HUNT • FISH • TRAVEL • EXPLORE • WISCONSIN

January/February 2019 Vol. 12, Issue 3







with the Dick Ellis Experts

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Explore Wisconsin

Lake Superior & Chequamegon Bay Ashland's true freshwater smorgasbord

Ave Superior, because of its size, freezes much later than the surrounding smaller inland waters. Many years the main body of the lake does not freeze at all. Anglers are limited to fishing on what thick ice is present, usually all of Chequamegon Bay, and out into the Apostle Islands. Freeze-up in the bay, off Ashland and Washburn, usually occurs around Christmas to New Years, and then thicker ice starts building north, out into the Apostle Islands off Bayfield by late January. The different fishing opportunities available vary with the location and water depth as the ice progresses northward.

First ice forms at the southern end of the bay, off the city of Ashland and Washburn by mid – to late-December. Fishing in this shallower part of Chequamegon Bay always offers a mixed bag of fish species. Anglers fishing in eight to 25 feet of water are always excited when they get a bite because they never know which species of fish may be on the end of their line. Northern Pike, Walleyes, Smallmouth Bass, Coho Salmon, Smelt, and Perch are the most common species caught here, but it is not uncommon to tangle with a Brown Trout, Steelhead, Splake, Herring or Whitefish. Rarely a Lake Trout or Sturgeon is caught on the deeper mudflat between Ashland and Washburn.

Usually by the New Year, thick ice has formed further north, in the middle depth waters between Washburn and Bayfield. Many fishermen cannot wait to get on this new ice as it opens the door to some deeper water fishing, and increases the opportunities for big Lake Trout, Whitefish, Coho, and Herring, while fishing heavier jigging lures in 40-120 feet of water. Ice electronics really help in this deeper water as sometimes the fish will be suspended in the water column, not necessarily right on the bottom.

Right next door to this deeper water are several river mouths which empty into the lake. These river mouths attract a wide variety of fish at different times of the day and winter, including Steelhead, Splake, Browns, Coho, and even the scrappy little Round Whitefish better known as the Menominee. River mouth fish are generally fished in shallow water, where anglers can actually look down the hole and sometimes see the fish cruise by and bite their offering, a unique experience on Lake Superior.

For more information on Ice Fishing in Chequamegon Bay, check out our website www.visitashland.com

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ICE FISHING ON CHEQUAMEGON BAY Ashland, Wisconsin

When Lake Superior freezes along its shores and bays, anglers can take their pick of excellent fishing for walleye, northern pike or panfish. In addition to these, as the ice reaches out the the Apostle Islands, you can catch all vaireties of trout. In late January, diehard lake trout "bobbers" practice vertical jigging in water up to 250 feet deep for fish that regularly exceed 20 pounds.

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Fly-Fishing in Wisconsin *Time to Tie – the Green Butt Skunk*

The holidays are over. The new year is here. It's time to organize the fly boxes and tie some flies. As I dig through my boxes, I can see that the past year has not been particularly good for stream wading and trout fishing. Why? High water.

How can looking at my fly boxes tell me this? Simple. By looking at the boxes, I see that the flies that need the most replacements are streamers. That means I did not fish the wets, nymphs or drys very often. That means I did not fish trout very often.

So, I need to tie streamers. I mentioned this to our oldest daughter and she said, "Oh good! While you are tying, tie me some Green Butt Skunks. I lost all of mine." Ok. The Green Butt it is. Wait a minute. Why? The Green Butt Skunk is a Steelhead fly. Our daughter never found time to try for Steelies – she still works for a living and is not retired, like some people I know. So obviously, she found the Skunk can also be successful for the warmwater species.

When asked why she used that fly so often, she simply replied, "It looks pretty."

Ok. It is an attractive fly. It has a red tail, bright green butt, and tinsel ribbed body. I use it often for its intended quarry, but have never used it for bass or panfish. Maybe I should.

Here is how I tie it: For a hook, I have found that a salmon hook works best – it is heavy, so it needs no extra weight, stays sharp, and hooks well. I tie the fly in two sizes – #8 and #6. I use the barbs of a deep red, scarlet hackle for the tail. Then tie on a bright green butt of chenille. After tying off the chenille, I attach silver tinsel and black chenille. I wrap the black chenille forward leaving enough space for the white deer/ calf tail hair wing, which I tie on af-

ter I have ribbed the black chenille body with the tinsel. I follow the white wing with a sparsely wrapped (no more than three turns), black hackle collar. After tying off, I form the head, whip finish, and cement. There it is – the Green Butt Skunk. A favorite of our oldest daughter... 'cause it's pretty.



We fish the fly like any other streamer. For Steelies, I cast upstream and across, mending as it drifts down. Or I cast downstream and across and let it drift to the end, hold it in place for a bit, then retrieve it in short pulls or stripped in fast. I try it all. Some days it works one way, some another, some not at all.

Now, I will also try placing it to structures, including docks, wood, rocks and weeds. Depending on the day, it may or may not also work there.

By the way, if you don't know how to, but would like to learn about tying flies, my classes at Riveredge Nature Center begin February 3. Check out their website or mine for info on all my upcoming classes.

See you in the river. Keep a good thought! **W**

Editor's note: Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors and shares them in many ways through his photos, words, and workshops. He has written two books, "Tales of The Peshtigo Putzer," and "Photos, Poems, and a Little Bit of Prose" Both make great additions to your outdoor library, and great gifts. They are available on his website: www.jerrykiesowoc. com. Orange Hat Publishing, and/or Amazon. Check them out.

> Assorted, messy fly boxes These few boxes tell the story of last year's fishing.



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or years, most ice anglers have been • aware that the best bite was the first hour at sunrise and the last halfhour near sunset. During daylight hours, panfish can be caught on "traditional" non-glow-in-the-dark baits, but the first and last baits you tie on should be glow. With glow baits, the fish can see the bait better under low light conditions and from a longer distance, thereby improving your odds. Today there are a plethora of glow baits in both spoons and ice jigs. While glow baits are very important early in the day and late in the evening, it may be a good idea to try glow baits during the day when there are low light conditions, murky water clarity or in deep water situations. I consider deep water anything over 20 feet. With that being said, every one of my perch rods has some sort of glow lure on them day or night.

The newest ice fishing trend has been higher intensity glow ice spoons. These spoons contain a glow stick instead of a phosphorescent paint that is on most glow lures. One such product is the newfor-2019 Lindy Glow Spoon. The beauty of this style bait is that you don't need to "recharge" the glowing property of the spoon because the stick continuously glows. One thing I have noticed is that the glow sticks do seem to get dimmer the longer they remain in cold water. One tip is to warm the lure with your hand or blow on them every fifteen to twenty minutes to increase the brightness. The glow spoons have exchangeable glow sticks that can be replaced easily. The sticks have an estimated life of about six to eight hours.

For the phosphorescent painted lures, you need to recharge the glow occasionally, as they will also go dim. One product to look at for this is the new Vexilar Glow Ring that has an LED light which can charge your lure within seconds. The glow ring installs right on your existing Vexilar unit. Lindy also has the Lindy-Tazer, a hand-held device which illuminates your jig within seconds. The last and lowest cost option is just using your cell phone's flash light app or your lantern

For glow ice jigs there are a myriad of sizes and colors/patterns to choose from. All work in certain situations and times, whether they be lead, tin or tungsten jigs. For the subtler biting fish, I prefer a lead/ tin jig because it has a natural fall to incite the bite. But the real trend is towards tungsten, which (due to its heavy weight to size ratio) allows you to get your jigs back down to the fish quicker and often eliminates the need for split shot on your line.

A newer feature on glow baits is the ability to have lures with multiple colors that glow. This will increase visibility and give the fish choices, as not all colors are optimal in all situations. Having two colors can often double your chance for success.

In addition to using glow baits under low-light conditions, always remember that your line often plays a huge role. For most of the ice season, during the daylight hours, I use two-pound fluorocarbon line. In lower light conditions, I prefer four-



Learn More

Nathan Duwe with a nice Delavan Lake perch

pound line, as it is easier to work with. The larger diameter helps with angler visibility, reduces tangles, and in most cases, doesn't inhibit the bite under low light condi-tions.

Going with the glow will help add more fish to your catch both early and late, so give them a try and don't be afraid to start a bit earlier or stay a bit later with your new found secret weapon.

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 fishdela-vanlake.com or contact him 262-728-8063.

Flying with Fly Rods Multi-piece rods pack easy, cast great

hen I first got into fly fishing, things were simple. Rods were basically a two-piece deal. Everything has changed since then.

I recently had to fly for a two-week trip encompassing business, family stuff and some fishing. Since all of my prior fishing trips were "road trips," I never considered the logistical issues of airplane fishing rod transport, much less gear (another article). Also, when I drive, there is room for multiple-weight fly outfits.

To find out the real deal on today's travel fly fishing rods, I interviewed Jeff Miller, the LL Bean Corporate Merchant for Hunting and Fishing. Miller has been designing rods for Bean for 20 years.

"I have designed and built 4-, 5-, 6-, 7 - and even 8-piece rods, and because of better components, materials and pure engineering, todays multi-piece rods are very similar in performance to the original two piece rods," Miller said. "Most of our rods have transitioned to fourpiece units."

Miller points out that while the type of water you are fishing dictates your rod choice, the nine – foot-five weight rod is really the mainstay for most fly fishing. That equates to four sections housed in a "travel friendly" 30-32 inch hard case.

A four-piece rod has three overlaps (where the ferrules overlap each other), which are basically dead spots and can affect how the rod bends under a load and its performance. Fortunately, engineering and modern materials have basically negated that issue.

"With lighter weight materials and faster action rods, you don't notice those spots like you would have 20 years

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Weekend Freedom Machines





There is a certain buyer's comfort in a name. Old friends like John Deere and Princecraft mean years of experience, sound engineering, quality products, and people who stand behind it all. There's another name in Wisconsin that has earned that same kind of respect by standing behind what they sell for more than five decades. Before you buy, say hello to Dave and Leni Kahler of Watertown.

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Back to the Ice Fishing Basics A case for diligence over technology

There are so many articles today about ice fishing technology that some anglers new to the sport may never know the feeling of staring down an empty hole wondering if there was anything down there.

When I was a kid, sitting patiently for hours on end waiting for a strike and wondering if there were even any fish in the lake was part of the game. I got my start with a beat-up spud bar and the front half of an old two-piece bait casting rod and a reel to match.

Current technology to a great degree has given the advantage to the angler. With high speed augers and updated electronics, including mapping technology with pin-point waypoints, today's anglers are tuned in to their lakes more than ever before. Even with today's technology, however, I see some old time anglers still pounding fish, at times catching more than anglers outfitted with the most modern equipment.

How can that be you ask? They learned long ago, as I did, from another "even older" old-timer how to work a jig rod, watch their line, and feel for strikes. They didn't have electronics to show them where the fish were. They did have a sound foundation of knowledge and experience, and they knew how to adapt to locate fish and make them strike.

