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**PHIL SCHWEIK**

## A Striking Difference *Simply, more summer muskies*

Instead of investing more in equipment than is often necessary when targeting muskies, make the lures already in the box work for you now with a change in technique. Altering your approach with your own equipment to achieve a different action or "attitude" is often all you need to trip the trigger on more and bigger fish.

Here are basic tips that have helped me put a lot of muskies in the boat over the years. It is not buying that new hot bait or turning to fancy gear. It is simply making the equipment that I have work to the best of its ability. And that is as simple as one, two, three.

One, change up or adjust lure speed to increase strikes. This is especially effective when running bucktails. Anglers too often run bucktails at a steady pace and never think twice about it. A steady retrieve obviously is sometimes effective, but offering subtle to drastic changes in speed at the right time can be the difference in coming home empty handed or coming home with photos of the big one that didn't get away. You will never know without implementing the change.

For example, many of you know that burning bucktails means retrieving the lure as fast as you possibly can. This method is especially effective during the hot, muggy summer days and nights of late July and August when water temperatures are the warmest. Speed kills. Believe me; you cannot out-retrieve a musky that wants your

bait.

Having a high speed reel can be helpful, but it is not necessary. Burning a bucktail during the warmest part of the season will trigger a musky's predator rush when a slow or more routine retrieve won't even earn a wink from a lethargic fish. Instead of ignoring or "contemplating" moving on a lure speed she is too familiar with, she instinctively reacts to a commotion she is unused to. That reaction can be explosive and heart-stopping. Boom! Fish on!

Two, change your cadence, especially when running jerkbaits and rubber baits like Bulldawgs or Suicks. Many musky anglers fall into a rhythm of sweeping their jerkbaits in a methodic motion back and forth, back and forth and again, it will work. But again, change will also increase the number of strikes. I adopt a series of upward or downward ripping motions or movement to the side to give the bait the erratic appearance of an injured or dying minnow or baitfish. I will also periodically add a pause to my bait and let it sink or suspend motionless for a second or two before continuing the retrieve. This can be deadly.

Three, figure-8 at the end of every retrieve, period. This should be a mandatory practice. Too many times, I watch clients in my boat bring their lures in and out of the water without implementing one of the most effective triggers in musky fishing. I have also watched this lack of discipline




Eric and Annie Tufto with Annie's 46-inch musky caught on a figure-8 boat-side on an Apache bucktail that was burned in.

or habit to carry through with the figure-8 each and every cast cost them countless fish.

Most anglers will start out with good intentions and complete the figure-8 with each retrieve. As time passes without a strike, the anglers slip back to poor habits and it costs them. I estimate that more than 40 percent of the fish in my boat come as a result of boat-side strikes in the figure 8, or as I call it, the "Lazy L."

If you are not going to do a figure-8, at least swing the bait at a 90 degree angle before lifting it out of the water, watching behind for the follow. Most of the time, as you make that sweep if there is a musky behind, you will either see her or she will strike with that first turn.

Give these simple A, B, Cs of musky fishing a try in your quest for a big fish this summer. The difference will be striking. 



Ryan Hauge shows the 44-inch musky taken on a topwater lure sped across the surface during a storm front.



Scott Lewendowski with the 52-inch musky taken on a Lake-X Toad being erratically worked over deep water.

Phil is the owner of Hooksetters Guide Service in central Wisconsin and Hookset Adventures in Eagle River, which keeps him on the water 200 days a year. He can be reached at pschweik@dwave.net, hooksetters.biz, 715-693-5843 or on Facebook at Phil Schweik.

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TOM LUBA

# No Shallow Thinking

## Tracking summer bluegills

Is it easy to find fish? Sure. They're either shallow, deep, or somewhere in between.

Well, slap me silly if that sounds like a smart remark. But, seriously, straining acres of water looking for them is very time consuming.

Most anglers have fished for spawning bluegill. Good biters, fighters, and they taste great. Finding them after the spawn is the challenge. Small fish stay shallow. The ones you really want to catch usually don't.

To catch summer bluegills, you need to slip on your tracking shoes and figure out where they headed. It took me a while, but, if you are on the water enough, sometimes luck intercedes.

My revelation came slowly motoring out of the shallows. We planned to catch some northern pike, as the lake I picked had a good population. However, we caught fish because I always take nightcrawlers along when there are youngsters present, like on that day. As I motored over a drop off that broke quickly from four to 20 feet, the depth finder lit up but the screen cleared again just as fast.

I quickly turned, cut the engine, grabbed a light spinning rod, stuck a crawler piece on the Eagle Claw No. 6 aberdeen on my four-pound test, and lowered the trolling

motor. Backtracking, the screen exploded again, about 10 feet down. I tightlined the crawler into the flashes and was immediately rewarded with a nice bluegill. We quickly forgot about the pike as everybody got into the fast action.

That nether area between top and bottom is just one place where summer bluegill relocate. And if the wind blows what they are feeding on while suspended, they're apt to follow. Fronts and boat traffic can also push them to suspend, or even hug bottom. Areas with current, or wind-blown narrows are other things to look for. Bluegills are the same family as bass and they also like deeper weedlines.

You can track spawned bluegills to deeper water. While you're looking, don't miss isolated patches of the deeper weeds. On one patch I found, the gills were on those weeds and nowhere else in the area.

Light or ultralight spinning with four- to six-pound test suits me. I like the ultralight Zebco 33 Micro Triggerspin closed-face reel. On small open-face reels, the line can sometimes get hooked on the drag knob. If you don't notice, your monofilament can turn into a massive mess.


When the gills are tight to bottom, the reliable Lindy rig with a number six Eagle Claw aberdeen hook and crawler piece

works perfectly fine. Though I prefer no float after the spawn, some anglers even fish slip-bobbers along the deep weeds.

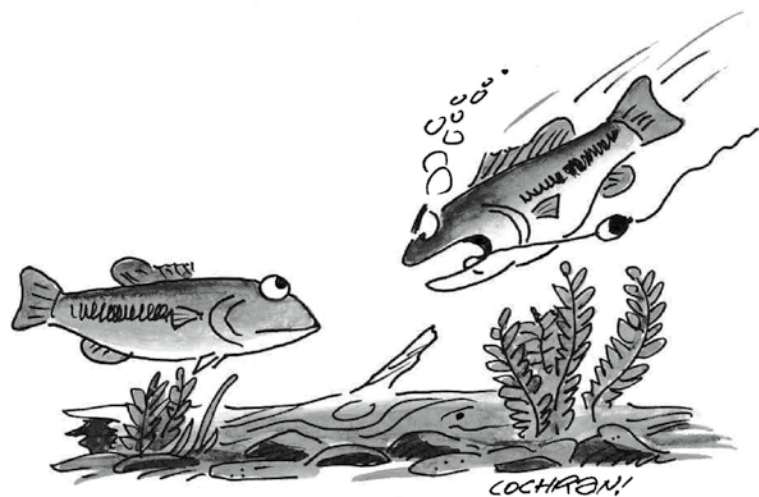
Bluegills are opportunistic. They'll hang around current because it funnels food. I go tightline with a BB shot along current edges below smaller dams. Above, they'll suspend if the current isn't too heavy. I remove the weight and let the crawler sink as it moves toward the dam. Keep it off bottom to avoid snags.

A nice summer bluegill, caught suspended off a deep drop-off.



Post-spawn, skipping the shallows can eliminate a lot of water, but that still leaves the rest of the lake. Start from your shallow spring spots and look for the weeds, weed-lines and drop offs. Electronics can be your best friend, as it was mine when it silently screamed "They're right below us!" when we left that drop off. 

Tom Luba is an open water fisherman, preferably for smallmouth and largemouth bass. In a pinch any other fish that swims is fair game, too.



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PUBLISHER | EDITOR:

Dick Ellis

ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

COPY EDITOR:

Stuart Wilke

submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

DESIGN | PRODUCTION:

Ali Garrigan

ali@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

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JERRY KIESOW

# Fly Fishing Wisconsin

## Test runs await modified flies

Last year, a friend, with whom I tie in Dan Small's booth at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show, gave me a fly he tied that he labeled a crappie killer. I tried the fly, and did catch a few, but the result did not rise to the level of an extraordinary catcher of fish.

This winter, as I was replenishing my fly boxes, I came across that fly and decided to alter it slightly. I made it a size larger, increasing the hook from a #6 to a #4, and added a bit more color by using a red hook. Soon, I will see if those alterations will produce bigger and more crappies.

Here is how I tied, what I call, "Jerry's Marabou."

I used a red, #4 Aberdeen 3261-RB Mustad hook, de-barbing it before I placed it upside down in the vice. Then I attached the red, 6/0 UNI-thread, wrapping it only 1/3 of the way from the eye, down the shaft of the hook. I backed up a turn or six and tied on the two chrome bead-chain eyes, using many crisscross, figure-eight wraps.

When the eyes were secure, I placed a bit of white marabou on top of the eyes so the feather's ends extended about as long as the hook beyond its bend. I secured the marabou behind the eyes, then in front of the eyes, again using figure eights.

Then I trimmed the excessive marabou, on an angle, from the front and made a neat, somewhat longer than usual head. I whip-finished and put head cement on all of the thread. That was it! An easy tie. I have tied four – just in case they work.


Another "new" fly I have tied this past March is a nymph pattern called the Devin Olsen's Blowtorch. Here is how I tied the Blowtorch, altered slightly as I tied. You will find this one is a bit more difficult than the Marabou.

I tied this fly on a #14 curved hook. The original was tied on a Fulling Mill Jig Force, #14. It was also tied weighted, which I did not do. The thread I used was red 6/0 UNI-thread. I used a copper beadhead. I have tied it with both a copper and a brass bead-

head; a red antron tail (I did not have any red antron so I used small, red, chenille); a gold holistic tinsel rib over a peacock herl body; and I used a ruffed grouse soft hackle for the neck. After palmering the hackle, I tied it off and finished everything with a wide, goodly amount of the thread which became a collar. Then I whip-finished directly behind the beadhead and trimmed the hackle to the length of the tail and coated the thread with head cement.

Will this one work? I plan to try it for trout in early June in the Driftless area.

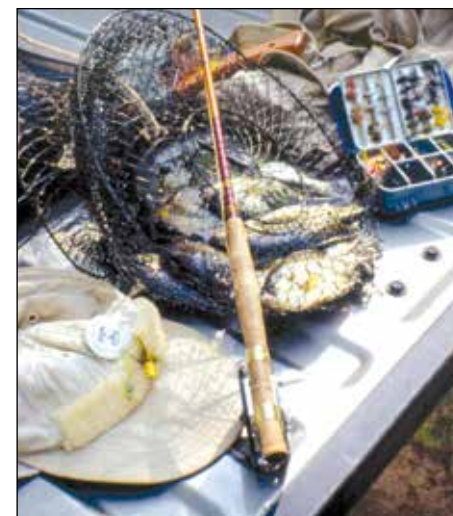
See you in the river.

Keep a good thought! 

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 gifts. They are available on his website: [www.jerrykiesowoc.com](http://www.jerrykiesowoc.com). Orange Hat Publishing, and/or Amazon. Check them out.



The jury remains out on two of the "new" flies I will be trying this spring.



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WAYNE MORGENTHALER

# Round Up!

## Catching more, bigger, lily pad panfish

My friend Ralph and I took off for the Wisconsin River backwaters in quest of bluegills. Our mode of transportation was a canoe with all the necessary equipment: good back rest seats with soft cushions; two anchors to prevent movement on windy days; two strong paddles for pushing through shallow water; and a five-gallon bucket half-filled with ice. I like to keep my fish fresh and on hot summer days I don't want them to spoil. I could use a fish basket, but it makes it awkward to maneuver in thick lily pads.


We had not gone far when I noticed fish surfacing in very shallow water. If there was any small opening, we would cast in with a small bobber and worm. Most of the fish were in thick cover of those green nasty lily pads. I would keep paddling slowly towards the shoreline in as shallow of water that the canoe could handle. We kept moving along the shore with the fish moving out to get away from us. I call

this the "Round Up" technique, where the sunfish move to deeper waters for safety. You need to remember that a canoe, row-boat, or kayak is the best way to accomplish your goal of having a good bluegill meal. Boats with motors are too noisy and tend to mess up where fish like to school up. I just want the panfish to move into a good fishing position without scaring them.

Give them a few minutes to settle down and keep your canoe in the lily pads. Don't put the anchors down until you pick up a couple of fish in one location. Then cast out with whatever panfish bait you like. If I am using part of a night crawler, I do not use a float or sinkers. Just let the worm slowly sink and watch your line. I prefer to use four-pound test on an ultra-light rod. Plastic baits are a good choice and the pink white mini mites are awesome in late July and early August.

At this time of the year the early evenings are the best, as panfish will go on

a feeding frenzy the last hour and a half of daylight. The bugs seem to be lower to the surface and the darker shadows over the water make the panfish less skittish of the predator pike and largemouth bass. I will cover a few hundred yards of shoreline in the early evening, and you will see fish swirling as you go by them. Mornings are okay, but it needs to be early. If you must fish during the daytime, you need a cloudy sky and very little wind.

Give this technique a try, and I think you will be surprised at the number of panfish you will do battle with. Don't forget to take a friend along to remember all those good fishing experiences. Be prepared when you hit shore late at night for those mosquitoes. I like to wear fish netting and light gloves. 

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.



Marcia Dax with two nice large bluegills

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TYLER FLORCZAK

# Changing Tactics

## Locating, catching fish during the Dog Days of Summer

With spring fishing a distant memory, boating fish can become much more difficult as the calendar flips into July and August. The anglers' challenge is to find and catch active fish, regardless of the high temperatures or water conditions.

Using innovative strategies, like slow-trolling combined with sonar electronics, allows anglers to pin-point the fish (and see where they are feeding), while covering large areas of water in little time.

