gentler cast to avoid slapping the bait on the water. The rod and reel set up I prefer is a medium heavy 7-foot bait casting rod with an Abu Garcia 6500 spooled with 20-pound test. The Garcia 6500 reel offers a bait clicker, which helps indicate strikes and will hold the line when in free spool. This helps a great deal when the hits are fast and furious.

Being a successful angler, one must have many presentations in their arsenal. Sometimes the tried-and-true presentation is required to put more fish in your boat. 

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 or fishdelavanlake.com or contact him at 262.728.8063.



Thill Big Fish Sliders are meticulously crafted from the highest quality balsa and come in four sizes (4-, 5-, 6-, and 8-inch lengths)



Catching bass on bobbers on Delevan Lake.



Clients of Dave Duwe's Guide Service with big bobber success.

DAVE DUWE'S GUIDE SERVICE 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



Awesome fishing on Lake Geneva or Delevan Lake

One of southeast Wisconsin's best multi-species anglers, Dave is a licensed professional guide who enjoys both teaching first-time anglers and children, as well as working with the expert angler to make the Walworth County fishing experience unforgettable.

WHAT'S YOUR FISHING PLEASURE?

We target walleye, smallmouth, largemouth, musky, perch, bluegill, pike, lake trout, crappie, more.

Dave is an accomplished outdoor writer and seminar speaker and member of the Great Lakes Outdoor Writers Association. His sponsors include Lund Boats (Jerry's Sport Service Inc.) Mercury Marine, Arkie Jigs, and Vexilar Marine Electronics. Dave is on the pro staff for Minn Kota trolling motors, Hummingbird graphs, Cannon downriggers, Lindy, Pure Fishing, and All Terrain Tackle.



For more information, please check out Dave's website
WWW.FISHLAKEGENEVA.COM

On Wisconsin
Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts

HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL
EXPLORE WISCONSIN

PUBLISHER | EDITOR:

Dick Ellis
ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

COPY EDITOR:

Heidi Rich
submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

DESIGN | PRODUCTION:

Ali Garrigan
ali@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

Published bi-monthly by ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS, LLC. ©Copyright 2017 ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS, LLC with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission, of editorial, advertising or graphic content in any manner is prohibited by law. **NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:** All advertising is subject to publisher's approval and acceptance without recourse. Advertisers and their agencies assume responsibility for the condition of the contents of advertising printed, and agree to indemnify the Publishers of OWO for any and all claims and expenses arising there from. **CORPORATE OFFICES LOCATED AT:** 20240 West Rustic Ridge Drive, New Berlin, WI 53146 **PHONE:** 262.549.5550 **WEBSITE:** www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com



LEE GATZKE

Don't Miss, Grandpa

Sage advice from a six-year-old

On a recent fishing trip with my son and grandson we back-trolled for walleyes. Each time we approached spots we figured held fish, I would get bit and wind up setting the hook at the wrong time ... a swing and a miss. It didn't go unnoticed by my grandson. On our last pass, he offered his opinion on how I should play it the next time I got bit: "Don't miss, Grandpa." One more time I wound up repeating my performance as he boated a 16-incher.

Fishing and hunting are very similar in many ways. In both it takes finding out where the subject hangs out, feeds and travels to be able to intercept it. Weather plays a factor in how active they will be, and mating season makes them vulnerable to us. When the opportunity to pull the trigger or set a hook arises, "don't miss" determines if we'll be eating backstraps, filets or pizza.

Whatever weapon we use, it takes practice to get the feel of how to place our shot where we need to put it. It also

takes practice to keep hand-eye coordination sharp once we have sighted in with our bow or gun. Getting sighted in at various distances makes us understand our limitations as far as maximum distances from which we can be effective. Continual practice once we've sighted in allows us to improve marksmanship and effective range and, more importantly, keeps our hand-eye coordination in top form so we develop the feel for making an accurate shot. You can't expect to sight in your weapon in July, then put it in the closet and leave it there until fall when hunting season rolls around expecting to shoot accurately when the moment of truth arrives. Many people do this and many deer are missed because of it. We need frequent practice to maintain proper shooting form.

By continually pushing the envelope on shooting at farther distances, once we're comfortable with our shooting form and shot groups, we become better marksmen. This



Bowfishing and varmint hunting are great ways to improve your shooting on targets that don't necessarily stay in one place.

is especially true when shooting my bow. Once I'm able to shoot tight groups of arrows at 20 yards, I begin to shoot at farther distances. When my groups get good at 30 yards, I move out to 40. By progressively shooting farther distances, as my groups become tighter it forces me to improve my shooting form to be able to hit the mark. You learn your maximum accurate shooting distance. When you become deadly at 40 yards, a 20-yard shot becomes a piece of cake. In Wisconsin, most of my bowhunting shots are 20 yards or less, so when I'm shooting tight groups at 40 yards during

continued on page 41

With You Every Season

Createscape

LANDSCAPING SERVICE INC.

LAKE & POND MANAGEMENT-CONSTRUCTION

Imagine...Having your own private waterfront.

DESIGN



We can bring lakefront living to you!
For the price of a nice bass or walleye boat we can get you into a pond that will allow you to fish 365 days a year.

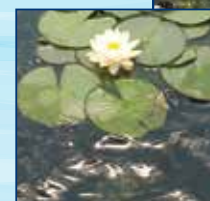
CONSTRUCT

- ◆ Pond Design and Excavation
- ◆ Beaches and Islands
- ◆ Shoreline Protection
- ◆ Aerators and Fountains
- ◆ Waterfalls
- ◆ Aquatic Plant Installation
- ◆ Fish Structure
- ◆ Surrounding Landscape, Hardscape and Structures



MANAGE

Protect your investment and keep it looking its best. We provide products & services to private, residential & commercial markets, plus have a broad skill set that can help you achieve your goals.



- ◆ Aerators and Fountains
- ◆ Water Quality Analysis
- ◆ Habitat Enhancement
- ◆ Algae/Cattail Control
- ◆ Management Plans

Please contact Senior Biologist, Joe Cadieux at (262) 662-0201 or joe.cadieux@wi.rr.com



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



CAPTAIN LEE HAASCH

Want Great Summertime King Action? Go deep this year!

I turned to Trevor and let him know we would run just a bit farther today and start in about 150 feet and go out from there. It was going to be another warm one, with temperatures predicted to hit 90-plus with very little wind and lots of sunshine. Typical July mornings on the Lake Michigan coast usually start a bit cooler than a balmy 78 degrees at 3:45 AM. This summer's hot temps following a mild winter will certainly have an impact on how and where we fish.

The 15-pound weights on my Traxstech downriggers will get us deeper later on, but as Trevor set his corner at 65 feet, his Ugly Stik hosting his Slide Diver rig bent sternly back and the drag started screaming! "Fish, fish, fish," he shouted, "It's a big one, too! Who's up?" he shouted. Just then, the Ugly Stik on my rigger popped and bent to the water, drag screaming. "Another one! I knew that Wonder Bread would go. It was hot yesterday, too!" Trevor screamed. I kept setting the poles on my side and moved a few out of Trevor's way, and as he scooped

the first King, I moved to his side to set the Slide Diver rig back down. "Can't catch 'em if the bait's not in the water," I chuckled to the customers.

For the next 45 minutes Trevor kept busy grabbing the pounding poles, handing them to fishermen and directing traffic to keep the multiple fish attacks from crossing lines. It wasn't long and the Slide Diver on my side, now down to 150 feet of line, started pounding. "Grab that diver!" shouted Trevor to a fisherman. "That's the chrome/green e-chip and aqua/glow Howie fly that worked yesterday. Just needed to be a bit deeper."

Steelhead will often stay near the surface where they can target bugs and still attack higher swimming alewife. While my larger, inside Yellow Bird planer boards are pulling 10-ounce weights to reach the deeper Kings, I keep at least one or two smaller Yellow Bird planners on the outside of my spread, pulling a brightly-colored spoon, usually with orange or red on silver to entice that occasional steelhead strike. Some



30-pound plus Kings are more common in the Algoma fishing grounds due to a bottom structure that holds bait and attracts big fish.

days during mid-summer several higher baits per side are very effective in capturing those roaming steelhead.

As we enjoy a warm summer this season, don't forget to look deep for the Kings as the surface temperature heats up. Running flasher/fly combos and glow spoons near thermoclines setting up down deep can en-



Algoma fishing keeps anglers smiling

tice hungry King action. I also try to keep a few spoons near the surface to tease some tail-dancing steelhead. There's nothing like a mixed bag in the cooler!

Experience for yourself the great fishery Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want big fish, check out Algoma. For charter information or fishing reports, visit my website at: fishalgoma.com or call 888.966.3474.

From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 2, good luck and good fishing!

Capt. Lee Haasch is a charter captain out of Algoma. Capt. Lee has over 40 years of Great Lakes angling experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with education seminars and timely freelance articles in outdoor publications.

JIM SERVI

Kinn's Sport Fishing Back In Action From fiery destruction to Lake Michigan limits

Last year Kinn's Sport Fishing, co-owned by Troy Mattson and Bret Cook, lost four fishing boats to an overnight fire. Luckily, their crew was unharmed, despite the fact that several were sleeping on nearby boats, and the damage wasn't worse thanks to the quick response of the Algoma Fire Department. Instead of just replacing the boats lost to the fire, Kinn's upgraded and expanded, adding another boat to the fleet. They are now up to 12 custom designed charter boats and catching limits on Lake Michigan once again.

Early in the year, Kinn's crews split their fleet between Algoma and North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, located on the Illinois/Wisconsin border. Later, they shift the entire fleet to Algoma. Troy invited us down to Winthrop Harbor for a day of fishing to see how the fleet recovered. We weren't disappointed.




Author Jim Servi displaying limit of cohos with Tom Busch, Kevin Staus and Scott Vachavake.

Departing at noon, fishing started out slow as it often does during set up and the early search to find fish. The great thing about a large fleet is the coordination between boats. Each boat tries something a little bit different—lures, presentations, colors, speeds, depths, areas—and when the crew finds what works, they capitalize. Operating seven days a week helps the crew stay in tune with what the fish are doing.

"Fish on!" Captain Alex yelled, showing that the synchronization and dedication by the fleet paid off. We were greeted with a beautiful silver-sided coho salmon. Cohos were our target that day and that was the first of many to come. With four fishermen, our limit was 20 and that was our goal. There was a small craft advisory in effect for Lake Michigan, but Captain Alex navigated the 35-foot vessel in the rough

continued on page 29


ALGOMA!



Eat, Sleep, Fish, Repeat!
www.algoma.org


Summer Activities in Beautiful Algoma

- RIO CREEK FLY-IN AND HANGER DANCE
- AHNAPEE BREWERY KICK-OFF TO SUMMER
- CHERRY DELITE FESTIVAL
- K/D SALMON TOURNAMENT
- SHANTY DAYS CELEBRATION OF THE LAKE
- SOAR ON THE SHORE - KITE FESTIVAL



Come and see why Algoma is known for it's world class King Salmon and Steelhead fishery!

Make Port Your Lakeside Playground!



PORT WASHINGTON
WISCONSIN

www.visitportwashington.com | 800-719-4881

nature's *original* water park™





MINOCQUA

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ARBOR VITAE ~ LAKE TOMAHAWK ~ WOODRUFF



“One of the 25 Best Bass Lakes in the Central U.S.”
-BassMaster.com

MINOCQUA.ORG • 800.44.NORTH •    



MANITOWISH WATERS



EXPERIENCE OUR MANY TRAILS

MANITOWISHWATERS.ORG
715-543-8488



DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report

Camp dog diary

My buddies and I have rendezvoused for a fishing trip that we call the Great Walleye Assault (GWA) for 33 consecutive years now. My dog, Raelyn ("Rae"), was honored to serve as the camp dog at this year's event, and I thought it might prove interesting/insightful to look at the whole thing from her perspective. So, here is what I suspect she might have written (if she had thumbs and could write) in her camp dog diary:

Dear Diary,

Just got back from 10 great days spent at a campground in the Wisconsin Northwoods. This is the second time that I've been the camp dog. (I must've done a good job last year.) These guys have been doing this for 33 years. How they ever managed without

me is a miracle.

Setting up the camp takes pretty much a whole day. I used the time to check out the lake, the woods and the other campsites. Looks like I'm the only dog in the whole campground!

At night, the guys all sleep in a pop-up camper. Last year, they tried to make me sleep in a kennel in the car, but I put my four feet down and demanded to sleep in the camper, too. That may not have been my best decision. There's one heck of a lot of snoring and other bodily noises that make it hard to sleep, or even breathe. In addition, the guys are getting older and every night they do something called the "large prostate parade" where they get up one by one and go outside. These guys are idiots.

There were a couple of chipmunks around camp that I chased every day. I almost caught one on the second day. Chased it around the woodpile, through the tent, under the camper, through the tent, and around the woodpile until it finally went up a tree. All of the guys were yelling encouragement (I think) when I chased it through the tent for the second time and knocked a bunch of stuff down.

Sometimes I get to ride along out in the boat when the guys go fishing. On the day of the Michigan opener, the weather was so cold and rainy that I was sure they would stay inside. Did I mention that these guys are idiots? Fortunately, at one point my human cut his finger getting the hook out of a northern pike and had to go back to the



Rae, watching birds and bobbers.

truck to get some Band-Aids. I opted to stay in the vehicle and guard the rest of the Band-Aids. They went back out fishing in the cold and rain. Idiots.