I have had many mentors in my life, with one gentleman in particular teaching me how to panfish on the hardwater. By today's standards, his methods were eccentric and crude. But they worked. As



part of the learning process, many times I unsuccessfully attempted to duplicate his technique. After several unproductive outings, I pushed my own need to learn to a different level. Instead of having my mentor show or tell me what to do, I simply sat and watched. Eventually, something clicked. I began to understand his methods.

He would begin by cutting a series of holes in the lake, starting at a random location and slowly working around in a large circle covering an area of about 30 yards and cutting a new hole about every 20 feet. With his holes cut, he would begin fishing. Starting with the first hole, if he caught a fish generally within five to 10 minutes, he would continue fishing that hole. If he did not catch a fish, he would move on to the next hole. Eventually, he would work his way around the entire circle of holes and then start over again. During the second round, he only worked holes that he had previously caught fish in. With completion of the second cycle, he would repeat the process of only fishing productive holes. If the entire circle went dead, or it wasn't a comparatively productive circle of holes in his mind, he would start a new circle. That was rare; he almost always caught fish.

His slow, steady, methodical method of fishing each hole was mesmerizing. He worked each hole the same, slowly raising and lowering his presentation with an exact speed and unbelievable steadiness. He would work his bait from the top of the water column to the bottom of the lake with the precision of a



As a boy, the author learned the art of icefishing from "old-timers" using patience and diligence long before the advancement of today's technology.

clock's second hand. You would never really see his arm or hand move, but it did. His patience was unbelievable, and as I watched, it dawned on me that it was a combination of experience and technique that made him successful. This man didn't need technology to catch fish; he could rely, instead, on his years of experience and time on the water.

Thanks Ted, for all of your patience with a scraggly kid who wanted to learn how to fish.

Phil is the owner of Hooksetters Guide Service in Central Wisconsin and Hookset Adventures in Eagle River, which keeps him on the water-over 200 days a year. He lives in Mosinee 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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Explore Wisconsin

The Ghosts of the Forest

side from all the natural beauty here, there is one animal that surely stands out more than the rest. An ordinary day becomes amazing when you see a beautiful 'ghost' - - the albino deer.

Vilas County is known for having a high population of white deer, with specific pockets in Manitowish Waters and nearby Boulder Junction. Their coloration is due to their lack of melanin – a natural pigment found in most organisms. The chances of a white-tailed deer being born an albino is 1 in 20,000, so what makes our area have such a high population of albino deer? It's actually a complete mystery, because the Vilas County deer population is less than 20,000.

What causes the albinism in whitetail deer?

- 2 albino deer that both have the recessive gene will have an albino fawn.
- 2 brown deer without the recessive gene will have a brown fawn.

• 2 brown deer, one of which has the recessive gene will have a brown fawn.

- 2 brown deer that both carry the recessive gene have a 1 in 4 chance of having an albino fawn
- 1 albino and 1 brown deer that both carry the recessive gene have a 1 in 2 chances for an albino fawn.

For those fortunate enough to see an albino deer, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds them to respect the animal by not harassing or harming it. Albino deer are illegal to harvest in Wisconsin. If you have any questions regarding the "Ghosts of the Northwoods," please contact the DNR – dnr.wi.gov

For more information visit ManitowishWaters.org or call 715.543.8488





WAYNE MORGENTHALER The way it was Ice fishing 60 years ago

From 1950 to 1960, ice fishing was a different can of worms around northern Wisconsin than it is today. Our equipment was few in number, consisting of a spud (chisel), a handmade welded skimmer for the ice, stick poles with a little plastic reel, and any container that held minnows. Clothing was usually the same as we wore during deer season, all shades of red, but not pink. Sometimes we would take along hand warmers filled with lighter fluid. They had a strong odor to them, but did the trick.

Weather was cold and most of the time there was a slight wind to blow snow into our holes. We would head to our favorite summer fishing lake and park at the boat landing. Before we ventured on to the frozen water, I would find some dry, dead trees that were easy to snap. I would put the wood on my runner sled and proceed to our fishing spot. There was nothing strategic about determining a specific spot to fish – it was, more or less, a hunch.

We always chose the middle of the lake because, we figured, that should be where all the fish were hibernating. Once the fire was cracking and smoking, it was time to set up for some panfishing. Occasionally, we would take along some hot dogs, but no bread or condiments. We just used a stick and burned them until they were black.

Chiseling a hole was always a challenge. I would start making a hole, about a foot wide. By the time I hit water, the hole was about four inches wide. I remember when we graduated from the spud to a spoon auger. Round and round we would go, dumping out the ice chips as we neared fresh water. For the crappies, we used a two-foot stick that had about 50 yards of black line with about two feet of monofilament line, two split shot sinkers, and a number 6 single hook. Put the stick in the snow and let out a little extra line for when the bobber goes down.

I loved watching that red and white bobber go down if the hole had not frozen over and then pulling the fighting crappie hand-by-hand up 20 feet. A good day for us would be about six white crappies. Our little plastic stick poles, cork bobbers, and a jig tipped with a mousie were used for bluegills, which we seldom caught.



A few mementoes saved from my past, including ice fishing poles, walleye tip-up and welded ice skimmer.



Two Beaver Dam tip-ups with Swedish hooks back in the 60s

The Artic Fisherman tip-up made in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, was our next progression in ice fishing. The weather elements of panfishing would get to be a little much to bare as I got older and didn't have many fish to take home. That is when my dad and I chased after the elusive northern pike. This was a little more fun, as we generally sat in the pickup, with heater going, eating real sandwiches.

Northern minnows were not cheap, so we caught them in minnow traps in the fall and kept them in old plastic wash machine tubs in the creek. We would have enough chubs and shiners to get us through the winter. Then we learned





Wisconsin Fishing Expo offers more booths than ever! Opening at 3 pm instead of 4 pm on Friday

he Wisconsin Fishing Expo (WFE) will be held February 22 – 24, at the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The Expo has expanded again with the addition of more booths on the main and second level. The Expo will also kick-off at 3 pm on Friday, an hour earlier than previous years.

"Consumers told us they wanted to beat the beltline traffic on Friday, so we're opening up an hour earlier to make it easier for them," said Jeff Bast, one of the WFE owners. "We'll also close the doors on Friday at 8 pm, as the Expo naturally slows down by then and it gives our vendors time to rest up for the huge weekend days."

Already more than double, and sometimes even quadruple the size of any other fishing expo in the state, the WFE offers over 150,000 square feet of fishing equipment, boats, and seminars-all under one roof!

"Last year the big addition was the kayak corridor and we're bringing it back again," said Dan Durbin, one of the owners of the Expo. "We're also adding booths to the main floor and the second level up by the Fish/ Wildlife Gallery and lure display."

Several new seminar speakers will be adding to the wide variety of topics on most freshwater species. Attendees can expect to see Jonathan VanDam, Jason Miller, Mark Menendez, Jason Przekurat, Max Wilson, Lee Tauchen, Tom Dietz, Tyler Thiede, Garret Svir, Kendall Kamke, Adam Nickel, Gene Jesen "The Flukemaster," Dave Roew, Pete Jopke, Alan Wiedmeyer, and Nichole Stone.

"One totally new concept this year are two seminars from DNR Fish Biologists on rules and regulation changes, as well as lake health on the Madison Chain, Winnebago, Koshkonong, and the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers," Durbin said.

People looking for a boat will find over 20 brands on hand from 18 different dealers and over 300 booths with hard to find lures, major manufacturers like Daiwa and St. Croix, and several popular local bait shops with great deals on tackle.

WFE has always prided itself on giving back to the community.

"Last year we cut a check for \$10,000 to the non-profit Madison Fishing Expo that was distributed to nonprofit fishing groups and a veterans fishing camp," Bast said. "We also let in dozens of nonprofit fishing groups so they can grow their membership and help continue to grow our sport. In reality, we're giving much more back to the community than the \$10,000 check - we like to think we're helping the sport grow."

As always, kids 12 and under are free. Current and inactive military will receive \$3 off the price of a ticket.

Go to www.wifishingexpo.com for details. 😥















A Stringer of Sense Scent baits trigger more strikes

hen scent baits were introduced, I was skeptical about their worth. It didn't take me long, however, to become a believer. The key day occurred on a long-ago October outing. We had caught one bass in four hours when we pulled up on a steeper drop. I doused my jig with bottled scent and immediately caught a two-pound smallmouth. A quick second fish proved to me that scents worked.

Today, scents are common place and many manufacturers now add them to their plastics. Scents really work best on slow-moving baits, like plastics and jigs and in cooler water. My favorite has long been Berkley's PowerBait, so I was excited to try the new Power-Bait MaxScent, which claims to take scented baits to the next level. Some of the technical info here (I'm trying to simplify, as I'm not a scientist), comes from research and my own on-water use.

When attraction chemicals are added to plastic, most of the flavor gets locked inside the bait, so fish have to bite for it to work. As it gets chewed and beat up, more flavor leaks out.

MaxScent is PVC based for better bait action and it's a different flavor than PowerBait. MaxScent can also be rehydrated with water or Berkley's Gulp juice if it dries. MaxScent soaks up attractants and releases them simultaneously in the water and on a bite. Any doubts that I may have had about MaxScent's effectiveness were alleviated the first time I used it when a spring bass chomped down on a Beaver-style MaxScent three distinct times before I set the hook.

I have also found success with Berkley's scented stick worm, the General. As I was getting ready to cast to a weed bed, my partner turned the boat and my cast went bassackwards. As I tightened the line, a bass already had it. My second cast also got bit. When the action slowed while fishing in shallow reeds with non-scented stick worms, I switched to the General and caught three bass. My partner, who didn't make the switch, was fish-less. He rigged a General and promptly scored.

On other outings when I switched to PowerBait MaxScent, I

KENDY, FROM PAGE 4

ago, and it is easier to hide the overlaps with the deflection of the rod," Miller said. "I think that if blindfolded, only about 2 percent of the today's anglers could tell the difference between a two-piece and a four-piece rod."

Miller said that there are some other considerations to keep in mind when choosing the ideal travel fly rod.

"When you are on the water, assembling six or eight sections is just cumbersome and time consuming," said Miller. "You have to align the ferrules, line up all the guides and with five or seven overlaps, there is more potential for a section to loosen up."

"Plus, because of the additional ferrules, the rod will be a little bit heavier," he added.

Line up or Line Down?

While Miller believes that it is best to stay within the boundaries of a matched outfit, an angler can definitely "line up" with a heavier line and even "line down" lighter if need be.

"Almost all of today's fly rods are designed to be a lot quicker with a faster action and will handle an additional light weight fairly



Berkley's PowerBait, like the Thief, a beaver-styled plastic that caught this bass, has been the authors' staple, but Max Scent takes the next step in scented plastics.

caught fish quickly from the same place my previous bait was ignored. I don't consider catching fish that fast after changing baits just a coincidence.

If you're more of a power fisherman, you can still scent with FishSticks, a solid that is available in ChapStick-type tubes for use on faster moving hard baits. While I use jigs and plastics more, I'm convinced scents definitely work when fishing slower and on tough days.

You probably don't need scent when the fish are snapping; scents are not magic and you do need to be on productive waters for them, or any bait, to work. For me it makes sense to always have some scent along.