Chetek resident and owner of Up-Der North Guide Service Steve Sedani suggests anglers turn to electronics when the fishing gets slow. "They can turn bad days of fishing into good days," he said. "I've been using electronics since they started making them back when fish looked like a square on the screen. They were called depth finders when they came out, but they've developed quite a bit now."

The version Sedani uses is a Hummin-

bird 898c HD GPS Fishing System with side and down imaging. It gives a variety of information: depth of water, surface water temperature, GPS coordinates, time and miles per hour the boat is moving at. The side imaging shows any fish or structure within 30 feet to the left or right of the boat, while the down imaging locates anything directly below the boat as it clips along.

Not only does it help him understand where the fish are in the water column—whether they're suspending or hugging the bottom—it also helps to find channels, along with travel corridors and routes. Fish use these lake channels and creek channels like we use highways.

Pairing sonar with a fishing method known as trolling, can be a deadly combination.

"The sonar helps you find the fish and target exactly where they are," Sedani noted. "Trolling baits behind the boat also allows you to get your bait in direct rela-

tion to where the fish are. It's much more effective than pulling into a random spot and casting out a bobber or dragging baits across the bottom hoping there are fish around." It also helps individuals identify places with strong potential to hold fish like weed lines, rock bars, underwater points and other structure.

Garmin, Humminbird and Lowrance are probably the most popular brands when it comes to fishing electronics and consistently come out with the newest technology.

Once the fish are located, the next step is to note the depth they are in and find artificial baits—or live bait, such as night crawler harnesses—that can be trolled through the target area, which is normally within two feet of the bottom when fishing for walleye.

When trolling, it's common to move slowly through the water. Sedani suggests that 1.5 - 3 mph (slow idle) is a good rule of thumb when fishing in water deeper than five feet. This speed can be accomplished with the use of a trolling motor or the boat's inboard/outboard motor.

Bait selection is also key because the type of bait used, paired with the speed the boat is traveling, keeps the lures trailing at a desired depth. Raps and husky jerks are common baits when fishing in deeper water, whereas baits like rapalas and clacklin' raps can run in water under 10 feet.

Two other important trolling tips are:

- Use a leader—it will prevent fish with teeth, like northern pike and walleye, from biting through the line.



Electronics like the Humminbird Fishing System pictured and trolling often help when mid-to late summer fishing gets tough with high water temperatures and wide disbursement of fish.

- The more line an angler lets out behind the boat, the deeper the bait will run.

Some people like to troll while using planer boards (which gets baits out further away from the boat), but trolling can also be simplified. Some anglers will simply cast out behind the boat, monitor the speed, and hang on to the fishing rod until they feel a fish tugging on the end of the line.

Obviously, catching the fish is the best part of trolling, but what makes it more intriguing is the surprise of which species has devoured the bait.

Don't find yourself wondering where the fish are this summer. Find the target species with electronics and add the trolling method to your fishing repertoire. 🎣

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.



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DENNY MURAWSKA

# Making Sense of Scents

## Brew your own success

Fish are going to hate me for this. I can feel it. But I am going to tell it like it is. If you are one of those anglers who will go to the limit to up the odds in your favor of catching more fish, what can you do? It's no secret that scent and flavor play a part in the tiny brain of the lunker taking the bait.

Depending on your target species, smell and taste can mean almost everything, as in catfish and carp, or just may be more convincing to the fish to hang on once the flash and vibration trigger a strike. You have noticed that fish have nostrils, right? Well, they are not for breathing! In fact, some fish have a sense of smell that can be hundreds of times more acute than a dog's.

As a kid, my dad and I loved fishing with pre-rigged Delong brand black plastic worms, twitched through the weedy shallows. They were doused with the licorice scent of anise, and it always seemed we caught more on these rigs. Why would any fish like a foreign taste like licorice? Heck if I know! Ditto for garlic. Salt? More understandable. Blood is a bit salty.

You can buy baits like Berkley Power baits that are impregnated with scents that work just fine. Much better than plain plastic. There are spray on scents, chapstick-like waxes, all kinds of yummy teasers for those finicky fish. However, if you take just a bit of time, you can fine-tune things and catch even more fish. Who doesn't like to experiment a bit? It is always fun to be filling your livewell while your buddies are wondering what your secret is.

Three scents have been well-proven over time. These include garlic, salt, and anise. Why stop there? Don't you think a sensible smallmouth might want a bit of crawdad? Any fish that eats minnows is going to turn on to an oily fish flavor. Ever tip your jig or spoon with a strip of fish skin? You catch more fish! Like tying your own flies, experimenting with scents is fun.

My suggestions are merely suggestions, but some of the ingredients are real killers that it might take you a lifetime to stumble on to. You can toss minnows from the lake you are fishing into a blender. Just clean it and don't tell any significant other. Do it outdoors. Other yummys? Fish oil, sardines in oil, crawfish, crab, shrimp, and my favorite, anchovies or anchovy paste.

The problem is getting it to adhere to your lure. Folks use many things. I think the most natural is Crisco. Melt the stuff, add your ingredients, and let it firm up in a small plastic

container. This base will help it adhere to the lure and not simply wash off. You can also try using egg whites, gelatin, and other common thickeners. Crisco adheres well and, since it is not water soluble, stays on your bait.

So what are you waiting for? Get cooking! 🍳

Denny Murawska has been publishing his works since high school. His outdoor columns have appeared in The Week news for many years, as well as Wishigan Midwest Outdoors, and the wacky UP magazine. His church is the pine cathedral gracing our unique Driftless Area he calls home. Owner and operator of Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy at [www.aa-taxidermy.com](http://www.aa-taxidermy.com)

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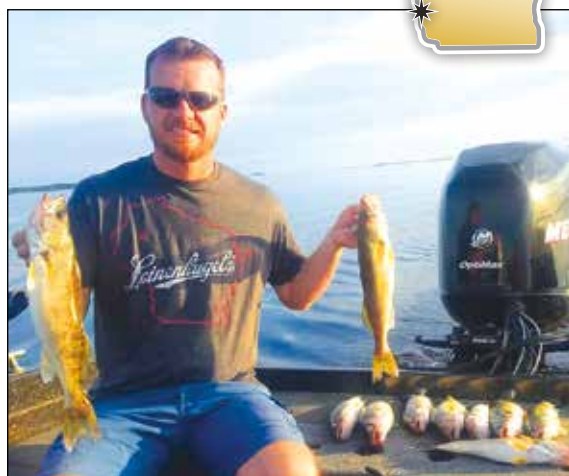
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## Explore Wisconsin SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

# Crazy Fabulous

Executive Director Sherry Quamme of the Ferryville Tourism Council tells us it's no secret that the walleyes are biting and fishing is "crazy fabulous" on the Mississippi and all over the area. Her nephew, Jeff Hopkins, sends the proof. What remains secret is just what he and fishing partner were using to reach their limit. Get more information, and your own limit, by connecting with [visitferryville.com](http://visitferryville.com). 🍷







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MIKE YURK

# Tube Jig Versatility

## All-season crappie action

Summer has taken the baton from spring. The cool, erratic weather we had been experiencing has become hot and sunny. This is a time of change and transition. One of the fishing constants throughout all this, though, is what we can put in front of crappies.

As I write this in June, crappie are getting onto their spawning beds or leaving them, depending on how far north you might be in Wisconsin. The crappies will either be leaving shallow water or starting to find their summer spots. No matter where they go, there will still be great crappie fishing. Just because they are moving into different water doesn't mean they will stop feeding.

The true secret to catching fish is having the right bait for the fish regardless of where they may be. When it comes to crappie fishing the one bait that you can always count on are tube jigs. Never mind if it is spring and crappie are shallow or summer when the fish are deeper, tube jigs will continue to catch fish.

### MAKING OF A TUBE JIG

The components are simple. You need a small jig to start with. I use 1/64, 1/32 and 1/16 ounce tube jigs under different situations throughout the season. I use lighter jigs early in the season when the fish are in shallow water. As the season goes on and they move into deeper water I use heavier jigs.

The tubes are the next essential component. The tubes are plastic and slide right over the hook to catch on the little lead hook next the jig head. They are a little over an inch and a half long. They come in a wide variety of colors, but I have tried to keep it simple. My rule of thumb is as long as it has some chartreuse in it, they will be successful. Now that being said, my favorite colors, which I always use, are either black or red tube bodies as my first choice with a dark green as my second option. The tail behind the tube is always chartreuse.

### HOW TO FISH THEM

Fishing tube jigs is easy. I cast the bait

*Tube jigs are the all-season choice for the best in crappie fishing.*



out and let it sink. If I am in shallow water I let it sink for a second or two and if in deeper water perhaps as long as five to 10 seconds. To retrieve the bait, either bring it back with a slow, steady retrieve or pop it with short movements with the rod tip.

Fish with as light a rod as you have. I prefer five to six feet ultralight rods. Not only will it be easier to feel the fish strike but also to get the most fight out of these spunky panfish. Line size can make a difference. I find four pound monofilament to be the perfect line for crappie fishing. Two pound test is too light and I recommend never using anything heavier than six pound line.

Often crappies can be subtle. Sometimes you can feel an actual strike, but just as often a slight jump or pop of your line will signal a strike. Always watch your line as you are fishing for crappies.

It is always easy to find crappies in the spring because they will move into shallow water for spawning. But once they spawn it can be more difficult. I look for deep-

er water close to their spawning areas. If that doesn't work, then move into deeper pockets and look on your fish finder for concentrations of fish. Either drop anchor or use your trolling motor to move around these pockets for continued fishing action on crappies.

Regardless of whether you are crappie fishing in spring or summer, in shallow water or deep water, tube jigs are the ticket to consistent crappie action. 🌿

Mike Yurk has been writing about Wisconsin outdoors for over 50 years. His stories have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines. He has published 12 books on the outdoors which are available on Amazon. 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](mailto:bassinmajor@yahoo.com)

## SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD

# Wisconsin's Best Kept Secret

Hayward has a history of excellent musky fishing and is the home of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. The area lakes have also produced five World Record Muskies and can lay claim to more world record fishing records than any other city in our country. Some of the best musky guides in the United States live within 30 miles of this fishing community. Sawyer, the county that Hayward lies in, has a total of 77 licensed fishing guides. Over the years, the majority of guides put a special focus on guiding for muskies, which is what many of their clients were after. That is, until recently.

In the last several years, bass fishing in many of Sawyer County's 278 lakes has really taken off. About 20 years ago, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources changed the minimum size limit on bass to 14 inches. They also changed the bass opener for the Northern Zone to the third Saturday in June. The normal fishing opener is the first Saturday in May. Prior to that, third Saturday in June bass are catch-and-release only. The reason for this late opener is that bass are still

in a spawning stage. When they are sitting on their nest, they become very vulnerable and can be an easy catch at this time of the year.

The combination of these two changes has caused the bass population in the Hayward area to explode. Small mouth bass are being caught up to 22 and 23 inches long. Largemouth bass on a regular basis are being caught up to 24 inches. Many of these fish are being caught by musky fisherman.

As you can see, Hayward, Wisconsin, does have something else to offer besides musky. The bass fishing is just getting better and better and the smallmouth fishing is truly "world class." In the United States over 10 million people fish for bass. Are you one of them? If so, maybe you should try one of Hayward's bass lakes. I know you will have fun and enjoy yourself. Have a good summer and just maybe, I will see you on the water.

For additional information on lodging, calendar of events, attractions and more, log on now at [www.haywardlakes.com](http://www.haywardlakes.com) or call 800-724-2992. 🌿

## Explore Wisconsin



*Although Hayward is known for its musky fishing too, monster smallmouth between 22 and 24 inches are being caught, many by those musky anglers.*





# Weekend Freedom Machines



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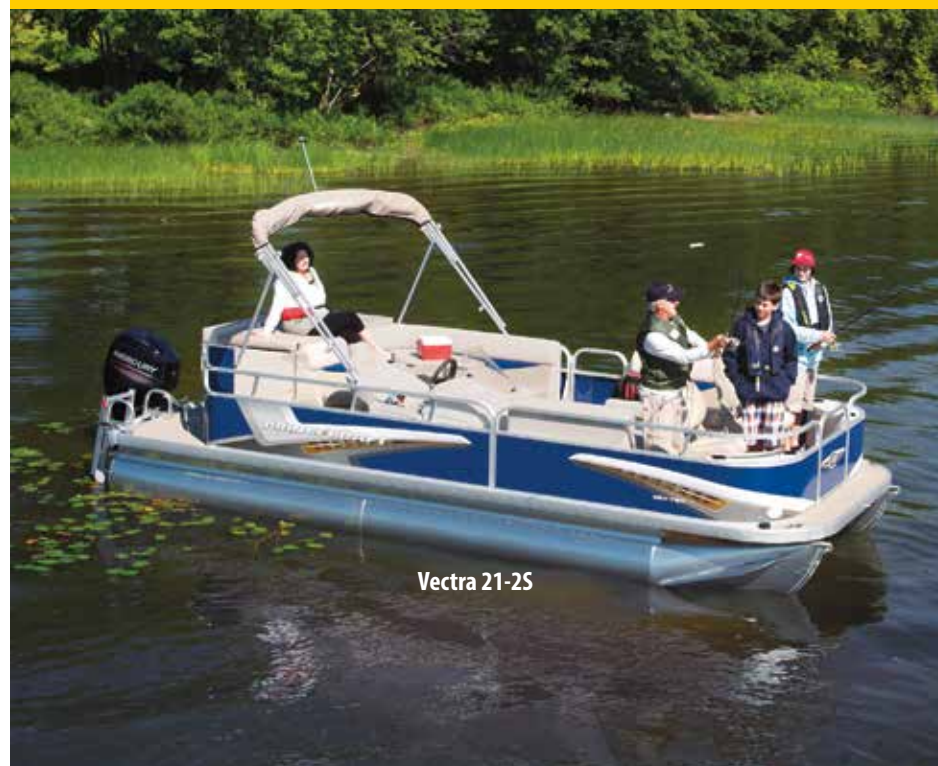
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**TOM CARPENTER**

# The VIP Slip Bobber

## Versatile, immersible, productive

Slip bobbers dominate my fishing methodology all summer long and for almost everything that swims. Few fishing techniques are as effective over such a wide variety of situations and species. That's only half the truth. The other half: There is a deep satisfaction in watching a slip bobber go down as a fish hits below.

