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■ Autumn Fishing

The generous Wisconsin
A guide's approach to walleye
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Young hunters, small game
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The Generous Wisconsin *Multi-species river trips meet every angler's needs*

As a fishing guide, there is uncertainty every time I hit the water. Each day is different and so are the clients. You never know what you are going to be dealt as far as weather or conditions, much less what the clients are like or what their expectations are going to be.

As a fishing guide intent on offering the client my best effort, I follow a ritual of regularly watching the weather and water conditions the night before each trip. When I meet clients in the morning, you most often know what you want to target, but occasionally due to unforeseen circumstances, you occasionally must make decisions on almost anything related to the trip, including the actual fishing.

Regarding the tactics and species I choose to pursue on any day, the clients' ages and capabilities with a rod and reel of course dictate what we might go after. Knowledge, experience on the water and expectations for the day are factors that combine to map out the day. As a stark example to hammer home the point, a six year old or two delighted to watch a bobber slide under the surface courtesy of a hungry, fat and ready to fight gill won't last long throwing for musky

Having the Wisconsin River at my doorstep allows me to be very versatile on handling almost every circumstance. The big river offers a variety of species to allow fishing for anything from panfish to walleyes and bass all the way up to targeting the magnificent musky. They not call the same body of water home, each species is very catchable.

The Wisconsin River system is also very fishable year round and under most conditions. Under normal conditions almost any body of water can be good, but



John and June Wanta with a big musky.

when inclement weather moves in or conditions change, fishing on a lake can be tough. Under those same circumstances, the Wisconsin River can still produce. In high water, we target backwater locations and current breaks. Under low water conditions, the main river system itself most often produces excellent fishing. And normal conditions present numerous places to target. Every time we head out on the water, then, the river promises a new adventure.

Finally, protected locations are available to get off the water at a moment's notice when fishing the river during



Callum with a big river bluegill.

inclement weather. We venture out without worry of running long distances in the event bad weather does hit. And if a pop-up shower starts or we just want a place to get out of the heat on a sweltering day, several large bridges are in place to give us shelter from the storm...or the sun.

In conclusion, our weekly fishing reports posted on our websites listed below and *On Wisconsin Outdoors* website tell the tale of great fishing, year round. The Wisconsin River system in central Wisconsin provides a great amount of versatility for anglers looking to target their favorite species any time of the year, from gill to muskies and everything in between. We hope you come and see for yourself. 🐟

Phil Schweik | Hooksetters Guide Service | Web: www.hooksetters.biz | Phone: 715-693-5843

TOM LUBA

Catch River Smallmouth Now *Finding overlooked hot spots*

Fishing tips can be found just about anywhere anglers congregate, from sports shows and seminars to a local watering hole. Good information to catch more fish, especially unique techniques or new and effective equipment or methods, is welcome wherever it's found.

Some of the best fishing tips, however, often comes from personal experience and simply watching the water. Honey holes don't always scream, "attention!" I speak from experience. On my favorite river, I have always caught fish from a certain area, but could not figure out why until

the following season. During a fall trip, I tossed a tube to current-brushed rip rap near a shoreline tree. It barely hit bottom before it got hammered by a three-pound smallie. Six casts later, I had a limit from that spot.

The following summer, the river was low. As I drove by the tree-marked rip rap, I did a double take. I now knew why I caught those fish. The rock made a sharp indent; small, but it adequately broke the current and the bass were stacked there. I was able to physically see the area. Usually, you have to rely on your electronics.

On a different fall outing, while motoring around a river bend, my unit showed a quick drop in depth. Then it popped right back up. The dip was out from where I normally held with the trolling motor. But that day I caught it on the depth finder and caught fish. Now it's a steady producer.

Being vigilant can definitely help keep your rod bent. One other area I uncovered, also on a rocky stretch, was an act of nature. There was a little rise on the shore, right

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

A Guide's Approach for Fall Walleye

Two simple methods to put fish in your boat

Fall has always been known as hunting season. Instead of hunting game, I hunt for walleye pike. Most of my summer is spent chasing largemouth or northern pike so, when fall arrives, it is a great change of pace.

Without question, the full moon periods offer the best production, especially when there is some wind. The wind tends to push the bait fish around causing the walleyes to become more active. You must always fish the windward side of the lake.

I have two favorite-lure methods for fall walleyes. The first is a Rapala Jigging Rap and the second is a suspending jerk bait. Both methods can put a bunch of fish in the boat fast.

The Jigging Rap, which has been long used in the winter for ice fishing, has been gaining tremendous popularity for open water use. Thanks to the Lindner family, the Jigging Rap is a part of our open water arsenal.

I choose to fish main lake points with scattered weeds or rocky bottoms in twenty to twenty-five feet of water. A good graph will aid in locating schooling walleye. I almost always use the size seven Rap. I spool my spinning rod with Fireline 15-pound test with an 18 to 24-inch leader of 10-pound fluorocarbon. I will either fish it vertical or make short casts. Use a one to two foot jigging cadence, making sure you are always in contact with the bottom on the fall of the jig. The Rap is heavy, so it is easy to feel. Experiment with the speed of your jigging. Some days they want a slow presentation and

other days a more aggressive approach is the ticket. Due to the small hooks you want to keep constant pressure on the fish; any slack and the fish can come off the small hooks. I choose to use a medium to a medium heavy six-foot six-inch spinning rod. I find that the stiffer pole leads to a better hooking percentage.

My second fall choice is fishing a jerk bait. Jerk bait fishing is almost exclusively done at night. In late fall the water is extremely clear, making walleyes spooky in the shallow water. I consider shallow water less than 10 feet. My jerk bait of choice is a Smithwick suspending rogue or a Rapala Husky Jerk. The favorite color year in and year out continues to be chrome and blue. I find the best fishing occurs when there is wind. Water depth varies greatly. I have caught suspending fish in 20 feet of water and shallow fish in less than six feet of water. Keep in mind that these fish are feeding, so where there are baitfish, there will be walleyes. It is essential to make long casts, because of the water clarity. The line choice is 10-pound test fished on a medium weight spinning outfit. The retrieve I find the most effective is a couple fast cranks to get depth, then a pause. With the cool water conditions, I don't aggressively jerk the lure like you would for bass in summer.

As the end of open water season nears, the fall bite becomes some of the most exceptional fishing of the whole year. Don't miss out.

Captain Dave Duwe owns and operates Dave Duwe's Guide Service, featuring the lakes of Walworth County in Southern Wisconsin. Contact Dave at 262-728-8063



A Dave Duwe client with a walleye caught using a Jigging Rap.



Tommy Harris with a fall walleye caught on Jerk bait.

ATTENTION!

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



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

All H015 model owners should visit www.HenryUSA.com/recall
email recall@henryusa.com, or call 866-200-2354 (M-F, 9AM ET- 5PM ET)
to obtain additional information.



SPOTLIGHT | **ALGOMA****CAPT. LEE HAASCH****Fall into Algoma***Expect a limit in Wisconsin paradise*

As the sky started to lighten a bit, the ground fog gave the decoys an eerie, almost lifelike appearance. Suddenly Trevor shifted a bit. "Listen," he whispered. "Here they come." He was right, the calls grew louder but the hazy sky kept the birds hidden from sight. Trevor started calling, loud and hard. Austin echoed some calls from the far end of the blind. It seemed like minutes, but was only seconds and the silhouettes of birds started to appear. The sky came alive in the fog. Trevor whispered between calls, "Wait...wait...take 'em." We all stood in unison and shots rang out. Four birds fell to our group of six. "How did you miss those four?" Trevor exclaimed? "Quick, down. More coming!" Trevor whispered, as Trevor and Austin broke into calling mode.

Another group of nine geese appeared in the fog and started circling and finally locked and dropped into decent. "Take em," Trevor exclaimed as shots rang out. For the next hour, the scenario in sportsman's paradise was repeated with small groups of Canadian Geese emerging from the fog to the watering hole; calling, shooting and birds falling. Soon, Trevor stopped calling to gather the birds and count our fall harvest. "Three short," Colton



Capt. Trevor Haasch of DFF Outdoors retrieves several geese harvested on a farm field during Wisconsin's early goose season.

said as he laid the birds behind the blind. "Down, more coming" Trevor whispered again. "Only take three." Finally, silence settle over the field as three more birds were taken from the last flock of six.

Algoma, in the heart of Wisconsin's Exterior Zone for Wisconsin's waterfowl and early goose seasons, is waiting for you with fantastic opportunities. On this morning, I was hunting with DFF Outdoors and action as expected

Explore Wisconsin

Fall is a favorite time for many outdoor enthusiasts to visit the Algoma area to "pick your own" apples at one of the many orchards in the area

was non-stop. The Lakeshore area holds an abundance of native birds and well, with water you will have waterfowl. Besides miles of rivers to hunt, the agriculture area offers an abundant food source for the birds. Hunting is not your gig? Remember that Algoma is also known as the Salmon

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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DENNY MURAWSKA

Robotic Fishing Lures

The Rise of the Fishbots

In bygone days, as a kid, fishing began with a long cane pole, bobber, and a gob of worms. The bait beckoned, and the fish came. Later, armed with a venerable Zebco 202, casting crank baits and twitching plastics became the norm. Hotshot anglers now walk the dog, pop the frog, and jerk those jerk baits. While this is great exercise, I opt for the simplicity of a slip bobber and live bait. The problem is, minnows are notorious for dying. Leeches can be endowed with lifelike action when jigged, but even these tough critters succumb to being tossed around.

Even as an inventive teen, I fantasized about lures that could swim by themselves. Just add a battery. Technology just had not caught up with the musings of a young Einstein. Batteries were too big, vulnerable to water, and the idea was not well accepted by fishing purists who deemed it all so unfair. Kind of like sonar fish finders.

Times have changed. Miniaturization of electronic components and powerful lithium ion batteries now make amazing drones and the tiniest of robots a reality. We have entered the dawn of the fish-bots. Being the grizzled old skeptic I am, I remain leery of anything without a coiled cord or needing a remote. Yet, while confined to my home these days, I felt the notion of checking up on fishing technology was worthwhile. It was.

Most versions of fish-bots involve a jointed plug suspended from a bobber that swims intermittently in circles. YouTube videos make them look very convincing. They appear to all the world like a baitfish swimming, stopping, then swimming again in a realistic manner. They can be fished from inches deep to over thirty feet, allowing predators to access them in very shallow areas impossible to fish with lures that get dragged. A tiny propeller set in the mouth of the lure provides the forward thrust. They are charged up on a USB port and run for quite long time, giving the angler many opportunities to sit back, crack open a cold one, and engage in mindful meditation.