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.

well," Miller said. "Many of today's fly lines are actually a half line weight heavier than what is on the line. They notch them up because the lightness, action and responsiveness of the rods have progressed so much and the slightly heavier lines compensate for that."

"If you go to a heavier line, your presentation is not going to be as delicate, but will allow you to cast a bigger dry fly, streamer or popper within shorter distances," added Miller.

"Functionally, today's fly rods don't perform as well going down a line as up," said Miller. "A lighter line, say a four weight line on a five weight rod would be adequate and perform best at longer casts because there is more weight to the line."

Still, Miller advocates that the best bet for the traveling fly fisherman is to take a balanced outfit.

"You can have the best rod in the world, but if you put too heavy or light of a reel on it and a line that doesn't perform as well because it's the wrong weight or taper, it can really mess up your fishing experience," Miller concluded.

Bill Kendy is a professional freelance business writer, consultant and speaker who is heavily involved in the firearm and outdoor industries. His is a lifelong hunter, shooter, angler and camper.



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LISA K. SEEFELD, MD 7 Important We are Control AdvocateAuroraHealth Care We are Control AdvocateAuroraHealth We are Control AdvocateAuroraHealth We are Control AdvocateAuroraHealth

Different times of the year come with different health challenges. While summer can mean heat-related ailments and injuries from outdoor activities, the winter season brings dangerously cold temperatures and icy conditions.

Let's take a quick look at your winter health risks and how you can reduce them:

Frostbite — This happens when parts of your body freeze. It can cause permanent body damage. How to avoid frostbite:

Dress in loose layers.

Make sure extremities such as hands, feet, ears, nose and cheeks are covered. Mittens are a better choice in the cold than gloves for keeping fingers warm.

Hypothermia — This happens when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees. A sign of hypothermia is severe shivering. If not treated, shivering can give way to drowsiness, fatigue, confusion and shallow breathing. Get the victim to a warm space and remove wet clothing. Wrap victim with blankets or towels to warm them up. Call for professional help.

Slips and falls — Think practical footwear with good traction. You can always pack your fashion footwear in a bag and take it with you. Salt, sand or kitty litter are helpful for improving the traction on icy sidewalks. Plan to wear gloves or mittens. Keeping your hands in your pockets leaves you more vulnerable to falling.

Snow shoveling — This job is more physical than you may be used to. Warm up your muscles before you shovel. Choose the right shovel. A short shovel for lifting snow. A long shovel for pushing snow. Pushing snow is easier than lifting it.

Carbon monoxide poisoning — December and January are peak times for this health issue. A functioning carbon monoxide detector can save lives. For your family's safety, check your detectors monthly. Replace your detector's battery in the spring and fall. Use only heaters approved and properly installed for indoor use. Don't run a vehicle in an enclosed space.

Automobile accidents — Traffic accidents are becoming more common. Ice and snow surprise lots of drivers, even later in the season. Avoid being an accident victim by checking weather before traveling, winterizing your car and your tires, setting your phone aside while you drive (no texting or surfing) and following good winter driving tips.

Fires in the home — Fireplaces and candles cause fires and burns every winter. One study found candles cause 25 reported home fires every day. Most of these fires happen because something combustible comes in contact with the flame. Have your fireplace professionally inspected. The inspection frequency depends on how you use your fireplace.

Take time to follow these tips each winter, and you'll dramatically reduce your chances for injury – or worse. \bigotimes



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Explore Wisconsin

Chill Out! Cold Weather Fun in La Crosse County

ust because the weather turns chilly and snow starts to fall, doesn't mean you need to be stuck inside. Bundle up and get outside to enjoy these cold weather activities in La Crosse County...

Hit the Slopes

Grab your gear and hit the slopes at Mt. La Crosse Ski & Snowboard. Pull out those skis and snowboards – or just rent them for a day – and enjoy the thrill as you zip down the hills and valleys of Mt. La Crosse. From gentle Mileaway to challenging Damnation, Mt. La Crosse offers a 516 foot vertical, 19 slopes, and 3 chair lifts. Take a break from the hill in the St. Bernard Room or the ULLR Room and grab one of your favorite drinks.

Grab Your Skates

Located on French Island in the Town of Campbell, Island Outdoors is more than just a sporting goods shop. Stop in and get everything you need for a day out on the ice OR bring the kids and grab some skates and hit the skating rink out back. Looking for some place to rent snowshoes or other winter gear? No worries, they offer winter rentals for snowshoes, cross country skis, trekking poles, Vexilars. You can even rent a portable ice fishing shanty and power augers.

Go Fish

Ice fishing is one of the most popular winter activities and rightly so. Lake Neshonoc, Lake Onalaska, and backwaters of the Mississippi River offer great pan-fishing or tip-up fishing for any angler, young and old. From Bluegill and Perch to Northern and Bass, you'll be sure to have a great day out on the ice.

Play in the Snow

Snowshoeing and cross country skiing are always a favorite in the Coulee Region. All of the following locations offer ample opportunity to get out and enjoy nature via snowshoe or cross country ski – Goose Island Park & Campground, Upper Mississippi River National

Fish & Wildlife Refuge, La Crosse River State Trail, Great River State Trail, La Crosse River Marsh Trails and Hixon Forest. 100

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Winter Fun in Northwest Wisconsin

Tf you're looking for wintertime fun, look no further than Northwest Wisconsin! We're a top-notch destination for outdoor enthusiasts offering snowmobiling, winter ATV & LUTV riding, fat tire biking, downhill & cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring, ice fishing, and some of the coolest events in the Midwest. After a day of outdoor fun, relax...our dining, lodging, and service establishments are second to none!

When outdoor fun makes you hungry, find yourself at one of Northwest Wisconsin's supper clubs offering a unique dining experience. Brandy old-fashioneds, relish trays, cheese curds, fish fries and steaks are some of the area's specialties. Wisconsin's Gemutlichkeit will shine through when you visit a warm and cozy trailside or lakeside lodging facility. Whether you like rustic cabins, quaint cottages, full-service resorts, or something out of the ordinary you'll find a place to stay tailored to every budget and need.

Events? We have them too!

While in Northwest Wisconsin's participants and spectators are welcome at these world class events:

- Book Across the Bay Ashland County
- Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race Bayfield County
- Western Extreme Skijoring Barron County
- Candlelight Snowshoe Hike Burnett County
- Lake Superior Ice Festival Douglas County
- Mercer Sno Goers Winter Blast Iron County
- Luck's Winter Carnival Polk County
- Phillips Winter Fest Price County
- Fun on the Frozen Flambeau Rusk County
- American Birkebeiner Ski Race Sawyer County
- Jack Frost Festival Washburn County

Join us in Northwest Wisconsin this winter season for some serious winter FUN! Order a print version of our Outdoor & Trail Guide or the Northwest Wisconsin ATV/UTV and Snowmobile Corridor Map by call 715-416-3256 or view the publications online at northwestwisconsin.com. We look forward to hosting you in our neck of the woods this winter season. 🕖







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Philosophy of a Winter Walk Following in the snow prints of Aldo Leopold

Ido Leopold was a home-grown philosopher. Appointed by UW-Madison as their first professor of wildlife management, his cutting-edge theories on ecology and game conservation put him in high demand in outdoor laboratories across the globe, but he will always be best remembered for his Sand County Almanac musings, which were written within hiking distance of his humble farm near Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Deep thinkers like Leopold usually plop me into a pool that crests far above the waterline of my mental waders. His sentences have been pondered by world leaders, and his words have been broken down and quoted by the brightest minds of our generation.

Fortunately, my favorite Leopold sto-

ry is not a profound thesis. It is a simple journal account of a winter morning in Wisconsin spent following the wandering tracks of a skunk in the snow. The old philosopher dusts the cabin fever from his boots and hikes into the waiting world of nature and ice.

I can't claim a full grasp of the deeper science behind his writing, but I happen to have a general idea of what a wandering skunk looks like, and I'm positive I'm not the only outdoor wayfarer who knows how cabin fever in Wisconsin begins to smell in the endless depths of winter.

I think, perhaps, that Leopold's greatest piece of wisdom was based on the simplest of principles. Aimless tracks in winter are not important. The important



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Peering out at the simple pleasures of winter in Wisconsin.

thing is that they lead out the door.

Wet snow dusting down the neck beneath the brush is a sure sign that one is headed into Leopold's neighborhood. Matted grass wrestling through the white crust, ice melted in lopsided circles with bits of brown and white hair still stuck to the sides. Study the vantage point of the deer-bed encampments. Ponder their prints dancing away into the frosted morning light.

Rabbit runways wind like a maze beneath snowcapped deadfalls and brush piles. How many rabbits does it take to cause such a ruckus? I think Aldo himself would have trouble telling. I find myself scoffing at the forecaster's snow totals and gauging the depths of winter by how high up the bark is gnawed off the saplings.

Maples cracking their leafless, frozen

claws and thawing sap for syrup to come, red squirrels chattering in an endless search for forgotten stockpiles, flashes of blue jays in the pines blending with the telltale song of chickadees – a winter's walkabout never fails to end up with as much depth as the layers of ice bubbles on a northern lake.

Aldo Leopold once wrote, "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot."

Take a deep breath and crack open the swirling volumes of winter's natural splendor in Wisconsin. Even if you're not a philosopher, you'll know after the first step what Aldo was talking about.

John Luthens is a freelance writer from Grafton, Wisconsin, as well a printing press operator at Castle Pierce in Oshkosh. His first novel, Taconite Creek, is available on Amazon, or by contacting his publisher at www.cablepublishing.com

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Explore Wisconsin

Marinette County The Real North

mberg is the town in Marinette County for the hearty, outdoor loving vacationist...the fisherman who thrills to the challenge of a fighting trout in the swift flowing waters of a secluded trout stream...the canoeist who glides over the wide waters of the Menominee River between forest laden banks... the camper who pitches his tent along the tumbling rapids of the untamed Pike River.

Situated in the northern half of Marinette County, Amberg is bounded on the east by the "power stretch" of the Menominee River. U.S. Highway 141 is its main artery. To the north is the town of Beecher, to the south the tow of Wausaukee and to the west, Athelstane.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16





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MARINETTE, FROM PAGE 15

Within these boundaries, every holiday seeker from the summer long sportsman to the Sunday afternoon picnicker will find his ideal spot.

Just off Highway 141, on the Pike River, you'll find Dave's falls...truly one of Marinette County's most beautiful water settings. The falls themselves roar and surge against a backdrop of towering granite bluffs and a deep, green curtain of northern pine. The colorful rock that is predominant in Amberg has earned this town more than its richly deserved reputation as a vacation haven.

Northern and walleyed pike, bass, perch and muskies swim the Menominee and lucky is the fisherman who can make his vacation complete by tossing his line here. One of the best fishing spots on the Menominee, in the town of Amberg, is the fabulous Sixty Islands on the southern edge of town. Here you'll find many secluded "holes" between the islands that dot this part of the river.

There's an old lumber tale about Sixty Islands that may be taken with tongue in cheek, or accepted. During one of the early logging drives, so the story goes, millions of giant timbers roared downstream on exceptionally swollen waters of the Menominee. A river driver swore to his co-workers that when the logs reached Sixty Islands, they took a few dozen small islets with them... and pointed to some rocks showing above the water as the only remaining bits of land. But then this is Paul Bunyan Country. The Pike and the Menominee rivers were both black with logs during the lumber baron era of the late 1800's.



