

September/October 2017

Vol. 11, Issue 1



FREE

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with the Dick Ellis Experts

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JOHN LUTHENS

Ten Years Of On Wisconsin Outdoors

A sit-down interview with the publisher

This issue marks the 10th anniversary of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. Since founding the paper, outdoor writer, photographer and publisher, Dick Ellis, has helped elevate the playing field of outdoor journalism in Wisconsin to a new level. Not an easy task considering an ever-shrinking market in the world of news-print publication.

In recognition of the milestone, and perhaps so his growing list of readers can get to know him better, I asked my friend/ publisher for a brief chat on what makes himself and the paper tick.

You were a syndicated outdoor columnist for 20 years, writing for up to 70 papers weekly and winning seven national awards for excellence from the Outdoor Writers Association (OWAA), including two firsts in the outdoor humor category. Not a bad gig. Why devote yourself full-time to publishing an outdoor newspaper?

Simple supply and demand. I think OWO's writers, guides, photographers, editors and designers bring a high quality publication to a mass audience starved for fishing and hunting in Wisconsin. I met many of these experts in my years of syndicated writing. They bring their local expertise to Wisconsin sportsman and women who hunt the same woods and fish the same lakes.

A paper of this size and status offered free-of-charge to readers is nearly unprecedented. Why no subscription fee?

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Dick Ellis shuts up and rows on Pewaukee Lake while Lori offers directions.

When did you first start thinking about writing as a profession?

When I thought I was in a Russian language class during one of my first accounting classes in business school at UW-Milwaukee. I'm a reader. And writing comes easy. It's my gift from God. You like what you're good at and you're good at what you like.

What advice would you give for someone thinking about trying their hand in the field of outdoor writing?

Do it if you love it. Don't do it if you think you will be hunting and fishing more. My work ranges from writer to salesman to paperboy. But I spent 20 years producing 1000 field columns and watching sunrises from every piece of Wisconsin. I would say to a young person unsure of what he wants to do, "What's your gift? Pay



Lori Ellis works hard, as usual, during an autumn row trolling trip targeting muskies on Pewaukee Lake. "I think my husband shut off the bite again," she said.

your dues and use it." I spent four years carrying blocks and mud for masons thinking about that before college.


You're fond of saying that the best way to shut down the fishing bite is to invite you to come along. A phrase for literary effect, or do you think the outdoor gods have actually cursed you?

You become good at what you like best. I like fishing but if I take you fishing during the walleye run, we better have hamburgers in the cooler. I love hunting, and if I'm working a mouth call, I bet you will have a very close shot at a mature gobbler. I'm a very average Wisconsin outdoorsman. I win some; I lose a lot, which makes it all so good. If I try to act like I'm an expert, our own audience will know its garbage and my brothers and friends would write a letter to the editor blowing my cover. But above all else, I love putting the outdoor spotlight on someone else in the field with my camera and writing. I've shot 90 percent of the OWO covers over 10 years. To me, that's better than the few big bucks I've tagged.

What's your most memorable moment on a deer stand?

As a photographer, I'm on call from many of our writers or friends. If they tag something special, they call and I'm on the run with the camera. Friend Craig Cutts called with a real good buck down in the peak of the rut. I traveled 90 minutes to Winnebago County, lay on my stomach in a crop to shoot the cover with Craig in his stand. I helped him load his buck and he left. I located a good tree 200 yards away, jacked up in my climbing stand, pulled the bow and camera up on a rope, fastened the safety vest, tested the draw and broke off intruding branches while trying to keep an eye on everything around me. I turned around and there was a buck as big as Craig's at 10 yards looking up at me. I never heard him come downwind and actually think he came in to my snapping branches. I was in that tree a maximum of three minutes.

If you were shipwrecked on one of the Apostle Islands and could only have only one luxury item, what would it be?

My wife, Lori. Gilligan and the Skipper would never ever have tried to get off the island if they had such a luxury item. 

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.



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TOM CARPENTER

Of Boys and Birds

Wisconsin memories inspire South Dakota hunt

When I was growing up in southwestern Wisconsin, a wild ring-necked pheasant was a trophy to brag on - especially an old, long-tailed, hook-spurred rooster. Though it wasn't the heyday of the 1960s soil bank era anymore, there were still good numbers of birds in the brushy fencelines, forgotten pastures and weedy cornfields.

Pheasant hunting is joyous: pure, simple fun; load up a shotgun and walk. Good pheasant country is unmatched in its stark beauty: a lonely patchwork quilt of harvested grain fields, grassy meadows and cattail sloughs under autumn's blue sky.

While Wisconsin still has good numbers of birds in certain pockets, I wanted my boys Jeremiah and Ethan to experience that kind of pheasant hunting, so I took them to South Dakota.

We started out the first morning in a mile-long creekbottom. Anticipation was high. One stocky six-point whitetail exploded in our faces! But only a handful of nervous pheasants flushed. At the end of the swing a large coyote - undoubtedly fattened up on pheasant - jumped and ran.

Then we had some good fortune the likes of which we may never see again. "You see those combines?" my friend Brad said. "That's my friend Paul picking corn. We're going



The Carpenters on an old-time Wisconsin pheasant hunt - in South Dakota.

over there."

As the combines worked, dozens of birds flew to the field's grassy ditch margins and one cattail slough. "Just don't shoot a truck or combine!" Brad laughed as we uncased shotguns. The boys missed a dozen birds as I just watched and laughed.

After the combines were done, we silently stalked close to the cattail slough. Ethan took the west flank, Jeremiah the east, me the middle. When Jeremiah reached cover, a rooster flushed across the stubble. The boy dropped it stone cold.

Birds started boiling out. Our 12 gauges boomed. A lot! When the flurry ended, two more ringnecks were down. Jeremiah found his "early" bird, Ethan picked up a plump rooster, and I shot one, too.

We continued across the fresh-cut stubble. "There wouldn't be a bird out here," Ethan said. Before I could respond, Rascal, the little Brittany, slammed on point. "Go on in," I encouraged. The boy walked in incredulously, but handily dropped the resplendent rooster when it cackled forth into the sky.

We worked our way across the stubble, lingering at grassy margins and weedy swales - finding plenty of birds, missing some, and notching down a few, until we were two short of a limit.

One weedy lane remained. "You guys hunt this lane up to the blacktop," I instructed. "I'll get the truck and meet you there." It would be a good hunt: some independence for boys becoming young men.

Any hunting trip is much more than a single moment. But it is also true that every meaningful hunt creates one memory that defines it and later stands out in utter clarity. What I remember is this: I sat on the tailgate of the truck, watching my boys and their dog walk up the grassy lane. A

continued on page 5



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GARY GREENE

Memories from an Old Hunter

The Flooded Timbers of Arkansas

I My son Nate and I found our destination and entered our Arkansas waterfowl hunting lodge. In front of the dimly lit fireplace, we encountered two, colorful, guitar playing old guys that very well could have been folk singers from the 1963-64 Hootenanny TV show. After some persuading, I was directed to the lodge chef whose name I found to be Cornbread, but spelled with a K, which formally, I believe, made it a name rather than a food. Finally, I was pointed in the direction of the owner, Ms. Sally. As a southern form of respect, I was informed that anyone with age is referred to with the prefix of Mr. or Ms. added to their first name. I became Mr. Gary.

The entire state of Arkansas was under water and the flooding Mississippi River was advancing in our direction creating still higher water levels. The weather in the northern states was still quite warm, so a large portion of the migration hadn't made its way down to Arkansas. The first two days, in the greenhead capital of the world, we shot four and five ducks. We sadly referred to our hunts as being located in Wisconsin South. The main highlight was Kornbread's meals. Those nights, when Nate and I called our wives, we never mentioned our hunting exploits, we just gave monologs on Kornbread's food.

The third day, we were paired with an-

other father (JR) and son (Matty) team. We were going to hunt the flooded timber. We took an old row boat with an outboard motor that died every ten seconds. In the darkest of dark, I was in the front of the boat as it ricocheted off numerous fallen logs and large, majestic cypress trees. The ride to the hunting sight was magnificent. Alone, I would have paid for that boat ride. With the light on the front of the boat leading the way as we zig-zagged through those alarmingly, shadowed cypress trees with that witches' hair - hanging moss. I could have been riding on the new Swamp Trail Ride at Disney World. It was that impressive.

While guide Cody set out the dekes, the four of us found a tree to hide behind and waited for shooting time. Waders were a necessity as the water level was near our waist and rising. That day made the entire trip. That day was the perfect hunt. Nate had been dreaming of a great flooded timber hunt since he had started duck hunting and that day all aspects of the hunt came together. We were on the X.

Cody played his call louder than I have ever heard one work a call. It rattled the tree limbs, it hurt my ears from twenty yards away, but the gadwall loved him. Every duck wanted in our dekes. We were in awe of how these birds came straight down, floating on air among the branches.



My son Nate and I with hunting partners, JR and Matty, in the flooded timbers of Arkansas with our five-man limit of ducks.

With the five man limit being 30 ducks, we shot 29 gadwall and mallards in less than 30 minutes and since it was my 65th birthday, the other dad suggested that I solo shoot at number thirty as a present from him and his son. With that upcoming shot, my heart rate elevated as if I were standing on the free throw line with the chance at a game winner. A lone gadwall came floating in and despite my nerves I dropped it in one shot. Cody took our pictures with

all the strapped ducks hanging from our shoulders, as I singularly held my birthday gadwall in my left hand.

WO

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.



CARPENTER, from page 4

bird flushed. A puff off feathers adorned the sky, and a boy - it was Ethan - walked into the open field to pick up his prize. He held the long-tailed rooster up to the sun, to his brother, probably to me, too, and they continued their journey.

A hundred yards closer, it happened again, but to the other side. Jeremiah dropped the bird, walked out behind the Brittany, and hoisted the rooster to the sky for his brother, and his teary-eyed dad, to see.

Loaded down now with their limit of three magnificent South Dakota roosters each, the boys unloaded their shotguns and wandered the rest of the way toward me, with smiles of accomplishment and satisfaction on their faces. Which is probably just what was on mine. WO

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

JOHN CLER

Hunting Wisconsin Squirrels

A great way to improve outdoor skills

Hunters across the Badger State look forward to the various season openers that fall within September and October. The anticipation builds as archery equipment, duck decoys, dogs, shotguns and rifles are readied for the upcoming action. One season opener that is often ignored is that of the squirrel season, which, in 2017, falls on Saturday, September 16. The season runs through January 31, 2018.

Squirrel hunting offers an early opportunity to get into the field, get some exercise, and perhaps collect some meat for the table. It is also a great way to improve your woodsmanship skills that will serve you well in other outdoor pursuits. Bushytail hunting is an excellent way to introduce hunting to a youngster or an adult that has never hunted before.

Wild squirrels are abundant in most of Wisconsin, but should not be confused with those seen in backyards and city parks. They are wary and know that humans present a danger and are to be

avoided. Avoiding being seen or heard by squirrels is an important part of being successful. Both gray and fox squirrels are found across the state.

Clothing in a camouflage pattern or clothing in dull natural colors will assist the hunter in going unseen by the quarry. Like deer, squirrels do not see colors in the same way that humans do. As in deer hunting, sitting motionless is the best camouflage there is.

Sitting against a tree in a suitable area is the easiest way to spot a squirrel. The local bushytails probably heard your approach and are well hidden by the time you settle into a comfortable position. They will resume their activity within fifteen or twenty minutes. This is the time for the hunter to hone the senses. Watch for movement in the tree tops and on the ground. Listen for rustling leaves, the sound of squirrel claws on tree bark, and for the sound of squirrel teeth chewing through the outer husk of native nut species.



A pair of fox squirrels and a pair of gray squirrels taken during a late September hunt.


Still hunting can also be used to add some squirrels to your daily bag limit of five. Walking quietly and slowly through good squirrel cover and stopping often will help you blend into your surroundings. Again, watching for movement and listening for squirrel sounds will help you locate possible targets.

Bagging a squirrel can be accomplished by using either a shotgun or a .22 rifle. Each firearm has its own set of benefits and shortcomings. Most seasoned squirrel hunters use a .22 rifle, as it offers an increased range, but requires more skilled marksmanship.

Squirrel meat is great table fare and should be treated as such as soon as the animal is bagged. I often carry a couple of zip-lock bags and a pocket knife when squirrel hunting. Squirrels are skinned and gutted shortly after being shot. They can be a bit difficult to skin, especially if not skinned immediately after being killed.

The meat cools quickly once the skin and entrails have been removed, providing a light colored, pleasant tasting meat.

