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PHIL SCHWEIK

Targeting Fall Fatties

Rigging for autumn muskies

As we travel through the fishing season, a lot of things change, but no change is larger than the approaches we take to target muskies in the fall. We typically start out our musky fishing season running small - to medium-sized bucktails, like the Bucher 500 and 700 series. I also like the Musky Frenzy Apache bucktails. In the spring, we also like to throw a few slower running twitch baits and maybe a bit of rubber like a small Bulldawg or Medusa to offer a more subtle type of bait.

As musky season progresses, we transition to faster, louder baits. For large prop-style topwater baits, the Fat Bastard and Dr. Evil by Lake X Lures are two of my favorites. They both make a lot of noise and can cover the water quickly. The Hog Wobbler is slower, but at times very productive when you have a pretty good idea of exactly where a big musky is laying. It can also be used as a throwback lure. I also like to run big bucktails that can be burned right under the surface at an extreme rate of speed to provoke a strike.

Once we move later in the season, I switch to jerkbaits almost exclusively. Large, wood jerkbaits, like Suicks and Reef Hawks and big rubber baits like Bulldawgs and Medusa's, can be worked either slow or fast, but with different or erratic actions to provoke a strike.

In late fall, no other bait makes more of a difference catching muskies than live bait. Running live bait is a season-long technique for many anglers. Due to the relatively high expense of suckers, but low durability in warmer water, here in central Wisconsin, we typically won't run live suckers until the water temperatures reach the low 40 degree range. Among the many effective methods for running live suckers, my top choices include the following:

Setting up a slip bobber on a quick-set rig with a series of 2 or 3 hooks. I make my own quick-set rigs that consist



Fishing with Guide Phil Schweik, Jim Mazza with a big fall musky taken on a quick-set rig prior to release.

of heavy 7 strand braided wire and a series of hooks, beads and optional blades or an additional 1 to 1 1/2 ounce Cobra Jig for weight and attractant. The quick set rig is then set at an appropriate depth, depending on how deep I think the muskies will be. When setting your depth, always keep in mind that muskies look up, so make sure that the rig is



One of the author's favorites for targeting fall muskies - a quick-set rig with a low-resistance slip bobber.

above them. Fishing a shallow river system, my suckers, at times, are only a foot below the bobber, and on other occasions, they are set much deeper. Once the depth is set, I generally run the rig out behind the boat approximately 50 to 100 feet and I let it drift or follow behind the boat.

When it comes to running suckers under a bobber, I prefer to run a slip bobber over the large round bobbies or a balloon that are popular today. The slip bobber is narrow and pencil-shaped and offers very little resistance when a fish pulls on it. In addition, the slip bobber allows a direct line to the fish. When setting the hook, you have an uninterrupted line straight to the fish, as opposed to fighting the resistance of a large round bobber. With slip-bobbers, you have more time to prepare for the hook-set and less chance the fish will drop the bait from feeling any resistance. Expect a better hook-set and hook-up when using slip bobbies, and a much better chance at landing that fish.

My second choice for rigging a sucker is by setting up the same quick-set rig, but without any type of float. Simply free-line this set-up about 25 to 50 feet behind the boat and allow the sucker to roam freely. I may or may not add some weight to the line - like an in-line sinker - which will help hold the sucker down, but typically I just allow the live bait do its thing. This technique has accounted for more muskies than I can count. I believe the natural presentation offers a different scenario than a sucker being dragged around beneath a bobber.

Consider some of these ideas when running live suckers this autumn. I believe you will fall into some very welcome fights with some very hungry fish. 🐟

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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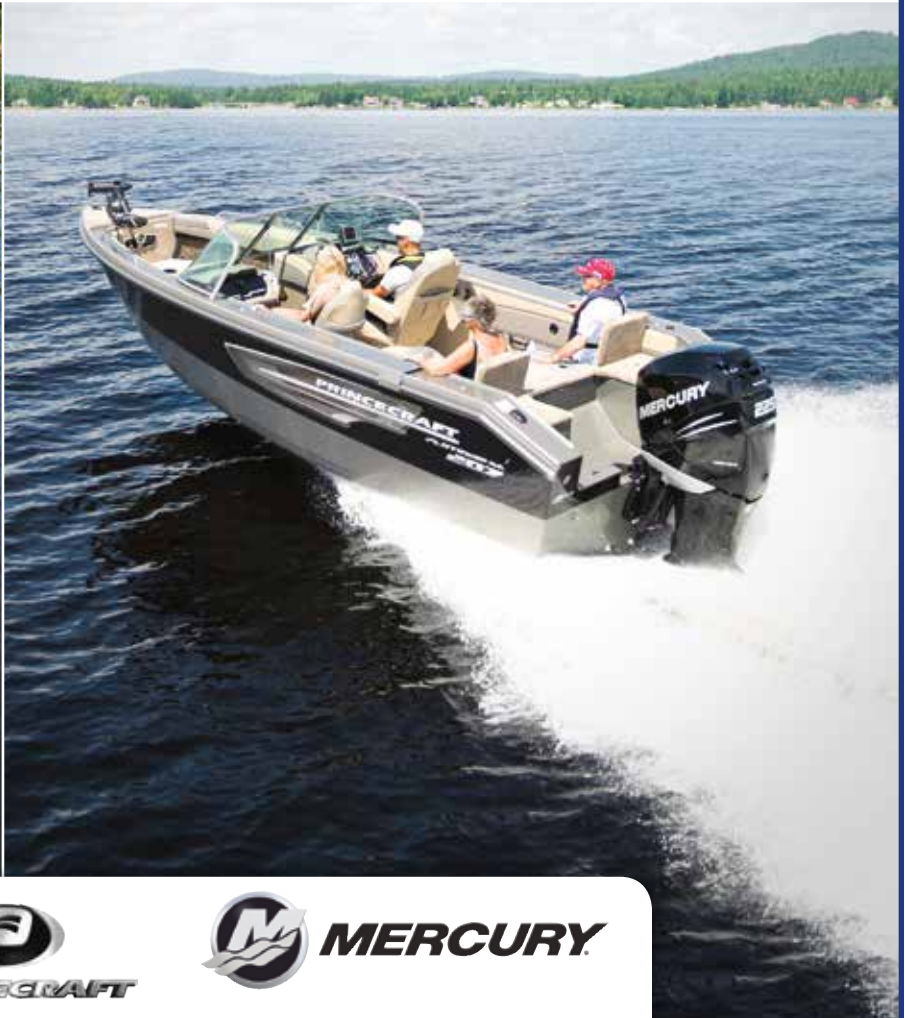


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TOM LUBA

Tracking Bass

The hot and not clues of fall fishing

First it's hot. Then it's not. Then it's hot again. It may sound like gobbledegook, but for me, remembering that little limerick is how I approach fall bass fishing.

Labor Day is the last "hot" summer on-the-water party, but cooler nights invite fall. You can still find both largemouth and smallmouth in their summer haunts, but they sense change. Largemouth are usually still on wood, weed-lines and in shallow slop. Smallmouth are in the river riffles, pushes and on lake rock and drop offs.

The fish now feel what's coming and get more aggressive. The "not hot" slips in as October nears and the fish instinctively know the cool down is here for the duration. They won't find warmth until spring. When the cold finally takes command, the "hot" reappears. That's what anglers live for. The fish shift to overdrive, chasing down and trying to eat anything they can catch, including our baits.

My fall preferences are small, shallow millponds or flowages for largemouth and rivers for smallmouth. For now, leave the deeper lakes. They turn on later and can extend the fall.

Green weeds are the key for smaller waters. Flowages can be quite weedy due to farm fertilizer runoff, but when the surface weeds start dying, the bigmouths are more accessible. Surface weeds may be brown, but green deeper bottoms still hold fish. Working over their tops with shallow running crankbaits, like a brown craw pattern, or blade baits, can work. If you're only catching small fish, switch to a Senko or The General stick worms, Texas rigged, or swim jigs. Let the stick worms sink down into the weeds, or retrieve swim jigs so they tick the tops of the deeper cover. That approach can tempt bigger fish.

Largemouth don't usually move great distances in October, but river smallmouth do. They may summer in riffles, pushes and on rip rap. As the water cools, they migrate to deeper wintering areas, or vacate smaller rivers completely to winter in larger flows, as happens on the Wolf River. When the water hits 60, late September or early October, they should be moving. In more recent years, the fall season has been coming later; but I've seen smallies moving into the Wolf with 68 degree water. While air and water temps are closely linked to kickstart fall bassing, I believe the length of days is also a factor. So, if October feels like it's arriving in shirtsleeves, I wouldn't stay home.

As they migrate, the smallies locate areas that hold bait-fish. Finding fish in these locations regularly doesn't mean they are the same fish. They could just be the next group moving down-river. Discovering those areas can be like a milk run until it gets colder.

Deep diving brown craw or fire tiger crankbaits can be good search baits. As the water temp keeps dropping, go deeper. Switching to jigs and plastics, like tubes, worms, and flukes work. Finessing four-inch, Texas-rigged Zoom Centipedes slipped slowly along the bottom can score big. By the time the water drops below 40, the best approach is live bait.

Treat September as being hot (air temperatures) and October as not (colder air and water). That progression brings what I consider the hottest bass fishing of the year. Don't miss it! 🐟

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.



Carter Nackers with two largemouth from a small, weedy flowage. Heavy weeds cover the surface in summer, but cover is ideal for fishing in early May before the weeds come up and October after the surface weeds die.

On The Cover

Washburn County Tourism sends this trail riding scene from Wisconsin's far north on a beautiful autumn day. Each OWO issue, our 20-plus Explore Wisconsin Partners offer our readers great, seasonal trip ideas from throughout the Badger state. This issue, almost every tourism partner extended an invitation to enjoy their ATV/UTV trails (You can rent these vehicles if you would like to try before you buy). Whether you prefer a leisurely UTV ride, or a mud-flying, hang on tight through the waterhole ATV thrill, give our partners a shout. They will help you out.