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TOM CARPENTER Badger Birds Brown Creeper T A Thile its name itself might not be very



hile its name itself might not be very pretty, the brown creeper is a delight to observe.

This tiny, brown and gray-backed bird employs the unique feeding strategy of working its way *up* a tree trunk while probing between the bark's crannies and crevices for tiny insects, and their eggs and larvae. By working a tree trunk in this upward-spiraling fashion, the creeper exploits food sources that cousin nuthatches miss on their downward-spiraling searches for food.

Winter is the perfect time to spot brown creepers in the Wisconsin's forests and woodlots. Look for creepers in mixed flocks containing black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches and downy woodpeckers.

Look hard for brown creepers. By nature's design, their mottled brown-gray plumage blends perfectly with most tree bark. But creepers' bellies and throats are creamy white.

Notice the long, slender and curved bill: It is designed to efficiently and effectively probe the cracks of, and the nooks in, bark.

Listen for brown creepers' lisping, high-pitched *tsee* calls as the birds feed along.

Attract brown creepers with suet. Or smear peanut butter on tree trunks, swiping upwards as you go; this matches the creeper's hunting and movement strategy. Peanut butter feeders work too.

Did you know that the brown creeper has an extra-long and extra-stout tail for its size? The bird uses it as a brace and balance while climbing tree trunks.

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



Plan your Winter Getaway in Hurley Visit www.hurleywi.com



Cubs Corner *Coyote Hunting Made Simple*

Ake a young hunter out after song dogs this winter. Finding success is easier than you think.

Winter is the perfect time to pursue challenging-to-hunt coyotes. Cold weather means that coyotes must eat more, so they are hungry. That makes them a little easier to hunt than at other times of year. And coyote hunting gives you a great reason to get outdoors with a young hunter and try something new.

Here's a coyote hunting primer for your young hunter and you to review before hitting the field.

HUNTING GEAR

You probably already have most of what you need – warm clothes, good footwear, binoculars and a shotgun (use a full choke and size BB or BBB shot, or buckshot) – to hunt coyotes.

Specialized gear includes:

Game Call – A rabbit-in-distress game call mimics the crying, wailing, urgent sounds of a dying rabbit. This attracts hungry coyotes looking for an easy meal.

Decoy – A special furry decoy that bobs in the breeze, or twirls by battery, gives coyotes a visual to lock in on and keeps the song dog's eyes off your hideout. **HUNTING STRATEGY**

Find an open area with good visibility where you think coyotes are living. Coyotes prefer rough and otherwise difficult terrain that is both secluded and offers lots of rabbits and/or mice as prey.

Set up against a tree, hay bale, fencepost, brush pile, culvert, ditch bank, railroad grade or any other backdrop that will break up your silhouette.

Keep the wind blowing from where the coyote is expected to come from, to you.

Wait 10 or so minutes to let the area to settle down.

Call on your rabbit-in-distress call. Put emotion, urgency and fear into your calling to get the coyotes excited and riled up. Listen to tapes, or watch You Tube videos, to hear the pros do this. Call for at least a minute.

Look for coyotes slinking in as they search for the easy meal they hear. But some song dogs will come running!

Wait 10 minutes and call again. Perform five or six calling sequences over the course of an hour at any one spot before moving to your next setup.

Tone down your calling, but keep it going, when a coyote shows. This keeps the song dog's interest up. If he starts losing interest, call louder and with real distress and worry.

Raise your shotgun slowly, and only when the coyote is hidden by terrain, as the animal approaches. Otherwise the coyote will see movement and run away.

Aim carefully and shoot when you think the coyote will come no closer. It should be within 30 or so yards.

Get outside and go after coyotes this winter. Now you know what you need and how to hunt. May the song dogs come early and often to your setups.

CAMO TIP

If there's snow on the ground but you don't have white camouflage, which can be quite expensive, cut a hole for your head in an old white sheet and use it like a poncho to cover up at setups.

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

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Nature's Recycling Crew With little respect, scavengers perform duties for a cleaner, healthier landscape

n nature, every day is trash and recycling day. Scavengers don't get much respect, but they perform essential ecological cleanup services.

Carcasses comprise a major part of any ecosystem's waste. Animals die from old age, disease, accidents, injuries, and the effects of weather – especially winter. Roadkill is another source of mortality. Inevitably, hunting produces a few specimens that couldn't be found after being shot.

These carcasses don't just disappear. Sunlight, precipitation, heat and cold contribute to breaking down dead flesh. But there are benefits to speeding up its disappearance. That's what scavenging is all about.

Scavengers help reduce the amount of dead biomass on the landscape, neutralize it, and remove it. Scavenging reduces waste and makes for a more efficient ecosystem utilizing the animal's flesh, innards, blood and bones. It's recycling in its purest and most direct form.

Not all scavengers use all the parts of an animal. A coyote might tear into the flesh of a dead whitetail. Crows will work over intestines and other guts. Foxes clean off the bones. Chickadees move in and glean the leftover suet and fat. Each scavenger in turn has an easier time, and nutrients get used again.

Scavenging offers a quick, easy, bountiful and nutritious meal for a minimum of energy expended.



Wisconsin's most famous full-time scavenger is the turkey vulture, or buzzard. Turkey vultures boast a sense of smell, and are one of the only birds to have an olfactory function at all, let alone such a highly defined one. Floating and soaring high above the land on invisible air currents, buzzards can detect the odor of rotting meat from miles away.

The turkey vulture's ugly, bare head isn't just for show. Buzzards stick their noggins into some awfully gory, smelly, bloody and bacteria-filled places. Feathers would get matted, stay wet, and harbor disease. But a nice bare head dries quickly, and then all the caked blood and crusted goop falls off. Golden eagles are proficient at scavenging and are never averse to picking up a free meal of carrion. Our national symbol, the bald eagle, is also a parttime scavenger, and is especially fond of dead or rotting fish.

Crows, ravens and magpies are other excellent scavengers from the bird world.

For the land-based scavengers, their affinity for carrion ebbs and flows with its availability: If a carcass shows up, they are quick to take advantage of the opportunity.

The coyote is a famous crossover hunter-scavenger. Like vultures, the coyote's iron-clad intestines can destroy most disease agents, bacteria and pathogens that make their way through the song

MORGENTHALER, FROM PAGE 7

that smelt was a good bait when used with the Swedish hook seen in the photo, which I am not sure is legal anymore. Never caught anything over six pounds, but enjoyed the exercise of pretending to slide into first base as I neared the red flag bouncing in the wind.

A lot of rules have changed over the years, so make sure to check your regula-

dog's system. Coyote litter sizes increase after a hard winter, when lots of carrion remains on the landscape to help feed hungry pups in spring.

Both red and gray foxes will take carrion, but foxes must take their place behind larger and more aggressive coyotes in the in the waiting line.

On the small end of the mammal scale, raccoons and opossums scavenge willingly. They forage for plant matter much of the year, but if carrion is around, they will do their part to work it over. Coons and possums seem to concentrate on smaller carcasses such as rabbits, squirrels and gophers. Not surprisingly, skunks are also avid scavengers.

Even Wisconsin's waterways have scavengers. Most notable is the channel catfish, which benefits from a highly developed sense of smell in its whiskers; this helps locate rotting flesh in the water.

The next time you spy a buzzard in his undertaker's soar, watch a crow pulling the intestines out of a road-killed rabbit, or see a coyote digging into a deer carcass, don't think of death. Instead, consider the clean-up duties taking place, the recycling that's happening, and the vibrant life that it all supports.

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

tions regarding minnows, tip ups, hooks, and number of lines you can fish with. Make sure to ask a friend out to enjoy the outdoors.

Wayne Morgenthaler has fished southwestern and northwestern Wisconsin for many years. He has written outdoor articles for MidWest News' web site under the name Little Bobber. A retired teacher and coach, Wayne is married with three children.

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CWD Travel Restrictions States enforce limitations where disease exists

More and more states, including our own, are adopting regulations limiting the transport of deer from Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) infected areas. Areas without CWD do not want the disease brought in via hunter-killed deer carcasses from areas that do have the scourge. To prevent this, rules are being adopted requiring a hunter who kills a deer in a CWD-infected area to follow specific guidelines for the transporting of wild deer. Guidelines vary by state, so be sure to check their specific rules and regulations.

It is becoming more commonplace to leave more than just a gut pile behind after a successful hunt. Typically you can expect that you'll have to transport a boned out deer leaving the head, bones, spinal column, and any lymphoid tissue in the area (county or DMU) where the deer was shot. You will be able to transport the rack of a buck, but it must have the attached skull plate clean of any tissue.

OK, we're dealing with a nasty disease for which there is no cure, so we must do our part to prevent inadvertently bringing CWD into areas where it does not exist. Now, say you want to mount the buck or doe you shot in a CWD-positive area and you have to transport it across county or state lines that have restrictions on bringing in deer from a CWD-positive area. This will involve properly caping the animal and, in the case of doing a buck shoulder or full body mount, cutting off the portion of skull plate the antlers are attached to.

If you have a local meat processor butcher the deer, they will likely do a proper job of cutting and wrapping the meat, but good luck finding one that can properly cape out a deer head. Have the butcher leave the head attached to the hide and take the whole thing to a local taxidermist. A taxidermist is the best answer to doing a proper caping job that will allow for the cape to be done right and legally transportable. Meat processors are great for boning out, cutting, and wrapping the deer, but leave the job of caping to a taxidermist; it's a specialty that most meat processors are not in the business of doing.

The alternative to having a meat processor or taxidermist process your deer is to do the job yourself. These days we can rely on the computer to educate those who have never done it. Google "field butchering" and "deer caping" to view YouTube videos showing how it is done. Be sure to cut and wrap all meat and clean all tissue off the skull plates of a buck's rack. Collect and properly dispose of all waste parts, seeing to it they are disposed of in a way that they will end up in a state approved landfill. You will have to find the disposal service locally to where the deer was killed, as the waste



Clean racks and capes along with boned and wrapped deer meat are among restrictions enforced to legally transport deer killed in CWD positive areas across state or county lines.

parts will not be transportable out of that CWD positive area by anyone other than a licensed waste hauler.

Transporting deer from CWD positive areas over state and county lines is an issue we, as hunters and stewards of this resource, will be dealing with for the foreseeable future.

Lee Gatzke is co-owner of Next Buk Outdoors, producers of tactical hunting videos. In between hunting seasons Lee is usually scouting for his next buck.

The ABCs of Winter Activities Explore Wisconsin for Sawyer County Outdoor Enthusiasts

MERICAN BIRKEBEINER SKI RACE -More than 9,000 skiers and 15,000 spectators ∟come to Hayward and Cable to experience the American Birkebeiner cross-country ski race February 21-24. The greatest show on snow is a four-day ski festival with events for every age and ability. The challenging 51K American Birkebeiner starts in Cable and ends on Main Street in Hayward. The American Birkebeiner International Bridge is an iconic centerpiece of the American Birkebeiner. Through a partnership between the Loppet Foundation and the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, the bridge will travel to Minneapolis where it will be used as part of the City of Lakes Loppet Festival. The Loppet Foundation, Minneapolis' champions for winter sports, transforming two blocks of Nicollet Mall into a winter playground.

