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Wisconsin winter wonderlands

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The Oconomowoc River

Fishing a New Season

Hardwater, open water

Dog Talk

Training commands; once is enough

■ Wisconsin Deer Hunting

The cycle of life November humor Jack's birthday buck

Expectations, patience on stand

From the Gun Cabinet

Choke tube basics Keeping guns safe, secure Henry help for 3-year-old with leukemia

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Badger Birds The Lodge at Mauston Cartoon capers

More....





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TOM LUBA

A Jig Making Primer Catch fish on baits you can make

The first walleye I caught on a leadhead was on a Canadian Jig Fly, home-made by a fishing vacation friend. That enlightening experience started my love affair with jigs.

I quickly found the nice thing about jigs is that they catch fish. And you can make them to fit your styles.

It pays to start economically. Making my own came from fishing a bucktail jig and minnow for smallmouth. The fish were biting, and I was soon out of bait. I did have a 4-inch Creme Lures firetail worm handy so I tipped the jig with it. The fish liked it! And I liked that.

I mostly use heads from one-thirty-second to one-half ounce. You can find painted and unpainted heads at most tackle stores. Start with basic ball heads, with a 90 degree eye bend. They're readily available and you won't need a mold

A few basic tools help. A vise to hold the heads. A small bench vise may also work. The vise needs to handle hooks

from size six or eight to 5/0, for panfish to walleye.

Get a bobbin to hold thread. It serves as your fingers as you work. A threader pulls the thread through the small bobbin opening. A good cutting scissors is invaluable. Start with nylon thread; it's strong. I use super glue as a sealant.

I started with easier baits before attempting the more complex Jig Fly. Try maribou, bucktail and tinsel (Flashabou). Maribou makes a good walleye jig; the feathers sway seductively in the water. The hollow deer hair sinks slower. Flashabou is like tinsel. Silver mimics a minnow, while multi-color looks more like a small bluegill. Chenille body material comes in handy. Use it as a maribou or Flashabou tail for another look. These materials are fairly easy to use.

To tie a bucktail, tighten a jig in the vise, point down. Put a drop of glue near the jig collar and wind a few wraps of thread. Snip tying material; hold it on the collar and wrap. The thread bobbin will suspend from the jig head while



Samples of maribou, bucktail and Flashabou jigs. Also, the green/brown jig is tied from Craft Fur, which is used for the hair on the Troll kids toys.

you turn the jig over in the vise so hook point faces up. Wrap with more bucktail and make sure material is spread evenly around the head. Wrap it tight; add several half hitches and a few more drops of glue. Cut thread. When dry, it's finished. For maribou, feathers can be separated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

ATTENTION!

Safety Warning and Recall Notice for Henry Single Shot Rifles and Shotguns



Henry Repeating Arms Company has recently discovered a potential safety issue wherein, under certain conditions, it is possible that some of these models may discharge without the trigger being pulled if the hammer is partially cocked and released.

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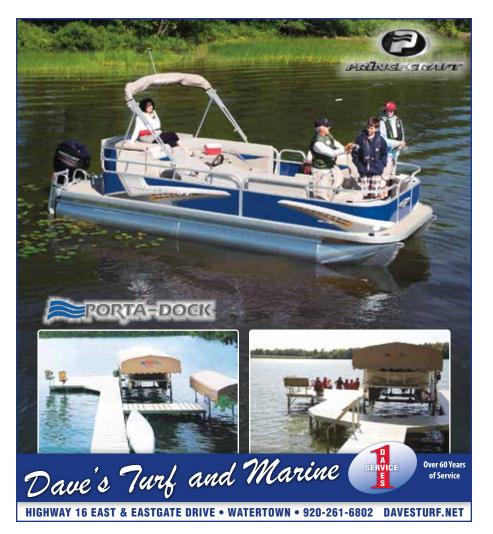


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Fly-Fishing in Wisconsin

A few boxes of assorted streamers

Treamers are versatile flies and one of my favorites. Fish, especially big ones, also like them. I like streamers because I can work them through weeds and around the fallen trees and brush of a slow lake. They can be drifted downstream and retrieved, darting or holding in an eddy behind a rock or other obstruction, like real minnows and other prey do in a fast moving river or creek.

Most streamers are made with a combination of natural materials, such as deer hair, bucktail, calf's tail, bird hackle, and peacock herl. Synthetic materials include tinsel, Flashabou, foam, dolls hair, and angel's hair to name a few. Many of the synthetics can be bought at craft

Eyes have become an important synthetic to add to streamers. They are made as stick-ons, fish skulls, or dumbbells, to name a few. They can be used to add weight and to attract fish. I have painted eyes on streamer heads for decades.



Photo shows different sizes, eye, and materials, both natural and synthetic, the author uses to tie



A few boxes of assorted streamers I tie and often

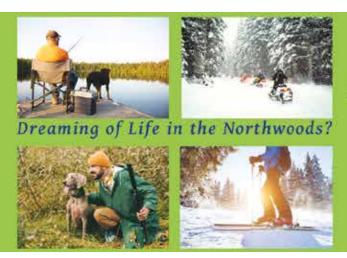
New to the streamer market is a UV resin that is cured with a blue light.

Available in a multitude of colors, the resin is used to fasten items, cover heads and shaped to form bodies.

A good example of combining natural with synthetic materials is Nadica's Minnow. This pattern is tied for big trout and pike, but don't be surprised if bass end up at the end of your tippet. This fly consists of two hooks, one long and one short, shanked with a piece of Kevlar thread. A drop of UV resin or super glue connects the two hooks. The tail and fins are pheasant body feathers. The body is made of two different chenilles wrapped around both hooks and the Kevlar and doll and angel hair. How's that for a mix of natural and synthetic?

See you in the river. Keep a good thought!

Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors and shares them 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." They are available from Orange Hat Publishing, Amazon, and his website: www.jerrykiesowoc.com.



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Before First Ice

Finding some of the best open water fishing of the year

ith winter just around the corner, many anglers are putting their open water fishing gear away for the year, getting ready for the upcoming gun deer hunting season and preparing for early ice fishing. Not me. I don't put my boat away until there is ice on the water, and even then sometimes I am breaking ice to get out and fish.

With cold November winds howling across the lake and snow blowing down my back, you can see me in my boat headed off towards distant open water. This may not seem like ideal conditions, but let me tell you, it can be some of the best fishing of the season.

Shortly before ice-up many species, including panfish and walleyes, will group up and move towards traditional wintering grounds. These locations are typically where you would find great fishing during early ice. The only difference is, that at this time of the year, you will have these hotspots to yourself.

On the Wisconsin River system where I typically fish, I like to look for and target areas with little or no current. Targeting panfish, I look for deeper flats away from the main river channel with at least eight to 10 feet of water.



Bob Rivers with some nice fall walleyes.

For walleyes I target much shallower locations, again away from the main river channel and out of the current.

When targeting late season panfish and walleyes, run

small jigs tipped with plastics or minnows and work these baits very slowly and methodically while targeting any structure. This is where your side-imaging can be invaluable. With my side-imaging unit I am able to not only locate submerged structure like trees and brush, but often I can see the actual fish that are holding on it.

To locate new structure, I motor slowly around the target water studying areas that I think may be holding fish while watching my side-imaging unit. When I see likely holding areas for fish I mark it on my unit, returning to that location and cast my presentation to the marked location. If there are fish holding in the area, it won't take long to find them. Then sit back, load up, take aim and reap the special benefits that Wisconsin's transition between the seasons will offer!

And remember, the next time you're thinking about packing in the fishing gear for the season and dreading the long wait until first ice, well... think again. Panfish and walleyes await you right now. All you have to do is go out there and get them. W

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"Here, take these ... I'm going back for the wife!"

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

First Ice Pike

Early hardwater means shallow water fun

fter a big turkey dinner, many of us take to our couch for our Thanksgiving naps. If you ice fish, you are likely Adreaming of the first ice fishing trip of the year. Most years, it is only a couple of weeks away and occasionally, only a couple of days away.

My family's two favorite species to fish for during the first ice season are northern pike or bluegills. For my son, Nathan, it's all about the pike. When he was younger, he lacked the patience to watch a slip bobber, so tip-ups were greatly preferred as it allowed time for playing catch with the football. Now he's a bit older and still prefers the tip-up since it allows for time to tell fish stories with friends.

During early ice, the weeds in shallow bays will still be alive, which provides foods, shelter and oxygen for small fish. These small fish are a food source for hungry northern pike. The bays also allow the first opportunity to ice fish because the shallow water of the lake will freeze first. Choose weed flats that vary in depth from 4-10 feet of water, making sure the ice is thick

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26





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CAPT. LEE HAASCH

Sunrise Battle on the Ahnapee *Algoma still king of tributary fishing*

here was a slight crispness to the air as we sat on the truck tailgate and wiggled into our waders. We've already seen frost in October and a bit of an Indian Summer, but soon the first fluffy white snow will appear on the rooftops. The breeze was a familiar north easterly and brought the chill from nearby Lake Michigan piercing through the trees. The slight cloud cover and light hazy fog over the water was keeping us in darkness and just giving us enough time to slide down to one of Tyler's favorite holes to do battle with a few Brown Trout and Salmon.

As we zig-zagged down the trail to the stream, the sky was just starting to lighten. It would not be long before the morning turned to a crimson orange and the first rays of the sun would pierce through the yellowing leaves of the trees and cast shadows on the trickling stream. Tyler reminded me that if we played this just right, we could double up on some salmon with our first drifts of his custom hand-tied spawn sacs. Precision timing and a little direction and luck from the master and yes, my son, had the odds of a great fishing morning swinging in our favor. As we neared the stream, I snuck slowly towards the bank and readied my first cast.