Squirrel should be cooked slowly to prevent it from becoming tough. I often use a slow cooker to get the meat to easily fall from the bones. The meat is then added to gravy poured over rice or potatoes. The meat can also be added to commercial jambalaya or other rice mixes.

The woodsmanship and marksmanship skills used and developed while hunting squirrels carry over into other forms of hunting. Sitting still, moving quietly in the woods, using the senses to detect game, and waiting for and executing that perfect shot are all skills hunters use in hunting the smallest and biggest of game. 

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

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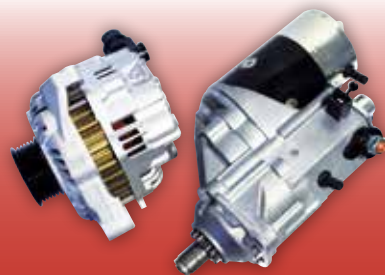
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On The Cover

Already a veteran of the North Dakota duck hunt, puppy Micah makes his first Wisconsin retrieve on a wood duck creek in Kettle Moraine's northern unit.

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JOE MIKOLAJCZAK AND JACI BOWMAN

These Dogs Can Hunt!

Wisconsin poodles make a splash at the Poodle Club of America's Field Tests

Ten Wisconsin poodle enthusiasts and their 14 dogs joined over 100 poodles at the Poodle Club of America's National Specialty Field Tests in Dittmer, Missouri in April. Yes, you read correctly - poodles!

The field test poodles represented the cream of the hunting poodle crop. Dedicated owners from across the country spent countless hours training, trials, and, most of all, hunting with their poodles in preparation for the tests. The tests were both AKC (American Kennel Club) sanctioned events and Poodle Club of America certification tests.

This year's field testing included the Poodle Club of America's inaugural AKC Spaniel Hunt Test. Proof of the poodle's working versatility was required by the AKC prior to the breed's eligibility, as well as historical references of the poodle's initial development as a hunting dog. The inclusion of poodles in these tests was the culmination of a number of years' work to add poodles to the list of breeds eligible for participation. Many hours were put into this effort by members of The Greater Milwaukee Poodle Club to meet AKC eligibility requirements. The spaniel tests included 35 poodles in the Junior, Senior and Master levels



Need more proof? This is Jordie at the Upland Working Class test at Poodle Club of America National Hunt tests.

Photo by John J. Carelli

and 19 of the poodles qualified at the respective levels.

The AKC retriever tests evaluated the participating dogs' abilities as waterfowl retrievers also at the Junior, Senior and Master levels. Tests required dogs to retrieve birds from both land and water as they would on a waterfowl hunt. Dogs also earned the Poodle Club of America Working Certificate and Working Certificate Excellent titles for

retriever work.

The four days of field testing included the following Poodle Club of America Upland Certificate series tests: Upland Instinct Certificate, Upland Working Certificate and Upland Working Certificate Excellent titles for retriever work.

Is the Poodle a versatile hunting dog? You be the judge.

The breed was originally developed, alongside spaniels, as dogs that could flush waterfowl for falconers in the 14th and 15th centuries. With their thick, water resistant coats, poodles were well suited to marsh conditions and highly proficient at flushing waterfowl for hawkers and hunters. During this pre-firearms era, hunters used bow and arrow to harvest game. The dogs were expected to retrieve shot arrows as well as downed game. Poodles continued to be used in the marsh as retrievers upon the advent of firearms. They were used by poachers to catch flightless ducks in the marsh that were then sold at market.

The poodle breed was developed in Europe, most likely in Germany. In fact, the breed's name comes from the old German word "pudelin," meaning to "splash in water," as

continued on page 9

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Training the Retriever Pup

When to get started

So, you finally got a brand, new retriever pup! You did your research and shopped around, and found a breeder that had a litter that met your criteria. You put your money down and took a puppy home. Awesome! Wonderful! Now what? You've had it for a few days, maybe even a week. You're first big goals are to get it house-broken and sleeping through the night. In the back of your mind though you're wondering, "When do I really start training it?"

Most experienced retriever trainers will tell you to start right way. Waiting for the best time to start training your pup is wasting time. It doesn't matter how old your puppy was when you brought it home. It might be the ideal seven weeks as some animal behaviorists believe. It might be younger at six weeks or possibly even five weeks, which sometimes happens. Your pup might be older. Ten weeks, three months, or even four or five months. It really doesn't matter. Your pup's age is what it is when you got it. What does matter is that you start working with your retriever pup right away.

In case you haven't realized it yet, your retriever pup is a dog. It is governed by the rules of the dog world. Its genetics, its instincts, its environment, and its nose rule its world. One of my famous sayings is, "Left to its own devices, a dog will do what a dog will do."

What that means is that each and ev-



Black Jack developing his natural instincts.

ery retriever pup has instincts and genetics that will condition it to whatever its environment and nose present. Add to that mix some personality traits and quirks, and you'll have a dog that will do whatever it wants when it wants. How do you avoid that? Simply by starting to work with it as soon as you are able.

That doesn't mean running it through a structured training program right off the bat. In the beginning, you want to encourage your pup's natural instincts. Those would be retrieving and its hunting desire. Along with that, you want to start working on obedience, but teaching obedience to a several-week-old pup comes second to encouraging its natural behaviors. Encouraging your young retriever to pick up and bring you something is paramount from the beginning.

I tell the Fox Valley Retriever Club members that attend the Specialty Obedience and Puppy Training Sessions that they should encourage that retrieving desire as much as they can. If a pup or young dog decides it's going to pick up one of your kid's shoes or dirty underwear, encourage it to bring it to you. Call it to you with a happy, excited voice, and, if need be, run away to encourage the pup to chase you.

When it gets close, squat or kneel down and let the pup come right into you. Rather than take whatever object it has in its mouth, just open your arms and cuddle it in and pet and praise it. Let the puppy have what it has in its mouth while you love it up. Let it enjoy the moment that it brought something to you and got a lot of attention for doing that.

I've seen many a young retriever pup over the years that has developed the habit of dropping a bird or dummy when they start formal training simply because the owner/trainer didn't do enough in the very beginning to encourage their young retriever to hold onto to it.

Next issue . . . puppy training tactics.

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.



Proof that poodles can hunt. Here is Herb at the Poodle Club of America National Hunt Test.

Photo by John J. Carelli

POODLES, from page 8

poodles were marsh hunters. "Pudel-hund," or "Splash Dog," roughly translates to the word "poodle," as the breed is now known.

For many years, poodles had fallen out of favor as hunting dogs. They are now enjoying a resurgence as more hunters learn of their intelligence, resilience, skill and enthusiasm for hunting. The number of poodles earning Working Certificates and Working Certificates Excellent from the Poodle Club of America has increased significantly in the past 20 years. Poodles are also hypoallergenic and resistant to shedding, making them excellent house dogs that are happy to go hunting on weekends.

For more information about poodles, go to www.poodleclubofamerica.org.

Discover local poodle events at www.thegreatermilwaukeekeepoodleclub.org.



Jaci Bowman has been training poodles for hunting since 1995. She owned and trained the first AKC Retriever Hunting Test titled poodle. She is vice president of the Greater Milwaukee Poodle Club. Jacki trains and exhibits her dogs in Conformation, Obedience and Dog Agility events.

oe Mikolajczak is a life-long outdoorsman. He is a fairly recent convert and enthusiast to poodles as hunting dogs. He owns a poodle that he trains and runs in retriever, upland, spaniel and antler shed hunts. Joe also hunts ducks, pheasants and grouse with his dog.

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LEE GATZKE

A Change of Scenery

New hunting grounds, familiar ending for OWO deer expert

I seem to be wired to want a change of scenery now and then.

So it is that this past year that I said goodbye to a place I had hunted successfully for a long time and moved on to explore new lands. Hunting a new area is somehow invigorating. It requires extra close scrutiny while scouting to pick up on signs of how the deer use this landscape to travel, feed, bed and breed. Heightened awareness while scouting leads to better results come hunting season.

Between the pre-season scouting, glassing and trail camera pictures, I had reason to be optimistic for the upcoming deer seasons. Although I'd be hunting a place with fewer deer than my former

hunting grounds, this new area had a lot more public land to hunt. Having so much public land offered many more places to hunt, which comes in handy when you welcome a change of scenery.

For much of the early bow season, none of the better bucks I knew existed showed themselves. Trail camera pictures proved they were hanging around, but most were taken at night. I kept moving my stand locations to get on these bucks and eventually it paid off.

I set up my portable tree stand on a public land spot that I had waited to hunt until the wind was right. Needing a southwest wind during the rut/pre-rut, the time had come. Quietly, I hung the stand, climbed in and took out my range-




Author's public land buck, taken the first time he hunted there.

finder to range a few landmarks. When I first heard the buck approaching he was ninety yards away and closing in steadily, never pausing.

I slowly turned my head while simultaneously attaching my release to the bowstring. Looking over my shoulder, a glance revealed this buck to be the number one hit-listener. His quartering towards me angle offered no ethical shot, and by the time he became broadside, brush obscured him from me. He walked past at thirty yards, never offering a clean shot. He got out to sixty yards and began to meander around. I lost sight of him and that's when the mixed emotions hit. Disappointment that I had gotten close to getting a shot and, at the same time, elation at having seen him. Soon I got over the disappointment and was just very satisfied with the encounter.

Minutes after my close call with the buck, he was back! This time he was traveling with the slight wind from the

southwest, on a collision course with the tree I was in. At twenty yards, he paused broadside, offering a clear shot. I'd been at full draw following his progress, waiting for this opportunity. Now was the time. Smack! He ran forty yards to the edge of a sharp drop-off at the ridge we were on. He began to wobble as I pleaded for him to drop right there. He did, but then rolled thirty yards downhill, then silence. Battling Lymes disease left me with a handicap for this uphill drag, but somehow my aching joints were up to the task. I shot him at four in the afternoon and by eleven thirty that night he was hanging on the meat pole. It made for a good night's sleep. 

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




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MIKE FOSS

September Season Promises Monster Bears

Guides face real danger in tiny ticks

The summer of 2017 continues to hang long and nasty over Bayfield County as the dog days crawl on toward the September bear hunt. Torrential rains and stifling heat have spawned more insects than a man should face in a lifetime; and the collective nightmare has made the daily work of bear guides and assistants preparing for the season even more of a physical challenge than we've come to expect.

Thirty bear baits spread over 35 square miles of Lake Superior country need to be replenished, even more diligently now as the season looms. Since snowmelt in April first allowed access to the immense forest in Lake Superior country, we have sporadically set teaser baits throughout the spring to prime the pump. Bears now habitually come to these stations for their meals on a daily basis and will continue to do so by the time hunters wait on the stands of autumn. The work is hard but necessary if Northern Wisconsin Outfitters will maintain its standards of near 100 percent shot opportunity for hunters who have waited up to eight years for a Wisconsin tag.

Bait packs feel heavier this summer, sweat pours from our bodies in the humidity, we walk and swat, and joints ache worse today than yesterday as the dues for a quality hunt are paid. But the daily grind is working. The bears are coming now to the baits, and some of these bears captured on trail cameras are so large that I have no



Traveler, this one-eyed bear estimated at 500 pounds, was caught on camera by Northern Wisconsin Outfitters in a swamp, and again seven miles away one week later.

wish to surprise them on the bait when I come again, pail in hand.

Not only has the humid, wet environment produced swarms of mosquitoes, horse and deer flies, but a dangerous, multi-species tick population that require close self-inspection each day when the work is done. Heeding warnings in the news media very seriously, we took great precautions with repellents and clothing to avoid tick-borne diseases. Our precautions were not enough.

NWO owner and bear guide Robert Haas is a tough man. In our many years together preparing for Wisconsin bear seasons, hearing him complain of physical ailments has been non-existent. I could see

continued on page 18



Here's something you don't see often, "said bear expert Robert Haas and owner of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters. "Four cubs."

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



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Back to the Wilderness

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Is your ideal vacation climbing the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in the Andes instead of laying on a beach in the Caribbean? Would you rather run through the mud and over obstacles instead of around a track? When a cardiovascular workout turns into a heart-pounding, adrenaline-inducing, thrill-seeking pastime, it becomes about taking it to the extreme.

The popularity of extreme pastimes has grown in the last two decades as social media and television introduce more people to new ways to make the outdoors their playground. But as the activities take on greater risk, the risk for injury rises. From the rough terrain of the outdoors to the potential for unmerciful temperatures, extreme sports can be physically challenging on the human body. Pushing it to the limit can come with a price, if you are not prepared.