BARKIE BIRKIE – It's doggone fun. The Barkie Birkie is skijoring fun. Its roots are in Norway, where

the word means "ski driving." It was originally a way to carry military dispatches. On February 21, 2019, eager dogs will pull skiers straight through Hayward's Historic Main Street.

CYCLE FUN – Historically, once the snow began to fly, bicycles were put away in storage until spring. Fat biking is changing all that. These funny-looking bikes with oversized, wide-rimmed, balloon-like tires have transformed winter bike riding in Northern Wisconsin and are gaining traction nationwide.

On March 9, 2019, one thousand fat bikers from all points north, south, east and west, will descend upon Hayward and take to the Birkie Trail to test their expertise and skill. While normally groomed exclusively for cross-country skiers, the Birkie Trail is open to fat bikers.

In winter, whether riding groomed single-track trails, skijoring or gliding across frozen lakes or fresh powder, winter fun in Hayward provides a whole new twist for winter adventurers.



The Hayward Lakes area offers sports of all kinds for those who like to participate, including fat tire winter biking or snowmobiling, or for those who prefer to watch and cheer, like the Great American Birkebeiner Ski Race.



Heritage to Hunting Means Ethics First *Trophy muley goes untagged in hunt to the wire*

acob, big buck, get your rifle!" I excitedly whispered to my 12-yearold son. I'd just spotted a group of mule deer bucks headed our way through a clump of cedars, already well within range and about to step into the open. Jacob wasted no time and soon laid prone on our glassing rock, ready to take aim. It was the fifth and last day of what had already been an arduous, DIY public land mule deer hunt. Was our luck about to change?

Unfortunately, a coyote bumped the bucks from the cedars before Jacob got his shot. They relocated and bedded about 600 yards away. After a quick strategy talk and a check of my onX Hunt App on my phone, we headed to a closer ridge, intent on getting another chance at the chocolate horned, heavy bodied buck.

Four hours and a couple short naps later, one of the smaller bucks of the group stood and tempted Jacob. My son had no interest in the youngster, so we remained vigilant in our wait for the big boy.

Thirty minutes later, the big buck stood up, broadside, ready for a bullet from my Browning .26 Nosler Jacob would be shooting. But as I glassed the buck and double checked onX Hunt App, I knew I had to call Jacob off. The buck was about 50 yards off the public land we were hunting. A faint barbwire fence in the foreground confirmed onX was spot on. Jacob, dejectedly, held his fire.

We waited and painstakingly watched the 170-class monarch for the next several hours, hoping he'd make the fatal mistake of moving closer, but it wasn't to be. As darkness approached, the bucks slowly moved east until we lost sight of them. I could tell Jacob was a little down, knowing the imminence of this hunt's end.

"Don't give up, buddy, we still have some shooting light left," I tried to reassure Jacob, as I continued to glass for other deer from our vantage point.

Our hopes were fading along with the daylight when I happened to spot three new deer about 1000 yards to the south. I swapped my Vortex binocs for my spotting scope and shockingly saw another largeracked buck feeding on our side of the property line.

"Jake, we gotta go, now," I hurriedly exclaimed as we gathered our gear and made a bee-line down the mountain towards these deer. There were about 15 minutes of daylight left and no time to waste.

We quickly worked our way down a dry creek bed, perfect hiding for this last minute stalk. We crawled up out of the ditch and got our bearings. The deer were now about 350 yards away. Just a little further.

At 225 yards and with just minutes of light remaining, I glassed the big buck feeding broadside. All Jacob had to do was

The author's son, Jacob, takes aim on a New Mexico mule deer.

drop prone, flip out the bipods, settle in and squeeze the trigger.

Once again, however, I had to call Jacob off, for onX Hunt App and the wire fenceline in front of the deer were both telling me this buck had made his way onto the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Bear Baiting 101 *What to know before you go*

hether it's their first bear tag or not, every hunter can agree that preparation is a key component to a safe and successful harvest. A site, constructing a stand, setting up a trail camera and frequently replenishing with a variety of fresh and appealing selections can be challenging yet rewarding in so many ways.

Bears are intelligent creatures of habit. Consistency is essential to condition them to become comfortable and return to the same site. Feeding is not a "one and done" sort of thing. It takes persistence and a large amount of bait to keep bears coming back for more. It's good to keep in mind that nutritional value and variety can maintain the bears' interest as well.

Just as well kept as Grandma's secret recipes, every hunter, outfitter and guide has their own formula for successful baiting. When stocking a site, consider what's naturally occurring and in season. It is common sense to mimic nature when setting out bait. One of the best ways to lure bears back to the baiting station is to keep the site freshly stocked with crunchy nuts and cookies, sweet toppings, and berries.

Purchasing bait in large quantities can be a cost effective way to keep up with the demands of maintaining a well-stocked bait pile. Storing pre-mixed bait in in convenient carry-in containers makes the job even easier. When it comes to baiting, a little time spent becoming familiar with best practices can result in fantastic trail photos, and, even better, a trophy hunt. Since they vary, always be sure to follow state and local regulations before baiting and feeding.

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South Dakota Archery Baptism Wisconsin bowhunter learns new game

Y phone lit up the morning of Oct. 1. It was my friend Chad Calhoun, of Bloomer, asking me if I was interested in a bow hunting trip out west, near Pierre, South Dakota. We would be leaving two days later for a four-day weekend to hunt mule deer and whitetails. Chad is a seasoned veteran when it comes to hunting both North Dakota and South Dakota. He has hunted the Dakotas for 14 years and vouched that we'd be hunting prime public land with monster muleys and giant whitetail bucks. However, this would be the first time he would be hunting the east side of the Missouri River.

Although I've hunted and fished just about every species of wildlife in Wisconsin, I'd never hunted out of state. With several vacation days banked for the whitetail rut and a gracious nod of confidence from my wife, I was on my way for an unforgettable hunting experience eight hours west of Wisconsin.

Chad, who has numerous trophy bucks, bears, and furbearing animals under his belt, is someone I've known since we played high school sports 15 years ago. We had never been great friends, but our passion for the outdoors and sports has always kept us in contact.

I was instantly brought back to my bachelor days when we'd decided we would sleep in the bed of his truck for four nights and likely be showering at truck stops. But that didn't matter. We were there to arrow a couple wall-hangers. From daylight until mid-afternoon on Oct. 4, we scoured several public properties from the truck. Finally, Chad spotted three beautiful muley bucks in a ravine that we decided to go after, despite high winds and a steady rain coming down.

We closed the distance to roughly 100 yards before a gust of wind blew our scent into the ravine and spooked the bucks. The deer circled us to within 90 yards and quickly bounded away after sensing danger. It was disappointing but a promising sign since it was only the first day and we'd had some action.

The heavy rains eventually turned South Dakota's backroads into mud pits and nearly left us stuck and stranded several times. The sheer panic, obscenities and laughter in those instances were some of the funniest and most eventful moments of the entire trip.

The following two-and-a-half days were filled with umpteen coulda, woulda, shouldas for us. On one other occasion, I attempted a one-man drive on the opposite end of a field to push a herd of mule deer to Chad. Surprisingly the deer angled right toward Chad, but in the final couple hundred yards, they altered their route and vanished.

Ugh. We put on roughly six miles in that one-man drive alone with nothing to show for it. I found myself discouraged and mad the deer had evaded and outsmarted us in this moment and a few others on the trip. But deep down, those strategic stalks and

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ERODY, FROM PAGE 22

wrong side of the fence for us to shoot him.

I hugged my disheartened son, reminding him of the incredible memories we made on our trip, and that a filled tag wasn't the only symbol of a successful hunt. We spent the last couple days of our adventure fly fishing the San Juan River of northern New Mexico. We may not have brought home a mule deer on this trip, but I will cherish the memories of this father-son hunt forever.



The author's son, Jacob, with a healthy rainbow trout from the San Juan River.

onX–An essential tool for any hunter

Although there were occasional fences marking boundaries on this remote, New Mexico hunt, nothing was ever actually posted. Many hunters might use that as an excuse to "wander". I pride myself in following all laws, and feel I owe it to myself, my hunting partners, and neighboring landowners to know my boundaries. We covered a lot of miles on this hunt, and it's not always feasible to have a printed plat map for your given location. The tool that I trust to know where I'm at is onX Hunt App by onX.

onX Hunt App is a mapping, navigation, hunting, and scouting tool that merges forms of technology that have been available to humans for a long time. The app shows you land ownership parcels, aerial photography, topographic maps, your current location, tracks (where you've been), and much more. Now you don't need to carry a separate phone, handheld GPS, printed topo maps, aerial maps, and a plat book with you. You simply need onX Hunt App on one device. Here are the various ways I use onX Hunt App and some benefits of each:

onX Hunt App on Mobile Devices

If you're regularly in areas with cell service or at least have access to electricity for charging batteries, using onX Hunt App on your smart phone is my preferred option. This is a subscription based "virtual product"-for just \$29.99 per year (Premium Membership), you can access one state's data. The Elite Membership gives you access to all US states for \$99.99 per year. Download the app to your phone and tablet. Login to the app, and you can navigate, study aerials, topographic maps, drop waypoints, mark boundaries, and store paths of where you've walked or driven. Since my phone is almost always with me, if I see a big buck or a good looking property, at any given moment I can bring up onX Hunt App and learn quickly whose land it is. This makes much quicker recon work when looking for that next buck.

A couple of my favorite features of the app, besides viewing land ownership, are the ability to store offline maps and tracking capabilities. When you don't have cell service where you're hunting, save maps of the area to your phone ahead of time and your phone will still act as a handheld GPS with great maps. Track your positions so that you can see where you've been and how far you've gone. Blood trailing is a great application of this. It helps if you need to grid-search so you know where you have and haven't been, and it tells you how far you (i.e., the deer you're tracking) have gone.

onX Website Portal

Included with the subscription-based offering from onX is online access to its tools. This is where I will spend extended amounts of time reviewing maps, just like you would on Google Maps, for example. But the awesome thing is, you can mark waypoints, boundaries, etc., and they will automatically appear on your phone app. Measure acreage with the polygon tools which are great for calculating food plot materials.

State Specific GPS Chip

On a remote hunt in a state where regular access to battery chargers isn't practical, get a chip for the state you're hunting. Chips are \$119.99 per state, and come in the form of a micro-SD card that you insert in your handheld GPS. With it, you have access to parcel boundaries, along with topo and aerial maps. It really speeds up your ability to learn new areas.

With four years of field experience using onX Hunt App, I can honestly say it is something no hunter should be without. If not for your own sake, use it for the peace of mind it gives your loved ones that you know where you are at all times, and can find your way back. This also builds trust with neighboring landowners because they'll know it's important to you that you don't trespass. Not tech savvy? onX is easy to learn. Give it a try and you'll be one step closer to your next buck.