One day, I ate a whole chicken breast.

continued on page 36



FRIDAY AUG. 11
JERROD NIEMANN
SATURDAY AUG. 12
COLLECTIVE SOUL

2-DAY ADVANCE TICKETS \$35

ENJOY LEINIE'S BEERS **MUST BE 21+**

GET TICKETS:
GOCHIPPEWAFALLS.COM/
EVENTS/LEINENKUGELS150

10% OFF **SHOP - VISIT - SAVE AT THE LEINIE LODGE OR SHOP.LEINIE.COM USE PROMO CODE: SUMMER150**

Coupon not valid for Tour/Sampling experience. Pick 6, 150th Beer or in addition to any weekly promotions. Limit one coupon per customer per visit. Only original coupons are valid. Offer expires September 1st, 2017. ©2017 Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Co., Chippewa Falls, WI * Beer

Weekend Freedom Machines



There is a certain buyer's comfort in a name. Old friends like John Deere and Princecraft mean years of experience, sound engineering, quality products, and people who stand behind it all.

There's another name in Wisconsin that has earned that same kind of respect by standing

behind what they sell for more than five decades. Before you buy, say hello to Dave and Leni Kahler of Watertown.

Dave's Turf & Marine. Quality boats, lawn equipment and utility vehicles. No-excuses family service.



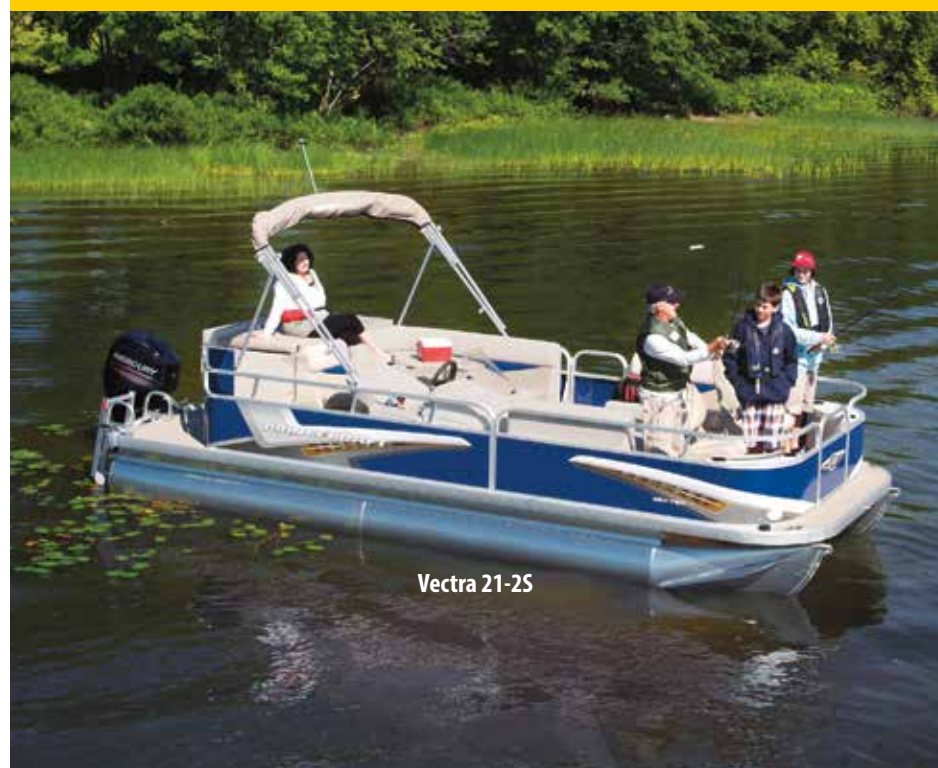
JOHN DEERE

Dave's Turf and Marine

Highway 16 East & Eastgate Drive • Watertown • 920-261-6802 davesturf.net

1
SERVES
DAVE'S

Over 60 Years
of Service



Vectra 21-25



Platinum SE 207



PRINCECRAFT

Home to this years **National Championship**

Cabela's NWT
NATIONAL WALLEYE TOUR
Marinette, Wisconsin

Set Your Own Pace! Aug. 16th - 18th

the real north **Marinette County**

No matter what your outdoor activity preference might be, there's room enough for everyone in Marinette County. Visitors can access 14 waterfalls, great walleye fishing, challenging whitewater, more than 600 miles of connected ATV trails, and hundreds of inland lakes and rivers. Create your own affordable adventure at **THE REAL NORTH**.

www.TheRealNorth.com

Dear OWO readers,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this. The July/August edition of OWO is my last as Copy Editor. My career path is headed in its original direction: legal. I will be working full-time as an assistant in the legal department of a global manufacturing company by the time this issue hits the stores.



Reading and editing articles from the OWO experts over the past six plus years has been a pleasure and a learning experience. Who knew that a sow is not only a female pig but also a female bear? I did not until reading Mike Foss's articles. Who knew so much is involved in tying lines when fly fishing? I didn't until reading Jerry Kiesow's submissions. These are just two examples of the cool things I've learned while working for OWO.

Though I will no longer be a constant part of putting out this fine newspaper, I will be reading it and remembering my work, co-workers and the authors fondly.

Stuart Wilkerson, long-time OWO firearms contributor, will take over the editing reins at OWO. He is an excellent writer, proofreader and all around good guy.

Thank you, readers. It's been wonderful to be part of the great team that puts high-caliber articles in your hands each issue. A huge thank you to Dick Ellis and Ali Garrigan for being fun to work and collaborate with. Especially to Dick for the opportunity to work for his awesome publication. I will miss OWO!

Heidi Rich

Publisher Note:

Heidi has been a fabulous editor and losing her is a little like taking off the life vest on nasty water. For six years, she's read and repaired every column from our writers, about 30 per issue, before passing them on to me for a quick read in the event she may have missed something. That was my easiest job. Heidi doesn't miss much, but we will miss her immensely. Goodbye, Heidi. The OWO door is open.

New Copy Editor Stuart Wilkerson has won numerous awards with the old CNI (Community Newspapers) newspaper chain as a Wisconsin journalist in categories from feature writing to hard news. For 10 years, he has taken care of our readers as one of OWO's knowledgeable firearms experts. Personally, Stuart and I go way back. We graduated together from middle school (barely), from New Berlin West (barely), and from UW-Milwaukee school of Mass Communication-Print Journalism with a 4.0 ... once you added our grade point averages together.

In reality, moving from Heidi to Stuart is moving from copy expert to copy expert, and even though we will be missing Heidi, OWO won't be missing a beat.

Dick Ellis



"I'M A PARK RANGER AND I HAVE AN IRRESISTIBLE URGE TO FEED THE BEARS, PICK THE FLOWERS, AND GET OFF THE HIKING TRAILS."

Text **OUTDOORS** to **77887**
for your chance to win a
COLEMAN TRAIL TAMER 360 ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE



POWERSPORTS

No purchase or payment is necessary to enter sweepstakes or claim prize. Purchase does not improve odds of winning. Open to legal residents of U.S. residing in the state of IA, MN or WI throughout the sweepstakes period and who are 18 years of age or older at time of entry. Entry period begins at 12:00:01 am CT on 6/12/2017 and ends at 11:59:59 pm CT on 8/12/2017. Limit: one (1) entry per person. For official rules and free means of entry, visit www.kwiktrip.com/atv. Message & data rates may apply. Up to 3 messages per entry. By opting in to the Kwik Club, you will receive recurring marketing messages. Consent is not a condition of purchase or entry. Marketing messages will be sent to the number provided at opt-in using automated technology. Text HELP for help. Text STOP to opt-out. Privacy Policy & Terms: www.kwiktrip.com/terms.

KwikTRIP™

DENNY MURAWSKA

The Floating Saucer

A new concept for fishing success

From kayaks to yachts to battleships, boats are entwined with human history as much as any of mankind's clever contrivances. Most have one thing in common: a pointy front end that helps them knife through the water. Just as an arrow or a jet fighter is aerodynamic, fish, whales and most boats are hydrodynamic and streamlined. That is why it came as a huge shock to me to hear about a new type of boat that is as round as a doughnut from Todd, the owner of Pearson's Sport Shop in Black River Falls Wisconsin. About twice each year I ask Todd what is new. When he told me of a new round boat that is just the most stable, stealthy and slick little skiff around, my sketchy knowledge of physics pictured one of those pinwheel-like fireworks that spin around like a dervish once lit. How in the heck would a person apply a force to the outer edge of this or simply try to row it without doing endless 360-degree doughnuts in the water? It just did not seem to make sense. Well, silly me. It does, and it is one of the most versatile fishing and hunting tools I have seen.

I met Todd on nearby Lake Arbutus today and he showed me how this innovative boat, powered by a trolling motor, can really knife through the water. In fact, it is even capable of handling some pretty good surf and



"Trollin'" Todd Pearson, Admiral of the ultracool Ultraskiff.

whitewater. Keel-like skags on the underside keep it tracking as straight as you please. You can sit up high on a cushy pedestal seat or stand up and fight the largest fish with a feel of perfect stability. This is particularly important for "seasoned" gentlemen such as myself, who, due to age and being a trifle overweight have a tough time getting out of a kayak. They do not come with pull-up bars like my bathtub or winches. 'Nuff said.

The Ultraskiff can take on water and lets it simply drain out, much like a sit-on kayak. In fact, they were tested using a firehose to see if they could sink. They do not. The features packed into this compact craft are numerous and utilitarian. Drink holders, room for a live well, six rod holders, deep utility pockets, storage compartments, and allowances for placing more support posts round out this watercraft. The posts support

camouflage netting making this an ideal duck blind. I envisioned a mosquito net around it where I could relax in comfort as the tiny tormentors buzzed outside. Life can be good!

Weighing in at around 125 pounds, it is an easily towed and stowed item. It will fit inside a standard pickup bed. Rolling will get it from truck to the water. With none of the hassles of a big trailer and launching a conventional boat, it has the stability of standing up in a big pontoon boat. Todd showed me one can indeed do 360-degree doughnuts on these if you turn your motor the right way. Not a good idea if you are indulging in a few of Wisconsin's favorite beverages, but I was thinking it might be a lazy man's way of doing a figure eight at the end of a cast for a muskie!

Looking to buy one? Contact Todd Pearson in Black River Falls at 715.284.9562. Pearson's Sport Shop is your headquarters for archery, crossbows, deer stands, bikes, fishing and bait.

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.

KYLE CICHANOFSKY

Crappie Fishing Wisconsin

When these fish bite, get ready to fight

Finally, the time had come my dad, my friend Nick, Mr. E (Nick's dad), and I had been waiting for: crappie season. We were ready.

Nick and I sprinted out of school as fast as we could. "Dude, hurry up! The crappie bite starts at 6:00 and if we wanna catch em', we better hurry!" Nick exclaimed. As we ran down the sidewalk we finally spotted Mr. E's truck. We threw our bags in the back and jumped in.

"Why are you guys so out of breath?" my dad asked from the passenger seat. "We wanna go fishing," Nick replied. "Well, then, buckle up boys!" Mr. E chimed in. We buckled up and hit the road.

It was a long car ride, but we finally made it to the cabin. We unpacked the car slowly (mainly because we were still tired from the three-hour-long drive), but it was only 5:20 P.M., so we took our time moving our gear to the boat.

Once the boat was packed, we called down Mr. E and my dad so we could finally catch some fish! My dad threw in a cooler and off we went.

As we pulled into the honey hole, my dad said, "It's 6:00, boys. We couldn't have planned this any better! Now all we gotta do is catch some slab crappies!" Nick chuckled and we grabbed our rods, equipped with slip bobbers and plastic grubs and casted toward the brush sticking out of the water. "What are you guys doing?" Mr. E asked. "Trying to catch some fish," I replied. Nick and his dad laughed at us. "Here, the crappies bite two feet from the shore line and in the lily pads!" Nick joked.

My dad and I reeled in and casted right into the lily pads and my dad's bobber flew down. "Got one!" he cried. Nick grabbed the net and scooped up the crappie. "Nice one!" Nick exclaimed. Carefully, Nick pulled the 13-inch crappie

A younger Gaige Wertz with a great crappie for the frying pan.



out of the net and threw it in the live well. Then we casted out again.

Thirteen crappies later I still hadn't gotten a fish and was puzzled. I was using the same bait as the other guys and

continued on page 17

MIKE YURK

Bassology

Fishing the bowl lakes

When the great ice cap covering the upper Midwest finally began to thaw and recede across the land, it carved out lakes, which filled with melting ice and rain. Many of these lakes, scooped out of what would be the forests and plains of Wisconsin, are nothing more than holes in the ground. They are like round bowls, often with sandy bottoms.

Today, these lakes are filled with fish, especially large-mouth bass. But they can be tough lakes to fish, since there is little or no structure in them. Finding fish and determining what baits will be the most effective can be challenging.

Find the right depth

Although these bowl lakes have little structure, if any, there are a number of things to look for in finding fish in them. One of the most important aspects is to find what depth the fish are at. The ChatterBait is my lure of choice in this situation, but a spinnerbait, a stick bait or other shallow running crankbait can also work well.

I normally start in 3 to 4 feet of water, casting my bait and slowly moving out. Once I find fish, I stay at that depth and continue to fish. In this case, water depth becomes a form of structure. Typically, I find fish from 4 to 10 feet of water. It is a fairly consistent approach to finding fish, and once I find the depth they are in, I can catch fish anywhere on the lake at that depth.

Docks and boat lifts

Of course, there will be cabins and homes ringing the

lake, and each of them will have docks and boat lifts jutting out into the water. These manmade structures are always prime areas to find bass. Especially on hot summer days when the sun is unrelenting, bass will seek the shade that docks and boat lifts provide.