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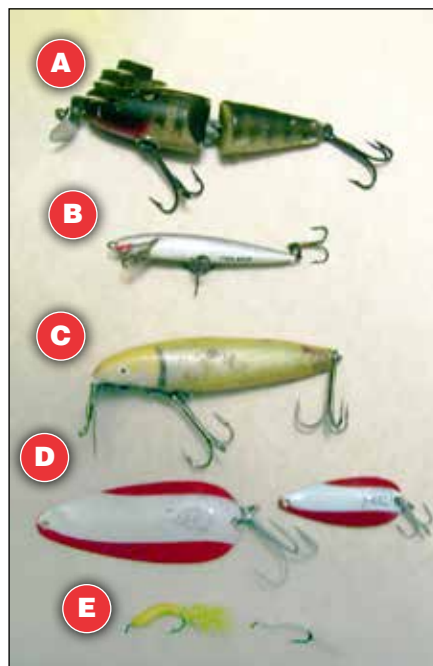
Tackle Box Memories

What's in your box?

After many years of hunting and fishing, an outdoorsman starts to accumulate many gadgets, tools and the simple bare necessities to participate in these sports. My tackle box, for example, was getting too big and needed downsizing. When it came to certain lures, there were decisions to make.

Should I put my Pike Minnow into retirement? I loved to cast this bait for distance, watch the big splash, then enjoy the wiggly action as I slowly brought it back across the surface. Never had much luck with it on the local lakes around Hayward, but one day on the Chippewa Flowage, on the very first cast targeting muskies, the water erupted and the fight was on. After a nice battle, I landed my first 32-inch fish. We did the quick catch and release. One thousand casts later with no fish to speak of, I retired this lure with the muskie's teeth marks still on it.

Then I came to this little beat up grey and silver four-inch minnow. My dad, who would soon land a 15 pound pike on the new addition, bought this foreign lure back in the 1960s with the inscription "Made in Finland." I liked the floating lure from the coloring to the sharp hooks. I loved to fish for bass, and this became the shining star. A nice slow retrieve with the occasional



Can you identify these old classics?

twitch drove the bass crazy, especially by wiggling it through green lily pads and I remember the largest five-pound fish vividly. I cannot tell you how many bass and occasional crappie I caught on it. The Rapala worked!

Dare Devils, from the large to the very small, were effective for northern pike

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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TOM CARPENTER

Cubs Corner

Fall fishing...just count the reasons why

When springtime beckons with the water warming in lakes and ponds and new-green leaves adorning the trees, it's easy to get excited about taking a kid fishing. Sometimes I wonder why autumn doesn't provide the same inspiration. Let us forget the reasons why not to go fishing in fall and count the reasons why.

Because as the water cools now, nice fish head back to the shallows as they follow baitfish into the still-a-little-warmer water there. I'm thinking mainly slab-sided bluegills and speckle-sided crappies.

Because you can rig up a simple bobber setup on light line with a float, small split shot and size 6 hook, bait up with a small minnow or nightcrawler-half, and easily catch those hungry panfish like there's no tomorrow.

Because if you think a summer bluegill tugs hard for a kid, wait until autumn's cool water has the fish all spunked up. Even crappies, not known for their fight in summer's bathwater, deliver a splashing tussle now.

Because sometimes it's hard to tell where the bobber is amidst yellow aspen leaves, red maple leaves or russet oak leaves floating on a blue-calm lake.

Because you'll have the water – whether you're on shoreline, at a fishing dock or in a fishing boat – to your-

self.

Because autumn bass and pike and walleye come into the same water where panfish are now, and bite willingly. In fact, I can almost guarantee you'll catch one of these bigger gamefish.

Because a crisp autumn evening is a great time to have a fish fry from sweet filets carved off a dozen or so of your panfish prizes.

Because the laundry or shopping or bills or work or yard chores will still be there when your little outing is over, but someday something else will not be there: a young angler longing to be outdoors and with you.

Because in the middle of a January blizzard, you can both talk about that fall day we went fishing and . . . (insert memories here).

Because a bluebird September or October day -- with some color in the trees and leaves on the water and autumn's blue sky reflected in the ripples of a bobber going down and the chance to be out there amidst all that glory -- is a fleeting gift.

That's why. 🎣

Tom Carpenter writes about the outdoors for a variety of national and regional publications



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DAVE DUWE

Spinnerbaits for Fall

Selecting the right color, blade combination for success

As the water cools toward the end of summer, the largemouth bass, northern pike and musky move back to the shallow weed flats. In the fall, the fish are aggressively feeding before winter sets in. The best presentation to catch them is the tried and true spinnerbait. The best thing about a spinnerbait is the many different presentations available. From slow rolling them in deep water to trolling large baits to cover a lot of water, spinnerbaits provide many opportunities for fast action.

The first thing to consider is the weight of the spinnerbait. The favorite is a ½ ounce spinnerbait. Using anything lighter makes it very hard to slow roll it. Slow rolling is basically reeling the bait so the blades barely spin over the weed tops.

The next thing to consider is the blade. I only use Colorado blades or Willow blades. The determining factor in the type of blade depends on the weeds being fished. If I am fishing milfoil, I am fishing the Willow blade; it has a tighter vibration and can be pulled easily through the thicker weeds. Another favorite is a single #4 Colorado blade. This blade works much better in more scattered cabbage or coon tail weeds.

The color of the blade is also a consideration. For clear water like many of the lakes in southern Wisconsin, I prefer using the natural colors, like fire tiger or plain chrome or chrome and gold combinations. In dark water, I prefer to use dark blades, like orange or black. For northern pike and musky, I like to use a pattern that looks like a large crappie.

The best place to look for fall fish are in the shallow weed flats. As it gets later into fall, you need to search for the weeds with the most green color. Green weeds mean bait fish and bait fish mean game fish. The first weed to die off is the thick milfoil and the last to die is the coon tail and cabbage weed. With dead and dying weeds, the oxygen level decreases so the smaller bait fish move on to greener pastures.

The purpose of a spinnerbait is to fool the game fish into thinking they are striking a large panfish or bait fish. The strike is a reaction strike. All the fish will see in the water is a lot of flash and vibration. I like to use Hagen skirts for added color and texture. Hagen has custom skirts and blade choices to help you emulate the bait fish population in your lake. Connect with Hagen's at 800-541-4586 or www.hagensfish.com.

The best presentation is basically making a long cast and reeling them in. The bite is very violent; there isn't much guess work about whether a fish is there or not. The speed of the retrieve is based on the weed density and the depth of water you are fishing. The thicker the weed, the faster you need to reel. For scattered weeds, I reel slower with a stop and go retrieve. Make sure that you cover water fast, the more water covered the more fish you catch. In addition, make sure you use a seven-foot medium/heavy rod with 17-pound test Silver Thread. To be successful, the reel needs a fast gear ratio and a bait casting reel is the only way to go.

The size of blade, color, skirt, and pattern all factor in for a successful trip but spinnerbaits should always be your first choice for fall fishing. 🐟



Jim with a nice Delavan Lake largemouth caught while fishing with Dave Duwe's Guide Service.

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



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10 Tourism Partners Lay out the Welcome Mat

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There truly is an ATV trail in every county that will captivate your attention and leave you wanting more. As you begin to plan your next fall ATV adventure, be sure to check out the Top 12 ATV Trails in Northwest Wisconsin. Visit <https://northwestwisconsin.com/2019/07/top-12-atv-trails-in-northwest-wisconsin/> for more information. These trails will take you through historic sites, wildlife habitats, scenic vistas and more! The breathtaking ride will take you to places where a picture won't be able to do justice to the incredible views, no matter how hard you try.

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Explore Wisconsin 

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JERRY KIESOW

Fly-fishing in Wisconsin

A father-daughter introduction to southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area

Trout fishing in the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin is something my family has talked about for years. This year, our oldest daughter, Chris, and I went. We left on Friday and drove to the Nordic Inn, in Westby, taking the scenic route through Wildcat Mountain State Park. The countryside was gorgeous. We loved every curve and hill.

The next morning we met "Trapper," our guide. Trapper lead us to the Timber Coulee region where we slipped into our hip boots, grabbed our rods, climbed over the stile (a man-made "step" used to climb over barbed wire fences), and began fishing per Trapper's instructions.

We began with dry flies - each a different style. Chris started with a concoction that Trapper's friend had tied and I began with an "ant" I made of closed foam. We took turns fishing the deep runs, casting upstream. We hardly ever stood in the water. We stood in the pasture. We would cast, then gather in the slack line as the fly drifted toward us.

Why boots? To walk through mud and to cross the stream through shallow, rocky, fords that were there for the cattle. At one point, we did encounter some cows. Big, black cows accompanied by small, black calves. "Come here!" the "boss" cow would bellow. And they came. At

times, the cows approached very close, but only stared, and, except for the loud bellowing, were no problem.

The water was slightly cloudy, which was good, because the sky was perfectly clear. The temperature rose to 82 degrees. If it were not for the breeze, it would have been hot. At one "hole," I saw two trout rise. Try as I might, I could not get them to strike my ant bait. Later, the guide admit-

ted to me, "If I were to go trout fishing today, I would not be here now. I would fish early in the morning and later in the afternoon. Not now."

After trying dry flies to no avail, we switched to nymphs, again fished upstream. Chris used a bobber furnished by the guide. I did not. Chris got a few hits, but never hooked

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



We began fishing per instructions given by "Trapper."



We worked upstream through beautiful country, and no company but the occasional cow.

MIKE YURK

Bassology

Changes to old baits mean new bassin success

The world of bass fishing has always been about change. Nothing remains static for long before someone begins to tinker with an older, more established bait to come up with something different.

How many of us have looked at a bait or lure and said “What if I do this to it?” Many of these experiments leave the garage or basement to become new baits on the market.

Many bait companies and lure manufacturers listen to fishermen, pay heed to suggestions from those of us who spend a lot of time on the water, and, in some cases, have their own people looking at new innovations and putting their own spin on an older bait to find new fishermen and fish.

Here are a couple new innovations to older baits I fished this season.