Jarrod Erdody is co-owner of Blood Brothers Outdoors (bloodbro.com), which makes instructional hunting videos geared toward killing mature bucks year after year. He is a proud father of three and owns Erdody Studios, which provides web design, graphic design, video production, and other creative services to a wide range of clientele, many in the outdoor industry.



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Blaze Pink *Coming to a deer camp near you*

follow political dealings in both Madison and Washington, D.C., closer than most, especially when they deal with the outdoors. I seem to shake my head in disgust more often than nodding in agreement these days. I clearly remember shaking my head when Wisconsin passed the law allowing people to wear blaze pink during the deer gun hunt instead of the required blaze orange. I think I even remarked about the typical "waste of time and money" that went into making the proposal become law. I now admit I was wrong.

My change in opinion can be attributed to, or blamed on, my daughter Beth. In 2016, at age 30, she decided she wanted to deer hunt with me. I loaned her a blaze orange vest and we headed to a ground blind the day after Thanksgiving. She was able to shoot an antlerless deer and was very happy with her first deer, as was I. Beth sat out the 2017 deer hunt nursing a knee injury.

Beth reminded me this summer that she wanted to deer hunt again during the 2018 season. She also stated that she wanted to shoot a big buck this time, so she could hang the head in her husband's "man cave" in their new home. I reminded her that bucks, especially big ones, were not easy to come by and that her best bet would be to hunt during the opening weekend of the gun season.

A family gathering at Beth and husband Ben's home was wrapping up when she opened a closet and proudly displayed her new deer hunting "outfit." The outfit consisted of a blaze pink jacket and matching hat. While I will probably never refer to my hunting clothes as an "outfit," it was obvious she was proud to be a woman that hunts and blaze pink was her way of showing it. I added a blaze pink sling to her rifle as a matching "accessory."

As opening day approached, the pressure was on me. I had to find a location for a ground blind that would tip the odds in her favor. I asked the rest of the hunting crew where they planned on sitting opening day and picked a good location on the far end of the property. A pop-up blind was erected and brushed in to blend with the surroundings.



The author's daughter, Beth Havey, in her blaze pink outfit with her first buck.

Several antlerless deer were spotted opening morning. Beth did not hunt Saturday afternoon and, of course, a nice buck showed up. A freezer full of elk meat and in hopes he would show up again on Sunday when Beth would be back, I let the buck walk.

Deer activity was slow early Sunday morning. Around 7:30, a large deer appeared about one hundred yards in front of the blind. We could both see it was a buck. There was a bit of brush in the way, so I whispered for Beth to find an opening and shoot when she could.

The deer ran to our right with the shot. Beth said she thought the crosshairs were in the right spot when she fired, but must have missed, as the deer ran off. I had seen the shot differently, but kept quiet as we walked through a light snow cover to look for blood. The blood trail was short. At the end was a beautiful ten point buck, a happy hunter in blaze pink and a proud father in blaze orange.

Female hunters are the fastest growing segment of the hunting fraternity. While blaze pink will probably not replace blaze orange anytime soon, it will certainly become more common. I, for one, will smile each time I see the color.

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

Recipes with Suzette Comfort Food with Venison

hen I ask my husband to take a Venison roast out of the freezer for the next evening's dinner, he knows he's in for a delicious meal. Whether it's a traditional pot roast, a stove-top stew, or slow cooked shredded meat for sandwiches, roasts are a go-to favorite in our household. Any one of these recipes on a cold winter day is sure to be a hit. Enjoy!

Venison Roast Sandwiches*

3 pound Venison Roast

1 7 ounce packet Good Seasons Italian Dressing 1 cup Water

1 16 ounce bottle Pepperoncini (undrained)

Place roast in bottom of slow cooker. Combine season packet with water and pour over roast along with pepperoncini and liquid. Cook on low setting 5 to 7 hours until meat is fully cooked and easily shredded.

Serve on Kaiser rolls with your choice of any or all: provolone, onions, green peppers, mushrooms, and horseradish.

*This recipe is from our son in Kentucky who prepares the sandwiches for his neighborhood get-togethers.

Italian Venison Roast

- 3 pound Venison Roast
- 1 ounce Prosciutto, thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoon Italian Seasoning
- 1 teaspoon Fennel seed
- 1 teaspoon Black peppercorns
- Preheat oven to 450°.

With a very sharp knife, cut slits into roast ¾ of the way through, being careful not to cut all the way through the roast. Stuff slices of Prosciutto into slits.

Crush spices with mortar and pestle (or even a clean coffee grinder) and rub into roast. Place roast in roasting pan in middle of oven and cook 10 minutes uncovered. Reduce heat to 350° and continue roasting 35 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven; let stand for 5 minutes before slicing and serving.

Spicy Wine Venison Roast

- 3 pound Venison Roast
- 2 cloves Garlic, thinly sliced
- Salt & Pepper
- 1 cup Flour
- 2 T Olive Oil
- 1 large Onion, sliced
- ¹/₂ teaspoon each Allspice, Cinnamon, Ground Cloves
- 2 cups Red Wine

Cut thin slits in roast and insert slices of garlic in each one. Rub meat with salt and pepper and then dredge in flour.

Heat olive oil in Dutch Oven over medium heat; brown roast on all sides. Place onion slices atop roast and sprinkle with spices. Pour wine over all. Reduce heat.

Cover pot and simmer for 2 to 3 hours until tender. Remove roast to serving platter and cover with foil tent.

Increase heat to boiling; stir constantly until liquid is reduced by half. Slice roast and pour "gravy" over top before serving.

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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JERRY DAVIS Winter Invasive Shrub Removal Improving wildlife habitat on hunting land

ooking for a payback project for the landowner on whose property you shot a deer last November? Maybe your own land could be improved as wildlife habitat by beginning a project of cutting multiflora rose, buckthorn, autumn olive, honeysuckle or prickly ash.

During winter? Of course. Most shrubs are easily identified even without any flowers, fruits and leaves. Some invasives are early to leaf out and late in dropping leaves. Sometimes the leaves on honeysuckles remain green through the gun deer season and leaf remnants hang on longer.

About the time all the understory leaves have fallen, and the leaves on deciduous trees, too, honevsuckles are the only green left in the hardwood forest. During the growing season, you will notice small leaves, oppositely-arranged, and without teeth on the edges. In spring the white or pinkish white flowers are fragrant.

Depending on the species, the pea-sized, many-seeded fruits can be red, orange or yellow and appear in pairs. Seeds are one way the plant got into the woods; birds carried the seeds in their digestive tract and dropped them out with a load of fertilizer at the same time.

The honeysuckle root system is not a deep taproot, but short, shallow, and fibrous. Smaller plants can often be handpulled, but not in winter. Similar to some other invasives, honeysuckle takes moisture and nutrients badly needed by native herbs, shrubs and trees. Some invasives release chemicals that inhibit growth of native plants. Thick tangles of honeysuckle restrict light to forest floors.

There are some native honeysuckles that have several growth characters separating them from bush honeysuckles and tend not to be invasive.

While summer treatment of this and other invasive shrubs may be strictly chemical, winter treatment is primarily cutting and subdividing the shrub so it mulches down and decomposes. Stump treatment and foliar spray of sprouts can follow in spring or stumps can easily be recut and stump treated with triclopyr or similar chemicals. Even though the ground is frozen and maybe covered with snow, cutting the multistemmed shrub with a small chainsaw can make quick work of this shrub.

While walking through a woods, particularly along the edges, some other invasive shrubs may be present and can be similarly treated at this time. Each plant has a telltale character or two, which makes winter identification relatively easy.

Multiflora rose canes are round and have back-turned prickles compared to raspberry or blackberry canes, which are more angular and have straight-out prickles.

Prickly ash has flexible stems and soft wood. The bark smells lemony. Buckthorn is often single stemmed, but may grow as a clump with very hard wood and stiff stems. It cuts hard, even with a chainsaw.

On many of these shrub invasives, there is little need to pile and burn the debris. The seeds are gone from the plants. Releasing the forest floor to sunlight will give native shrub and tree species a chance to germinate. Burning, usually in spring, is another way to help with stump sprouts and seedlings.

Notice, too, the rosette plants of garlic mustard, a biennial. They often hold their green all winter.

Be careful not to cut native hardwood saplings when removing invasive shrubs. Similarly, when stump treating or using foliar sprays, natives can be harmed, too.

While walking through the woods, the landowner may appreciate an occasional



Honeysuckle shrubs are multi-stemmed with shaqqy bark

cutting of down timber that can then touch the soil, which will hasten decay and decomposition.

Timber work in winter can have added advantages. Antler finds are likely. Dead trees may provide morel locations in the spring. Squirrel and rabbit seasons are open, as well. 🤒

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

GARY GREENE Memories from an Old Hunter All hunting trips have some memories

bout ten years ago, in an upland field near Kramer, North Dakota, my most entertaining pheasant hunting memory occurred.

It was a father/son hunting trip, but my son Nate was fighting a war in Iraq, so I was with two father/son combos. Brian and his son Jesse were my close hunting friends. The second duo consisted of a hunting son and a father who wanted to spend time with his son, but as we found out, he was not a hunter.

That dad brought along loads of snacks. He had numerous bags, boxes, bottles and cans. For that aspect of our hunting trip, he was well prepared. So for the rest of this memory, I will refer to the dad

as "Snacks."

Numerous times on the trip, Snacks lost his keys, only to be found in the pocket of another pair of pants. I believe his wallet also got lost in his pants. At least once, he locked Jesse's truck keys in the vehicle. He was a real nice guy, not a hunter and a bit of a bumbler.

Side Note: One night in Kramer, Brian and I found a small bar/ café that had "Steaks" in the window. As we came in, the waitress was sitting at the door. From that seated position, she stated the normal, "Sit wherever." Later, she got herself a beer. As we soon



Greene's lab Nyjer with his two rooster pheasants.

Retriever Club



TOM MUELLER When the Seasons Over, it's Not Really Over Game farms, extended field time allow canine instincts to develop

n the wake of the waterfowl and upland game seasons, many hunters turn to locations throughout Wisconsin that allow work with their dogs to continue. Whether they're called hunting preserves, hunt clubs, or game farms, working with your retriever (or your choice of breed) on these numerous properties statewide legally licensed for hunting is made to order for honing the skills of both man and canine.

Pat Stevenson of Eau Claire and his retriever, Hemi, make up one such team. Initially the two of them hunt on public hunting lands, but they primarily work northwest game farms Badgerland Pheasant Farm near Westby, and Woods & Meadows near Warrens.

According to Pat, Hemi is one of those

retrievers that you could call a "pheasant hunting machine." She excels at the game. Pat also claims she taught him more about pheasant hunting than he taught her. Hemi hails from Maple Hills Kennels in Clayton, which is owned and operated by Dan and Leslie Boerboon who are breeders of hunting golden retrievers.

With pheasant hunting in Wisconsin restricted by loss of habitat and low numbers of wild birds, hunting on public properties stocked by the DNR while the season is open or game farms much longer provide an exciting alternative. The dog races back and forth through the field with the owner watching for the change in the dog's body language that says it smells a bird and is going in for the flush. The bird goes up,



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the gun goes off, the retrieve is made, and the hunting team moves on in search of another heart-stopping explosion from cover.

