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Dick Ellis Experts

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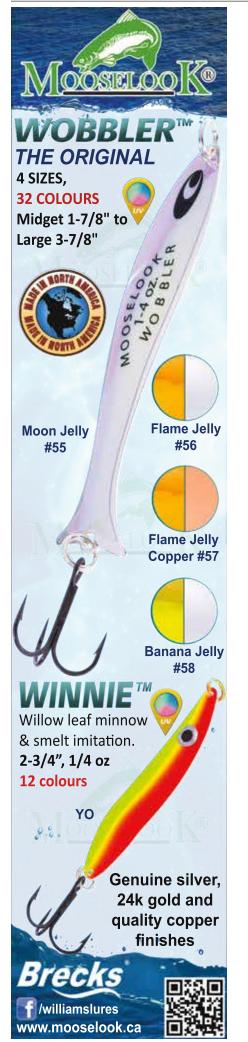
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EXPANDED ONLINE ISSUE



TOM LUBA The "New" Jig 'n Pig Good news for bass anglers

hile there are a number of trailers for today's bass jigs, a lot of us took a hit when Uncle Josh quit producing their No. 11 pork frog. For years the pork frog was a jig trailing staple.

Since the first pork eel was mated to a bucktail jig (both primarily in the color black) years ago, it quickly became the goto for big fish. It was gradually replaced by the frog and a silicone skirt jig, but still remained the best lure to tackle a lunker largemouth. So, the catch phrase

"Jig 'n Pig" was born. Smallmouth didn't necessarily ignore them either.

The demise of the frog came because of trouble finding a consistent thickness in pork hides. It seems the variance came from trying to get this little piggy to market quicker. The time-line played havoc with the hide thickness required, not giving them time for the hides to develop and thicken before they were harvested.

But, fishermen make do. So plastic craws, beaver-tail shaped plastics and others filled the gap. It wasn't all bad, especially on the tournament circuits. The pros can switch from one bait to another at a pretty good clip, based on conditions. Sometimes a jig and craw could be used for certain situations and then shelved at the whim of the bass. The jig pole was dropped and maybe not picked up for an hour or two. With a pork trailer, that meant it dried out and had to be replaced, sometimes even having to be cut off the hook. That wasn't the case with plastics. So, for some, all was well.

One of the things I always liked about the original "pig" was that it felt more



Jigs work all season long. MaxScent Power Chunks have been an excellent replacement for the number 11 pork frogs.

alive and created size and vibration as it was bulkier than plastic. I would envision a bass chomping on it after scent was applied, trying to figure out how to eat it. Sometimes it gave the angler a little more time to set the hook before the fish hollered "fake!" They could be a little messy to handle, but I was OK with that. Sometimes, a fish hit so hard it could just about pull the rod out of your hand. But that's not the way it usually goes. Sometimes the pick-up is just real subtle.

I've always been a fan of Berkley's Power Bait. In fact their three-inch Chigger Craw was my trailer of choice after the pig. So when they came out with Power Bait MaxScent a few years ago, I was excited. The difference was that now Berkley had discovered a way to disperse actual scent from the bait once it was in the water. Regular PowerBait worked, but scent was not released until a fish actually started

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The "New" Jig'n'Pig -- this one is Green Pumpkin with a Berkley Power Bait MaxScent Power Chunk.

chewing on it. That's what originally led them to advertise that a fish held onto a PowerBait longer than regular plastics. Once they chewed, it released the scent and the fish hung on.

Now PowerBait MaxScent releases scent into the water so a fish can find it, then bite. Does it work? Absolutely. And in all seasons. I've used their Creature Hawg (it's great on a swing jig walked slowly along a rocky river bottom for smallmouth), Hit Worm (finesse) and The General (MaxScent's version of the straight stick worm). I originally used their Meaty Chunk on the back of a jig until, near the end of their first year they came out with the Power Chunk, a real kissin' cousin to the original #11 pork frog design.

Now days, slapping a Power Chunk on the back of my bass jig creates, for me, the "new" Jig'n'Pig. And it's been catching bass for me ever since. As far as my jig fishing goes right now, I'm as happy as the proverbial "pig in ..." well, you get the idea. Give it a try this year.