KNUCKLE BAIT

The spinnerbait has been around for the better part of 70 years and has established

itself as a must-have bait for fishermen. Although primarily known as a bass bait, I have caught walleye, northern pike, muskies and even a catfish on spinnerbaits. No tackle box should be without them.

Recently I discovered Yo-Zuri has added a new twist to the spinnerbait. They have removed the spinner, replacing it with a plastic ball and calling it the “Knuckle Bait.”

The ball bounces through the water as it is retrieved, giving it a unique movement. It comes in numerous colors in quarter and half ounce sizes. I am partial to white in spinnerbaits, so I tried the half ounce white Knuckle Bait. The bait works as advertised and I caught bass with it one early summer morning on one of my favorite northwestern Wisconsin lakes.

SHUDDERING BAIT

I first ran across the ChatterBait about 15 years ago. The ChatterBait is a jig with skirt and split tail plastic grub and flat

metal lip in front. It has been a good bait for me and I have a bunch of them in my tackle box.

Terminator has recently come out with a modification called the “Shuddering Bait.” It has a lower positioned jig with a plastic skirt and a cupped plastic lip on the front.

It also comes in numerous colors both in jigs and lips in a three eighth and half ounce sizes. The curved lip provides a sweeping and gurgling movement. I used a half ounce yellow Shuddering Bait with a clear cupped plastic bill one afternoon for about twenty minutes on a lake I never fished before and caught four bass ranging in size from 12 to 16 inches so it works just fine.

HOW AND WHERE TO FISH THEM

These baits are ideal for fishing in shallow water. They work great when worked over weed beds. Fish will come tearing out of the weeds after them.

They can be worked in deeper water by



The Knuckle Bait by Yo-Zuri replaces the spinner on a spinnerbait with a plastic ball.

just allowing the bait to drop in the water before starting the retrieve. Another option is to work the baits over the weeds, and just as it clears the weeds over deeper water, let the bait drift down before resuming retrieving. Sometimes bass will hit as the bait is falling, so keep an eye on your line, and if you see the line twitch or move at all, set the hook.

Many of today's lures will generate new

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

MEMORY MAKER CHARTER

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Great fishing from the Port of Kenosha throughout the warmest months of summer is expected to continue with the transition to cooler fall temperatures. According to Captain John Anderson, fall chinook and lake trout will make up most catches as Memory Maker Charter stalk Lake Michigan in September and October. 🐟

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CAPT. LEE HAASCH

A Fall Calling

Hunt, fish, visit, shop, relax, enjoy Algoma

Looking for a great adventure this fall? Check out Algoma. From picking apples, fishing and hunting, to visiting the farmers' markets and more, the Algoma area has lots to offer as the leaves turn color.

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

If the great outdoors is your game, from canoeing and kayaking the rivers to waterfowl hunting, this is truly a special place. Kewaunee County has hundreds of acres of public hunting land and many of them are stocked with ring neck pheasants for the upland bird hunters. Rich in agriculture, this area produces large numbers of white-

tail deer. Trophy bucks are a common site feasting in the fields. The Lake Michigan shoreline provides the ideal environment for flocks of geese and the annual migration of diving ducks give waterfowl hunters plenty of action.

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

Moving off-shore in the pre-dawn hours and watching a colorful sunrise while battling a silver dancing steelhead is a thrill like no other. This action can be fast and furious this time of year and these acrobatic fish make for some fine eating.

Fall is harvest time in Wisconsin and the Algoma area offers the beauty of au-



Fall is a great time to stock the freezer with great eating salmon and trout.

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FALL ACTIVITIES IN ALGOMA

- WET WHISTLE WINE FEST - Sept 13/14
- MARY to MARY -A Walking Pilgrimage - Sept 9
- FARMERS MARKET - Sundays
- ZOOBILEE 2019 - Oct 5
- FIRST FRIDAY ART IN ALGOMA
- RAKU & HORSEHAIR FIRE - Clay on Steele



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Lake Michigan tributaries like the Ahnapee River in Algoma hold thousands of salmon migrating upstream on their spawning run and provide unbelievable angling opportunities.

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RON STRESING

Wisconsin Black Bear Hunt

Preparation, Mosin-Nagant, outfitter instilled confidence in first-time hunter

In 1996, I started applying for a Wisconsin bear harvest tag, and dutifully applied for my preference points each year. To protect this “investment” I even printed out my point status in 1999, in case the dreaded “mass computer crash” of Y2K came to pass. In the spring of 2004, I was notified I had drawn a Zone B harvest tag. My enthusiasm as a bait hunter was bolstered further with the knowledge that bait hunters would have first opportunity that year over hunters with hounds.

An offer to hunt private property in Zone B had fallen through, and I began the search for an outfitter. I looked into ads, made a few calls, and went with Backwoods Outfitters located near Antigo. The outfitter would handle the baiting, and set me up on a stand with bait that was being hit on a regular basis. My outfitter knew his trade; all six of his bait sites were being hit.

Originally I considered using my Winchester Model 70 .30-'06 or 12 gauge pump shotgun with slugs on the hunt. I'd harvested whitetails with both, and the outfitter assured me it would be a 20 to 25 yard shot. I had recently bought a 1954 vintage Type 53 bolt-action, a Chinese copy of the M-44 Soviet Mosin-Nagant carbine. The rifle was in “unissued” condition, and had cost all of \$75. I spent another \$50 on a black ATI synthetic stock that made the carbine fit like my Model 70. The bore on the rifle looked pristine, and it would group



“Ghost”, the phantom monster black bear first appeared in these OWO pages 6 years ago. He shows up in Bayfield County like clockwork annually in late summer, and made his grand appearance for our trail camera again the second week of August, 2019. This super intelligent animal, estimated at 500 pounds plus, has eluded many hunters in those 6 years and sorry... but OWO is rooting for him again! We hope to report that he's 600 pounds in 2020. But, we'll also gladly publish your photo with him if you score.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

BEAR BAITING 101

Using scents and land attractants

It is a common fact that bears have an extremely powerful sense of smell, perhaps the best in the animal kingdom. This can be attributed to the fact that although a bear's brain is roughly a third of the size of a human's, the part that is devoted to smell is five times larger. It is estimated that scent can be detected by bears up to five miles away. Bears rely on this keen sense of smell, and, as hunters, we can use this knowledge to our advantage to encourage a bear to become comfortable with a site.

In addition to traditional baiting methods, it is common practice to utilize purchased scents and attractants to lure bears back to a site. Attractants do just as their

name implies: they attract bears to a site. Attractants have no nutritional value. When used on a regular basis, layering attractants on and near a fresh bait pile will condition bears to return to this spot. In addition to consistency, it is imperative to keep up a bear's curiosity in order to entice him back to the bait pile. The tantalizing smell will alert the creatures that the site has been freshened and raises their curiosity to return for more tasty treats.

This year at Bobs' Bear Bait LLC, we developed oil-based products which make them water resistant to help ensure days of attracting! Our number one attractant, Bacon Smear, has a very

powerful bacon aroma and just a little bit goes a long

ways.

Some other all-time favorite scents include: anise, vanilla, and blueberry. My personal favorite is maple sugar, as it attracts whitetails in addition to bears. Scents may be purchased in concentrate form or pre-mixed and can be easily shipped to your home in just a few days. Scent orders over \$40 are shipped for free.

Remember that scents also work well to cover human odor and other smells from hunting gear. It is essential, however, to remember not to apply these scents to your body or hunting clothes as you may become a target for a curious bear!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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JOHN CLER

Water Holes

Bringing thirsty deer to you

Deer need to drink water. The Badger State is usually blessed with an abundance of this resource. No matter where you hunt, you are likely to be near a lake, pond, river, stream or spring that deer are visiting. The problem is that these water sources may be on a neighboring property or in a location that makes the area difficult or impossible to hunt. There is always a solution for any problem faced by the resourceful hunter. Why not put a water source where you want it? If you are now envisioning a pond, a bulldozer, well drilling and a massive debt – relax – water sources do not need to be large or expensive.

A good water hole can be had for under ten dollars. Plastic kids' swimming pools come in a variety of sizes and colors. Coincidentally, they also go on sale toward the end of summer, when hunters begin putting together a plan for the fall bow season. These pools work great. The size or color do not matter to the deer.

Pools need to be dug into the ground. This helps them support the weight of the water when full, and helps them survive the weather and animal activity. They do not need to be completely below ground level, but should be mostly underground. A branch that is slightly longer than the width of the pool must be placed inside. This will allow small rodents to climb out, should they happen to fall in. Not only do we not want any animal to meet that fate, a drowned animal in the pool will keep deer from using it.

We have used pools for many years. We have had ro-



Water hole made from plastic drum with rodent "ladder" on end.

dents chew holes in them and deer break through the hard plastic with their hooves during cold weather. We simply empty that pool of debris and drop a new one in on top of it. A friend uses a rubberized livestock bucket that holds five to 10 gallons of water. These are more expensive, but are not prone to periodic replacement.

We place our pools in a shaded area to slow water loss by evaporation. Rain water is often sufficient to keep them filled for much of the year. When this is not the case, we use two, 15-gallon containers on an ATV to fill our water holes. An inclined section of sheet metal may be placed on one side of the pool to increase the amount of rain collected.

I recently obtained a few empty plastic barrels that had held chemicals for cleaning dairy pipelines. I sawed them in half, length-wise, cleaned them and attached a wire



Swimming pool water hole with stick for rodent escape.

mesh "ladder" on one end for rodents. These will be used to replace our pools as needed. These barrels may be had for little or no cost and will withstand the elements and animals.

Natural water sources in the hills of southwestern Wisconsin are always in the valleys. These areas are difficult to hunt, as winds are variable and shifting. We place our water holes on the ridge tops. Deer are lazy, like we are. They can walk to the valley for a drink or head to a water hole nearby. We place some water holes within bow range of a stand. Others are placed at the edge of food plots, as an additional attractant to the area. Deer are not looking for crystal clean water. They will drink green water or water containing leaves.