"Fitness is becoming a more common way of life. The growing population of joggers and runners are looking for ways to take their fitness to a whole new level," explains Benjamin Abeyta, MD, a sports medicine specialist with Aurora Health Care in Germantown. "From musculoskeletal sprains and fractures, to concussions, thrill-seeking comes with a risk for injury. Consulting with a sports medicine physician can help individuals

maximize their preparation."

Dr. Abeyta is no stranger to outdoor adventure and extreme activities. Growing up in New Mexico, his backyard was a physical challenge waiting to be explored. He spent his childhood in the mountains and desert terrain. "It was so much more exciting to be outside moving around than sitting in the house playing video games," describes Dr. Abeyta. He carried that passion with him as he moved to Wisconsin for medical school. "I have really embraced all Wisconsin has to offer." From the American Birkebeiner in Hayward, a Crazylegs 8K in Madison and two Tough Mudders to cyclocross in Milwaukee's park system, a triathlon in Lake Geneva, and many 5Ks throughout the state, Wisconsin has fueled Dr. Abeyta's sense of adventure.

The American College of Sports Medicine recommends a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate activity or 60 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity a week for adults and at least 300 minutes per week for children. In addition, musculoskeletal resistance training using every muscle group should be included at least two times per week. Unfortunately, most fall short of these goals, especially children. Helping Wisconsinites get outside and participate in activities they enjoy is a focus of Dr. Abeyta's practice.

"No matter what level an individual is able to compete at, I believe I have something to offer to bring them to a higher level of fitness and health," he adds.

A sports medicine specialist can help you get the most out of your training. "I like to meet with individuals before they begin a training routine. We can explore their health history and address any concerns prior to participating in a training routine. I can provide nutrition advice and ideas that minimize the risk for developing overuse injuries and strengthen joints and muscles for the rigors of an extreme sport," explains Dr. Abeyta. "In addition, when individuals suffer an acute injury like a fracture, muscle strain, concussion or even are diagnosed with a chronic condition like arthritis, there are many non-operative treatments I can provide to bring relief and help them return to an active lifestyle."

Join Dr. Abeyta on Tuesday, October 17 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for a free seminar on Wilderness Medicine. He will share safety strategies for trekking community paths or tackling 14K summits. The program will be held at the Urban Ecology Center at Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee. For more information or to register, visit aurora.org/events.

JIM SERVI

Northern Highland American Legion State Forest

Something for everyone, in every season

Wisconsin is full of natural, scenic gems – some that everyone knows, some tucked away, and some hidden in plain sight. Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest is one of those treasures. At more than 232,000 acres, it's hard to miss and anyone that has been there likely has plans to return. That's because there is so much to do and no matter what your interest or favorite season, there is likely something that will stop and make you appreciate our Wisconsin wilderness.

The NHAL was designated in 1925 with the goal of protecting the headwaters of three important rivers – Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish. It draws roughly two million visitors a year, but you'd never know. Visitors sift through to find their favorite activity and in an area that large, there is room enough for everyone. Seclusion is easy to find.

Here is just a few of the many adventures that await:

Hiking and Snowshoeing Trails

Beautiful, well-groomed trails transect the local landscape. Look for Shannon, Powell, Madeline, McNaughton,

Escanaba and Lumberjack, the longest at 12.5 miles, for superb hiking. Five other trails – Tom Roberts, North Trout, Raven, Star Lake and Fallison – are set up as nature trails with interpretive signs explaining wilderness facts, history and geology. Of all of our adventures this summer, my kids are still raving about catching frogs, seeing snakes and doing a scavenger hunt along the Fallison Lake Nature Trail.

Mountain Bike Trail System

Approximately 1,000 miles of woods roads are open to hiking and biking, or you can visit the refined trails that connect nearly every community, along with many of the campgrounds and area lakes, within NHAL. These trails are nicely paved, weaving through the woods, rather than fighting traffic. McNaughton, Madeline, Lumberjack and the Bearskin State Trail are all excellent. For more rugged, off road biking, try Razorback Ridges Trail, just east of Crystal Lake.

Fishing, Canoeing, and Kayaking

With more than 900 bodies of water and over 300 miles of creeks and rivers in the NHAL, you'll have a lifetime of exploring. Public boat landings provide access to more

than 100 of these, while there is a plethora of options to carry in a canoe or kayak to fish secluded lakes. If you don't have either, there are some great fishing piers at Plum Lake, Upper Gresham Lake, Star Lake, Clear Lake and Carroll Lake. Some of the more popular fishing destinations include Lake Tomahawk, Rainbow Flowage and Big and Little Arbor Vitae. You can't go wrong with any choice. All of these are great for canoeing and kayaking as well, but you can't go wrong with a secluded, crystal clear lake where you can see everything under the water, almost like an aquarium, as you float.

Camping

Some of the premier destinations in the state – Crystal, Clear, Big Muskellunge – are located in NHAL as part of the Wisconsin State Park System. You can book campsites 11 months ahead of your visit, so now is the perfect time to plan a trip for next summer. If you like to go on the spur of the moment, there are plenty of first come, first serve sites. There are also sites that are only accessible by backpack and nearly 100 beautiful, waterfront campsites that are only available by canoe or kayak.

continued on page 16

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JERRY DAVIS

Safety First When Gathering Fall Fungi

Attention to gills, teeth and pores is critical

Autumn mushrooms are not like spring morel fungi, but many who gather them proclaim September and October fruiting bodies as good, or better, than their spring counterparts.

There is a fall mushroom that resembles morels, until you study and smell it. You would never taste a Stinkhorn Mushroom, even though it is reported as edible. Who would try it based on the name?

Morels are relatively small: Fall mushrooms can be as big as a saucer, larger than a volleyball, or heavier than a cauliflower head. Some even stand out like a neon sign or are as white as a ghost. Some puffballs are so large and visible that they can be spotted in a pasture from a highway while driving 55 mph or more. The farmer, and his Holsteins, probably won't mind granting permission to gather, but please ask or keep on driving.

Giant Puffballs do not get rave reviews like Sulphur fungi and Hen-Of-The-Woods mushrooms do, so be forewarned.

Morels don't look very mushroomy to many, but neither do Chicken-Of-The-Woods (Sulphur fungi), Hen-Of-The-Woods, or Giant Puffballs. A few others are truly of the cap and stalk variety, but most of those require more knowledge to get to know them, much more than a morel mushroom or one of the stalk and cap autumn finds.

With autumn finds, begin with books, web sites and hunting guides. Mycologist Tom Volk's web page at tomvolkfungi.net is a great place to check out. Other sources will help with cooking, keeping and preserving mushrooms for future eating.

Here's what to look for and to avoid.

The "Timely Three" each have their own shape, size, character and color. None have gills or teeth on their undersides. Many mushrooms do. Others have pores instead of gills. Get to know what gills, pores and teeth on fungi look like before heading on a foray.

Sulphur fungi, also known as Chicken-Of-The-Woods, are a bright orange, yellow, or a yellowish-white shelf fungus that grows from the side of a living or dead tree, a stump, or log. Sometimes it may be underground, but it will be there.

One poisonous fall fungus has a few of those characters, but not all. Jack-O-Lantern mushrooms have a definite stalk; they can be burnt orange and definitely have gills instead of pores found on Sulphur fungi. Make sure. The Jack-O-Lantern is poisonous and can cause violent nausea and vomiting lasting for hours.

Hen-Of-The-Woods (different from Chicken-Of-The-Woods) is sometimes called the Cauliflower Mushroom, looking like a head of this garden growth in size, color but not taste. As with almost all fungi, color and size are highly variable from one sample to the next. You will not see gills on the underside of the Hen Mushroom, either.

This fall fungus is likely to be associated with oak trees, dead or alive, usually growing at the base of the tree.

Giant Puffballs grow directly out of the soil, are ghostly white when fresh, inside and outside. There are no pores, teeth or gills associated with puffballs. All mushrooms produce spores and are tougher, drier and sometimes sprier the older they get. Kick a dry, brown puffball to get the



Gills on the underside of a poisonous Jack-O-Lantern mushroom.



Edible puffballs are as large as a volleyball and pure white, in and out.



Edible hen-of-the-woods have very small pores or tubes on the undersides.



Edible sulphur fungi are some of the most beautiful autumn mushrooms.


idea.

Many more edible fungi appear during autumn, but these described here are part of the foolproof four, along with the morel.

Mushrooms are best stored in a cool, dry location and then cleaned just before cooking or preserving.

Most mushrooms do not have a special recipe. All can be used interchangeably, but there is no point in mixing varieties and kinds during preparation. The joy and thrill is each variety's special taste, texture


and sensation.

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. 

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 14

That's just the beginning. In the fall, there is hunting and breath-taking views of leaves changing color. Winter brings cross country skiing and snowmobiling. Birdwatching opportunities abound in the spring. In the summer, there are many beaches, places to swim and picnic, and playground areas to enjoy. Plus, there is delicious food and unique shopping venues year-round. It's easy to get overwhelmed by

the huge expense of wilderness and seemingly endless activities. Start with one destination and one activity and it will soon escalate into the adventure of a lifetime and the start of a lifetime of adventures. 

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




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TYLER FLORCZAK

Collared Elk Makes Way to Barron County

Trail camera captures cow elk near Arland

Joining the Chetek-area “Moose on the Loose” adventure from several years ago, another big game animal rare to northwestern Wisconsin—a cow elk—has meandered into Barron County.

Chetek resident Keith Hanson, whose family owns a farm near the Dunn County/Barron County border, captured the collared cow elk on his trail camera. The photo was taken about 5 miles north of Prairie Farm on the south end of Arland Township and dated May 31. Hanson had scattered trail cameras around the farm in April to take surveillance of whitetail deer and black bear using the property. Little did Hanson know, the land was being used by a 3-year-old, roughly 500-pound cow elk.

“At first, I thought someone was playing a joke on me. But when I saw the orange collar, I knew it was an elk. My first thought was that it came from the Clam Lake area,” Hanson stated. “A few weeks ago, I was walking some of our deer plots with my dad, and I noticed a huge track that was too big to be a deer. I asked my dad if any of our beef cattle had gotten out of the pasture, but he told me that they hadn’t, so I didn’t think about it much more until I checked the camera last week for the first time and saw the photo of the elk.”



This collared cow elk was photographed on the trail camera of Keith Hanson on his family farm near the town of Arland. The elk was captured in Kentucky in 2016 and relocated in the Black River State Forest.

Shortly after the photo surfaced, it was discovered that the Department of Natural Resources was already aware of the elk residing in Barron County.

“One of the Jackson County elk has made her way up to the Dunn County/Barron County line, and I believe she may be in Barron County currently,” said DNR biologist Scott Roepke in an email sent back on May 22. “She had been in Clark County all winter and has been moving north and west since early April, spending time in Taylor, Chipewa, Dunn and now Barron counties. Up

until her latest big jump to the northwest, we had just been keeping an eye on her, hoping she’d either settle down in an area, return back to Jackson County, or possibly make her way north towards the northern elk herd (Clam Lake area). She hasn’t done any of those so we may make an attempt to dart and relocate her soon.”


This cow originally came from the 2016 release in Jackson County. She was captured in Kentucky in 2016 and was estimated to have been born in 2014. After the cow elk was released in the Black River State Forest in July 2016, she me-

andered into Clark County in September 2016 and remained there until April 2017, according to Roepke.

DNR officials are monitoring her via GPS radio collar and are able to track her movements every 13 hours.

With the use of MapQuest, the distance the elk has traveled from the Black River State Forest to the town of Arland (located in southwestern Barron County) is approximately 111 miles by road. Through dense hardwoods, swamps and crop fields, the journey is without a doubt longer and much more grueling.

In order to keep the elk safe and eliminate undue stress on the animal, the DNR does not disclose exact locations of animals in rare instances like this.

Hopefully, this cow elk will continue to flourish in the wild and find her way back to a welcoming elk herd. 

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.

FOSS, from page 11

that Robert was uncomfortable as we recently prepared pails for another long and repetitious day of baiting. Over the course of several days, Robert’s health declined to night sweats and abdominal pains, severely swollen glands, 103 degree temperatures and a pounding headache.


His typical “I’ll be alright” attitude as we continued to bait, deteriorated to an “I don’t know if I am going to make it” comment that finally sent him to the hospital. Doctors in the emergency room and a litany of blood tests verified our concern. Haas has full-blown Lyme’s disease.

As I write this story, it’s only been a few days since Robert was diagnosed, but shots and medicine are working. He is recovering, but only time will tell if there will be any lasting effects.