My favorite bait for docks and boat lifts is a plastic worm. I fish most often a sinking plastic worm. They can be fished either Texas rigged or wacky rigged; both are effective. Thoroughly probe the edges of all docks and boat lifts. Bass will be there and often this manmade structure and cover concentrates bass in small areas, so you can catch more than one fish from the same dock or boat lift.

Look for weeds

The last area you will always find fish on a bowl lake are weeds beds. They are their own unique form of structure. If the weeds are poking through the water, fish the edges of them. If the weeds are submerged, fish both the edges and over the top of the weeds. Weeds will always hold fish.

My two favorite baits for working weed beds on bowl lakes are the ChatterBait and sinking plastic worms. If the weeds are below the surface, I use the ChatterBait to run over the top of them and to fish the edges of the weeds. If the fish are aggressive, they will attack the ChatterBait. A spinnerbait is also effective here. If they are not aggressive, I use the sinking plastic worm. I generally fish them wacky style, but Texas rigged will also work. Drop the worm as close to the edge of weeds as possible and bring it back with a slow retrieve. Especially late summer, bass will hold tight



Mike Yurk holds a bass caught in open water from a bowl lake once he found the depth the fish were hitting.

to weeds, and the plastic worm is always a reliable bait that time of the year.


Bowl lakes can be challenging but no reason to be intimidated by the seeming lack of structure. There are lots of places on these lakes to find bass throughout the season.



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.

CHICHANOFSKY, from page 16

had it the exact same depth as them, too! We pulled up to a big hole in the lily pads and I casted my line in the center of it. Then my dad casted right next to me. "What the heck?" I asked. My dad joked, "If the school's there, we both have a good chance at..." His response was cut off by a tug on the end of his line. "Woo hoo, boys! I'm hooked up again!" my Dad exclaimed. "Are you kidding me?" I asked. "We are using the same baits and everything. What's wrong with me?" We all had a good laugh. "Well, Chicky," Mr. E chuckled, "I guess that this lake just doesn't like you."

We laughed so hard my eyes began to fill up with tears! "Well," I responded while wiping tears of laughter from my eyes, "at least I'll have a good story to tell!" As we continued fishing for crappies I just had to laugh. It's times like this that I will never forget. 

Kyle (Chicky) Cichanofsky is an 8th grader at Bay View Middle School and has a fishing group with his friends called WiscoFishCo. Visit Chicky's youtube channel, Instagram page, or Facebook page at WiscoFishCo. Chicky's column is sponsored by Defender Baits Company.



Kyle and his friend Nick with a basket full of crappie.

Fish Like A Pro.
OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/WisconsinFishing



JIM SERVI

Outdoors Enthusiasts Get Spoiled In La Crosse

Seven Rivers region launches outdoor recreation alliance

Checking into the famous Charmant Hotel, recently named one of the world's top hotels by TripAdvisor, is a real treat. Literally. Upon arrival, you are greeted with mouth-watering chocolate from Indulgence Chocolatiers, as a tribute to their past. Prior to becoming a boutique hotel it was a chocolate factory, and before that it was the site of the first building in La Crosse, a trading post built in 1842. The hotel lies only steps from the location where the Mississippi River and Black River converge to form numerous islands in the Mississippi River Backwaters. Lake Onalaska lies just upstream. Together they create an outdoor paradise. Excellent fishing year-round in the pools above and below, turkey and deer hunting in the surrounding bluffs, and world-class waterfowl hunting on one of the most heavily used migration routes in the United States. Bird watching opportunities abound. Mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, canoeing ... you name it. There are so many opportunities to enjoy the countryside, and that's not even the best part. Fishermen



La Crosse visitors kayaking on the Mississippi River backwaters.

come from around the globe to fish the trout-filled streams of the Coulee Region.

The Charmant Hotel is one of the many organizations partnering with the newly formed Outdoor Recreation Alliance to offer what they call an "Outdoors Concierge Service." Brent Hanifl, Explore La Crosse's Director of Media & Marketing, puts it perfectly: "It is a partnership from Outdoor Recreation Alliance and area accommodations to offer visitors outdoor excursions, so in essence you can still get outside and get dirty but stay in a casual, yet award-winning

accommodations."

The Outdoor Recreation Alliance offerings, listed below, are as diverse as the opportunities the region offers, and you don't need to stay at the Charmant to enjoy. It's open to everyone.

Birding and wildlife hikes

Road biking

Mountain biking

Trail running/hiking

Kayaking

Fly-fishing

Cross-country skiing


Snowshoeing

Rentals are available for all the expeditions, so you don't have to worry about equipment. Rates are very reasonable to encourage people to explore all the outdoor opportunities La Crosse and the surrounding community have to offer. More information can be found at oradriftless.org.

Outdoor Recreation Alliance Executive Director Jeffrey Worrell explains the program. "The Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA) is an advocate for all of the silent sports here in the greater Driftless region. Our goal is to increase access to both land and water trails and promote best practices

within the sports we love. ORA is an umbrella organization advocating and working cooperatively with City, County and private landowners to bring a voice to the need for quality outdoor recreation opportunities for our communities and our citizens."

When your day of exploration and adventure is complete, there are plenty of additional venues to enjoy. Stroll the grounds of one of the largest Oktoberfest events in the United States, explore the many walking paths, or just coast down the Riverwalk taking in the power of the Mississippi River. Forest Hill Golf Club and Cedar Creek Golf Club offer exceptional views. Dozens of parks dot the landscape to relax and explore. For food, Buzzard Billy's Restaurant offers some exotic, Cajun-style menu choices like alligator, gumbo, jambalaya and hushpuppies. If you're looking for a delicious, yet traditional Wisconsin fish fry, head just north to Red Pines Grill in Onalaska. Drinks and nightlife can be found at Bodega Brew Pub, Turtle Stack Brewery, and the Dublin Square Irish Pub & Eatery.

There is a perfect opportunity to explore La Crosse coming up soon. In celebration of the La Crosse Area Bicycle Festival, which is being held September 1 - 4, they are giving away a two-night stay in La Crosse at the Courtyard on the Mississippi River along with a Wyatt Fatbike, a Wenonah Canoe, a canoe trailer and a wood canoe paddle from Sigurd Canoe Company. Sign up at explorelacrosse.com or text "bikefest" to 31996 to get in the sweepstakes. 

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.

Our goal at Kaestner Auto Electric is to provide you with service that exceeds your expectations.

KAESTNER Auto Electric

SINCE 1919

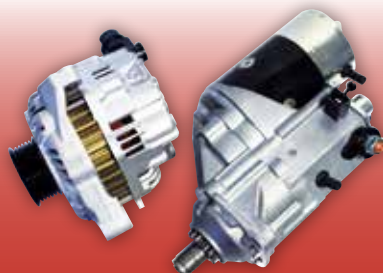
Full service automotive and light truck mechanical and electrical repairs:

- Wiring/Electrical
- Brakes/Struts
- A/C Repair
- Charging/Starting/Batteries
- Failed Emission Repairs
- General Maintenance

Pick up and drop off service offered in Waukesha area.



CONTACT US TODAY! (262) 547-9600
W222 N757 Cheaney Dr Waukesha, WI 53186
M-F: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Parts Only)



STARTER, ALTERNATOR, and GENERATOR REBUILDING

Common Services:

- Auto/Truck
- Marine/Jet Ski
- Tractor/ATV
- Construction Equipment

95% OF THE TIME WE CAN HAVE YOUR UNIT REBUILT OR A REPLACEMENT BY THE NEXT DAY!

WWW.KAESTNERAUTO.COM



visitferryville.com

JULY 12 - Bonfire. Sugar Creek Park - 8 p.m.
Tim Eisele speaking on "From Weeds to Wildflowers on Gobbler Ridge".

JULY 22 - River Bluff Daze Festival. Antique Tractor Pull at noon, Market in the Park, Fireworks at Dusk

JULY 22 - River Bluff Daze Nature Hike - 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Boat Landing at 8:30 AM. Great guides. Will hike on Sugar Creek Bluff.

AUGUST 9 - Storytime, Bonfire. Sugar Creek Park - 8 p.m.
"Harriet Lane - The First Lady of the White House" presented by Bob O'Connor.

Boats, Bikes, And Hikes in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The La Crosse area's meandering waterways are a paddling paradise, offering wetlands courses for gentle canoe rides as well as moderate to strenuous kayaking adventures along the Mississippi.



When you're done on the water, get cycling! From Riverside Park in downtown La Crosse, access over 100 miles of railbed trails stretching from Marshland to Reedsburg. Our bluffs and coulees provide a more-than-adequate challenge to road cyclists and mountain-bike enthusiasts alike.

With wooded bluffs topped by craggy sandstone outcroppings, marshes teeming with wildlife, prairies and meadows, and rivers, lakes, and streams everywhere you turn, there's a whole world to explore in this quiet little corner of the Upper Midwest.



Plan your visit now, and enter the Boats, Bikes, And Hikes Giveaway. In celebration of the La Crosse Area Bicycle Festival, one winner will get a two-night stay, a Wyatt Fatbike, a Wenonah Canoe, and a canoe trailer—a \$2,100 value! www.explorelacrosse.com

La Crosse Queen Cruises



- Sightseeing Cruises
- Lunch Cruises
- 3-hour Cruises
- Pizza Cruises
- Brunch Cruises
- Weeknight and Weekend Dinner Cruises
- Cruising the Mississippi from April through October.

405 Veterans Memorial Drive
P.O. Box 1805
La Crosse, WI 54602-1805
608-784-8523



lacrossequeen.com

BOATS, BIKES, AND HIKE IN LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.

explore
LA CROSSE

**WIN A
FATBIKE, CANOE,
& CANOE TRAILER!**



**TEXT BIKEFEST
TO 31996
TO ENTER TO WIN!**

explorelacrosse.com

sweet sweet SUMMERTIME



EXPERIENCE
THE NEW BUICK



FIND NEW ROADS™



•BURLINGTON•

2300 Brown's Lake Dr. • BURLINGTON

866-706-5148

lynchGMsuperstore.com

Sales Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8:30-8 • Fri: 8:30-6 • Sat: 8:30-4 •



•BODYSHOP•

262-757-2952

**NOBODY
SELLS FOR
-LESS-**

YOUR GM SUPERSTORE + WE'LL BEAT ANY COMPETITOR'S PRICE!†

SU

even sweeter
SAVINGS



FIND NEW ROADS™



BODY
LS FOR
ESS-

·KENOSHA·
10901 75th St. • KENOSHA

262-694-9300

lynchchevroletofkenosha.com

Sales Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9:00-9 • Fri: 8:30-6 • Sat: 8:30-5 •



·BODYSHOP·

262-757-2952

**NO REPAIR TOO BIG,
OR TOO SMALL!!**

SUPPLIER PRICING TO ALL ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS READERS!!!



SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette

Mystery meat

Myystery meat...what is it and why do we have it in our freezer? I have the best of intentions when it comes to packaging our meat and fish properly; however, the reality of this situation becomes evident in the middle of summer when I fail to recognize what exactly is left in our freezer. Why aren't these things marked? There's no description, no date, and sometimes there's even a hint of freezer burn. We lovingly refer to these frozen bricks as "mystery meat" in our household, and we actually set aside one day every couple of weeks to feature one of the anonymous packages during our main meal. In the event that your family experiences the same phenomenon, I thought I'd share a couple of recipes we've used to help with the surprise of "what's for dinner?" Enjoy!

Mystery Meat Pepper Stew

- 1 package mystery meat (something that looks like venison), thawed overnight
- 2 red bell peppers, sliced
- 2 large onions, sliced
- Salt & pepper
- 1 can or bottle of beer (your choice of style/flavor)
- 2 yellow bell peppers, sliced
- Olive oil
- Fresh sprigs of tarragon

Spread vegetables in bottom of slow cooker. If meat is in one chunk, rub olive oil, salt and pepper over all. If meat is cut into pieces, toss with a couple tablespoons of olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place meat on top of vegetables in slow cooker and pour beer over all. Lay two or three sprigs of tarragon on top of the meat. Cover and cook on low heat 8 to 10 hours until meat is tender.

Mystery Meat Kabobs

1 package mystery meat (Dove breasts are great and should be fairly easy to identify in the freezer. Aim for 10 to 12 whole breasts, thawed and halved.)

- 10 - 12 slices bacon, cut in half
- 8 oz. can water chestnuts, drained

Sauce:

- 2 T butter
- 2 T brown sugar
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1 T minced garlic
- 2 tsp. soy sauce
- ½ tsp. pepper

Prepare wooden skewers by soaking in water for 30 minutes.

Combine sauce ingredients in small saucepan and cook over low to medium heat until sugar has dissolved. Use this sauce for basting.

Wrap ½ slice bacon around each dove breast half. Thread bacon-wrapped breasts and water chestnuts alternately on skewers.

Grill kabobs for 10 to 15 minutes, turning and basting frequently until bacon is crispy. Serve immediately with remaining sauce for dipping.



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.

www.lilyriver.com

DAN VERBETEN, OWNER, LILY RIVER FOODS

With fish fries being so popular in the Midwest, Lily River Foods would like to offer a few tips to help you make the perfect fish fry.

The first step of a quality fish fry is to start with high quality fillets. Whether you catch the fish yourself or catch them at the local fish market, the best fish will always be fresh fish. Keep your fish on ice or as cold as possible while storing or transporting. I typically clean my fish and then



soak the fillets in ice cold, slightly salted water for a day or two before using. This firms the fillets up and helps to remove any undesirable flavors. If you don't prepare your fish right away, freeze them in a container or freezer bag and cover the fillets completely with

water so no part of the fish is exposed to get freezer burn.