Let me be the first to say these are not the best answer to filling your live well. Specific conditions will dictate when and if you wish to use these. I have become fascinated with the backwaters of the Mississippi and the shallow sloop that I have seen large fish explode from, in mere feet of water. Other than weedless floating frogs, not a place you wish to drag most lures through. If you can find a small open pocket, and place one of these robotics right in it, they do the swimming for you.

As I look at my robot-fish, I cannot help but think of alterations that might be useful. The back end of these jointed fish could be filed down and replaced with a plastic twister tail, or skirt. There is also the possibility of altering



Typical jointed robotic plug

the rear portion of these lures to accommodate a hook for a minnow, or portion of a cut bait like a sucker. Even an undulating crawler. Would these be cyborgs?

While such baits will never, ever, be the first choice of anglers who love to jig, jerk, twitch, and otherwise animate baits, you may find one or two has a place in your tackle box. 🐟

Denny Murawska has been publishing his works since high school. His outdoor columns have appeared in The Week news for many years, as well as 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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Road America, Henry Repeating Arms Deliver

OWO thanks **Henry Repeating Arms** and **Road America** for our fabulous time at the **NASCAR Xfinity Series' Henry 180** Saturday, August 8th.

Henry continued its partnership with the championship-winning **Stewart-Haas Racing** team and served as the primary sponsor of the No.98 **Ford Mustang** driven by **Chase Briscoe**. Driving a new **Henry Repeating Arms** livery **Briscoe**, the current points leader of the **NASCAR Xfinity Series** did not disappoint despite dealing with bad weather and multiple crashes and spinouts from competing cars. **Briscoe** finished a close third after a hard-fought race with winner Austin Cindric and second place finisher A.J. Allmendinger.

Check out **Road America's** remaining fall schedule at www.roadamerica.com. And expect accelerated fun... Check out Road America's remaining fall schedule below and stay connected at www.roadamerica.com. 📺



Driving the No. 98 Ford Mustang sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms on the final lap, Chase Briscoe finishes third August 8 at Road America's NASCAR Xfinity Series' Henry 180. Check out video of the finish at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

SPOTLIGHT ALGOMA, FROM PAGE 4

and Trout Capital of the Midwest! Fall is a great time to capture a trophy of a lifetime, or to take a limit of geese for grilling or smoking.

Looking for other outdoor activities? Why not try hiking or biking the miles of trails thru the countryside or spend an afternoon picking your own apples in one of the many orchards in the area? Don't forget about checking out the cherry products at Country Ovens or sample some wine at von Stiehl Winery. Algoma offers more than a limit of fall activities for everyone to enjoy.

Experience 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.

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MIKE YURK

Bassology A case for leaders

It has been 10 years, but I remember the day well. Two buddies were bass fishing with me on a lake in northwestern Wisconsin. We were fishing crankbaits for bass, and since they were just visiting and didn't bring their own gear, they were using my equipment. My first buddy pulled back to set the hook. He felt the fish for an instant and then it was gone. When he reeled in his line we saw the crankbait was gone too. A northern pike had sliced the line and taken the bait.

Fifteen minutes later my other friend set the hook and had the fish on for just a moment before the spinning rod sprung back in his hands. When he brought his line in, the crankbait was gone as well. In 15 minutes we lost 15 dollars' worth of crankbaits to two northern pike. This

was getting expensive, not to mention frustrating.

That was when I decided to start using leaders for bass fishing. For years I've avoided using leaders. I felt leaders would impact the actions of baits and spook fish. I had to do something with the price increases in crankbaits and other lures. Lures which once sold for five dollars are now going for almost 10, and I can't afford to lose many of them.

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT LEADER

Not just any leader would do. I needed a short leader with light wire. I felt these would work best to prevent northern pike and even muskies from tearing off the baits while not interfering with the actions of crankbaits and other lures.

Thin, short, wire leaders will save your tackle when muskies or northern pike hit your baits while bass fishing but won't interfere with bait action.

I began using light wire leaders in twelve pound test and now use them with all crankbaits and chatterbaits when fishing for bass. They do not impede the actions of the baits and I catch numerous bass with a variety of baits using these leaders.

They also stand up to attacks by northern pike and muskies. These fish are in the same places bass are found so I have saved many baits otherwise lost to these toothy predators. Plus I have been able to confidently land these fish without fear of them slicing through my monofilament lines. Every year I pick up a muskie or two while bass fishing and it is nice to know I have a chance of winning the battle with them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



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MIKE FOSS

Let the Show Begin

Bear station videos offer pre-season entertainment, education

On the eve of the 2020 bear season, those of us who have baited through the summer and captured animals on trail cameras coming to the stations find it hard to contain our excitement.

I wonder, what will this bear season bring? In 2019, weather supposedly slowed down Wisconsin's hunter success rate. Undoubtedly, then the 2020 season should see an increase in the bear population and correlating increase in the harvest. As a former Wisconsin guide with a passion for bear that still keeps me in the woods every spare moment, I don't see it that way. In the last five years, I have watched our once high bear population slowly decrease. Either the state is controlling the population effectively according to their plan, or numbers are decreasing for other reasons.

This summer I've captured wolves on trail-cam both in deer food plots and on bear bait stations more times than I care to see. One wolf, a state-radio collared 4-year-old female, has taken over one of my bear bait stations. Mention wolf, and you may visualize an imposing 200 pound animal with massive head and long fangs. Not this Wolf. She is relatively small and thin, resembling a large coyote. Don't get me wrong. This girl is a survivor and can easily harass and take down other animals her size or larger. Add in the local pack she travels with and she becomes part of an efficient predation machine and a nightmare for the local deer population... and other prey.

This summer I watched two different sows with cubs on camera, both with triplets coming to a bait station. As summer progressed one sow lost two of her cubs within one week, and the other mother is missing one cub. I have no proof that the cubs were killed by wolves. But Miss Wolf is highly intelligent. In the evening she patiently waits nearby in thick brush until she hears a bear tearing away the heavy logs set to keep small mammals off the bait before rushing in. She is capable of taking down a cub, and as evidenced by

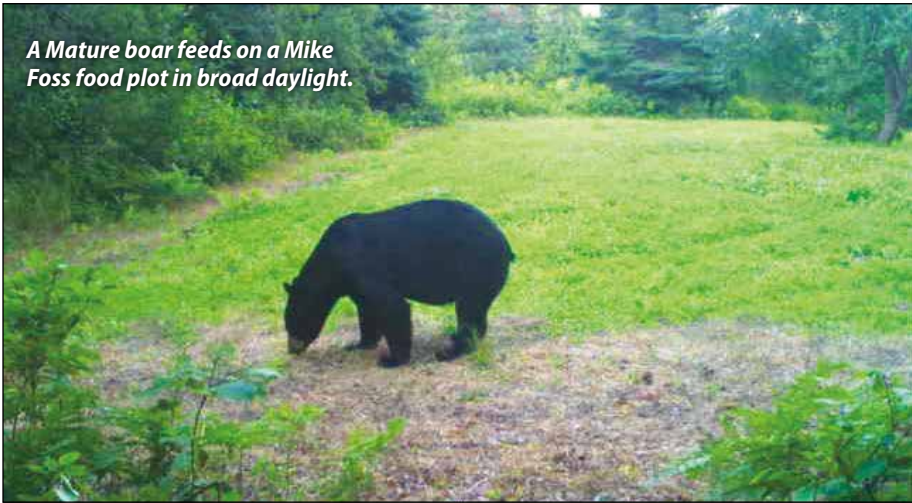
weekly DNR media releases, individual animals or packs are responsible for frequent predation of bear hounds each summer training for the fall bear season.

Hunters, or anyone with trail cameras in their arsenal, like me, are sometimes rewarded with unique and unexpected videos. Recently, Miss Wolf picked on the wrong bear and met her match. Until a few weeks ago, only younger boars and the two sows with cubs have frequented the bait. These visitors were easily pushed off the station to run for their lives as the wolf rushed in. Mid-July is usually the end of the bear breeding season, when the mature boars are ranging far and wide in pursuit of hot sows. I knew bigger bears would show up eventually to simply feed and rest and they did, including a beautiful 400 boar that now visits the bait every night.

The video captures the August 15 comedy show. At 10:58 pm, Miss Wolf hears the familiar sounds of the bait station being opened up. She is hungry and silently steps closer to the edge of the clearing before rushing in. The big bear is caught off guard. He exits the scene in haste, but turns around quickly to see just what scared the daylights out of him and made him abandon his meal. He sprints back in at 10:59 or just one minute after the she-wolf sends him running, reciprocates the favor, and reclaims his meal.

In big bear fashion, he feeds, slumbers next to the bait, and guards the station for the next five hours. I don't think Miss Wolf will be bothering Mr. Big any more, at least singlehandedly. Good luck to everyone this bear season. Enjoy the show. I already am...

OWO columnist Mike Foss is a long time bear guru and founder of Northern Wisconsin Outfitters.



The 400 pound boar reciprocates and sends the she-wolf running one minute after she had chased him from his meal.

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TOM CARPENTER

A Plan for Grouse

Six fall seams will hold more birds

Clearcuts, burns, cutovers, fires, logging and windstorms all benefit grouse populations by clearing out older trees and allowing brush, vines, bushes and saplings to sprout.

Within this mosaic of young and disturbed forest, grouse prefer the edges. Ruffs thrive where different cover types meet – seams where food, loafing areas, escape cover and roosting trees come together: A grouse can travel less to get what it needs, reducing exposure to predators.

Recognizing six productive cover seams will help you find and flush more birds this fall.

Marsh - Timber

The edge between a wetland marsh and a young hardwood forest (preferably aspen or popple) is prime. Grouse like low, moist areas for the cover and for the food that is produced there, including berries, greens and insects.

Another advantage of a marsh-timber

edge: As young birds strike out and leave their mother in fall, they walk to their new destinations. When they meet an unfriendly obstacle – such as a marsh – they stall out or wander along it.

Young Timber - Mature Timber

I once told a budding new grouse hunter: “If you’re having a pleasant stroll, there probably aren’t many birds. If you want grouse, you have to be fighting brush, twisting about, moving in and out, and maneuvering through thick spots.”

