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ONLINE ISSUE**

On Wisconsin *Outdoors*

with the

Dick Ellis Experts

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DENNY MURAWSKA

Seeing the Light *Night fishing strategies*

Fishing the night bite has always been a special thrill for me. As all vestiges of daylight disappear, swarms of anglers that pounded the waters during the day often disperse like a cloud of insects, and leave me in the dark solitude. This is just the way I like it. Over the years, I have relished such adventures on both fresh and saltwater excursions. It heightens the feel of mystery and stealth as one targets the haunts of lunker fish. It often brings them out of the depths and into shallow ambush corridors to slam baitfish.

Geneva Lake in southern Wisconsin is one of the best fish factories in the country. A guide in that area used to take out my father and me and fish all night long. His boat was fitted with a long, powerful black light, and reels were spooled with line that glowed brightly under the ultraviolet rays. It felt like shooting meteors into all your favorite spots, with pinpoint accuracy. Anyone can rig up like this, and it is a total blast.

Night fishing offers opportunities with nocturnal predators. Here, Jim Ellis row trolls Vilas County for walleyes and muskies during a summer mayfly hatch.




With the advent of LED lights, powerful, very bright tiny orbs are now incorporated into lures that give off flashes as they are cast, trolled, or jigged. Most agree that these work best in saltwater, where predators are used to seeing all kinds of phosphorescent creatures darting around the blackness. These innovations are not the weakly glowing, flashlight charged baits of the past. They are powerful, flashing beacons in an

array of colors to test out in the waters you fish.

For years, intense floating donuts housing large light sources have been a staple for night fishing. As always, with the advent of lithium batteries and bright, energy sipping bulbs, these have only gotten better. Basically, you create your own food chain. Light draws in planktonic organisms, insects, and the baitfish that feed on them. And then come the predators. It is said greenish lights work best for the most part. Some folks with saltwater access have large lights submerged near their residences, and it is maddening to watch ominous shadows patrolling these havens. It is sure to get your blood pumping. There is no reason not to try this in freshwater lakes, particularly small, private ponds.

Lighted jigs can be paired with live baits. The best of both worlds. If you get snagged, it is much easier to find your lure. Hopefully, the glow will make it easier for fish to locate your baits as well. The downside of these nighttime excursions is the same as always. Bugs. Wear your bug suit and repellent.

My next piece will be a venture into the world of robotic lures that swim on their own. If we are to trust self-driving vehicles and advice from Siri, we might as well look into lures that swim for long periods of time all on their own. 

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



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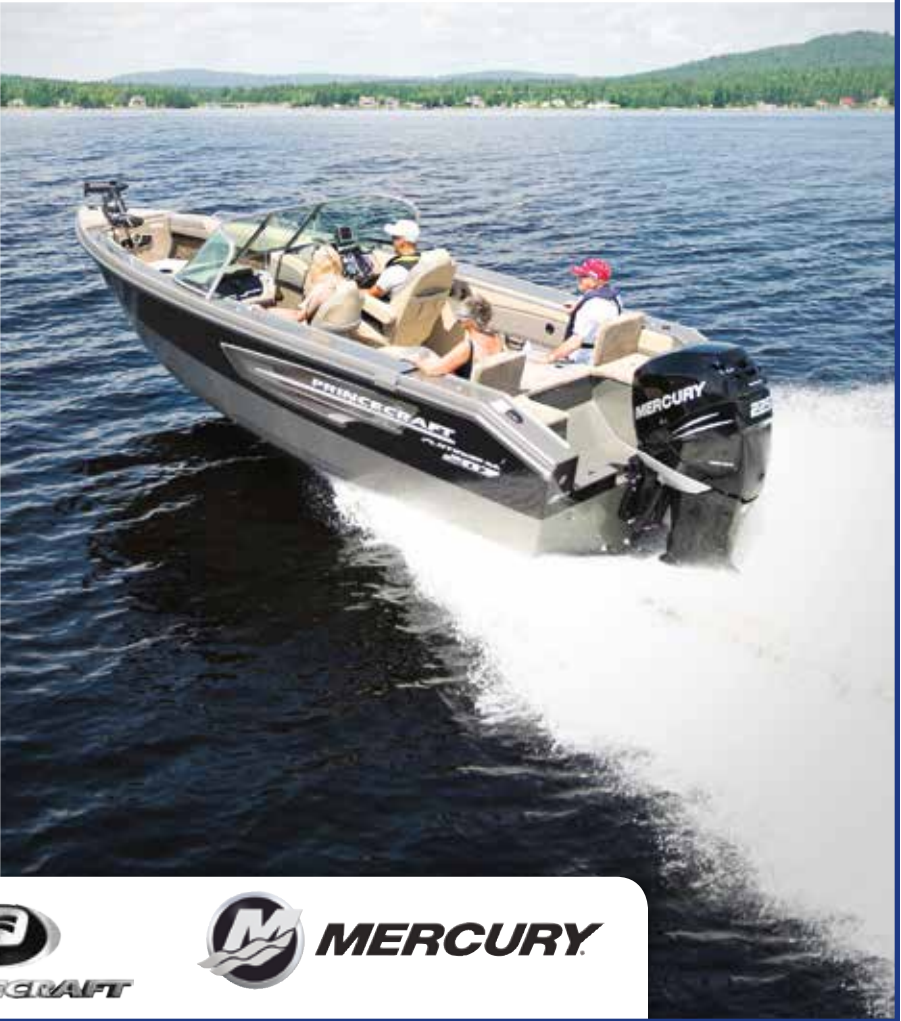


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TOM CARPENTER

Eight Summer Secrets

When the Crappie bite turns tough

In spring, crappies are a breeze. Then it gets tough. Waters warm. Crappies head back out toward deeper water, often suspending somewhere between bottom and surface. Fishing becomes a challenge. Don't let the summertime crappie blues take you over. Put these eight strategies to work on your favorite crappie waters.

1 Open Up

Once crappie spawning is over - when water temperatures pass the mid-60s - some fish will retire to the deeper edge of a natural lake's weedline. This is where you can find them on turns and points. But the biggest crappies head for the open water, where they suspend over deep water within 100 to 200 yards of rock piles, weedy humps, gravel bars and other structure. Once you find them, be ready to move with the fish. They won't just sit there.

2 Channel Your Energies

In flowages, look for crappies near the old river channel. The fish will hold right on the channel's edge. If you can find it, another reservoir/flowage hotspot is the intersection

between a creek channel and the main river channel. Crappies like these edges because they often provide the only structure available on an otherwise featureless bottom.

3 Go With A Little Flow

Finding river crappies in summer isn't hard if you know where to look. Crappies like a little current, but not too much. Probe sloughs that have some current moving through, and side channels with a light flow. Deep eddies and outside bends in the main channel produce crappies too, where the current is gentle.

4 Know Your Water

Crappies are very sensitive to light. In clear waters - such as natural lakes up north - your best bet for summer crappies is to fish early or late in the day, or even at night. A cloudy day is also a good day to launch a boat on a clear crappie lake. On the other hand, dingy or stained waters produce more midday action because the intense sunlight doesn't send crappies scurrying for the depths.

5 Get Higher

Veteran crappie chasers know that papermouths are more likely to swim up for a bait rather than down. So if you know where the fish are holding, try working a foot or two above that depth. When prospecting for fish, slowly work your way down from upper layers of water, not up from deeper water.

6 Count On It

When fishing for crappies over deep water without a float - maybe you're using a jig, little spinnerbait, small beetle spin or tiny minnow plug - count as your lure sinks, until you start your retrieve. Try different counts. Once you start getting strikes, repeat that count for future casts. It's old-fashioned, but it sure works.

7 Give 'Em a Slip

The standard - and still best - summer crappie rig is a basic slip-bobber set-up. Crappies can be amazingly finicky, so try and get the smallest, liveliest and shiniest minnows you can. The knot and slip-bobber let you fish from five to 30 or more



feet down without changing rigs.

8 Make Some Night Moves

Because they are so light-sensitive, and because the water cools when the sun goes down, night is an excellent time to catch summer crappies. Hang a gas lantern from a metal pole or arm as you rig up. The light draws insects, which draw crappies as well as minnows that also help attract crappies.



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

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JERRY KIESOW

Fly-Fishing in Wisconsin

Let's talk nymphs

Nymphs can live up to two years underwater before they emerge as flies. They are a favorite of trout and many other fish. Because there are so many kinds of flies, there are a multitude of nymph patterns. Some imitate caddis and mayflies, while others are attractors.

Artificial nymphs are generally tied on Number 10 to 16 hooks, although some anglers tie them as small as 22. Threads can vary in color and all patterns can be tied with or without beadheads. The following are some of my favorites:

The main ingredient of the Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear is just that. The tail is hare's ear hair and the body is dubbed and tapered with hare's ear hair trimmed from the face or the ear of the hare and ribbed with gold wire. The wing case is made from turkey tail feathers and simulates many different types of nymphs.

The Prince uses brown goose biots for the tails and a body of peacock herl ribbed with gold tinsel. It uses brown soft hackle and has wings of white biots. Some use it as an attractor pattern, while others consider it an imitator.

The original Pheasant Tail uses only two materials - pheasant tail and copper wire. Tie in several pheasant tail fibers for the tail, form the body using the copper wire to taper the body and then cover that wire with the pheasant tails over-wrapped with the copper wire, but let the pheasant tail fiber show so the wire creates ribs or segments (and adds a bit of flash). Create the thorax using the copper wire and use the remaining pheasant tail to make the wing case and head.

My own Rapids nymph is also tied with only two materials - light brown deer tail hair and brown ginger hackle. Most of these are tied on a Number 10 or 12 dry fly hook so they ride in the upper water layer. Tie on the ginger hackle and palmer front to back; use more than one if necessary. Trim the hackle in the shape of the nymph's body, tapered slightly on each end. Select a length of deer tail longer than the hook. Lay it over the body and tie it behind the body so it forms the tail. Wind the thread forward through the body so it strengthens the hackle but does not crush it. About an eye's length behind the eye, tie down the hair, forming a shellback over the body. Whip finish and seal with cement. Then trim the "head" in front of the eye of the hook.

I don't know what this represents, but it catches fish.

Keep a good thought! 🍷

Jerry Kiesow shares his love of the outdoors 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.



My personal box of nymphs. Not the neatest, but all are very useful under the right conditions for certain kinds of fish.



Here are a few favorites that should be in every trout angler's bait box.

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MIKE YURK

Bassology

New ways to catch bass

Bass fishing continues to evolve. Every year there are more baits, better technology and new methods to catching bass. I love to try new baits and methods for catching bass. Some of them work well and some not so well. You will never know which ones are good if you don't try them which is all a part of the fun.

Last fishing season I stumbled upon two new baits which put bass in my boat and I will certainly be continuing to use this fish season.

THE SWIMMING JIG

Jig fishing for bass has been around for at least the last forty years. The pig "n" jig is one of the most successful bass fishing innovations of all time. The standard way to fish the jig was to cast it out, let it sink and then crawl it back. It caught a lot of fish and still does.

Recently I discovered a new method of fishing the jig. Cast it out and just retrieve it like a crankbait. It is called the swimming jig.

It works well in number of unique situations. It is especially effective in and around weeds or any other cover. You can drag a jig through lots of sloppy cover with little fear of hanging up, which is a nice advantage in any bass bait.

It's an effective bait with just a steady retrieve but I like to mix it up a bit. Sometimes I will just pop it by moving the rod tip which gives it a bit more erratic action bass are attracted to. Another technique I like to use is to let it drop in pockets and holes in the weeds. Many times fish will hit it as the bait is freefalling.

Probably any color jig will work well. Black and blue has been a favorite of mine. Another productive color is a pumpkinseed jig with an orange plastic trailer.