When you are ready to prepare your fish, cut away any of the dark areas on the lateral line or belly area and double check the fillet to make sure all bones are removed. In some larger fish, you may want to remove the lateral line of bones completely. A little extra time preparing your fillets will provide a much higher quality of fish for your fish fry.

TOM CARPENTER

Cubs Corner

Hand-lining summer sunnies and other rites of childhood

One reason kids are so much fun to take hunting and fishing, or doing anything else outdoors, is that you just never know exactly what you're going to end up doing. Consider this pike fishing trip, conducted some years ago now, on the cool of an August morning.

My boy, Noah, and I rose just before the sun, trailered our boat to the lake, and were drifting sucker minnows below big slip-bobbers as the picture-perfect day began to take shape. A light breeze coasted us along, while white clouds began to form above in the hazy-blue sky. It was a day made for fishing, and we thrilled to a few bobber plunges on hits from hungry pike. But after a couple fish boated, the boy tired of the game. "Let's catch some bluegills!" he announced. Our suckers were about gone anyway, so I left my rig in the water and started rigging up a light spinning rod for Noah. Some nightcrawlers resided in a cooler for just such a development.

"No," Noah announced when he saw the rod. "I want to hand-line them!"

Say what? My first inclination was to talk him out of it. How inefficient would that be? Before I did, I caught myself and laughed. We didn't need to boat a boatload of bluegills, but we did need to have some fun and this was the fun he wanted.

Who knows where the kid got the idea for

hand-lining? I found an unused buoy marker, located a spool of 8-pound line, then switched to 10-pound for better feel in the hand, tied on a gold size-4 hook, and squeezed on an ample split-shot. A skewered nightcrawler-half completed the offering.

"There you go!" I said and off he went to the front of the boat where he dropped the line in, unraveled some loops to get the bait down, and went to work.

"I got a bite," he announced shortly. I could see the line twitching, but Noah wasn't having any luck setting the hook. You would think the sunnies would hook themselves, but they weren't.

We strategized the best way to hook a fish by hand without a rod. Pulling the line fast didn't work. Neither did jerking it at the first hint of a nibble. Finally, he (not me) figured it out.

"You have to tighten up the line when one bites," Noah said. "Then pull *straight* up!" This pronouncement accompanied the first sunny boated—a surprisingly paunchy, orange-breasted fellow that would taste mighty good coated in Fry Magic and deep-fried in canola oil.

And so it went. Noah laughed his way through a dozen-and-a-half fish, pulling them in hand over hand and hoisting them, flopping all the way, into the boat. Who needed a rod anyway?

continued on page 41



The Legendary Fan Cave
Where Family Fun Is Still Affordable

Air Hockey Arcade Artwork Bars & Bar Stools
Darts & Dartboards Fire Pits Foosball Gas Grills
Lighting Patio Furniture Ping Pong
Pool Tables Shuffleboard Sports Memorabilia



Two convenient locations:

WAUKESHA

1005 Spring City Drive
 (262) 521-8004

GLENDALE

Bayshore Town Center
 (414) 963-1822

WWW.MASTERZS.COM

JIM SERVICheck out more product reviews at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com!

Product 6-Pack

Plunge into summer with these great products

**RIPPIN LIPS PRO BIG FISH GRIPPER**

Originally designed by catfishermen, it's perfect for all large fish species. Safely holds the fish's jaw while removing a hook. Built-in scale automatically displays fish weights up to 50 pounds. Comes with adjustable wrist strap. Constructed of non-corrosive stainless steel and non-slip rubberized handle. Great for taking photos and releasing fish gently back into the water. Simple to operate. (\$29.99)

customjigs.com**TYLER'S TACKLE DOUBLE BLADED BUZZBAITS**

Built with two blades to deliver twice the commotion for big fish. Head colors available in 39 different colors with multi-head options available. Wide variety of silicone skirts to match any fishing situation. Spinners work in a counter spin action allowing the lure to be retrieved slower than traditional buzzbaits. All lures are handmade right here in Wisconsin and inspected to ensure top quality. (\$6.00)

facebook.com/tylerstackle**FEELFREE SIT-ON-TOP KAYAKS**

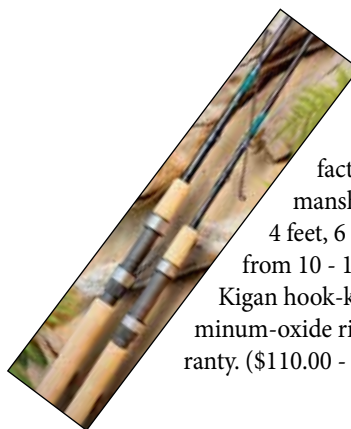
Variety of sit-on-top kayaks available. Perfect for fishing and hunting since they are easy to get in and out with waders or without. Plus, the self-bailing aspect makes it safer when navigating tricky waters. Molded-in handles, recessed fittings and a variety of options and upgrades to outfit your fishing rig. Lightweight and easy to handle, board and launch. Hull designed for stability. Variety of lengths from 9 feet to 13 feet. (\$499.00 - \$899.00)

feelfreeus.com**NOMAD HAMMOCK STAND**

Great way to relax whether you are camping, fishing, hunting, exploring or just lounging around the yard. No need to worry about obstacles or finding the perfect trees with this stand. Portable, lightweight and quick to set up. Custom carrying case allows you to take it on any adventure. Compatible with nearly any hammock. 300-pound capacity. (\$249.95)

eaglesnestoutfittersinc.com**GOFREE HOOKED FISHING APP**

Mobile tracking device for anglers right on their phone. Ability to record every catch and compare them from trip to trip and year to year. Log fish with photos by size, weight, species, location, and then instantly share via text or social media. Linked with GPS to show catches on map. Options available to set up a personal tournament with friends and family or compete with anglers around the world. Download on Apple and Android mobile devices. (FREE)

gofreemarine.com**ST. CROIX PREMIER SPINNING RODS**

Designed and handcrafted right here in Wisconsin with factory tours available. That way you know exactly the craftsmanship that you're getting. Premium quality graphite rods from 4 feet, 6 inches to 8 feet, 6 inches with high quality cork handles from 10 - 17 inches. Variety of actions from ultralight to extra-heavy. Kigan hook-keeper and Fuji DPS reel seat. Guides made with strong aluminum-oxide rings. Two coats of slow-cure finish. Backed by 5-year warranty. (\$110.00 - \$170.00)

stcroixrods.com

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.

LOCATED IN NEW LISBON, WI**FOR SALE**

BEAUTIFUL AMISH BUILT LOG CABIN ON 3 WOODED ACRES

Located seconds away from Castle Rock Lake and State Forest recreation. Snowmobile/ATV trails start right out your front door. Property is part of the "Logs at Eagle Lake" development that gives you access to a large pond surrounded by beautiful sand beach and a large Pavilion for family gatherings. Swimming and fishing are a trails walk away. Two large lofts serve as 2 of 3 bedrooms. This property was just appraised for \$153k. *This getaway can be yours starting at \$132,900!*

Call Vince at 262-206-8404

Bucky's
Fine Meats & Sausage LLC



VENISON & WILD GAME SAUSAGE MADE YEAR ROUND.

225 BAY VIEW RD. SUITE 100 | MUKWONAGO | (262) 378-4608 | BUCKYSMEATS.COM



TYLER FLORCZAK

Running Trail Cameras Efficiently And Effectively

Constant surveillance gives hunters the edge

Taking constant surveillance of your hunting land is one of the most efficient and effective ways possible toward filling your buck tag. Stand placement, controlling human scent, and making the kill shot in the moment of truth are a couple of other major facets that can make or break a hunt. But in order to understand deer numbers, behaviors and patterns—and, hopefully, find a trophy buck to pursue this fall—most successful whitetail enthusiasts lay out a strategic plan when it comes to hanging trail cameras for pre-season scouting.

Consider some of these tips to access the vital information you'll need over the next few months to harvest a wall-hanger.

Trail camera concepts

- Choosing the right camera. Nowadays, there are endless brands and features available. Use the Internet as a tool to comb through reviews and features, but focus on the most important features such as infrared flash, shutter/trigger speed and resolution. These vary person to person and depend on the hunter's personal needs.

- Proper angles. When covering a trail or a travel corridor where animals pass through, instead of angling the camera perpendicular to the trail, set the camera at about a 45-degree angle. This will allow the camera to capture full images of animals, not just the hind-end.

- Trail camera placement. Sunrise and sunset play a major



A mature 10-point buck that appeared on trail camera for several weeks prior to the 2016 bow hunting season. He disappeared once the season opened, but hopefully will return to the area again this year.

factor in the quality of trail camera photos. Cameras should be placed south of target areas, ideally facing north, in order for daylight photos to have the best lighting. Also, remove any visible debris (branches, tall grass, etc.) that may obstruct the photos.

- Using mineral blocks, bait and scent as an aid. In the summer months, mineral blocks are a great way to take inventory of this year's deer herd without disturbing them. Simply place a mineral block, such as Trophy Rock, in a

heavily-traveled area and set your camera up to capture any visitors to the mineral site. Once the bow and gun hunting seasons begin, placing cameras over scrapes or mock scrapes can be useful. Buck urine or doe-in will get deer to stop in the scrape, allowing ample time for the camera to take a few portraits of the bucks on your hit list.

- File your photos. Develop a simple system to keep annual records of your deer herd. Effectively gathering information allows whitetail freaks to manage their property in the best way possible. Follow the lifespan and pattern mature bucks year in and year out in order to arrow them when they mistakenly wander past your stand.

- Low-impact scouting. Prior to hunting seasons opening, minimize human scent in the woods. There are several variables, such as location of the camera, time of year and weather conditions that will dictate the best periods to check cameras. Checking your trail cameras via ATV or vehicle seems to disturb deer less than venturing around the property on foot and contaminating the area with human scent. In general, disturb your hunting area as little as possible. [OW](#)

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.

TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds *Northern flicker*

A northern flicker presents a handsome sight as it hunts for insects on a lawn, meadow, field or other opening next to a treeline or forest. This ground-feeding habit is unique among Wisconsin's woodpeckers, letting the flicker exploit its own niche without competition from related species. Key is the bird's long, curved bill ... and a tongue that is three inches longer yet! These tools help the flicker probe for ants, beetles, insect larvae, grubs, crickets and bugs.

Listen for the distinctive *wicka-wick-wick-wicka* call ... very urgent-sounding and quite boisterous. In spring, male flickers hammer on wood, power poles and even tin to sound off and attract potential mates. Spring turkey hunters know that the northern flicker's boisterous and shrill call can elicit a shock gobble out of nearby toms.

Look for a rather large (about 12 inches) bird with a brown, barred back and a creamy belly scalloped with black spots. A conspicuous white rump patch shows up in flight. Flickers are migratory in Wisconsin, arriving after the snow melts and when spring insects are available on the ground for foraging. The birds leave in October when insects hole up or freeze out and the ground gets hard.

Attract flickers with a nest box featuring a 2 ½-inch diameter entrance hole, 15 inches off the box's floor. If safe, leave up old dead trees to provide nesting holes. Flickers will pound out their own hole in soft or rotted wood and that hole will provide nesting for other species in the future.

Feed flickers peanut butter, suet, apple chunks or raisins. Did you know that an eastern flicker sports yellowish



underwings and red nape on the neck? Western birds have salmon-colored underwings and a plain nape. Eastern males have a black "mustache" behind their bill, western males a red one. In Wisconsin, we see mostly the eastern version of the northern flicker. The varieties readily hybridize where they meet in the Great Plains. [OW](#)

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

NATION'S LARGEST "ALL-DEER FESTIVAL"

MEET
TED NUGENT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH
NON-MUSICAL APPEARANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT
HAPPY HOUR
6-9PM

All Concessions
 1/2 Price

courtesy of:



LEGENDARY
 WHITETAILS

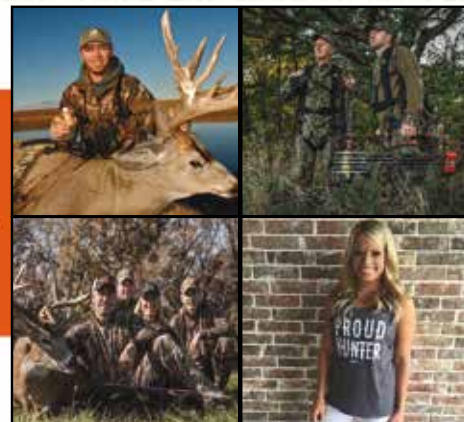
PRESENTS

2017 **DeerFest**

3 BIG DAYS

FRIDAY 2-9 • SATURDAY 10-7 • SUNDAY 10-4

ALSO MEET
 CODY ROBBINS,
 JEFF & DAVID LINDSEY,
 THE RAISED HUNTING FAMILY
 & KENDALL JONES.
 APPEARING ALL 3 DAYS!



SHOOT ALL THE NEW BOWS IN THE ARCHERY PAVILION

PSE | HOYT | MATHEWS | MISSION | BOWTECH | EXCALIBUR | TEN POINT | PARKER | BEAR | GEARHEAD

OVER 250 BOOTHS & EXHIBITS

EXPERT SEMINARS, LIVE AUCTION, SHED DOG TRAILS, 3D & POP-UP ARCHERY COURSES, CELEBRITY ARCHERY TOURNAMENT, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE! DEERFEST IS EVERYTHING DEER!