Taken together, these qualities of versatility and immersibility make slip-bobbering one of a Wisconsin summer's best all-around fishing techniques.

### Slip Float Selections

Basic, run-of-the-mill slip floats reside in bins in sporting goods stores. Made of a round, oblong or egg-shaped piece of foam with a plastic tube through the middle for your line, these floats are economical to buy.

Balsa floats cost more but they are light, they last longer, and their hard finish doesn't "groove up" as fast on the float's shaft. A balsa float's smooth outer surface also provides less water resistance to biting fish. Hard plastic floats do the job almost as well as balsa.

### Rigging, Casting, Hooking

The basic slip-float rig is very simple but highly effective. Start with a slip-knot. Slide on a bead. Slip the float on, with top toward the bead. Tie on a hook appropriate to the species you're pursuing. Add weight above hook but below the bobber.


Pre-made slip-knots save time and are easy to use. Tip: Don't trim a slip-knot's dangling ends too short. Leave yourself a good inch or more on either side, so you can easily grab the strands to tighten up the knot again after you've moved it.

A bead produces a larger and more reliable "stop" for the float, versus a naked knot. Tip: If your bead doesn't overrun the slip-knot, but is too small to stop the float effectively, add a second and larger bead below the first.

Float selection is key. In a wind of any force, say over 10 m.p.h., go with a larger-than-normal float. This lets you use more weight so that your bait gets all the way down and reaches the fish faster. As long as your float balances, fish can still pull it under.

Cast with a "lob" or "sidearm" effect to prevent tangles between knot / bead / float / weight / hook. Once the float hits water, feed line freely until the bead(s) and then the slip-knot butt up against it.

Getting a good hookset is challenging when you're slip floating. Get all the slack out of the line as you point the rod toward the hit, feel the road "load" with the fish's weight, then really sweep upwards to set the hook.

Work weed edges anytime, loose weed beds (cabbage), and deep, cool water. 

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



### Catch It All

#### CRAPPIE

**Slip Bobber Size:** Small

**Hook Size:** Size 4 to 6

**Bait:** Minnow (hook through lips)

Catch suspended mid-summer fish.

#### BLUEGILL

**Slip Bobber Size:** Small

**Hook Size:** 6 to 8

**Bait:** Nightcrawler half, small leech, grub, waxworm

Fish deep weed edges, humps and weedlines.

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

**Slip Bobber Size:** Medium to Large

**Hook Size:** 2 to 4

**Bait:** Shiner Minnow, medium to large leech, nightcrawler

Fish points, drop-offs and deep weedlines. Explore the edges of lily pads or slop.

#### SMALLMOUTH BASS

**Slip Bobber Size:** Medium

**Hook Size:** 4 to 6

**Bait:** Nightcrawler, medium leech

Explore slopes, drop-offs, mid-lake humps, rocky-bouldery areas.

#### WALLEYE

**Slip Bobber Size:** Medium to Large (in wind)

**Hook Size:** 4 to 6

**Bait:** Leech (hooked in middle), nightcrawler, shiners (hooked in lips)

Search deep weed edges and structure such as humps or breaks.

#### PIKE

**Slip Bobber Size:** Large to Extra Large

**Hook Size:** 2/0 to 4/0

(Note: use steel leader)

**Bait:** Sucker minnow (through lips)

**DAVID DUWE**

# Lindy Rigging

## Productive fishing with live bait

Live bait fishing has been part of my fishing repertoire since I was old enough to hold a pole. Using natural bait will increase your odds of success. Some 40 years later, I am still fishing and making a career out of it as a professional fishing guide.

With clients and young people, live bait is the easiest and most productive way to catch fish. Anyone who has fished with me over the last 20 years of guiding knows my love of Lindy rigging. It is one of the easiest and most effective ways to present live bait. I rig for walleyes, smallmouth and northern pike.

The Lindy rig is a walking sinker or Lindy no-snap sinker; a ball bearing swivel; a snell from two feet to 10 feet; and a hook. When fishing nightcrawlers or leeches, a #4 or #6 - size octopus hook is one of the best. For minnows, I choose a larger #2 hook. The size of the weight is determined by a couple of factors. First is the water depth you are fishing; the deeper the water, the heavier the weight. Walking sinkers come in many sizes, 1/8 ounce to 1 1/2 ounce is what I use the most.

Secondly, how fast you are trolling makes a difference. You want the rig on the bottom and the line at a 45-degree angle off the bottom. A simple rule: the faster you troll, the heavier the weight. The snell length is a bit more complicated. There are a myriad of factors, including clarity of water; where the fish are located in the water column; and how skittish the fish are, among other factors. The most important component to the Lindy rig is the quality of the ball bearing swivel. Without one, you will have a day full of line twists.

When rigging with customers, I will put the trolling motor on anchor mode, or slowly back troll. The need for a heavy weight isn't necessary. I choose a leader length of two to three feet.

For bass or walleye, I use a spinning

outfit: a Pflueger President reel spooled with 8-pound Silver Thread monofilament; and a 6-foot, 6-inch, medium action Fenwick rod. For Northern Pike, I use 20-pound monofilament on an Abu Garcia 6500 with a bait clicker on a 7-foot medium heavy Berkley lightening rod. The areas I concentrate on are "spot" on spots, which make my presentation stationary and vertical.


For walleye, the bait of choice is nightcrawlers or leeches. For smallmouth, use minnows, chubs and leeches. For Northern Pike, I exclusively use "meat," i.e., suckers or chubs.

The spots I key on are weedlines with scattered rubble (hard bottom). Where I fish the weedline is at 15 - 17 feet of water. In summer, this hard bottom weedline is where fish will really concentrate. Some areas produce a limit of fish in an hour. Weedlines that are associated with a point always are a great place to start on an unfamiliar lake.

When a fish bites, I will put slack in the line and let the fish freely swim with the bait for approximately 10 seconds. Then I will reel in the slack until tight and make a sweeping hook set.

### To recap, here are the keys to Lindy rigging everyone should use.

- The deeper the water, the heavier the weight.
- Ball bearing swivels are a must.
- The clearer the water, the longer the snell.
- When trolling, make sure your line remains at a 45-degree angle to the bottom.

Lindy rigging is decades old and still effective. It should be a part of every fisherman's repertoire. 

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





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**TOM CARPENTER**

## Cub's Corner

### Summertime is canoe time

Every Badger cub out there should spend a little time in a canoe sometime during a Wisconsin summer.

Wildlife watching is superb from a canoe. There is essentially no noise to scare birds or animals as you skim along in some beautiful, shallow and bountiful places. Herons, egrets, ducks, geese and all manner of shorebirds are best observed from the water. Songbird watching is exquisite from a canoe, with viewing of bug-hunting purple martins, swallows and cedar waxwings particularly good.

Fishing is fine from a canoe. A canoe provides a welcome way to get at fish on waters where a regular boat can't go or isn't welcome. A canoe can also take you and any kids away from the beaten path on

smaller streams of all kinds.

When fishing from a canoe, simplify your approach. Rig up a couple rods before pushing off, to have a spare at hand without re-rigging. Carry only tackle essentials in a couple pockets in a fishing vest; this minimizes tackle boxes, clutter and fish-scaring clinks in the canoe. Put essential tools – pliers, knife, scissors, clippers, hook extractor – on a lanyard around your neck.

Safety first. Everybody must, repeat must, wear a personal floatation device. Another safety precaution: Never stand in any canoe – it's a sure way to lose balance and fall out.

If you keep a low profile while canoeing, that leaves boarding and unboarding as



the most likely places to experience an unwanted bath. Here's how to avoid that: One partner should hold the canoe steady while the other gets in or out. Stay low. Grab the sides of the canoe with your hands for balance as you climb in and move. When moving, always maintain three points of contact – that means two hands and one foot as you're stepping, or two feet and one hand when not. Always keep that low profile.


Operating a canoe seems easy, and in fact is quite instinctive. But a few tips can help the beginning canoer improve his or her technique. The person in back steers, usually by paddling on the side opposite the direction you want the canoe to go. A little experimenting shows you how long (and how much work) this takes. Using the back paddle as a stationary rudder, or paddling backwards, is another way to make a canoe change direction but do it faster.

Paddling is simple. Reach ahead, dip the paddle in, and pull back. An old Boundary Waters guide once taught me this trick

to good paddling: Stick the paddle in and imagine you are pulling the canoe past that point, rather than pulling your paddle through the water. It works.

If there are two paddlers, the front paddler paddles on the side of their choice, switching at their whim, and the back paddler's job is to counteract and steer.

The classic paddle stroke is a "J" shape, where the tall stem of the J is parallel to the canoe and the hook tails out and away at stroke's end. This counteracts a straight thrust's tendency to veer the vessel one way or the other.

The classic canoeing stance – kneeling – is awfully tough on multiple parts of the body, especially one that's over 50 like mine. In my estimation, a detachable seat with a backrest is a worthwhile accessory, even if the kids call me a duffer when I use it. 

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

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | WASHBURN COUNTY

## The Spooner Fish Hatchery

**H**ave you ever wondered where that monster walleye came from that you caught on your favorite Wisconsin lake? Or what about that first musky that you caught with your grandpa? Well, there's a good chance that it came from a little hatchery located in Spooner, Wisconsin. Now don't get us wrong, there is a lot of natural reproduction in Wisconsin lakes, but the Wisconsin DNR definitely helps maintain (and boost) our fish populations with their fish management programs via their fish hatcheries. Spooner, located in the heart of northwest Wisconsin, is home to the Governor Tommy G. Thompson State Fish Hatchery, the largest musky hatchery in the world.

This state-of-the-art hatchery was renovated and expanded in 1995; the original hatchery began producing fish in 1914. The hatchery began as a walleye hatchery, but eventually added northern pike and muskellunge, as well. The hatchery has the capacity to produce up to 2.5 million, 1.5- to 2-inch walleye fingerlings; 100,000, 6-inch walleye fingerlings; and 100,000, 8- to 12-inch muskellunge and/or northern pike fingerlings.

So, why is the Spooner Fish Hatchery known as the largest musky hatchery in the world? In a typical year, more fingerling muskies (8 - 12-inch) are produced in Spooner than any other hatchery in the world!

If you're heading to northwest Wisconsin, you'll want to be sure to stop in to the fish hatchery visitor center where you can learn how the fish are raised with hands-on exhibits for all ages. You'll be in awe of the facility as you view the incubation batteries (jars) and fry tanks from the glass overlook. Depending on when you stop by, you may even be able to hop on a free tour to get a "behind the scenes" look at the process.

For more information on the Governor Tommy G. Thompson Fish Hatchery or to plan your trip to the Spooner and Washburn County area, visit [www.VisitWashCo.com](http://www.VisitWashCo.com). Happy fishing! 🎣



*The Governor Tommy G. Thompson State Fish Hatchery in Spooner, the largest musky hatchery in the world, makes up just one part of a great family vacation in Washburn County.*



### MEMORY MAKER CHARTER

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Monster Chinook salmon were the real -head turners. Cathy shown here, according to the Captain, had the hot hand with three chinook landed on an early June morning totaling nearly 62 pounds of hard fighting and great eating.

Brett shows his 25.15 pound chinook, and Trina poses with another early June salmon. The rest of the 2019 catches shown are also dominated by chinook salmon, with a beautiful 20 pound Laker thrown in for fun. Don't forget the steelhead, or Great Lakes rainbow, and Cohos also waiting for your party on Lake Michigan. 🎣

What are you waiting for? The captain and crew of Memory Maker are rigged and ready to make your personal memories this summer. Connect with [memorymakercharters.com](http://memorymakercharters.com) or 847-746-1684.



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CAPT. LEE HAASCH

# Algoma Delivers

## Big Kings, sand beaches, cool breezes

The customers had just arrived. The engines were warmed up and after short introductions and coffee, Trevor cast us off the dock. Minutes later we were powering down in 80 feet of water and Trevor had his first line going in. Soon the line was peeling off the Altum reel. I grabbed a rod and started setting my side and moments later my Slide Diver started pounding, the tip of my Ugly Stick dipping in and out of the water. It was another big one.

A double strike turned into a single and then another. The overcast morning was full of action and soon, we had three massive King Salmon in the cooler taking up almost half the space and two more lying on the deck waiting to be added. Our five King Salmon catch included a small fish of about 19 pounds with the largest tipping the scales at just a few ounces shy of a massive 30 pounds.

It wasn't too long and our customers were shedding their sweatshirts and light jackets to enjoy the cool breeze on the lake. Many anglers comment on the comfortable weather on the big water. On days like these, crowds also flock to Algoma's Crescent Beach to enjoy the cooling breezes and take a plunge in Lake Michigan's cool, clear waters. Our mile long sand beach is one of the largest stretches of sand beach within a single municipality. A long boardwalk separates the sand from the hillside and it's hard to find a time all summer long that it doesn't have walking traffic enjoying the breathtaking views and peaceful sounds of waves and birds.

Algoma's summertime fishery is loaded with a tasty mixed bag including acrobatic Steelhead, the emergence of strong Lake Trout numbers, and with the occasional Coho Salmon mixed in. First and foremost, though, as a sought after trophy, is the King Salmon. The Algoma area has led the state in King Salmon catches for over 20 years, and have been the leader for Steelhead, or Great Lakes Rainbow, for almost 15 years. This is the area on the east side of Wisconsin that produces big fish and big numbers of fish, cool breezes and warm beaches.