The baiting continues, alone for a time, but

I am grateful that Robert turned for help in time. Only a few years ago, there was never any worry when roaming these big woods of northern Wisconsin. Now, more than ever, the tiniest of things can destroy your life.

Cooler air is finally providing a reprieve to this brutal summer and momentum toward the Septembers hunt is building. Today again, our trail cameras verify that our bait stations are being pounded by some incredibly big bears - the type of bears that hunters dream about. The September season is on the horizon, and the sleepless nights that the excitement of the hunt always brings is here with it.

Call it the pre-game jitters of autumn in bear country. I think we’re ready. 

Connect with Northern Wisconsin Outfitters and Guide Robert Haas at www.northernwisconsinoutfitters.com or 715-373-0127.



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KYLER CHELMINIAK

The Average-Joe Survival Show

How long could you survive in Wisconsin's waters and woods?

“How long can you survive on a secluded lake?” was a question I was asked by a friend. Though I am no survivalist, I grew up fishing, hunting, and camping in Wisconsin's endless grocery store, so I'm comfortable in a natural environment. “But,” I told him, “there would have to be some exceptions.” He then responded, “Let's make it a game show then!”

So here's what we came up with and, like I said, I'm no Bear Grylls, so I need to be given a few necessities before I start the trip: an operational canoe; two fishing poles; an axe; topographical map of the land and lake; and a ten - by - ten foot tarp. Furthermore, I receive a \$50 Walmart gift card to spend after I find out where I will be dropped off. I know this sounds generous for a survival show, but, like I said, I'm no Tarzan: this is the Average-Joe survival extravaganza!

Hypothetically, let's say a secluded lake in Vilas Coun-

ty was selected in July. No houses, no roads to or from, and the lake is surrounded by 1,200 acres of undeveloped land with a small feeder creek. Here's the shopping list I'm bringing to Walmart: cheap filet knife (\$6); lighter (\$3); bug spray (\$7); hook, swivel, and split shot kit (\$6); beach towel (\$8); salt and pepper (\$2); vegetable oil (\$3); case of water (\$4); and a 10-inch, non-stick, sauté pan (\$11). On the way out of the store, I'll grab a few free newspapers.

Once I'm geared up and dropped off, I have a strategy to execute. First, locate the highest ground available by looking at the topo map and then go and physically check it out. If there is level ground, plenty of shade and potential firewood around, then that is where I'll make my home. The higher the ground, the quicker it will dry out in the event of rain. For building my home, I'll use the tarp as a waterproof covering for my bed, firewood, and the rest of the belongings.

I can use the filet knife for any fish or animal I harvest. The lighter and free newspapers for starting fires; bug spray to keep insects away (one bad bite could end my trip); hooks and sinkers for fishing and animal traps; beach towel for cleaning out the pan after use and for drying off in case of rain; salt and pepper for taste; vegetable oil for frying food; a case of water so I will always have drinkable water; and the pan for cooking food.

With this game-plan, I predict I could survive 15 days. But logically it would be more like seven until I wuss out and call it quits. I honestly think this experiment would be kind of fun though.

How do you think you would fare? [CW](#)

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

TOM CARPENTER

Be A Brat Hero This Winter

Making brats from your trim venison is easier than you think

Venison brats made by a professional butcher are great. But processing brats on your own is fun, economical, and a great way to occupy a cold winter weekend. Take some of that venison trim from your freezer and get to work. Here's how.

Brats Defined

Brats are individual-sized sausages made by stuffing casings with a seasoned meat mixture. You can create two kinds of brats: fresh or pre-cooked (ready to eat). The only difference is that you skip the pre-cooking cooking step - usually hot smoking - when making fresh brats. (We'll cover pre-cooked here; just skip the smoking step if you want to try some fresh brats.)

Tools and Materials

Meat Grinder: To grind your venison, and also any pork or other additive meat that isn't pre-ground.

Sausage Stuffer: To make quick work of stuffing casings. Note that with just a few different attachments, many meat grinders can easily do dual duty for this step.

Casings: The material that encloses and holds the sausage mixture. Also called hanks.

Mixing Bowl and Pan: Places to hold ground meat and to combine/mix meats and other ingredients.

Base Ingredients

Here is a base recipe for a 12-pound batch of brats. Adjust ingredient amounts in the proper proportions for larger or smaller batches.

- 6 pounds ground venison
- 6 pounds ground pork
- 6 tablespoons kosher salt
- 6 tablespoons black pepper
- 6 tablespoons chopped chives
- 6 tablespoons chopped garlic

3 egg whites (to help the meat mix and stick)

Additional spices as desired

3 tablespoons curing agent (sodium nitrate or nitrite, for cooked brats)

Brat Making Process

- Mix the meats, salt, spices and other ingredients in the large pan. Strive for a thoroughly and uniformly mixed batch of sausage meat.
- Feed the meat mixture into the sausage stuffer's hopper, pushing it down with a wooden pestle and letting the auger extrude the meat out the tube and fill the casing.
- Twist the casing at consistent intervals (six to seven inch lengths for average sized brats, eight to 10 inches for jumbos). Casings seal up when you complete this twisting motion.
- Note that for most brat hanks, 18 inches

of casing will take about a pound of sausage mixture. This means you would get three 1/3 pound, six-inch brats out of that much casing.

- Leave brats for pre-cooking in strings of six to eight so you can hang them in a smoker.
 - Hang and hot-smoke brats to an internal temperature of 160 F. This assures that the pork that was included is safe to eat. Use hickory, alder, maple, mesquite or some other “flavor” of wood.
 - Freeze brats in batches sized to your needs.
- Pro Tips**
- Keep meat cold while working with it. Utilize a freezer occasionally, or the outside if it's cold enough. Cold and firm meat is food-safe, mixes better, and is easier to work with.
 - When mixing meat and spices, have

continued on page 39

On Wisconsin
Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts



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Ten Years with On Wisconsin Outdoors

Thank you to our great advertisers and our readers for helping *On Wisconsin Outdoors* reach this 10th anniversary.

So, just where have we been? Well, like you, everywhere in Wisconsin hunting, fishing and traveling, but these 60 covers began with our September-October issue in 2007. Unless credited, all cover photos taken by Dick Ellis.

With all papers moving forward, starting with this one, somewhere in the issue you will find the origin of the cover shot, and just who, or what, is in it. Thank you again for your support of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. And look for our photo contest and some great prizes offered by Lily River Foods. Your photo just may end up in OWO, or even on the cover.

2007

Sep/Oct: Three-time Wisconsin goose calling champion John Volkman takes another one north of Appleton.
Nov/Dec: Rutting buck chases a date in residential Waukesha County.

2008

Jan/Feb: Jim Whiteside weathers a blizzard and takes another crappie in Sawyer County.
Mar/Apr: A limit of five Lake Michigan jumbo perch at sunrise in Milwaukee. Angler unknown.
May/June: A Lad Lake pike in Waukesha County cooperates.
Jul/Aug: Ron Gehrke releases a predator flathead cat taken on a bluegill from Mississippi Pool 8 near Lacrosse.
Sep/Oct: A beautiful buck in velvet makes an appearance near heavy traffic in New Berlin.
Nov/Dec: Jim Ellis heads for a vigil over a Vilas County clear cut on a bitterly cold November morning.

2009

Jan/Feb: Lake Mendota Perch 70 feet down can't hide from Bruce Keldahl.
Mar/Apr: Luke Ellis watches a home-made tip-up and sunset over the Manitowish Chain.
May/June: Nate Duwe scores a sunrise walleye on Delavan Lake with his dad and OWO writer Dave Duwe.
Jul/Aug: Steve Henske takes a nice brookie in Portage County's Buena Vista Marsh.
Sep/Oct: An archer on stand in Waukesha County.
Nov/Dec: An October Vilas County buck is recovered by bowhunter John Ellis.

2010

Jan/Feb: Rabbit hunter William Barton and Beagles celebrate the morning near Whitewater.
Mar/Apr: Dick Ellis heads for the truck after a successful Grant County turkey hunt. (John Ellis Photo)
May/June: Shore fisherman Bob Merriman finds the Delavan Lake twilight bite to his liking.
Jul/Aug: A Barron County black bear pays turkey hunter Dick Ellis a visit.
Sep/Oct: Deer Hunting D.I.E. Author Bob Mercier practices what he preaches in Waukesha County.
Nov/Dec: An unrecovered buck is stumbled upon by Sheboygan County duck hunters.

2011

Jan/Feb: Guide and OWO writer Phil Schweik works the crappies in a Little Eau Pleine blizzard.
Mar/Apr: A Root River steelheader plays the Lake Michigan tributary.
May/June: Joel Baranowski knows how to find big pike on Big Green.
Jul/Aug: Outdoor writer Kevin Naze knows how to find Algoma salmon, and everything else.
Sep/Oct: Maggie waits patiently for ducks that never come on Rush Lake near Boulder Junction.
Nov/Dec: John Ellis surrenders to a Vilas County blizzard after a long morning stand.

2012

Jan/Feb: A spearer (we lost his identity) breaks the ice with his first Winnebago sturgeon.
Mar/Apr: Turkey calling expert Neal Herrmann shakes up the late season gobblers near Barron.
May/June: OWO writer and guide Phil Schweik catches the cover smallie on the Wisconsin near Wausau.
Jul/Aug: Warden Recruit Jason Roberts holds the hounds under a treed bear while training near Minong.
Sep/Oct: Craig Cichanofsky works with Northern Wisconsin Outfitters to tag this 639 pound Bayfield County bear.
Nov/Dec: J.J. Reich unleashes his muzzleloader from a Dunn County stand.

2013

Jan/Feb: An unknown angler sets the hook on another Green Lake cisco.
Mar/Apr: Neal Herrmann of Barron calls Tom during a run and gun morning hunt.
May/June: Float Trip Guide Gordon Pagel releases a smallmouth on the Menominee in Marinette County.
Jul/Aug: Mississippi Pool 9 Waterfowl Guide Todd Lensing works the offseason backwater for bass.
Sep/Oct: Dick Ellis works with Micah in Vernon Marsh. (Taylor Ellis photo)
Nov/Dec: Steve Henske hunts the Northern Highland State Forest near Manitowish Waters.

2014

Jan/Feb: A Lake Michigan brown trout surrenders on a Racine County tributary.
Mar/Apr: OWO columnist and book author John Luthens drops into an early-season, spring-fed stream near Fond du Lac.
May/June: Nate Duwe is happy as his shirt with this bluegill.
Jul/Aug: Molly Hall and David Jackson find the Lake Michigan action off Milwaukee much to their liking.
Sep/Oct: Craig Cutts waits in his tree stand near Nepauskun while his arrowed buck is photographed.
Nov/Dec: OWO writer and bear expert Mike Foss tags a Bayfield County buck. (Peter Zienty Photo)

2015

Jan/Feb: Roger Mayer is warm and happy with the whitefish action on Green Bay.
Mar/Apr: OWO Coyote writer and expert marksman Terry Russ after a typical all-nighter in Jefferson County.
May/June: Chaquamegon Bay smallmouth savior Roger LaPenter works the immense water with Frank Ciccirelli.
Jul/Aug: Kevin Morgenthaler likes his Richland County Wisconsin River Largemouth. (Wayne Morgenthaler Photo)
Sep/Oct: Micah retrieves in the wild rice of the Manitowish Chain.
Nov/Dec: With OWO in need of a cover OWO friend Scott Heitman agrees to this posed stand shot in Waukesha County.

2016

Jan/Feb: Jarrod Leudtke finds the crappie fishing excellent near Tomahawk. (Phil Schweik photo)
Mar/Apr: Hunting with her dad, Chloe Volkman tags this gobbler in Door County. (John Volkman photo)
May/June: Lily Faucher shows off her whitebass taken on the Wolf River near New London. (John Faucher Photo)
Jul/Aug: Gordon Pagel lifts a hefty smallmouth from the Embarrass River. (Mike Goggins Photo)
Sep/Oct: Row troller David Morton wins the battle with a 45-inch musky near Presque Isle. (John Morton Photo)
Nov/Dec: Jarrod Erdody tags a beautiful Buffalo County buck. (Shaun Vanlandingham Photo)

2017

Jan/Feb: John Ellis is captured on the high ground near Craig, Colorado in search of mule deer and elk.
Mar/Apr: Taylor Ellis takes aim with her 9mm in Waukesha County.
May/June: Josh Hoier likes the Wolf River during the walleye run. (John Faucher Photo)
Jul/Aug: OWO columnist Dan Moericke of Wausau takes a Father's Day trout fishing trip to southeast Minnesota. (Steve Moericke Photo)

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"2017 Great Outdoors" Facebook Photo Contest

LILY RIVER FOODS

Lily River Foods & *On Wisconsin Outdoors* magazine are teaming up to find the next great amateur photographer.