FIRST 1,000 PEOPLE ON SUNDAY RECEIVE A \$12 GIFT CARD FROM LEGENDARY WHITETAILS

AUGUST 4TH-6TH, 2017

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR PARK | WEST BEND, WI



ADVANCE TICKET SALES AND COMPLETE EVENT DETAILS:

WWW.DEERFEST.COM



99¢
ea

5 oz *Shoulder Tender*
Steak

Serving Suggestion • Price good through 8/17/17



MIKE FOSS

To Meet A Monster

Mating season is time for locating biggest bears

With the Wisconsin bear season still four months out, Robert Haas, owner of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters, thinks I'm ahead of schedule. Scouting began long ago, most tree stands are hung, bait stations are calling in the bears, and trail cameras are strategically placed and capturing those big boars searching for a hot sow.

For bear guides, this is an exciting time of year. Those that don't take advantage of the baiting and associated trail cam opportunities during the bear's spring rut, or mating season, are missing out on a major piece of the puzzle that determines whether or not the tag is filled in September. Education is the key to a successful hunt. The more you study the quarry you intend to hunt, the higher the chances of success.

Recently, Haas said he is not only amazed at the high number of bears he is seeing both in the field and on camera since placing bait stations this spring but even more amazed at how big some of these bears are. As veteran guides with literally decades of experience in the field, fear of crossing paths with a monster isn't part of the mental make-up. But being out here all alone knowing there are bears 500 to 600-plus pounds roaming nearby can sometimes invite an eerie feeling.

During the rut, we get those monster bears that literally camp out 24 hours a day on bait stations, not necessarily to eat but to wait for that special sow to show up. I first saw the legendary Snaggletooth, showcased for years in OWO, on a bright sunny afternoon. All I could do was stare from my truck as he moved down the ditch. Snaggletooth was killed by hound hunters at 600 pounds. Our hunters have taken



A very big bear is caught on this trail cam shot on a Northern Wisconsin Outfitters bait site.

boars to 638 pounds and many over 400. And both on camera and several times in the field face to face Haas has seen a boar we believe will go 700 pounds carrying the nickname of "Bus 15."

"Look at the size of that bear. He's as big as a bus and it's going to take 15 men to carry him out," a delighted and awestruck Haas said after the first encounter.

Some of the mammoths only stay a few days near the bait before moving on in search of that hot sow. But Haas also realizes that many of the big bears captured early on trail camera will remember where those bait stations are and travel many miles to revisit a site in September. Hopefully, this time when a hunter is on stand.

Many of our biggest bears, including Snaggletooth, were captured on camera at our same secluded bait sites year after year after year. But just knowing that he will return is no guarantee of filling a tag. A bear doesn't grow that big without being smart, wary and probably having had survived close en-

continued on page 29

PLANNING AHEAD PAYS OFF

Bob's Bear Bait employee and archer Shawn Shelig combined Wisconsin hunting knowledge with the expertise of Bear Master Outfitters in Manitoba to develop a winning game plan and harvest a spring 2017 Boone and Crockett bear scoring 21-7/16ths. The boar weighed in at almost 500 pounds.

One month before the hunt, Shelig and Bob's Bear Bait owner Bob Spierings concocted an enticing bait load consisting of Bob's Bear Booze, trail mix, sticky granola and variations of other sweet treats before heading north to Manitoba. On location with Bear Master Outfitters just 30 miles north of the U.S. border, they helped set tree stands and jump-started bait stations. Days before the hunt was to start, the team returned and again used knowledge earned during countless successful hunts in Wisconsin to put together another magnetizing mixture of bait. Their approach on the eve of the hunt, though, included using less of the "lighter variety of bait," Spierings said, "to help keep the bear from going nocturnal."

It worked beyond expectations. With all factors, including weather, wind direction and timing taken into consideration, the aromatic pull of the bait proved too much for the Canadian bruin. The harvest of a lifetime proved once again what the Wisconsin boys already knew: planning ahead pays off.

If you're looking for great bait in variety and knowledgeable advice regarding your upcoming Wisconsin bear hunt, connect with www.bobsbearbait.com and follow us on Facebook! If you're looking for a quality hunt and the opportunity of a trophy bear, or maybe you just don't want to wait eight years for your Wisconsin tag, check out Bear Master Outfitters at www.bearmasteroutfitters.com.

OWO



Wisconsin bowhunter Shawn Shelig took this spring, 2017 Boone and Crockett bear scoring 21-7/16ths and weighing 492 pounds hunting with Bear Master Outfitters in Manitoba. Shelig also took along the goodies and the advantage of working as an employee of Bob's Bear Bait.

BOB'S
Bear Bait
QUALITY BEAR BAIT



NEW LOCATIONS FOR 2017! APPLETON • MOSINEE • PHELPS • COMING TO MICHIGAN THIS SUMMER!

**3000 Apostolic Drive
Appleton, WI**

3/4 mile off US HWY 41 at HWY N
Exit Little Chute by Cherry Lands Best

**4069 Volkman Rd
Phelps, WI**
Limited items.

**MB Storage
1180 East St Hwy 153
Kronenwetter, WI**
Only 1 Mile off I-39 (Hwy 51)

**Ishpeming,
Michigan
OPENING
SUMMER
OF 2017!**

Call 920-419-1238 or Email sales@bobsbearbait.com

Check website for weekly specials and new inventory!

Order spray scents,
smears, topper bombs
ONLINE!

**MANY FLAVORS AVAILABLE!
FREE SHIPPING ON SCENTS!**



55 GALLON DRUMS	Sweet Topping	Liquid Scent	Others
Bear Mix	Strawberry Jam	Smoke	Peanut Butter
Cookies	Black Raspberry	Anise	Maple Syrup
Cookie Dough	Apple	Blueberry	Frostings
Granola	Blueberry	Cookie	Nuts
Trailmix	Raspberry	Vanilla	Sticky Granola
Popcorn	Cranberry Jam	Bob's Bear Juice	Craisins

DELIVERY AVAILABLE: WISCONSIN, NATIONWIDE & CANADA

Visit BobsBearBait.com



JERRY DAVIS

Get To Know A Good Nut

No need to wait to judge autumn's fruit crops

Hunters, nut gatherers, seedling nursery managers, and nut-eating wildlife were flabbergasted and disappointed last autumn when shagbark hickory nuts were empty, white and red oaks were unproductive, and walnut trees and bittersweet vines disappointed everyone. Why was this? A fruit's journey is too long, tedious and tumultuous to analyse in hindsight. A late freeze during flowering? A tree's cycle? Climate change? (Don't even go there, because half the people don't believe what's before their eyes.)

The impacts of this fruit famine were felt throughout fall, winter and spring. Squirrel hunters should have hunted corn field edges, not forests. Archers should have followed. Fall turkey hunters tired of running and gunning because it was mainly running. The nuts were mostly few and far between.

July and August is the time to evaluate the hard and soft mast crops on oak trees, hazelnut shrubs and grape vines. Will 2017 be another bust, or can we plan to install a

tree stand in that old bur oak tree ... one that produces sweet acorns deer love to fight over and under?

All fruits, including acorns, hickory nuts and bittersweet berries, are derived from the blooms of earlier days. Soon after blooms, pollination, and warm days and nights, a flower part starts a one- or two-year development into an acorn or some other fruit. White oaks—burs, whites and swamp whites—will do it all by this fall. Red oaks—blacks, pins and reds—take another year to make this year's start of acorns full. Those red oak acorns from last year's start are still on the trees. The new ones from 2017 are far smaller but noticeable to a trained eye. If there is going to be any white oak acorns, they are miniatures of the real thing by Independence Day. Then they fill out and begin dropping shortly after Labor Day.

Oak trees can be divided into the red and white groups in other ways, also. The whites have rounded tips on their leaves; reds have more pointed tips. There is no need to sort

out the individuals within these groups. Burs, swamp whites and whites are all white oaks and are preferred by most animals.

As the fruits get closer to maturity, look for them on the trees, shrubs and vines. Take a few hickory nuts and open them. Is there any meat inside the shell, or are they already wormy?

Like pine trees, oaks and other nut trees sometimes produce their nuts up high on the tree, so search with binoculars to make sure. Or visit the locations after a wind storm and look for early drops.

Fruits, many of which are nuts, are a staple of many wildlife animals, including some birds. Turkeys, grouse, some woodpeckers, and smaller mammals rely on the energy stored in fruit to fatten for the winter. If there is a crop failure, it's up to those animals to locate secondary food sources. Find those alternate foods and it can be a joyous autumn.

One advantage to these boom-and-bust



Red oaks take two years to complete a crop of acorns. Two acorns are attached to the green twig and will develop by fall 2018.

seasons is that the animals are traveling farther to find food. This could set up an exciting season with lots of animal activity. Hunters are smart. When necessary, they can locate secondary food sources. Now is the time to find them, so check the developing fruits on oaks, hickories and walnuts.

Don't feel like a nut when scouting for nuts well before hunting and gathering seasons open.

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

SERVI, from page 10
waters with ease.

In addition to coho salmon, Kinn's targets brown trout, rainbow trout or "steelhead," lake trout, and their specialty, chinook salmon or "Kings." Throughout the season, they shift their focus based on what is biting best and the wishes of their customers.

"There's one!" First Mate Zack Vandertie shouted a few moments later. One by one, our cooler began to fill up with all four of us taking turns reeling in the aggressive salmon. And then it happened. With 15 poles lining the back, salmon began hitting one after the other. Two of us would be reeling in fish only to have another on the line as soon as we were done. For nearly an hour, it was a flurry of activity, and before we knew it we were at 18 cohos. Turning around we hit the hot spot once again. When we did, it didn't take too long to boat our final two fish. We had our limit with the sun still high in the sky.


Kinn's is more than just a fishing

trip. It can be a vacation, family destination or a weekend getaway with their 10 luxury lakefront condominiums. Completely furnished with all the amenities to relax after a day of reeling in your limit, you'll be overlooking Crescent Beach and Boardwalk while grilling your fresh salmon on an outdoor BBQ grill.

Heading back to port, the first mate cleaned the fish with the obvious expertise of a professional. By the time we were back, they were filleted, cleaned, bagged and ready to throw on the grill. Clearly, the fire last year didn't stop Kinn's Sport Fishing or even slow them down. They are back to doing what they do best: catching limits of trout and salmon on Lake Michigan. We're already excited to get back on the big lake, but don't just take it from me. Heed the words from a review of Kinn's on a popular travel website. "Fishing with Kinn's was awesome!"

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.

FOSS, from page 28

counters with hunters. They are elusive, intelligent, often nocturnal, or amazingly adept at working the wind to ensure no hunter waits on stand. That said, they also make mistakes. May you meet your monster this fall. 

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



TOM CARPENTER

How To Rescue A Duck Decoy

Refurbish an abused decoy in 7 steps

Summer is the perfect time to empty your waterfowling decoy bags, select some candidates for repair and get to work rescuing blocks that suffer from BB holes, cracks, chipped and rubbed paint and various other maladies. It's a fine way to ease the wait for duck season and avoid the cost of new decoys. Here are seven steps to accomplish this.

1) Clean decoy. Thoroughly clean the decoys. Go at each one with a bucket of warm sudsy water, a scrub brush and a hose. For badly mud-caked blocks, start the process with the decoys in a pothole bag and rinse them down with a hose or at a local carwash.

2) Locate leaks. Fill a wash tub with water and plunge a decoy in. Hold it under and move it around. Pull out the decoy, dry it and squeeze it as you turn it every which way to locate leaks. Mark the spots with an indelible marker.

To drain the decoy, drill a quarter-inch hole in the tail section, then rack the decoy upside down. Let it drain and dry for two to three days.

3) Prepare for sealing. The first step to fixing shot holes is to drill them out (enlarge them) using a 1/8-inch or 3/16-inch drill bit. Why? So the patch material has plenty of open area through which to easily enter and spread out inside the decoy.

On cracks or splits, drill a hole at either end and several

along either side to make sure there are multiple entrance points for patch material.

4) Select material. The best material for fixing a leaky decoy is Lexel, a synthetic rubber found at hardware and home improvement stores. Lexel is sticky, oozes through holes and cracks well, dries into an elastic end product and lasts longer. Plus, Lexel sands down better than silicone or glue and takes paint perfectly.

5) Plug holes and seams. Keep the patch material or caulk gun tube's exit hole small so you can get material into tight spots. Make sure plenty of goop gets inside the decoy to spread out around the hole. Use a moist finger to spread material around the outside to assure a good seal shut. Don't forget the tail drainhole.

6) Prepare for painting. Wait a few days for the patch material to dry, then sand down any large or irregular bumps. Use fine steel wool to scuff up the whole decoy or the portions you're touching up. This gives the paint more surface area to stick to.

7) Paint decoys. You don't have to be an artist to re-paint a decoy. Just follow the pattern of what has faded. Focus on getting the right color in the right place. Use a 1/4-inch brush for tighter work and a 1/2-inch brush for larger areas. Detail is nice but not necessary. In fact, exaggeration can be good,




Summer is the perfect time to get your decoys patched up and looking sharp.

such as a mallard drake's green head.

Satin-finish latex paint works great on decoys. (Flat finish paint is too dull, glossy too shiny.) Two companies specialize in decoy paint you can buy in individual cans or species-specific kits. One is BirdVison (available on ReelWings.com). Another is Parkers, available at retail and online stores such as Cabela's. The kits are nice because they take the guesswork and decision-making out of selecting the right colors.

Refurbishing Tip

Sunlight, water and age can make some decoys look dull, but they don't quite seem to need painting, either. Here's one old trick: wash the decoy and let it dry. Rub Vaseline in everywhere, then buff with a soft cloth. This revives colors and restores luster and sheen. 