Water holes attract other wild life, as well. An evening spent waiting near a water source for deer that is filled with birds, squirrels and raccoons is a successful one, even if the deer do not show up. 🐾

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

MORGANTHALER, FROM PAGE 5

and big bluegills. For old time northern pike fishermen like me, the red and white Dare Devil was hard to beat. There have been many imitations of this lure but the picture of the devil on the front of it will distinguish it from those impostors. I used the small Dare Devil just for the sake of seeing what this bait could catch. To my amazement, in the month of August, the big bluegills went after it too. I don't have a clue what triggers these panfish to hit so aggressively, but I do know the endless fun this Dare Devil brought in with it using a slow retrieve.

And then there was this beat up old yellow bait. I fell in love with the Cisco Kid because it reminded me of one of my favorite TV western shows of the same name. We would fish Bass Lake out of Hayward, one of Wisconsin's ultra-clear lakes where the fish do not come into the shallows until dark. I remember my first walleye caught about 9 pm on a warm August evening with a Cisco Kid when the sunset was just below the tree level. Good memories are long-lasting memories.

There were these two little jigs sitting in the corner of the box waiting for me to try them once again. They were dynamite when it came to fall fishing for crappies. After tying them on 8-pound test and throwing them out the back of the boat, the method called for simply rowing about 10 yards from the weed line. The key to success meant finding that right speed to catch those suspended crappies and occasional bluegill.

Those tackle box memories were made in part by baits marked A through E in the adjoining photo. Can you identify them without reading the article again? Remember...take a friend fishing and don't forget to clean out the tackle box. 🐾

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.

BOB'S BEAR BAIT, FROM PAGE 14

As the season slows down, you won't need all those totes of product and barrels of bait anymore. We want you to know that we have plenty of small items available for that last hunt.

Remember to have a plan for your harvest because September weather is often very warm. Keep in mind how weather can impact game processing and taxidermy and be ready to act fast!

Have a safe, fun hunt! 🐾

Note: We at Bob's Bear Bait have added another location in eastern Wisconsin north of Green Bay, just off Highway 41. It's a self-service, enclosed black trailer, with a lot of our smaller, easy-to-handle items for sale along with our most popular items. We will also have a selection of our Bear Scent, Bacon Smear and Quick Spray at this location.

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SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes with Suzette Pheasants



One of my husband's favorite pastimes has been hunting pheasant. All he needed was a good bird dog, a trusty shotgun, and plenty of pheasants. It sounded like so much fun that I invited myself on one of those trips. To cut the story short, I can't hunt, and I haven't been invited back. I can cook, however, so I asked two women who have been around pheasant hunters for years to share some of their favorite recipes with me. According to Bev Scallon, the easiest way to prepare an entire pheasant dinner is to clean and season the pheasant, and place it in an oven cooking bag following the directions on the box. While that is baking, poke a fork into a couple of baking potatoes and a whole squash, and put those in the oven as well. Bake potatoes and squash until soft, and don't forget to scrape out the squash seeds before serving. Enjoy!

Sour Cream Pheasants - Joy Nolan

Cut pheasants in pieces, roll in flour, brown in butter and oil. Pour off excess oil after browning. Salt & pepper to taste.

Mix and pour over pheasant pieces:

- 1 16 ounce carton sour cream
- 2 cups water
- 2 teaspoons celery salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt

Bake in 350° oven for 2 ½ hours or until done. Be sure pheasant never dries out. The sauce should be like gravy when served.

Wild Rice Dressing - Joy Nolan

2 cups wild rice (washed and soaked if needed) placed in cooking pot. Add 3 quarts fresh hot water, cover and bring to a boil. Boil 15 minutes and turn off. Let stand ½ hour. Drain off any excess water.

Melt 1 stick of butter in frying pan and add:

- ½ cup chopped green pepper
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery

Cook vegetables very slowly until done. Add vegetables to wild rice.

Fry ½ pound bacon and crumble into wild rice. Add 1 cup of chicken broth. Mix all together and pour into casserole dish. Bake 40 minutes in 325° oven.

Braised Pheasant - Bev Scallon

Pick feathers, clean and singe, or skin. Wash, cut off wings and legs. Split back. Leave breast whole. Salt lightly. Brown pieces in butter. Add 2 cups water or cream and cover.

Roast in moderately slow oven, 325°, adding more water or butter if necessary. Baste and turn often.

For gravy, thicken liquid with 1 T flour and add 1 cup sour cream.

Pheasant Stuffing Casserole - Bev Scallon

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 2 onions, chopped | 1 egg, lightly whipped |
| 1 ½ cup chopped celery | 2 teaspoons salt |
| Liver and heart from pheasant, chopped | 1 teaspoon pepper |
| ½ pound pork sausage | 1 teaspoon paprika |
| 8 cups dried bread cubes | 1 T poultry seasoning |
| 1 box stuffing mix | 8 T butter, sliced |

Saute, onions, celery, liver and heart, and pork sausage adding any oil or butter as needed. Set aside to cool slightly. In large bowl, combine bread, stuffing mix and seasonings. Fold in egg. Stir in vegetables and meat and mix well. Pour into lightly sprayed or oiled casserole dish and dot entire top with slices of butter. Bake at 370°. 🍴

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

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LEE GATZKE

Western Hospitality

Muley buck falls to Wisconsin archer's stalk

Being "over the hill" has its advantages as friends see to it that the old guy has a good time.

The prairie had seen an early dusting of snow when I arrived in South Dakota for a mule deer bow hunt. Fortunately, the cow pies were frozen on the treeless prairie. I'd be able to belly-crawl while stalking and not wind up with any gooey, smelly surprises on my clothing. Since many public hunting areas are leased to cattle ranchers, contact with cow pies is always a possibility.

In this country, a bow hunter uses binoculars and/or a spotting scope to locate deer, then stalks into range to get a shot. The lack of trees aid in spotting deer, but makes it tricky to stalk in close. Many times deer are found where cattle roam so that becomes a factor in your stalk. Spook cattle while stalking deer and the nearby deer notice. Their reaction is to run off, spoiling your stalk. I figure that one in 10 of my stalks succeed in me getting a shot. Spot and stalk hunting is a humbling experience, but very engaging since you are usually closing in on one you've spotted. It typically takes hours to stalk into bow range and all that while anticipation builds as you slowly and quietly close the distance.

This year my hunt would be different. Through the years, a good friend has introduced me to some local landown-



A high racked muley taken with the help of some good people from the Mount Rushmore state.

ers. This year I'd be hunting their private land. By the time I arrived, one of the landowner family members, Kota, had tagged-out on a real nice muley and was willing to help me find one. Health issues had hobbled me the past few years, but with Kota showing me around, we'd be able to take some shortcuts into the heart of their best mule deer cover. The first day out Kota spotted two good bucks, giving us two options for stalking.

On the first stalk we drove my pickup through a pasture to the back side of a hill where the best buck was bedded.

Walking up the back side of the hill, we crested it to within a couple hundred yards of the buck. Creeping closer, we occasionally peeked over the crest to look downhill to where the buck lay. At 40 yards I stood up and drew my bow. A nearby doe we hadn't noticed saw me and spooked, causing the buck to stand up and look around. The downhill-shot was a clean miss just before he took off. Arrghhhh!

The next stalk on buck number two was similar. We drove through another pasture to the backside of a hill and hiked up to the top. Once there we glassed the open grassland for a half an hour before locating him. Using the topography, we kept a small rise between us and the buck until we stalked within range. With Kota crouched behind me, I stood to peek over the top of the rise. The buck was gone! Within a second, just his rack appeared, walking my direction from the dip below. I drew my bow as he kept coming. At 20 yards, our eyes met and he offered a heart shot, which I took. We watched him tip over after a 100-yard dash. The concealment of a patch of brush behind us allowed just enough cover to make the buck pause and rotate a little before he was about to skedaddle. Enough time to make a clean shot. 🏹

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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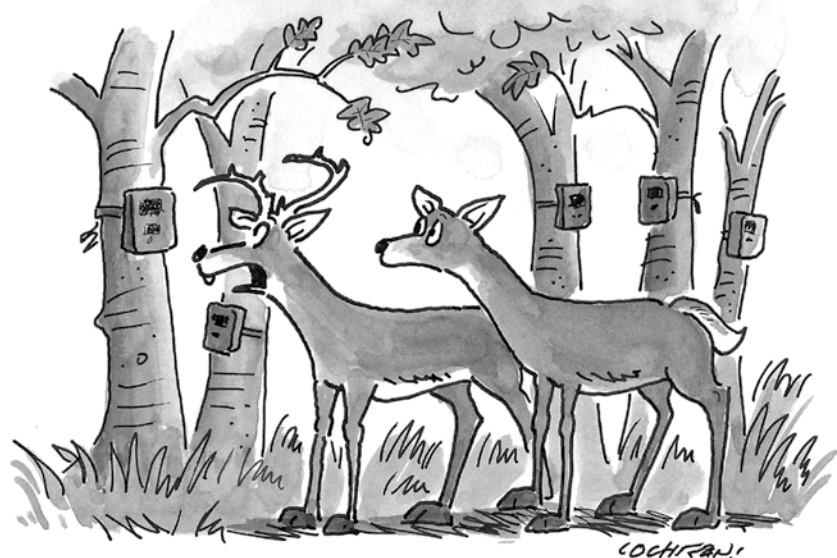
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SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE

Fall Favorites in La Crosse County

If you haven't experienced the fall season in La Crosse County and the surrounding area, you need to add it to your bucket list. The changing colors of the trees that cover the bluffs make for a beautiful sight. Not to mention the area boasts a variety of apple orchards and pumpkin patches that offer pick-your-own options and you'll definitely be able to find some tasty treats.

Here are just five of our fall favorites (though there are many more)...

1. Hidden Trails Corn Maze

Located in West Salem and just a short drive from La Crosse is Hidden Trails Corn Maze. Getting lost in the maze is fun, but there are also plenty of other activities to celebrate the changing season. Pick your own pumpkins, take the kids on a wagon ride, say hi to the farm animals, and more!