Find your camera and start shooting, we are looking for high res photos that capture the "Great Outdoors." This includes hunting, fishing, animals, birds, fish, deer in their natural habitat and images that capture the beauty of nature.

The "Great Outdoors" Facebook contest ends no later than 11:00 PM on October 15, 2017 and must be submitted with an entry form, which can be found online at lilyriver.com or onwisconsinoutdoors.com, along with contest rules, regulations & complete contest details. Photos must be taken in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota or Illinois to be



eligible to enter. All photos and entry form can be emailed to lilyriverfoods@gmail.com. Top 5 photos chosen by Lily River Foods & *On Wisconsin Outdoors* magazine will be on Facebook September 28-October 8, 2017 for the public to vote. The top 3 photos with the most votes will be the winners.

First winner will win a \$100 Kwik Trip gift card & bag of Lily River & Grandma's Breeding, along with photo & bio appearing in *On Wisconsin Outdoors* magazine; 2nd place winner will win a fish fry kit from Lily River Foods and 3rd place a case of Lily River Breeding. Second & third place winners may be eligible for photos to appear in *On Wisconsin Outdoors* magazine.

Explore Wisconsin
County-by-County at
onwisconsinoutdoors.com

County Teasers

Port Washington. Fall is a great time to be outdoors in Port Washington. Fishing has been great, and still is, with a charter or from shore. Our downtown is right on the lake, so when fishing is done for the day, you're only steps away from good food and drink! More info at: www.visitportwashington.com

Ferryville. Sept. 16 is Fall Fest in Ferryville at Sugar Creek Park and promises to be the best ever. The Kickapoo Brave Ride (up to 100 miles of bike riding) is on the same day. Visit ferryville.com or kickapoobraveride.com to learn more.

Ashland County. Ashland, Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin, where you'll find yourself next to the water. September & October: September 9, Ashland Mural Fest and Car Show, Courthouse Lawn. October 13-14, 20th Annual Memorial Medical Center WhistleStop Marathon/Half Marathon, Pasta Feed & Fish Boil, and Blues and Brews Fest, Ashland. Chequamegon Bay, a world-class smallmouth bass fishery. www.visitashland.com

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. With over 100 miles of ATV trails, a scenic ATV tour, and incredibly ATV-friendly businesses, you'll want to head to Washburn County in Northwest Wisconsin this fall for your ATV vacation. Order your ATV packet today at washburncounty.org



SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes By Suzette Skin-On Duck Breasts

I am willing to cook just about anything my husband harvests from the land, water or sky. While I love to cook and usually don't run into too much trouble with my methods of preparation, I can recall a few incidents that proved to be more frustration than enjoyment. My "best" story relates to the first (and consequently last) time I tried to pluck a goose. In the end I decided that wet feathers lining my kitchen counters, embedded in the window screen above the sink, and coating the inside of my mouth, meant that this was not one of my God-given talents. Since I still much prefer the taste of skin-on poultry, I rely on the expertise of others to pluck the birds before they come to me. Enjoy!

Aggen Duck By Jerry Aggen

4 lbs duck breasts (skin-on)	3 to 4 black peppercorns
3 T chef's salt*	2 small bay leaves, crumbled
2 stalks celery, coarsely chopped	¼ tsp dried marjoram, crushed
1 carrot, coarsely chopped	1 can cream of onion soup
1 small onion, chopped	2/3 can of water
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced	

Rinse and dry duck. Rub breasts with chef's salt. Place lard in roasting pan with tight fitting cover. Place duck, breasts down, on lard and surround with vegetable mixture. Combine soup and water and pour over all ingredients in bottom of roasting pan. Cover and marinate 24 hours in refrigerator.

Cover and roast in 325° oven for 2 to 2 ½ hours. Remove from pan and cool completely.

Place breasts skin side up in 15 x 10 x 1 inch pan. Bake in 425° oven for 20 to 22 minutes.


*Chef's Salt: Combine ½ cup salt, 1 ½ tsp Spanish or Hungarian Paprika, 1 ½ tsp ground black pepper, 1/8 tsp white pepper, 1/8 tsp celery salt, 1/8 tsp garlic salt. Mix well. Use 3 tablespoons. Store remainder for other use.

Stuffed Duck Breasts

4 Duck breasts (skin-on)	1 pkg of your favorite bread stuffing*
8 strips bacon, raw	1 cup orange juice

Rinse and dry breasts. In sandwich fashion, put together two breasts with stuffing in between. Wrap with bacon strips and hold together with toothpicks. Place on rack in uncovered roaster or pan. Roast for 20 minutes (rare) in 500° oven basting liberally with orange juice. If you prefer more medium than rare, reduce heat to 250° and cook for ½ hour longer.

You can add a little cornstarch and water to the drippings to make gravy for serving.

*Bread stuffing with cranberries is particularly wonderful with this recipe. 

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

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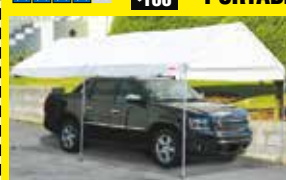
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DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report Peddle vs. paddle

“You can’t just fish all the time.”

This radical theory is one that is subscribed to by my wife as well as a number of my friends’ spouses. How such an irrational concept ever evolved is difficult, if not impossible, for the avid angler to comprehend. Personally, What’s worse, it’s often paired with the following, equally unreasonable hypothesis:

“We’ve got to get in shape.”

Pure nonsense. However, being a compliant husband, a year or two ago I broke down and purchased two new bicycles. The decision was spurred by the development of some really nice bike trails in Vilas County and the rave reviews they were getting from cycling friends who were using them. To my surprise, I’m actually enjoying my biking experience.

First of all, let me just say that there is a BIG difference between the bike I now have and the old, cheap, off-the-

rack models that I had ridden my entire life. Thanks to an extra-large frame, this one actually *fits* me. The gears shift smoothly and it coasts seemingly forever. Going to a real bike shop, working with someone knowledgeable, and spending a few extra bucks has made a world of difference.

That said, I have no desire (or ability) to ride the Tour de France or otherwise punish myself by seeing how far I can ride or how fast. These are comfort bikes, but my comfort limit is about 15-20 miles before numbness sets into places where you really don’t want it.

The Heart of Vilas County trail runs 45 miles from Manitowish Waters to Saint Germaine and is 100% paved. There are plenty of designated parking areas along the trail, so a reluctant, half-hearted peddler like myself can bite off a section at a time. The trail features bridges, benches, rest areas and even ‘fix-it’ stations complete with tools necessary to make basic repairs. Even better, there are numerous establishments along the trail that offer food, libations

Scenic bridge over Rice Creek Flowage.



and ice cream.

The 3 Eagle Trail runs from Eagle River to Three Lakes and is a crushed limestone trail stretching nearly 13 miles. Very flat, it’s a pretty easy ride and includes some impressive boardwalks and bridges.

There are a number of organized rides that showcase the Vilas County bike trails. In June, we participated in the “Ride with Leinie” event led by Dick Leinenkugel. The ride is held on the Land O’ Lakes Trail and the route included a recently completed 3+ mile stretch of trail through private land just north of Forest Lake that is really beautiful. Even though the weather was cool and damp, over 150 riders

continued on page 32

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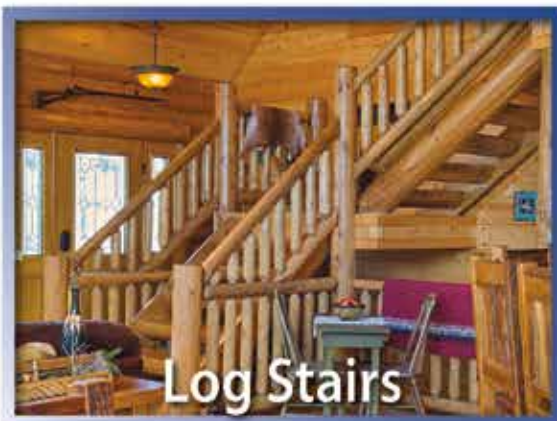
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WAYNE MORGENTHALER

Hook, Line...and Sturgeon

September brawl with the ultimate bruiser

When Jim called asking if I wanted to go fishing at 5 a.m., on a cold rainy day in September, I couldn't turn down the opportunity. The boat was ready, fishing rods had their drags set, and some garlic-scented night crawlers for bait were prepared. We would also be home in time for the Packers game. This was a dream trip with all the trimmings.

We launched at 6:30 a.m., just outside of Lone Rock on the Wisconsin River. The temperature was in the 50s with a slight wind out of the east. The day was cloudy with a touch of rain, which made for an excellent time to be out on the river.

Our first stop was on a bend where the current had developed a nice hole about 50 yards from shore. We anchored in about 6-feet of water just above a drop off. Our fishing poles were set up with egg sinkers, 20-pound test line, a single hook, and those mouth-watering garlic night crawlers. We each threw out two lines into the current and began our patient vigil of watching the rod tips.

It was about 15 minutes before I saw my rod tip start to quiver. Jim immediately identified it as a maple leaf hanging up on my line. I reeled it in and sure enough he was right on the money. The leaf was a dull brown color, so I threw it back. I again tossed the night crawler out about 15




Author with sturgeon on the Wisconsin River

yards and let it swing down gently in the rapids. Immediately the rod tip started bouncing again, and I knew it was a fish. I waited for just the right moment to set the hook. The battle was on with me reeling as fast as I could so the fish didn't have much of a chance to make a run. I was able to land this 7-inch walleye without the aid of a net.

I had just released the walleye when the other rod tip bent, and then it really bowed. Thank goodness for the rod

holder being a good one. I was able to grab the rod before it broke. "You got a sturgeon on," Jim said, and out of the water came a beautiful fish making one gigantic splash. The monster of the river then decided to stay on the bottom and test my endurance.

I stuck the end of the rod into my stomach and hung on like they do in those deep-sea fishing shows. The sturgeon is a fish with great stamina that likes to test your line strength, and this one made a strong run down stream before clearing the water once again. I wished I could have taken a picture of that tremendous show of power. Eventually after 15 minutes I was able to maneuver the sturgeon alongside of the boat. Jim reached down with his steady hands and grabbed it by the tail. With one mighty lift, the fish was in the boat. We measured it at 48 inches and estimated the weight around 20 pounds. Jim took some pictures and the prehistoric monster was released back into the Wisconsin River.

With very little planning, this could be you. Make sure to read your fishing rules before going out. Have fun. 

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

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



GARY ENGBERG

Changing Summer Habits

New approach will mean better fall fishing

By the end of August and through most of September, fishing in south-central Wisconsin is difficult and very inconsistent. If you're fishing in the same areas in late summer/early fall as you did in early summer, don't expect much success. Fish are deeper later in the season than they are in early summer when they are spawning.

It's very easy to get into fishing "memories," where you keep going back to the same spots where you caught fish earlier in the year or in past years. Don't get caught in the trap of fishing the same locations and areas no matter what time of the year it is. The important thing to remember is the year-round patterns of the fish species you are pursuing. All fish have patterns that they follow depending upon the season. These patterns are subject to the weather, moon phase, available baitfish and water temperature, to name a few. These factors will influence a fish's movement during the year.

Fishers get used to catching fish in the spring and early summer in relatively shallow water. This is the easiest time to catch fish, since most species can be found in



Guide Ron Barefield with a September muskie from Lake Waubesa.

shallow waters. Shallow is defined as 10 feet or less. As the water warms and weeds and vegetation grow, fish move to other areas of comfort close to a food source. The comfort area often is in deeper water and near any underwater structure.

The amount of boat traffic can change and affect when fish feed and are active. For example, Lake Mendota and Lake Wisconsin are not good lakes to fish on weekends when boat traffic is at its peak. Lakes


like these should be fished in the evening or early morning during low-light times and when boat traffic is at a minimum. If possible, fish during the week when there's little competition from other anglers and pleasure boats.

Buy a good map of the lake that you plan to fish. Navionics makes some great maps for many of Wisconsin's lakes. Take a good look at the map and mark the areas that you intend to fish. A good map will

allow you to eliminate a sizeable portion of the lake before you even go on the water. Look for the lakes contours, underwater points, islands, rock piles, bottom composition, and accessibility to deep water and mark these locations. Try them out the next time you hit the water. A good map and electronics will do wonders finding fish at any time of the year. The map and electronics put you in position to catch fish, no matter what season.