Big timber offers roosting trees and good buds to eat. But the thick stuff holds more of what the birds need – protection – during most daylight hours.

Waterways

Brooks and creeks offer prime grouse cover on their flanks. Grouse don’t mind “damp” feet, and the soil is moist, the cover is thick and the food supply rich.

If the stream is small, work your way up one side, hop it, then hunt the other side back. Take varying paths through the cover

– a swing along the water’s edge, a push through cover that’s farther back and a little elevated. Generally, the warmer or windier the day, the lower and closer to water the birds will be.

Tag Alders - Timber

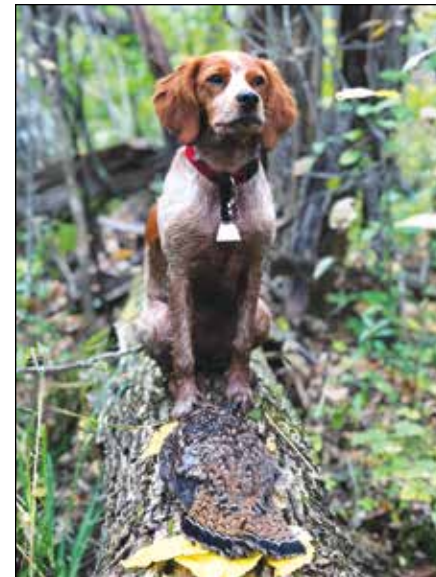
Grouse love tag alders. Tag alder thickets bordering young aspen timber are especially productive. The attractions: Soft and succulent greens to eat grow in the moist soil, and the density of the cover (including draping overhead branches) that provide protection from hawks and owls.

Tag alders are great in the early season because shade and dampness keep conditions cool. Windy days, which can really unnerve grouse, push birds into quiet tag alder lowlands.

Evergreens - Hardwoods

The zone between evergreens and hardwood timber, especially where the tree types mix, makes a great grouse spot. These seams get even better when cold weather has the birds preferring evergreens as roost

The author's French Brittany, Lark, with a ruffed grouse the pair found along a northwestern Wisconsin tag alder seam.



trees.

Hemlocks and spruces, with their denser needles, attract more grouse than sterile plantations of long-leaf pines. Cedar swamp edges are good.

Crop Fields - Timber

Crop fields aren’t just for pheasants. Over much of Wisconsin’s grouse range, fields butt up against forests, providing sunny openings and thick transition cover for ruffs.

With a couple hunters, put one in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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TOM MUELLER

Beginning Puppy Training

Conditioning retrieving and obedience

Training a new retriever should begin upon arrival at its new home. Most of the focus at this time will be on housebreaking and obedience, but don't lose sight of the fact that a retriever's primary purpose is to pick up training dummies and game birds and deliver them to hand.

The retrieval instinct isn't predominantly worked on at this time, so it gets somewhat diminished. The trend with puppies has been to push the obedience work over retrieving. If the retrieving and delivery to hand is not worked on from the beginning, puppies can easily develop the habit of dropping the dummy when they return to you. The typical solution for that is force training. I stopped force training four dogs ago, and never looked back.

I have found that conditioning a puppy to retrieve and deliver to hand is far easier and less stressful for both me and the dog, and in the long run more fun for both of us. Very simply, conditioning a puppy to deliver to

hand requires very short training sessions lasting, in the beginning, only three or four retrieves. It also requires a fun retrieving object. Typically, a paint roller skin is used because it's soft, light weight, and cylinder-shaped like a dummy. I also will use a small, plush, stuffed animal with a squeaker in it. We call this "go-to" toy a "Lambchop."

Start out by teasing the pup with the toy or the roller to get them excited and focusing on you. The retrieves should be very short, not more than four or five feet, and no more than three or four retrieves in a session to start out with. If need be, put a light lead on the pup to keep it from running away, and to encourage it to return to you. Will the average pup do more than that? For sure they will, but you want them never getting enough, and always wanting more. When they return to you, let them hold onto the toy or the roller and enjoy their reward. For any retriever, the retrieve is their big prize and they love to savor it by keeping it in their mouth for themselves. Let them keep it for a bit while you pet and praise them.



From working for food ...to working for retrieves

In addition to the pup getting its own reward for having a dummy in its mouth, I have found that a food reward really cements the puppy's return and the hold and delivery to hand into its head. Giving it a few kibbles when it releases the dummy into your hand will condition the puppy - or young dog - to returning right to you when called, and holding onto the dummy until you take it.

Food rewards training on both retrieving and obedience can go hand in hand. The big reward or trophy for a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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TOM CARPENTER

Cubs' Corner

Squirrels...the little big game

When trying to hook a youngster on hunting, don't just assume they are young versions of us. Yes, whitetails provide big thrills. But is your new woods-boy or girl *really* ready for the long, cold and often boring hours often required to wait out a deer?

Kids want action *now*. So before you take them on a deer hunt, take them out after squirrels. Yes, you may have graduated from the class long ago. But your kid or any youngster you are mentoring deserves the same curriculum.

Autumn and squirrels make a perfect combination. It's warm. The fall woods are colorful and beautiful. You can move. You're almost guaranteed action. Valuable hunting techniques and skills are learned. You'll get shooting. If a squirrel is missed, there's another one around the corner or over the hill.

And with young hunter in tow, I have yet to be refused permission to pursue squirrels in a chunk of private woodlands. Try *that* with deer!



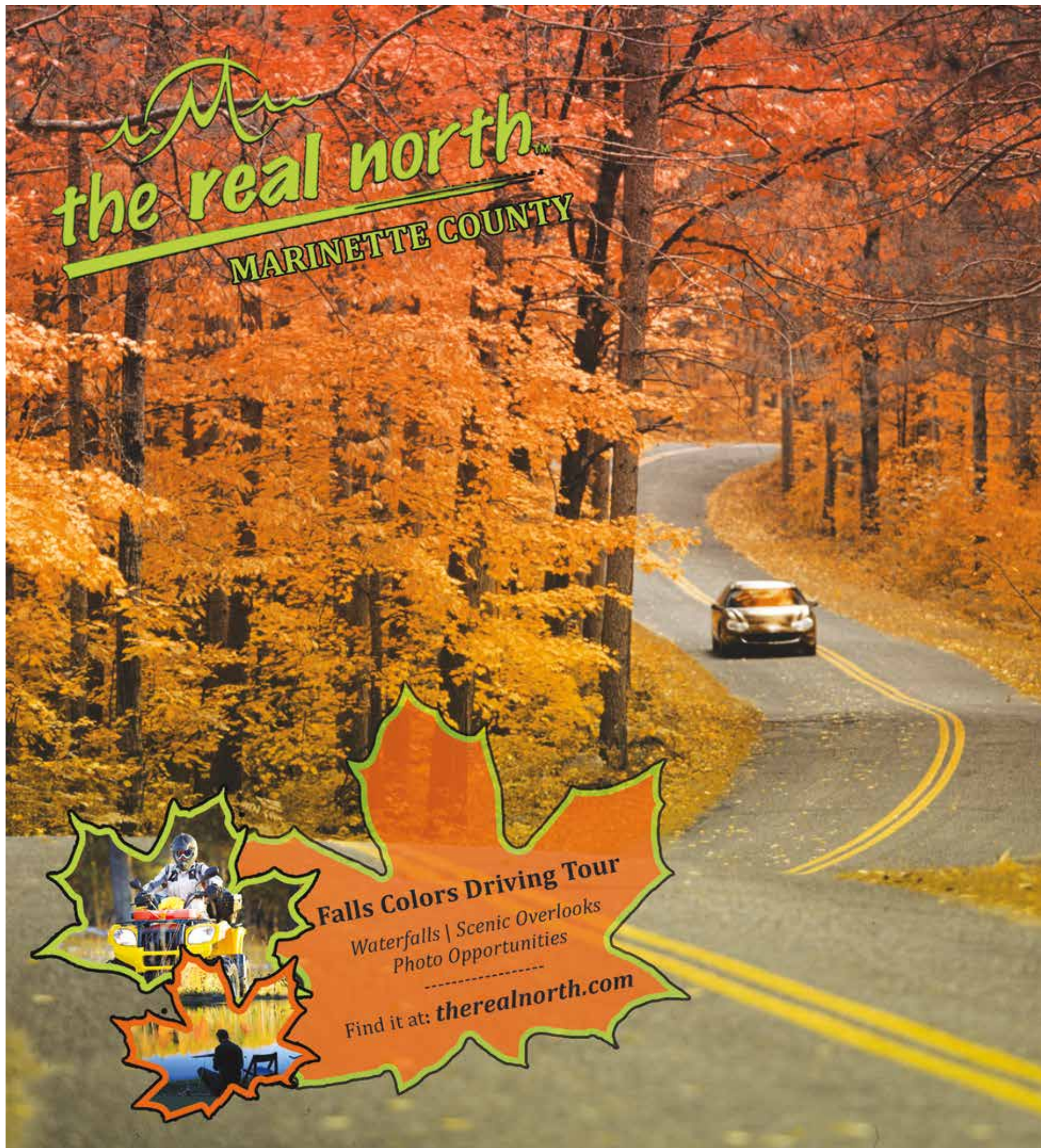
Consider squirrel hunting a training ground where you can help the young hunter develop a love of the outdoors, learn lifelong hunting skills that will transfer to big-game situations, and gain a real sense of accomplishment. And squirrel hunting is just plain fun.

No specialized clothes are needed. Get the young hunter comfortable footwear – light boots, but sneakers are fine too. Add a blaze orange game vest and cap, a .22 rifle and a pocketful of cartridges. Maybe a squirrel call. Keep things simple!

Sighting-in and practicing with the .22 is the only real pre-hunt preparation necessary.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31





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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND

Fall at Copper Falls

Ashland, Wisconsin is the home of world class smallmouth bass fishing, and so much more!

The Chequamegon (*She-WAH-me-gon*) Bay is 33,000 acres of fresh Lake Superior water that is the front yard for Ashland, Wisconsin's most favorite outdoor sport... Fishing! Whether you have a boat or you fish off the shore, you are sure to catch something!

The fall is a great time to hook a world-class smallmouth bass or walleye. Fishing for trout and salmon in the rivers, as well as trolling in Chequamegon Bay and off river mouths can be very rewarding. The best thing about the bay is that there is plenty of room to play!