THE TOKYO RIG

As the name implies, this bait came out of Japan which has spawned a number of new innovations in baits and techniques over the last few years.

The Tokyo Rig is essentially an extension of drop shot fishing which works well in deeper water. There may be other fishing companies making Tokyo Rigs but the one I found is VMC in Minnetonka, Minnesota. They have a number of different rigs but they are basically similar. The major difference is with which hooks are used.

The Tokyo Rig starts with a solid ring and a swivel where it attaches to the line. The swivel gives the bait more movement. A worm hook is attached to the ring. The rig I used last year had a 3/0 hook which seems to work well

with any bait.

From the ring is a two and a half inch straight wire. At the bottom of the wire a worm weight is slid on the wire and with a pliers bend the bottom of the wire to secure the weight. I use a quarter ounce sinker which worked well for me in the ten to twenty foot depths I was fishing. You can change weight by simply bending the wire straight and putting on a lighter or heavier weight as needed. I used a six inch plastic worm on the Tokyo Rig but you can use plastic crawdads, frogs or other plastic baits.

Cast the bait out, let it sink to the bottom and bring it back by either lifting the rod tip a foot or two at a time or with a slowly steady retrieve.

It is now summer and summer was made for bass fishing. Trying either or both of these new methods will not only make for more fun, fishing something new but will also put more bass in your boat.

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



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TYLER FLORCZAK

Red Hot Pike

Targeting the Dog Day trophy

There's something addictive about catching a voracious, predatory fish that sits atop the food chain. Northern pike are one of the most popular, abundant and cooperative game fish across Wisconsin. Pike often put up thrilling, heart-pumping fights. Plus, they're delicious table fare for those willing to remove their pesky Y-bones when filleting the fish.

As water temperatures peak in July and August, pike fishing heats up for anglers willing to chase the toothy critters on lakes and rivers scattered across the Badger State.

LIVE BAIT OPTIONS, ARTIFICIAL LURES

Anglers can be successful with both live bait and artificial baits, mainly because of how active pike are by mid-summer. The most common method when fishing pike with live bait is using a slip-float or bobber with either suckers or shiners. Anglers will want to use either a number 6 or a number 4 treble hook and hook the bait fish behind the dorsal fin. Many anglers that use live bait for pike or muskie also like to attach trailer hooks or stinger hooks to their main treble hook, which increases hookups when fishing with big bait for big fish.

There are literally hundreds of artificial baits anglers can use to catch these freshwater gators. Some of the most effective and popular lures include Rapalas, spinnerbaits, spoonbaits, jerkbaits, Johnson Silver Minnows and really any type of bait that can imitate a baitfish or panfish.

When fishing with a partner or a trio, it's a good rule of thumb to have each angler casting or trolling with a different bait - this helps to determine which lures are

productive on certain days. It's also a good idea to use steel or fluorocarbon leaders when fishing for pike due to their razor-sharp teeth.

WATER DEPTHS

Like many shallow lakes in northwestern Wisconsin, dusk and dawn are usually the prime times to fish for pike, although they can remain active throughout the day. Pike typically are found in three to 10 feet of water and can be located amongst structure, near vegetation or along drop-offs. They will also head to the coolest parts of the lake, in 10 to 15 feet of water late in the summer when water temperatures reach 80 degrees.

Water depths under 10 feet are easily fished with either live bait or artificial baits. Trolling becomes another effective option as well, once water depths reach five feet and deeper.

LOCATIONS

With summer comes bright sun and warm temperatures. Northern pike will seek out deeper water and feeding habits can vary to coincide with the locations of the bait fish. Pike will also head towards weed beds primarily during this time, as the vegetation shields them from the sunlight. Their slim bodies enable them to lurk between the vegetation and ambush minnows, panfish and other fish. Pike will also roam wood structure amongst stumps, creek mouths with floating weed vegetation and gravel bars.

On days where it is difficult to find active fish, trolling is another tactic to use to find larger, more nomadic fish.



Anglers targeting northern pike in July and August will find plenty of action on lakes and rivers whether fishing with live bait or casting artificial lures.

This method allows fishermen to utilize their fish locators to slowly pick apart the deeper parts of a lake. It may seem tedious, but pike are quite inconsistent in their territories, as they are predatory fish and must seek out food. Trolling locations, such as weed edges, channel areas, near flats and along deep, underwater points are all viable places to hold fish.

Open water anglers willing to give northern pike fishing a try this summer will have a blast in the coming weeks as the dog days of summer linger. Try various different approaches and tactics, and don't be afraid to be nomadic when searching for active fish. 🐟

On The Cover

Bikers enjoy the morning on Wild Cat Mountain Bike Trail, just east of Spooner on Highway 70. You can too!



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Hot Tips that Beat the Summer Heat

River fishing dams and underwater structure

As the days of summer grow hotter, the fishing typically gets tougher. The best bite is generally early in the morning and late in the day, the windows are short and the activity level of the fish is low. Many anglers at this time of the year simply surrender to the dog days.

As a fishing guide I don't have that option. I constantly have to produce for my clients and no matter what the time of the year or what the conditions are, my clients expect to catch fish.

Over much of the year the fishing can be very good, almost automatic. We are on fish, the bite is very good, and my customers are very happy. But what about those hot summer days when it is just plain hot and miserable to be out on the water and the fish don't even want to move much, less bite?

I have plan for finding fish even on the hottest of days and it works. I rely on river fishing and use the benefits of moving water and structure to my advantage. The Wisconsin River has constantly flowing water which helps cut down on the heat element and allows those fish to be in a more comfortable environment. By targeting specific areas we can be successful on even the hottest of days.

I like to target two main areas during the heat of summer. One is right below a dam and the second is fishing in submerged structure. Both areas can be good all year long but really shine on hot summer days.

Fishing right below a dam provides the heaviest of current because you are at the head of the system and the water is at its fastest point. These types of areas will draw fish for miles that are trying to avoid

stagnant water further downstream or stale backwater areas. Many species of fish will stack up in and along current seams and breaklines right below dams. They will aggressively take your presentations all day long.

Looking for submerged structure means targeting anything from a brush pile to a fallen tree to an old boat. You are looking for anything that the fish can hide under to get out of the way of the sun. You may be asking, what about docks? Docks are a very good place to try, and will produce. But everyone can see a dock, and it's guaranteed that they are pounded hard by anglers. I am looking for structure that can't be seen from the surface and locations that haven't been fished by every angler on the water.

To mark new structure, I use my side imaging and go along the shoreline areas about 100 feet off shore and slowly run the shoreline. I watch my electronics and mark possible structure locations on my unit and return to fish them. These are locations that most anglers cannot physically see from the surface and more than likely they have not been fished.

These secret spots are basically my ace in the hole when it comes to finding and catching fish during the hot summer months. Give it a try. I think you will be pleasantly surprised. 🎣

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The Reed family: Jim (above), Jayden and Paula like fishing hot weather with guide and OWO columnist Phil Schweik.

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CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

Nightcrawlers Work Bait of ages still catching more fish

I've been fishing for over 50 years and fishing tackle has evolved greatly from that time. Most of the tackle is designed to catch the fisherman, not the fish. As a fishing guide, my job is to catch as many fish as I can for and with my customers. When I started guiding, I was an artificial bait guy, but trying to guide people who may only fish once or twice a year, it became quite evident that there had to be a better way. The answer was a simple one: the bait used by generations of anglers - the nightcrawler. Oh, it isn't flashy or exotic, but it is a fish catching machine. Keeping it simple is sometimes the key to catching fish.

The two methods I use for presenting a nightcrawler is the Lindy rig or the Split

shot rig. The split shot rig is very basic, and every angler can tie one up in a matter of minutes. The split shot rig consists of a single hook and split shot positioned about 18 - 24 inches above the hook. My go-to presentation is a small #12 Kahle hook and a 3/0 round split shot. This is a rig that I like to use down to 12 feet of water. Any deeper and the size of the split shot needs to increase.

Don't be confused because the bigger the number, the smaller the split shot. The reason for using the round split shot without the wings is because it enables you to pull it through weeds as needed. I tend to use small hooks which enable you to catch a variety of fish from bluegills to largemouth bass and even the occasional



Captain Dave Duwe with a 30-inch walleye caught on a split-shot rigged nightcrawler.

northern pike. When I'm fishing specifically for walleyes, I like slightly larger size #6 hooks in red or chartreuse color. The painted hooks seem to get more bites on the lakes I fish. The larger hook allows for better hook sets in a bony mouth.

When using the split shot rig, the size of the split shot is also determined by the wind speed. As a rule, the windier the day, the heavier the split shot. The goal is a good feel and bottom contact. There are two places that the split shot is not recommended, heavy wood and big fractured rock. The split shot tends to get hung up and snagged in these environments.

The lindy rig is a walking sinker or lindy no-snap sinker, a ball bearing swivel, a snell from two feet to 10 feet and a hook. When fishing nightcrawlers a #4 or #6 size octopus hook is one of the best. The size of the weight is determined by a couple of factors. First is the water depth you are fishing; the deeper the water, the heavier the weight. Secondly, how fast



Doug Marsh with a giant Delavan Lake largemouth.

you are trolling makes a difference. You want the rig on the bottom and the line at a 45-degree angle off the bottom. A simple rule: the faster you troll the heavier the weight.

The snell length is a bit more complicated. There are a myriad of factors including clarity of water, where the fish are in the water column, how skittish the fish are, etcetera. The most important component to the lindy rig is the quality ball bearing swivel. Without one you will have a day full of line twists.

My favorite spots are weed lines with hard bottoms. I prefer deeper weed lines in 15 to 17 feet of water. In summer, these locations can hold great concentrations of fish. When I find spots like this that are associated with a point, that is always the best place to start on an unfamiliar lake.

The average angler probably has \$1000 or more worth of fishing tackle. Put more fish in the boat and put pride aside and get a couple dozen nightcrawlers. You'll catch more fish! 🎣

Dave Duwe fishes the lakes of Walworth County. For guide trips call 262-728-8063



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SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA**CAPT. LEE HAASCH****Fish Algoma***Great summertime King action*

Trevor climbed topside as we left the Algoma harbor. It was going to be another warm one, with temperatures predicted to hit 90 plus with very little wind and lots of sunshine. Typical July mornings on the Lake Michigan coast usually start a bit cooler than the balmy 82 degrees at 3:45 am we were feeling now. This summer's hot temps, following a mild winter was certainly going to have an impact on how and where we fish. "Better go a bit further than this," my nephew and fishing partner, Captain Trevor Haasch said, handing me a cup of coffee.

The 15 pound weights on my Traxstech downriggers would get us deeper later, but as Trevor set rods in his corner of our boat at 65 feet, the Ugly Stik hosting his Slide Diver rig bent sternly back and the drag started screaming. "Fish! Fish! Fish!" he shouted to our customers. "It's a big one too! Who's up?"

Just then, the Ugly Stik on my rigger popped and bent to the water, drag screaming. "Another one!" Trevor screamed back. I knew that Wonder Bread would go! It was hot yesterday too." I continued setting poles on my side, and moved a few out of Trevor's way. As he scooped the first King, I moved to his side and sent the Slide Diver rig back down to work, and a message to our anglers. "Can't catch them if the baits not in the water!"

Over the next 45 minutes, Trevor was kept busy grabbing the pounding rods, handing them to fishermen and directing traffic to keep the multiple fish attacks from crossing lines. It wasn't long before the Slide Diver on my side, now down to 150 feet of line, started pounding. "Grab that Diver!" Trevor shouted to a fisherman. "That's the chrome-green E-chip and aqua-glow Howie Fly that worked yesterday. We just needed to be a bit deeper."