With one of the largest charter fleets

in Wisconsin and state of the art public fish cleaning facilities, the Algoma area has everything to offer the Lake Michigan angler. Whether coming with your own boat, or your preference is a charter fishing adventure with friends or family, Algoma delivers.

Experience for yourself the great fishery Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want big fish, check out Algoma! For charter information or fishing reports visit my website at: [www.FishAlgoma.com](http://www.FishAlgoma.com) or call 1-888-966-3474. From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 2, good luck and good fishing!

Capt. Lee Haasch is a charter captain out of Algoma, Wisconsin. Capt. Lee has over 45 years of great lakes angling experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with education seminars and timely freelance articles in outdoor publications.



Algoma is known for large Kings. Capt. Lee knows just where to find the big ones like this 30.2 pound brute!



Erin Gate from Nester Falls, Ontario, caught her very first Lake Michigan Lake trout on a late summer outing with Capt. Lee.

# ALGOMA!

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- July 4 - FIREWORKS - Waters Edge B & B
- July 5 - FIRST FRIDAY: ART in ALGOMA ART WALK
- July 6 - RIO CREEK FLY-IN & HANGER DANCE
- July 12-13 - CITY WIDE GARGE SALE
- July 19 - 4th ANNUAL OUTDOOR MOVIE
- July 20-28 - DOOR KEWAUNEE SALMON TOURNAMENT
- July 30 - TALL SHIPS MUSTER in ALGOMA
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| Night Vision<br><b>NGVS</b> | Blue Zone<br><b>BLZN</b> | Black Hole<br><b>BKHL</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|

## Brecks

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## SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON

Explore Wisconsin



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The sun is out, birds are singing. Road trip anyone? We suggest that you hit the road and head into Port. Here on Lake Michigan, just north of Milwaukee, we are a combination of New England charm and Midwestern friendliness, and we invite you to discover our charms.

Port Washington is already known for its successful charter fishing fleet and incredible Great Lakes fishing. But we have so much more to offer!

Do you like historic buildings and lighthouses? Take a self-guided walking tour through the historic downtown and along the harbor. You'll pass two lighthouses, and go up hidden staircases that reveal breathtaking views of the city and the harbor. Don't forget your camera, because you will want to bring these views home with you. Stop into the Port Exploreum to learn more about our history and this great lake at our doorstep. Make sure to see the impressive exhibit on shipwrecks.

We have fun shops for you to explore, including specialty food shops, and even a winery and a brewpub. Don't resist stopping in at any of our great restaurants or coffee shops featuring cuisine ranging from gourmet, farm-to-table, to homemade soups and sandwiches. The restaurants themselves are worth a trip. Enjoy the views streetside, lake-side, or patio style.

And if you want to play outside, there are nature trails nearby for hiking and birding and two sandy beaches you can walk. A 30-mile recreation trail runs through town and offers chances to bike, hike, and bird. 🐦

## Upcoming events:

July 20 ..... Port Fish Day  
 August 2 – 4 ..... Lions Fest & Fishing Derby  
 August 3 ..... Port Washington Wine/Beer 5K  
 Saturdays through October ..... Lakeside Beer Garden  
 Saturdays through October ..... Farmers Market

Discover more events on the Port Washington website: [www.visitportwashington.com](http://www.visitportwashington.com) or call 1-800-719-4881.



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## SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

## ATV-UTV Trails, Camping, Fishing just the Start

**P**lan a trip to Hurley and experience over 200 miles of trails to ride. Start your day in Hurley and map a route to see Lake Superior, Weber Lake, Upson Falls, Corrigan's Lookout and many other unique areas. To request a trail map, call the Hurley Chamber of Commerce Office at 715-561-4334.

Iron County has over 214 named lakes for fishing, paddling and simply enjoying. 154 of those lakes have public access, as well as 136 miles of trout streams. There are a variety of lakes that provide different fishing opportunities with everything from bluegill to musky. Anglers have multiple options to fish lakes with primitive walk-in type access or developed boat launches. Detailed maps are available to guide you through our lakes for the best adventures.

Iron County has over 170,000 acres of county land, much of which is accessible through back roads and old logging

trails. Adventurers can explore the land and camp anywhere along the lands for free for up to two weeks. Campers are also welcome at county parks, including Weber Lake and Schomberg Park. Both have ATV/UTV trail access. Located close to Saxon Harbor, campers will find Frontier Campgrounds and the Driftwood, both privately owned with ATV/UTV trail access also. Call our office for a guide to campgrounds.

After a day of adventure, be sure to stop at any of the local establishments. A variety of cuisine is available from fresh homemade pastas and pizzas to prime rib or a fresh hand packed burger. The locally owned bars/restaurants specialize in fantastic food and friendly service.

#### Plan a getaway and enjoy our local heritage

The Iron County Heritage Festival begins Friday, July 26, and continues through Sunday, August 11, throughout

*With 214 named lakes for fishing or paddling and 154 of those lakes with public access, and a nearby Great Lake that's superior, you'll never have to leave the waters of Iron County to stay deep in fun. But you will want to. Check out just some of Iron County's upcoming events and celebrations.*



Iron County. Sign up for the annual Hurley Heritage Days Parade, which will be held on Saturday, July 27. Featuring the famous Hurley Alumni Band along with many class reunion floats, everyone enjoys the parade. The parade starts at 2 pm. For information on the parade, contact the Hurley Chamber of Commerce at 715-561-4334.

Fun, food, music and raffles await at the annual St. Mary's Church Bazaar on Sunday, July 28. Starting at noon, you can enjoy fry bread, burgers and more. Bring the kids to enjoy games and don't forget bingo. For more information, call St. Mary's at 715-561-2606.

Iron County Fair will be held August 1 - 4, at the fairgrounds in Saxon. Friday, August 2, will be the 4H Youth Horse Show; Market Poultry Judging; live music begin-

ning at 3 pm with "Flashback;" and at 7 pm, the "Whitehouse Players." Saturday's schedule includes the Antique Tractor Pull; Kiddie Tractor Pull; Horseshoe Tournament; and live music at 3 pm with Bella Musik and "Starlette's Web" at 7 pm. Come on out to the fair for exhibits, rides and, of course, food!

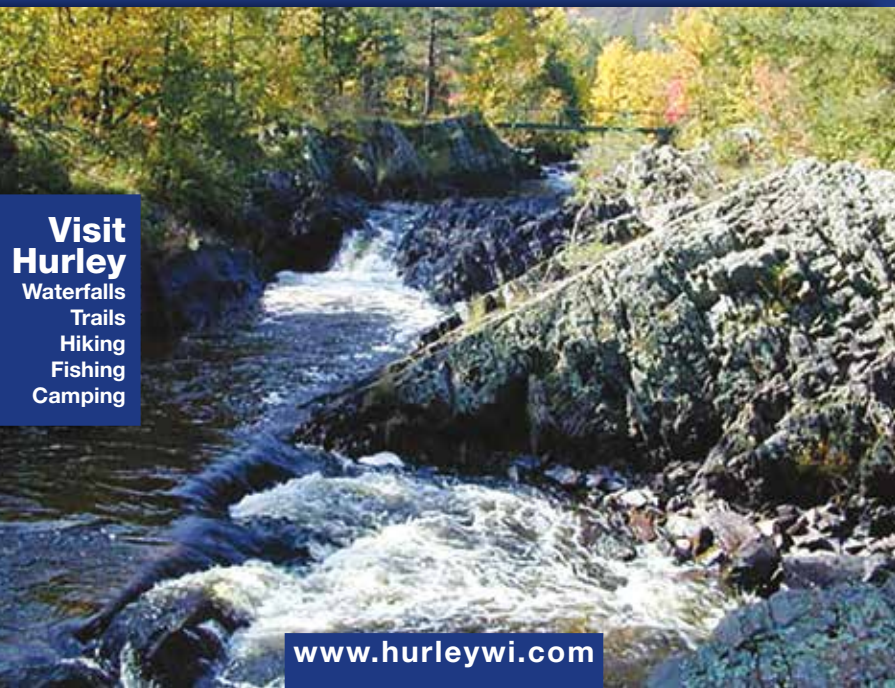
#### Festival Italiano, Saturday, August 31

A trip to Hurley for the last hoorah of summer won't disappoint! The day is filled with food vendors lining Silver Street, games, craft vendors, music throughout the day. An afternoon performance by "Marty's Goldenaires" gets the crowd ready for the evening street dance featuring "IV Play" from Mankato, Minnesota.



Join us soon in Hurley! [www.hurleywi.com](http://www.hurleywi.com)

[www.hurleywi.com](http://www.hurleywi.com)

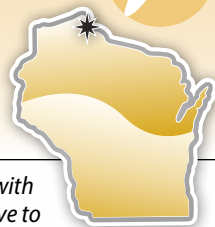


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Explore Wisconsin



#### JULY-AUGUST 2019

July 10th - Chautauqua Summer Series. Eric Carson - "Geology of the Lower Wisconsin River", 6:30 pm. Refreshments. Ferryville Village Hall.

July 27th - River Bluff Daze. Antique Tractor Pull at noon, Huge Farmers Market, Fireworks at Dusk...all free. Ferryville Village Hall and Sugar Creek Park

July 27th - River Bluff Daze Hike. Meet at Ferryville boat landing for treats and information at 8:30am.

August 14th - Chautauqua Summer Series. Bob O'Connor - "Dennis Mahan- Pre-Civil War - Military Tactical Operations Instructor at West Point", 6:30 pm. Refreshments. Ferryville Village Hall.



[visitferryville.com](http://visitferryville.com)



JOHN LUTHENS

## Wild, Wonderful, Wisconsin

### Hiking the North Country Trail

After backpacking the first week of summer in the mountains of Colorado, I'll admit that it was a bit more than I was prepared to handle: Piles of maps and gear, switch-back ascents and snow-covered passes. I had dreams of fishing in high-country sunrises for sparkling trout, but I awoke gasping for breath in the morning to ice-encrusted waterfalls and glacial drifts that were as high as my waist.

The snow-capped views and wildlife scenery proved to be spectacular, and I did pick up a ton of useful trail tips from the local hikers. But, I couldn't help thinking that a backcountry tour would have been just as stunning and wild if I'd saved the traveling expenses and hiked the North Country Trail right here at home in Wisconsin.

As the longest National Scenic Trail in the country, the North Country Trail starts in the Adirondack Mountains in New York and works west through the upper Great Lakes and into Minnesota before sweeping to a conclusion on the grassy plains of North Dakota. It runs for a length of 4,600 miles, and Wisconsin happens to host one of the most adventurous sections.

From the Montreal River on the Michigan border, the Wisconsin portion of the North Country Trail winds through country lanes, pristine waterfalls and bubbling streams, climbing into the Penokee Mountain Range of Iron County and stretching across rock outcroppings that rival Colorado with their expansive views.

Continuing through Ashland and Bayfield Counties, the oldest and wildest section burrows through the Chequamegon National Forest. Mirrored lakes and spring-fed rivers are abundant. There's even a chance of glimpsing timber wolves, bears, or grazing elk from one of the developing herds in the area.

The North Country Trail finishes its Wisconsin tour along a geological divide, where the north-bound Bois Brule River meets up with the St. Croix on its southern portage into the Mississippi. White Pines form natural cathedrals dappled in stained-glass sunbeams, and blackberries and blueberries are ripe for the taking along the fire-lane vistas that make up the trail's venture through the sand barrens of Douglas County.

With 200 miles of trail running through Wisconsin, and with new sections being cut every year by volunteers, it may require some map-browsing and exploring to find a trailhead suited to one's taste for adventure. Low-impact camping is allowed along a good portion of the network, with a wide variety of remote backpacking, family-style, and state forest camp sites tucked along the edges.

Detailed maps and local contact information can be obtained through the North Country Trail Association at [northcountrytrail.org](http://northcountrytrail.org), and some remote forays require a brief check-in at a local ranger station. Barring the desire to carry your survival needs in heavy backpack, the best route may be to establish a base camp along a chosen section and branch out for day-hike explorations.

Like any extensive, wilderness system, the North Country Trail could take scenic weeks to explore in its entirety. I guarantee it will be time well spent, and I know from experience that it's far easier than hiking it all the way out to Colorado. 🌲

John Luthens is a freelance writer and outdoor journalist from Grafton, Wisconsin. His first novel, *Taconite Creek*, is available on Amazon or at [www.cablepublishing.com](http://www.cablepublishing.com), or by contacting the author at [Luthens@hotmail.com](mailto:Luthens@hotmail.com)



Wisconsin's portion of the North Country Trail packs through some of the wildest lands in the state.