I flipped the sac sporting bright orange beads right where Tyler had instructed. In literally seconds the pool erupted,

not once, but twice! Tyler had mirrored my cast only a few yards downstream and knowing the pool, his instincts told him several large, late kings rested along the bank. He was so right. A double and game on! I'm used to doubles in the dark on the boat, but 15 yards apart on a 30-foot wide section of a Lake Michigan tributary stream, well that brought home a new and welcome rush. My 6'6" medium action Ugly Stik Elite was bent almost in half and my Abu Garcia Revo SX was peeling out 10-pound test line. I hung on to battle this monster of muscle for what seemed like an eternity, but in reality the battle lasted about 20 minutes.

What a thrill! A double on 20-pound monster kings and the day had only just begun.

Battling monster salmon and trout in the fall are common occurrences on the Ahnapee River out of Algoma. This tributary is alive with salmon and trout, and the excitement doesn't end with the new ice of a new season. Hardwater fishing on the Ahnapee is just as exciting. Imagine a 12-pound steelhead tearing off 50 yards of line on your three foot rod and reel combo, not once, but several times before coming to the hole and hitting the ice.

If you are not sure where to go or what kind of equipment and bait you need, Habitual Guide Service will "hook you

Brown Trout like this are not only a fun battle, but releasing these fish will provide another battle in the stream or back in the lake. Trout are repeat spawners and will return annually to these streams.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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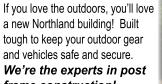
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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

Welcome to the holiday season!

erryville, WI – Population 182 – Join us for "a twinkle of snowflakes" over 1.5 miles of Main Street and the Wisconsin Great River Road. Our Christmas tree lighting begins November 30 at 6 p.m. at River View Park, with Santa and his treats welcoming the kids and families and to hear what is on that Christmas List. "Stars in Motion" youth dance group will entertain and Christmas carols will fill the air.

Our warm and welcoming village is truly "A Place for All Seasons." Hunters and shoppers can get their gear or gifts at Ferryville Cheese or Cheapo Depot; the "Mall" in Ferryville. The elves at Ferryville Cheese are packing up those cheese and gift boxes. They do the work now so your gifts are ready to purchase and ship. Shop early!

The boat launch is full of trucks and trailers as the hunters set out on the Mississippi River to take their limit of ducks. Deer hunters stop in for early breakfast at Swede's Swing Inn and set off in search of that trophy buck. Turkey hunters check in too and practice their turkey calls to be sure they have it "just right."

End of the day means a stop at Jerry's Sportsman's or The Wooden Nickel for a big supper and time to pass on the stories of the day. Yup – A Place For All Seasons. Welcome all.

Connect with Sherry Quamme and the Ferryville Tourism Council for more information on your own visit! PO Box 236, Ferryville, WI 54628. Cell: 920-210-4560

this year so she can be sure her special surprises are under the tree.

A Place for All Seasons



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WINTER 2019

Santa (Doyle Anderson) hears

what Maren Wick has

on her Christmas List

November 14th Fall Bird Migration Day. Riverview Park 9am – 11am

November 30th
Christmas Tree Lighting. Santa,
Sing Christmas Carols and treats.
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON

Winter beauty, charm...and great fishing

inter in Port Washington has its own beauty and charm. Things slow down a bit, but the warmth and hospitality of this lakeside town can be experienced year-round.

Port Washington is a town where you can park your car and walk. Visit our specialty shops, galleries, and fun boutiques. Looking for specialty foods? Check out an old-fashioned butcher shop and a smoked fish market; a gourmet popcorn store; a yummy chocolate and ice cream shop; a winery; a tea room; or an artisan bakery. Stop in and warm up at any of our great restaurants, coffee shops, or pubs, including our new brewpub. Make sure you don't miss the Port Exploreum - a highly interactive museum that will appeal to the whole family. Learn about Lake Michigan, fishing, and local history - all while having a lot of fun!

You can play outside in Port Washington, too. If you have been to Port Washington, you know that fishing season never ends here. The marina may close, but thanks to our lakeside parks, people cast their lines from shore all year round - successfully! There is a state park and a nature center nearby that offer trails for cross-country skiing, winter hiking and birding. Bring your



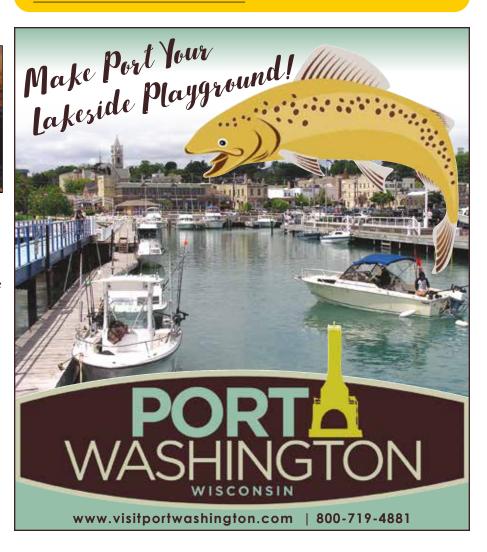
Fall fishing Port Washington at sunrise. Credit Nicole Sova.

binoculars! The lakeshore is on a flyway, so we often see some of the more unusual birds. Plus there are breathtaking views everywhere you turn. Make sure you bring your camera – winter provides dramatic photo opportunities along the lakeshore.

Our lodging establishments will provide you with that perfectly cozy place to warm up after your outdoor activities. Spend winter how you like it!

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Fox Valley Retriever Club

Training You To Train Your Retriever



TOM MUELLER

Once is Enough

Training retriever commands

Lorentze veryone likes a retriever that obeys on the first command. Say the command once and the retriever responds immediately. Teaching starts with training obedience. Often the concept of the dog immediately responding to any command gets lost in the routine of training. When first training a retriever pup, command repetition is necessary and expected in order to get the concept across to the puppy. A lot of verbal excitement and chatter is given.

Once the puppy is responding to the command, the number of repetitions diminishes, but is never really worked on to the point where the pup or young dog consistently responds immediately when the command is given just once. Often it takes two or three or more commands to elicit the response, and so it goes on and on like that. The dog then becomes conditioned not to respond immediately on the first command, but responds on the second, third, or maybe the sixth or even the tenth command.

I often encounter this when training and working with members of the Fox Valley Retriever Club. A command is given, but the young retriever doesn't respond to it immediately. The command is given again, and often again and again. Eventually, at my prompting or out of frustration, the owner will make the dog comply. But in doing that the owner has conditioned and reinforced the idea in the dog's mind that it does not have to comply with a command until it's been repeated more than once and then made to comply. Doing that over and over again now has made it a habit with the dog. We all know that dogs are creatures of habit. Once a habit is ingrained, it becomes their default response. During these training sessions I often have to remind the owners of these young retrievers to stop repeating the command. I let them know that they have to give the command and immediately make the dog comply because otherwise their little retriever buddy will learn to tune them out.

When training a young retriever pup, timing is

everything. Dogs, as a rule, live in the moment. Even more so with puppies and their short attention spans. There is a very important general rule in dog training called the "two-second rule." Quite simply, it means that if you give a command to your dog, you have to make it comply or reward it within two seconds. This is because dogs always associate the reward or correction with what they are doing in that exact moment. Young retrievers and puppies learn very fast with food rewards or retrieving rewards because they are given as soon as the dog complies. Whether it's a reward or a correction, to be effective, it must be given immediately. Constantly nagging the dog to respond to a command, especially if you're not close enough to make it respond, does nothing but make the situation worse.

Along with the "two-second rule," there is another unwritten rule in retriever training which states, "Never give a command you can't enforce." This means that when working your retriever, it should be close enough,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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SPOTLIGHT | LACROSSE

Explore Outdoor Gems

a Crosse is famous for its many scenic views and adventures, but hidden gems remain to be discovered and enjoyed. For outdoor exploration opportunities, you can't beat the La Crosse Region.

The following are some suggestions. Check them out!

Rim of the City - La Crosse, Wisconsin

A lovely drive into the bluffs lies the Rim of the City. After a short, scenic hike, an enormous and awesome view of the La Crosse Region opens up. While Grandad Bluff holds many splendid reviews, the Rim of the City is a hidden gem that rivals in greatness. As it is a lesser-known spot, a virtually private view lies ahead. The best part? If you can weather the cold, it's an enjoyable stop all year long!

Lytle's Landing - Brice Prairie, Wisconsin

Located on the outskirts of Onalaska is Lytle's Landing. A pleasant, moderate stroll is in store on an old railroad track. You can enjoy multiple bridges with stunning architecture among the beautiful creeks and waterways of the prairie. Perfect for an easy walk with the family and pets or a unique bike ride, Lytle's Landing will not disappoint no matter what time the year. The question is, will you wear hiking shoes or snowshoes when you explore?

Niagara Cave - Harmony, Minnesota

Hike one mile underground into some of the nation's most unique caves. At Niagara Cave you can discover 450-million-year-old fossils, soak in the sites of an underground waterfall and see cave formations, both delicate and large. For more family fun, you can mine for fossils and gems as well as enjoy a round of mini-golf. The Niagara Cave is truly a can't miss adventure and a unique hidden gem.