Steelhead will often stay near the surface where they can target bugs on the surface and still attack higher swimming alewife. While my larger, inside Yellow Bird planer boards pull 10 ounce weights to reach the deeper Kings, I keep at least one or two smaller Yellow Bird planners on the outside of the spread pulling a



When von Stiehl Winery owner Brad Schmiling isn't busy selling wine, he enjoys an afternoon outing aboard the Grand Illusion 2 catching big Kings!

brightly colored spoon most often in orange or red on silver to entice that occasional steelhead strike. In mid-summer, several higher baits per side can be very effective in capturing those roaming steelhead.

As we enjoy a warm summer this season, don't forget to look deep for the kings as the surface temperatures heat up. Running flasher/fly combos and glow spoons near thermoclines setting up down deep can entice hungry King action. I also try to keep a few spoons near the surface to tease some tail-dancing steelhead. There's nothing like a mixed bag in the cooler!

Experience this summer the great fishery Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want big fish, check out Algoma! For charter information or fishing reports visit my website at www.FishAlgoma.com 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, WI. Capt. Lee has over 40 years of great lakes angling experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with education seminars and timely freelance articles in outdoor publications.

Explore Wisconsin

Algoma is known for large Kings. Capt. Trevor Haasch, nephew and fishing partner of Capt. Lee, knows just where to find the big ones!

**Fishing. Festivals. Fun!****SUMMERTIME IS FISHING TIME**

Algoma is host of to one of the largest fleets of charter boats in Wisconsin. Long known as the Trout & Salmon Capital, the waters off Algoma have given up many state record fish over the years and this could be the summer we "net" another record!



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STUART WILKE

Escape to Rural Wisconsin With Golden Eagle Log & Timber Homes

Over the course of 54 years, the Parmeter Family of Golden Eagle Log and Timber Homes has sold log home kits to thousands of people throughout the United States and Canada. Their customers come from a variety of backgrounds, but all of them have one purpose in common. They want a lifestyle change. Golden Eagle can help them make that change with home kits ranging from 400 square foot cabins to 20,000 square foot mega lodges.

"They're looking for freedom, independence, and space," Jay explained. "Freedom and space to walk out the front door and ride snowmobiles on a trail outside their house. Ride side-by-sides, ATVs and horses and have room for the kids to play. They want room to mountain bike, hunt, grow a garden, fish, target practice. Cut brush and split their own firewood and burn it in their own fireplaces. They want to see the stars and smell the trees."

"I gotta get out of here," is a common refrain among those looking to 'Escape to Wisconsin,' to quote the tourism department's old slogan," Jay said. Noise, crime, congestion, pollution and traffic are some of the major reasons to "get outta here." Anxiety concerning Coronavirus increases many people's desire to leave suburbs and cities for rural Wisconsin where the virus is less prevalent. There are lots of opportunities to social distance "up north" and still have a good time. You don't need to stand in line to fish and if you're riding within six feet of the nearest snowmobile or side-by-side, you're too close, virus or not.

About 85 percent of Golden Eagle Log and Timber Homes are bought as permanent residences. In many cases, technology has made this possible, Jay said. The Coronavirus quarantine further demonstrated that many people can easily work from their homes. Why commute to work for miles, fighting potholes and traffic, wracking up expenses related to motor vehicle fuel, maintenance and repair, when you can work from your home office? Enjoy an office with a view of nature, rather than the monotony of endless brick and pavement. Golden Eagle Log and Timber Homes can custom design a work space that will meet any person's needs.

There are other practical reasons to enjoy a rural lifestyle. The cost of purchasing Northern Wisconsin property peaked in 2008, Jay said. Since then, the market has settled, making rural property much more affordable and available to different income levels. You don't have to be wealthy to buy land or a log home. Jay notes that property in Adams County is an especially appealing area where cost-of-living expenses and property prices are very reasonable.

Other advantages of Northern Wisconsin-living are low taxes, great scenery, lots to do, less crime and nice people, Jay said.

Average cost of a Golden Eagle Log and Timber Home is comparable to the median home cost in the United States and less and more expensive options are available. Jay added that many Golden Eagle home owners consider their homes works of art. They are active participants in the design of their homes, which are well built and, often, reflect their owners' personalities and philosophy. In many cases, they will become part of their family's legacies for generations to come.

See Golden Eagle's web site at goldeneagleloghomes.com for more information.

Look for truthful answers...always.

**Learn God's Commandments, live them,
and apply them to others as you would to yourself.**

**Talk about these things to the young,
and those who will listen.**

Take comfort in knowing that these things are good.

Explore Wisconsin

**SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD**

A family adventure at every turn

It's summer! Which means it's time to make some outdoor family memories. Some of my earliest fishing memories are of catching my first walleye and musky in the Hayward area. Now I am blessed to be raising my family here and helping others to find that perfect family fishing experience.

The Hayward area is unique in that we can offer nearly any fishing experience that you can find in the state of Wisconsin. Just looking for a spot to toss bobbers for bluegill and crappie? Pretty much all the lakes have those species, but Nelson Lake, the Chippewa Flowage, and Teal and Lost Land offer some of the best action. Are you and your kids ready for some toothier targets? Check out pike on Sissabagama, Tiger Cat, and Whitefish, or walleye on Grindstone, Sand, or Round. Have you ever tried fishing topwater for bass with kids? It's a ton of fun, and spots like Spring Lake or Big Chetac are good bets for hungry "bucketmouths."

But that's just the standard menu of fishing options around Hayward. Maybe something on this more adventuresome list will be a fit for your crew: Has your family tried their hand at trout? There's great fly fishing for brown trout on the Namekagon River, or, you can pursue the splendid brook trout in one of many smaller streams in the area. Take your trout game to the ultimate level by hiking into a natural spring pond to fish.

Would your group like to "go with the flow" to fish? Float trips are a ton of fun, whether you are fishing or just cruising along on the Namekagon, Chippewa, or Flambeau rivers. But I'd recommend fishing! Smallmouth, musky, pike, and even walleye are all great bets on a canoe trip. Did you know that the fish of a lifetime doesn't have to happen at the end of your lifetime? Go for the big one with your young anglers by targeting some of the trophy musky waters around Hayward, including The Chippewa Flowage, Whitefish, Round, or Lac Courte Oreilles. If muskies aren't big enough for you, try for sturgeon in the fall on the Chippewa or Flambeau Rivers.

Every waterbody and every kind of fish offers their own potential for exploration and fun. Come see what you can discover! 🐟

For more information about the Hayward Area check out www.haywardlakes.com | Max Wolter, WDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist



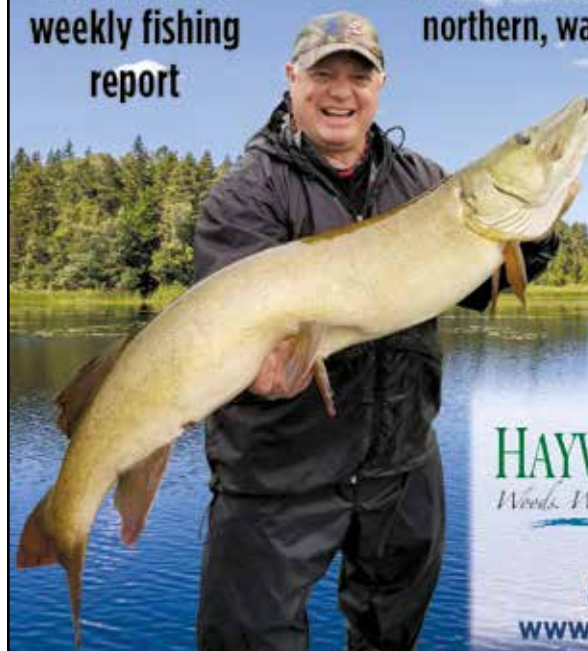
Fishing with young anglers is fun for everyone!

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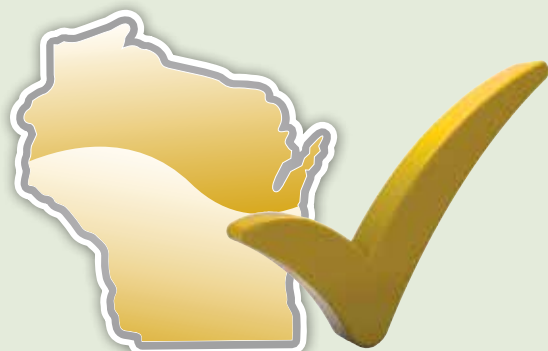


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Lake Monona bluegills, pumpkin seeds are known for above average size, large numbers.

RON STRESING

Lake Monona Calling

Big summer bluegills well worth a trip

Madison's chain of lakes are well known for their above average size and large numbers of panfish. My fishing partners and I regularly make mid- to late-summer pilgrimages there for post-spawn bluegills. The trick is to find fish coping with the warm water temperatures. Bluegills retreat from the shallow waters they occupied during the spring spawn and look for cooler, deeper water. Often fish will "stack up" at a certain depth where a thermocline has the right water temperature. In summer you will mark, for example, large bands of panfish on your locator, in 15 - 17 feet down over 50 feet of water.

There are several ways you can go after these fish. The easiest way is drifting over them with four-pound test rigged ultra-light tackle. Use drop shot rigged jigs or ice fishing lures baited with wax worms or red worms. We usually use 1/64-ounce jigs, but tiny ant flies, tube jigs and foam rubber spiders have all produced fish. To make the rigs, tie large split shots or a smaller bell sinker to the end of your line. Use a tiny, three-way swivel about 12 to 18 inches above that, with about 18 inches of line leading to your bait. A friend of mine called them "miniature Wolf River rigs," and that's a fairly apt description.

Drop your lines down to where you are marking the fish, and make drifts over them. Hits will vary from savage strikes to the tip of your rod simply vibrating. Often the largest fish will simply inhale the bait, giving the smallest sign of a hit. We also set out a 1/32-ounce tube jig, and let it drift freely behind the boat. Give the jig 40 to 50 yards of line, and secure the pole it's on. A free-floating tube jig trailing the boat has picked up more than a few nice bluegills and crappies. I suggest securing the pole because we have had one pulled out of the boat.

The other way is to fish the structure on the cool water side of the lake. When the wind pushes the warmer surface water to one side of the lake, large schools of bluegills and other panfish will find the first good structure on the cool side. Fish will congregate there, as food tends to be scarce out over open water. A perfect illustration of this was a trip we made to Monona last summer. Bluegills suspended over deep water seemed to be off their feed, so we tried a drop-off on the upwind side of the lake. Fish were stacked up on a drop-off that went from nine to 21-feet down. Short drifts resulted in limits of hand-sized fish in a little over an hour. I also caught and released a few smallmouth bass and a three-pound freshwater drum (sheepshead).

Like the other lakes in the Madison chain, Monona has lots of public launches. Weather and wind permitting, it's a fishery easily accessed with a canoe or kayak. I've fished it on calm days out of my 12-foot kayak and 12-foot car top boat. For more information, contact the Wisconsin DNR or City of Madison Parks Dept. 🐾

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.

Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

Ferryville-Style Kayaking

The sun is warm, the water is great, and kayaking is a super way to practice "social distancing" and enjoy the wonders of nature. The Ferryville, Wisconsin, boat launch is a popular spot, as demonstrated by the types of vehicles in the parking lot, boats in the water, and folks enjoying a picnic or take-out lunch in the shelter by the docks. You are on the Mississippi River, "Father of Waters," where eagles soar, fish bite like crazy, camping on the islands is free and boating is the best.



Plan your vacation in Ferryville and capture the magnificence of Mississippi River country from your kayak.