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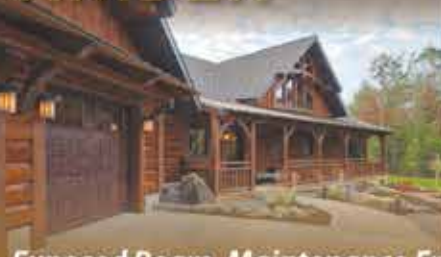
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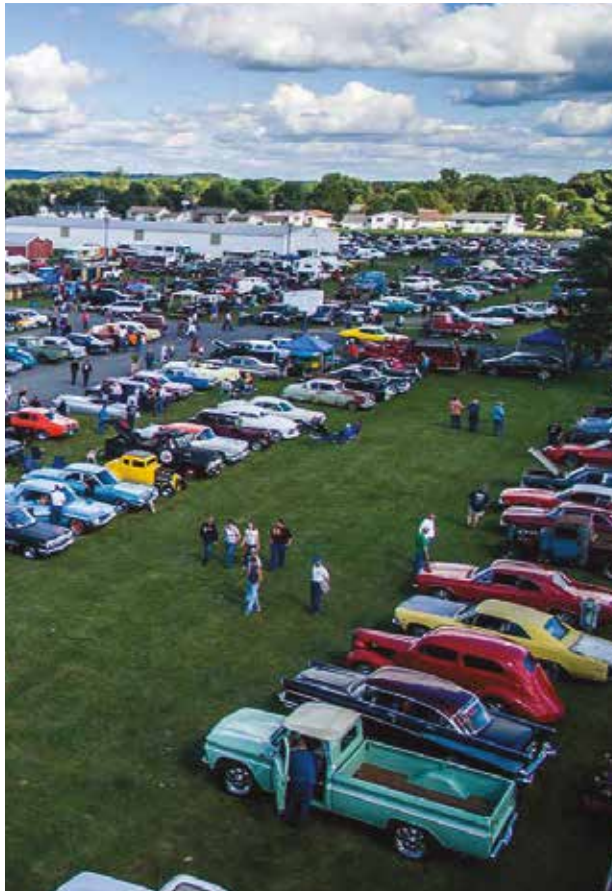
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# 5 Things to Know Before You Go

## MISSISSIPPI MAYHEM



Fascinated by hot rods, pinup girls, and vintage clothing? Or do you drive a classic motorcycle and look a little bit like The Fonz? You'll fit right in at Mississippi Mayhem, a car show and retro-themed event held this year on September 13-14th in West Salem, Wisconsin. If you're ready to party like it's 1959, here are five things to know before you go:

- 1 Retro rides of a certain era** - Though all cool vehicles are welcome, the main attractions are pre-1965 cars and pre-1975 motorcycles, which will be the only ones featured in the show. This is to help preserve the "step-back-in-time" feel of the event and support the vibe of nostalgia at the core of Mississippi Mayhem.
- 2 All things vintage** - It's not just the cars that are throwbacks! Attendees are encouraged to dress the part and enjoy the music and atmosphere of an era gone, but not forgotten. Many go to great lengths to recreate the look and feel, so join in on the fun!
- 3 Kids dig it, too** - When accompanied by a paying adult, children 12 and under are free! That's because the daytime fun is for everyone, including the next generation of hot rodders. Concerned about little eyes and ears? Dip out before the sun sets and the nightlife heats up.
- 4 Jam-packed weekend** - You'll never be bored at Mississippi Mayhem. Shop the retro market and swap meet, hear great bands, watch the street drags and burnouts, compete in the costume contest, and witness some amazing flamethrowing.
- 5 Stay the night** - Coming from out of town? No problem! Camping is available for \$25 a night and includes restrooms and showers. Bring your tents and your trailers—and your themed decor! Electrical hookups are not available.

Everyone knows La Crosse has one of the nation's premier Oktoberfest festivals. Well, on top of that we also have Holmen's Kornfest, Rotary Lights, and Celebrate Onalaska... the festivals go on and on. What can we say? **WE'RE FESTIVE.**

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SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE

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After a day of tasting delicious, locally crafted beverages, find the trail’s end at the downtown Radisson Hotel La Crosse. Located in Downtown La Crosse, the Radisson Hotel offers a simply delightful stay. Indulge in picturesque views of the Mississippi River and historic downtown while relaxing in the beautifully appointed accommodations. Dine in the hotel’s TRL restaurant or take a stroll out the front door to experience La Crosse’s downtown nightlife, restaurants, shops, and Riverside Park.

Download your Trail Map from [explorelacrosse.com](http://explorelacrosse.com) and hit the Trail!

Explore Wisconsin



The Coulee Region Craft Beverage Trail offers a tasteful experience...and lots of fun

BOB SPIERINGS

Bear Baiting 101

Using scents and attractants to prepare for the hunt

It is a known fact that bears have an extremely powerful sense of smell. This can be attributed to the fact that a bear’s brain is roughly a third of the size of a human’s, but the part that is devoted to smell is five times larger. It is estimated that the average bear can detect scent up to five miles away. Bears rely on their keen sense of smell for survival, and as hunters, we can use this knowledge to our advantage to attract bear to a site, in hopes they become comfortable with the site and return often.

In addition to traditional baiting methods, it is common practice to utilize scents and attractants to lure bears back to the site again and again. Attractants have no nutritional value, but they do exactly as their name suggests; they attract bears to a site. When attractants are layered on a

regular basis on a fresh bait pile, or near the area, it will condition bears to return to this spot. In addition to consistency, it is imperative to keep a bear’s curiosity peaked to entice him to return to the site. When a site is replenished and attractants layered, the fresh smells will keep the bear interested in returning to the site on a frequent basis.

If you are looking for bear scent this season, we at Bob’s Bear Bait continue to improve our already great bear scent products. We now carry oil-based bear scent which will hold up in the wet, damp conditions and, in addition to the oil-based scent, we are excited to be releasing a new product known as BACON SMEAR. BACON SMEAR is a very powerful scent, but has all artificial ingredients, which makes it legal in Wisconsin, where meat is illegal to use

on your bait piles. It was used on a trial basis in the 2018 season by several successful hunters, and when we were making large batches at our Appleton location this spring, there were bear sightings in the Village of Little Chute and northeast Appleton seeking out the scent of the bacon. It really does work and attracts the bears to an area. If you are looking for bear scent, the new BACON SMEAR or oil-based scents, stop in summer or early fall at one of our three locations in Appleton, Phelps, or Upper Michigan. You can also order online at [bobsbearbait.com](http://bobsbearbait.com) and have it shipped for free directly to you for your hunt.

Bob Spierings is a native of Northeast Wisconsin and is the Owner of Bob’s Bear Bait with three locations in Appleton, Phelps, and Upper Michigan. Bob’s Bear Bait can also be found online at [bobsbearbait.com](http://bobsbearbait.com)

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| Cookies            | Cranberry Jam                   | Anise        | Maple Syrup   |
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| Popcorn            | Raspberry                       | Vanilla      | Craisins      |
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LEE GATZKE

## Bear Hunting - The Family Plan

### 3-Generation effort ends in archery harvest

Drawing a bear permit in Wisconsin is cause for a celebration. It takes between three to 10 years to draw a permit, depending on where you wish to hunt. So when your hair has turned gray and your joints begin to ache, it makes you wonder if waiting 10 years to draw is a good idea. That's precisely why I've been applying for Zone C where I can draw every three to four years. The fact that I have family that live in bear country within Zone C is a real plus.

Since I have a labor force, consisting of my son and grandchildren, who are instrumental in setting up bait stations and baiting them regularly, it makes this a team effort. My son has good connections with private landowners willing to let us hunt. Some of these landowners have problem bears and welcome our presence; others are just good Wisconsinites who realize that bear hunting is part of our heritage. My "thanks" go out to these people.

We start baiting in May or June and continue through the bear season. Maintaining a bait station requires checking them every day or two to keep them supplied with bait. Once you have a bear coming in to your bait, you need to keep it stocked daily with goodies to ensure they will return.

If the bait is gone when they show up, the bear may never come back again. Things get exciting when a larger bear shows up on the cameras we have monitoring each bait station. Come late July, things tend to slow down at the baits, probably due to other bear hunters




Author's DIY bear hunt ends with a hefty bear

starting up bait stations in the area. The bear season opener, in early September, seems to coincide with ripening corn - along with a host of other crops - and the bears have a lot of food to choose from.

Zone C encompasses farm country and bears often are attracted to ripening corn and other crops and will abandon bait stations. They will still come to the baits, but are unpredictable as to when. Once a bear shows up on camera in daylight, it's time to hunt that spot. Having multiple bait sites increases your odds that will happen. We begin baiting four or five spots and then abandoned those that weren't being hit regularly. By season opener, we'll have two or three bait sites that are being hit regularly enough to feel we have a chance to score there.

Bear season arrived at a time when the baits were being hit less often as time went on. One landowner complained that the bears were working over his corn so we were confident they were still around. Gorging themselves on corn left little appetite left for the dessert we offered, but a few weeks into the season they began to re-visit our baits. A call from my son reported that a good bear had been on a bait two days in a row during daylight. I sat that site the following evening and shortly before dark the same bear appeared. At ten yards I released an arrow making a solid hit. The bear ran a short distance and coughed once before all went silent. I slipped out the back door and returned later with help to follow a short blood trail, in the dark, to a very dead bear.

Unlike deer hunting, bear hunting was a group effort made successful by family willing to orchestrate the event for the one member holding a kill permit. 

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



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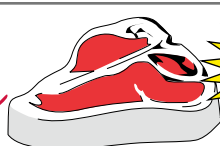
**WIGameFest.com**

## On The Cover

A lone kayaker paddles the Lake Superior shoreline in this photo provided by OWO tourism partner Hurley Chamber of Commerce. Starting with 15,000 lakes, major river systems, two Great Lakes and vast amounts of national and state lands, paddling, fishing, camping, trail-riding, hiking, biking and countless other outdoor opportunities await Wisconsin vacationers and visitors.



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**JOHN CLER**

## Whitetail Food Plots

### *Planting the seeds for the autumn harvest*

If you are fortunate enough to hunt deer on private land, now is the time to begin planning for planting food plots! They are relatively easy and inexpensive to plant and will add another dimension to your deer hunting. Watching deer feed on something you planted for them is almost as rewarding as feeding your garden's produce to your family. If things work out, your food plot may also supply some venison for the family table.

Food plots do best if you begin with a weed-free, clean seed bed. This can be achieved in several different ways. Tilling the soil every few weeks will set back the weeds each time and eventually give you a clean surface. Using a herbicide, like Round-Up, to kill the weeds a week or so prior to tilling and planting, requires less time but adds to the cost of the project. If you are planting in an area with tall weeds, mowing a week prior to applying the herbicide helps achieve a better result.

Tilling is best done with a roto-tiller behind a tractor, if you have access to the equipment. A small tiller behind a garden tractor equipped with a power take-off will do a great job. A small disc pulled behind an ATV is another option that may be used to till your food plot.

Wisconsin soils are derived from woodland plants, meaning that they are naturally acidic. You will need to add lime to the soil to change the soil acidity, or pH. Food plot crops grow best in soils with a pH between 6 and 7. If you remember your high school chemistry – a pH of 7 is “neutral” (acid and base are balanced). Any drop in the pH below 7, means that the soil is increasing acidic. Too much acid in the soil changes the availability of soil nutrients that plants will need to grow well and become attractive to deer.

Lime comes in two forms, powdered and pelletized. Most farmers apply the powdered type before tilling each spring. This changes the soil pH quickly. The pellet-



*The author's son-in-law, Shawn Myers, with a nice buck taken in late September, while feeding in a food plot.*

ized form is easier for most hunters to use, as it can be spread by hand, or with a seed spreader. The lime pellets release lime slower and should be spread well ahead of planting. Fertilizer should be added at the time of planting, the type of fertilizer dependent on the crop planted.

A good choice for a starter food plot is one of the brassica mixes available at sporting goods stores. Brassicas are turnips, canola, and sugar beets. These should be planted between July 15 and August 15. They produce big, green leaves that become sweeter after the first frost. Deer will also dig for the turnips and beets after they are covered by snow.

Winter rye is planted around the beginning of September. It comes up quickly and will often take on the look of a lawn, as the deer mow it off nearly as fast as it grows. It will re-sprout the following spring and grow to five feet with a wheat-like seed head on top.

Once planted, all seeds need to be covered with soil. This may be done by simply

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 32**



*With fawn gloves (latex), DNR employees and helpers handle captured deer during workup and data collection.*

**JERRY DAVIS**

## DNR Deer-Predator Study

### *Citizen science plays role in 5-year study*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' five-year CWD, Deer and Predator Study began in 2016 and is focused on examining how different factors, such as predation, hunting, disease, and habitat impact deer survival and deer populations. Bobcats and coyotes, two primary predators of deer, are also part of the study. For some volunteers lucky enough to be included in a DNR team, a portion of the study may include an opportunity to help find and hold a day-old fawn prior to its examination by a specialist.

The Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Deer and Predator Study is targeted towards two primary geographical areas: a low CWD prevalence region in Grant and western Iowa Counties and a high CWD zone area in eastern Iowa and western Dane Counties. Since the study's inception, hundreds of adult deer, fawns and the predators have been captured, examined, and fitted with GPS collars. Information gained by the researchers from the collars and examination of captured animals will help them find the animals' den sites, learn about their diets, and track their activities and movements. The study also makes it possible for the DNR to gather data on deer health issues, including CWD and pregnancy rates, litter size, and nutritional condition, among others.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 37**

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DICK ELLIS

# 10th Anniversary DeerFest

## The man behind the show

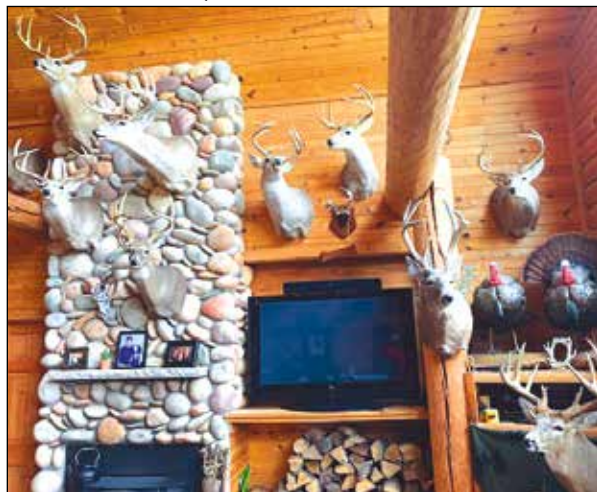
So just who is the man behind DeerFest? You know the show, most likely, heading into its 10th anniversary at the Washington County Fair Park August 2-4. But, most likely, you don't know Hugh McAloon.