EXPLORE UNIQUE ORGANIZATIONS

When visiting the La Crosse Region, there is always a bucket list of places to check out and we've picked a few hidden gems you won't want to skip! Nestled into small towns and a short drive from La Crosse live some pretty memorable sites. Have you explored them?

International Owl Center - Houston, Minnesota

Found in the darling small town of Houston, Minnesota, is an internationally known owl center. With learning sessions, a gift shop, international owl artwork, and live owls on site, you will genuinely enjoy your visit. Hosted by owl experts, the knowledge and passion of the center

Explore Wisconsin



CONTINUED ON PAGE 26





LEE GATZKE

Expectations

A hunter's emotional rise and fall

Expectations. As an avid deer hunter, expectations become part of a journey that evolves as each gun or bow season approaches. Prior to the season opener, thoughts of intercepting deer as they go about their daily business motivates me to do my homework and determine how and where to hunt. I scout, prepare stand sites, practice shooting, and get my gear in order all to be ready to hunt the deer I expect to encounter.

Once the season begins, expectations of knocking down a nice buck or doe gets me out of bed in the wee hours of morning to be on stand before first light. As the season progresses my expectations are tested or confirmed depending upon my level of success at seeing or bagging deer. Expectations rise and fall over the course of a season. This past season was a good example.

My friend, Jarrod Erdody, and I planned a bow hunt. We'd start out hunting Wisconsin in early November then head for South Dakota to hunt whitetails and mule deer. The Wisconsin hunt was tempered by an outbreak of EHD and the resulting die-off in late summer had my high expectations diminished. We hunted hard for four days, but didn't have any shot opportunities. We decided to head to South Dakota early to see if we could make something happen there.

South Dakota has always met or exceeded my expectations, mainly because I don't have high expectations for filling my tag there like I do at home. Rolling hills and treeless prairies as far as the eye can see offer a completely different environment to hunt deer. To me, stalking an unsuspecting deer is both suspenseful and a recipe for failure once you get close enough to fling an arrow. The typical end to my stalk is having the deer notice something is not kosher and bolts before I even draw my bow. Success happens occasionally, just enough to make you believe the next stalk will end in a short blood trail. Jarrod and I each stalked deer in the eight days we hunted. Jarrod drew his bow once but never did either of us release an arrow. We left with unfilled tags, but the hunt met my expectations of having deer to stalk and maybe get off a shot. We stalked and had close calls, a fun hunt. Empty tags, that's hunting.

We then headed back home to get in a few days of bow hunting before the gun season started. Now my expectations back home had been diminished by the EHD outbreak, but it was the rut and anything could happen. I had hopes that an adult buck I had history with for three years had survived based on a blurry trail camera photo. After a few days of hunting, I reasoned even the rut wasn't going to produce an adult buck, since we hadn't seen one yet. I checked out; my expectations had been dashed. Two days later Jarrod, who was willing to hunt a few more days than I, called with news. He'd shot the adult buck we had hoped survived the outbreak.

The buck was a heavy beamed seven point, but was 22 inches wide. It seemed the EHD outbreak did affect him by reducing his rack from an eight the year before to a now short-tined seven, but he had survived. Jarrod's expectations amounted to him still being confident a good buck would show. His expectations were met.



Jarrod's positive attitude expecting a shot opportunity and determination were rewarded after two weeks of hard hunting.





THE LODGE AT MAUSTON

A Pleasant Surprise

Small town businessman builds upscale lodge

Tith on-line reviews praising the "clean, classy conference room" and a hotel echoing a western "ranch flair," The Lodge at Mauston has been a much welcomed destination spot for travelers making their way through Central Wisconsin. Pulling off the interstate and heading east, you can spot this beautiful 22-acre property sitting in the distance with its split-log exterior and terra cotta pitched roofs. This is home to a 61unit hotel that sports all the amenities of a hotel you would find in a large city but with the comfort and warmth of a small town. The large parking area at the Lodge is very accommodating for the weekender who is looking for a safe place to park their trailer and recreational equipment. The Lodge at Mauston is located adjacent to snowmobile and UTV routes that connect up to a network of trails surrounding this popular lake region.

Ranching, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling are just some of the activities enjoyed by Ron and Barb Brunner, owners of the Lodge. Returning back to his family roots in Juneau County, Ron's father, Irvin Brunner moved his family from Chicago to Elroy, WI. After high school, Ron partnered with his father and they started a manufacturing business in 1963. In 1966 Ron acquired the small business from his father Irvin and from there built a very successful

company that has employed hundreds of people in the area over the last 50 years. Ron and his wife, Barb, tossed around the idea of Juneau County having a venue that could host large corporate events, parties and weddings. Their experience of having to travel out of town for their own children's weddings and the lack of a nice venue that could host the large company Christmas parties only fueled their desire to build a top notch venue in the local community. Recruiting good contractors and pulling together talented hard working people, Ron did what he does best and took an idea and made it a reality with the opening of the "The Lodge at Mauston" in August of 2019.

Much of the rustic feel of the lodge comes from Ron and Barb's own experience of having a cattle ranch in eastern Wyoming. When you enter the lobby you will see some of the trophy big game that have been hunted by members of the Brunner family on their Newcastle, Wyoming ranch. Raising their own beef cattle for many years, Ron and Barb have high expectations on what makes a good steak. The Broken Spur Steak and Seafood restaurant is a welcomed experience for the travelers that are wanting to settle in for the night or for the business person looking to entertain a client. Business travelers are pleasantly surprised to find a high-end hotel, restaurant, and convention center located

in a rural town area. Since it is conveniently located half way between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul, it makes for a perfect overnight destination.

The motto for the Lodge is, "Where Luxury is Standard". All rooms have one king size bed and one queen size bed and spout a western-style theme accented with rustic furniture. Some rooms also feature patios and fireplaces. Others are equipped with two room suites and kitchenettes for all your stay needs.

For business travelers, the Lodge has a spacious business center complete with a board room-size meeting table. The Lodge has an expansive fitness center. For the family, there is a pool area with a basketball hoop for the children to play at while the adults relax in the hot whirlpool.

At the end of the day, after you have enjoyed a delicious meal, you can sit comfortably in the lobby and enjoy the ambiance and warmth of a wood burning stone fireplace. If you would rather enjoy the outdoors, the patio offers two fire pits to take the chill out of the air. No wonder this is becoming Juneau County's favorite destination spot for families, hunters, skiers, snowmobilers, and business travelers alike.



TOM CARPENTER

Cub's Corner Share the wonder: Meet the whitetail

Then you and your young hunter are getting ready for deer season, driving to camp or visiting quietly while on stand or on the blind, why not fill them in on some of the wonders of the whitetail? Here are a few facts and insights to pop their eyes and build their respect for the world's greatest big game animal - one that we call our own right here in Wisconsin.

Wonders of Range

What other animal is so highly successful under so many different conditions? The whitetail's adaptability calls for our wonder and respect. Whitetails thrive from South America, through Central America and Mexico, across the United States from east to west and north to south, and on up to the far northern Canadian bush. Whitetails have been spotted as far north as Great Slave Lake. Now that's adaptable.

Wonders of Personality

What makes these deer so successful under so many different conditions? Whitetails are masters at evasion. No other game animal exhibits such steely nerves in the presence of danger. Evolution has eliminated deer that panic, and left us to hunt these wily, elusive, skulking hiders that can seemingly disappear off the face of the Earth while surviving below your very nose.

Wonders of Athletics

A sneaking deer can tip-toe gingerly through "cornflake" leaves and not make a crackle, crunch or sound of any type. In these situations, whitetails walk on the points of their hooves, to minimize the amount of noisy surface area that is compressed below.

The trot is probably the whitetail's most graceful gait. With head up and tail erect, the deer's legs move but the body seems to float across space.

Full gear is a gallop. Two or three long strides are followed by a leap that can cover up to 30 feet of ground in one bound! Top speeds of 35 mph are possible. Few predators can hope to catch a healthy, galloping deer; most won't even bother to try.

A deer can cut, veer and dodge in an instant without losing stride. If you've ever butchered your own whitetail, you know why: the front legs are not connected to the body via sockets. Rather, the front legs are attached only by tendons and ligaments. Without joints, those front quarters can shift and shimmy at will.

From a standing start, most any whitetail can leap a sixto seven-foot-high barrier. With a little speed behind it, an eight- to nine-foot barrier is easily surmountable.

Wonders of Senses

A whitetail's senses are so good, it is a wonder that we sensory-challenged humans ever kill a deer.

Smell is the whitetail's first line of sensory defense. A whitetail trusts his nose fully, and will rely solely on the information that the nose provides, without confirmation from another sense. Whitetails trust their noses like we do our eyes.

A deer's snout is long for a reason: Hundreds of square inches of smelling tissue - folds upon folds of it -- process air, collect information and send it to the whitetail's brain, where the space devoted to interpreting smells is large and highly developed.



A whitetail's hearing puts yours and mine to shame. Even on a small deer, each ear offers about 24 square inches of surface area to gather sound. What's more, each ear operates independently of the other one, so is able to swivel, cup, twirl and rotate on its own to pinpoint the source of specific sounds.

A whitetail's sight is merely good. But in one aspect, deer vision is spectacular: the eyes' ability to detect movement. Sit stone still and a deer won't recognize you at all. Make one little-bitty errant movement and you're pegged. Those big bulging eyes also present a 300-degree range of vision perfect for spotting sneaky predators.

Wonders of the Hunt

them for hunting.