A great place to put in for kayaking is at the Highway 82 Bridge just south of De Soto to paddle the backwaters of the Mississippi. A favorite route is down Lake Winnebago, through the cool, shaded spots. Glance up to view the eagle nests and just "chillax." Otters at play are not afraid of a kayaker and they are not camera shy. Big Blue Herons are in abundance where the shallows offer convenient access as they fish for food. Egrets are not far away and tend to rest in the low branches of trees overhanging the river. Several species of beautiful water lilies bloom many times during the summer.

Be sure to have your camera in a safe pack for protection, but definitely be ready for those great photo-op moments. The bluffs of the Mississippi River Driftless Area are like no other place on earth. You are in the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge, a place so wonderful that over two million people visit it each year.

A fabulous place to take out is the Ferryville Boat Launch. It is easy to land, hop out and get organized. The paddle route is about 2.5 - 3 miles from Highway 82 and you can always head uptown to one of the three family-friendly local spots for refreshments. They are clean, safe places with friendly staff and super food with excellent menu and beverage choices.

The Great River Road Interpretive Center at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery is your place to check out the history of the region and learn about the bluffs, fish and wildlife. Well worth a stop. Make Ferryville your destination for a fantastic Kayak Adventure!!

Sherry Quamme | Ferryville Tourism Council | 14767 Eagle Ridge Road | Ferryville, WI 54628 | Cell: 920-210-4560 | Home Office: 608-734-9077

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SEPTEMBER

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"Drive the Great River Road Month"

Our boat launch is busy and fishing, water sports are active.

BOB SPIERINGS

Bear Baiting 101

Wisconsin's 2020 black bear season is now right around the corner and if you haven't already, it's time to get down to business. Mating season is winding down making it the perfect time to get some scent lures blowing in the wind and bait in the ground letting the bears know you got the goods!

Scent lures are your key to drawing bears in, period. If you aren't using scent, your bait site will not be used to its full potential and may just land you with a tag sandwich. Rumor has it that bears can smell food 18-plus miles away. Who knows how true this is, but imagine if you could tell all bears within an 18 mile radius that you have the goods. It seems like a no brainer.

NEVER STOP putting scent lures out! We see it every year. Customers come in and buy one bottle of scent, they place the scent out, have bears come in, and then stop putting scent out. A couple weeks later the bears stop coming in and the customer then calls us asking what to do. Our first question back is "Do you have scent out?"

Scent not only lets the local bears know it's "dinner time," but it will continually bring in new bears that are traveling through the area. That animal may just end up being the Boone & Crockett bear you meet on opening day. If you want more tips on how to place scent lures, check out our last article or connect with our website and

click on the "Article" tab.

Besides just placing scent you obviously need bait. You do not want to reach the end of the rainbow and discover there is no pot of gold waiting for you. While choosing bait is often the best part of baiting, it can also be the trickiest. Our Wisconsin bears are no dumpster divers. They are constantly moving to find the best meals, and with the high number of bait sites they can hit up in a single day, they can afford to be a bit picky.

Over the last several years you have seen BBB evolve to provide not only totes and barrels of dry bait, but also oversized baggies of dry bait. These were designed to offer our customers a wide variety of bait in a smaller volume, giving them a quick and easy way to change up the bait flavor so the bears stay interested and keep on coming back for more.

Another great way to easily change up the flavor is by adding a sweet topping. The stickier and stinkier the better. The stickiness helps track the scent through the forest, naturally bringing in more bears to your site. The stickiest acts as another great scent lure.

For more great tips stop in this season and chat with us. Bob's Bear Bait has multiple staff on hand with more than 20 years of combined experience bear hunting and 12 years in the bear bait business. We carry the largest variety of bear bait in Wisconsin, with multiple locations



Mark Roncskevitz used his trail camera to capture a sow and her three cubs enjoying a late spring evening May 20 in northern Wisconsin. Cubs and sows with cubs are off-limits to bear hunters.

in Wisconsin and Michigan. We pride ourselves in being your one stop shop for all your baiting needs, including scents, bulk bait, fruit toppings, dry bait, and the list go on.

However, once the season hits bait sells out fast! To stay up to date with our latest news and sales, follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Bob's Bear Bait. To see our bait selection or locations check us out at bobsbearbait.com. If you don't see a product listed, feel free to call us. We always have more products in our shops than what is listed on our site. As always, happy baiting and good luck to all the hunters! 🐾

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JOHN ELLIS

Planning Your Hunt

Dickinson, North Dakota upland game

North Dakota is a sportsman's paradise, offering a great upland game hunting experience, and an easy trip from Wisconsin. The drive time from Milwaukee to the city of Dickinson, our hub for the *On Wisconsin Outdoors* hunt, was 12 hours. Cost of a non-resident license was \$122 to target the state's excellent pheasant and sharp tailed grouse population.

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

While it's absolutely an option to pay for access to private land, we spent our time hunting the state's P.L.O.T.S. (Private Land Open to Sportsmen). Thousands of acres of P.L.O.T.S. property are clearly marked,



John and Jim Ellis take a break with tired 13-year old Dylan after a pass through another field yields two sharptails and a rooster.

easy to find, and hold birds. To order a P.L.O.T.S. guide contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300 or go to their website at gf.nd.gov.

If you want a quality upland bird hunt, that is reasonably priced and relatively close, consider hunting North Dakota's western edge. We'll be back for our 3rd consecutive hunt in 2020.



For the best pheasant hunting in North Dakota, make Dickinson your hunting headquarters. There's great lodging and dining options to keep you comfortable.

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Eric Pacey and Steve Ellis of Wausau, who traveled to North Dakota for two days of pre-season scouting, work the dogs and the vast grasslands for pheasants and sharptails.

STEVE ELLIS

Scouting First Creating your own edge

For our October 2019 North Dakota bird hunt, my son-in-law, Eric Pacey, and I went out early to scout likely spots. We downloaded our P.L.O.T.S. Guide, a detailed set of maps identifying all the lands available to public hunting, and hit the fields so our group would be on pheasants and sharptail grouse.

Our season would not open until two days after our arrival so we did not carry guns. Hunters must choose 14 consecutive days to hunt within the season, or two different 7-day periods. But it gave the dogs a chance to burn off a little excitement, and we found some areas that held good numbers of birds and some that would have been a waste of time. We also asked local people at the sporting goods stores what they were hearing, and that occasionally proved helpful. Scouting was a good move and I recommend you try to do this.

If you're an older hunter like me, with worn out knees, hips, or shoulders, I also recommend you try to get them replaced. I had two bad shoulders going into 2019, so I got the one that hurt the most replaced in August. By the North Dakota pheasant hunt October 19th, I was recovered enough to have a much better time than it would have been without the surgery. In December I had the right one replaced and now 2020 is shaping up to be pain free. The recovery from these surgeries is not that bad and the results are worth it.

DICK ELLIS

Grassland Paradise Hunting the Western Edge

For pheasant hunters and their dogs, there is really nothing like it. Your dog "tells" you for a fact that a bird is holding tight in the long grass or a runner is on the move with no intention of taking flight unless pushed. When the flush does come, hopefully the exclamation point includes a cackle, a true shot, and a well-earned retrieve.

Over recent decades, hunters targeting pheasants in Wisconsin predominantly hunt game farms, put-and-take birds DNR-stocked on public properties, with a relatively few hunters traveling long distances in-state to target the wild bird. Personally, over the last 30 years, listening for rooster cackles while spring turkey hunting has often determined whether it would be worth it in fall to return, for example, to Grant County in the southwest, or Pierce County in the northwest. For many Wisconsin hunters, the trips mean long rides, gaining permission on private farms, with a great day in the field meaning a half-dozen flushes of hens or cocks and hopefully a rooster in the bag.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Be Free.

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT SPOONER

Don't forget our silent sports!

Spooner, Wisconsin. You may know us from our phenomenal ATV trails, our historic downtown shopping, and our many lakes to spend a day on the boat. But have you heard of our other relaxing activities? Spooner is home to some of the best silent sport accommodations you can imagine including disc golf courses, hiking and biking trails, and an incredible 18-hole golf course. Visit Spooner for some no-engine-required fun!

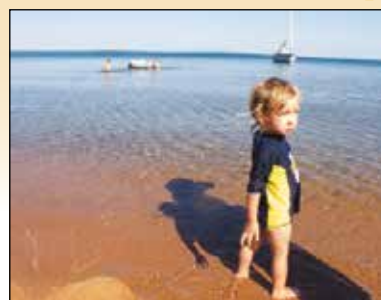
Start your day at City Park in the heart of Spooner where your silent sport activities are endless. City Park is home to paved and unpaved hiking and biking trails, a disc golf course, two miles of outdoor workout stations, and a fantastic park with baseball fields, slides and my personal favorite...a relaxing picnic pavilion.

Looking to stay and play? Nestled in 700 acres of breathtaking natural woodlands, Heartwood Resort & Conference Center is the perfect destination for discovering the beauty of Northwestern Wisconsin while enjoying the inviting accommodations of the wilderness paradise in a resort setting. Play the Namekagon National Championship Disc Golf Course with 24 holes of scenic tournament level play, and many sporting areas including tennis, basketball, sand volleyball, and horseshoes, or take to the water and enjoy fishing, kayaking, and swimming. No gear? You can rent everything right from the resort!

Take a day on the course and visit Spooner Area Golf Club. This stunning 18 hole course boasts immaculate tree-lined fairways and beautiful greens of varying sizes all in a gorgeous setting just minutes away from downtown Spooner. After you play, take to the clubhouse where you can get an incredible dining experience and cool off with some tasty beverages.

Any way you spend it, Spooner should definitely be on your list for a vacation destination. Check out our other blogs on our website: www.spoonerchamber.org and start planning your trip today! 🍷

Explore Wisconsin



*Beautiful beaches,
endless water,
fabulous parks,
natural social
distancing, and so
much more. What
could be better than
your planned visit to
Ashland?*



SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND

Social distancing comes naturally in Ashland County

Enjoy an abundance of outdoor recreation from Big Bay State Park in northern Ashland County, Madeline Island and the Apostle Islands, 30,000 acres of water in the Chequamegon Bay, and beaches galore. Our outdoor history book spotlights 21 buildings in the city of Ashland, the Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin. In southern Ashland County, you'll find Copper Falls State Park in Mellen and further south Marion Park in Glidden. Order your free Waterfalls Brochure and Ashland County Visitor Guide today! www.travelashlandcounty.com 🍷

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TOM MUELLER

Perfecting the Single Retrieve

Teaching and playing the marking game

Marking a single retrieve is a retriever's most important task. Seeing a retriever mark and head straight to where the dummy or bird fell, quickly fetch it up, then return to deliver to hand is what we love to watch over and over again.

Geometry tells us that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Training a retriever to run a straight line as it leaves one point, which is your side, to run to the other point, the spot where the dummy or bird fell, takes a concerted effort on the part of the trainer.

A dog's momentum and its path of movement towards the mark can change when it is confronted with different types of cover, such as running over shorter grass and hitting a wall of taller grass, weeds, or crossing a pond. Terrain changes, such as angling up or down a hill, can push a dog off the line it needs to run to get to the mark. Will the dog get to the fall and get the dummy or bird?

Eventually yes, but it will probably set the dog up for a

long hunt as it works over the area searching. Doing that is acceptable, but not the ideal situation. Too many long hunts can condition the dog to always expect to have to hunt.

When starting to train a young dog to mark the fall, it's very important to work it on very short grass so it can always see the dummy. You want to teach the dog to use its eyes before it uses its nose. Rather than hand-throwing dummies helter-skelter to increase distance and get it used to running in heavier cover, it's better to have a helper stand about twenty yards away and throw the dummy in one spot.