Ashland is off the beaten path but hosts a wide variety of independently owned restaurants that offer their own unique style and flavor from local beef burgers at the Burger Barn to yummy Lake to Table Whitefish at the Deepwater, 2nd Street Bistro, Chequamegon Grille, and The Restaurant. Ashland's Historic Downtown has an 8-block area where the majority of the buildings are registered with the National Register of Historic Places. Along with the intricate architectural designed buildings are 20 historic murals telling the past and present stories of Ashland and the Chequamegon Bay.

Ashland is a four-season destination with no finer place to view the sunrise or sunset over the bay and... the Spectacular fall color! Go to our website, www.visitashland.com and order your free Chequamegon Bay fishing brochure, Waterfalls brochure, and Mural brochure! Welcome! 🍷



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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | MARINETTE

Time for a Fall Adventure

As the long hot days of summer give way to shorter days and cooler nights, produce stands, apple orchards and pumpkin patches come alive with fall harvesters enjoying the freshest of the season's bounty. Fall colors explode, making a breathtaking transformation across Mother Nature's canvas. Fall is here, and there's no better place to experience her beauty than the Real North of Marinette County.

Clear your calendar and gas up the car for an adventure to Marinette County for the Fall Colors Driving Tour. This tour features an easy to follow route; complete with step by step driving directions that will guide fall color enthusiasts to a sampling of the most scenic views in the county. This self-guided, four to six hour tour includes stops at four waterfalls:

Dave's Falls, Strong Falls, McClintock Rapids and Veteran's Falls, and is highlighted with a stop at the picturesque Thunder Mountain Overlook. You'll cave to the urge to stop the car and study the beauty on Rustic Road 32, where the brilliant canopy covers the entire road.

If hunting, fishing, paddling or riding the ORV/UTV trails is your idea of the perfect fall day, our 900 miles of rivers, 12,000 acres of pristine lakes, 230,000 acres of county forest land, 600 miles of ORV/UTV trails are waiting for you.

Turn on the oven, and while your zucchini bread is baking, chart your fall adventure to Marinette County. Find the Fall Colors Driving Tour map and information online at therealnorth.com. 🍷



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LEE GATZKE

Setting the Rattle Trap

Time-tested tips to call in your buck

When I was first introduced to the idea of rattling, I was excited to give it a try. In my early 20s, I was mainly learning how to deer hunt by trial and error. This was before the days of the internet, so you had limited access to information. I read articles about rattling in outdoor magazines, but had nobody in my hunting network who had ever tried to rattle. I couldn't glean any other sources for the "how to" of rattling, so it was off to the woods to wing it.

A couple buddies wanted in on the adventure, so we set up with one guy 30 yards upwind in front of me in a funnel where we expected a buck to come from. The other guy was 30 yards downwind of me in case a buck tried to circle us to scent-check the "fight" before coming in. I staged the rattling sequence from the ground between them and put on my best performance.

I rattled antlers interspersed with raking brush and breaking branches, trying to convince any buck within earshot to come and join in this battle royale. Forty five minutes later, I called it quits, thoroughly embarrassed by my failure to have anything show. The performance did convince me that I had some fine tuning to do. Through the subsequent years, I read more about the subject and networked with guys who had been successful rattling up bucks. I learned that timing and intensity of rattling was critical, as was the size of antlers used.

Sparring bucks, for example, sound much different than the antler clashing, brush-bulldozing sound of two bucks battling for breeding rights. Depending on the circumstances, you'll need to know how to imitate each encounter, and other levels of intensity in between. In mid-September, coinciding with our archery opener, bucks are not fighting all-out battles for breeding rights of a doe in estrus. The first estrus cycle of some adult does here in Wisconsin happens in early October. The second, which involves the majority of does, occurs in early November, and the third and typically final cycle occurs in early December.

In mid-September bucks spar. Sparring involves bucks carefully inter-twining their antlers to push each other around some. Sparring is nothing like a serious fight for breeding rights which may result in the death of one of the combatants. The serious fights for breeding rights occur in conjunction with the onset of one of the aforementioned estrus



The sound of young and mature bucks antlers being rattled vary greatly, and different results calling in young and older bucks should be expected.

cycles. To lure in a buck by rattling, you need to match the intensity of sparring or fighting that is actually occurring in the local buck population at that time.

In September you lightly click the tips of each antler together, simulating two bucks sparring. The week prior to any of the does' estrus cycles finds bucks fighting aggressively, and your rattling needs to be more intense.

I'd recommend checking out YouTube for videos for excellent content detailing how to rattle. Be sure to use antlers from older-age class bucks for your rattling as they will attract all age classes of bucks. A set from an immature buck may not create the sound that a mature buck will respond to, and you'll only call in immature bucks when mature bucks may be available.

After my initial attempt at rattling, it took decades to fine tune my approach to where I feel I can call in a buck at about 25 percent of my attempts. Be aware that a buck may take half an hour to show up after you've completed your rattling sequence, so be patient.

Rattling in a buck is not a slam dunk technique every time. But the first time it works, you will become addicted to it. 🍷

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

ON THE COVER

Goodbye Micah

The Ellis family lost Micah recently after his battle with cancer. Micah went peacefully in his own home, on our laps like he had come into our world 10 years before. Lori, Taylor and I thank you again for your notes and well wishes. Micah's personality was as beautiful as his handsome face. The cover photo, that I also have pinned on the wall behind my desk, (next to Soldier Blue by the way for you old-time readers) is also how I will remember him in the blind. "Don't worry," he seemed to say. "I've got this watch." And he always did. He is missed.



MUELLER, FROM PAGE 12

retriever is getting to retrieve a dummy or a bird and parade around with it in its mouth. Because puppies have such voracious appetites, food rewards work well to teach obedience, conditioning, the retrieve, and delivery to hand. Using treats not only teaches and conditions the

puppy to obedience commands, but also the commands associated with retrieving such as "fetch," "here," "hold," and a release command. Each training session can eventually be set up bit-by-bit to mimic a hunting or hunt test scenario using all the commands associated with those. Gradually, when the pup demonstrates that it solidly knows its commands and is consistently delivering to hand, the food rewards can be diminished and replaced with very short retrieves of a tennis ball or a small dummy. Because this training method is all fun with no stress, puppies focus very well and learn very fast. 🍷

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



Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | MANITOWISH WATERS

Fall Color Tours

Manitowish Waters is in western Vilas County and gets its name from an Ojibwa word that, some sources say, means spirit, a reference to the heavy mists that can settle on the lakes. Manitowish Waters has so many options for outdoor recreation, which is just what everyone is looking for. The outdoor recreation possibilities are endless in Manitowish Waters and has so many benefits for everyone of all ages to enjoy. From biking, hiking, paddling, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, life is better in the 54545! Manitowish Waters is well-known for the Legendary 10-Lake Chain, consisting of 4,265 acres of water. The Chain is connected by channels of various lengths and you can spend endless hours exploring it during any season. Manitowish Waters is also part of the Heart of Vilas bike trail, linking us to our surrounding communities. Our beautiful trails are something for the entire family to enjoy!



As fall approaches and the autumn foliage appears in all its glory, we have several fall color tour routes to explore and view these vibrant colors. Contact us here at the Chamber to obtain directions for these stunning tour routes.

Don't forget, it's also cranberry harvest time during the fall season as well! The cranberry marsh operators are diligently working during the fall harvest season. Bring your family and friends to view this process for yourself by taking the cranberry marsh tour at the Vilas County Cranberry Marsh. These tours begin this year on August 21st and are held every Friday at 10am through October 1st. After your tour of the marsh, visit the charming Cranberry Square gift shop and farm market, located on the grounds of the marsh.

Manitowish Waters offers amazing dining options for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our area offers fine dining supper clubs, authentic Cajun cuisine and the best burger and pizza establishments around!

We have several lodging options that can meet your entire family's needs. Visit our website at ManitowishWaters.org to find out what's in store for you during your stay.

When the time is right for you, we are here to help plan your trip to the Northwoods here in Manitowish Waters. Please email us at Chamber@ManitowishWaters.org or call us with any questions or concerns ~ (715)543-8488. We look forward to having you!



Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

Memories for Years

The bluffs and the Mississippi River are alive with activity these days. The beaches of the Mississippi River are a fabulous place for boaters and jet skiers to pull in, jump off and take in the sun, picnic, enjoy a beverage and the company of family and friends. Taking in the "Driftless Region" is a new experience for many and this is the best place to do it. Keep the Mississippi River Coast and the Wisconsin Great River Road (Highway 35) on your radar. There is great boating, fun, food, fishing and hunting to be had and adventures that make memories for years to come.

Fall is in the air and geese are starting to flock just as we also see more turkeys along the wood edges. If you hunt, this is the time to get that equipment cleaned and ready for the duck, turkey and deer seasons because hunting season will be here very soon. The local Sugar Creek Park is available for camping and is a popular place to just pull off the road and take a chill. Farmers Market sets up there every Saturday with local produce, crafts, Fall apples and surprises.

Ferryville is a warm and welcoming village (population 182) where you kick back, don't get too up-tight about anything and just let the good times roll. Check out the three local places for food and beverages, shop the local "Mall" and convenience store, get bait, fireworks, beverages and snacks all at the same place. The boat launch is a good place to set out on the river in a pleasure craft, fishing boat, kayak, or canoe. It has been busier than usual, maybe because this is the perfect place to "social distance"! As they say at Ferryville Cheese & More, "We've got you covered".

Sherry Quamme | 14767 Eagle Ridge Road | Ferryville, WI 54628 | Email: squamme@centurytel.net | Cell: 920-210-4560

The Ferryville Boat Launch at sunset.



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November 14th

*Fall Bird Migration Day.
Riverview Park 9am - 11am*

November 30th

*Christmas Tree Lighting. Santa,
Sing Christmas Carols and treats.
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm*

SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD

Savor the Season in Hayward

We know you're bummed that it's time to pack up the jet skis and pack away the s'more ingredients. But don't panic! One of the best parts of Wisconsin is the chance to truly experience all four seasons. Our springs are short and wet and summers are too-short and hot. Winter in Wisconsin is a love-hate relationship to say the least. But fall is where the Midwest shines. Autumn in Wisconsin is like no other. It's fun-filled and flavorful, from Fall Fest to a Friday fish fry.