2. Southwind Orchards

Once a prize beef cattle operation, Southwind Orchards has grown to be one of the premier apple orchards in the area. Located in Dakota, Minnesota, it's just a short hop over the Mississippi River. The orchard offer 28 varieties of fresh apples as well as apple jams and jellies, apple butter, apple sauce, cider, and everyone's favorite, caramel apples. Visit mid-October and pick out the perfect pumpkin. There's also a

variety of squash and gourds too.

3. Rainbow Ridge Farms B&B and Pumpkin Patch

Nestled in an Onalaska Coulee, you'll find Rainbow Ridge. Enjoy the pumpkin patch, great photo opportunities, games, and crafts for kids. They also have a small farm store where they sell products from their own farm like goat milk soap and lotion, honey, and eggs.

4. Grandad Bluff

Grandad Bluff has become not only a destination point for thousands, but also a symbol of this great Coulee Region. The 600-foot high bluff overlooks the city of La Crosse and provides a view of the Mississippi River Valley including the three states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. This stop is sure to offer you a breathtaking view of the fall colors. Not to mention a scenic drive on your adventure up Bliss Road.

5. Lake Onalaska/Sunny the Sunfish Lookout

This lookout offers stunning views of the 7,700-acre Lake Onalaska and Great River State Trail, part of 101 miles of interconnecting state trails which runs parallel with Lake Onalaska. Come fall, the trees that border and make up some of the Lake's little islands will turn vibrant shades of red, orange, and yellow and add to the scenic beauty this spot already offers. 🍂

Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD

Welcome to Sawyer County Trail Riding

Hayward, Wisconsin - what better place to spend your vacation? Being born and raised here, I may be a little biased, but there's such an array of things to do and see. From the fantastic weather, the fishing, the lakes, the bike trails, and my new experience - the great ATV trails.

Recently, I and co-worker Cindy from the Hayward Information Center were fortunate enough to go for a two-hour tour of the ATV trails via a side x side. It was a first for both of us, and I was honestly a little nervous at first, but once we got going, I loved it! The weather could not have been better and it was so nice to slow down for a change and really appreciate the beauty of the Northwoods; we even saw some wildlife. Whether you're looking for a scenic ride to appreciate the outdoors or a more challenging ride, you can find it all on these trails.

We started at Hayward Power Sports with our tour guide Don Mrotek, who is the Sawyer County trail coordinator. We

were also joined by the President of the North Country ATV Riders, Gene Richardson and his wife Michelle. Gene was kind enough to give us a show through the mud and water. They were all a wealth of knowledge on the trails; you could really tell how passionate they are about it.

I learned how to read the trail maps and signs and discovered that some of the trails were used to train troops headed for Desert Storm. Another thing I didn't know was that the American Birkebeiner trail crosses the ATV trail and that the CAMBA trails are within the trail as well.

If you're planning a trip to Hayward or looking for somewhere new to ride, this is it! The trails are well taken care of and offer something for every level of rider. Whether you bring your own rig or are looking to rent something, we can help you. Stop in and see us and ask us about our ride. Also a big thank you to Hayward Power Sports for letting us use one of their side x side ATVs. We definitely enjoyed our ride! 🍂

Explore Wisconsin



Amy Walter (front) and co-worker enjoys an exciting new experience in Hayward.

Explore Wisconsin

LORI ELLIS

The Monarch Miracle

Observing metamorphosis

I've been admiring and babying a special milkweed patch on the south side of our home since the first green stalks showed through the dirt in the spring of 2007. The emergence of the patch had shocked and surprised me, and I saw it as a gift from Dick's dad who had passed away the summer before. Don Ellis was intrigued by the process of metamorphosis observed in a mason jar since the first summer I gave him a fat Monarch caterpillar and milkweed plant, its only food source.

Believe me; I know where most every milkweed patch exists in this neighborhood, and on roadsides and fields especially on my daily route north to Oconomowoc where I have been teaching for 30 years. And Dick knows too, because when you begin a new school year teaching first graders how to raise Monarch caterpillars, you need fresh milkweed every day. "There's some milkweed! Pull over!" is often my request when traveling down the highway with Dick at the wheel. And now, like a minor miracle of its own, it was available right in my own backyard.

Dick has learned a lot about the Monarch Butterfly and come to appreciate my fascination with its life cycle. It begins with finding the elusive single white egg on the underside of milkweed leaf after observing the female monarch make stops on multiple leaves to rest and tip her abdomen to reach the underside. Even easier is searching for the yellow, black and white striped caterpillar on a milkweed plant.

Signs of caterpillars are tiny holes in the milkweed leaves, a result of constant chewing, and "frass" or droppings still resting on leaves below. After finding the tiny egg or larva, the leaf or stem section where it has been eating can be cut and placed in a clear container for observing. I was given the gift of a large screened butterfly cage I keep outside that continuously has Monarchs in many stages of metamorphosis and has had its door open to release

PUBLISHER'S NOTE. I surrender my column space this issue to my wife.

Lori will introduce you to the Monarch Miracle. For more than 20 years, I have helped prepare Lori's first grade classes to raise and release butterflies into the wild in early Fall, primarily as a milkweed hunter (you will understand soon). While passing on the many Wisconsin outdoor traditions to your kids, try this one. You won't be sorry.



Stages of metamorphosis are shown including caterpillar, magical transformation of caterpillar into hanging chrysalis, and emerging monarch butterfly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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TOM CARPENTER

Bowhunting Farmland Hotspots

Five stand placements strategies to up your odds

Across Wisconsin, deer country and farm country are one and the same. On that landscape, stand location is everything. Whitetail food and water sources, bedding cover and travel patterns are key. The following list will shorten your search for the perfect stand site - or maybe help you change things up and find a new hotspot.

1 Corner

Conventional wisdom says that a farmland bowhunter should not set up right on the food source, but rather place his or her stand back in the cover to ambush whitetails traveling to their evening feed. But the cover the deer are using isn't always extensive enough to do that. There's another place you can find success: an "inside corner."

Picture any L-shaped corner formed by timber, or where a fenceline or hedgerow intercepts woods. A similar scenario is a lobe or "U" of cropland surrounded by cover; imagine crops planted in the oxbow bend of a creek or river that is lined with timber, brush or tall grass. The bottom line

is, you're looking for a place with feed (hay or alfalfa early in the season, corn or soybean stubble later) extending into a notch or corner. Whitetails feel comfortable here, and you're waiting where the deer want to be.

2 Saddle

Where farm country is hilly and ridges dominate the topography, whitetails often have to cross them to get to feed, water or bedding areas. There's a perfect place to set up on any ridge: a saddle or depression that allows whitetails to filter back and forth without having to climb to the elevation's highest level, or skyline themselves.

Set a couple tree stands in a saddle, then play off each day's wind to figure out which one to occupy. Consider thermals and the expected direction of the whitetails' travel. You'll want to be right in the saddle itself in the morning as the air is warming and rising, and just below the saddle (in the direction you expect the deer to be moving) as the evening air cools and drops.

3 Intersection

Because of agricultural landscapes' varied nature (grain fields, pastures, wetlands, grassy or fallow fields, woodlots, fence-lines, hedgerows, farmyards, homesteads, tree lots, creeks, rivers), farmland is full of intersections where deer travel corridors come together. To up your odds, set up where landscape features converge.

Here are some examples: Look for the intersection of two fencelines or hedgerows, two drainage ditches, or one of each; use a ground blind if there are no trees around. In woodlots, search for the "crossroads" between a tractor path/logging trail/tote road, and a deer trail. Points of timber are prime spots where whitetails crossing open country like to duck into cover, making the area a busy intersection.

4 Hookup

Look for areas where one kind of cover or landscape feature hooks up with another. Farmland deer will naturally follow a corridor of cover, then pause where it adjoins other cover.


There are many examples of good hook-

up spots: where a fenceline or hedgerow meets a woodlot; where a treeline or brushline joins up with creek bottom or river bottom timber; or where a swale or ditch empties out of or enters into a marsh or wetland.

5 Narrows

Farmland cover often occurs in strips. Look for areas where the cover narrows or pinches, a place often called a funnel.


Think about places like these: a winding creek bottom where it necks down; a strip of timber or a wide hedgerow where it thins down and whitetails have to stick to one side or the other for cover. Narrow areas in fields spanning ridgetops or running along valley bottoms are good spots for intercepting feeding deer that are funneling into range.

Next issue we'll run down some great ideas for firearms season stand sites. 

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



YURK, FROM PAGE 10

advances, limited only by the imagination of fishermen and those willing to tinker in their garage and basement. That is where so many of our best lures started. It will be exciting to see where the future will take us. 

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

Mike Yurk shows the results of fishing with the Shuddering Bait by Terminator.

KIESOW, FROM PAGE 9


up. This change gave me the opportunity to try the Devin Olsen Blowtorch that served as a focus of this column in the July-August OWO issue. It did hook up with trout, but I did not land any.

Later, we found some great holes in the Bohemian Valley Area but, again, never landed a fish. The weather was just too nice. If Trapper had not had a spray to keep those tiny little gnats away from buzzing our heads it could have been a very short day.

We left about two o'clock. We had seen many trout and were impressed with the landscape, but it was time to drive home.

Did we enjoy the day? You bet. Will we do it again? Maybe. But when we do, the weather will be cloudy, not clear and hot.

See you in the river.

Keep a good thought! 

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/or great gifts. They are available for purchase at Orange Hat Publishing, Amazon, and his website: www.jerrykiesowoc.com. Be sure to check his site out often to follow his updates and endeavors - which he does not always tell you about.



Fox Valley Retriever Club

Training You To Train Your Retriever

FOXVALLEYRETRIEVERCLUB.COM



TOM MUELLER

First Aid for the Hunting Retriever

First things to know and do

Some years back on a Sunday morning, I took my three golden retrievers for a run in a field near my home. It was late March and most of the snow had melted except for a few large patches scattered here and there. Having let my dogs run in this field many times before, I walked my usual route which they knew well. As I approached a patch of snow that my dogs had crossed, I noticed some bloody paw prints in the snow. I caught up to them quickly and checked each paw on each dog. Molly, the last dog I checked, had a lot of blood coming from the area between the pads on one of her front paws. The only thing I had was a handkerchief. I squeezed it onto the bottom of her paw, and carried her back to my van.