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

JOIN THE HUNT!

www.wernvalley.com





WERN VALLEY

Hunting Preserve & Sporting Clays

Conveniently located just minutes west of Milwaukee in Waukesha, Wern Valley offers the finest in upland bird hunting as well as a professional full-time staff dedicated to the avid sportsman and woman. Our nationally recognized sporting clays course is open to the public year round. Bring along your family, shooting buddies, or your four-legged companion and see all that Wern Valley has to offer!

For more information on how to Join the Hunt, give us a call at **262-968-2400.**



PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE

RIFLE • PISTOL • CLAYS



- 25-50-100-300 yd. Rifle & Pistol Range
- Novice Trap
- Sporting Clays
- Plinking
- Law Enforcement Range
- Pro Shop
- Food Available

Firearms Bought & Sold Try After You Buy!

Operated under lease by



WERN VALLEY

Outdoors, Inc.

www.mcmillersportcenter.com



100 Walters Rd Eagle, WI 53119 262-594-5900

FRED SHAFFHAUSER

You Know...You're Allowed To Have More Than One Bow

Wisconsin's plentiful hunting seasons mean many types of bows

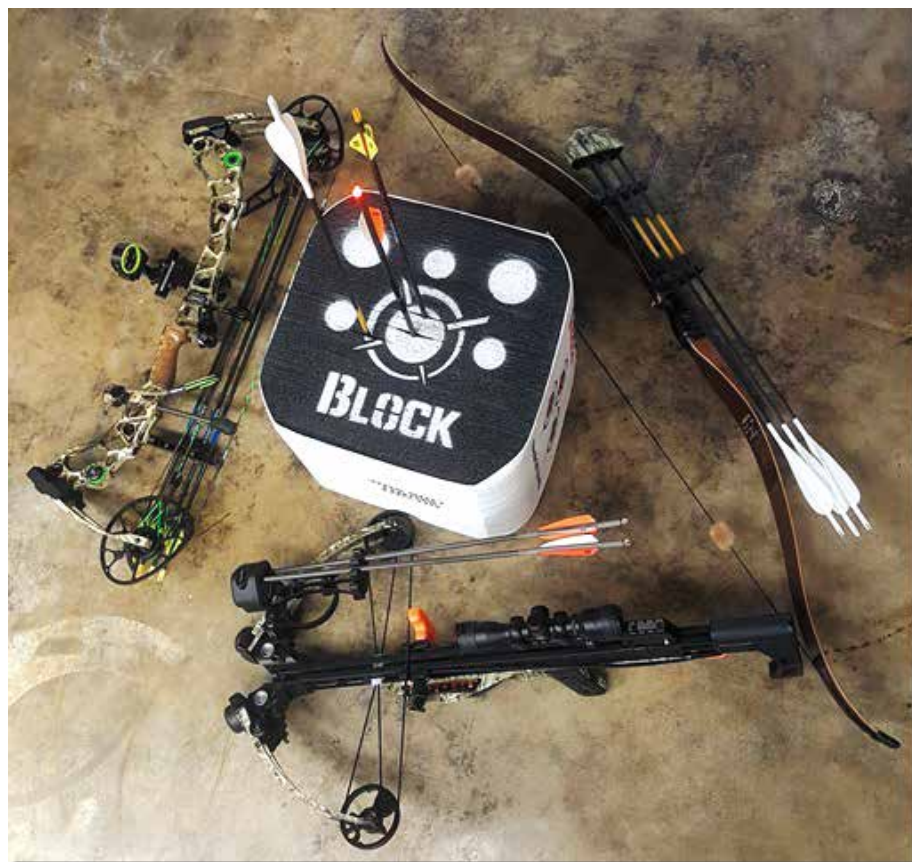
Above and beyond all else I am a bowhunter. Given a choice, I would prefer it be early November every day of the year, bow in hand, hovering above the ground in my favorite treestand. I also enjoy all other Wisconsin hunting seasons. I love hunting everything with my bows: deer, turkey, grouse, duck, squirrel, predators (you get the point), and I like different weapons.

It's no surprise, then, that since I bowhunt turkeys a few weeks in the spring, deer 20 - 30 days each fall and many miscellaneous species throughout the year I possess a few different weapons. Most bowhunters choose to use one bow all year, bonding and practicing with it until they know how it will react in every situation. That is a great way to go about it, and I respect that philosophy; however, there is more fun and challenge to be had using various weapons. There are compelling reasons for every bowhunter to own a recurve or longbow, a compound bow and maybe even a crossbow.

Since my first love is archery in its purest

form, I start out my season hunting with a traditional recurve bow, shooting instinctive. It is the most basic form of archery and my spirit soars when I connect with it. Traditional equipment also fares well when bowfishing and hunting small game. The ability to draw the bowstring and release quickly matches up well with the fast-paced targets small game hunting provides. Add some flu-flu arrows (large-feathered arrows for short flight) and you are set to pursue flying game, including pheasant and waterfowl. Being in the outdoors with my recurve bow just feels right. Of course, if you are going to add traditional equipment to your arsenal, you better start practicing now!

When I actually need to put some meat on the table or horns on the wall, I usually pull out my compound bow with all the gadgets. I know many traditional bowhunters that exclusively hunt with traditional equipment and do just fine. I'm just not ready to watch that trophy walk out of my life because I was unsure of myself with my recurve. I hope to get there someday,



Using different weapons can add a new challenge and excitement to Wisconsin's many hunting seasons.

but I'm not quite there yet. When I actually need to connect with that rutting buck in early November, I most often find my compound bow in hand. With it I feel there are few limitations to my ability to take down that monster buck, turkey, etc.

Lastly, the crossbow can be a great alternative to using a gun for any game species. The crossbow and I have spent more time at odds with each other than being in love. I've never considered it archery equipment, yet it isn't a gun, either. For as long as crossbows have been legal in some capacity to hunt in Wisconsin our shop has been selling and servicing them. We have seen them go from a novelty type of weapon with all kinds of problems to quality-made, extremely effective hunting weapons. Today's crossbows are awesome deer, bear and turkey hunting ma-

chines fast, reliable and fun for the whole family. I have used a crossbow instead of a gun for spring turkey, during the gun deer season and on predators. My daughter used one for bear hunting when she was a young teenager.

I will definitely spend most of the year carrying my recurve or compound bow, but I can imagine a below zero day in late December with a crossbow in hand, chasing that buck I missed in October with my recurve bow. *OW*

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.

WEST TOWN ARCHERY

OUTFITTING SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN SINCE 1964



4135 N. 126th St. Brookfield, WI 53005

888-ARCHERY

WWW.WESTTOWNARCHERY.COM

Duck. Duck. Goose.

OnWisconsinOutdoors.com/WaterfowlHunting



Fox Valley Retriever Club

Training You To Train Your Retriever

FOXVALLEYRETRIEVERCLUB.COM



TOM MUELLER

Pick of the Litter ... Continued

Some sound puppy-picking advice

My last article ended with my mentioning Maggie, my sixth Golden Retriever pup. She was the dog that everyone hopes to get when they grab a puppy out of a litter: biddable, trainable and eager to please. Again, I went back to my favorite breeder, and with a lot of confidence from my experience training my previous dogs and added knowledge from reading many retriever training books, success with her came quickly. Maggie sailed through her Junior hunt tests. Also, like Mona, this dog taught me a few things I didn't know, which made me a better trainer. Unfortunately, Maggie's hunt test career came to a halt because of an injury during her training for Senior. She dislocated her elbow in a freaky accident from which she was never able to fully recover, so I retired her.

After a long break from running hunt tests, it was time for another dog. This time my wife, Faye, and I decided to breed Maggie. Without question, I contacted my favorite breeder to see what she had available for a stud dog. My breeder told me she had a sleek, handsome male named Keeper who had six derby points and a great personality. With no hesitation, he became the stud for our litter. When all was said and done we had six pups to choose from. The plan was to keep one female if for no other reason



Some Fox Valley Retriever Club members attending Obedience & Specialty training with their "picks."

than all of our previous dogs were females. The first pup born was a male with big ears, a large head and big paws. Immediately, Faye told me this was the puppy "I" was going to keep and train, and she named it after me. I told her nobody ever picks a puppy like that. Ideally, you're supposed to wait until they grow a little and their personalities start to develop. Faye was adamant that we were going to keep this dog and so it was.

Several weeks later, after the pups had grown some, I came home from work. Walking in the door, Faye was in the kitchen holding one of the puppies. She told me we were keeping this little female, too, and said she named her Betsy Boo. I objected, but you know what they say, "A happy wife is a

happy life," so we were now the proud owners of two Golden Retriever pups. Eventually, three were sold leaving one left. Having started working with these three, I realized quickly that this last puppy was a good one. She was eager to please and a quick learner so I kept her also.

If you've been following along with my past articles, you might have realized that there ain't no good way to pick a puppy. As you can see from my experiences, some I was able to choose because there were puppies still left to choose from, some were handed to me because they were the last of the litter, and some were chosen for me by my wife. Ultimately, they all had the capabilities of being good retrievers and became

good retrievers in some form or fashion except for Sassy. She became a good family dog. The best advice that I can give for picking a retriever pup is the advice given to me by a very accomplished amateur retriever trainer many years ago: "Grab whichever one you like the best, because you don't know what you got 'til you start working with it." Next issue ... starting training!



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. For information about the Fox Valley Retriever Club go to foxvalleyretrieverclub.com.



Fox Valley Retriever Club

*Hunters Helping Hunters
To Train Their Retrievers*

Training for Hunting Hunt Tests Shed Hunts

FOXVALLEYRETRIEVERCLUB.COM

County Teasers

Ashland County. Ashland, Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin, where you'll find yourself next to the water. July & August: Trolley Bus Mural Tours, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. July - 4: parade, band concert, fireworks; 14-16: Bay Days Festival; 16: Adult & Kids Triathlon. August 4 - 5: Downtown Days. August 31 - September 4: Ashland County Fair, Marengo. Chequamegon Bay, a world-class smallmouth bass fishery.

Oneida 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.

Ozaukee County. Port Washington celebrates summer outdoors! Fishing is great; book a charter, launch your boat, sign up for one of our fishing derbies, or just drop a line from shore. We're opening a new accessible fishing platform on our breakwall this summer. We even have a

fish market that will smoke your catch for you.

Washburn County. Hit the trails in Washburn County this summer and enjoy the hundreds of connecting ATV trails in northwest Wisconsin. You'll find many ATV-friendly businesses along the trail, including many resorts, campgrounds and cabins with direct trail access. All of our trails are UTV friendly! Be sure to pick up the ATV Scenic Tour brochure for a fun way to explore the trail system.



Explore Wisconsin
County-by-County at
onwisconsinoutdoors.com

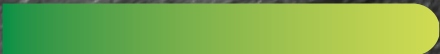


Your hopes. Your dreams.
WE'RE READY.

We're Compeer Financial.™

Agriculture isn't just a market we serve. It's what we're founded on. It's who we are. Whether you have one acre or one thousand, our team members share an unwavering commitment to you and making that hope and dream of yours very, very real.

COMPEER.COM | #CHAMPIONRURAL



Compeer Financial, ACA is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender and Equal Opportunity Provider. ©2017



GARY GREENE

Memories From An Old Hunter

We're dock jumping?

My wife, Chris, suggested we have one of our dogs compete in dock jumping. I had never seen it in person and I went there blind, but I was looking for some fun on a hot summer Saturday morning.

Chris is a veterinarian and owns Herbsmith, a company where she creates herbs for animals. That Saturday, two of her employees had set up a company booth in the parking lot at our local East Troy Martin's Hardware Store. The draw was that the Pier Pups Canine Dock Jumping Company had assembled a diving pool in that parking lot with an addition of bleachers for spectators.

For the entry fee of \$20, I signed up my five-year-old, 100-pound black lab, Nyjer. I found that the way to get optimal distance was to throw your object of retrieval (chase object) up in the air so your dog jumps up to try to catch it. That height combined with speed gets you the distance, but I knew Nyjer wasn't going to pick up that skill in just a handful of practice rounds. The measuring technique used is from the pier to the location where the base of the dog's tail hits the water.

Prior to the competition and after a little coaxing, I got Nyjer to jump off the relatively high competition dock into the water for a retrieve. After he did it once, I knew he was ready to try the runway. The dock is 40 feet long, which allows the

dog to pick up some speed before jumping. We did about five test jumps and Nyjer got the general idea. I knew he might not be good, but he shouldn't be terrible. I didn't use the catch-it-in-the-air technique. I just had him sit at about 35 feet, threw the bumper and yelled, "Bird," which is what I say on a live duck retrieve.

Our time slot had about a dozen dogs in the competition. Both of Nyjer's jumps were decent for a dog with no experience. He jumped twice with his best being over 13 feet. Eventually, I learned that there were four jumping categories: novice, open, pro, and master. Nyjer fit into the open group, because that included dogs that jumped between 10 feet to 15 feet, 11 inches. In our competition, all the dogs were bunched together within a foot of each other, with Nyjer taking home the third place ribbon. All the other dogs had prior jumping experience, so I thought it was a decent showing and I was proud of how he handled the new experience. Two of the upper level dogs impressively jumped over 20 feet. The other extreme had one dog refusing to jump in the water and a second dog going down the up ramp for his retrieval into the water.


Chris and I had some laughs during the competition, specifically afterwards when I comically strutted around like a rooster pheasant with Nyjer's lowly third place ribbon. Chris



Greene and his lab, Nyjer, after their first attempt at dock jumping. (2016)

laughed as she took a picture of Nyjer and me with the first ribbon I received since 1969.

Two weeks later I found myself and Nyjer competing again, this time with our friend Robert Vialpando and his two-year-old female, Gonza, from our dog, Elsie. That day, Nyjer improved and won at 14 feet, 6 inches with Gonza taking second.