Whitetails are fascinating creatures, worthy of our excitement, attention and fascination. Share the wonders of the whitetail – and of the hunt – with a young hunter this season. W

Native son Tom Carpenter writes for a variety of national and regional publications.

DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report A different view

"'ll be honest. For a long time I was not a crossbow fan. I didn't consider Latheir use to be true "archery." If you're holding onto the forearm with the stock pressed against your shoulder, peering through a scope, have to click off the safety and pull the trigger to fire, it's more akin to single shot firearm than it is a bow, in my view.

Ironically, perhaps, I now own a crossbow, and for good reason. Last year my ability to shoot a bow was compromised. In golfing terms, I got the "yips." In golf, that means missing short putts that there is really no reason to miss. Now, while I've never been an Olympic archer, I have always been able to consistently hit what I was aiming at. Suddenly my arrows would occasionally miss a 3' x 3' target. Badly. And way too

During the deer season, the good news is that my misses were so bad, that I didn't wound any animals. I did eventually make a good shot on a nice doe to fill an antlerless tag to restore a little bit of confidence in my shooting ability. But still, something wasn't right.

Meanwhile, virtually all of my bowhunting buddies had switched to crossbows and were seemingly dropping bucks left and right. I finally broke down and asked a friend if I could shoot his crossbow to check it out. After a little practice I was proficient and ready to head for the woods.

So, as fall approaches, I find myself somewhat conflicted. I love shooting my bow and if my practice sessions show that I can consistently hit the bullseye, then that will be my weapon of choice. If not, I have an alternative that gives me a high probability for a clean kill.

My son helped me feel better about the whole crossbow thing saying that, as long



as it's legal, everybody should do whatever makes them happy. I'll have to see how happy I am killing a deer with a crossbow. Just sayin'. W

Dan Moericke lives, fishes, and hunts in the Northwoods, occasionally actually catching a fish and tagging a buck. He is fortunate to have an understanding wife and a great group of buddies to share his days afield. On most days, he is able to remember where he parked his

TOM CARPENTER

Nine Days in November Traditional gun season harkens to a simpler past

here was a time when life for a small town Wisconsin boy seemed to revolve around the firearms season for deer. All other forms of hunting and fishing were anticipated and important as well, to be sure. But those nine magical days in November were something more: a hunting event, social gala and cultural phenomenon all rolled into one.

Today, with so many prime whitetail hunting opportunities throughout autumn – bowhunting, special early seasons, youth hunts, muzzleloader events and late seasons – the traditional nine-day gun hunt has lost some of its luster. Many bow and crossbow hunters don't even bother with firearms anymore because they are so good at downing deer with their preferred tools. Such a thing was unheard of back at the beginnings of my sporting life.

Oh, the preparations that happened! Orange clothing hung out on clotheslines in backyards and farmyards to "air out." Boxes of slugs stacked in our basement family room. Bins of long underwear and wool socks and flannel shirts brought out. Knives sharpened. A pheasant hunt cut short to stuff a few slugs into our smoothbore shotguns out at the gravel pit to "see how they're shootin." If we couldn't hit the box used as a target, we got a bigger box.

And Mom would make her famous hickory-nutty apple

cake, a wedge of which was sure to get you through every next deer drive.

Speaking of which, where has the midday deer drive gone? I know the answer: It is lost to today's land ownership patterns and isolated stand-hunting styles. But how I miss orchestrating a little push for our family-and-friends hunting group: stick-scratchings of "the plan" in snow or gravel; prognostications on wind direction and what the deer would do when rousted; the choosing of post sites and push routes; the camaraderie. We even killed a few deer doing it.

Deer hunting was all that was talked about among boys at school lunch tables, girls be danged, in the week leading up to the opener. Sleep was difficult to find in the nights leading up to opening day and never came at all on the actual eve.

Such are the feelings and so is the optimism I still try to create in my mind as every new gun season approaches. Last year was my 46th. I climbed into a treestand just at first light on my generous friend Craig's Green County farm. By his good graces, my young-man boys were doing the same at other points around the property: all three of them, hunting now in the native land of their father.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



OWO columnist Tom Carpenter makes another November memory.



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RON STRESING

Travel Corridors *Finding whitetail deer*

Big, mature whitetail bucks often seem to simply vanish into the landscape, especially when pressured. They do this by using predetermined escape routes, often ones using terrain features that allow them to escape unseen. Over the years I've hunted, a few patterns of whitetail behavior have emerged. These patterns seem to hold wherever I have deer hunted. Features like creek bottoms, fence lines, shelter belts and ditches are all potential escape routes. My friend Sonny Drew Hootman and I once walked back from a deer drive and jumped a deer of a lifetime 10-pointer out of a ditch that didn't look like it had enough cover to hide a rooster pheasant!

Scouting out and unraveling the escape routes: Trail cameras are nice, but nothing beats getting out and walking your hunt area. Look for the larger tracks of mature bucks, which most often use different areas than the does and fawns. While does and fawns often follow a back and forth route to feeding and bedding areas, bucks often use a circular route. Later in the fall, those routes will be marked with rub and scrape lines. Make notes, and soon you will see that a lot of these routes seem to use terrain features. I like to map out the hunt area and mark the routes. Try not to jump the buck out of his bedding area. Do this often enough, and he will simply change his bedding area or even his home range.

Fence lines: In farm country, fence lines that connect woodlots are often the preferred routes for deer travel. One of my favorite spots on the farm I'm allowed to hunt in Iowa is called the "Four Corners." Three fence lines intersect there, and the deer use it to move between two large timbers. Over the 20-plus years I've hunted that spot, I've harvested eleven whitetails, including nine bucks. On my own land in central Wisconsin, the largest buck ever taken was a nice eight-pointer my son Adam shot opening day as it ran down a fence line. That particular fence line also features a ditch. Deer running the bottom of the ditch are almost invisible because of the brush and trees in the fence line.

Creek bottoms: Low lying creek bottoms often have banks choked with brush. This helps obscure deer moving along the bottom. If the water is low, and there is exposed sand, the creek bottom also allows the deer to move silently. My best ever buck shot in Iowa used a combination of a deep creek bottom and a thick brushy fence line as an escape route. I was able to harvest him as he exited the creek bottom to enter the fence line. I later found beds and a rub line inside the fence line.

The 2019 season marked 50 years of hunting the amazing whitetail deer for me. While I will never claim to be an expert, I have hunted with a few of them. One thing I have always noticed they all have in common is paying attention to details. Scout your hunt area, and pay attention to details. It'll pay off in filled tags.

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







Worth the Wait

Special birthday buck comes after 62 years of hunting

wo weeks shy of his 82nd birthday, long time Oregon, Wisconsin resident Jack Ricker shot the biggest deer of his lifetime, Friday, October 23, 2020. Hunting his own land in Southwestern Wisconsin with a crossbow, the 11-point buck field dressed at 232 pounds and green scored an estimated 152.5 points.

According to his daughter, Lynn Krizan, Jack and his wife, MaryAnn, purchased the 100 acres of land in 2003, built a two-bedroom cabin on the parcel with the intentions of hunting with his two sons and grandsons. The 100 acres of set-aside and woods has been managed over the last 17 years fairly aggressively for deer management. Eleven acres make up food plots of soybeans, corn, radishes, and winter wheat for the wildlife in the area.



Jack Ricker took the buck of his lifetime with a crossbow on his own property October 23. Happy birthday Jack!

Jack was in a tree stand approximately 15 feet off the ground. Just before calling it a day on that Friday evening, the buck of his lifetime came into view. With the help of his two sons, they hauled the "Big Guy," as Lynn put it, out of the woods and back to the cabin.

Jack has resided in Oregon since 1952, and has hunted deer for the last 62 years. "This hunt was a dream come true," Lynn said, "and will be one birthday he'll never forget."



MUELLER, FROM PAGE 10

or on a lead or a rope, or wearing an e-collar so you can enforce the command or reward it immediately so it has meaning to the dog. Using any of these tools will help your training be more effective in making the dog respond to the command when it is first given. Additionally, when your retriever is under control, you can prevent a lot of its disobedience. If you can prevent a puppy or young dog from disobeying your commands, there is no need to correct. The reward then becomes more meaningful to the dog.

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





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DICK ELLIS

Earn-A-Buck Archives

A look back at Wisconsin deer hunting

s I prepare to leave prison after a 13 year sentence in time for the 2020 deer season, I have time to reflect. Shortly after I murdered the big Dunn County buck, but before I had repented for the crime, I felt certain that the killing was justified. Earn-A-Buck? Oh, I had earned this buck, in my mind anyway. I had earned it by spending hours in sub-zero temperatures on the cusp of a new December. I had earned it by standing strapped to a tree on my Lone Wolf during the first great storm of '07. Maybe more than anything else, I had earned it by eating JJ Reich's venison breakfast, venison lunch, and venison suppers for those three infamous days on his family farm near Colfax when I traveled quickly down the road from Wisconsin Sportsman to common criminal.

I understand... I did not technically Earn-the-Buck back in the day when earna-buck ruled. I did not harvest an antlerless deer that would have Earned-The-Buck. I know it stated clearly on page 2,756 of the DNR Deer Regulations that I had to Earn-The-Buck by shooting the doe. But allow me to tell my story.

It begins with an empty freezer after the archery and gun seasons in Vilas County. It begins with a hungry wife and daughter, and my responsibility to provide for them. Actually they're a bit fat from being regulars in the drive-thrus but the "hungry" thing adds a bit of drama, you think? It does begin when JJ Reich walks up to the base on my tree during the Wisconsin muzzleloader season wearing a deer-in-the headlights look.