Fish don't get "lockjaw." They may get harder to find, feed at different times and in different places, but fish feed regularly. You just have to find where, when and how your favorite fish species feeds.

The coming fall is my favorite time of the year to fish because all fish species realize that the days are getting shorter, the water cooler and it's time to bulk up for the cold winter. Some of the largest muskies, walleyes and bass are caught in the fall when fish go on their "feeding frenzy."

Do some homework on get ready for the best fishing of the year. 

Contact Gary Engberg at 608.795.4208 or gengberg@garyengbergoutdoors.com, or visit garyengbergoutdoors.com.

BY TOM LUBA

Downtown Fishing

Nature and civilization partner to create fishing opportunities

As our country grew, towns sprang up on rivers because rivers meant transportation, commerce and a bustling economy. With cities came building, with building came structures aimed at making the river more user-friendly. As a by-product, these structures created some excellent fishing opportunities.

From bridges to dams to concrete walls, man created things necessary to maximize river use. And Mother Nature did her part, letting her current sweep clean gravel areas and wash in laydowns and trees. These are all prime fish locations.

Main rivers usually mean smallmouth and walleye. They are current fish. But also, look at river backwaters for largemouth, northern pike, bluegill and crappie. These fish will also hold on defined current edges. On a smaller scale, many millponds that have been dammed to help create communities also have areas that are both river and lake based. The river running through them provides current. And the areas out of the channel, especially weed beds, are perfect habitat for most species.

On main rivers, look for dams, bridges, retaining walls, rip rap, submerged trees and stumps and the pushes in

front of riffles as key areas. Rock piles may exist as construction by-products from structures like bridges. Large stumps are usually washed in by erosion due to high spring water. A key thing about wood – it may be there one year and gone the next due to force of flow. You may lose one snag but gain another in a year's time.

To fish current, it works best to retrieve with the current, upstream to downstream or by quartering the current to keep the presentation natural. Crankbaits, spinnerbaits, jigs and plastics are all good producers based on the season

continued on page 34

Weekend Freedom Machines



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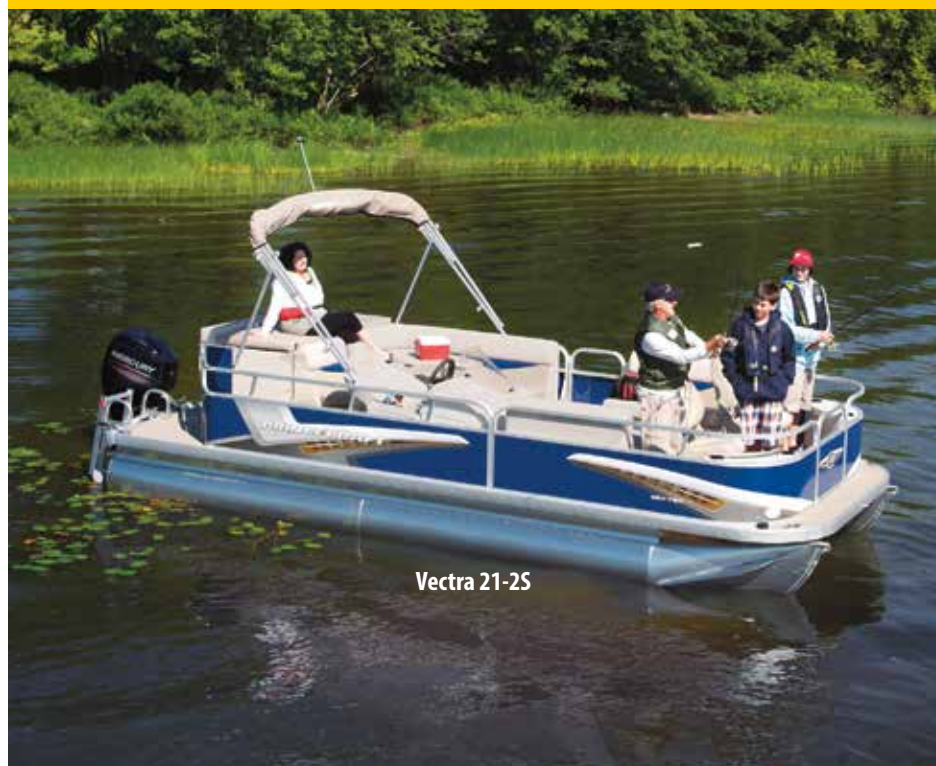
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PHIL SCHWEIK

The Schweik/Munson Musky

It doesn't get any better than this

The day began as any other normal day would with me guiding on Lake Dubay. Kevin Munson had his family up and we were going to spend the day fishing. The morning went well with everyone catching lots of walleye, northern and catfish. At around 11 a.m., we decided to head in for lunch.

After eating, the girls decided to stay ashore and go shopping while Kevin and I headed for the lake. At first we started working some deep wood for walleyes and crappies. I asked Kevin what he wanted to do for the rest of the day. He said that he would like to try for muskies. Without hesitation I reeled up and said Let's go!"

Once we started to move, we didn't have far to go. One of my favorite musky lo-

cations was nearby. I had Kevin hook up with my favorite Kramer Brothers bucktail and I ran my favorite top water bait from Lake X Lures called the "Fat Bastard." Once in position, I suggested to Kevin that he cast towards shore and to get as close to it as he could with his bait. He did just that, but the lure snagged. I moved the boat towards shore and we got the lure out.

As we started away from the shoreline, I told Kevin to toss his bait parallel with the shoreline. I wanted him to run it along the overhanging brush and wood to see if he could trigger a strike. Kevin proceeded to cast along the shoreline and I threw out towards the middle of the lake. I was just trying to cover different water while allowing Kevin to work the shoreline structure. My

lure hit the water and I saw a huge swirl right where it had landed. At first it didn't quite register; did I see what I thought I just saw?

Wham. The water exploded and I struck back hard. "Big Fish!" I yelled to Kevin. "Big fish on!" I started fighting the big musky and there were big, heavy head shakes and powerful lunges. I held fast. I was fighting the big fish and keeping a tight line while also trying to get in position to hand the rod off to Kevin. I carefully moved towards him and got the rod in his hands. The rest of the fight was his.


Kevin handled the fish like a pro. Maneuvering with every lunge, headshake, and run, the big fish took. It seemed like forever to get it under control. In all reality, it was probably less than two minutes. Kevin brought the big girl to the boat and in one quick sweep she was safely in my Frabill. We promptly removed the hooks and let her rest while we too settled down a bit. I told Kevin that it looked like a good upper-40 inches-long fish. High fives and congratulations were now taking place.

Now came the moment of truth. I reached down the net and slowly worked my hand under the musky's jaw. I gently lifted it to an awaiting 60" ruler. As I began to lift her, I realized she was much larger than I had originally thought. She seemed to just keep coming out of the net. And she was fat, really fat, for a summer fish.



Kevin Munson with incredible 52" musky taken while fishing with Hooksetters' Guide Phil Schweik.

This was definitely one of the heaviest fish I have ever held.

I carefully laid her down on the ruler. Kevin and I stood in amazement. She was 52" long. I picked her up; we took a few quick photos and then let her go. As she laid in the water for one last look, we put a quick string around her stomach and got a 25" girth. We pulled the string and watched as she slowly swam away. I looked at Kevin and he just smiled. It just doesn't get any better than this. 

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

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MIKE YURK

Bassology

Smaller, lighter presentation...more fish!

Sometime less is more in bass fishing. In the last few years finesse fishing has become the rage in bass fishing. That is because it works.

Using smaller and lighter baits and equipment will catch lots of bass, especially when it comes to fishing plastics. Bass fishing has a tendency to go heavy with jigs, big plastic worms with bulky weights and other baits. All too often people believe in big baits for big fish. Lighter baits and plastic rigs will catch just as many fish, if not more.

Recently I began fishing with a new plastic rig and it has made a difference. It certainly isn't anything fancy, but it has been catching lots of bass. It doesn't have any name that I am aware of, so perhaps we should call it the "Doug Rig," after my longtime fishing buddy, Doug Hurd, who introduced it to me after kicking my butt a couple days with this new finesse rig.

The New Finesse Rig

It begins with a light jig. It is an unpainted round headed jig with a straight hook and no barbed collar. The size I have been using is a one-sixteenth ounce. Although I like the lighter jig, I can see where a one-eighth or even one-quarter ounce might be better in deeper water or on windy days.

There are any number of places to find these jigs, but my usual source has been Cabela's. These jigs can be purchased in their stores, on line or through their catalog.

The second parts of the rig are smaller, thinner, lighter plastic worms. Although there are other plastic worms which are similar and probably work just as well, the ones I use are the Kalin's four-and-a-half inch Weenie Worm.

There are a variety of colors to choose

from and they all catch fish. I tend to favor natural colors such as green pumpkin and bluegill, as well as some more exotic shades such as magic and witches brew (a couple different shades of brown and candy green with sparkles). One day I used all five colors and they all worked without any one color being better than the other.

How to Fish It

You can Texas Rig these worms on the light jigs by putting the hook through the front of the worm, twisting it out and inserting the hook an inch further back in the plastic. This probably would work well if fishing around a lot of brush. However, I just thread the worm on the first inch of the hook, leaving the hook exposed. I haven't found any problems with that.

Since it is a lighter bait, I use this rig on a light spinning rod and reel combo with braided line. I use 15 pound Power Pro line with a four pound diameter. With all plas-



The "Doug Rig" offers a little more finesse to catching bass.

tic bait fishing braided line is considerably more sensitive and no stretch so hooks sets are much better than with monofilament.

Fishing this rig is easy. It is no different than any other plastic bait presentation. Let it sink to the bottom. I usually let it set there for about ten seconds because many bass will hit without any movement. Then

continued on page 35

DAVE DUWE

Live Bait Fishing

A guide's key to success

When I started guiding over twenty years ago, I was an artificial bait fisherman. Crankbaits, jigs and plastic worms were my go-to baits of choice. I fished several times per week and catching fish wasn't always the most important thing. I enjoyed trying new presentations and being out of the water. Once I started guiding and having customers in the boat who may only fish once or twice per year, catching the most fish possible became the most important endeavor for their enjoyment and my business.

To provide the best opportunity for success, live bait has been the new go-to approach. Live bait ensures that I will be able to put the most fish in the boat. The two methods I use the most for live bait fishing are a lindy rig and a split shot rig.

A split shot rig is a basic presentation with a single hook and a split shot positioned 18-24 inches above the hook. I prefer the Kahle hook size 12 with a round split shot. The key to the set up is the round split shot. The removable split shot with the wings gets hung up in the weeds too often. The use of the smaller hook enables you to catch a variety of fish from bluegills to walleyes or even the occasional northern pike. The split shot rig can be either cast or drifted with equal success. Very little action needs to be




A nice Lake Geneva smallmouth caught on a lindy-rigg.

added to the presentation to be successful. You basically leave the live bait to do what it's going to do.

A lindy rig is comprised of a walking sinker, a swivel and a hook on a leader of varying length. The leader length will vary based on the attitude of the fish. A shy bite will need a longer leader length. The standard length I start with is 24-36 inches. Unlike the split shot rig, I prefer either slow

trolling or drifting with the rig. Casting is too difficult because the long leader length can cause excess tangles. When fishing a lindy rig, the sinker size is determined by the amount of wind or speed of trolling. In windy conditions or in deep water a heavier sinker is used. This helps to keep the bait on or near the bottom.

The baits I like for either split shots or lindy rigs are nightcrawlers or fat head minnows, but leeches and suckers can also be used. If you choose to use leeches, be aware that they have a tendency to twist or knot your line. In the simplest context, live bait fishing is letting the movement of the bait attract the fish into biting. I am aware that location, weather, wind and temperature play a role as well, but the primary function is the natural movement of the bait.

Occasionally while I am fishing for bass or panfish with a split shot rig, I will also have a lindy rigged sucker on or near the bottom in just a bit deeper water. The sucker or chub can attract a much bigger fish like the northern pike. It's a great way to fish for multiple species using two tried and true live bait presentations. 

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.

CAPT. LEE HAASCH

Experience Algoma This Fall

Don't forget the great fishing!

Looking for a great adventure this fall? Check out Algoma. From picking apples from the tree, to visiting the many farmers' markets in the area, to taking in a kermis or two, the Algoma area has lots to offer as the leaves turn colors. For me, it's my all-time favorite time of the year. I can catch a cooler of fish in the morning and spend time in the woods in the afternoon.

Fall festivals are happening throughout the area and Algoma also hosts the Wet Whistle Wine Fest in mid-September. Almost every weekend within a short drive from Algoma, you can attend a community festival and enjoy some of the most delicious local ethnic food fares you can imagine. A short distance to the west you can attend a Packer practice or take in a game and tour the Packer Hall of Fame.