As the pup gets confident running to that spot, the helper continues to throw to that spot and you move back after each retrieve to gradually increase the distance. The dog will quickly learn this concept, so you can then move this game into somewhat heavier cover. Again, always have your helper continue throwing the dummy in the same

Learning to mark properly is the key to your dog gaining confidence in retrieving and delivering bird or target to the owner's hand.



spot as you move back to increase the distance. Continuing to do that gives the dog the confidence that when it runs to that spot, no matter how far, it will get its reward. Knowing there will be a dummy or bird at the end of its run gets the dog going full bore through the heaviest of cover. The dog ignores the cover it's going through because it has learned to become focused on getting to the dummy or bird and not the cover.

This training method can now be used to teach the dog to hold its line when going through different cover changes and over varying terrain and works best if you work the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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MARCUS MALLETTE & JAKE QUIGLEY

Kayaking Wisconsin

Challenge, isolation on the Eau Claire

With its challenging 2 and 3 class rapids and boulder gardens calling, Marcus and I set our sights on the Eau Claire River May 14 as the best way to usher in a new summer. We would put in this tributary of the Wisconsin near Antigo from Spring Road. The Eau Claire flows southwest and feeds the Wisconsin in Wausau.

The boulder gardens and rapids scattered throughout the trip can make your journey periodically grueling when navigating certain areas. It might have been the roar of rapids, but once or twice I thought I heard the Eau Claire laughing at these two paddlers still far from wearing the badges of whitewater experts.

We realized two hours into the trip while checking our GPS that I had miscalculated how far upstream we had driven to dump in. The 7.7 mile journey originally planned immediately turned into a 20 mile trip. We had about five hours of daylight to travel, but still 16 miles of river to conquer. On top of navigating rough waters ahead, we also had to make sure we were traveling at a steady pace to reach our destination, Dells of Eau Claire Park. Once we headed downstream, we found ourselves moving through picturesque farmland delivering a welcome feeling of seclusion on current running slow and calm.

Plenty of wildlife greeted us, including beavers and waterfowl. Coming around a bend we watched quietly as a deer gingerly crossed the river in the distance. We were able to trek another 10 miles before finally reaching Bear Lake Road, our original planned starting point. Determining a put-in and take-out spot on a river can be one of the tricky details when kayaking new water; driving time is not equivalent to kayaking time down the river. There are many factors that can affect your trip time, such as current speed and expected and unexpected river obstacles.

Bear Lake Road was where the real fun started. We decided to portage offshore to scope out the best route. Course chosen, we were ready to go for it. In the beginning we navigated plenty of boulder gardens - something to look out for as you can get your kayak stuck on them easily. The best simple advice is that the size of the water ripples generally reflects the size of the boulders and provides a road map of how to best weave through the obstacles.

This section of water also included large rapids with three to four foot drops, the first rapids of this magnitude that we had ever experienced. Excitement and nerves were felt equally as we approached our first major drop off. The increasing and declining sound of roaring water as we entered and left each new challenge added to the fun.

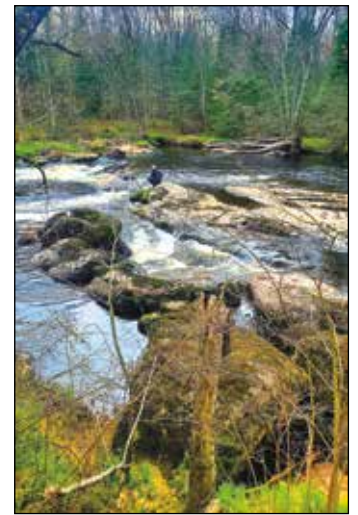
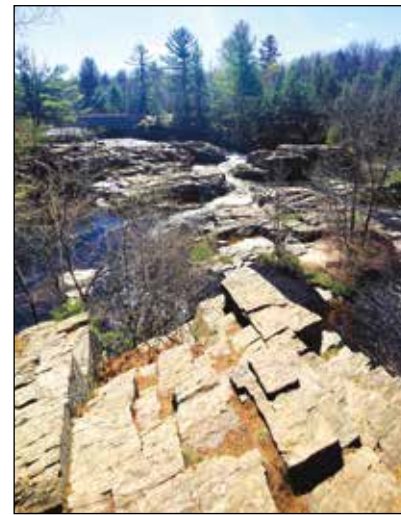
A rush of adrenaline hit us with the first big set of rapids. Successfully maneuvered, our confidence began to increase. The next three miles were exhilarating, offering both more boulder gardens and rapids and varying challenges.

We had done plenty of research on the Eau Claire beforehand and made purchases of kayaking helmets as a safety precaution. When we hit our last rapid for the day, the river hit back. Ironically, it was the stretch I capsized on. A recently purchased anchor had fallen as I shot the rapids, causing the kayak to be pulled under. Thankfully, Marcus was there to help pull me and the gear ashore.

The sun was setting quickly, yet we still had another 4.4 miles to go. We agreed that it would be too dangerous to try and navigate this river in the dark. Our best option was to take the kayaks out at Highway 52 and walk the remainder of the distance to my vehicle. Although not quite what was intended, we had another unforgettable experience.

We will definitely be back to experience the rapids missed between Highway 52 and Dells of Eau Claire Park. 🌊

As always, this was another great trip offering more great memories. Hope to see you on the water.



The Eau Claire River offers miles of scenic paddling and isolation.

In 2020, good friends and experienced Kayakers Jake Quigley and Marcus Mallette are showcasing some of the best paddling routes and waterways across the state for *On Wisconsin Outdoors*.

On May 14, Mallette and Quigley placed the spotlight on a 20-mile stretch of the Eau Claire River. Although, since we are a fact-based publication, the last 12-plus miles was a complete accident (we do appreciate the opportunity to embarrass our writers, especially when one is the OWO publisher's nephew). The Eau Claire trip helped our paddlers to welcome summer and offered the OWO writers an introduction to challenging Class 2 and 3 rapids.

Delafield native Mallette and Hartland native Quigley love the sport and enjoy being your guinea pigs. We hope you follow their journeys, on these pages or our website, and literally on the water of Wisconsin's most appealing waterways. 🌊

Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | LACROSSE

Outdoor opportunities waiting!

Outdoor activity is essential these days and the La Crosse Region bursts with adventure and activities for all. Explore the La Crosse Region, offering an abundance of great outdoor resources and opportunities for you to enjoy while practicing safe social distancing.

A perfect way to burn off some energy is with a quick stroll on one of the many great trails in the area. The Great River State Trail, La Crosse River Trail and Three Rivers Trail are great options for easy walking or biking with beautiful scenery along each route. If you're looking for something challenging, you can find more difficult terrain, climbs, features, and scenic lookouts at the Hixon Forest Trails and La Crosse Blufflands Trails.

If road cycling is more your style, you're sure to enjoy numerous routes that highlight the area, which offers some of the best bicycling in the Midwest. The Region provides both easy, in-town rides and moderate or hard routes to get the blood flowing through some of the area's biggest hills and bluffs!

Surf or turf, kayaking and biking are just two of the countless activities waiting for vacationers visiting the beautiful Lacrosse area.



Want to skip the pavement? The summer cooldown and adventure are endless when you hit the many famous waterways of the La Crosse Region. Rent a kayak or canoe to enjoy the crisp waters of Lake Onalaska or the river lands. Take your boat and escape down the famous Mississippi River and visit memorable sandbars.

In addition, summertime fishing in the Region can be one of the most exciting fishing experiences anglers have all year, no matter the species you seek. Fish are much more predictable and their metabolism is increased under

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

JERRY DAVIS

Wild Ginseng

Recognizing, appreciating ginseng through the seasons

Many wild plants appear quite different during the time they first appear in late April until they die back in late October. Ginseng, a below-ground perennial, certainly does.

Ginseng is a valuable plant, as well as Wisconsin's state herb, a designation noted in the list of state symbols. It continues to be regulated (state and federal), and only harvested by licensed diggers during a two-month season. Harvesting is illegal on many state and federal lands, including state parks.

Searching for the ginseng herb to sell and maybe more importantly, to appreciate, protect, study, and admire, is made easier if identification is done throughout the growing season, even though it cannot be dug until early September. Isolating general locations can reduce fruitless searches. Out-of-season searches are limited to carrying a camera and not a screwdriver for digging.

Some botanically-inclined individuals know that ginseng is a perennial, but only

the root system lives year after year. The single stem with two - to - five compound leaves, each leaf with five leaflets, dies back to the ground each autumn.

Early the following spring, a single underground bud gives rise to a shoot, which is arched so the delicate leaves and flower buds are dug up through the soil backwards rather than pushing to get out of the ground. Garden bean seed germinate similarly. The first notice of a bean plant appears similar to a fence staple stuck in the ground.

Within a few days the stem elongates more on one side while the other side of the arch holds tight to the underground parts. The folded leaves are pulled out and a knob of flower buds is tucked in their midst.

The arch quickly straightens itself, now looking like a single-stemmed, upright plant with a crown of leaves, all of which unfold and expand. The flower buds open a few weeks later but are so tiny and green that they may go unnoticed until flat, green



The flowers and eventually the fruit are in the center of the plant.

fruit begin to develop.

The maximum height of the plant is quickly attained; it has determinate growth, ending with a cluster of green then red berries.

The five - leaflet leaves begin to turn light red or yellow, eventually a bright yellow and then tan to brown as they dry, droop and hang from the stem. The fruits generally drop before the leaves fall.

Each fleshy red berry has two hard, light tan seeds inside. The seeds may not



Ginseng roots are perennial.

germinate for up to two years. When they do germinate, a tiny plant, often with a single leaf with three leaflets, is the first year's outcome.

The red-berried fruit cluster and the yellow leaves are what many who admire the plant associate with a mature ginseng plant ranging from six to 24 inches in height. The root and a knobby underground rhizome are never seen unless the plant is dug.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON

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Port Washington, with its touch of New England charm, is nestled on the shore of Lake Michigan, just north of Milwaukee. Whether this is your first visit, or you are returning to a favorite place, you are invited to take some time to see all this harbor town has to offer.

One of the first things you'll see, coming down the hill to the lake, is the art deco lighthouse. Whether you are boating, fishing, walking on the beach or in any of the lakeside parks, this iconic symbol of the community has kept watch at the end of a half-mile long pier, for almost 85 years.

The downtown is lakeside, and walking distance from the marina, which is appreciated by boaters and fishermen. It offers unique dining destinations – many housed in historic storefronts. All are locally owned, and very different in their offerings. Whether you are in the mood for a brewpub, barbeque, Mexican, Italian, deli, supper club fare, or even fresh farm-to-table, you'll find all of these options. Saturdays, in summer and fall, feature a very popular lakeside beer garden, with food and music. Plus, if you are here on a Saturday, you can pick up some fresh food at the downtown farmers' market.

Port doesn't have just the typical, touristy shops. There is a fish market that can smoke, and even ship, your catch for you. Include a stop into the old fashioned meat market. Even if you don't buy anything, it's worth it for the smell of it. The winery not only makes and sells wine, but can help you make your own! A number of stores offer outdoor gear options, whether it be for fishing, biking, or paddling. There are also galleries and boutiques, each offering something unique and different.

The outdoor recreational opportunities are exceptional. Bike, bird, run, or hike on nearby trails. One of the trails is a free, paved recreational trail called the Interurban.