I drove home where I bandaged it with some gauze and an elastic bandage, then headed for the Animal Emergency Center. There the vet told me she severed two tendons and a vein. She also said that Molly was given two units of blood, and had I not discovered her injury as soon as I did and had she continued to run, she might have bled out.

This past winter at one of their monthly meetings, the Fox Valley Retriever Club invited Dr. Randy Schuett of the Pewaukee Veterinary Service to give a seminar on sporting and hunting dog first-aid. He spoke about the injuries that can occur while on a hunt and how to treat them until you can get your dog to a vet. Being that



This k-9 first-aid kit purchased online was transferred to the less-bulky fanny pack kit holding most everything needed to treat an injured dog in the field.

both he and his brother Jeff, who is also a veterinarian, own retrievers and hunt them, the information he gave comes not only from his veterinary knowledge and experience, but also from giving first-aid to their dogs in the field while on their hunting excursions.

One of the main and most important points of Dr. Randy's seminar was to be prepared. Of course, that means having a first-aid kit with you. But he also stressed that an equally important part of being

prepared is to know the location of the nearest vet clinic and to have both their non-emergency and emergency contact information readily available.

I was not prepared for Molly injuring her foot and was very lucky that my dogs ran across that patch of snow. What I learned from that experience is that your dog can get injured anytime, anywhere. Sometime after that I shopped for a K-9 first-aid kit, eventually finding one on a sporting dog training supply website. Al-

though it's compact and has most everything you might need for emergency vet care in the field, at 8 inches by 4 inches by 6 inches and weighing about 2 pounds, it is rather bulky. It fits into a larger pocket of my hunting coat, but it's not really practical when hooked onto a belt loop for a fun run or when training.

My solution was to put together a smaller first-aid kit using a fanny-pack. On the Pewaukee Veterinary Service website there is a page that lists supplies that can be used to make a K-9 first-aid kit. On their home page click on "Navigate to," then scroll down to "Helpful Info for Pet Owners." Click on that and then scroll down from there. From that and the information that Dr. Randy gave at his seminar, I was able to put together a smaller kit in a fanny-pack which is light enough and can be conveniently carried on me whenever I have my dogs out for a hunt, training, or just for a fun run. 🐾

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



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ELLIS, FROM PAGE 24

hundreds of butterflies over the years. However, any container will do as long as it has a solid roof and plenty of small holes, keeping it outdoors or indoors, but away from extreme heat.

The caterpillars need fresh milkweed free from pesticides, almost daily. When we're lucky we'll see tiny "bonus" caterpillars newly hatched from unseen eggs laid on the milkweed placed inside as food. They'll be less than ¼ inch long, and will need small tender leaves at first. A caterpillar's job is to eat and eat. When almost two inches in length and plump, it will stop eating, crawl to the top of the container and spin a small silk pad to attach its "caboose" from. Eventually, it will hang in J-shape with its head down and still and is not to be disturbed.

Within a day, the caterpillar will begin to wriggle and twist. Its skin will split and slowly bunch upward leaving the caterpillar's last molt behind. Green lumpy innards will eventually become

smooth and shiny during this magical transformation of caterpillar into chrysalis. Adorned with metallic golden markings, this miracle is complete in a matter of minutes.

After 12 days or more, the outer shell becomes transparent, showing the orange and black of the monarch wings when the butterfly is ready to emerge. It will crawl out of its shell still hanging on with wings crumpled and wet, expelling liquid waste and pumping its wings until flat and dry. In about 18 hours the butterfly will flap its wings and be ready for release. After hatching I like to observe the butterfly to determine its gender. The males have a black dot on each hind wing and are "male markers" for sexing purposes. The female has thicker veins and may look darker than the males.

I am always excited to share with my new first grade class my fascination of the Monarch and appreciation of nature with the chance to observe metamorphosis up close. And now, thank you for allowing me to share it with you. 🐾



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds Ring-Necked Pheasant

Every bird-lover's heart beats fast at the sight of a big rooster pheasant strutting proudly along in his feathered finery – from bold red eye patch, iridescent purple-green head, white “necklace” and burgundy breast to powder blue lower back and that long, elegant tail.

And every bird hunter's heart skips two beats at the flush of a cackling rooster from the weed patch or cattail slough.

Originally imported to North America from China in the 1880s, these adaptable gamebirds have become as American as we are. Pheasants inhabit grasslands, meadows, prairie patches, wetlands and farmland across the southern half to two-thirds of Wisconsin. Pheasants do best where agriculture and conservation practices create a mosaic of habitat across the landscape.

Look for hen pheasants, too – subtly beautiful birds cloaked in mottled feathers of sandy brown, cream and gray.

Listen for the rooster's loud, raspy *kyik-kuk* mating call in spring (he'll also sound off on frosty fall mornings) ... or his cackle when he flushes in fall.

Let a few corners of your property go wild for pheasants. Ringnecks need brush and weeds and wildflowers and grass for hiding, but come out to feed in open areas on sunny mornings and late afternoons.

Feed pheasants shelled corn spread on the ground. In winter, keep snow off the grain with a simple “lean-to” built from plywood and 2x4s.

Did you know that pheasants, while primarily seed eaters, also love fruits and berries? Crabapple, dogwood, viburnum, highbush blueberries, Russian olive, mulberries and raspberries will all attract pheasants. These small trees and shrubs also provide important wintering habitat, along with perhaps a row of evergreens. 🍂

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

SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

Explore Wisconsin



Plan Your Get-Away, Enjoy Our Heritage

Warm days. Cool nights. Fall will be here in a blaze of spectacular color. Visiting the Hurley area will provide you with ATV/UTV trails that offer the best scenic vistas, waterfalls that are beautiful photo opportunities and roads that beckon you to slow down and take in the beauty.

There are many hunting opportunities throughout the Hurley area. The large expanses of remote public lands give the adventurous room to roam. The continuous forest of Iron County may reduce the carrying capacity for some game species, but the large acreage and the lower density of hunters makes for ideal hunting. Hunter walking trails are found throughout the area. The Montreal and Uller cross country ski trails make for great hunter walking trails. Logging roads provide excellent walking trails for hunters, some may be gated or bermed to prevent vehicle access. To find all areas to explore detailed Sportsman's Maps are available to guide you through our lakes for the best adventures.

Plan 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 our office 715-561-4334.

As September draws to a close, the days get shorter and nature prepares itself for winter. The lack of light and water during the winter months requires the trees to go into a rest mode. As the green fades, the leaves show other colors. The brilliance of the colors we see in fall depends on the weather conditions.

The brightest colors are seen when late summer is dry and autumn has bright sunny days, with cool evenings. Rain will keep the leaves on the trees longer and help enhance the color. Our area hardwood forests show spectacular color with many opportunities to view beautiful vistas, lakes and waterfalls.

Contact our office for a brochure to guide you along some blacktop roads to view the scenery.

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

There's still plenty of time to explore the Iron County Historical Society Museum, open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am – 2 pm. The museum holds three floors of history relating to Hurley and the early years of mining, logging and infamous Silver Street. 🍂

Join us soon in Hurley! www.hurleywi.com



Lori Ellis of New Berlin, the publisher's wife, takes the plunge in another very welcome Hurley area water hole while on an ATV ride in Iron County.

www.hurleywi.com



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this FALL

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SPOTLIGHT | WASHBURN COUNTY



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The extraordinary colors and quiet trails during the fall season make it the perfect time of year to plan an ATV getaway to Washburn County. With well over 100 miles of scenic trails, most of which wind through dense county forest land, the area is a haven for ATV enthusiasts. Two ATV-designated campgrounds and plentiful lodging properties with ATV trail access make the area a great hub for exploring the Northwest Wisconsin trail system. UTVs are welcome on all Washburn County ATV trails, making touring the trails a great family adventure.

Be sure to check out the ATV Scenic Tour which highlights over 35 points of interest along the trail system. It's the perfect way to enjoy the fall colors and learn a little about the area in the process. During your trip, you'll find great local stops for a coffee warm up or a specialty burger with all the fixings. To plan your Fall ATV getaway, visit washburncounty.org.

See you on the trails! 🍂



Over 100 miles of ATV trails are waiting for you in Washburn County.

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A closer look at some trapping supplies to get you started or expand your trapline



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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

Waterfall Wonders, WhistleStop Marathon

Ashland WI, Chequamegon Bay and Lake Superior, The Greatest of the Great Lakes has an abundance of natural beauty, outdoor activities, events, waterfalls, autumn colors, and extraordinary sunsets where you will also easily become hooked on fishing! Smallmouth Bass Fishing is a must do with our world-class Chequamegon Bay fishery. Whether you are boating, shore fishing or with our local guides, expect a mixed bag of hard-fighting Lake Superior gamefish.

Enjoy our Farmers Market featuring locally grown produce and hand-made products Saturday mornings through Mid-October, from 8am to noon in the Plaza Park on 6th Ave. West and Main Street.

Don't miss out on the splendid Waterfalls in Ashland County and the beginning of Autumn at its finest. Just South of Ashland in Ashland County is Copper Falls State Park where you will enjoy camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking nature trails and concessions. Early Autumn is the perfect time to embrace nature in the Chequamegon Bay region.

September means the beginning of the leaves changing color. Morgan Falls and Saint Peter's Dome (Approx. 30 miles south of Ashland) will be starting to showcase gor-



geous colors at this time of year. Hike to the top of Saint Peter's Dome and see both Ashland and Bayfield Counties with a huge array of fabulous colors. The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, just west of Ashland has an observation tower that will showcase much of the areas fall color.

The Tri-County Corridor (which includes Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties) lies nestled along an abandoned railbed and features beautiful trees that showcase the fall colors quite nicely.