If you are thinking fall and harvest time, a trip to the Door Peninsula would not be complete without stopping by Country Ovens and Cherry Delight in Forestville to load up on an awesome assortment of cherry products. Who could skip Wienke's Market, just north of Algoma, loaded with pies, jellies, fruits, vegetables and canned goods, all locally grown and prepared?

While you are there, stop next door at Renard's Cheese Factory for a wide assortment of straight-from-the-fac-

tory cheese products. Don't forget the squeaky fresh cheese curds! Bearcat's Fish House is a must stop to get fresh smoked fish (my favorite is the brown sugar salmon,) and other wonderful seafood products. Save time to take in a tour at von Stiehl Winery, Wisconsin's oldest licensed winery and sample award-winning wines.

A trip to Algoma would never be complete without doing a little fishing. The Ahnapee River running through Algoma is full of ready-to-spawn Chinook Salmon and later Brown Trout and even Coho Salmon. But my favorite is heading off-shore in one of the many local charter boats and filling your cooler with silver steelhead and young salmon.

Heading off-shore in the pre-dawn hours and watching a colorful sunrise while battling a silver dancing steelhead is a thrill like no other. The action can be fast and furious this time of year and these acrobatic fish make for some the best table fare, which I like to call the "prime rib of the lake!" This has always been one of my favorite times of the year to score some great eating fish for the winter.

Fall is harvest time in Wisconsin and the Algoma area offers the beauty of fall colors, wonderful opportunities to get farm fresh products, award winning wines, local



Algoma is known for large Steelhead, including this state record at over 27 pounds.

apple and cherry products, and is home to the "Sport Fishing Capital of the Great Lakes." Visit Algoma, we've got it all!

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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, WI. 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.

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- 2ND ANNUAL HARVEST FEST
- FAIRYTALE TRAIL HALLOWEEN WALK
- HISTORIC STEELE STREET FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK
- ALGOMA SUNDAY FARMERS MARKET



"Catch" a big one when the King Salmon run up the Ahnapee River or hop on a charter boat and fill a cooler with fish for the winter!

MOERICKE, from page 24

participated in the ride. Proceeds from the ride go towards expanding the trail system.

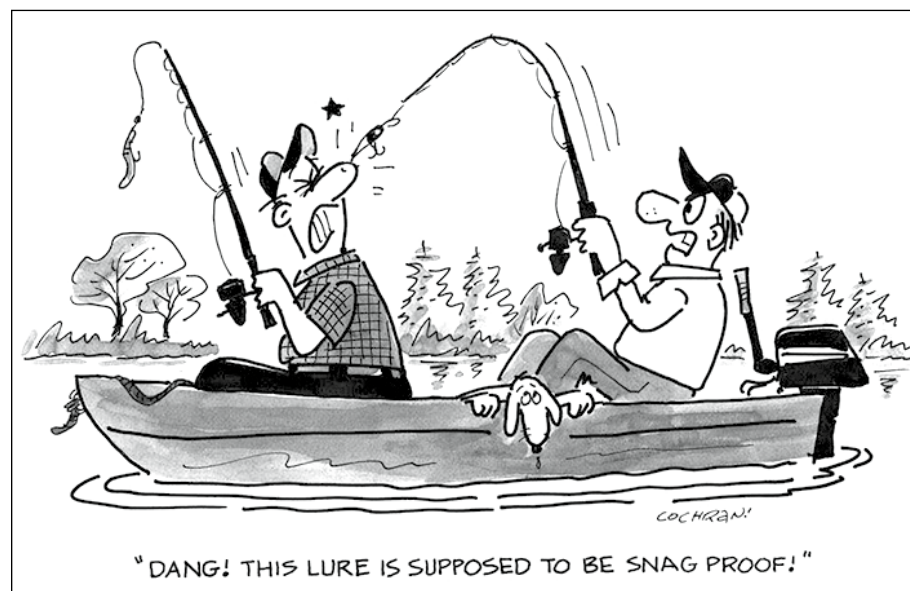
On September 9, the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce is holding the first ever "SepTimber Ride". In true Wisconsin style, it starts at a brewery and goes to a winery . . . then back to the brewery. There really is something to love about biking after all.

For more information on the Vilas

County bike trails, go to: www.vilas.org

(While the bike trails and my new bike are great, for the record, I continue to believe that I could just fish all the time. Just sayin!)

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





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RON STRESING

Double Down on Upland Game

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The grouse flushed almost as soon as I left the trail. Swinging through the bird with my over/under, I slapped the trigger. My bottom barrel, choked improved cylinder and loaded with 1 1/8th ounces of 6 shot canceled the bird's flight, and I heard it fall to the forest floor. Had I missed, my top barrel was choked modified, and held a heavier 1 1/4-ounce load of 5 shot. A heavier shot charge, or tighter pattern at that close range might have mangled the bird, but the open choke with a lighter load of 6 shot harvested it perfectly.

Wisconsin is blessed with all sorts of opportunities for hunting upland game, like pheasants, quail, grouse, doves and woodcock. You can also count rabbits and squirrels along with them, as they often appear as "targets of opportunity" on upland bird hunts. A common trait among upland game birds is to flush close to the hunter. Those sudden, close flushes can surprise a hunter long enough for the bird to escape. Often when hunting grouse or quail, the cover allows only a short window of opportunity to shoot the bird. This calls for fast shooting at close range to bag the bird. Open chokes, with lighter loads of fine shot, are the best option. For a longer follow up shot, a tighter pattern and



Grouse harvested with an over/under.



Barn pigeons taken with a classic side-by-side.

heavier load of shot would be a better choice. Using a double barreled shotgun allows the hunter that option.

Match the range and the game: Improved cylinder for the first shot, and modified for the follow up works great for close-in grouse, quail, woodcock, doves and even early season pheasants. Use 1 ounce to 1 1/8th ounce loads of 6 shot in both barrels. Later in the year, when ranges increase, move up to modified and full. Use heavier loads, with 1 1/8th and 1 1/4 ounces of 6, 5 or even 4 shot. Use the same system for cottontail rabbits or snowshoe hares. For close-range, brush pile hunts, go with the improved/modified combination and lighter loads. For longer range rabbits in cut-down cornfields or open woods, go with modified and full and heavier loads. If jump shooting doves out of a fence line or evergreens, use the improved and modified combination. Pass shooting doves or pigeons, use the modified and full. Remember not to over-choke. Three to five pellets are all that's needed for a clean kill.

continued on page 35

LUBA, from page 28


and water level. Jigs tipped with a minnow, leech or a half crawler can be deadly. Scale down in size by the conditions. The lighter you can go and still hit bottom without snagging regularly usually spells success. You will lose some baits, but in rivers, that's the cost of doing business. The less they hang up, the happier river fishermen are.

In small rivers, largemouth, pike and panfish will still relate to current edges. Current is also key in flowages and mill-ponds. If you are not seeing fish, move into slacker areas of cover. The fish may be inactive, but sometimes dropping a bait right

in their face will produce a reaction strike. When active, they set up closer to current.

Spinnerbaits and shallow crankbaits can be run over the weeds for largemouth and pike, once the cooler fall weather starts killing off the shallow weeds. And small jigs and plastics work well for panfish. I'm less of a purist when panfishing. Give me worms, crawler parts, small leeches and minnows. Use a number six longer cricket shank hook and vary from light to no weight. I go lighter when I think the fish are less active. I like Zebco's light under spin closed face reels, especially when I get rid of the sinker. Try real and fake and see what works best.

Swim jigs are also a good option for bass, as are Texas-rigged Senko stick worms.

Keep in mind that moving water and towns should be viewed as best friends to anglers because they provide a lot of areas fish will use regularly. Whenever I see a river or a flowage intersecting with today's civilization, I find the nearest boat launch and can't wait to locate all those areas that the fish call home. 


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.



A retaining wall in the city gave up this smallmouth. Man-made structures on rivers can be fish magnets.

STRESING, from page 34

Side by side or over/under: Everyone has their likes and dislikes. I own both over/under and side by side guns. I can hit (or often miss) equally as well with either configuration. Some folks love the look and feel of a classic English-style side by side. Others like the balance of an over/under. Either configuration gives the shooter the advantage of multiple choke and load selection, as well as the built in "follow through" the weight of the extra barrel gives. High quality double barrel guns also tend to hold their value really well, and also make great Sporting Clays or Skeet guns with the right chokes.


Whether you hunt grouse and woodcock "up north" in the National Forest, or pheasants and quail on public land in Racine County, a double gun will up your odds for success. Custom tailor your choke settings and loads to the hunt, and game will be in better shape for the table. With birds like grouse, quail and pheasant being some of the finest eating game birds in North America, they deserve nothing less. 

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.

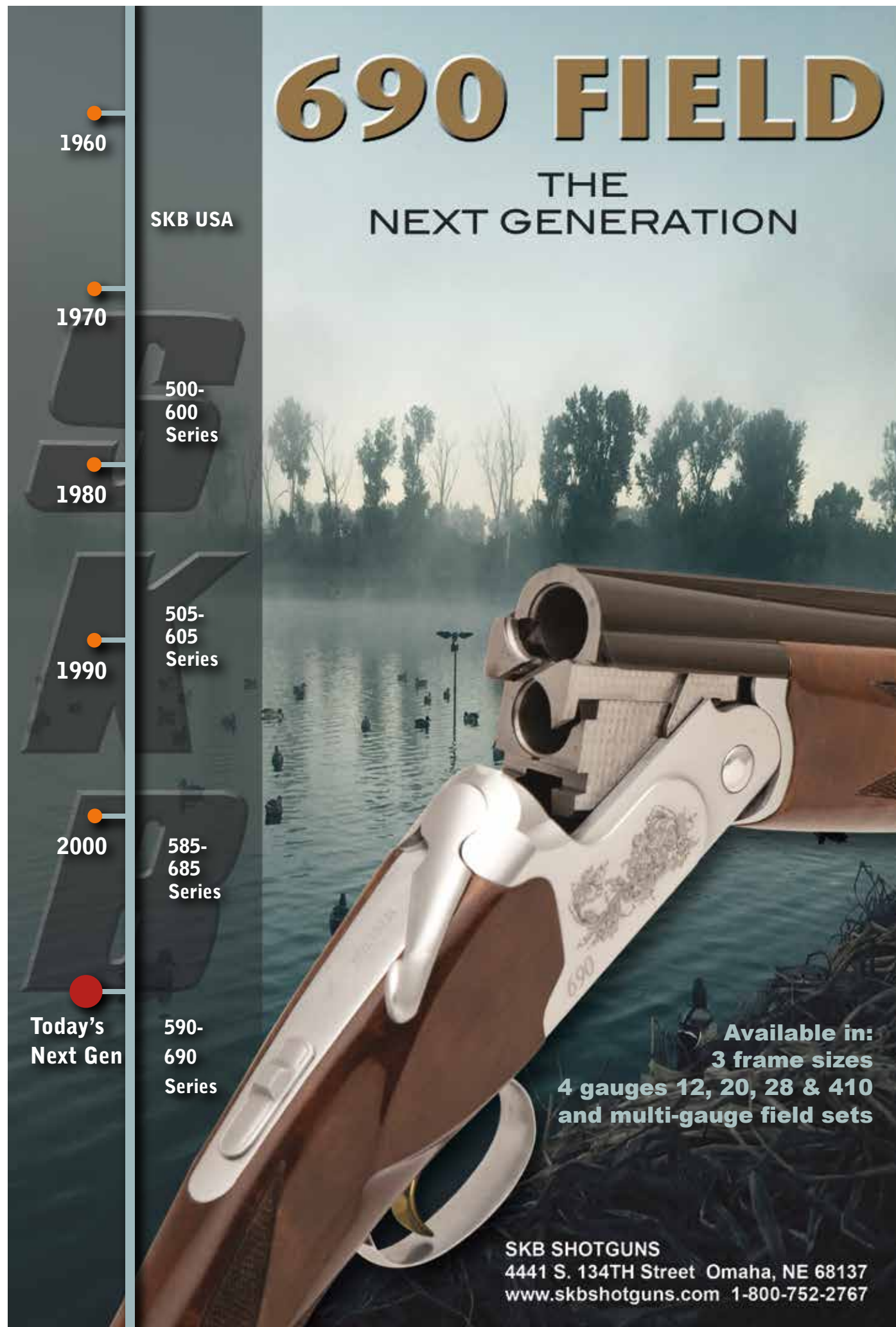
YURK, from page 31

I slowly retrieve it by lifting the rod tip a foot or two at a time.