Some hunting clubs allow members to train their dogs in the off season and will provide pheasants or chukars for a minimal fee. Training a retriever for pheasant hunting is comparatively easier than Waterfowl hunting. Once your dog is accustomed to gunfire, visit a game farm or hunt club. Plant pheasants and let the dog develop its own instincts to find and flush. It's his hertitage, and it's only going to take



a couple visits before you and your hunting retriever are hooked.

Some game farms require membership and prices vary. But finding one that fits your budget is well worth the research, and opens the door of opportunity to an extended hunting season with your dog.

Tom has been avidly training retrievers since the early 1980s. His passion has evolved into helping others train their retrievers through the Fox Valley Retriever Club so they can achieve the satisfaction that he has had. For questions regarding retriever training or the Fox Valley Retriever Club, contact Tom at winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com



Showered with Affection Love rains on Bert, the not-right dog

I d'just gotten Young Bert, the not-right dog, from the breeder who followed me home so I wouldn't change my mind. Young Bert (YB) was going to be put down for chronic barking and running away (only when the wife was at home alone – odd, eh?). He once walked into an all-night Walgreen's through the electric eye doors, and just meandered around, meetin' folks.

He'd spent most of his life tied to a tree in a yard in a western Chicago suburb. He was not a house dog, except in the most simplistic sense of the term. Dad didn't train him and Mom didn't want him. This was a shame, for he was beautiful, smart, and could have used the socialization. I've always thought that the more stimulation a young dog got, the more intelligent it became. I know this is true of human babies; pathways form in the brain, and with regular stimulation, become permanent. If the stimulation halts, the pathways deteriorate.

He was friendly during the first hours/day that he and I were getting to know each other. A little rambunctious, but he was just over two years old, and congenial, if a little anxious about the new surroundings and lack of familiarity with the human in the house.

I went to take a shower, closing, but not shutting the bathroom door. I was in the shower, cleaning up, when I

heard the door open and the click of his toenails on the bathroom floor. YB was coming to check on where I was.

There was a pause, then ever so slowly, first a brown nose, then muzzle, then eyes, then head of a dog pushed aside the shower curtain and looked to see what I was doing. I said "hello" and went about my business. He just stood there.

Then, with pains-taking slowness, a paw appeared, rested on the tub side, and then extended itself into the bathtub. He looked at me. I looked at him. We looked at each other. I was curious. He was anxious.

Then, another front paw appeared, and with the same deliberate movement, extended itself so that the front of the dog was now standing IN the tub, and the body and back half were outside on the bathroom floor.

He looked up. I laughed. "What is this?," I said. He did not reply. He just stood there, with the spray of the shower ricocheting off the wall and tub up on his legs, chest, and face. He put his head down a bit, then, almost abashedly, awkwardly lifted a rear leg in and then brought the other in.

He stood still, head down. Then he looked up at me. I was hooting as the now-almost drenched dog stood at the end of the tub. Very tentatively, he sort of shuffled over towards me, into the heavier deluge of water. First his head, then shoulders and back came under the main spray.



He just stood there, head down, getting soaked, and then sort of leaned into my leg, putting some of his weight against me. It was one of those moments where two separate species fully understand each other. He was apprehensive and scared of being abandoned again and I knew it, exactly as if he were articulating his apprehension in words.

I finished the shower and used a "good" towel to dry him off. Got a fresh one for myself, and took him out in the kitchen for some dog-bribe. Later that week, he did it once more, but never again since.

But he still "ain't right." 🤒

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







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MIKE YURK The 6.5 Creedmoor New Kid on the Block

very deer hunter has his favorite rifle and cartridge. From the .243 to the 7mm, there are deer hunters who rave about their cartridge of choice. Every cartridge has it proponents. The .243 is considered a lighter round for younger hunters, women and senior hunters getting away from heavier rifles. The .30-30 has been the standard for "brush guns" seemingly forever. The .270, .30-06 and .308 have generally been the Big Three when it comes to deer rifles and among the most popular rounds for deer hunters over the years. The 7mm is hard to beat for sheer knockdown power.

Recently a new kid on the block has taken the field by storm: the 6.5 mm Creedmoor. I first learned of the 6.5 Creedmoor several years ago from a sporting goods store employee who informed me that rifles in that round sold more than those in 30-06 or .308.

A Recent Innovation

Where did this 6.5 Creedmoor come from and why hadn't I heard of it earlier? One of the reasons is the 6.5 Creedmoor is a recent development in shooting. The .30-06 has been around prior to World War 1 and along with the .308 were developed first for military use. The .30-30 has been the quintessential northwoods deer rifle for well over a hundred years. Many of the other deer hunting rounds were

developed after the Second World War in the 1950s and '60s where we saw a great deal of experimentation in firearms and ammo.

The 6.5 Creedmoor is literally the new kid on the block, being introduced in 2007. That was only 12 years ago in comparison to the .30-06 and the .30-30 which have been around for over a century.

Initially the 6.5 Creedmoor was designed as a long distance round for competitive shooting at targets upwards to a thousand yards. The 6.5 Creedmoor also made long range shooting more possible by having a lighter recoil.

The 6.5 Creedmoor is named after the Creedmoor Range, established in 1873 in Queens Village, Queens, New York, which was known for rifle matches of a thousand yards. The range lasted until 1891. Trying to shoot a thousand yards or for that matter any gun in Queens today would get you in considerable trouble.

Hunters take notice

Not long after its introduction, big game hunters took notice of the round and it soon exploded in popularity. The 6.5 Creedmoor's amazing accuracy and light recoil made it a win-win for hunters. Recently I read an article in which a

COCHIRAW!

A GOOD SQUIRREL DOG LIKE THAT IS HARD TO FIND."

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YURK, **from page 29**

writer took a 6.5 Creedmoor on safari to Africa and claimed it was deadly on even the largest antelope there.

Although it didn't start out as a military round like other popular cartridges, it has found its application for military use. Our Special Operations Command has tested the 6.5 Creedmoor along with other rounds as a replacement for the currently-fielded sniper weapon. Their testing found the 6.5 Creedmoor was the best, doubling hit probability at over a thousand meters, increasing effective range by almost half and reducing wind drift with far less recoil. Because of that, they are adopting and fielding the 6.5 Creedmoor in their sniper rifles in 2019. Homeland Security is also adopting the round.

The 6.5 Creedmoor may be the new kid on the block, but our military and countless hunters and shooters can't be wrong. More established and traditional deer hunting rounds need to make room for the 6.5 Creedmoor as it is here to stay.

Mike Yurk has been writing about the outdoors for over fifty years. His stories have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines. He has also published twelve books on the outdoors. He is a retired Army officer living in northwestern Wisconsin where he has found some of the best bass fishing in the country. He can be contacted at bassinmajor@yahoo.com

On The Cover

Long time Wisconsin guide and On Wisconsin Outdoor columnist Phil Schweik said during the weeks before Christmas that he is "on the best walleye bite of my life. If you've watched Schweik over the decades, it's like a quote from Brett Favre or Aaron Rodgers that they just had the best game of their life. Our cover photo was taken by Schweik during the extended hot streak, with Terry Waldvogel and Zachary Zaug on the hardwater of central Wisconsin with some typical fish.



Product 6-Pack Enjoy Wisconsin's winter a little more with these unique products



CEDARS BILL DANCE PORCUPINE FISH ATTRACTOR

This is something that was new to me as I was searching for interesting products for this issue. These spheres allow you to connect 1/2-inch PVC pipe to create your own custom fish habitat, while also reducing snags. Great way to enhance the quality of your regular fishing locations by drawing in more fish to this structure. Visible on flashers and doesn't deteriorate in the water. (3-Pack: \$39.99)

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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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The .45/70 Revival An obsolete 1873 military caliber makes a big comeback

fter the United States Civil War, it became obvious muzzle loading rifles were obsolete. Small arms using self-contained metallic cartridges had replaced cap and ball black powder arms. The US Army was looking for a cartridge to replace the .577 caliber muzzle loading Springfields they had used in the final years of the war.

After testing several .50 caliber guns, a new cartridge was tested and adopted in 1873. The new cartridge used a .45 caliber bullet, 70 grains of black powder and a 405 grain bullet. The .45/70/405 Government was born. The cartridge was first used in M1873 Springfield rifles, then later cavalry carbines and even Gatling guns. They were replaced with Norwegian Krag .30 caliber bolt-action rifles in 1893. The .45/70 caliber guns last saw action during the Spanish-American War.

The round originally used drawn copper cases and a reduced powder load of 55 grains was loaded for the carbine versions.



.45/70 rifles perform one task really well: they toss heavy (300-500 grain) bullets at relatively low velocities with a fair amount of accuracy. Many a post-Civil War buffalo hunter made their living with a .45/70 rifle, hitting accurately well past 500 yards. Winchester produced the 1886 .45/70 lever action and lots of high-quality single shot .45/70 rifles were marketed for hunting and target shooting

So why the modern interest in the .45/70? Simple. Starting in 2017, states like Iowa began to allow the use of .45/70 rifles for deer hunting. I hunted with a crew of Iowa residents, two of whom used lever-action .45/70s. They harvested a total of five deer between the two, all five being one-shot stops. None of the deer went more than 25 yards. I was so impressed, I ordered a .45/70 single shot of my own. Range testing shows my CVA Hunter model will put three, 300 grain jacketed hollow points into a 2 ½"– 3" group all day long at 100 yards. I hand load my own shells, and by doing so, I can save about 50 percent on the cost of ammunition, even more if I substitute cast lead bullets.

Guns: Today Henry and Marlin dominate the lever-action market for .45/70s. Some replica "Old West" lever actions and "buffalo rifle" single-shots are also imported from Italy. Besides the levers, several domestic companies like Henry, H&R and CVA market single-shots. Bolt actions made from Siamese Mausers chambered in .45/70 were marketed some years back. If you want a classic double rifle in .45/70, Sabatti, Kodiak and Baikal market them. I'm sure I missed a manufacturer or two, as more .45/70s seem to appear on the market all the time.

Ammunition: The 405 grain bullet originally loaded is still used today. My rifle groups better with the 300 grain and the felt recoil is less. I load my hunting ammo to 1,650 fps. I like that velocity, as the recoil is light, the load is safe and accurate, and it approximates the same velocity as the 12 gauge slugs (1,600 fps) I am used to deer hunting with. The major ammunition companies all load for the .45/70 and lots of smaller companies have specialty loads available for target, cowboy action shooting, or dangerous big game. Hornady has the popular Lever Evolution rounds with the soft rubber tips that allow a pointed bul-

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STUART WILKE Concealed Carry *Revolver or semi-automatic?*

D very handgun action has its pros and cons, real or imagined. When choosing one for concealed carry purposes, there are a number of issues and features to take into consideration, according to Mike "Shorty" Govas of Shorty's Sporting Sports in West Allis.

The first consideration is the type of handgun: revolver or semi-automatic? An experienced handgun owner, Shorty carries a full-size Glock in 9mm for self protection while at work. For the first-time concealed firearm carrier, however, he suggests a revolver. "If you pull the trigger on a revolver and nothing happens, you pull the trigger again until it does," he explained.