The 22nd Annual MMC WhistleStop Marathon/ Half Marathon and 5K/10K Cruisin' the Corridor race

Explore Wisconsin



is October 12th, 2019. This race is a trail run along the Tri-County corridor filled with vibrant color and the fresh smell of autumn. The course is relatively flat and a Boston qualifier. Surrounding this race is a pasta feed on Friday night and a post-race party on Saturday followed by the Annual Blues & Brews Fest (must be 21 to attend the Blues and Brews Fest). For more information check out whistlestopmarathon.com.

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BILL THORNLEY

A Special Escape *The lure of Crex Meadows*

Most people have a special place they go to escape. A place to reload, charge the batteries and just disappear for a few hours. For me that spot is often the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area near Grantsburg, a sprawling wetland prairie habitat filled with waterfowl, wildlife and quiet.

Well, quiet unless you consider the honking of geese, quacking of ducks, throaty calls of sandhill cranes, thumping of dancing sharptail grouse, yips of coyotes, drumming of ruffed grouse, and the music of various songbirds. Sounds that I find soothing.

Crex Meadows is part of the Northwestern Wisconsin Pine Barrens, and it encompasses approximately 30,000 acres, with 2,400 acres set aside as a wildlife refuge. Thousands of Canada geese, sandhill cranes, ducks, coots, and herons can be seen during the spring and fall bird migrations. Summer brings wonders as well, especially during the pre-dawn hours.

Crex Meadows is a year-round natural wonder. Fall at Crex can be an almost magical time as the crisp air is alive with the sounds of geese and sandhills. Their calls dance across the water and the prairie, disappearing into the multi-colored trees surrounding the sanctuary.

During spring and into early summer, visitors may view eagles and ospreys on their nests. Young swans bob up and down on the waters, and tiny balls of yellow fluff follow their Canada goose parents single file. Within a very short time, they transform into gangly, grey “teenagers,” but still following mom and dad.

On a recent trip I came across a plump beaver hauling freshly cut branches to his lodge. When he dipped under the water, I moved closer and spent the next hour or so watching him bob up and down, patching this and that spot with mud. Finally, when he realized I was there, he slapped the water with his tail and disappeared. It was a great morning.

Visitors could possibly stumble across a whitetail doe and her spotted fawn, a red fox in the prairie grass, or a red-tailed hawk perched on a tree limb scanning the ground for an unlucky mouse. One can also see pheasants or turkeys, or even observe the dances of sharptail grouse in



their mating rituals of spring.

This time of year the prairie blooms, creating seas of color as the different species come into their own. As the wind blows one can smell the water that surrounds them.

Visitors can start at the wildlife education building and visitors center. The center contains a sales area, information center, library, auditorium, exhibits and classrooms.

Hunters and trappers can also enjoy parts of Crex. With the exception of the 2,400-acre refuge, Crex is open to hunting and offers good opportunities for deer, black bears, waterfowl and small game. Those visiting Crex can canoe or kayak, enjoy biking, hiking, horse riding and even camping in parts of the wildlife area that are clearly marked.



Cranes at sunrise



Eagle on Deer

30,000 acres

From tax delinquent lands, drained sedge marshes, and overgrown brush prairie, the area was transformed years ago into a productive wetland, prairie and forest complex by the state Conservation Department for a game refuge that today provides habitat for many of Wisconsin's bird and wildlife species in Pine Barrens. Over the past half-century, the wildlife sanctuary has become one of the most heavily visited wildlife areas in the midwest, with an estimated 100,000 visitors each year. Yet I have never, in all the time I have spent there, felt crowded. Most times I have never even encountered another human.

Historic Crex

In distant times, there was a Crex, big meadows formed in the remains of Glacial Lake Grantsburg. A lobe of the last glacial advance blocked the St. Croix River, forming the lake. When the ice dam melted, a series of shallow lakes remained, eventually forming the marshes that exist today.

The first white settler, Canute Anderson, arrived at Crex in 1852. Fox, Lakota, and Chippewa Indians had long used Crex, hunting geese, ducks, and cranes there in the nesting areas. Even shaggy buffalo roamed the area. White settlement brought changes to the Crex area as large-scale commercial drainage of the marsh began in 1890. The entire ecological pattern of the area was upset as the marsh went from being a productive wet prairie to a dry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

HAASCH, FROM PAGE 12

tumn colors, wonderful opportunities to purchase farm-fresh products, award winning wines, local apple and cherry treats. Don't forget, Algoma is also home to the "Sport Fishing Capital of the Great Lakes."

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For charter information or fishing reports, visit my website at: 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 40 years of great lakes angling experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with educational seminars and timely freelance articles in outdoor publications.

Waterfowl hunters find plenty of action on the Ahnapee River.

Fall is a great time to stock the freezer with great eating salmon and trout.

Lake Michigan tributaries like the Ahanapee River in Algoma hold thousands of salmon migrating upstream on their spawning run and provide unbelievable angling opportunities.

Giant King Salmon stage outside river mouths waiting to start their annual spawning run. 🐟

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.

STRESING, FROM PAGE 14

military ammunition into one to two-inch groups. It shot even better with commercial ammunition or my hand loads.

For those unfamiliar with the 7.62x54mm or .30 caliber Russian, it's the longest serving military caliber in the world, first having been issued in 1891. It's still in use today in light machine guns, sniper and designated marksman rifles. In simplest terms, it's a .30-'06 with a rimmed casing. It's also taken game all over Eastern Europe, Finland and Siberia.

Soft point hunting ammunition was hard to find at the time. I hand-loaded my hunting loads with a Lee "red box" kit. Significant time range testing showed good accuracy with .308 diameter hunting bullets. I chose the Nosler AccuBond 180gr. bullet, loaded to about 2,600 fps. A once-in-a-lifetime hunt deserves a premium, bonded

core bullet. I used new brass, and weighed out every single powder charge.

My guide set me out on stand and freshened up the bait pile. He advised me not to shoot the yearling male that would probably show up first. Just as predicted, a small male pulled the logs off the bait and fed nervously. Soon after his departure, the "big one" showed up. I shot the bear behind the left shoulder as it quartered away, knocking the 300 pound animal flat.

My bear turned out to be a nine-year-old female with no cubs as the law demands. It was excellent eating and made a lovely trophy rug. As for the Type 53, it went on to harvest three deer. Like me, it's an "old dog" that can still hunt! 🐾

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

THORNLEY, FROM PAGE 28

sedge prairie. During the next 50 years, various commercial ventures were attempted in the Crex, including carpet manufacturing and cranberry farming.

By 1940 much of the land was taken over by the state Conservation Department for a game refuge. Dikes were built to form lakes, and wildlife began to once again become abundant. The area thrived and became the popular, successful wildlife area it is today. In 1984, the Friends of Crex, Inc. was established as a support group for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. Today, the group is actively

involved in providing financial and volunteer support.

Never disappointed

Over many years, camera by my side, I have trekked to Crex during every season. First as a child, with my father, and continuing to this day. Crex is a place where nature is at home and we are just passing through. I have never left the Crex and its abundance of wildlife disappointed. 🐾

Bill Thornley is the editor of the Spooner Advocate in Spooner, Wisconsin. He has enjoyed hunting his whole life, and writing about his experiences. His photos and writing have won many state and national awards over 43 years on the job.



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SKB SHOTGUNS

Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

A 100 Year Badger Tradition

Shotgun, load and shooting tips for Wisconsin pheasants

Older hunters who grew up in Wisconsin in the 1960s remember fondly opening day of Wisconsin's pheasant hunting season. October's third Saturday, the noon opener, crowded fields with people and dogs who may not have hunted again for 12 months, but who also wanted very much to be part of a long-established Wisconsin tradition.

When Col. Gustav Pabst released Wisconsin's first pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) in 1916, he really started something. The first state-wide season took place just 11 years later in 1927. That was how successful pheasant stockings were in then mostly agricultural Wisconsin. Today, wild birds still occupy areas of southern and central Wisconsin and even significant regions of the far northwest.

Wild Pheasant opportunity today sometimes comes unexpectedly. A wild pheasant that flushed while I searched for a downed Canada goose near Brandon, Wisconsin, a



Author with 2018 rooster pheasant. His 20 gauge over/under is extremely accurate and easy to carry.

few years back went into the game bag. But a search on the internet and discussions with DNR upland game wildlife experts or regional conservation clubs will also offer a realistic chance at wild roosters right here in the Badger state.

Regardless of whether your hunt targets wild birds or takes advantage of opportunities offered on stocked public hunting areas or private game properties, what you carry into the field remains consistent. Before hitting the fields, consider this shotgun, load and choke advice.

Guns selection: Light weight is the main consideration. I once estimated we averaged four - five miles of walking per pheasant. This was at the Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha, where they plant a lot of birds. Walk-up pheasant hunting is not the time to carry that heavy 3 1/2" magnum chambered waterfowl pump

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



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STRESING, *FROM PAGE 30*

gun. Heavy shotguns cushion the recoil of magnum waterfowl loads, but no one wants to carry one around all day.

Semi-autos: For about forty years, I've mostly pheasant hunted with my old SKB XL300 semi-auto 12 gauge. While mine is no longer made, the modern, upgraded version is the HS 300 Field model. The 12 gauge version weighs in at less than seven pounds. The advantage is three to five shots without reloading. The only drawback is a single choke setting for long follow-up shots.

Double guns: Lately, I find myself using my 20 gauge over/under a lot more than my old semi-auto. Double guns, whether over/under or classic side-by-sides, offer several advantages over a single-barrel gun. A more open choke for the first shot and a tighter choke for a denser pattern on longer follow-up shots. Another advantage is being able to change loads fast. If I need to unload my heavy pheasant loads of 4 or 5 shot for lighter loads of 6 or 7 ½ shot for rabbits, doves or woodcock, it's easier than unloading a semi-auto. They are also fairly lightweight. A 20 gauge SKB 690 Field over/under weighs only 6 pounds, 5 ounces. The SKB series 200 and 250 classic side-by-side guns weigh about the same. Lightweight enough to carry all day.