This rig has been very effective in tough fishing situations where bass normally would be a bit finicky. It has worked well during the heat of the summer and on lakes that have a lot of fishing pressure and recreational traffic. I particularly like to use it around docks and other man-made structures and cover or in deeper water.

Finesse fishing for bass opens a new world in angling. Light gear and smaller baits produce great results meaning fishing with less brings more fish. 

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.



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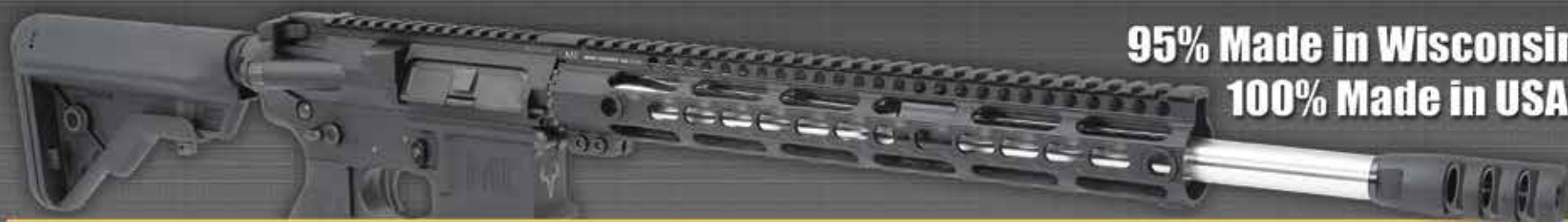
Lynch Truck Center is teaming up with **USO Wisconsin** and country station **94.5 WKTI** in Milwaukee to provide a new **"TRUCK FOR THE TROOPS."** Lynch Truck Center has offered to build a customized truck to USO Wisconsin at cost and is helping to raise the funds to say "Thank you" to the troops that give so much to us.

When Josh Sova of the USO went on the air on Milwaukee's country radio station 94.5 WKTI he told the story of the need for a new truck. Lynch Truck Center, moved by the story, knew they could help. As Michael Lynch of Lynch Truck Center puts it "building custom trucks is in our wheelhouse" so he reached out to the Jake in the Morning show on WKTI and offered to help by providing a rental truck for free while the Truck Center builds a new one.

In the last year their current truck (a '91 Chevy bread truck) broke down many times costing USO Wisconsin over \$7,000 in repairs. The truck is often referred to as the "ice cream truck" because it brings with it comforts from home. The USO uses this truck to provide wifi, water, sunscreen and snacks for troops during the busy military exercise season at Fort McCoy. The basic toiletries and edible goodies (nothing but MRE's at training camp) are much appreciated and a welcome treat.

Another welcome treat is connecting with family. Talking with the spouse and kids is something they really look forward to, but when the truck is broke down, so is that connection (there's no cellular signal at training camp). Imagine not being able to talk your son or daughter for weeks! The new truck will make contacting family something the troops can rely on.

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STUART WILKERSON

Concealed Carry Cleveland Holsters' IWB

Comfort and security are everything when it comes to a concealed carry holster. Holsters that pinch, bind and scratch tend not to be used, along with the handgun inside them. A firearm is of no use in an emergency if it is not there. A pistol or revolver that fits loose in its holster is susceptible to falling out or being taken from its owner by an assailant. A firearm that can be grabbed and turned on its owner is probably more dangerous than not having a one when its needed.

Many concealed carry permit holders spend a lot of time, money and effort searching for and purchasing holsters they hope might finally meet their need for comfort and safety. Often times they don't and the holster winds up in a closet, rather than with the permit holder.

Chances are, you can save yourself a lot of time and money with the purchase of a Cleveland Inside the Waist Band (IWB) Holster manufactured and available for purchase at Shorty's Shooting Sports. Cleveland Holsters are handcrafted in Wisconsin and every part is made in the USA. They have a 30-Day money-back guarantee and a life time warranty.

There are a number of benefits of an IWB holster over the more traditional exposed variety. Number one is that the handgun is truly concealed because most of it is hidden by

pants and shirt. Second, since the IWB configuration puts the holster behind the waist band and belt and close to the torso, it is deeply concealed and secure, making the handgun and it holsters extremely difficult to forcibly separate from its owner.

At first glance, the Cleveland looks like an ungainly, uncomfortable, oversized rig, seemingly unsuitable for use as an IWB. The company does make a smaller, "bobbed" version, but the standard model belies its appearance. The wide leather backing of the Kydex holster helps distribute the weight of the handgun. The vacuum formed Kydex holster securely contains its contents and is of a "waterfall" design, a marked improvement over most IWBs which stop at the muzzle or short of it. The waterfall design flows over and under the muzzle, providing a tighter fit and making a secure holster even more secure.


Other IWBs of comparable design rivet their holsters to a leather backing. In time, the rivets will begin to separate from the leather and come loose, eventually resulting in the holster becoming unusable. The Cleveland is made of rugged leather and the holster attached by screws, rather than rivets. In the event that a screw loosens due to leather wear,



9 mm Glock Model 26 fits snugly, comfortably and safely in an Inside the Waistband Cleveland Holster available at Shorty's Shooting Sports.

it can be easily tightened. Those screws will never rust, either; they're made of brass. The Kydex holster retains its content so well, that there is an audible "click" when a handgun is placed inside of it.

Most IWB holsters offer limited adjustability. The Cleveland has a multitude of position options. Not only is the height of the holster at the waist adjustable, but so is its cant. Featuring removable Kydex clips, which fasten to the waist band or belt, the cant of the Cleveland can be positioned in 441 different ways. The ability to adjust the holster cant means that the grip angle of the handgun is adjustable to literally hundreds of different positions, greatly enhancing shooter grip accessibility.

In addition to their other attributes, Cleveland holsters are competitively priced and available for most popular, and some not so popular, handguns. For more information, visit Shorty's Shooting Sports, 2192 South 60 Street in West Allis or web site at shortysshootingsports.com. 

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



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STUART WILKERSON

Midwestern Shooters Supply Come Together

Midwestern Shooters Supply Fall Fest promoted community and outdoors sports. Approximately 10,000 outdoor enthusiasts and community boosters attended Midwestern Shooters Supply Ninth Annual Fall Fest, which was held on August 18 and 19. The event was an opportunity for area clubs, teams, and service organizations to promote their activities and events and raise money to support them.

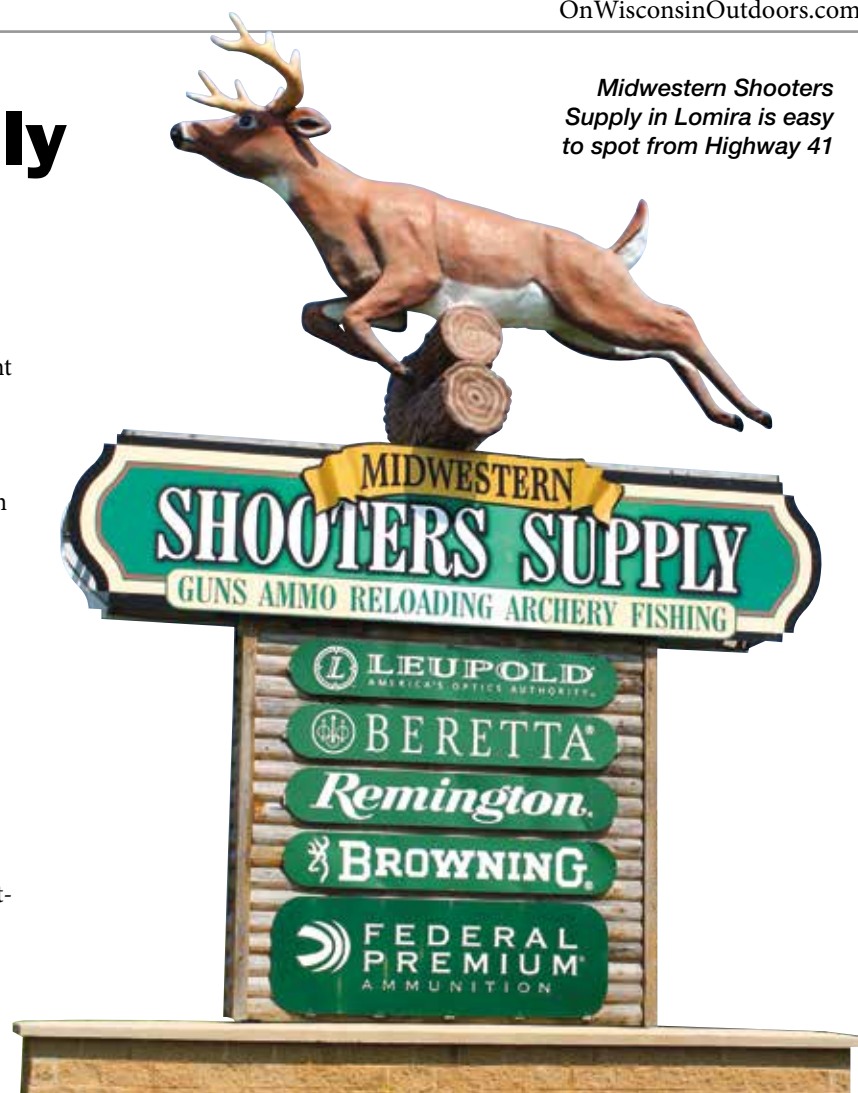
Fall Fest was also a chance for enthusiasts to see, and in some cases, actually use, the latest in outdoor equipment. Prime examples of this were the shotguns on display from some of the major firearm manufacturers, including SKB, Browning and Beretta. Participants could select shotguns and actually

shoot clay pigeons with them at a trap range. Sales representatives were on hand to provide information and tips, and where applicable, make stock adjustments for height, length and comb.


The products and services on display at Fall Fest were numerous and varied. There was literally something for everyone. Don't miss next year's Midwestern Shooters' Supply Fall Fest. *OW*



More than 75 firearms were available for bidding during the well-attended gun auction.




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TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Tufted Titmouse

Although Wisconsin is on far the eastern edge of tufted titmouse range, you can still spy plenty of these dapper little relatives of the chickadee in the Badger State's hardwood forests, mostly in the southern and western quadrants of the state.

The first thing you notice when a tufted titmouse flits past is the big, black, beady eye. There's no mistaking it. You also can't miss the crest on this subtly handsome songbird. An acrobatic and energetic bundle, the tufted titmouse provides hours of entertainment for bird-lovers hiking in the woods, sitting on their deer stand or watching out the window.

The tufted titmouse is a resident of mature forests. In Wisconsin, mixed woodlands featuring oak trees are important habitat. Titmice eat seeds, insects, grubs and small fruits.

Look for a small, steely colored, iron-gray bird with a whitish belly, gray face with creamy highlights around the eye, and flanks tinged with rust. The tufted titmouse is longer and more slender than its close cousin, the black-capped chickadee.

Note the titmouse's active crest, extra-large feet (for clinging) and tiny black beak.

Listen for the titmouse's call -- a chant of notes sounding like *Peter-Pe-*




A Tufted Titmouse strikes a pose. This acrobatic bundle of energy is highly entertaining when in flight.

ter-Peter-Peter.

Attract titmice with black-oil sunflower seed year-round. Add suet to your offering in winter.

Provide titmouse nesting cavities: Place a couple of bird houses with 1-1/4-inch openings, then "prime" the cavities with a few wood shavings.

Did you know that the tufted titmouse has two western cousins? The oak titmouse is brownish, and lives mostly in California, while the all-gray juniper titmouse inhabits much of the mountain West. Look for them on your travels. 

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

CARPENTER, from page 19

some cold water on hand to sprinkle on. This helps dissolve the salt and other spices so they soak into the meat better.

- When cutting meat for feeding into a grinder, slice with the grain and then feed the meat into grinder in the same direction. This smooths out the grinding process.


Spicing Options

Here are some me additional brat spicing concepts to excite the tastebuds:

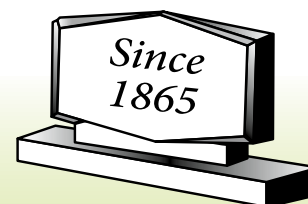
Italian – Add hot pepper, oregano, basil, rosemary and thyme.

Greek – Add garlic powder, onion powder, basil, dill and marjoram.

German – Add mustard seed, horseradish, caraway seeds, dill, borage and white pepper.

Scandinavian – Add cardamom, juniper berries, caraway seeds, ginger and orange zest. 

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



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