Fall Fest in Hayward is a chance to wrap yourself up in your favorite scarf or flannel and explore Main Street. On Saturday, September 26, enjoy a day of food and art as you stroll through downtown. If the smell of cinnamon and pumpkin doesn't get you excited for fall, the art certainly will! Artisans and craftsmen from all over set-up booths to shop from.

Locals may be a little biased but Hayward is one of the most picturesque landscapes in the Midwest. In fall, no one can deny the timeless beauty that takes over the scenery. The leaves turn spectacular colors of crimson and burnt orange and the crisp air hints of the oncoming winter. There's an endless way to enjoy the colors; whether a Sunday drive is your speed or a kayak trip down the Namekagon, you're bound to enjoy the views.

Fall is the time of year when tourists and locals blend together; no one can resist taking a hike through the brightly colored forests or cozying up in a local coffee shop with something that tastes more like pumpkin than coffee. Whether you're in town for a week or a weekend, or even if you live here, fall in Hayward is a time to be cherished. So put on your Packers jersey and hiking boots, and enjoy Hayward the way it was meant to be: with golden leaves falling to the ground and the smell of apple crisp in the air. 🍂

Check out our fall color report on www.haywardlakes.com or take a drive on one of six fall color tours. Give us a call 715-634-4801.

Explore Wisconsin



Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | SPOONER/WASHBURN COUNTY

Pre-Winter Adventures

As the luscious summer greens begin their change to the bright oranges and yellows of fall, you know it is the perfect time to get outdoors for some pre-winter adventures. Whether you are fishing on one of the many lakes or taking in the views from one of the amazing trails in Washburn County, the possibilities are endless.

Did you know there are 21 Class 1 Trout Streams and nearly 1,000 lakes right here in Washburn County? Anglers will also find 17 trout ponds in the Sawmill Lake area, near Birchwood. To say the fishing opportunities are almost endless might be an understatement! You never know when you'll land that "one in a million" trophy like many fishermen have on the area lakes. Many of the area lakes are stocked with Bass, Panfish, Northern Pike, and Walleyes. Check out the Fishing & Outdoor Report before heading out to the water. Local fishermen and guides send in what's biting, what seems to be working best for baits, and how the water is. It seems to make planning a little easier, especially when it is coming from "the experts". And, don't forget about the lakeside lodging so you can wake up with the sun and head right out the door to the lake!

Looking for a little faster adventure? Take to the trails with the recently updated



ATV Scenic Tour. This tour highlights almost 40 points of interest along the trails, from natural landscapes to old homestead locations. It makes for a great guide when you're exploring. The 100+ miles of trails make for great riding in the fall. Not to mention, there is plenty of trail access lodging including two designated ATV campgrounds.

There is no denying the Northwoods is the perfect outdoorsman's getaway. For more information on planning your getaway visit WashburnCounty.org and Spoonorchamber.org. 🍂

Michelle Martin | Executive Director | tourism@washburncounty.org | 715-635-9696 Washburn County Tourism Assn. | 122 N. River Street | Spooner, WI 54801 | www.washburncounty.org

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

Warm days. Cool nights.

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

There are many hunting opportunities throughout the Hurley area. The large expanses of remote public lands give the adventurous room to roam. The continuous forest of Iron County may reduce the carrying capacity for some game species, but the large acreage and the lower density of hunters makes for ideal hunting.

Hunter walking trails are found throughout the area. The Montreal and Uller cross country ski trails make for great hunter walking trails. Logging roads provide excellent walking trails for hunters, some may be gated or bermed to prevent vehicle access. To find all areas

to explore detailed Sportsman's Maps are available to guide you through our lakes for the best adventures.

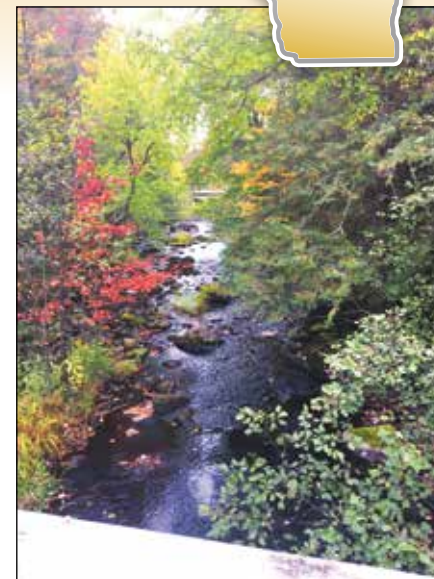
Plan a trip to Hurley and experience over 200 miles of trails to ride. Start your day in Hurley and map a route to see Lake Superior, Weber Lake, Upson Falls, Corrigan's Lookout and many other unique areas. To request a trail map, call our office 715-561-4334.


As September draws to a close, the days get shorter and nature prepares itself for winter. The lack of light and water during the winter months requires the trees to go into a rest mode. As the green fades, the leaves show other colors. The brilliance of the colors we see in fall depends on the weather conditions. The brightest colors are seen when late summer is dry and autumn has bright sunny days, with cool evenings. Rain will keep the leaves on the trees longer and help enhance

the color. Our area hardwood forests show spectacular color with many opportunities to view beautiful vistas, lakes and waterfalls. Contact our office for a brochure to guide you along some blacktop roads to view the scenery.

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

The Pumpkin Run ATV/UTV Rally kicks off with a four-day poker run beginning October 8, Thursday at 3pm and ends Sunday October 11, 2020. Register in advance at MercerPumpkinRunRally.com. The \$20 fee includes a poker sheet, commemorative bandanna, and the opportunity to win cash prizes, as well as



door prizes. The Poker Run includes stops at businesses throughout Iron County with lots of great riding along the way. Thursday 3-8pm, Friday Noon-8pm, Saturday Noon-8pm, and Sunday Noon-6pm. 

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JACOB QUIGLEY

Kayaking Wisconsin

The lake is the boss

This is the phrase that Lake Superior natives know all too well. As tourists, this motto was foreign to Marcus and I. On July 15th we started the long drive from southeast Wisconsin to kayak the Apostle Islands and see first-hand.

Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world. Known for cold water temperatures year-round, unpredictable winds and weather changes can create hazardous conditions on the lake. We had both lived in Wisconsin our entire lives but had never traveled as far north as Bayfield County, adding to the excitement.

We reached our destination, Lost Creek Adventures in Cornucopia in Bayfield County's after six hour drive from Hartland. The Director of Bayfield County Tourism, Mary Motiff had graciously set up our lodging with Lost Creek Adventures where we would spend two nights. Lost Creek Adventures would also lead our guided tour with sea kayaks to explore caves on Bayfield.

The Apostle Islands consist of 22 Islands, many of which have the caves that draw so many of the sightseers and kayakers to this very unique place. After our kayak adventure off the mainland, we would also take a 15 minute ferry trip from Bayfield to LaPointe on Madeline Island. The ferry can hold 28 cars as well as bicycles and of course passengers. A boat tour of the islands is also available.

Even though Marcus and I are experienced kayakers with 10-foot kayaks that are versatile enough for most of Wisconsin's lakes and rivers, Lake Superior offers a completely different challenge. Gitche Gumee's fierce conditions make these small kayaks no match compared

to the 16-foot sea kayaks provided by our hosts, and available to you when you visit. A sea kayak with rudder offers you more stability and maneuverability.

Thursday morning, we awoke more than ready to explore the beautiful landscape from the water. Conny Constance Bell of Lost Creek Adventures would serve as our professional guide on our four hour morning trip. Connie was extremely informative and helpful. After going through some standard safety guidelines, we were ready to launch from Meyers beach.

Our group of eight launched on tandem sea kayaks with the rear person responsible for steering with the rudder and the front person acting as scout to watch ahead. Conny tracked the wind direction and speed to find our best route to approach the caves from the beach. We first paddled against the waves for about 300 yards and then let the waves take us southwest to our destination.

As we approached these gorgeous cavern features, we saw a whole different perspective from when we had hiked above the caves the night before. We learned from these very different views of the gorgeous landscapes that perspective is everything. As we approached our first cavern the winds started to pick up. One at a time Conny helped us navigate our way deep into the opening. These caverns consist of porous red sandstone that gives it many variations of color and beauty.

Looking down a paddler sees clean aqua blue water surrounded by red tinted cliffs above. In no way did this feel like Wisconsin; we felt like we were anywhere else. As the trip went on we went along the shore eastward and gazed on all the natural



beauty that was upon us. Along with the apostle islands offering surreal landscapes, it also home to an abundance of wildlife. Stockton Island, for example, is home to a high concentration of black bears. Conny pointed out an eagle's nest on our

As all good things must come to an end so did this tour. As we headed back winds started to pick up and we paddled through waves that grew to three to four feet in height. The wind was against us, making it a more difficult paddle back to Meyers beach. We then came ashore and thanked Conny for an unforgettable experience.

When we had returned home we had a new found respect for the lake. In fact, after seeing how fast conditions can change we knew exactly why "the lake is the boss." 🌊

For information on planning your own trip, connect with Lost Creek Adventures | 22475 Hwy 13 | Cornucopia, WI 54827 | 715-953-2223 | www.Lostcreekadventures.org | info@lostcreekadventures.org | Bayfield County Tourism | 715-373-6125 | www.travelbayfieldcounty.com | info@travelbayfieldcounty.com | Mary D. Motiff, Director, Bayfield County Tourism | 715-373-3491



THE APOSTLE ISLANDS

A WISCONSIN NATIONAL TREASURE

Bayfield County is home to Wisconsin's national treasures - seven nationally designated areas that have been preserved for the enjoyment of all because of the incredible cultural history, ecological diversity and recreational opportunities found here.

A place like no other in the United States is the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, which includes 21 islands and 12 miles of mainland shoreline. Dotting Lake Superior just off the Bayfield County shoreline, the "Apostles" have been formed by and are subject to the majesty and fury of the big lake called "Gitchegumi" by the Ojibwe.

Sandstone sea caves formed by centuries of freezing, thawing, and wave action are a favorite travel destination in summer and winter. Summer days allow kayakers to "island hop" and, on a calm day, to navigate deep into the caves to explore rock formations. In winter, spectacular ice formations hang from the caves that entice walkers, snowshoers, and cross-country skiers to discover the ever-changing, cathedral-like formations. Travelers can access the Apostles in a variety of ways: a guided cruise, an island shuttle, sailing or power boating, kayaking, or private boat charters.