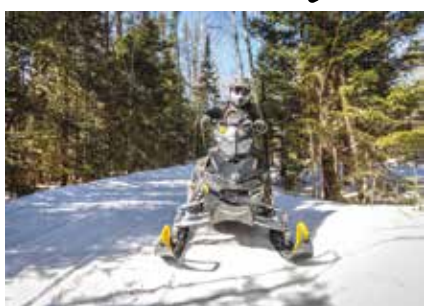
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Plan your Lake Michigan vacation with our visitor's resource guide for hotels, bed and breakfasts, shopping, events, farmers markets, lakefront festivals, and more. Make sure to stop by the historic Pebble House Visitor Center for more information. And don't forget your camera; there are breath-taking views everywhere you look. 📷

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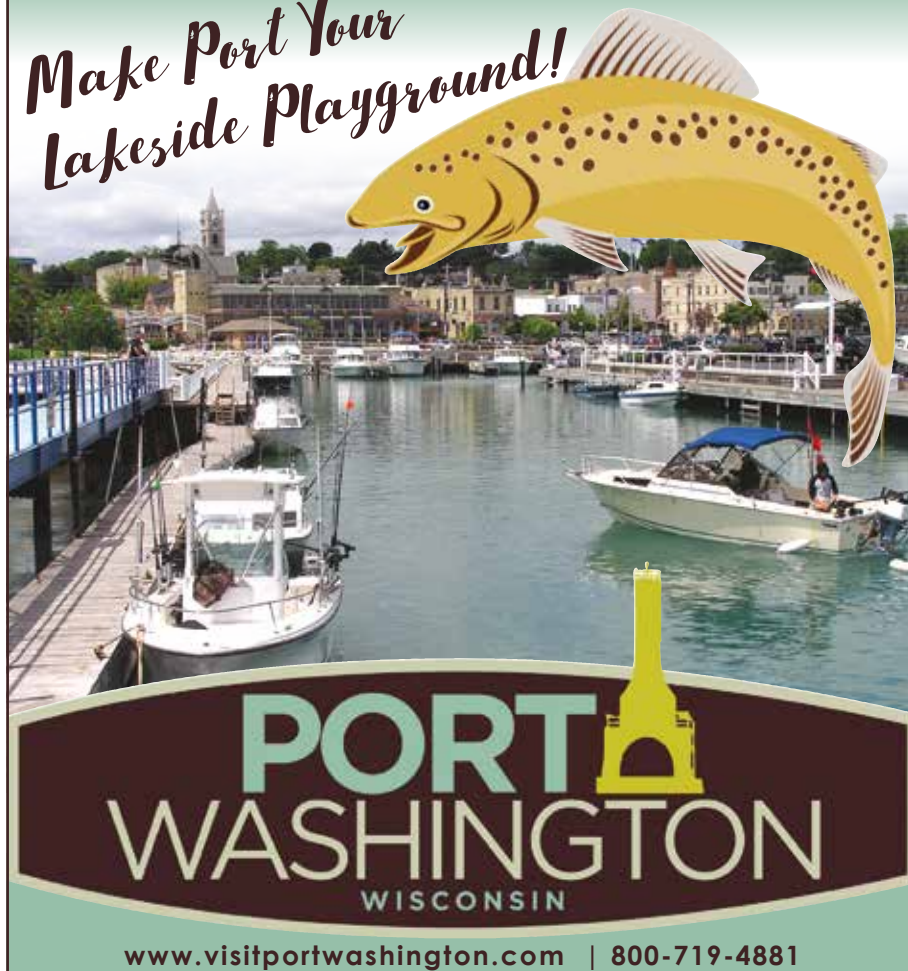
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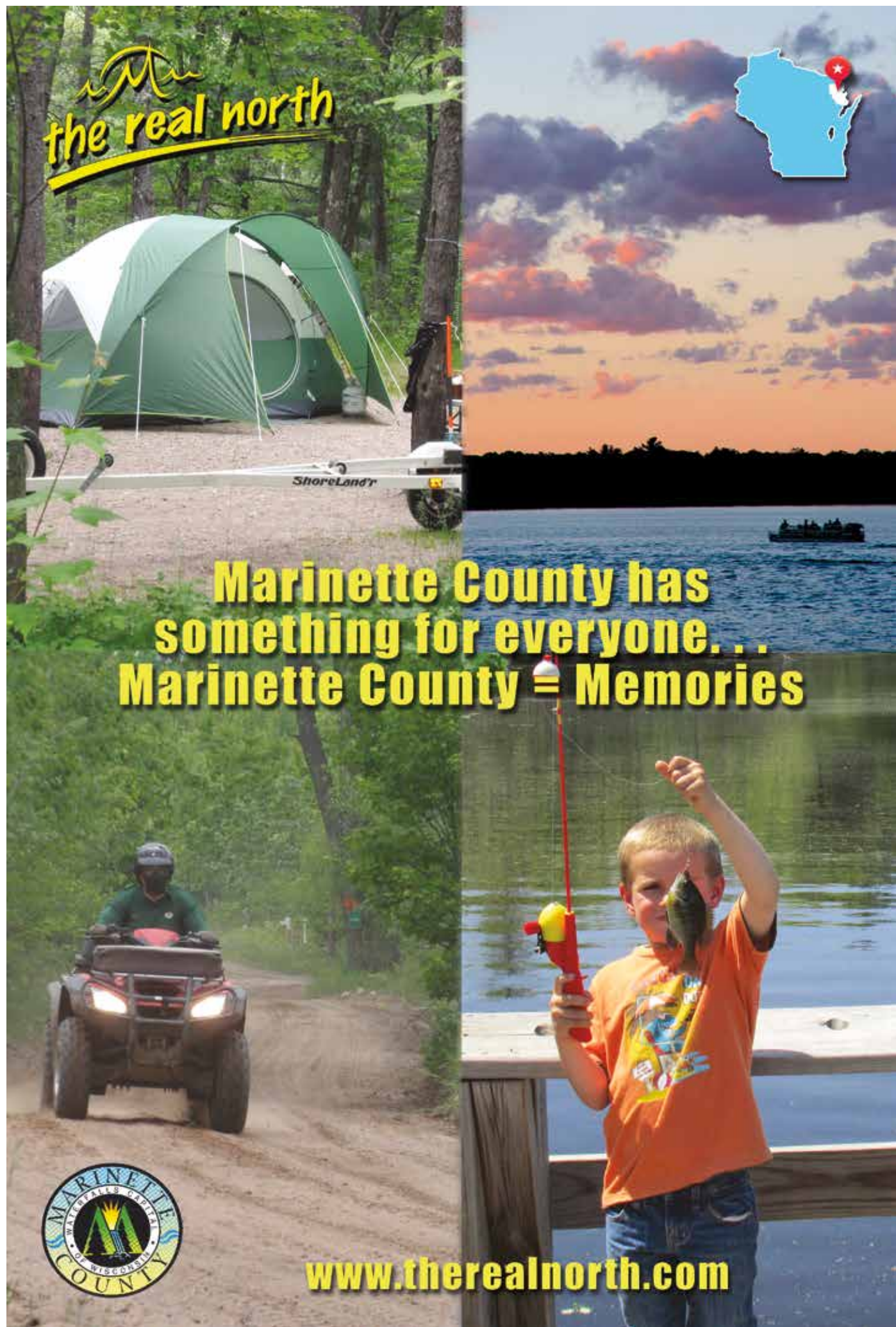
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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT MARINETTE COUNTY


Are you looking for that perfect outdoor adventure? Fish, swim or go boating by day, then enjoy a bonfire at one of Marinette County's campgrounds at night. Marinette County has something for everyone....

Marinette County parks provide restful, scenic surroundings to spend your leisure time. There is plenty of area to explore, with over 230,000 acres of County forestland available for hunting and viewing wildlife.

Did you know that Marinette County communities have been geo-cached? While you are out exploring, try finding some of the 130 micro-caches placed in various spots such as waterfalls (some underwater), boat launches, campgrounds, parks, and historical locations. With a free geocaching.com membership, all you need is a GPS or GPS enabled mobile phone and you can start your geocaching adventure.

Marinette County waters support a diverse fish population, offering something for every angler. Exceptional inland waters include acres of lakes and miles of trout streams that offer endless angling opportunities. Whatever type of adventure you enjoy, Marinette County is the place to go!

Marinette County is the Waterfall Capital of Wisconsin touting 15 stunning waterfalls. The self-guided waterfall tour offers short and long hikes in serene, natural settings. About half of the waterfalls on our tour are located in the Marinette County Park system; with most being easily accessible via hiking trails, some easy, some difficult.

Marinette County has over 300 miles of ATV/UTV trails that provide recreation for adventurers who desire to ATV/UTV. The trail system provides access to County forestlands as well as many of the County's magnificent waterfalls. The County trail system connects with the Oconto County trail system to the South and the Florence County trail system to the North allowing ATV and UTV riders hundreds of miles to ride while out on the trails. 



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LEE GATZKE

The Silent Approach

Electric powered bikes are ideal for getting close to your hunting spots without alarming game.

With the archery deer opener just around the corner, monitoring deer habits takes on a higher priority. Glassing and trail cameras reveal the individual deer occupying our hunting areas. Combine that information with previous knowledge gained from walking the landscape scouting the bedding, feeding, travel corridors, and rut sign and you can formulate a plan of where to place your stands. It's all part of the myriad of chores that go into preparation for each upcoming season.

Access to and from stands has always been an important consideration for hunters. Approaching and departing stand sites must be done without alarming deer if you are to be successful at having deer go about their normal routines; those same routines you count on to cross paths with a deer in range of your bow. A quiet downwind approach and departure from where the deer bed or travel is critical to being undetected while on stand and thereafter.

For years I've refused to use gas engine powered ATVs for hunting. Still do. They're too noisy. I huffed and puffed up and down a lot of hills, sloshed through soggy terrain, took the long way around, and wore out a lot of boot leather to remain undetected by deer I hunted. Deer are put on alert when they hear the sound

of a gas-powered ATV in an area if they're not accustomed to them. This includes the vast majority of spots we choose to hunt. Noisy gas-powered ATVs are counterproductive to hunters looking to have deer behave normally.

Enter the rise of electric motorized transportation marketed to hunters. Within the past few years electric motorized bikes have become increasingly popular with hunters. I use a battery powered golf cart to get within easy walking distance of most of my stands. It's so quiet I routinely get to within 50 yards of deer while riding it. The E-bikes marketed for hunters will access tight spots the ATVs and UTVs cannot get in to. When I win the lottery, it will be the first purchase I make for myself.

Being quiet while approaching your stand is important, but the electric powered transportation also helps reduce human scent substantially. Quietly driving to within a couple hundred yards of your stand before completing your journey on foot greatly reduces the scent you lay down by walking further distances. This beats a noisy gas-powered ATV that you have to park much farther away from stand to avoid being heard by and spooking deer. Parking further away means a longer hike on foot which results in more human scent being disbursed resulting in a much greater



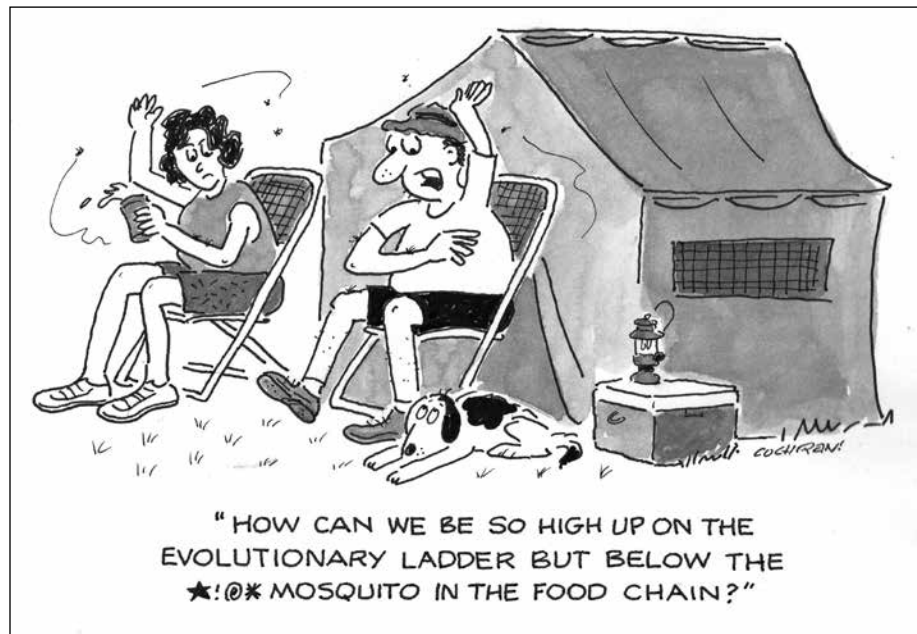
This electric golf cart quietly delivers its riders to within easy hiking distance of their stands without alarming nearby deer.

chance deer will detect your presence. Walking on foot lays down a scent trail on the ground and brush we encounter. Motorized travel results in less detection of humans by deer since deer don't tend to catch a whiff of the humanity riding on the vehicle unless you brush up against brush or weeds while riding.