Shell selection: Please leave the 100-round "bargain pack" 8-shot shells home for clay targets. All of the major ammunition manufacturers now market special pheasant loads. My advice, go with these, or at least 1 1/8th ounce of lead 6 shot, or 1 ounce of 4 steel for a minimum. Move up to heavier 1 ¼ ounce loads of size 4 or 5 shot, or 1/8th ounce of 3 steel for late season or far-flushing birds. Good Luck! 🍀

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



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JERRY DAVIS

Autumn Delicacies

Foraging for forest foods

Not every outdoors person is a hunter, but a similarly satisfying experience is often found by hikers looking for ginseng, hickory nuts and mushrooms. These are three of Wisconsin's most alluring fall forest finds. It's not because of the monetary rewards that they might command; no, the reward is more the opportunity to breathe fresh, crisp air and find something nutritious and tasty to take home and eat. Indeed, the real joy for many hikers is the marvel of an autumn adventure that does not require much more than going into the woods on a Saturday morning.

A description of each of the fall delicacies follows:

It's almost impossible to mistake a chicken-of-the-woods shelf fungus, aka sulphur fungus, from any other fungus. For starters, examine the photograph accompanying this article. Note that there may only be one of these beauties in a 40 acre area. There are no gills under the shelf, just microscopic pores. If they are there, they're easy to spot. The best eating is the outer inch or two of each bracket. Eat or preserve like any mushroom, as you would a morel, but please cook gently in some way before eating any mushroom, wild or store-bought. Unlike morels, which make some folks sick, chickens don't do that, and they do taste a tiny bit like real chicken.

Hickory nuts may be somewhat less exciting until you try them. They are the wild pecan and Wisconsin's newest symbol, the state nut. Pick hickory nuts off the ground, but check so as to not mix with bitters (yellowbud hickory). Dry, crack, pick out nut meats (seed embryos) and eat immediately or use for cooking, pies, cookies, cereal and more. They're delicious and healthy. There's no long-lasting stain like walnuts and no bitter taste to these meats either.

Finally, on the way home, even in the same woods as mushrooms and hickory nuts are found, a few ginseng plants may be lurking. Here's where we separate the fruit from the nuts. There's a ginseng season, a license, permission-to-pick and an even better eye needed. Ginseng roots are dug from the ground and can be sold for a hefty buck, but only in September and October. The license is less than \$20 and the only items necessary to harvest them are a screwdriver and a bag to put them in.

Again, study some photographs first, or find a trusty teacher to point out the plant and how to identify it among the many botanicals in a Wisconsin woods. Caution: while mushrooms and hickory nuts can be state park-picked, ginseng cannot. 🍄

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



Ginseng leaflets turn yellow and berries turn red when the season opens in September.



Shagbark hickory nuts are good eating as a snack or in cookies and pies.



Sulphur bracket fungi grow out of oak and cherry logs.

DICKINSON, ND



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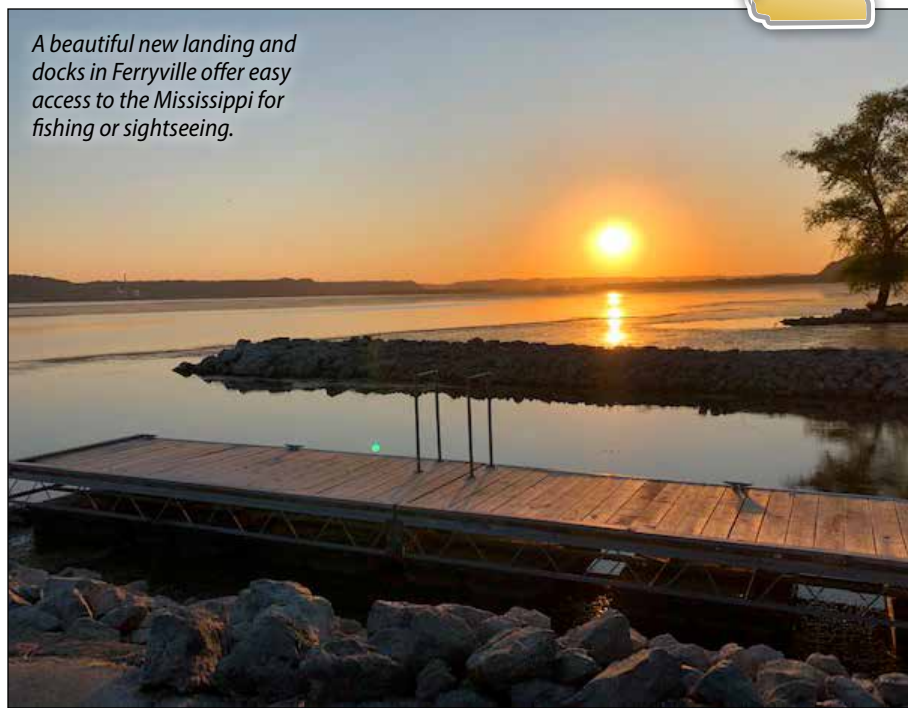
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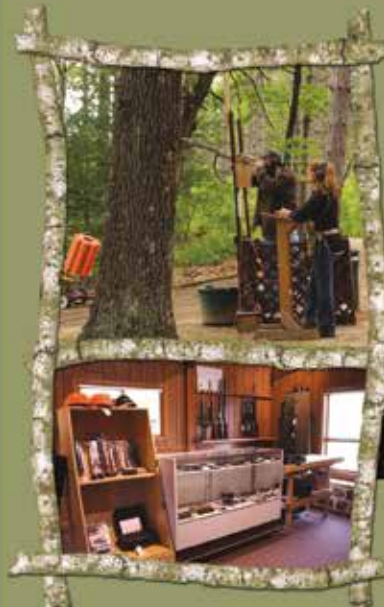
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STUART WILKE

Concealed Carry

A .22 rimfire revolver is a great introduction to handgun shooting

A .22 caliber rimfire revolver shares many attributes with its semi-automatic cousins. In terms of concealed carry purposes, each can be found in small, compact, lightweight versions that are a viable alternative to larger caliber handguns, according to Mike “Shorty” Govas, owner of Shorty’s Shooting Sports in West Allis.

“For the inexperienced or first-time shooter, a .22 caliber handgun is the way to go,” Shorty contends. “They have virtually no recoil or muzzle blast, which means they are much less intimidating to new shooters and easier to practice and train with. The low cost of the ammunition means you can shoot more and become a more proficient handgun shooter. And I don’t care what some so-called experts may say; they make for a formidable self-defense gun. If you can hit center mass, and you’re more likely to with a gun you are proficient with, a .22 rimfire is a good concealed carry choice.”

Handguns chambered for the .22 rimfire come in two basic varieties: revolvers and semi-automatics. In the last edition of On Wisconsin Outdoors, Shorty focused on semi-automatic pistols. In this edition, he will concentrate on revolvers.

“There are basically three different types of .22 revolvers,” he explained. “Single action only, double action only, and guns where you have the option of shooting single or double action. One isn’t necessarily better than another. They all have their advantages and disadvantages.”

A single action revolver, more likely than not, will be patterned after the classic Colt’s Single Action Army that was introduced in 1873. An example would be Ruger’s new, inexpensive “Wrangler.” Such guns require that the hammer be cocked to engage the trigger for each

shot fired. “The big advantage of a single action revolver is the fact that they tend to be more accurate because they need fewer pounds of pressure (trigger pull) to release the trigger,” Shorty said. “Trigger pull on a .22 single action revolver is generally about three to five pounds. The disadvantage is that the exposed hammer can snag on clothing, for instance, when the gun is being withdrawn from a pocket or waist band.”

Some shooters prefer double-action-only revolvers because of their lack of exposed hammers, which does aid in concealability and ease of carry and withdrawal. Double action revolvers have internal hammers and are activated by simply pulling the trigger; there is no need to pull the hammer back with each shot. What is needed is a much heavier trigger pull, which can be problematic for those with debilitating health issues like arthritis.

“Depending on the manufacturer, the trigger pull on a double action revolver is about 12 pounds and up, with 15 being about the average,” Shorty said. “With that kind of a trigger pull, you’re proba-



Ruger's new inexpensive .22 rimfire “Wrangler” is an example of a single action revolver

bly not going to get the accuracy that you would with a single action trigger, although with regular practice, you can get good accuracy from a double action revolver. Of course, you don’t need target accuracy in a self-defense situation, most of which occurs at seven or less yards.”

Perhaps the best alternative would be a revolver that can shoot both single and double action. “Adrenalin plays a huge role in a person’s reactions in time of threat, which means trigger pull probably isn’t going to play a big role in your ability to stop a threat,” Shorty noted. “And a single action option is probably going to be more fun at the range since it will be more accurate due to its lighter trigger pull.”

One aspect that new shooters may want to consider is the fact that, with very few exceptions, revolvers don’t have a safety mechanism to keep them from firing. Shorty doesn’t believe that should be a big concern. “The only safety that you can really count on is the one in your head,” he exclaimed. “You control the trigger with your brain and you and your brain keep your finger away from the trigger until you’re going to shoot.” What about loading and unloading a revolver that requires the careful release of the hammer? “A fully functioning brain knows how to control a

trigger when it comes to loading, unloading and firing a gun. If your brain doesn’t function correctly, you shouldn’t be owning a gun. Period.”

Revolvers, while slower in operation than a semi-automatic pistol, are considered by some shooters to be potentially more reliable than a semi-automatic pistol. Shorty believes that there may be something to this. “If a round doesn’t go off on a revolver, it’s usually no more involved than pulling the trigger again, if it’s double action for instance. With a semi-automatic, it can be more complicated, depending on a failure to fire or eject situation. It can take two to four steps and 10 to 20 seconds to put a semi-automatic pistol back into action.”

For more information on the firearm that best fits your needs, visit Shorty’s Shooting Sports in West Allis. 📞

Stuart Wilke is a long-time contributor to *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. Contact him at mail. onwisconsinoutdoors.com. He would especially like to hear your ideas for future articles.



An example (top) of a double action revolver with no exposed hammer. Below it, a single and double action revolver. Notice the exposed hammer.

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