There are over a hundred lodging options in Bayfield County and plenty of restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries - not to mention the art galleries, shops and hiking/biking trails in each community. Use the helpful interactive map at www.travelbayfieldcounty.com to help plan your adventure. 🌊



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Pileated Woodpecker

“**W**as that a hawk? An owl? But they don’t cling to tree trunks like that. What gives? Wow is that crest red! And look at that beak. Hey, it’s a giant woodpecker!”

That’s a typical reaction when someone sees their first pileated (pronounced *pill-ee-ated*) woodpecker. These impressive but elusive woodland birds can fill Wisconsin forests, parks and treed neighborhoods with the loud, resounding pounding of their beaks as they dig into old trees for insects and larvae, and also as they “drum” to attract potential mates in spring.

Pileateds don’t migrate, and they live in Wisconsin all four seasons. The diet includes ants (a favorite), beetles, termites, caterpillars and grasshoppers, with the focus shifting to larvae in winter. Wild fruits and nuts are also eaten in season.

Look for a crow-sized bird with a wider wingspan. Pileateds fly with a flap-and-glide technique that is effective but not graceful. The body is black, with white striping on the face. The head sports a fiery red crest.

Listen for the hollow, staccato echoes a pileated woodpecker makes as it feeds. These big birds also make a ringing and piping *kuk-kuk-kuk-kukukuk-kuk-kuk* call. In springtime, this call is so loud it can make a tom turkey shock gobble. In fall, it can make a deer hunter jump in his or her treestand.



View the evidence that pileated woodpeckers leave behind – gaping holes (big enough for a tennis ball to fit in), along with plenty of “sawdust” on the ground below.

Attract pileated woodpeckers with suet. The processed kind is fine, but the real thing – fat and scraps direct from the butcher, or from a deer you cut up yourself – is even better, in late fall and winter when the air is cold and it won’t rot.

Did you know that a male pileated woodpecker wears a brilliant red mustache on his lower cheek, while a female’s mustache is black? Also: The holes pileateds dig into the soft wood of trees attract chickadees, nuthatches and smaller woodpeckers to roost and nest there.

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

YURK, FROM PAGE 8

SOUTH BEND AND EAGLE CLAW

South Bend and Eagle Claw light wire leaders are my favorite. They both carry 12 pound leaders in both five and eight-inch lengths. I use predominately five-inch leaders but the eight-inch leaders should work just as well. I am partial to 12-pound test, but if there are large northern pike and muskie in the lakes, consider 18-pound leaders. These wire leaders also make it easier and quicker to change baits rather than having to tie a new bait each time.

In conclusion and most importantly, the right leader will not distract bass from hitting your baits and they provide confidence that you won’t lose a bait when a northern or muskie strike. When they do hit, you have a far better chance of landing that trophy fish.

Mike Yurk has been writing about Wisconsin outdoors for over 50 years. His stories have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines. He has published 13 books on the outdoors which are available on Amazon. He is a retired Army officer living in northwestern Wisconsin. Contact him at bassinmajor@yahoo.com

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JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER, MSN, RN, MBA, FACHE, FAAN

Covid-19

Reject hysteria, act rationally

Due to Covid-19, fear and disruption have permeated our lives for most of 2020. It's not unusual for unknowns to generate anxiety. Coupled with our current environment in which disruption and fear may serve a political purpose for some, we have seen too much hysteria replace rational behavior. Knowing basic facts about the virus may help us respond rationally in our everyday lives.

We are frequently chastised to follow the science. The implication is that we now have the answers and there is only one way to live in the midst of this pandemic.

Scientific study is the search for truth and is often in a state of evolution. What we know changes with further research and discovery. What we understand about the cause or course of disease, or the method of treatment, may completely change as new information renders old thinking obsolete.

Science is the **best available evidence** at any point in time. There is a huge chasm between that which is thought to be true, based on opinion, and that which is true. With a clear understanding that Covid-19 science is not even close to the irrefutable fact or "that which is true", let's consider what we do know.


- As of the end of August, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 5,715,567 **total** known infections in the US over the entire course of the disease. This is **1.7%** of the population. There have been 176,617 deaths. Reporting the numbers of cases as a cumulative number, without distinguishing between those that are active and those that have been resolved, presents an unnecessarily gloomy picture of our situation.
- 3,437,169 cases are considered closed. 95% of those have recovered and 5% have died.
- Nearly 50% of all deaths have occurred in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. This is due in large part because the frail elderly (and those with chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes), are among the most vulnerable to this disease. The elderly are more vulnerable to all infectious diseases than healthy, young people are. 80% of the Covid-19 deaths in the US have been people over 65. Very poor early decisions to return infected elderly patients to nursing homes when discharged from the hospital in New York also contributed to a very high death toll in nursing homes.
- 80% of Covid-19 cases are either asymptomatic (without symptoms) or mildly symptomatic. 15% of the remaining cases are severe and 5% are critical.
- Testing everyone for Covid-19 is a theme pounded as essential to our conquering the virus. Yet we know with certainty that a negative test today means nothing if one contracts the disease tomorrow. Likewise, on August 26, the CDC changed its guidance on testing, saying it is not necessary to get tested, even if exposed, if one is asymptomatic. This is another illustration of how science changes.
- New Information: 94 % of persons who have died of Covid-19 had underlying conditions.

With these Covid-19 facts understood, and knowing that definitive prevention and treatment methods are still a ways down the road, we each have to figure out what is a rational approach to living today.

Keeping the cumulative number of cases since the start of the disease in front of us every day makes it easy to forget what our goal must be. It is not to eliminate all cases (every year between 25 million and 50 million Americans get the flu with more than 20,000 deaths). The goal is: **Protect the vulnerable and ensure hospital capacity for those who need it.**

We must not decide to live with Covid-19 in isolation, as if we could put everyone in a protective bubble. We must consider the full ramifications of the choices we make and, above all, not let fear drive us.

My oldest brother, Steve Ellis, recently shared some very wise sentiments on this topic:

"Driving a car can be shown to be unsafe because it can kill you; it can permanently injure you; and it can alter your life. We can take steps to minimize these risks and get them to what we collectively consider 'acceptable'. Covid-19 has been shown to be unsafe to a very well understood minority of the population, and steps can be taken to minimize the risk to them. For the significant majority of the population, Covid-19 will not kill you, it will not permanently injure you and it will not alter your life. The risk around testing positive for Covid-19 is obviously acceptable. For that majority, there is no logical reason to modify life as we know it." 

Joan Ellis Beglinger is a registered nurse and retired hospital administrator. Her clinical practice was as a clinical nurse specialist in critical care. She is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a Fellow in the Academy of Nursing.

JOHN ELLIS

A Very Real Internal Threat

An election that people have faith in has got to be secure. Verifying the eligibility of every voter is an obvious, and easy, step to that end.


There are only two types of voting that are secure; In Person Voting and Absentee Voting. Both of these require the voter to prove they are eligible before casting a vote. This is done by verifying their address or with a valid identification card. With these two types of voting, the integrity of an election is almost assured.

All-Mail Voting is not secure. In this type of voting actual ballots (not requests for ballots) are sent out, unsolicited, to names on voter rolls that are in a constant state of change. The voter rolls change because people pass away and move all the time. This means that thousands of unsecured ballots can contaminate our elections, with no way of verifying who receives them, who fills them out, or who sends them back. With this type of voting, there is no election integrity.

The differences between these types of voting is very easy to understand, and important for people to know.

But Democrat leadership, and much of the media, is working very hard to mislead people into believing that All-Mail Voting is the same thing as Absentee Voting. It's absolutely not true and the dishonesty about this is a very real internal threat to our country.

Don't worry about Russian interference, because the real danger is a lot closer.

Please share this information with everyone you know. 

The Cornerstone of the Foundation is Truth

Seeing things truthfully is how a person stays on the straight and narrow path, and how they correct if they lose their way. It's good for the individual, their neighbor, and is the cornerstone of the foundation upon which a successful nation stands.

But you have to want to see things truthfully.

Since 1973 there has been more than 61,000,000 abortions performed in the United States. That's an average of 1,326,000 a year. The Centers for Disease Control does not include abortion in its death statistics because it's a legal medical procedure.*

Do you think it's just a legal medical procedure?

**From the CDC website, the NRLC website, and The Guttmacher Institute.*

This editorial is solely the opinion of OWO Publisher Dick Ellis and in no way reflects the views of any advertiser or contributor working with On Wisconsin Outdoors.

DICK ELLIS

No Tomorrow

A house divided cannot stand

Take the truth with you to the polls when you decide who we will send to the White House November 3. Seek the light and you will find it. Reject the lies that are sent to confuse you, every day, from the corrupt and dangerous media and radical left seeking to destroy our America. Do not be afraid or allow fear to keep you from saying what you believe. It is your first right.

Keep it simple. What do you know with certainty about promises made and promises kept?

Before the 2016 presidential election, *On Wisconsin Outdoors* endorsed Candidate Donald Trump with the headline, Enemies Within- Corrupt government, corrupt media threaten America. The editorial began, “The marriage of a corrupt government with a corrupt media means the most dangerous enemy the American people have ever faced is at the door.”

We urged our readers to vote Trump on one issue and stated that the United States, the Constitution and your freedoms guaranteed by it would live or forever perish with the expected nominations of three to five lifetime appointments to the Supreme Court. Trump had released a list of candidates from which he vowed to nominate Supreme Court justices. Each was selected based on constitutional principles.

From that list, Constitutionalists Neal Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh were nominated by Trump and confirmed to the Supreme Court. Trump kept his word on those Supreme Court promises, and almost 300 lower court appointments crucial to maintaining your freedom and preserving the Constitution. Prior to Trump, the liberal effort to fundamentally transform the United States of America by reshaping the Federal judiciary had been comprehensive and dramatic. When Obama and Biden entered the oval office, liberal justices controlled just one of 13 circuits of the US Court of Appeals. By 2016, liberal majorities controlled nine of those appeals benches, or 70 percent. And the transformation, we told you, would have continued with a Trump defeat.

Our 2016 editorial also cited the Center for Public Integrity research stating professional journalists who Americans depend on for unbiased and truthful reporting had donated \$382,000 to the Clinton campaign, or 94 percent of total 2016 presidential donations, with 14 percent donated to Trump. That 27-1 disparity, we stated, mirrored the print space and airtime ratio devoted to bringing down Trump. For the last four years that effort by a deceitful media and radical left has continued with a vengeance. *(Publisher Note: We track the media daily and stand ready to back-up our statement upon request).*

“We stand at a crossroads of freedom,” Vice Mike President Pence said. “Before us lie two paths; one based on the dignity and worth of every individual, and the other on the growing control of the state. One road leads to greater freedom and opportunity, and the other road leads to socialism and decline. The choice we face is whether America remains America.”