"I had the muzzleloader right on your doe," JJ says. "I couldn't shoot. Every time I moved my finger to the trigger and looked down the barrel little spikes grew up on her head. I'd raise my head, the antlers would retract. Lay my eyes back on the sights, up they'd come. Up. Down. Up. Down. Like a periscope. I'm paranoid. Earn-A-Buck is making me paranoid! I know I'm going to



Disgraced writer blows off some smoke.

break the law. I KNOW IT."

I came down the tree, slapped JJ in the face and told him to get hold of himself. I learned that on the old "Get Smart" television series in the '60s. I think my dad learned it too, except he used a belt on us four brothers. And he never used words like "Get a hold of yourself." He used words like, "Maybe now you'll behave in church."

Anyway, I told JJ to go relax. I'd continue the hunt solo and seek out the antlerless critter so we could both stalk some serious antlers. One full hour before sunset on December 1st, the massive white horned eight-pointer worked his way up an oaksplashed gully wash protected by an ocean of scrub brush.

At least I could practice. I leaned around the birch strapped in tight on the treestand and laid the .50 caliber Knight smoke pole on the vitals. No way would I shoot him. Then I shot him.

The buck and I were both happy as larks one second, there was a big plume of smoke, everything cleared and then only one of us was happy. The other one of us had a big hole in the boiler room. I wasn't sure how any of it happened. Then a little voice whispered right in my ear, "Nice shot...you earned it."

JJ came running through the alfalfa a few minutes later. "What the heck....," he says. "Look at the size of that thing.... where's the doe?" "Is that a venison stick in your mouth?" I answered. "You didn't Earn-The-Buck did you?" JJ says. "I knew it, I knew it. We're going to the Big House."

"Course I earned it," I said, slapping him in the face and accepting his snack of venison malted milk balls. "My upper lip is still stuck to the barrel from the cold and I've had to go to the bathroom really bad on that stand for six hours. I'd say that's some serious dues paid. Relax already, we have options here."

The options came down to the following. Admit the crime and suggest to the wardens to let bygones be bygones. Suggest also that they could keep the body except for the backstraps and all the steaks and the head. They would certainly understand that I would be taking it to the taxidermist.

After we dismissed that idea JJ and I considered getting rid of all the parts that identified this as a male deer. We would then simply act nonchalant and register it in Colfax as a doe. JJ is pretty sharp though and he thought that the registration officials might notice that you could see the brains through the missing skull cap if we cut the antlers off.

Finally, we considered registering a road kill we remembered passing out on County Double B as our Earn-A-Buck doe. But when we got there we surmised that the road kill was from June. We surmised this by the white skull, the picked clean ribs, the missing legs except for the two sticking straight up and the fact that the 12 inches of fur that was left on the carcass had white fawn spots with the exception of the spray painted orange and the note pinned on it from Bill, the pick-up man dated June 8...2003.

"What do you think?" I asked. "It just might work."

That's about when we abandoned all tentative plans and instead adopted a scheme to smuggle the big buck to Vilas County where there is no Earn-A-Buck and



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SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD

Sledding Sawyer County just got even better

he Wisconsin Department of Tourism is pleased to announce that a Joint Effort Marketing Grant (JEM) in the amount of \$16,225 was awarded to the Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau (HLVCB) in Sawyer County. The Grant will help fund the promotion, "Sledding in Sawyer County -A Snowmobile Friendly Community."

The communities of Birchwood, Hayward, Stone Lake and Winter are teaming up with the HLVCB to promote snowmobiling. This is a winter recreation activity that visitors can do in nature while still following the guidelines as ordered by the Sawyer County Public Health Officer.

This grant will be used to promote Sawyer County's snowmobile trails with emphasis on the snowmobile friendly designation by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) awarded in 2019. The Sawyer County snowmobile trail system is a way to bring all ages of tourists and overnight guests to our area while showcasing our natural resources.

Due to the current travel limitations, the grant check was unable to be presented in person. Sara Meany, Secretary Designee of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, congratulated the Hayward Lakes VCB in a video and thanked them for their spirited leadership in promoting our great state of Wisconsin.

The promotion will run December 1, 2020 through March 1, 2021.

"Snowmobiling is one of the most exciting ways to experience the great outdoors. This multi- media marketing and advertising campaign will attract a diverse group of visitors to the area and boost the local winter economy," Sherry Beckman, Executive Director of the HLVCB said after receiving news of the grant.

LUBA, FROM PAGE 3

from the quill; feathers come off on a thin rind. Grasp and trim feather off rind edge, then tie.

If you want to paint certain colors before you tie, Component Systems offers a vinyl lure and jig paint. Go with white for a base coat. Then add the chosen color. For the real bright colors like pink or chartreuse (usually walleye and crappie jigs use these colors), the base coat makes the color pop. A clear overcoat creates a slicker finish. If you want eyes on a head, try a straight pin stuck in a pencil eraser. Dip the pinhead in black, then quickly dab an eye on each side.

This overview just scratches the surface. Catalogs like Barlow's Tackle and Lure Parts Online are good material sources. If you'd like more information, email me at tomluba7@gmail.com.

Making jigs is a good winter project. Catching fish on them in spring makes it even better. \mathcal{V}

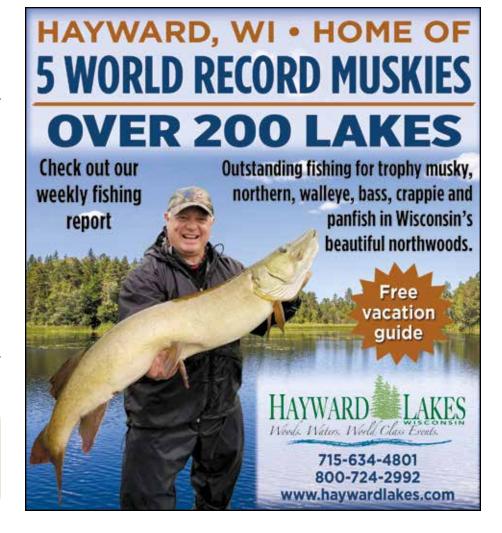
Tom Luba fishes mainly for largemouth and smallmouth bass, a lot of the time with some sort of bottom bait. Just about every fish out there can be caught on one kind of bottom-rooting bait or another.

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND

Premier hunting, fishing and fun for the entire family

Birrrrr. It's getting cold outside and time to partake in the many activities in the great outdoors in Wisconsin's Ashland and the Chequamegon Bay area! Fall fishing on Lake Superior and Chequamegon Bay is still going on before the frozen waters take over the season. Always be cautious of the gale winds of November and December, but when winds are calm, Chequamegon Bay presents anglers with trophy class smallmouth bass and shows true-to-life why Chequamegon Bay is known as Wisconsin's top smallmouth bass fishery.

The Ashland County Area is a hunter's dream come true with abundant wildlife and excellent opportunities. Grouse and waterfowl hunting draws many to the Ashland County Area until January 31st, with deer hunters taking to the November woods with a very real chance of meeting a trophy buck. Rifle hunting season runs from November 23rd through December 1st. In Ashland County, extended archery season that began in September and continues until January 31st.

When not in the field or on the water, head to the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center just 2¼ miles west of Ashland on US Highway 2 for indoor and outdoor things to see and do. The exhibit hall and a tower overlook Ashland and Bayfield County, offering frequent viewing

of the area's numerous bald eagles. There is also a gift shop with regional items for sale and a scenic three-quarter mile boardwalk in the back of the center.

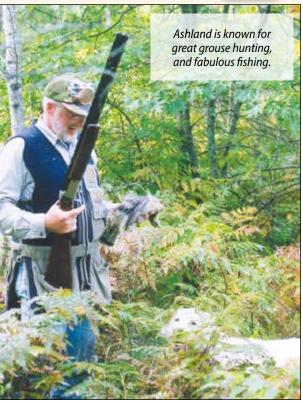
Mid-December will hopefully bring in the white fluffy stuff and another snowmobile and skiing season long-anticipated by our countless visitors. The Ashland Chamber will have a snowmobile report both on their webpage, vsitashland.com, and their phone recording at 715-682-2500.

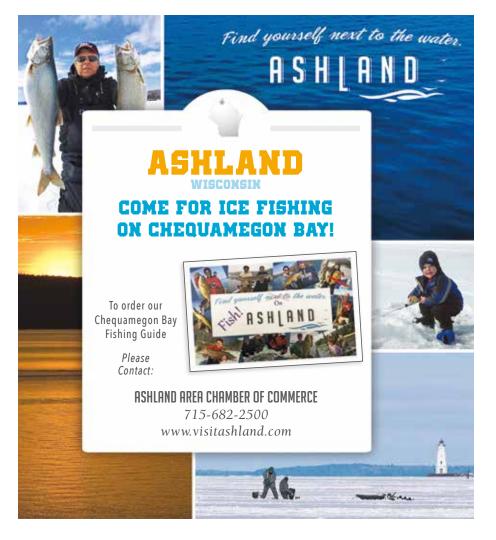
While visiting Ashland to partake in your favorite outdoor sports, keep in mind there are numerous lodging opportunities; a huge array of choices in shopping and dining; two, well-versed, veteran bait shops; fishing and hunting guides; historic murals; the Annual Garland City of the North Christmas Parade; and, of course, our friendly people.