Riding a bike or vehicle is a way of insulating your scent from the deer as long as you're not brushing up against

vegetation along the way. Of course, this applies to either gas or electric vehicles, but the electrics reduce foot travel greatly by allowing the hunter to get closer to the stand site quietly. Electric powered transportation has a future within the hunting community.

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



onwisconsinoutdoors.com

TOM CARPENTER

Cubs' Corner

Grow a Monarch this Summer

As summer peaks and flowers bloom everywhere, graceful monarch butterflies waft across the landscape. Raising monarch butterflies is a great project to do with kids.

You don't need many special materials. You'll learn together about butterflies and how they reproduce. It's fun to let the new butterflies fly away and every butterfly matters in these times when monarchs face challenges.

Gather Materials. You'll need a container to hold caterpillars and the chrysalis they become. Make sure it's clear-sided (so you can see what's going on) and has air holes in the lid. Bug boxes work perfectly. A jar is great, especially one with a wide opening that kids can get their hands into.

Locate Milkweed. Milkweed is the monarch's host plant. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed leaves, and monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves to grow big and fat.

Find Eggs. Search for single eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves. A monarch egg is about the size of a pinhead, shaped like a football that is flat at one end, and is creamy-yellow colored with ridges. It's tiny. Collect leaves with eggs and bring them home. If you find a white-, black- and yellow-striped monarch caterpillar, bring it home on

the leaf it is eating and put it directly in your bug box with fresh milkweed leaves.

Hatch Eggs. Lay the milkweed leaves out, bottom (egg) side up, on damp paper towels. Dampen the towels daily so the leaves don't shrivel up. The egg will get dark when it is ready to hatch. A new caterpillar is tiny - maybe a quarter inch long and about as thick as a thread. Cut out the section of leaf the caterpillar is on and put him in your bug box (kids need help here!) with fresh milkweed.

Feed Caterpillars. Monarch caterpillars eat constantly, but they take occasional long breaks to rest. Monarch caterpillars create droppings constantly, so you'll have to clean out the container every other day. Stock it with fresh milkweed leaves.

Provide Perch. When a caterpillar gets about two inches long, and fat like a French fry, it will begin looking for something to attach itself to for transformation into a chrysalis. Prop a stick or twig in the container.

Observe Chrysalis. The caterpillar attaches itself and forms into a hanging "J" shape, then transforms into chrysalis. A chrysalis is beautiful with its pleasant light-green color and a "zipper" of golden dots.

Day by Day....

Egg to Caterpillar: 1 to 5 days
(depends on when egg was laid)

Caterpillar to Chrysalis: 10 - 12 days

Green to Clear Chrysalis: 10 days

Clear Chrysalis to Butterfly: 1-2 days

Wet to Dry Butterfly: 3 - 4 hours

Total: 22 - 29 days

Watch Changes. When the butterfly is about ready in 10 days, the chrysalis pouch will become clear and look dark as you see the black-and-orange wings of a new monarch butterfly folded up inside.

Meet Butterfly. One to two or three days after the chrysalis changes begin, a new butterfly will burst forth.

Be Patient and Gentle. Give the new butterfly plenty of time for its wings to unfold completely and dry out. The young butterfly will begin pumping its wings. This is just exercise: He is not quite ready to go. Don't touch the wings.

Set It Free. Three to four hours after it hatches, your butterfly will be ready for solo flight. Take the bug box outside, open the lid, let the butterfly crawl onto a kid's finger. He will fly when he's ready, often fluttering to a shrub, tree branch or flower for a little more rest before flying off for good. 🦋

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



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Gile Flowage

HURLEYWI.COM



Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

ATV/UTV trails and so much more

Plan a trip to Hurley and enjoy over 300 miles of trails to ride. Kick off your day in Hurley and head west to the Plummer Mine Headframe. At 80 feet high, the last of the steel giants remain with an interpretive park that honors the Penoque Range iron miners and their families. Continue west through Iron Belt on Trail 77 that leads to Upson Falls, continue on to Trail 6, catch a view of Whitecap Mountain and venture to one of the scenic vistas. As you make your way along, Trail 6 turns north toward Lake Superior via Saxon.

On the way back to Hurley from Saxon Harbor the choice can be made to head south to the Island Lake area along Trail 9 or 11; either way the ride is enjoyable and there are miles to explore. A stop at the B47 Veterans Memorial is a must on the to-do list, as well as Spring Camp Falls. Bring your camera and capture the memories.

Along the way be sure to stop and enjoy local establishments with unique menu items, some with traditional foods that have been passed along from generation to generation. Several spots along the trails are equipped with pavilions, grills and parks to enjoy an outdoor meal. To request a trail map, call our office 715-561-4334.

Waterfalls, Kayaking and Fishing

Request a waterfall map and take a day to enjoy the sites. Some are located in remote areas and take a bit of planning to get to. For a real adventure, park at Upson Falls and hike the North Country Trail through the Gold Mine Campsite to Wren Falls. There are other, easier access waterfalls to see also.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



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STUART WILKE

Shorty's Shooting Sports Safety first for new gun owners

A perfect storm consisting of a pandemic, an economic melt down, social unrest, uncertainty and fear have resulted in a tsunami of firearm purchases. "I've never seen anything like it," Mike "Shorty" Govas, owner of Shorty's Shooting Sports in West Allis said. "People are scared and they're looking for ways to protect themselves." He can see why. "When people are getting into fights over toilet paper, you know things are nuts." Shorty's has sold more than twice as many guns in May of this year than last year.

Always concerned with public safety and his store's reputation, Shorty only sells guns to those with concealed carry permits. If he suspects someone is a "straw buyer," he won't sell him or her a firearm. Straw buyers are those who buy guns for people who are not legally allowed to own a firearm. The penalties for convicted straw buyers are stiff, and can include prison time.

Some recent firearm purchases are being made by people with little to no familiarity

with fire-arms. In addition, too many of them are buying guns from dealers who are providing them with no guidance on the use of their new guns. "If the seller isn't willing to spend 30 to 60 minutes showing you how to load, unload, operate and demonstrate how to safely handle a gun that you're considering purchasing, walk out and go to a dealer who will."

Shorty is one such dealer. No one leaves his store with a firearm purchase without a thorough lesson familiarizing him or her with its safe operation and maintenance. Over the course of the past several months, Shorty has had calls from new gun owners asking him for instructions on the use of their firearms because the seller did not provide any guidance. Unfortunately, he currently doesn't have the time or staff to give them the detailed attention he gives to those who buy from him.

He does offer the next best thing - thorough concealed carry weapon permit instruction classes. Unlike far too many such

courses, Shorty's class is more than a simple slide presentation that regurgitates Wisconsin Act 35, the law that makes carrying a concealed carry handgun possible. Shorty is an NRA certified firearms safety, pistol and personal protection instructor. His concealed carry classes last about four hours and include much more than the minimal number of topics Act 35 requires to be addressed.

For example, since many of his student have little or no experience with handguns, Shorty puts a special emphasis on safe gun handling, operation, maintenance, storage, and loading and unloading ammunition. He also delves into the proper use of sights and target acquisition.

Shorty winces when he hears about some of the misinformation taught in less-than-credible concealed carry weapon classes. He takes prides in offering a well-designed, practical, and understandable concealed carry class rooted in the truth, as opposed to one shot through with misinformation and shaky opinions.

Shorty's class focuses on the circumstances where the use of a concealed carry weapon is justified and when it is not; types of concealed carry weapons; general firearm safety; and concealed carry reciprocity between individual states. A representative from U.S. LawShield is also in attendance to discuss and answer questions

The new Ruger Lite Rack LCP II in .22 rimfire is a popular choice among first-time handgun owners and is available at Shorty's Shooting Sports.

regarding criminal and civil liability and firearm owner insurance options.

Even if you didn't purchase your concealed carry weapon from Shorty's, you can learn how to safely use it at one of his concealed carry courses. They are offered on a regular basis at a fair price. Ideally, if you're a first time shooter, you should take his concealed carry class prior to purchasing a handgun. The class will provide you with a good idea of the responsibilities associated with firearm ownership.

For additional information, visit Shorty's in West Allis or call him at 414-545-3323.

Stuart Wilke is a longtime writer and editor for *On Wisconsin Outdoors*. Contact him at submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

MUELLER, FROM PAGE 20

dog by teaching it on one mark in one area at a time.

Whatever the cover or terrain, start by having a thrower positioned around 20 yards away always throwing to the same spot. From there you keep moving back after each retrieve until the dog

is retrieving a hundred yards or more. Quit there and go back a few days later and repeat the same retrieve. This time start about 30 or 40 yards away from the thrower moving back until you get to 100 yards. Again, quit at that point and go back some days later.

By now the dog should have pretty good picture and you should be able to run it from 70 or 80 yards. If not, shorten it up a bit. Following this process, you should be able to train your dog to mark the throw and run confidently in a straight line to the area of the fall while building in various changes in cover and terrain.

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.rtrvs@hotmail.com

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Summer Trap Leagues

The oldest shotgun sport



SKB makes dedicated Trap singles.

Trap is by far the oldest of all the shotgun sports. By 1793 when the first articles on it were published in England, it was well established as a means of sport. The first organized trap shoot in the US took place in Ohio in 1831. Today trapshooting remains popular worldwide, is featured in two Olympic events, and is the most affordable shooting sport of all.

Even as the sport has evolved from its early English roots, some things have stayed the same. Twenty-five shots are fired, five shots each, from five different positions, in a semi-circle in front of the house. For an average round of trap, the distance is 16 yards. Shooters often find a spot to hold on above the trap house as they call for a target or “bird.”

“Pull!” is the most often used command for the puller to release the target, but variations up to and including what sounds like yelling from a cattle drive can be heard. The best way to break the target, it is generally agreed, is to let it reach its apex, or high point in flight, then hold under (straight away) or swing in front of, pull the trigger, and follow through.

Summer trap shooting leagues generally run 20 weeks. The 20 weeks of shooting means 500 targets, so a shooter will need at least two, 10-box cases of shotgun shells, plus shells for practice shooting. For shooters who don’t reload, most large sporting goods stores often run specials and rebates on cases of shells in spring. Guns: Serious trap shooters use 12-gauge dedicated trap singles or over/under shotguns made to withstand the rigors of the thousands of rounds shot for league and practice. Back when I started trapshooting in a league about 40 years ago, I tried using the same gun I duck hunted with. Two blown ejectors later, I wised up, and bought an SKB Century I trap single. I later moved on to an over/under with an adjustable stock, and went on to shoot my personal best scores of 98 /100 and 99/100 with it.