The good news as we approach the most crucial election in our history is that Trump’s written vows to you regarding the Supreme Court and lower court appointments reflect an entire agenda of promises made, and promises kept. The differences between candidates could not be more stark. Keep it simple. Look for the truth. November 3rd...Vote!

ELECTION 2020: A CLEAR CHOICE

The fundamental role of the Federal government is on the ballot this November and the differences between Donald Trump and Joe Biden could not be greater. Fortunately, both men have significant track records, so we the people are not dependent on what they say they will do.

DONALD TRUMP	JOE BIDEN
• A lifetime in the private sector creating jobs in the building industry, creating wealth, succeeding and failing.	• Nearly 50 years in federal elected office.
• Limited Federal government. Limited Federal bureaucracy. Local control whenever possible. Limited regulation.	• Expansive Federal Government. Government solutions to problems. Regulation as a means to an end.
• Personal freedom to pursue life, liberty and happiness.	• Focus on “equity” advocates redistribution of wealth
• Low taxes fuel strong economy.	• Taxation is the mechanism to fund big government.
• Federal judge and Supreme Court Justice appointments who are strict constitutionalists.	• Federal judge and Supreme Court appointments who interpret the Constitution as a living, evolving document.
• School Choice for parents.	• Eliminate School Choice.
• Clear, enforced immigration laws. Legal immigrants required to be capable of self-sufficiency.	• Illegal Immigration tolerated. No merit requirement for legal immigration. Healthcare and other benefits to those who are in the US illegally.
• Health care for all with a significant private sector engine. Right to Try passed; terminal patients allowed to try experimental drugs.	• Expanded government health care and ultimately “Medicare for all.”
• Second amendment right to bear arms supported. Focus on murder, not guns.	• Implement restrictions on ownership of guns.
• International trade agreements that are fair and position American businesses to be able to compete.	• History of supporting trade agreements that incentivize companies to move operations out of the country and have resulted in substantial job loss.
• Strong, positive relationships with our allies that require burden sharing of expenses including defense. Billions of dollars of additional payment have been received during Trump’s first term.	• For decades, during Biden’s tenure as a senator and vice president, allies have not paid their agreed upon share of expenses.
• Social justice meaning equal opportunity for all and equal expectations of everyone. Everyone works. Everyone contributes. Everyone benefits.	• Social justice meaning a focus on “systemic racism”; a culture of dependence, guilt and entitlement for history that predates any person living today.
• Peace through military strength. Put a stop to endless wars.	• Voted for all of the military campaigns of the past decades.
• Balance concern for the environment with the cost of being able to compete and live today.	• No limit to the regulation imposed in pursuit of halting climate change irrespective of the consequence to our ability to function today.
• Term limits.	• Career politicians.
• Right to Life.	• According to Wall Street Journal Biden would be most pro-abortion president in history.

Beware of those who would destroy our history, in order that we would not learn from it. The quotes below reflect the enormous stockpile of wisdom we would miss forever if the radicals have their way...

“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.” – Thomas Jefferson

“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.” – Thomas Jefferson

“A military enemy will never “step the ocean and crush us a blow.” But a tyrant may someday overtake the US political system from within.” – Abe Lincoln, Lyceum address.

“It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God, and the Bible,” – George Washington.

“Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Jesus Christ, Mathew 11; 28



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | **LA CROSSE** | CHRIS STINDT, OUTDOOR RECREATION ALLIANCE

Mountain Biking | Then & Now in the La Crosse Region

As a relatively new mountain bike rider, it's easy to take a lot for granted when you start riding. You might assume that it just means riding on a dirt path and it doesn't really matter what bike you use. However, there is actually a lot more to riding mountain bikes!

Nearly 20 years ago, La Crosse began developing its first 'real' mountain bike trails. Sure, there were some cow paths, and a lot of riding on land that wasn't exactly official, but it was very, very different from today's trails. In 2001, a group of volunteers were given permission to develop trails in 'Upper Hixon' aptly named the Human Powered Trails. These volunteers used hand tools to build some narrow paths, often called single-track in the mountain biking world.

And the bikes! It's almost hard to imagine how simplistic and brutal historic mountain bikes were. Today's hybrids and road bikes would be better suited than the machines past riders used – rim brakes, lots of gears with no chain retention, limited and rudimentary



Mountain Biking the Lacrosse region has gone from good... to exceptional. Chris Stindt, Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA)
PHOTO CREDIT-ANNA STINDT

suspension (usually only on the front of the bike), narrow wheels and tires, and in general, they were very heavy.

Today La Crosse has seen such an evolution that it is almost difficult to recognize. The original trails are still present but have slowly been rehabilitated and updated

with modern trail design. After a long hiatus, new trails have been added in leaps and bounds. Professional trail building company, Rock Solid (a type of organization that wasn't even in existence 20 years ago), created a series of trails themed after a galaxy, far, far away.... These downhill and family style trails rival anything in the Midwest; smooth, "flowy," and fun for every type of rider! And the bikes today have also undergone a significant evolution. Only one ring in front, typically with 12 speeds in the rear, hydraulic disc brakes that could stop a car, advanced suspension technology on the front and rear of the bike, all while weighing significantly less – resulting in a more enjoyable experience.

La Crosse had a place on the mountain biking map very early on, but the pause in trail development over time started to leave the area behind. However, the recent growth has set the La Crosse Region up as a premier mountain bike destination in the Midwest. The trail management group, ORA Trails, has executed countless

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



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STUART WILKE

Shorty's Shooting Sports

A good neighbor, great gun shop for 10 years

Like many legends, the origin of Shorty's Shooting Sports in West Allis is a mystery, wrapped in an enigma, as Winston Churchill might say. On the one hand, you have Mike "Shorty" Govas explaining that his tenant on South 60th Street skipped town along with the rental payment, making the property available. At the time, he was a painting contractor.

"I had to do something with the property, so I opened up a gun shop. I've always been a firearms enthusiast and a long-time competitive target shooter, so it made sense to do something that reflected my interests."

Marie, Shorty's wife, has a different story. "I got tired of him lying on the

couch and put him to work."

Whatever the truth is, Shorty has had a thriving business at his same West Allis location for 10 years. When he opened shop a decade ago, that particular area of West Allis, like much of the country, was not in the greatest economic shape, which is not to say it was destitute. Remember, Shorty's opened only two years after the Great Recession of 2008. Many people had little money to spare outside of that necessary for food and housing. The heavy industries that supported West Allis' tax base were long gone. Large or small, few businesses were willing or able to open up shop in West Allis, or any other community. Shorty was one of the few willing to take a chance.

Which is not to say that he was met with open arms by some residents. Since he was opening a business in proximity of a school, there were residents that thought a neighborhood gun shop would be a magnet for criminals and gun violence. As a long-time resident of West Allis, I thought this was an over reaction. The city at one time was home to at least a half dozen well-behaved gun shops and West Allis was certainly never a hot bed of violent criminal activity.

Fast forward to 2020, and Shorty's is pretty much just another well-cared for business on the East Side of West Allis. Quiet and orderly, a good neighbor and a well-known supporter of the West Allis Police Department.

The firearms industry has changed quite a bit since Shorty's opened in 2010. At that time, the shooting sports were still primarily a guy thing. Men still make up a large part of the sport, but women are joining them in increasing numbers.

According to Marie, one of the fastest growing segments of the firearms industry is women buying guns for self-defense. A great many folks taking Shorty's Concealed Carry Weapon classes



are women. They take the course, buy a handgun, learn to shoot and soon discover that firearm shooting is a great sport.

Women are some of Shorty's favorite customers. "Unlike a lot of ill-informed guys who think they know everything and have to have the biggest, large caliber handgun they saw on TV," he said, "women tend to have more open minds and listen to common sense."

Shorty and Marie had hoped to have a 10 year anniversary celebration, but the Covid virus put an end to that. Nevertheless, they still have a great selection of firearms, good advice and a family friendly atmosphere.

A visit to Shorty's is well-worth your time. 🐾

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

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CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 11

woods and one tight on the field edge. The woods hunter will get more shots. The field hunter is mostly there to let the birds know that's not a good way to fly. Trade spots occasionally to even out shooting opportunities.

Conclusion

When you hit the grouse woods this fall, don't go traipsing off into the brush without a plan. Grouse prefer the transition zones between cover types. Work these seams to find more birds, more often. 🐾

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

LA CROSSE, FROM PAGE 26

volunteer hours maintaining trails and continuous work with the City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department to design and develop new trails. Numerous miles of new trails are weaved into the flora and fauna of Grandad Bluff in a way that enhances one of the Region's most popular parks, to include access from neighborhoods at the foot of the bluff. It's exciting to see the history of mountain biking and only imagine what the future holds for the La Crosse Region! 🐾



Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Ruffed Grouse Wisconsin's upland challenge

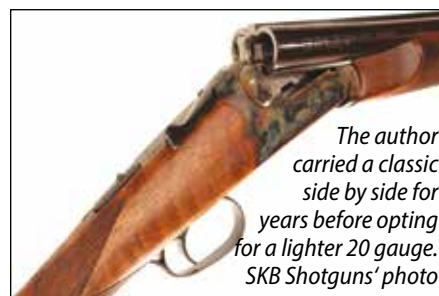
If you have ever heard the sound of a grouse "drumming" on a log you will never forget it! The heart stopping, explosive flush of a ruffed grouse in the woods has rattled more than one experienced wing shooter. A tasty and challenging target, grouse are avidly pursued all across northern Wisconsin.

September 12th marks the opening day of Wisconsin's 2020 grouse hunting season in Zone A, covering roughly the northern two thirds of the state. Hunters chasing grouse in Zone B, about the southern third of the state, will have to wait until Oct. 17th.

Wisconsin has a healthy population of Ruffed grouse (*bonasa umbellus*) allowing a limit of five per day in Zone A, and three daily in Zone B. Also called partridge, this upland bird is considered by many to be the finest eating game bird in North America. Please see the Wisconsin DNR website or Small Game Regulations for Zone map and more information. Contact the Chamber of Commerce of counties you plan on hunting, and the National Forest Service for area maps.