The jumping can be as competitive as you wish to make it. I was low-key but still felt a little adrenaline rush. Dogs and owners had a real nice time. 

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.



Great Truck Caps...And So Much More

- Bedliners
- Sport Lids
- Trailer Hitches
- Tool Boxes
- Tonneau Covers
- Running Boards
- Bug Shields
- Much, much more



THIS CAMO CAP **FREE**
JUST FOR MENTIONING
THIS AD.

**Whether you're
hunting, fishing,
camping, or enjoying
your favorite
outdoor pursuit,
The Cap Connection
has you covered.**

**Come in and see
our huge selection of
truck accessories.**



"I know personally what it's like to want to protect your equipment...and your best friend...when heading into the field. We've been taking care of Wisconsin hunters and anglers for more than 30 years. We'll take care of you too and that is my promise. We look forward to seeing you soon."

—Gregg Borneman

262-524-8420

1855 E. Moreland Blvd. Waukesha • Just Off I-94, 1 mile west on Hwy. 18

TheCapConnection.com Store Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 8-6; Tues, Thurs 8-7; Sat 8-4



Est. 1987

800+ Stores Nationwide
HarborFreight.com • 800-423-2567


PITTSBURGH Powerworks
 #1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA


SUPER COUPON

**RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON
ALUMINUM RACING JACK**

- 3-1/2 Pumps Lifts Most Vehicles
- Lifts from 3-1/2" to 14-1/8"
- Lightweight 34 lbs.

**SAVE
\$50**

Customer Rating

★★★★★

\$599

**ITEM 68053/62160
62496/62516
60569 shown**

~~\$799~~

Compare \$109.99





54635276

© 2007 P. & S. POWERWORKS

PITTSBURGH MOTORCYCLE  **SUPER COUPON**

**1000 LB. CAPACITY
MOTORCYCLE LIFT**

- Diamond plate steel platform and ramp
- Lift range: 7" – 29-1/2"

Customer Rating
★★★★★

\$2999

\$4299 Compare **\$1049.99**

54653929

ITEM# 60004

ITEM 62594/62592 shown

HaulMaster  **SUPER COUPON**

**17 FT. TYPE IA
MULTI-TASK LADDER**

- Versatile - 23 Configurations
- Safe + Secure + Stable
- Super Strong - Holds 300 lbs.
- Weighs 35 lbs.

SAVE \$179

Customer Rating
★★★★★

\$119⁹⁹ ~~\$139⁹⁹~~

Compare **\$298.99**



ITEM 62656/62514



SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating


4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER



SAVE 60%

\$999

\$1499

ITEM 69645
 6965


 54680762

Compare
 \$94.00

00020 show **LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 11/1/17*** **\$24.99**

PORTLAND  **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating
★★★★☆

9.5", 7 AMP ELECTRIC POLE SAW



\$64.99

\$84.99

Compare \$99.98

SAVE \$34

ITEM 68862/63190

44661011

MADISON EAST (608) 249-3887
4636 East Washington Avenue

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare" or "comp at" price means that the same item or a similar functioning item was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare" or "comp at" price by another retailer in the U.S. within the past 180 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare" or "comp at" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

STUART WILKERSON

Midwestern Shooters Supply's Ninth Annual Fall Fest

Annual community event is a boon to local schools and service organizations

Midwestern Shooters Supply will once again demonstrate its commitment to family and community at the sporting goods store's Ninth Annual Fall Fest. At least 10,000 people are expected to attend this free event on August 18 and 19 located at 191 Church Street in Lomira.


Fall Fest is, first and foremost, a means for Midwestern Shooters Supply to help support local clubs, service organizations and athletic teams, according to co-owner Randy Boelkow. These groups raise literally thousands of dollars from fundraisers made possible through their participation in Fall Fest.

Among the groups taking part are the Lomira High School football team, Lomira FFA (Future Farmers of America) Alumni, the Lomira Lions Club, Campbellsport Youth Trap Shooting Team, the Eden Chapter of Wings Over Wisconsin, and the Lomira Fire Department.

In addition to food and raffles, Fall Fest is an opportunity to check out some of the latest offerings by a number of firearm manufacturers, including Benelli, Beretta, Browning, Smith and Wes-

son, Ruger, SIG. Midwestern Shooters Supply will also make a wide variety of trial guns available for testing. Many outdoor-oriented vendors will have goods and services on display, including ATVs, hunting blinds and more.

Firearms enthusiasts are advised to bring some form of payment on hand (cash, credit card or check), because there will be some great deals found at the annual "75-Plus Gun Auction." Fall Fest is also Midwestern Shooters Supply's biggest sale of the year. Everything will be on sale, and Midwestern Shooters Supply carries a wide variety of camping, fishing, hunting, shooting, archery and other products.

Live entertainment will be featured Friday and Saturday evenings. For the most up-to-date Midwestern Shooters Supply's Fall Fest information, visit their website at mwshooters.com or call 920.269.4995. 

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


MOERICKE, from page 12

One of the guys set it down on a low table and walked away, so I assumed it was for me. They all yelled encouragement (I think) to me when I was able to get the whole thing in my mouth. They were pretty impressed with that.

On any night that wasn't raining, the guys had a campfire before retiring to the camper. This usually involved some eating and drinking. These guys aren't the neatest, so I usually had to clean up all of the snacks that were dropped. Lard says that "a clean camp is a happy camp." I do what I can.

GWA isn't easy. I was awake for over 14 hours every day. There's a lot of sleeping to catch up on when I get home.

-Rae

Don't believe everything Rae tells you. Dogs lie nearly as much as fishermen. 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.



Great Archery and Fishing Departments

191 CHURCH ST. LOMIRA, WI (INTERSECTION OF 41 & 67) | 920.269.4995 | 866.269.4995

The 9th Annual Fall Fest

AUGUST 18 & 19 • 8AM TO MIDNIGHT



Friday Night Fish Fry •
 Saturday Pancake Breakfast •
BANDS: Friday Night "Road Trip" •
 Saturday "Mantz Brothers" •



• Come Try out the Trial Guns
 • Sportsman Swap Meet (Call to sign up)
 • Raffles

Everything in the store is on Sale!!!!

Lowest prices of the Year

www.mwshooters.com

NEW HENRY RIFLES

Made in Wisconsin



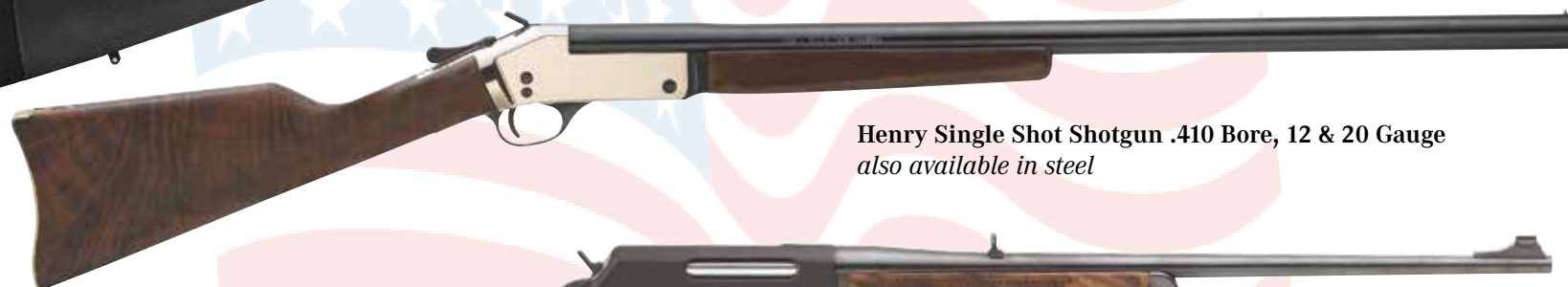
Henry Lever Action Shotgun .410 Bore 20" or 24"



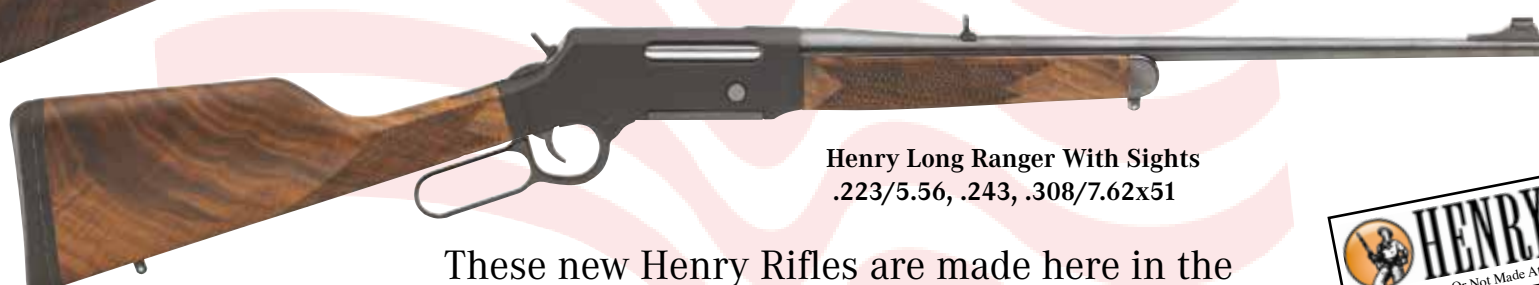
Henry Single Shot Rifle
Available in steel - .223/5.56, .243, .308, .44 Mag, and .45-70
Available in hardened brass - .44 Mag and .45-70.



Henry Big Boy All-Weather .44 Mag/.45 Colt/.357 Mag



Henry Single Shot Shotgun .410 Bore, 12 & 20 Gauge
also available in steel

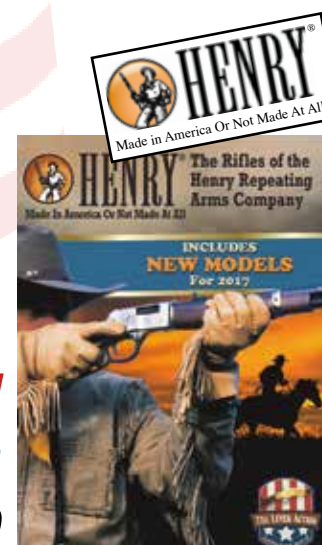


Henry Long Ranger With Sights
.223/5.56, .243, .308/7.62x51

These new Henry Rifles are made here in the great state of Wisconsin. The roll mark on the barrels is "Henry Repeating Arms – Rice Lake Wisconsin – Made in USA".

To own one please start by ordering our free 108-page catalog, Henry decal and a list of dealers near you.

**For a FREE catalog and decal
visit henryusa.com
or call toll free (800) 465-9819**



Firearms News

Win a Henry Rifle at DeerFest



Courtesy of Henry Repeating Arms and On Wisconsin Outdoors, enter the 2017 DeerFest raffle to win a Henry 30-30 caliber rifle. The Model H009 is valued at \$800. DeerFest will be held August 4, 5, 6, at Washington County Fair Park, West Bend. Watch for details at www.deerfest.com or www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

Henry Repeating Arms Honors Veteran

Henry Repeating Arms President Anthony Imperato bestowed four distinguished veterans with American-made Henry Military Service Tribute Rifles to thank them for their service to our country. The presentation took place at



The Friends of the NRA Foundation Banquet during the NRA's 2017 Annual Meetings & Exhibits at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

Recipients included Ty Carter, a former United States Army Staff Sergeant and Medal of Honor recipient for his actions at the 2009 Battle of Kamdesh in Afghanistan. And 97-year old WWII veteran George J. Krakosky, who fought in some of the European Theater's bloodied battles, including the first wave of Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge.

NRA Honors Henry Repeating Arms President



The NRA Board of Directors recognized Henry Repeating Arms President Anthony Imperato with a Special Recognition Award for his work and philanthropic leadership on behalf of the Second Amendment and the National Rifle Association. Among Mr. Imperato's many contributions was the donation of 1,000 of the firm's Golden Boy Silver rifles for use at the world record-setting 1000 Man Shoot in 2016. Henry donated the 1,000 rifles that were used, and proceeds from the sale of all 1,000 rifles were donated to Friends of the NRA.

For more information about the company and its products, visit henryusa.com or call 866-200-2354. Read the full stories and other firearms news at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



95% Made in Wisconsin
100% Made in USA!



MI 300H Hunter
Chambered in .300 AAC Blackout

- ◆ MI Billet Flattop Upper Receiver, T-Marked, with M4 Feed Ramps
- ◆ MI Billet Lower Receiver, with Integrated Trigger Guard, Ambidextrous 45 Degree BAD Safety Selector
- ◆ 16 Inch Criterion Match Grade Stainless Steel Barrel, MI Low Profile Gas Block, Carbine Length Gas System
- ◆ MI SSK-Key Mod 12 Inch One Piece Free Float Handguard, Super Slim 1.5 inch OD, one Key Mod Rail
- ◆ BCM GUNFIGHTER Mod 4 Charging Handle, BCM GUNFIGHTER Pistol Grip, B5 Systems BRAVO Stock
- ◆ Includes one 10 Round Magazine with Hi-Viz Follower, 20 and 30 Round Magazines are also available

MI 300H Hunter #MI-300HSSK12 . . . Special Introductory Price \$1,549.95





MIDWEST INDUSTRIES, INC.
Manufacturers of Quality Tactical Rifles & Accessories - Made in the U.S.A.
Tel: 262-896-6780, Fax: 262-896-6756 ◆ W292S4498 Hillside Rd, Waukesha, WI 53189
Visit our website: www.midwestindustriesinc.com



Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Stock Options

What's the best stock for your shotgun?