As the interview begins, McAloon rings so much the ordinary Wisconsin deer hunter that many of the questions could have been answered by the stereotypical man clad in camo or orange who rises in the black to make sure he's on stand to watch the sky lighten in the east. His personal whitetail heritage has been handed down from his father and passed on to his son. He speaks of watching, in the day, scores of deer before noon in the agriculture country of Wisconsin and of taking any antlered deer that made the mistake of venturing close. He knows too how to pay the dues of time on stand demanded in the northern forest to eventually earn a shot.

McAloon, following the script of many Badger outdoorsmen, is also not solely a deer hunter. He's fished the Otter Street walleye tournament on the Winnebago system since 1984, and the Merc Nationals held here since '86. On the morning of this interview, he is also remembering the most recent Battle on Bago with his son Dustin, and a comeback in bad weather, and from poor fishing on day one to claim a limit of "eyes" and the "nice check" that comes with a 51st place finish among 335 entrees.

He's a Wisconsin outdoorsman. He's a business man and risk taker. And it is deer hunting that moves him, outside of his family, first and foremost. "I love to fish," he said. "But I'm addicted to deer hunting."

He appreciates the opportunity to talk not just about the 10th anniversary DeerFest, but the man who made it grow from an idea, and a business plan. Surprisingly, few media questions have been asked before that reach beyond the show itself. So, the interview is ordinary, for 10 minutes. But it's when McAloon lets you into his memory, and into his living room, that this Wisconsin deer hunting story becomes extraordinary.



A look into their lola home shows some of the bucks taken by Hugh and Dustin McAloon predominantly on family owned property in northern Waupaca and southern Shawano County.

Born and raised in Oshkosh with a degree in Journalism from UW-O, his roots in deer hunting were planted by his father William "Big Bill" McAloon, who held vigil on stand in New London with his toddler son on the ground below. "Legend has it that I was 2 when he started taking me," McAloon said. "Those were the days of stick bows; no compounds or crossbows. I do vividly remember looking up at him as he shot three arrows, none of which hit the mark."

By the 1970s, the family and close friends were hunting on 120 acres of Wolf River bottom. "If you didn't see 100 deer by noon you were sleeping," McAloon said. "We shot the first antlers we saw."

His personal evolution in deer hunting to understand that special whitetail bucks come with genetics, nutrition, and time, which also meant patience from the hunter and restraint on the shot, correlated in large part with his professional path and hands-on education. He led the Iola-based F+W Krause Media Group through, in part, acquisition of Deer & Deer Hunting (D&DH) magazine and the launch of Deer & Deer Hunting television.

While heading Krause, the Tiger Ridge Project remains the most gratifying experience of his professional life. Appleton businessman Greg Duerr commissioned McAloon to transform property purchased from the Tigerton Lumber Company in Shawano County from big timber country to terrain that would produce trophy whitetails over a five year period. Duerr's goal was to sell the property. A D&DH television program series on building food plots and cultivating the timberland to produce the benefit of trophy class animals and healthy numbers of deer coveted by the whitetail hunter was the first show of its kind sequenced for a television audience.

"I truly believed we had the best deer hunting publication in the world," he said. "And we had the great content television. I said now we need an event. I wrote a business plan for what would become DeerFest and presented it to a venture capitalist group out of New York. I told them they could expect a return on their investment in the third year but they wanted immediate profit. I threw the business plan in the desk drawer. When I left Krause I took the business plan with me and decided to do it myself. A few years later the venture capitalist group called and wanted to partner. I said 'no thanks.'"

His professional experiences brought with it opportunity that both opened early doors for DeerFest, and helped him know what to look for in personal acquisition of deer hunting property. "It's been a privilege to meet and hunt with top name celebrities," McAloon said. "It served as the foundation for DeerFest."

Past and present show headliners include Ted Nugent, Lee and Tiffany Lakosky, Pat and Nicole Reeve, Michael Waddell, Travis "T-Bone" Turner, Nick Mundt, Terry Drury, Matt Drury, Tylor Drury, Raised Hunting's Holder family and many more from the hunting world. . Green Bay



Hugh McAloon with the 2015 Iowa buck taken November 7 with a bow. The 11-point 'Blindside Booner' with an antler growing out of one eye, scored 183-1/8. McAloon had a motel reserved for 7 days during this rut hunt. The buck was tagged after a long ride from Wisconsin, a short nap, and a 20 minute hunt.

Packers John Kuhn, Frank Winters and Jared Abbrederis also helped McAloon build DeerFest. Duck Commander CEO Willie Robertson, one of the family stars of the long-running hit Duck Dynasty, has the spotlight for the 2019 show.

Although family still hunts the Wolf River Bottom, McAloon purchased and hunts 80 acres of property with his son Dustin and father in northern Waupaca and southern Shawano Counties, a region he labels as good as it gets in Wisconsin; if, the bucks are given the gift of time to reach their potential.

"This area is outstanding," McAloon said. "Dustin and I wait for 4-1/2 to 5-1/2 year old bucks. We just enjoy being in the woods. If we tag one, that's good. My dad is 80 now and he can shoot any buck he wants to. If he takes a 2-1/2 year old he's grinning from ear to ear."

McAloon talks too, of the bucks that got away, including a 170 class animal in the Tiger Ridge Project. He talks of dues paid on stand, of taking the only buck he shot at hunting for days near Herbster in Bayfield County, and the importance of taking the ethical shot. But if a picture is worth a thousand words, well, welcome to the McAloon living room.

"It's impossible to get the whole group of deer heads in," he writes post-interview with a photo sent upon request. "We had 37 on the wall before Dustin got his own house. There have also been numerous bucks that got away. That's the fun of it. I'm happy for a neighbor if he tags an exceptional buck I've been watching all summer. Our gun hunting is tradition. I introduced my wife to it and she got her first deer last year. Our bow hunting is serious."

As for DeerFest, it's been a memorable ride. "You picture yourself doing something like this when you start working," he said. "The outdoor industry is full of good, humble people. I have been very fortunate to work in an industry that is also my passion," he said. "It's been wonderful." 🍷



**AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> | 2019**



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DICK ELLIS

# Badgers on the Western Edge

## North Dakota pheasants, sharptail

With the North Dakota prairie stretching on to touch the horizon, I watched as my partners dropped down from the higher grassland to follow three dogs working feverishly on more scent in the meandering river bottom below. Two of my brothers' game vests carried the weight of pheasants after a pass through our first field of the morning. Now, Dylan, Rocky, and Micah were obviously on birds again, and the push continued toward the slowly moving current of the creek. With that natural block and the dogs' body language, the smart money said another flush was coming.

With an unfamiliar chattering, up they came, a dozen birds fighting for altitude on the breeze but almost immediately forming a near-perfect formation. Four Wisconsin hunters stood with cradled shotguns rendered momentarily harmless by uncertainty. On the birds traveled over the creek and fields, gliding periodically before settling down again in the distance.

"What's the matter with you guys?" I asked. "Why didn't you shoot those birds?"

"I know those are sharptails and we should have shot," John said. "We can take three apiece a day. We can't shoot Prairie Chickens here. Why didn't you shoot?"

"Because I'm a prairie chicken right now," I said. "I'm chicken that they're going to throw this Wisconsin outdoor writer in the North Dakota slammer. I wasn't sure what they were."

Lesson learned. We would become thoroughly educated to this new game though, soon enough.

With Wisconsin being a very good hunting state, hunters look elsewhere to find new terrain, hunt new game, and in the case of bird hunters, to find more dog work with their most valuable players. When my brothers Steve, Jim, John and I planned a North Dakota hunt, we would be after the wild pheasants we don't find often at home, on vast acres of prairie holding the bonus sharptails, with the chance of seeing mule deer and antelope, relatively close to home. And, we would hunt mainly private land. You can too.

North Dakota's Game & Fish Department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen (P.L.O.T.S.) program got its start more than 20 years ago, with the goal of providing walk-in access for the purpose of hunting on private land. No asking permission to hunt this private property is necessary, but leaving the land like you found it, litter and carcass-free, is the expectation.

Locate private properties enrolled in the program in the North Dakota Conservation P.L.O.T.S. Guide obtained with your license purchase. Broken down statewide into 44 separate, one-page maps with a



With a yellow P.L.O.T.S. sign behind them, Steve and Dick Ellis show sharptails and pheasants taken from the 'private land open to sportsmen' near Dickinson North Dakota.

back-cover index, hundreds of P.L.O.T.S. properties throughout North Dakota are marked in yellow. The properties are easy to find with the maps, and yellow triangle signs physically marking the P.L.O.T.S. properties make any second-guessing that you may have wandered on private property not enrolled in the program a non-issue.

With the addition of 25,000 acres last year, the program would have about 762,000 acres available for the October 2018 hunt my brothers and I had planned. Wild pheasants and dog work were our primary draws, but as it turned out, sharptail grouse were a true bonus. Dickinson employees, starting with Executive Director Terri Thiel of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau, treated us like they would very much like us to return. Hospitality, good pheasant numbers and our sharptail bonus will be a big part of our return to the Dickinson prairie in the fall of 2019.

"While hunters in the wooded areas may find pheasants, hunting pheasants on the prairies of southwest North Dakota is an entirely different experience," Thiel said. "Wide open views for miles instead of tree lined pastures and grain fields will give you a better chance of seeing and walking the birds, but don't be deceived. They duck and dive, running very quickly under the shallow cover. Your dogs will have a ball tracking and flushing them."

The prairie is home to enough wildlife familiar and not-so familiar to Wisconsin hunters to make the trip worthwhile in itself. We watched and took photos as two whitetails fought at first light. We

12-year-old Dylan takes a break after another P.L.O.T.S. pass gives up a pair of sharptail grouse and a ringneck for John and Jim Ellis.



JOHN ELLIS

## Planning your Hunt

### Dickinson, North Dakota upland game

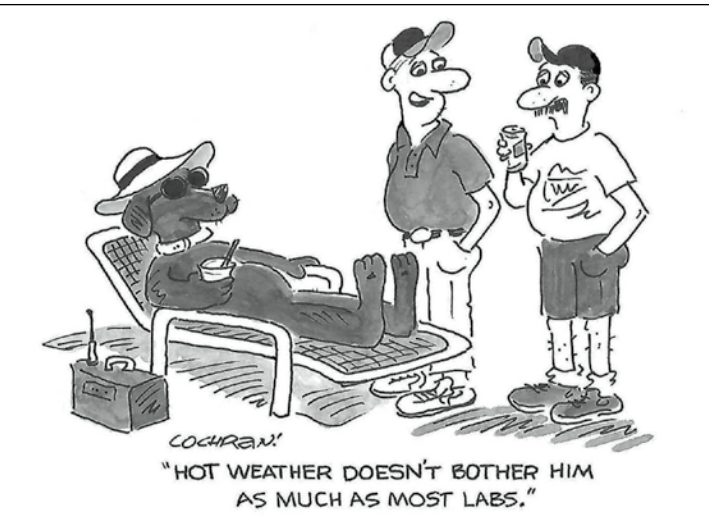
North Dakota is a sportsman's paradise and, for those looking for a great experience, it's an easy trip from Wisconsin. The drive time from Milwaukee to the city of Dickinson, our hub for the *On Wisconsin Outdoors* hunt, was approximately 12 hours. We were after the state's excellent pheasant and sharp tailed grouse population. The cost of a non-resident license for this was \$122.00.

We stayed at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, 552 12th Street West, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601; it's located conveniently off of Highway 22 and surrounded in all directions by opportunity. General Manager Darren Bleth and his staff went out of their way to make sure our stay was enjoyable. Connect for reservations or information at 701-456-2500.

While it's absolutely an option to pay for access to private land, we spent the majority of our time hunting the state's P.L.O.T.S. (Private Land Open to Sportsmen). There are literally thousands of acres of P.L.O.T.S. property clearly marked, easy to find, and holding birds. To order a P.L.O.T.S. guide, contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300 or go to their website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

Besides finding plenty of birds, we also saw Mule deer, Whitetails and Prong Horned Antelope on a back drop of open land as far as the eye can see. Even though we hunted on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, we never had to compete with other hunters for a place to try our luck.

If you want a quality upland bird hunt, that is reasonably priced and relatively close, consider hunting North Dakota's western edge; there's a lot of fun waiting. 🐾



CONTINUED ON PAGE 37





Josh Duhamel  
OUTTAKES

Missouri River, near Bismarck

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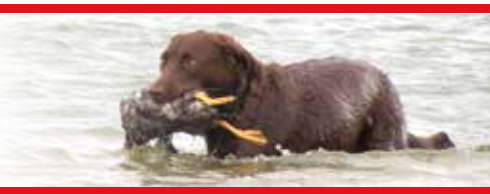




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**TOM MUELLER**

# Retriever Training with an E-collar

## *What it is and what it does*

The electronic collar, or e-collar as it is commonly referred to, is a type of training collar which is somewhat similar to other types of collars that are used for training retrievers. Unlike conventional training collars, you don't attach a lead or a leash to an e-collar to reinforce a command or make a correction. The difference between an electronic collar and a conventional collar is the reinforcement of a command through electrical stimulation provided by a transmitter which sends a signal to a receiver attached to a collar which the dog is wearing.

With a conventional collar the reinforcement is brought about by a tug on the collar or by holding the dog via a leash or a lead attached to the collar. If you have concerns about "electrocuting" your dog, you can rest at ease. That's not what happens when the button is pushed on the transmitter. What the dog receives and feels is an electrical impulse very similar to what you would feel if you were hooked up to a TENS machine at a physical therapy session. Having gone through that a couple of times, I can tell you it feels like a vibration. Depending how high the therapist sets the intensity determines the intensity of the vibration.