Today SKB makes the Century III Trap single and dedicated 90TSS trap over/under. Some shooters like the lighter weight of a trap single. Others like the heavier, recoil absorbing weight of an over/under. An over/under also offers the advantage of the barrel that’s not in use acting as a radiator to dissipate the heat generated. Shotguns with adjustable stocks allow the shooter to fine tune the

fit of the gun to them. This was a BIG advantage for me; I know it helped me to shoot much improved scores for both 16-yard and handicap (added yardage) shooting. Yes, some shooters do use semi-auto shotguns. If you do use a semi-auto, the use of a shell catcher to keep your empties from hitting other shooters is required. My advice, get the dedicated trap gun that fits you the best.

Shells: The ATA (Amateur Trapshooting Association) sets limits on the shot charge and velocity of shells that can be used. Most shooters rely on 1 1/8 ounces of 7 ½ or 8 shot traveling from 1150 – 1200 fps. I suggest trying different brands and loads until you discover the combination that patterns best out of your trap gun. My over-under shot best with 1 ounce of 8 shot at 1200 fps. Test on a patterning board, and out on the range on targets.

Summer league is a great time to fine tune your shooting, and enjoy some friendly competition. Who knows? You might even win a trophy. 🏆

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.

ELLIS, FROM PAGE 16

Bring on North Dakota pheasant and sharptail hunting. For hunters like our Wisconsin group who have grown to appreciate every chase and flush at home, our return for our 3rd consecutive North Dakota hunt in 2020 is like returning to one vast piece of grassland heaven. The prairie is also home to enough wildlife familiar and not so familiar to Wisconsin hunters to make the trip worthwhile in itself. Annually we watched whitetails and muley and herds of antelope navigate the grasslands. We would hunt exclusively private properties for mixture of flushes on ringnecks and sharptails. You can too.

We return to North Dakota not only because the birds are here and the landscape gentle on the mind, but because our hosts in Dickinson go out of their way to welcome us. Executive Director Terri Thiel of the Dickinson CVB addressed a few questions to help you decide if you’re coming too.

OWO: Why is the Wisconsin hunter a top priority for Dickinson, and North Dakota, when you’re inviting hunters to spend time in your backyard?

“Maybe you’ve hunted the ring neck pheasant all your life in Wisconsin,” Terri said. “But, if you haven’t tried hunting one of your favorite birds in western North Dakota, get ready for a new challenge. Same bird, different landscape, different hunting strategies. The large, open fields have taught the ring neck pheasant that they might outsmart, or outrun, hunters and their dogs. Dickinson is a base camp for great lodging rooms, options for dining, and the evening beverages while you relive the days moments. And wasn’t your dog just awesome today?”

OWO: North Dakota’s Game & Fish Department’s Private Land Open To Sportsmen (P.L.O.T.S.) program began more than 20 years ago to provide walk-in access for the purpose of hunting on private land. No asking permission to hunt this private property is necessary. How easy is it?

“The ND P.L.O.T.S. Guides are available in print at either a licensed vendor, or the local county auditor’s office with the newest guide available in late August or early September. If you wish to view it online download it at [https://](https://gf.nd.gov/plots/guide.)

gf.nd.gov/plots/guide.”

OWO: Wild pheasants and dog work were our primary draws, but the bonus sharptail and hospitality were a big part of our return to the Dickinson prairie in the fall of 2019. We’re coming again in October. How do bird numbers look heading into Fall 2020?

“This past winter and spring seasons have been kind to the local upland bird population. Little snow, and no major spring snow storms have created a great opportunity for young birds to thrive this summer. The 2020 fall hunting season looks to be a healthy bird crop for hunters.”

“We hope to see you on the plains and rolling buttes of Dickinson, North Dakota. We’re just east of the Montana border.” Terri said. “October may be the opening month, but the season lasts until the first part of January giving plenty of time and opportunity to hunt the birds. Give our office a call, **800-279-7391**, for ideas, tips, lodging information. Or go to visitdickinson.com.”

LA CROSSE,
FROM PAGE 22

the warm water conditions causing them to feed more. Heart pounding topwater for big northern pike and bass in backwaters, fly fishing the pristine trout streams, or filling the livewell with walleye or slab crappies and bluegills are all phenomenal options during the summer months in the Region.

No matter your sport or hobby, the La Crosse Region offers something for everyone. The beautiful waterways nestled between the striking bluffs create an adventurous setting perfect for making summer memories. When you’re ready, venture to the La Crosse Region, where the freedom to explore awaits! 🌊

HURLEY, FROM PAGE 30

Bring your kayak and explore one of the lakes or flowages. Our Sportsman's Map provides details on access points. The map will also guide anglers to walleye, perch, bass, trout, northern and musky.

A place where everyone can play

Hurley has so much to offer the adventurous spirit. 14 waterfalls. 200 miles of ATV/ UTV trails and routes to explore. 150 lakes with public access. 336 miles of trout streams. Historic sites and museum. Bike trails. Call us today to begin planning an adventure that will keep your soul yearning for more. 🐾

Join us soon in Hurley! www.hurleywi.com



Wren Falls is one of 14 waterfalls in the Hurley area to enjoy with easy access or hike-in fun for those with more of an adventurer's spirit.

DAVIS, FROM PAGE 23

Parts of the plant are fed upon by various animals, including deer, other times a brown slug makes a feast of the stem and leaves. Deer are known to take all the leaves and leave a leafless stick. Small mammals and birds may take the fruit and seeds while attached to the plant.

Ginseng admirers and diggers learn to recognize all of the plant's stages, even though the plant cannot be harvested unless it has at least three leaves. Even then, most diggers know the importance of a large root and go by the motto of "Let them go; let them grow."

Those who get their thrill from simply seeing the plant, search for the tallest specimens.

Why learn and recognize all stages if harvesting is not legal until early September? It is easier to preserve and protect knowing and recognizing the plant during its growing stages. 🐾

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



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thegrommet.com



Tauten Line Welder System

This fishing line welder gets rid of knot-tying altogether. Run the line through your hook or lure, load the lines into the welder, and press "GO" to get a smooth, reliable bond in 30 seconds. It's easier and stronger than tying knots, so you can focus on landing the perfect catch. Its plunger design lends better control and the stainless steel and sturdy carbide design is capable of cutting any fishing line. (\$159.99)

tauten.com



Husqvarna Steel Splitting Axe

Enjoying a campfire first requires sourcing the necessary fuel, and doing that requires a solid camp axe. While it may lack the classic appearance of wooden-handled heritage items, this contemporary splitter brings a host of updates and amenities to the age-old tool. While only 28" in length, the fiberglass composite handle on this quality outdoor axe is mated to a 5-pound steel head that provides plenty of mass for splitting timber. Just below the steel head, which features a special coating that enables it to cut more efficiently, is a metal handle-guard, further fortifying the already rugged item. Should it somehow break, Husqvarna stands behind its product with a full lifetime warranty. (\$109.99)

husqvarna.com

Osprey Aether AG 70 Backpack

Having the pack that carries all of your gear is not an option when off-grid, which is why it's so important to opt for a quality backpack. Osprey's Aether AG 70 is a robust and dependable backpacking and hiking backpack that offers tremendous comfort and storage capabilities. The bag features enormous J-zippered access to the main compartment, supplemented by pairs of the upper side, internal, and front compression straps, zippered hip-belt pockets, and stretch-mesh side pockets. All of this is built around a 3.5mm LightWire peripheral chassis with a suspended mesh back and is supported via Osprey's heat-molded Anti-Gravity hip-belt and harness. This built-for-



adventure backpack also boasts a "Stow-on-the-Go" trekking pole attachment, a pair of ice-tool loops with bungee tie-offs, removable sleeping pad straps, and a removable top lid that can double as a daypack for shorter treks or summit ascents while the main bag is left at basecamp. (\$310.00)

rei.com



CampStove 2 Electricity Generating Wood Camp Stove

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bioliteenergy.com

Lifestraw Water Filter Bottle

A water filter is a must for anyone who loves camping, hiking, or spending time in the great outdoors. Manufactured by Swiss-based company Vestergaard, the smart LifeStraw Go Bottle uses a 2-stage filtration process to remove bacteria, protozoa, chlorine, and bad taste, helping you get pure, safe water on the go. Made of BPA-free Tritan, this stylish refillable water bottle works with a replaceable activated carbon capsule and has a leak-proof lid with a flexible and detachable food-grade silicone mouthpiece. (\$39.95)

lifestraw.com



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds Wood Thrush

Although the wood thrush is quite reclusive, residing in Wisconsin's dense forests and woodlands, its mysterious song is among the richest and most melodious in the bird world. Wood thrushes spend spring and summer hunting insects on and in the forest floor. In late summer and EARLY autumn, fruit such as dogwood, elderberry, cherry, grapes and mulberries dominate the menu.

Listen for the wood thrush's beautiful song coming from thickets — a lilting and lovely *hee-o-lay hee-o-lay*.

Look for a handsome bird, a little smaller than a robin and slenderer. Wood thrushes are rich brown above with a rusty colored head, and creamy white on the breast with brown-black spots.

Watch for wood thrushes hunting on the forest floor. They move much like robins (to which they are closely related), in short bursts.

Leave brush standing on the edge of your yard as habitat for wood thrushes and other cover-loving songbirds, and encourage grape vines and other fruit-bearing shrubs.

Did you know that many people confuse wood thrushes with brown thrashers? A wood thrush is smaller, with an all-black eye (the thrasher's is ringed in yellow) and spotted breast (not streaked). The thrasher has a longer beak and tail. 🐦

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



SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes with Suzette

Veggie harvest

More of us will be growing our own vegetables this year since many farmers' markets are canceled or limited in size and space as we continue to practice social distancing. Several methods may be implemented to preserve our harvest for use and enjoyment long after the summer. Canning, freezing, pickling and fermenting all have their benefits and can be applied to just about anything we can grow. These are just a couple of recipes to try, but the possibilities are truly endless. Enjoy!

Venison Roast with Pickled Sweet Peppers

Brine:

3 qts (12 cups) water

1 qt (4 cups) vinegar

1 cup salt

Combine above ingredients in pot on top of stove. Boil and cool.

Pack clean and trimmed sweet peppers, onions, garlic, dill (fresh or dill weed), grape leaves (for crispness), and red pepper (if you like spicy!) into pint jars.

Fill Jars with brine and cover. Add 1 inch of water to the bottom of a cake pan and place jars in water. This recipe makes 10 quarts.

Bake at 275 for 1½ hours. Cool at room temperature and tighten lids. Wait at least 7 days before using.

Place Venison roast in a slow cooker and pour contents of 1 or 2 jars over top. This provides all of the seasoning you will need and makes the roast nice and tender. Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours.

Rabbit with Sauerkraut

1 Medium cabbage cut into ribbon strips

1 ½ T Sea Salt


1 T Caraway seeds

With clean hands, work salt and cabbage together in a large bowl. This takes several minutes as you will want to make sure all of the cabbage is sufficiently mixed with the salt. Once the cabbage has become watery and limp, add the caraway seeds.

Tightly pack cabbage into wide mouth jars using the back of a wooden spoon or a muddler. Pour remaining liquid from the bowl into the jars filling

them about ¾ full. Keep extra liquid in a covered glass container and refrigerate for future use.

Weight down cabbage and place cheese cloth over top of the jar secured by a rubber band or twine. This will allow air to flow freely but keep the cabbage clean. Within the first 24 hours, periodically repack the cabbage and add enough reserved liquid as needed to keep the cabbage submerged. Store jar at room temperature for 3 to 7 days (3 days will be crispiest and 7 days will be more tender). Once the sauerkraut has reached the desired level, remove cheese cloth and weights and replace with the regular lids. Refrigerate up to two months.

Drain one or two jars of sauerkraut and pour into slow cooker. Season skinned and cleaned rabbit with salt and pepper and place atop sauerkraut. Mound sliced onions on top of rabbit and sprinkle all over with sage. Cook on low for 8 to 10 hours until meat begins to fall apart. 

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 recipessuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

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