I knew when I traded in my old Smith & Wesson 12 gauge pump I wasn't going to get much for it. Thirty five years of waterfowl hunting had beaten up what was once a lovely French walnut stock. The bruises and dings that give working guns "character" don't add up to much when it comes time to trade or sell them. A fall taken while pheasant hunting cracked the wrist of a walnut-stocked semi-auto I own—an \$80 repair.

Years ago, even mid-priced guns came with walnut stocks. The trend lately has been to go with stained birch or synthetic stocks, with walnut reserved for more high-end or deluxe models. Birch actually isn't all that bad a wood for gun stocks. Millions of military rifles produced in Russia had stocks made of native birch. Shotguns produced there today, for both export and domestic use, contain stained birch. Just after WWII, fine walnut was scarce, even here in the U.S. Stevens marketed shotguns with Bakelite hard plastic synthetic stocks. These were some of the first mass-produced synthetic stocked shotguns for sale to the American public. Truth is, both wood and synthetic materials have distinct advantages for different

applications.

The synthetic advantage. Notice all the arms now used by the U.S. military in combat have synthetic stocks. Plastic is light-weight, durable, moisture and corrosion resistant. It's almost impervious to dings and scratches under normal use. A hollow plastic synthetic stock will also weigh less than a hardwood stock. For a waterfowl hunter, synthetic is a great choice. The best waterfowl hunting is often in the worst weather conditions. Shotguns also get bounced around in a boat or blind and more than one has taken a dunking while wading. The lighter weight also comes in handy for a walk-in waterfowl hunter or "run and gun" turkey hunter. Synthetic stocks also come in a variety of camouflage patterns. If your shotgun is a dedicated hunting gun, with aesthetics a minor consideration, synthetic is the way to go!

The wooden stock advantage. Most manufacturers offer entry level shotguns with a lower price tag. These "Express" or "Ranger" models often come with a stained birch stock. The price is often less

continued on page 41



Steven's double barrel Bakelite stocks. First synthetic stocks mass-produced just after WWII. (Photo by Ken Zajac)



CENTURY III




A Single Barrel Designed To Fit you!

- Adjustable Butt Plate
- Adjustable Comb
- Standard & Youth Lengths

Contact us for
a dealer near you.

skbshotguns.com

1-800-752-2767



STUART WILKERSON

Concealed Carry Education a must

Just because you can, doesn't necessarily mean you should. Wisconsin state statutes, for example, don't require much in terms of training regarding the carrying of a concealed weapon. Anyone who passed a hunter safety course, even if it was decades ago, and has no felony convictions can legally carry a concealed weapon such as a pocket pistol virtually anywhere in the state. Depending on how you look at it, this is either a legitimate exercise of a constitutional right or just asking for trouble.

It seems to me that if you're going to carry a loaded gun in your pocket, you really ought to have some understanding of what constitutes the legitimate use of deadly force, how to safely carry a concealed handgun, and how to actually use it in a life or death situation, among other pertinent pieces of information. Ensuring a proper understanding of what it means to responsibly carry a concealed firearm requires training, preferably by someone who knows what they're talking about. Unfortunately, there are a lot of so-called concealed carry "instructors" who really don't have a firm grasp of firearms and firearm laws but are more than happy to take your money after a cursory overview of the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Training Guide for Concealed Carry Licenses.

Mike "Shorty" Govas of Shorty's Shooting Sports in West

Allis regularly offers a concealed carry class with David Szibel. They know what they're talking about. Shorty has a strong background in the use and function of firearms and a commitment to doing all things related to firearms and associated laws correctly, because, as he explains, "I'm too pretty to go to prison." His NRA course credentials include certification in home firearms safety, pistol use and personnel protection in the home. Dave is retired from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department where he served, among other duties, as a SWAT sniper and armorer and weapons of mass destruction instructor.

Dave and Shorty are well versed on Wisconsin Act 35, the statute that finally brought concealed carry to Wisconsin. Their concealed carry class goes far beyond a simple regurgitation of the law. It is also filled with practical advice. "Firearms and fishing have a lot in common," Dave explained. "They both contain a lot of myths." One of those myths is that simply possessing a healthy dose of common sense is qualification enough to carry a concealed weapon. It isn't. For one thing, there is nothing common about common sense. Shorty and Dave, both of whom are long-time Wisconsin Department of Justice certified firearms instructors, have a wealth of practical advice that comes from years of experience.

Some small guns can be a handful. Know what you're getting into before purchasing.



"A good concealed carry firearm doesn't need to be the biggest and baddest gun made," Shorty noted by way of example. "The important thing is that it's something you can shoot well. That's hard to do with too big of a gun. We get a lot of guys coming in here with their girlfriends, telling me 'This is what she needs.' It's always something too big. I'll ask him, 'Have you ever shot a gun before?' No? Then be quiet. I'll help her find something that works for her."

According to Shorty, many people sign up for concealed carry classes who have never shot a handgun, which is why he puts a great emphasis on safe firearms handling; proper aiming, loading and unloading; and the selection of a proper handgun. "A .22 can be a good choice," he noted. "It's controllable and that, along with accuracy, is what counts."

Some other recommendations from Shorty are, "Don't purchase a firearm from a shop that won't teach you how to

continued on page 41



SHORTY'S SHOOTING SPORTS

Smith & Wesson *Hometown Event*

Sunday, September 6, 2017 • 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Shorty's Shooting Sports • 2192 S. 60th Street, West Allis, Wisconsin



AR556



BG380 with or without laser



M&P9 or 40



All revolvers from
concealed size to full size



- **Lowest Prices on all Smith & Wesson Products.**
- **Smith & Wesson factory rep on hand to answer all questions.**
- **Food and soft drinks served free**
- **Free Smith & Wesson t-shirts to first 100 event visitors**
- **Special firearm packages deals will be available**

GATZKE, from page 9

practice, I know I should have no problem with a 20-yard shot. Shooting a gun accurately requires the same commitment.

Practice shooting from different positions as well as varying distances. Standing, kneeling, sitting, shooting uphill and downhill, as well as shooting from an elevated platform, or whatever position you may encounter while hunting will prepare you to be accurate in a hunting situation. You will find out that different positions will affect your shot and you'll have to make adjustments to your form to accommodate

them. Shooting at longer distances and in different positions will make you a better marksman and allow you to understand your limitations, as well as give you the confidence to make a good shot. Knowing your effective range and keeping your shots within that distance will go a long way to ensure that you "don't miss." *OW*

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.

STRESING, from page 39

than a camouflaged synthetic stocked model and several hundred dollars less than a pricey walnut stocked model with a nicely blued finish. The slightly heavier weight of a wooden butt stock also helps with felt recoil. These are great for beginning shooters or for the average hunter who gets out maybe four to five times in a season. You will need to exercise a little more care. Make sure to dry the firearm out thoroughly after use in wet weather and be careful to avoid getting gun oil or cleaning solvent on the wood.

For dedicated clay target and upland guns, I suggest the best wood you can afford. Besides the look and feel of a fine walnut stock, the weight aids in swinging

the shotgun and less recoil fatigue. This can be a really big deal when shooting a high volume of clay targets. You cannot beat fine walnut for its warmth, elegant look and resale value on a firearm. Many of the high quality guns now being imported from Turkey have absolutely gorgeous walnut stocks at very affordable prices. My walnut stocked over/unders will never see the inside of a duck blind. And you can bet my synthetic stocked waterfowl gun will never shoot a round of sporting clays. I think it's supposed to work that way. *OW*

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.

CARPENTER, from page 22

Looking back with the perspective of time, you can be sure that day (and other hand-lining adventures to follow) made more memories than going after more pike or sunfishing with a regular old fishing pole.

You just never know what's going to interest a kid more than what you came for. Frog-catching. Bat-watching. Rock-throwing. Stick-floating. Carp-fishing. Butterfly-netting. Crayfish-grabbing. Cloud-watching. Grasshopper-chasing. Ant-studying. Cowpie-flipping for grubs. They've all taken front seats to whatever we supposed to be doing.

And that's exactly what you're supposed to be doing—just spending time together outdoors. *OW*

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

WILKERSON, from page 40

operate it. It happens all the time. Someone buys a gun from a salesperson who didn't explain how to use it, brings it here, and I spend an hour teaching the buyer how to use it, which I'm happy to do. A salesperson should be spending at least 30 minutes explaining to you the gun you bought."

"Don't be advertising the fact that you own guns. That's a great way to get them stolen. If you do have a gun stolen, chances are I won't sell you another. Whenever a gun is stolen, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms pays a visit to the seller. I'm a responsible gun dealer and I don't want to be involved with people who don't take their gun ownership responsibly."

This is the kind of sage advice you can expect when taking Shorty's Shooting Sports Concealed Carry Class. For more information, contact Shorty's at 414-545-3323 or visit the shop at 2192 S. 60 St., West Allis. *OW*

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

Since 1865

Archie Monuments

Beautiful Hand Etched Scenes
WILDLIFE • FARMS • RELIGION • ETC.

© May 10, 1975

Thank you all Veterans



WAR MEMORIAL IN WATERTOWN WISCONSIN

Main Office | Watertown | 100 Granite Lane | 800.242.9519

12 Locations to Serve You

Visit our website for more information

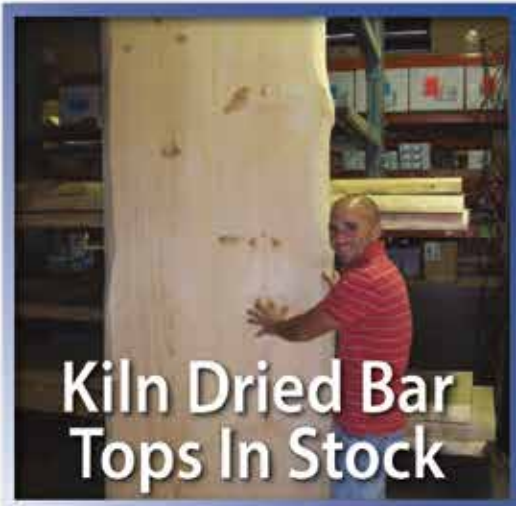
WWW.ARCHIEMONUMENTSANDSTONE.COM

**Watertown | Juneau | Fond du Lac | Ripon | Portage | LaValle | Viroqua
Waukesha | Beloit | Waterford | Richland Center | Fennimore**



Kiln Dried Pine
Tongue & Groove

1" x 8" at \$0.68 per linear ft



Kiln Dried Bar
Tops In Stock

Rustic Live Edge or Square



Cover your old
suspended
tiles
with
Ceiling Tile Skins

Many options to chose from



We have it!

We have the stain, caulk and
chinking you need



Log Stairs

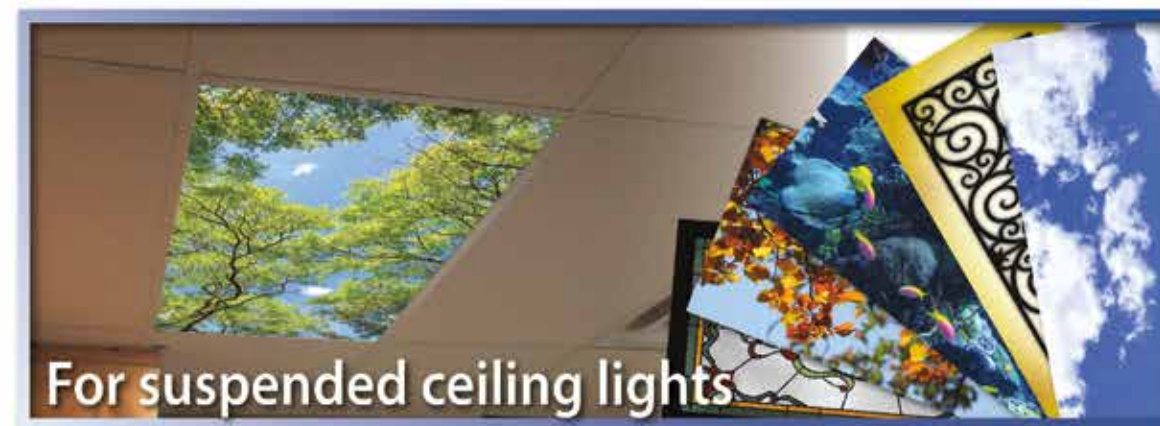
And railing components
in stock



Discounted Log
& Log Sidings

Various sizes

Limited supplies available.
Call Now.



For suspended ceiling lights

Decorate & reduce glare in your home, school or business!



Square
Hand Hewn Timbers

And round logs in stock

LogHomeMart.com

Call 1-800-426-1002 or Order Online!

Open Monday-Friday 8 to 5 and Saturday 9 to 3 • 4421 Plover Rd. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

SERVICE; the act of helping or
doing work for someone.

SERVICE; the act of helping or doing work for someone.

Synonyms; favor, kindness, good turn, help.

Members of congress like to call what they do “public service”;
it sounds lofty, noble, and selfless.

They also don’t mind talking about their annual base salaries
(\$174,000 for both congressman and senators)
or retirement plans because these too sound “reasonable”.

But did you know that, over and above these,
they also receive an annual expense allowance?

In The House of Representatives it’s called an MRA.
The average allowance for each representative this year
will be about **\$1,200,000 or 7 times more than their base salary.**

In the Senate it’s called an SOPOEA.
The average allowance for each senator this year
will be about **\$3,300,000 or 19 times more than their base salary.**

As the congressmen and senators squabble about the current U.S. budget,
ask yourself this;

Are they really servants, or are they takers?

The first step toward a Constitutional Amendment to
term limit members of congress is simple...
share this information with others and start talking about it.

share this information with
others and start talking about it.