Although it had been around for years, the prevalent use by professional trainers in training retrievers for field trials brought about the e-collar being used more and

more by amateur trainers to the point where the thinking became that an e-collar was a necessity to train a retriever. From my own training experience, I have found that not to be the case. Having trained some of my hunting retrievers to the Senior level in AKC hunt tests without using an e-collar, makes me an exception to that rule. Having done that, I can tell you that training a retriever without using an e-collar takes a diligent effort. The disadvantage I had was that without an e-collar, when a situation arose, I could not reach the dog at longer distances to reinforce a command or make it comply. Because of that my training was done within close proximity and with the dog on a lead so that I could make it very solid and confident with its

responses. Only then would I increase the distance and then did so gradually.

Is training that way effective? Yes, it is and the reality is that this is the correct and proper method of training a retriever, especially if you intend to use an electronic collar. Most of the books that I've read on training retrievers from back then and now state that an e-collar is only to be used to reinforce a command it already knows. This means that your retriever must be thoroughly trained in its commands and thoroughly understand the concepts and must always give the appropriate response before ever turning the e-collar on. Each author has their own methods for going about teaching and training commands and concepts, but they all state that using

an e-collar to reinforce commands it already knows is the proper training method.

The advantage to using an e-collar for training your retriever is that it enables you to reach out long distances to reinforce a command or make a correction. Training with one is much less cumbersome and more practical than using long ropes, especially with the high energy dogs that we work with today. 🐾

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 or information regarding retriever training or the Fox Valley Retriever Club contact Tom at winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com



A typical e-collar showing the transmitter on the left and the receiver and collar on the right.

**BILL CUNNEA**

## Young Bert

### *Memories of a good day with a good dog*

Three birds went up, but only one came down. Two points for Young Bert (YB), the not-right dog; one with head up, getting air scent from a pheasant in a pile of brush, overgrown with grasses (I missed); and then . . .

He wouldn't leave the pile, which was right along the creek. I figured he had still locked on to the scent of the sitting bird I'd missed. Then he locked into a point - a great point - while standing in the creek! He wouldn't move.

I walked the top of the brush pile and darned near broke my leg. No bird up; YB still wouldn't move. He was just standing on point in the creek. I kept walking on the brush pile, then around it, jumping up and down until finally, a rooster went up from where no rooster should have been--and went down.

Whatta dog.

Later, a search and run and search and run on a second bird until finally the darned bird went up. I shot (20 gauge, single, open cylinder) and nothing.

Then back up the drive to the house; YB got interested in the brush pile between the road and the house, and darned if a young bunny didn't bolt up the drive to the shed. I tagged him and then directed YB to go get him and finish him off.



Young Bert, the not-right dog; the joy of life incorporated.

A good morning. Sometimes I remember why I feed that dog

Did I tell him he was good? Well, yes. But, frankly, I think he is indifferent to my praise or condemnation. For five years, he has been like a little kid let loose in Toys R Us.

Every day is a joy, every outing a chance to pursue mystical creatures, every intersection with the creek demands that he walk in the mud and swim in the water and search for the dia-

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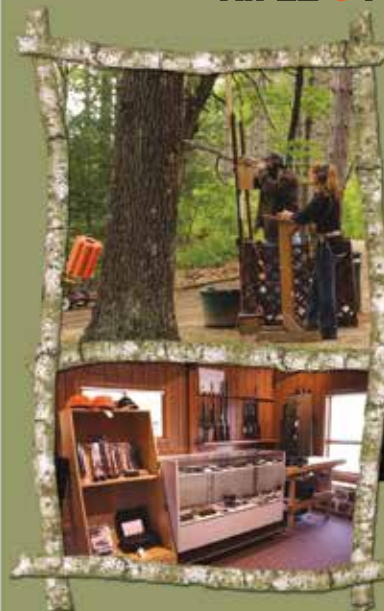
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When outdoor fun makes you hungry, find yourself at one of Northwest Wisconsin's supper clubs and enjoy a unique dining experience. Wisconsin's Gemutlichkeit will shine through when you visit a beautiful trailside or lakeside lodging facility. Whether 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.

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### CLER, FROM PAGE 25

pressing the seeds into the soil by driving over them with a tractor or ATV. A "drag" may also be used, if available.

No matter what equipment you use or what you plant, a food plot will teach you much. The lessons learned will help you become a better, and hopefully, a more successful hunter.

John Cler is a retired High School Principal and Science Teacher. He hunts, fishes and traps from his home in Richland Center.



### SUZETTE CURTIS

## Recipes with Suzette Summer menu



During the heat of summer we love the farmers' markets, firing up the grill, and eating outside on the back deck. We also love what we consider "lighter" or "fresher" meals that give us a lift, but don't drag us down. After all, we don't want to waste the daylight after dinner by sitting on the couch, so these recipes give us just the right amount of energy to get outside and hike with our dogs. Enjoy!

### Venison Salad

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Cups cooked Venison, thinly sliced | 2 T capers, minced         |
| ½ Cup light olive oil                | 2 tomatoes, sliced **      |
| 2 Teaspoons Dijon mustard            | 2 hard boiled eggs, sliced |
| ½ Teaspoon salt                      | 1 red onion, sliced        |
| 1 Clove garlic, minced               | 1 cucumber, sliced         |

Place meat in a shallow bowl.

In small bowl, whisk olive oil and mustard together until well blended. Add salt, garlic and capers; stir well. Pour mixture over meat; cover bowl and refrigerate for 3 to 4 hours. To serve, place meat and marinade on a platter and top with tomatoes, eggs, onion and cucumber.

\*\*Try some heirloom tomatoes with this recipe for some rich flavor.

### Sesame Pheasant & Rice Salad

#### Salad Mixture:

- 2 Cups Pheasant breast, cooked and shredded
- 1 Cup Jasmine rice
- ½ Cup bean sprouts
- ¼ Cup scallions, chopped
- 2 Cups baby spinach
- 2 T sesame seeds

#### Salad Dressing:

- 2 T soy sauce
- 3 T dark sesame oil
- ½ Cup seasoned rice vinegar
- ¼ Teaspoon grated ginger
- 1 Clove garlic, minced
- 3 T fresh cilantro

Cook rice according to package directions. Let cool completely.

Combine salad ingredients in large salad bowl. Whisk dressing ingredients in small bowl; pour over salad. Gently toss salad with dressing mixture and serve immediately.

### Fish Tacos

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Pound firm whitefish  | Dash of salt & pepper             |
| 3 T flour               | 2 T vegetable oil                 |
| 2 Cloves garlic, minced | 2 Cups red cabbage, shredded      |
| 1 Teaspoon chili powder | 4 T lime juice (or juice 2 times) |
| ¼ Teaspoon oregano      | Dash of hot pepper sauce          |
| ¼ Teaspoon cumin        | Taco Shells                       |

In small bowl, combine flour, garlic and half of each: chili powder, oregano, cumin. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Lightly coat fish with flour mixture.

Heat oil in large pan until oil starts to smoke. Gently place fish in oil and cook until golden on the outside and just flaky inside. Remove from heat and drain on paper towels.

Combine cabbage with remaining chili powder, oregano and cumin. Toss with lime juice and a dash of hot pepper sauce. To build tacos, place spoonful of fish in shells and top with cabbage. Garnish with your choice of sliced avocado, sour cream, salsa, fresh cilantro, and/or sliced red onion.

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. Contact her at [recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com).



# Henry Repeating Arms Recognizes Wisconsin Sheriff at NRA Annual Meeting

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – April 25, 2019 – Henry Repeating Arms presented an engraved tribute edition rifle to Barron County, Wisconsin Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald to recognize his service to the state and his community during the National Rifle Association Foundation Banquet and Auction. Barron County is the location of one of Henry Repeating Arms' manufacturing facilities. The presentation took place in front of a crowd of more than 2,500 people at the Lucas Oil Stadium as the kick-off event for the 2019 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits.

As the primary sponsor of the event, Anthony Imperato, President and owner of Henry Repeating Arms, invited Sheriff Fitzgerald to join him on stage where he was introduced to the crowd and presented with a Henry Law Enforcement Tribute Edition rifle. Other honorees of the evening included a young veteran who was injured by a 200-pound IED on deployment in Iraq, three World War II veterans, and the family of a young Marine who was tragically killed in a car accident two weeks after returning from his second combat deployment.


Barron County Wisconsin Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald was the first to take the stage alongside Imperato. "I grew up working in my grandfather's police equipment and gun store and recognized early on the dangers that police officers face each day," said Imperato. "These past few years,



law enforcement has gotten a black eye from the media, turning our citizens against those who protect us...we take this opportunity to thank law enforcement throughout this great country for risking their lives every day."

In October of 2018, the Barron County Sheriff's Department became the center of the national media world with the kidnapping of a 13-year-old girl named Jayme Closs

and the murder of her parents. Fitzgerald and his department led a relentless 3-month search and a 6-month investigation, which will come to a close with the sentencing of the suspect this month.


Henry rifles and shotguns can be purchased through a licensed firearms dealer. Most Henry dealers will offer a discount from the MSRP. For additional information about the company and its products visit [henryusa.com](http://henryusa.com) or call 866-200-2354. 


Henry Repeating Arms is one of the leading rifle and shotgun manufacturers in the United States and a world leader in the lever action category. Their company motto is "Made in America, or Not Made At All" and their firearms come with a lifetime guarantee backed by award-winning customer service. The company is also known for its charitable endeavors under its Guns For Great Causes program, which focuses on sick children, both individual cases and children's hospitals, veteran and wounded veteran organizations, 2nd Amendment and wildlife conservation organizations. The company currently employs 535 people and has 250,000sf of manufacturing space in their Rice Lake, Wisconsin and Bayonne, New Jersey facilities. The company is named in honor of Benjamin Tyler Henry who invented and patented the Henry rifle in 1860 – the first repeating rifle, the lever action rifle, which is America's unique contribution to international firearms design and is one of the most legendary, respected and sought after rifles in the history of firearms.

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

## Playing the Long Shot

### Combining shotgun expertise, ethics

A small flock of Canada geese were landing in the decoys one farm to the west of where I was hunting. I heard the hunters open up on the flock, and within seconds, three geese split off and were coming my way! They were wasting no time heading back towards the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. I swung on the lead bird, gave it a little extra forward allowance (lead) and slapped the trigger. The goose and 1 1/8 ounces of steel BB shot traveling at about 1,600 fps collided in midair. The goose seemed to have flown into an invisible brick wall, and fell well outside of my decoys. I paced off an honest 53 yards to my bird. Sometimes when decoying waterfowl fails, pass shooting works just fine.

An old adage says "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." I have to agree. If you follow a few simple rules, and pattern your shotgun, clean kills pushing the 40 yard mark are not uncommon. Long range shotgunning requires

three elements: enough shot to fill out the pattern; a pattern dense enough to insure a clean, humane kill; and enough pellet energy to make the kill. After you combine all three, you need to pattern test to determine your maximum effective range. Chokes need to be full for lead, or modified for steel. Never use a choke tighter than modified for steel.

**Shot charges:** Light field loads are not the best choice for long range shots. One or 1 1/8 ounce loads of lead shot or 1 ounce loads of steel are great for average shooting. If pushing the 40 yard mark, go with heavier 2 3/4" magnum or 3" magnum loads of lead or steel. The added volume of shot will fill gaps in the pattern at longer ranges. Magnum loads were designed for this. Some steel 3" shot shells even feature wads specially designed for longer range shooting.

**Pellets and pellet energy:** It's simple physics - larger size shot pellets retain more kinetic energy than smaller

pellets. The retained energy is what allows the pellet to break bones and penetrate deep enough through down and feathers to destroy vital organs. If pushing the envelope of your shotgun, I suggest a minimum shot size of #4 lead or #2 steel. Smaller pellets will just not carry the needed retained energy. The trade-off is that the larger the pellet, the lower the pellet count. That's the reason behind using a magnum load, the extra shot volume.

**Velocity:** The speed the pellets leave your shotgun barrel at determines how much energy they will hit your target with. Select the fastest, heaviest, shot charge of the pellets you have selected. For example, I like Federal Black Cloud 3" steel BB loads traveling at 1,635 fps for geese. Most all shotshells now list the velocity on the box.

**Pattern testing:** This allows you to know for sure what

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



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**CUNNEA, FROM PAGE 30**

mond-studded muskrat that he KNOWS is there.

I have to examine him closely during most hunts, because he does not acknowledge damage to his body during an outing. He's split his chest open twice on something, maybe barbed wire? Old farm equipment? Three inches long, one inch deep.

He is currently in the end stage of healing from what was almost a disembowelment - with the flaps of skin hanging down on his belly - again, probably from barbed wire. Thankfully, dogs are not subject to tetanus.

I sometimes think of what it must have been like with his original owners, to have his life-drive and be tied to a tree for two and one-half years. One of the blessings of being a dog must be the lack of reflection, or comparison, with the past.

But he was born to be out here, doing this, and maybe, with me. 🐾

Bill Cunnea has been a writer, teacher, consultant and outdoorsman for over 40 years. He continues to be taught lessons by his dogs in southwest Wisconsin, where he's lived for 30 years. He's never caught a lunger, nor shot 12 point buck, and he's got the lack of trophies to prove it.

**STRESING, FROM PAGE 34**

the maximum effective range of your selected hunting loads will be. Place a life-size paper target of the game on a large piece of cardboard in a safe area. Pace off, or use a laser ranger finder to measure the distance, and fire away. Three to five pellets are generally enough to cleanly kill most game. I also tried field testing loads on feral barn pigeons. The results on pigeons translated perfectly to results on game birds! Remember to add extra forward allowance in the field, and follow through on crossing shots. 🐾

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



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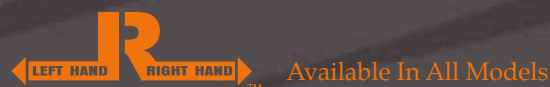
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**STUART WILKE**

## Concealed Carry

### *The best place to start*

Mike "Shorty" Govas, owner of "Shorty's Shooting Sports," has heard a lot of ill-informed opinions in his many years selling firearms. "One of the stupidest things anyone has said was a so-called firearms instructor telling a customer that a .22 pistol was a bad choice for a first handgun," Shorty said. "A .22 semi-automatic pistol or revolver is the best choice for a first pistol. Period. If you can't handle a .22 pistol, you're certainly not going to be able to handle a 9mm. And if you can't handle a .22, you shouldn't own a handgun."