Where to Look

Wisconsin's Nicolet-Chequamegon National Forest offers 1,000's of acres of prime public hunting. Grouse love aspen, or "popple" buds. Look for mixed hardwoods and open areas where trees were cut, with new brushy growth. Walking trails planted with clover are also



The author carried a classic side by side for years before opting for a lighter 20 gauge. SKB Shotguns' photo



A few simple items that will make a Wisconsin grouse hunt easy, and productive

good bets. Further south, the state lands near the Necedah Wildlife Refuge are managed for grouse with selective timber cutting. Grouse also need water, and grit for their gizzards to digest food. Hunt areas around ponds or small creeks. Hunters often walk forest roads and fire lanes to catch birds picking grit.

Grouse Guns and Loads

Side by side shotguns have long been considered the classic firearm to hunt grouse. In my younger days, I gleefully carried a 12 gauge side by side all over the National Forests. Being older and wiser, I now opt for a lighter weight 20 gauge over/under with open choke tubes installed. Weight is a major consideration in a gun you will be carrying in the woods all day. In all my years of grouse hunting, I honestly cannot recall ever getting more than two shots at a flushed grouse. Load up with light field or game loads of 7 ½ or 6 shot. The lighter loads are perfect for grouse, which are not as durable as ducks or pheasants. Two or three pellets connecting with a grouse will deliver a clean kill. Woodcock and snowshoe hare use the same habitat as grouse and I've harvested both while grouse hunting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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LUBA, FROM PAGE 2

at the waterline that just looked different. I had a deep diving crankbait tied on so I worked the area from shore outward. I mapped out a rock point that ran eight feet deep. Plus, I tagged two bonus bass for my efforts. It also produces consistently. A friend who's a geography buff said it may have been formed over time from glaciers and erosion.

There are obvious structural reasons why some of these "hidden" areas work, but other places that don't look "fishy" actually are fish magnets. You don't need textbook structure, like big rocks, logs or stumps, to score. A nice smallmouth can duck behind a rock or branch that rises only six to eight inches off the bottom. A relatively flat bottom with some little rises can support a nice group of fish because it's spread out over a flatter terrain and the baitfish are there.

It pays to fish areas where there are current breaks and a food source. Find them and you will find fish. 🐟

Tom Luba is primarily an open-water angler who fishes for smallmouth and largemouth bass. In a pinch, every other fish that swims is fair game.



Fall can be a smallmouth bonanza. It's even better when you find overlooked hot spots.

STRESING, FROM PAGE 28**Caution**

Hunters in parts of Bayfield, Iron, Ashland, Sawyer, Vilas and Oneida Counties may also encounter Spruce grouse (*Falcipennis canadensis*). These darker birds are considered threatened and are strictly protected! About the same size as a ruffed grouse, Spruce grouse are black in color with white markings, and a red eye crest similar to a rooster pheasant. If in doubt, don't shoot! 🐟

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



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BILL THORNLEY

Fall Change

Early morning, early autumn day

Bathed in the golden rays of the rising sun, a spider web glows golden and transforms a simple barbed wire fence into a thing of unique beauty. A gentle, wispy white fog drifts over suddenly golden fields, grass so moist that heavy water droplets hang from each blade.

Lining the fields, the trees suddenly look a little pale, a bit washed out. Something is different. The oaks and maples are mostly still green, but something ... something is different than it was even a few days ago. A slight change has taken place that you can't put your finger on. Things just don't look the same.

Change. That is the key word. These are the first days of change. Mother Nature knows it, and we are starting to catch on ever so slowly. Like the green color of the trees, summer is fading.

You can feel it in the air. Oh, the afternoon sun still warms the landscape. Sometimes it can even get downright hot – but not like it used to. The scorchers of late July and early August have passed. We'll likely see no more 90-degree temperatures this year. Our highs these days top out in the 70s and maybe a few low 80s, a slight but noticeable change. And on occasion the evening air even has a slight chill. For many of us it is a welcome chill. A lot of us wait for early autumn days with open arms and flannel shirts.

As summer melts away we welcome autumn like an old friend we haven't seen in a long, long time. This is the quieter time, this time of change. The weekend traffic lines are shorter, the lakes less crowded. Soon we'll really notice the differences and the peacefulness that settles over the



Grey squirrels and other wildlife are starting to feed heavily in preparations for the harsher months to come.

land with fewer people in the area.

The late afternoon sun will bounce off the waves, creating those beautiful diamond lights that dance across the water in autumn when the sun is in just the right position. "The cabin up north" will be closed by many weekenders. Docks pulled, boats put into storage, and for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes with Suzette

Foil packet recipe ideas

Tacos have always been a favorite, easy meal at our house, especially on a Friday night. Since we usually have leftover ingredients from dinner, we can look forward to the added benefit of a taco omelet or frittata for Saturday morning breakfast. Whether the tacos are classic or prepared with a twist on the traditional, they're always a hit. Enjoy!

Duck Tacos

- 2 duck breasts, cooked with Mexican seasoning blend* and shredded
- Small flour tortillas
- Avocado(s), sliced
- Lettuce, shredded
- Sour cream
- Pineapple Jalapeno Salsa

Warm tortillas and fill with shredded duck breasts. Top with avocado slices, shredded lettuce, sour cream, and fresh Pineapple Jalapeño Salsa.

**Pineapple Jalapeno Salsa

- 1 Cup fresh pineapple, small chunks
- 1 Teaspoon chili powder
- 1 Medium onion, finely chopped
- ½ Teaspoon cumin
- 1 Jalapeno pepper, finely chopped
- ½ Teaspoon salt
- 2 T fresh cilantro, chopped
- ¼ Teaspoon sugar

In medium sized glass bowl, mix all ingredients until well blended. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

*Make your own Mexican seasoning blend by combining 2 T chili powder, 2 T ground cumin, 2 T oregano, 2 T paprika, 1 T garlic powder and 2 tsp cayenne pepper. Store in air-tight container.

Fish Tacos

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

In small bowl, combine flour, garlic and half of each: chili powder, oregano, cumin.

Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Lightly coat fish with flour mixture.

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

Combine cabbage with remaining chili powder, oregano and cumin. Toss with lime juice and a dash of hot pepper sauce.

To build tacos, place spoonful of fish in shells and top with cabbage.

Garnish with your choice of sliced avocado, sour cream, salsa, fresh cilantro, or sliced red onion.

Venison Tacos

- 1 Pound ground Venison
- 2 Ears fresh corn, uncooked & sliced from cob
- 1 T olive oil
- 1 Cup fresh salsa***
- 1 Medium onion, diced
- Corn tortillas
- 2 Cloves garlic, finely chopped

Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat. Add onion; sauté for 2 to 3 minutes. Add garlic; sauté for 1 minute. Add Venison and cook until browned. Stir in ½ cup of salsa and the corn. Lower heat and simmer 10 minutes to blend flavors.

Warm tortillas either on the stovetop or in a low oven.

To serve, place a spoonful of remaining salsa onto tortilla and top with Venison mixture. Garnish with Cheddar cheese, shredded lettuce, sour cream, diced tomatoes and black olives.

***Fresh Salsa:

- 2 large ripe tomatoes, quartered
- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 2 T diced green chilies
- 1 T jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 1 tsp lime juice
- ¾ tsp garlic salt
- ½ tsp cumin
- ¼ tsp sugar

Place all ingredients in food processor and pulse until fine consistency. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour to allow flavors to blend.

Suzette Curtis, of Oshkosh, cooks for a family of hunters and fishermen and tries to fill their menu with recipes for meals made with venison, upland birds, and fish. She does just that with great expertise. Contact her at recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



THORNLEY, FROM PAGE 30

some the old shotgun and bow will be taken out. Time to focus on hunting ducks, deer, and squirrels.

Right now the hints of autumn are subtle. Flocks of birds are starting to gather on power lines. Two or three branches in the grove of sugar maples out back are tinted with red. Driving to work in the morning you notice a small flock of Canada geese sitting in the middle of a farm field.

As you round a corner your eyes focus on a seasonal “buck group” as the red-coated, velvet-antlered animals dash through a clearing – one, two, three, maybe four of them, silhouetted by the golden morning sun. Their antlers are thick with velvet, their summer coats sleek. With effortless grace, they clear a three-foot fence and disappear like ghosts into the still-thick forest undergrowth. And there you see another hint in the yellowing grasses and browning ferns. Changes are everywhere.

Apples hang heavy from the tree branches. Juicy blackberries can be found. Sweet corn has tasseled, and the bottoms of the stalks are drying – farmers are offering a dozen ears for hungry corn on the cob lovers. At roadside markets pumpkins, zucchini, acorn squash, tomatoes and string beans are showing up.

For many in the North, the best season of the year is arriving. And it is as welcome as a hot cup of coffee and the sweet smell of woodsmoke from an early morning fire. 🍂



Soon this young whitetail buck will begin to rub the velvet from his antlers.



Foggy northland mornings become more frequent in the fall with dropping temperatures.

CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 14

Look for forests or woodlots with oak, hickory or walnut trees. Squirrels tend to avoid forests choked with brush; thinner woods are more fun to hunt anyway. Nearby farm fields (especially corn) are always a plus.

Squirrels are very active for the first few hours of daylight, so it pays to get out early. The hours either side of noon are usually slowest, but action picks up in the afternoon, especially on a sunny day.

Let your young hunter take the lead. Slide from tree to tree, breaking up your silhouettes. Tip-toe softly (a little leaf crunching doesn't hurt). Look and listen more than you move. Watch for the flick of a tail or the odd bump on a tree limb. Listen for cackling of a squirrel or the pitter-patter of nut casings falling to the ground as a squirrel eats. Once game is spotted, sneak closer for a better shot. Have fun!

Another great technique is to slip in and sit or lean against a tree in a good spot and just wait. This is an excellent way to train your young hunter on the value of sitting still, while easing into it for short stretches.

Only allow “leaning” shots where the young hunter has a solid and steady rest. Have the youngster take their time and squeeze off the shot, and insist on head shots only.

Check for signs of life in the downed squirrel with a stick (more good training for when it's a sharp-hoofed deer on the ground). Clean the squirrels together. To cook, roll pieces in seasoned flour and fry in bacon grease. Save trophy tails by drying the meaty stumps with Borax.

At first, you might think squirrel hunts are just a training ground for bigger game. Don't be surprised if you hook a small game hunter for life. 🍂

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

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