Absent an extremely rare major mechanical meltdown, a revolver will almost certainly fire. A semiautomatic pistol has more moving parts that can potentially cause a malfunction and such pistols are far more dependent on ammunition to ensure total reliability. Too light or too heavy of a load or a bullet configuration at odds with a feed ramp, and you won't be able to count on but the one cartridge in the chamber – assuming there is one chambered.

"Clearing a jam from a semi-auto pistol can take time, which is something you don't have a lot of in a self-defense situation," Shorty explained. "You're not only dealing with the slide to clear the ejection port, but some semi-autos require you to drop the magazine to clear the action. That can take additional time to get the gun back into action. A lot can happen in that time, and it probably isn't going to be good."

This is not to say that carrying a semi-auto pistol for self defense purposes is neces-

sarily a bad idea. Every firearm owner needs to be familiar with their gun's performance and ergonomics, and that only comes with practice, according to Shorty. There is an added precaution to those who carry a semi-auto: ammunition. "You need to know that your ammunition is compatible with your firearm," he said. "Practice with the ammunition you will be loading in your self defense gun. Some ammunition might work, and some might not work at all. A self defense situation is not the time to

find out. You should have fired your gun at least 500 times to depend on it for self defense purposes."

One of Shorty's pet peeves is armchair commandoes who are convinced they – or their significant other – need at least a compact .357 revolver or 9mm semi-auto for concealed carry use. "No you don't," Shorty contends. "And it really gets me when I ask



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For your hunting and shooting needs 2192 South 60th Street | West Allis, WI 53219 | One Block North of Lincoln Ave **414.545.3323** | www.shortysshootingsports.com them or their girlfriend if they ever fired a .357 – or any gun – and their answer is 'No.' "These guys need to be quiet and listen."

What they need to hear, Shorty says, is that large caliber handguns can be a handful when fired, especially if they are small, aluminum frame revolvers chambered in .357 magnum. "The recoil of a .38 Special in a small gun is substantial. With a .357, it's phenomenal. They're not something to spend an afternoon with plinking." Extremely powerful handguns are best left to experienced shooters, Shorty said.

Shorty will tell anyone listening that most self-defense situations occur at ranges from three to a maximum of 21 feet and rarely is a shot ever fired. "Just showing a would-be assailant that you are armed is enough stop any further aggression over 90 percent of the time. You don't need a howitzer to do that."

FLORCZAK, FROM PAGE 23

aggressive hunting instances are what made the hunt exciting and unpredictable. It was hard work, but it was an exhilarating new style of hunting for me.

In reality though, we struck out. As competitive as we are and as much hunting experience we had combined, it was tough to swallow.

The trip was still a major success in my eyes and I hope Chad feels the same. We found some great hunting spots, formed a true friendship and made some unforgettable memories. Sure we butted heads All most concealed weapon carriers need, especially those new to carrying, is a good quality .22 caliber revolver in at least a midsize frame. "A .22 can do a lot of damage, especially with proper shot placement," Shorty said. "They barely recoil and they're fun to shoot – if they have a larger frame and at least a four-inch barrel. Snub nose revolvers are really only good

for, maybe, seven yards. Plinking or target shooting at that range is not too much fun. Get the largest .22 revolver you're comfortable with, and have fun shooting it. A mid – to large-frame revolver is still concealable. We can fit you with a holster that will work fine for concealed carry purposes. And practice as much as you can."

Stuart Wilke is a longtime OWO contributor, award-winning jounrnalist and firearms enthusiast specializing in historical firearms.

at times, but the numerous hunting stories, jokes and life advice we shared in the field, during our home-cooked meals made on the portable propane cooker and while waking up in the truck to 25-degree weather, was something I'll always cherish. 🌮

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.



Nine mule deer bucks stand in an unpicked soybean field a few hundred yards away from public land outside of Pierre, South Dakota.

Storing Firearms After Hunting Season

Storing a firearm after hunting season without cleaning it is a big mistake. Moisture from sweat, water and mud, for example, can result in rusty metal surfaces, a damaged bore and a cracked wood stock. If it was put away wet, the next time you go to use your gun, you may find it ruined.

Here are some helpful hints to keep that from happening . . .

ACTIONS

- 1. Make Sure Your Gun is Unloaded.
- 2. Break Down Your Gun as much as you can.
- **3. Clean Your Gun Completely:** Copper, lead and plastic will all attract moisture. Cleaning your gun with an ammonia-free cleaner will help keep it dry.
- **4. Thoroughly Clean Out the Bore** of your gun and then apply a very thin layer of lubrication. Also apply a thin layer to other exposed metal on the gun.
- **5. Treat Wood Stocks with Wax** to prevent swelling or cracking from occurring.

GREENE, FROM PAGE 25

learned, she never moved unless it was for her own personal needs. She would yell out, "Help yourself to a beverage in the cooler." Then later, she added, "Grab a steak from the fridge, and make it on the grill behind the bar." After a few beverages, we laughed our tails off, because she was the first waitress we ever had that didn't wait.

In one bar corner there was a life-size, cardboard picture of a beer-holding lady in a swimsuit. After dinner was served to us by us, I wanted that cardboard beer lady. As Brian paid the bill, the sitting waitress allowed me to leave with the picture.

Since that day, I have taken that life size, cardboard, beer-toting, swimsuit lady along. On the picture, each hunter will write a comment regarding the specific trip. I then date it and list the species and number of harvested birds. As cardboard swimsuit lady and I enter a motel room or a hunting lodge, I get questionable stares.

My memory: We were five abreast, 60 yards apart from outside man, me, on the right to outside man, Snacks, on the left. A hen pheasant flushed far from my right, but the bird circled left and contin-

PRE-TREAT YOUR STORAGE AREA

- **1. Use a Silicon-Treated Gun Sock:** The silicon protects your firearm from rusting and prevents moisture from getting in while the thick fabric protects against scratches and dirt.
- Use Desiccant or a Dehumidifier inside the gun storage location to prevent moisture from rusting metal and damaging the wood stock of your gun.
 AVOID

1. Sheep-Skin Lined and Foam Hard Cas-

es for Storage: These attract moisture which can cause the rusting process to begin within 24 hours.

2. Gun's Original Box: Similar to sheepskin cases, these will attract moisture and threaten the longevity and quality of your gun.



If you have any further questions about how to properly clean and store your firearm, please feel free to contact us at MJ Gunsmithing.

ued its flight in front of our hunting line. Since hens are not legal targets, as the bird passed by our line, I yelled "Hen!"

As the bird reached Jesse, he yelled, "Hen!"

Brian yelled, "Hen!" And Snack's son yelled, "Hen!"

Snacks had watched that bird approach him from over 70 yards to his right and none of us had raised a gun. He had heard the one-word warning, "Hen", four times over a matter of 10 seconds.

So naturally, as the bird flew right in front of Snacks, he shouldered his gun and got off three shots. Luckily the hen kept flying.

Initially, nothing was said. After a few seconds had passed, the four of us dropped to our knees in laughter. I now describe Snacks as Elmer Fuddish. This is my most entertaining pheasant hunting memory, due to the way we simultaneously laughed hysterically... and we still do... as I repeat that story at least once every season.

Gary Greene is a life-long bird hunter and has been a pheasant hunting guide for many years. Gary, his veterinarian wife, Chris, and their five labs live in East Troy. You can contact him at ganggreene2002@yahoo.com.



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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

Earning a Place in the Cabinet The 28 gauge shotgun's popularity boom

The rabbit bolted out of the heavy brush, hit the open field, and ran for some nearby trees. Dale's beagles were still following its scent in heavy cover. The rabbit had given the dogs the slip. What it didn't count on was that Dale had anticipated it's move and was covering the field. One shot from his 28 gauge Browning BPS cleanly harvested the bunny.

28 gauge shotguns have become more and more popular over the last five years. In fact, it's now easier to find a 28 gauge shotgun or shells than a 16 gauge gun or ammunition. So why the increase in popularity? My guess is such factors as a lighter carry weight, lighter ammunition, and a big enough shot payload to assure clean kills on small game. A quick comparison of the



Model 690 SKB over/under shows the 28 gauge version is almost two pounds lighter than the 12 gauge version and about a pound lighter than the 20 gauge. 28 gauge ammunition not only carries a heavier shot charge than a .410 bore, but it also pushes the shot 100 to 300 feet per second faster on average. 28 gauge shells are often far less pricey than .410 shells and are available in a great variety of loads and shot sizes. Steel and other non-toxic shot is readily available.

A quick check shows that the major am-

An SKB 28 gauge shotgun

munition companies all load for the 28, and shells are also imported from Europe where it's also gaining in popularity among woodcock, wood pigeon, and pest control shooters. A ³/₄ ounce charge of lead shot seems to be the standard load, pushed at 1,200 fps for target loads, and hunting loads of 1,300 fps or slightly more. Fiocchi makes its famous Golden Pheasant loads for the 28 gauge, and Winchester markets a 2 ³/₄ inch magnum load with one full ounce of shot at 1,205 fps. That's on par with 20 gauge performance. Steel loads are available in 5/8 ounce and Hevi-Shot markets a ¾ ounce load. So yes, you could try harvesting pheasants, ducks, or even geese with your 28 gauge under the right conditions. For those who hand load, reloading equipment and components are available. Dale likes a ¾ ounce hand load of copper plated #4 shot. It's rare for him to find a pellet that didn't pass completely through.

While the 28 gauge is generally regarded as a "gentleman's gun," I can see where it would be a great way to introduce a beginner to hunting or the shooting sports. Light carry weight, low recoil and a cheaper, wider selection of ammo for hunting versus the .410 make it ideal. I started my younger **CONTINUED ON PAGE 35**

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STRESING, FROM PAGE 31

let to be safely used in a tubular magazine. Testing done by my Iowa friends showed good results in both the Henry and Marlin lever guns.

Despite the long range performance on buffalo, I'm not taking my .45/70 out for long range antelope or elk. As for dangerous game, no amount of hand loading will make a .416 Rigby out of it.The .45/70 nicely fills the niche of a caliber suitable for whitetail deer, wild hogs and bear at moderate ranges. It does that really well, and that's all I'm asking.

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

STRESING, FROM PAGE 34

son with a .410 bore, but its lack of available steel shot and dismal performance on game had me move him into a 20 gauge rather quickly. I'd love to see a lower priced, youth model 28 gauge marketed. Youth-stocked guns generally also fit lady shooters well.

To be honest, it's hard to imagine a better gauge for small game like quail, grouse, woodcock, or doves. Dale's pack of beagles usually give him close-in shots on cottontails. I've seen the ¾ ounce shot charge from his 28 gauge cleanly harvest rabbits without destroying the edible meat. Most shotgun experts agree that three to five pellets are all that is required to cleanly kill most small game. Like anyone who has hunted for any length of time, I've seen the effects of too many pellets or too tight a choke. I work too hard harvesting my small game to want to render it inedible by overkill.

My first step up from the .410 was a single-shot 16 gauge my grandfather bought me. So, I admit to having a nostalgic soft spot for the now mostly obsolete gauge. As much as I like the 16 gauge over/under I bought after retiring, there are times I wish I'd opted for a 28 gauge instead.

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



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