For an Ashland County map or Ashland fishing map and information on hunting and fishing guides in the area, call the Ashland Chamber at 800-284-9484. Happy Hunting, Thanksgiving, Christmas and early winter!

Ashland, Where you'll Find Yourself, Next to the Water offers many events and activities all year long. Enjoy the great outdoors! visitashland.com.







HAASCH, FROM PAGE 8

up." I believe that when taking on a new field challenge, you can either invest a lot of time learning on your own, or you can invest in an experienced professional to show you exactly how it's done. Duplicating the show on your own from there becomes easy. Connect with Habitual Guide Service on Facebook or on the web at: www.habitualguide.com. Call Tyler Yunk direct at 920-255-7865.

For current fishing reports or information on charter fishing in the Algoma area, check out my report page at www.FishAlgoma.com. Sign up for periodic newsletters and fishing reports.

From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the GRAND ILLUSION 2 – we are looking forward to seeing all of you on the water this spring. Good Luck and Good Fishing!

Lee Haasch is an Algoma charter captain with more than 45 years of Great Lakes fishing experience. He's been writing and giving seminars for 30 years. Contact: fishalgoma.com or 888-966-3474.



Tyler caught and released this buck after a exhilarating fight. We may see this fish again thru the ice, in the stream in spring, or next summer in Lake Michigan.

JAKE QUIGLEY

Kayaking Wisconsin *The Oconomowoc River*

y brother-in-law Tylor Biersack and I recently embarked on a kayaking adventure through Lake Country on the Oconomowoc River. The Oconomowoc is a tributary to the Rock River which forms in Washington County and ends at the Rock in Jefferson County. The Oconomowoc covers 139 square miles and consists of 17 lakes.

Our route started in Monches on County Road E just below the Monches Dam. After researching the Oconomowoc, I decided it would be a good river for Tylor to take on. He has only kayaked a couple of times and the Oconomowoc looked to be good opportunity to introduce him to some light rapids. The start of our river journey was very calm and tranquil. Color was starting to pop out from trees and the water was moving slowly. The calm ended about a quarter mile later when we ran into log jams. We had to climb over the logs and get back into our kayaks or portage out on the side of the river and get back in. We ran into this issue quite a bit for the next mile.

After that stretch it was smooth sailing. Vast open fields of marsh and forest gave way. Sandhill cranes flew in every direction. The water depth increased and the current began to pick up making for easy paddling. We hit our first rapids at East Kilbourne Road. The river's width soon narrowed to about 10 feet and Tylor and I were flying fast through the woods on our kayaks. These rapids were a blast as they sped through many twists and turns under tree branches.

The fun continued as we passed under East Kilbourne Road through three steel tunnels. Seemed like a fun idea at the time, until we passed through them and met about 20 spiders and their webs hanging in front of us. Of course I had to be the first one through. Immediately after exiting the tunnels I took a dunk in the water to get the spider webs off of me. At this point we were about three miles into our trip. Unlike the trip through the tunnels, the next stretch was a relaxing mile into North Lake. There were no other boaters on the lake so we took a shortcut to the Oconomowoc River.

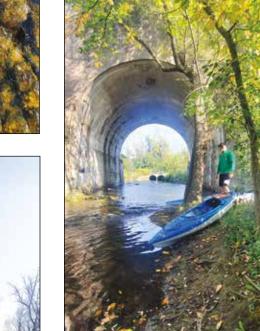
This stretch of river had many boulder gardens and a few Class 1 rapids. I prefer kayaking rivers over lakes. On a lake you already see everything you're going to see once you start. Rivers give you a surprise around each and every turn. The Oconomowoc River offers crystal clear water along with beautiful scenery.

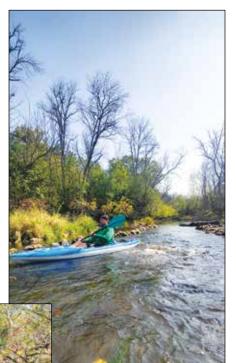
After finishing the last meandering stretch of river we entered Okauchee Lake. Okauchee is huge and full of private property with not many exits. We eventually got off in Stone Bank.

I can highly recommend Oconomowoc River for kayaking. It provides several different styles of kayaking, including calm stretches, fun rapids and lakes along the way. If you don't mind a few log jams, I definitely think it is worth launching in Monches. East Kilbourne Road is also a great stretch.

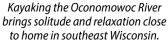
Our total trip was about seven miles and took about five hours at a leisurely pace. Tylor and I left with some great memories. I'm sure we will add many more in the near future.









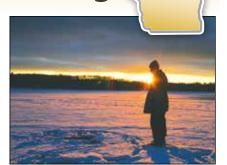




Explore Wisconsin SPOTLIGHT | MANITOWISH WATERS Get Hooked on Fishing

Thether or not you're a serious fisherman angling for trophy muskie, bass and walleye, or a family looking for a meal of freshly caught panfish, there's a lake for you in Manitowish Waters. Angling opportunities abound almost anywhere you look in this popular recreational hub! Scores of lakes, rivers and streams await you - 4,265 acres of water to be exact. including our "Legendary 10 Lake Chain." Most lakes have either state or townowned public fishing piers and landings for easy access. Or if you desire remote bodies of water with carry-ins only, we've got those too!

It's an all-season sport, drawing thousands to fish our pristine waters, chasing monster muskie, scoping out where the walleyes are hitting, and hunkering down over an 8-inch hole drilled in the lake ice, teasing perch and crappies that you can see suspended 10 feet down in that clear water to bite on a



OWO Publisher Ellis and family make their cabin home on the Manitowish Chain in Manitowish Waters. Here Luke Ellis waits for another flag over a homemade tip-up. jig and waxie.

Nor can we forget our trout anglers tiptoeing along the stream banks in order to not spook the brooks or browns. Need tackle, supplies and advice on where to go and what bait to use? Our bait shops can help you with all your fishing needs. Need a guide? Our guides are among the best in the state! In fact, when Wisconsin started

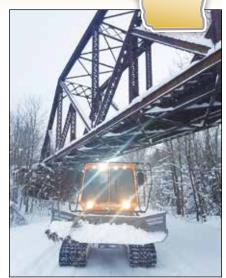
See MANITOWISH WATERS page 28



Traditions in waiting

radition is defined as "a belief or behavior passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance." For many families hunting camp is a symbol of tradition. So much goes into the planning, preparation and participation of hunting camp. There is an excitement in the air as deer cameras are checked, stands are constructed and bait piles are monitored all in anticipation of "THE BIG ONE".

As fall gives way to winter, north Iron County prepares for snowfall and ice providing many recreational opportunities. Iron County is THE snowfall capital of Wisconsin with an average of 180 – 200" of snow per year. Recently designated a Snowmobile Friendly County from the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, the Hurley area offers miles of groomed trails to snowmobile maintained by the White Thunder Riders Club. For over 50 years the club has devoted hours of volunteer



Hurley area snow groomers are preparing trails just for you!

time all throughout the year to ensure that trails are safe, signed correctly along with helping our local community. Call

See HURLEY page 28

MANITOWISH WATERS Chamber of Commerce



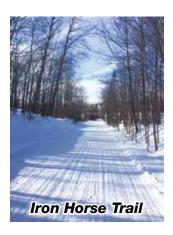




EXPERIENCE OUR LEGENDARY 10 LAKE CHAIN



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Hurley Wisconsin www.hurleywi.com





DUWE, FROM PAGE 6

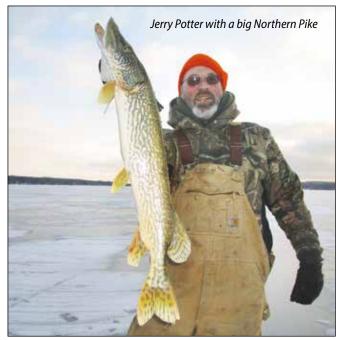
enough to hold you and your gear.

The basic presentation is simple: for tip-ups, I use the Arctic Fisherman (Beaver Dam) spooled with 30-50 pound Dacron fishing line. With the clarity and chance of catching a different species, I always use a monofilament leader. The mono leader is less visible in the water than the standard steel leader used for pike. I like Silver Thread or Trilene 17 or 20-pound clear fishing line. I will have the leader 18 inches to two feet long attached to the Dacron line with a snap-swivel. The hook I prefer is a #6 or #8 Excalibur treble hook.

I put one split-shot on the line; the size will depend on the bait size. I want the sinker to pull the bait down to position without hindering its swimming ability. Place the bait one foot above the weed growth. On occasion, I will add a little flash, adding a small clevis and small Indiana blade.

I use a #3 in yellow perch or blaze orange pattern from Bait Rigs. The action of the minnow adds movement to the blade. For bait, suckers, golden shiners or red tail chubs work well. Dead bait like smelt can also be productive, but requires a different leader set up. My personal preference is to use golden shiners. I hook the shiner by the dorsal fin since it seems to make them swim harder and attract more fish. I have caught Northern Pike at all times of day with good results. They don't seem to be as particular about the time of day as a Walleye is.

Now comes the catching of the fish. When you arrive at the tip-up, hopefully the top spindle of the tip-up will be spinning. If not, you may not have a fish. I will wait until the spinning stops before gently lifting the tip up. I will feel for the fish and gently set the hook. Remember we are using mono and don't want to break



the line. When pulling up a large fish, be careful as you near the hole. The fish will likely make several runs and too much pressure might break the line.

If you plan to keep any northern pike, make sure you know the regulations for the lake you are on. Above all, keep in mind, first ice can be dangerous. I have fallen through several times (I'm not that bright!). And always be sure of ice conditions and wear ice creepers for the glare ice.