While Shorty would like to sell you, the law-abiding citizen, more than a few handguns, one chambered in .22 rimfire may be all you need, whether it be a semi-automatic pistol or revolver. In this issue, Shorty will address semi-automatic pistols. Revolvers chambered for .22 rimfire will be reviewed in the next issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*.

"The great thing about .22 pistols is that they're affordable, fun and easy to shoot," he said. "The clown that said a .22 was a bad choice as a first handgun was talking about it as a self-defense weapon. A .22 can fill that role. When it comes to stopping an assailant, shot placement at center of mass is what really matters, not the size of the bore. Sure there may be better choices if you're confronted by a 300-pound miscreant, but do you think he's going to ask you what caliber gun you're aiming at him? Probably not. What he sees is a pistol pointed at him. More than 90 percent of the time that will be enough to keep a situation from escalating."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Shorty's Shooting Sports carries a variety of .22 semi-automatic pistols, including the GSG Firefly (left) and a special "patriotic edition" of the Ruger SR22 (right).

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## WILKE, FROM PAGE 36

Some folks are hesitant to buy a .22 semi-automatic pistol due to reliability concerns. Many semi-auto guns, whether they are rifles or pistols - in any caliber - will have a preference for certain ammunition. Inexpensive, bulk ammo is not made to anywhere near the tolerances of good quality ammo. Cheap .22 ammo will not have uniform rims and powder charges, both of which can negatively impact functionality. Shorty said that the vast majority of failures to fire, chamber and extract can be directly traced to ammunition, and in some cases, damaged magazines. Take care of your magazines and use good quality ammunition, and your semi-automatic pistol should work fine. Shorty can help you find the ammo that will work best in your particular gun, no matter what it is.

Shorty adds another caveat about .22 semi-automatic pistol functionality: lubricant. "A .22 semi-auto pistol or rifle, just like a U.S. armed forces M4, needs to be lubricated properly. They can't be run dry. Of course, you can't drown them in lubricant, either. Read the manual and learn how to properly lubricate the gun."

Many .22 semi-automatic pistols can be bought with either fixed or adjustable sights. For the first-time owner, Shorty suggests fixed sights. "Most modern firearms are sighted correctly at the factory and many will come with a test target to prove it," he said. "More often than not, if the shooter is having problems hitting the target with a new gun, it's because he or she is not aiming correctly, jerking the trigger, or is holding the grip incorrectly. If you don't know how to combine those basic fundamentals in shooting a handgun, no amount of screwing around with the sights is going to improve the situation."

Shorty has a vast array of new and used .22 semi-auto pistols to fit anybody's budget. Prices range from about \$300 for a new, totally functional GSG FireFly to \$1,200 for a classic, new, Smith & Wesson Model 41 target pistol. Shorty sells semi-auto pistols from a variety of manufacturers, including Ruger and Browning.

If you're in the market for .22 semi-automatic pistol, or any other firearm, visit Shorty's in West Allis. 📍

Stuart Wilke is a longtime contributor to *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. He can be contacted at [mail.onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:mail.onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

## MJ GUNSMITHING

## Here for All of Your Firearm Needs

Summer is here!!! Although it doesn't feel like it! Summer shooting sports are in full swing, and we'd like to remind you that MJ Gunsmithing is here for all of your firearm needs. Break downs happen, but we're here to get you back on the range and shooting in no time.

Also, hunting season is coming! It's time to get your shotgun in for a good pre-season cleaning. Don't wait until September 1st. Avoid the rush!!! There's no worse sound than "CLICK" when that first flock of the season locks up, and drops their feet in the hole! 📍

If you think that you need to be fitted to a shotgun, bring it into MJ Gunsmithing and we will help you out.

## DAVIS, FROM PAGE 25

Volunteers selected to join a DNR catch and collar team will venture through grass, woods and wetlands in terrain that can be rough, wet and strenuous, in very cold, extremely warm, and humid conditions. Once the animals are captured, researchers will take tissue samples, health measurements, in addition to putting GPS collars on them. They will then be released back into the wild.

Unlike some DNR activities, such as watching prairie chickens from a blind or capturing an elk calf, the CWD, Deer and

Predator study volunteers are not charged to take part. They do, however, need to bring their own meals, hiking equipment, and clothing conducive to the weather.

Those interested in volunteering on behalf of research team should visit the DNR web site at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/research/projects/dpp/>, or contact the DNR at 608-935-1940. 📍

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

## ELLIS, FROM PAGE 28

watched muley bucks in their comical gait bounce away from us, and herds of antelope navigate the grasslands. And the mixture of flushes on ringnecks and sharpshooters made the hunt new and pure fun.



Wildlife encounters from antelope to mules are guaranteed in North Dakota. These whitetails fought for 20 minutes before the half-rack surrendered.

Like most of our out-of-state hunts, bird or deer, it takes a day or two to become acclimated to the new games and to find terrain we like the best. In my opinion, hunting the smaller P.L.O.T.S. tracts surrounded, if possible, by food crops is the best way to find more birds. Even a tiny-appearing piece of territory in the guide book will take quite a while to work. And then it's on to the next.

One of the best tips came from a young hunter working in a local store. I struck up

a conversation and asked him if he had any advice for four Wisconsin boys hunting P.L.O.T.S. terrain. "Try this one," he said, circling a plot within 20 miles. The small tract gave up three roosters and a miss or two in less than an hour. Sometimes, even on the prairie, it's who you know. Like Terri Thiel.

"We welcome you to the plains and rolling buttes of Dickinson, North Dakota, just east of the Montana border," she said. "With plenty of lodging properties and dining options, hunters and dogs can relax each evening after each day's hunt. October may be the opening month, but the season lasts until the first part of January giving plenty of time and opportunity to hunt the birds. Give our office a call for ideas, tips and lodging information, or go to [visitdickinson.com](http://visitdickinson.com)" 📍

Connect with the Dickinson CVB at [www.visitdickinson.com](http://www.visitdickinson.com). If you are interested in guided hunts on private land, Thiel and the Dickinson CVB provided two nearby names and websites. For detailed information including packages available and prices, connect with Kelly Krough at Kelly's Limit at [www.kellyslimit.com](http://www.kellyslimit.com) or 701-471-0635. Connect with Nicole Haase and the Cannonball Company in Regent North Dakota at [www.cannonballcompany.com](http://www.cannonballcompany.com) or 800-920-4910.



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#### BOAT & CANOE DOLLY

If you're like me, you love to find secluded lakes and streams to fish. However, there is just one problem – getting your boat, canoe, or kayak to them. Dragging is no fun and rough on your watercraft, but this dolly will help make it easier. Adjustable knobs help secure it to the dolly, making it a one-person task. Dolly transom clamp is 9-1/4 inch wide. (\$41.99)

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BY TOM CARPENTER

## Badger Birds

### *Gray Catbird*

Because he lives in dense thickets, gnarly tangles and brushy woodland edges, you often have to locate the gray catbird by sound rather than sight. But once you know what to listen and look for, this shy and subtly beautiful summertime bird will become one of your Wisconsin favorites.

**Listen** for rough-edged “meow” or “mew” calls coming from the aforementioned brush, shrubs, bushes, thickets and tangles. The call sounds just like a lost or confused cat! It's what gave the gray catbird its name.

**Hear** the gray catbird's lovely songs. As a member of the vocal mockingbird and thrasher family, the gray catbird sings a beautiful, lyrical song, and is also adept at mimicking other birds' songs and sounds.

**Look** carefully for a handsome, all-gray bird with a distinctive black eye and bill, and a black cap. If you get a close look, there are rusty-colored feathers under the tail. Catbirds are a little smaller and slenderer than robins. You'll frequently see catbirds on the ground as they search for fallen fruit and insects.

Leave a wild, overgrown corner in your yard and garden – most any type of deciduous shrubs are fine – as habitat for gray catbirds and other wildlife. Raspberries, blackberries, cherries, plums, dogwoods, mulberries, winterberries and serviceberries all make great plantings.

**Feed** gray catbirds chopped-up fruit or raisins, offered in a tray on the ground just a hop or two from cover. Catbirds will also come to an orange-half impaled on a tree branch.

**Did you know** that the oldest gray catbird on record was at least 17 years old? The wild bird was first banded in 1984, and then recaptured in 2001. Who knows how long it lived after that! That's a good, long run. 🐦

Jim Servi is a freelance writer from Hamburg, Wisconsin, who spends every opportunity he can in the great outdoors with his family and friends.



**SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND**

# Summer Fun for Everyone

**A**shland Wisconsin, Where you'll Find Yourself Next to the Water, offers endless events and activities in the great outdoors. There is something for everyone all summer including: Farmers Market Saturday mornings from 8 am to noon in the Plaza Park on 6th Avenue West and Main Street. Every Saturday night there are stock car races at the ABC Raceway on Butterworth Road in Ashland with hot laps at 6 pm and racing at 7 pm.

The Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce and BART present Guided Mural Trolley Tours every Friday and Saturday through September 7 at 10 am and 1:30 pm and on Mondays at 1:30 pm. Pick-up location is on the east side of the Bay Area Civic Center parking lot, 320 4th Avenue West. The tour is just over an hour long.

Mural Trolley Tours are first-come, first-serve and the cost is \$5 per person. Children under six are free. (Cash only accepted on the Trolley.) The tours are guided, narrated and guaranteed to offer visitors an artistic trip through Ashland's history, while the Trolley Bus takes you on a fascinating trip through Ashland's past. These artistic murals have become eye catchers for tourists and visitors and depict people from Ashland's past. In 2005, Ashland was designated the Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin.

Check out these fun summer events: Ashland Bay Days Festival is July 19 - 21 at Bay View Park on the Shores of Lake Superior with fun for the entire family. This classic hometown festival offers delicious food, arts and crafts, sporting events, live music and entertainment. Ashland Downtown Days are August 2 - 3. Ashland County Fair is August 15 - 18.

Hey anglers; What's your pleasure? Small Mouth Bass, Walleye, Lake Trout, Northern, Perch, Browns, or even a pre-historic Sturgeon? (Sturgeon are known to be caught by the Breakwater Lighthouse.) Then it's time to get your gear together and head to Ashland County Inland Lakes and Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior, the Greatest of the Great Lakes. Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior is known to be one of the best Small Mouth Bass fisheries.

It's all part of a "Must See, Must Do" summer vacation or weekend get-a-way! [visitashland.com](http://visitashland.com) for more information. 🍷

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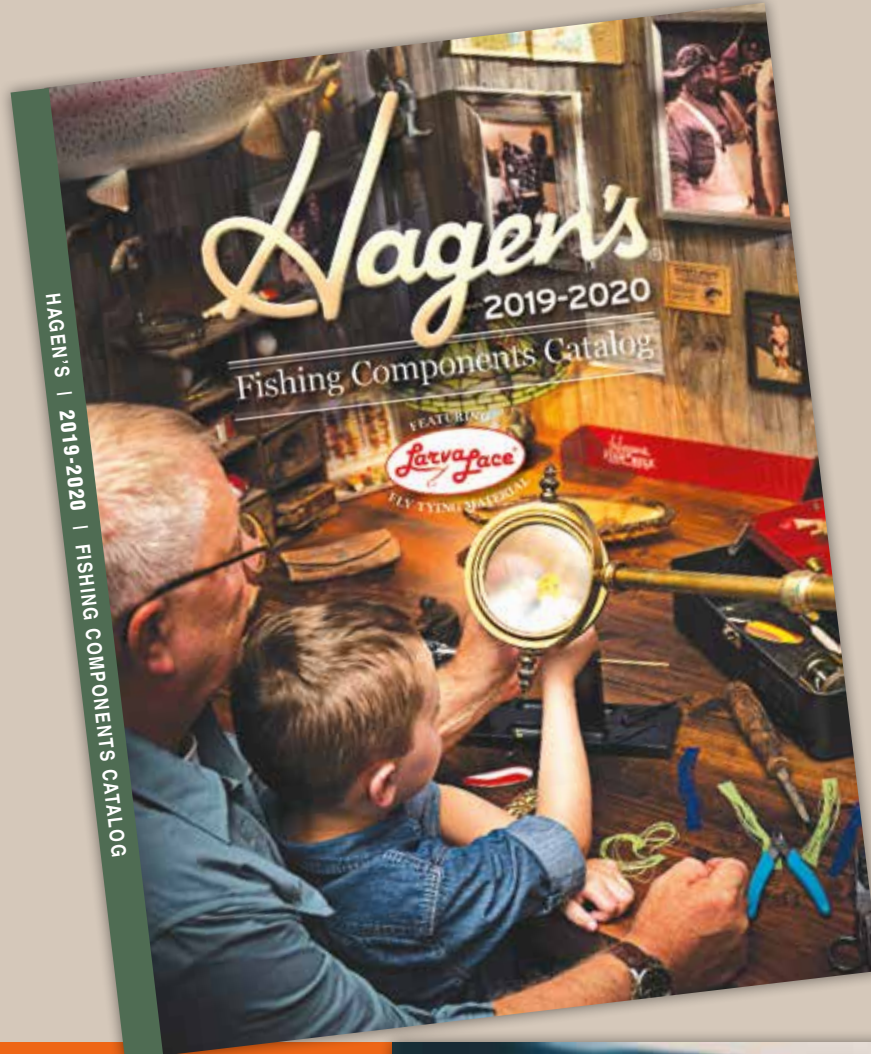
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