Dave Duwe Guides the lakes of Walworth County, for trips he can be contacted at 262-728-8063

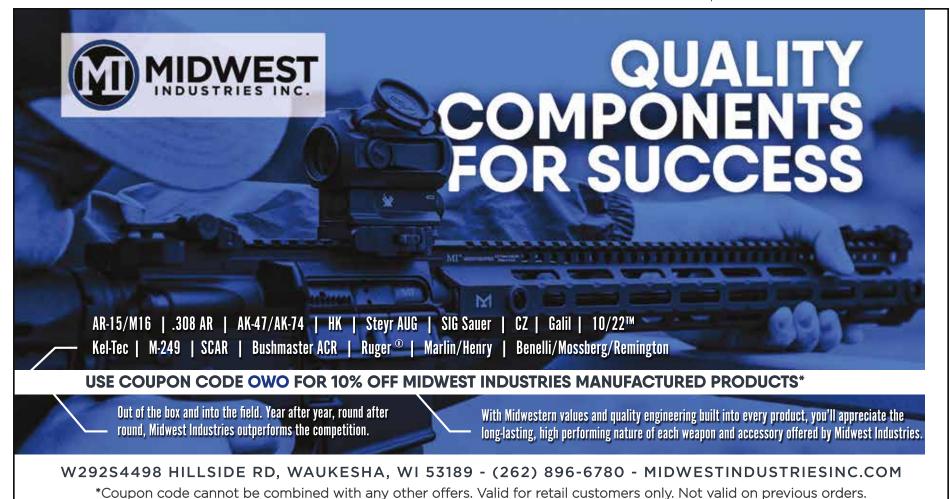
LACROSSE, **FROM PAGE 11** are astounding. For the perfect learning retreat, this is a can't miss destination.

Down a Country Road – Cashton, Wisconsin

Nestled into Amish country is a unique collection of rainbow shops. The little village hosts a quaint gift shop, a shed of products made by local and area artists, a shop filled with homemade jams, candies and mixes, an ice cream shop, and a children's shop. The venue is continuously evolving to support the local Amish community and share unique goods

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Refuge, Lake Onalaska, Wisconsin

When in the Region, visit the Refuge Visitor Center offering a wide variety of activities. With an overlook of Lake Onalaska and interactive exhibits of wildlife and habitats, you're sure to learn a thing or two. Most memorable? The "Walk on Water" exhibit, to see what lies below the surface of the river.





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STUART WILKE

Concealed Carry *Safe and secure?*

here's safe and then there's safe and secure. Right now, for legitimate reasons, a gun buying frenzy is taking place. A perfect storm of an economic melt down and civil unrest is brewing in a climate of political uncertainty and a world-wide pandemic. People are buying firearms in record numbers as a precautionary measure to keep their families and themselves safe.

What too many new owners are not doing is securing their guns in a safe and secure place, according to Mike "Shorty" Govas, owner of Shorty's Shooting Sports in West Allis. "You can't imagine how many handguns are stolen because their owners left them in plain sight on a care seat," Shorty said.

"When a gun is stolen, where do you think it goes?" he asks. "Chances are, it winds up on the street with a bad guy who's going to commit a crime with it. How are you going to feel if an innocent kid gets killed in a drive-by because of your carelessness? Felons don't buy guns from gun stores. It's illegal and they don't want to go back to prison. Bad guys know gun stores run back ground checks."

Gun owners have a moral obligation to keep their guns secure. "Even a toddler has the strength to pull a revolver trigger. Too often when they find one, the next thing you know, they accidentally shoot a sibling because of someone's carelessness."

You don't have to be particularly smart to know how to keep a firearm safe. Like so much in life, common sense comes into play. During World War II, there was a United States informational campaign that warned "Loose Lips Sink Ships." This message was directed to civilians, sailors and others with knowledge of ship, troop and supply movements. The point was, the enemy had big ears. Flapping your gums could compromise lives and the war effort if classified information

was heard by the wrong people.

Same goes for firearms. Their possession should be classified information. "Keep your mouth shut about your guns," Shorty advises. "A great way to get them stolen is to let people know you have them. It's really easy to find out where someone lives and it doesn't take long to break into a house." Gun owners should also refrain from telling people they are on their way to purchase a gun. It is not unknown for thieves to lurk in wait for chatty gun owners to come home and relieve them of their new possession.

Cars are a popular target among thieves and a lucrative one at that. Even the dumbest thief knows people put valuable items in glove compartments and underneath seats. "They just smash open a window, unlock the door, pry the glove box door off or check under a seat and take the gun. It takes about as much time to do it as it does to say it - about eight to 10 seconds and the gun is on the street," Shorty said. Even if there is not a handgun in the glove box, there's often something of value, like a cell phone, camera or checkbook.

Properly securing a handgun doesn't require a doctorate's degree in criminal justice or a large bank account. For less than \$50, you can buy a perfectly adequate handgun lock box and a cable to secure it to a car seat frame, for instance. "If you're going to spend \$700 on a gun, what's another \$40 to prevent it from being stolen?" Shorty asks. "A thief is not going to take the time to cut a cable, and chances are he doesn't have the tools necessary to do it. He wants to get in and out of your car fast and unnoticed. A lock box and cable keeps him from doing that. It's cheap insurance."

For more information stop by Shorty's and see his selection of handgun safes and locks.

Contact Stuart Wilke at mail.onwisconsinoutdoors.com

ELLIS, FROM PAGE 20

in fact there are no bucks at all...or does. Just a fat population of wolves. The buck fit nicely in the front passenger seat of JJ's truck dressed smartly in one of JJ's mother-in-law's Sunday dresses and brim hats.

We almost made it. Just three miles west of Minocqua on Highway 70, red lights and sirens told us the jig was up. Out of the car piled our worst nightmare; seven wardens, the National Guard, two Vilas County Sheriffs, Hillary Clinton, and Sister Mary Jane from my fourth grade class at St. Lukes. She pulled out a ruler that she used to crack me on the knuckles with 40 years before, and cracked me right on the knuckles on Highway 70.

"I knew you were no good the first time I sent you to Father Murphy's office in '67," she says. "You... you....you ...buck killer without an earn-a buck sticker you,"

"Who's in the passenger seat, son?" the head warden asks JJ. "My mother-in-law?" JJ asks back, hoping the brim hat on the buck stays in place.

That's when the Warden, I think his name was Gordon Borden, took off his mirrored sunglasses and slapped JJ right in the face. "Don't lie to me son," he whispers, finger thumping JJ's chest. "Mother-in-Laws don't have horns...that big anyway."

Ultimately, the judge gave us a choice regarding what would be the shorter sentence. 13 years in the slammer...or reading the 2007 DNR Deer hunting regulations cover to cover. It was a difficult choice but one thing is certain....

We earned it.

Editor Note. There are some truths to this story. JJ Reich did pass on a doe those many years ago that he verified as such after passing on the good shot due to a bit of "paranoia". I did have the brute at 45 yards broadside four hour later. We should have tagged two deer but tagged none. I'm pretty sure that those stories repeated over and over again in Wisconsin are why today...we don't have Earn-A-Buck at all.





TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

American Tree Sparrow

ver its lifetime, this hardy and handsome but misnamed little native sparrow will spend less time in mature trees than almost any other songbird. Go figure!

The American tree sparrow nests on the open plains in straggly willows, alders, birch and spruce just south of the arctic circle, but winters in Wisconsin and elsewhere across the northern U.S. Look for one during deer season this year, or while on a Thanksgiving or Christmastime hike. Tree sparrows prefer hedgerows, brushy areas, roadsides, and thickets near open fields filled with weeds and grass where they forage on the ground for seeds.

Look for the tree sparrow's chestnutcolored back and cap, with the same colored stripe running through the eye. The breast is clear gray (not striped or streaked) and displays one dark splotch. The tail is long. The bill is bicolored: dark on top and yellow on the bottom.

Listen for the musical 'see-ler' or 'tsee' calls that members of a flock make while feeding together.

Attract tree sparrows all winter long with hulled sunflowers seeds or white millet. Tree sparrows are confirmed ground feeders, and they will gladly clean up what other birds drop. Be sure to spread some seed on the ground between snowfalls, specifically for tree sparrows.

Did you know that a tree sparrow will hover around a seed pod, flapping wings at it to dislodge the seeds? Then the bird will flutter to the ground to glean its harvest.

Native son Tom Carpenter writes for a variety of national and regional publications.



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | SPOONER & WASHBURN COUNTY We will see you here, and see you soon

s the snow begins to fall, residents and visitors in Washburn County dust off their snowmobiles, skis, snowshoes, ice fishing equipment and fat bikes to enjoy the great outdoors. If you're new to visiting the area, it can be overwhelming to choose a trail or lake to get out and explore. We've narrowed down a few of our favorites for you to check out:

- **1. Wildcat Mountain Bike Trail** This trail is incredible for winter fat bike enthusiasts. Just over ten miles of this gorgeous northwoods trail are expertly groomed during the winter months to provide one of the most enjoyable biking experiences in Northwest Wisconsin. If you enjoy winter riding, this is one to add to your bucket list when visiting the region.
- **2. Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary -** Looking for an ideal spot for a little snowshoe therapy? If the thirteen miles of free trails aren't enough to entice you, they even offer snowshoe rentals for no charge. Along the trail you'll explore the majestic forests, meadows and glacials lakes that the area is so well known for.
- **3. Long Lake: Walleye Capital of Wisconsin** If you're looking for the ultimate ice fishing getaway, look no further than Long Lake. With cozy cabins open in the winter, two bait and tackle outfitters, and over 3,000 acres of prime fishing, this lake is truly a fisherman's paradise.
- **4. Spooner Area Snowmobile Trails -** Spooner is the ideal hub for your first snowmobile trip of the season. As soon as the trails open, typically in mid- to late-December depending on snow conditions, it's time to book your stay. Spooner offers a variety of hotel options with easy trail access. For a leisurely ride, head over to the Casey Loop (Trail 7A) or up Trail 39 to ride the vast forests northeast of town. Whichever direction you head, you'll run into some of the best scenery in the state.

No matter how you choose to recreate this winter, be sure to jump on the trail conditions page at WashburnCounty.org to find information on trail opening and conditions.

Connect with the Washburn County Tourism at tourism@washburncounty.org. 715-635-9696 and www.washburncounty.org







Washburn County has something for everyone this winter. We will see you here, and see you soon. Photo Credits James Netz.



MANITOWISH WATERS

from page 24

requiring guide licenses, our guides were among the first to sign up. Their skills were, and still are, as legendary as our lakes.

Don't forget to share a photo of your fish with us. Use #MW10LakeChain in your next social media post for us to see. Each month we will be doing a drawing for best photo.

For more information visit ManitowishWaters. org or call 715.543.8488.

HURLEY from page 24

our office for a 2020-21 Iron County Snowmobile Map and plan your trip today!

With the snowfall received some of the remotest trails in Wisconsin – the Uller and Montreal systems - are transformed into miles of groomed cross country ski trails. Whitecap Mountains Resort located west of Hurley, offers 3 mountains with 45 trails spread over 400 acres to downhill ski.

And don't forget to pack the snow – shoes, there are trails to explore.

Along with significant snowfall, we have ice on the 214 inland lakes which includes the Gile Flowage. Spanning over 3380 acres with a maximum depth of 27 feet, the flowage is home to walleye, smallmouth bass, muskie, northern pike, crappie,

bluegill and perch.

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.

Looking to balance your work life with recreation? Iron County is just north enough to escape the crowds and offers four seasons of recreation. As a "Telecommuter Forward" community, broadband coverage continues to improve opening new potential for home-based workers. For information on relocating to Hurley, contact our office today.

Join us soon in Hurley! www.hurleywi.com

HENRY REPEATING ARMS

Henry Repeating Arms Donation Raises Over \$47,000 For 3-Year-Old Battling Leukemia

RICE LAKE, WI – The leading lever-action firearms manufacturer, Henry Repeating Arms, donated a series of 65 custom rifles that raised a total of \$47,040 to benefit the family of 3-year-old Preslie Mantsch from Iron River, Michigan. Preslie was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in April of this year and still has two years of treatment left. All proceeds from the sales and auctions of the rifles are being presented to the Mantsch family to assist with the medical expenses associated with childhood leukemia.

The "Prayers For Preslie" Edition Golden Boy Silver rifles were created under Henry Repeating Arms' Guns For Great Causes banner, a charitable branch of the company that focuses on raising money through firearm donations for individual sick children, children's hospitals, veterans' organizations, shooting sports preservation, and wildlife conservation efforts. So far this year, the company has raised over \$175,000 for individual families of sick children and presented Shriners International with a \$52,500 check to assist with their philanthropic efforts with the renowned Shriners Children's Hospitals.

The rifles, which sold for \$620 each, sold out within

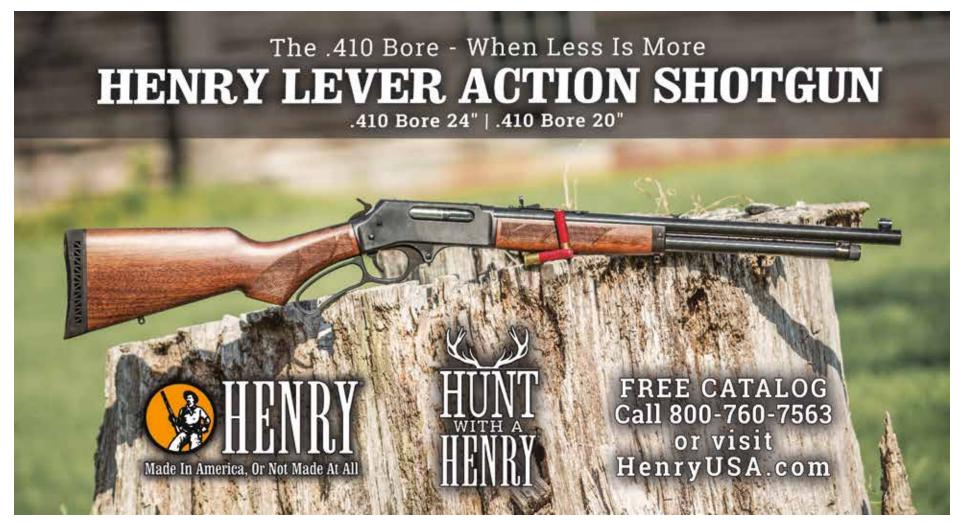
a matter of hours after Henry's initial announcement. The first and last serial numbers in the series were put up for auction and pulled in an additional \$6,525 and \$2,075, respectively.

Anthony Imperato, President and Owner of Henry Repeating Arms says, "With Preslie's father being a frontline medical worker in their community's fire and ambulance departments, I just can't imagine the struggle this family has been through so far this year." Imperato continues, "I want to personally thank everyone who chose to support this family with the purchase of a rifle, and I look forward to seeing little Preslie conquer her road to remission. We're all rooting for her."

Henry firearms can only be purchased through a licensed firearms dealer. For more information about Henry Repeating Arms and its products, visit henryusa.com or call 866-200-2354.

Henry Repeating Arms is one of the leading rifle and shotgun manufacturers in the United States and a world leader in the lever action category. The company motto is "Made in America, or not made at all" and its firearms come with a lifetime guarantee backed by award-winning customer service.







Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Choke Tube Basics

Taking the mystery out of choke tubes and selection

ometimes you cannot help but overhear a conversation at the sporting clays range. Two shooters were discussing what choke tubes to use for a round of sporties, and they were undecided as to what choke tubes to install. I'm sure they were casual shooters who shoot a few rounds of clays prior to hunting season. Hopefully, this column helps clear things up.

Adding some constriction to a shotgun barrel started right around the dawn of the 20th century. English gun makers started adding "points of choke" to the end of shotgun barrels to get a tighter pattern of shot, and therefore more range. We use a system with cylinder, improved cylinder, modified and full as the base line. Generally speaking, cylinder bore (no choke) is most used for buckshot, slugs, and close-in hunting like quail or woodcock to about 25 yards. Improved cylinder has about five thousands or so more constriction, and is favored for



Testing your choke and shotshell combination pays off!

close range hunting and games like skeet or close sporting clays. Improved modified, adds five thousands more constriction, and is considered by many to be the optimum sporting clays choke. Modified is probably the most useful, and will work for most wing shooting within 40 yards as

well as provide full choke patterns with steel shot.

Fact is, with modern shotgun ammunition, improved modified or modified choke will probably work in 90 percent of applications for both lead and steel shot. Full gets most of its use with trap shooting, and long range upland bird hunting, predator and turkey hunting. I do not recommend running steel shot through a choke tighter than modified. Extra full turkey chokes provide the most constriction, and most are labeled lead shot only as they could cause a potential barrel burst if used with steel. Interchangeable choke tubes allow for fine tuning your shotgun patterns.

Flush or extended? Most shotguns come from the factory with choke tubes that mount flush with the muzzle. A choke tube wrench is supplied to tighten and loosen the tubes. Make sure to coat the threads with a choke tube

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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—Gregg Borneman

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STRESING, FROM PAGE 30

lube recommended by the manufacturer, and only screw in hand tight! I prefer aftermarket extended choke tubes, as I can tighten them by hand without a wrench. Tubes are also available with vents that act as a muzzle brake. Yes, they do help tame muzzle jump, and help you stay on target. I run a vented, extended choke tube on my 10 gauge pump.

Lead and steel considerations: We all know the rule about steel patterning "one choke tighter than lead" and that's a good place to start. That said, big steel pellets like BB or larger, seem to need a little more room when flowing through a choke tube to pattern well. Results from your combination of choke tube and ammunition may vary, so I suggest shooting a few test patterns on cardboard to find the right combination. Testing led me to switch from modified to a light modified choke tube for ducks, and improved for geese. Yes, five thousands of an inch constriction made a noticeable difference!

The sporties shooters mentioned in the beginning of the article settled on improved and modified in their guns. A perfect compromise for a casual round of sporting clays!

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

CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 15

Not long after first light, a doe and two fawns came through. In another age and time, I probably would have taken the doe. But it was a family group and they shuffled along placidly, eating acorns and oblivious to my presence. My heart didn't pound hard, but murmured appreciation for the sight. I wouldn't shoot.

But about 9 AM, just when the cold had me starting to shiver, a lone deer picked her way up the ridge. My heart pounded. No antlers. But a long nose. Ample withers. No fawns in tow.

The world was quiet again after I climbed down, walked over to the doe and sat next to her. She smelled of oak leaves and cornfield and hay meadows and November in Wisconsin, and I was home again.

Native son Tom Carpenter writes about hunting, fishing and conservation for a variety of national and regional publications.





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