Tom Luba enjoys fishing for all species of bass, but based on the season he looks to catch whatever is most likely to bite.

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Keeping it Simple *Triggering strikes with the bare basics*

Every year someone or some company comes out with a new product that is guaranteed to help catch more and bigger fish. And every year thousands of anglers rush out and buy what they think is the next best lure - only to find out that it is not.

On a recent fishing trip, I was reminded that just keeping it simple is one of the best ways to put fish in the boat, including large ones. During this particular trip, we were fishing a section of the Wisconsin River and catching a few walleyes on jigs tipped with minnows. Unfortunately, the action wasn't fast and furious by any means. I knew fish were there and I had to do something to trigger more strikes.

After thinking about it for a while, I

decided that maybe the walleyes were not interested in heavy lead head jigs and a different type of action or presentation might be better. I have previously seen walleyes refuse to take a jig with a minnow, but readily take a lively minnow swimming freely. So I dug out my tackle box and made up an improvised river rig. My rig consisted of a small number six red octopus hook tied to the end of the line, then about 18 inches up I crimped on a tiny split shot sinker. Above that I had a bell sinker weighing about half an ounce that would allow the line to slide through it.

This set-up would allow my minnow to swim freely near the bottom without the weight of a heavy sinker or jig. Hungry

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Dreaming of Life in the Northwoods?





walleyes could pick it up and swim off with only the nearly imperceptible weight of the tiny split shot. This river rig worked perfectly and the walleyes hammered it. We actually started catching so many walleyes on it that we stopped jigging completely and made up more rigs like it and set them around the boat. The fish went crazy and we could hardly keep up with the action.

The walleyes were completely suicidal and all we did was change up our pattern. We didn't have to move and we didn't have to try some new fancy hot bait. All we did was simplify our presentation.

So the next time you are out on the water and the fish are not cooperating, don't move or give up just yet. Go back to



James and Stephanie Borelli with some nice walleyes.

basics and fine tune your presentation. You may end up having one of the best fishing days of your life.

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Gator Hunting *Early season Northern Pike action*

There is no better time for catching northern pike than the post-spawn season. Post-spawn is spring and early summer. This season is the easiest time of the year to catch giant "gators." Northern pike enjoy living in cool to cold water. As summer comes on the fish will move to deeper water making them harder to catch.

In early summer pike actively live in less than ten feet of water. I concentrate on the weedy bays with scattered sand pockets. Look for the greenest weeds in the bay. These are key locations pike use to ambush prey. I prefer fishing when there is a little wind; it breaks up the pikes' ability to see you. During this time of year, pike can be in large schools. I have caught 20 to 25 fish in a small area. Because of the concentration of fish, I will anchor or use the spot lock feature on my Minn-Kota trolling motor. Fan cast an area and if no luck, adjust your boat's position.

My favorite method is the slip bobber set up including a slip bobber knot, a bead, a slip bobber, weight and a 1/0 hook. The key part of the rig is the bobber. I use a Thill Big Fish Slider. This is a large cylindrical bobber tapered at both ends. The bobber will lay flat on the water surface when the bait is calm. However, when a fish gets close and scares the live bait, the bobber will stand upright alerting you to the proximity of the northern. Northern pike bite aggressively and without hesitation. Once the bobber is under, I will wait 10 to 15 seconds before setting the hook. I am trying to avoid deeply hooking the fish. The biggest key to slip bobber fishing is remembering to reel up all the slack line before setting the hook.

The rod set up I prefer is a heavy one, a seven-foot medium heavy, teamed with a baitcasting reel with a bait clicker spooled with 20-pound monofilament. I do not use a steel leader. I believe that it restricts the bait's movement, while spooking the fish in clear water. A bait clicker is nice to have to indicate strikes and to hold line when the reel is in free spool for the hits that come fast and furious.

If the pike are spooky, I have another method to make them bite; allow the bait to free swim, just a hook and nothing else. This method can be very effective. The only downside is if the weed growth is thick it is



Client of Dave Duwe's Guide Service with a giant Delavan Lake, Wisconsin Gator.

hard to keep your bait out of the weeds.

The bait of choice for me is a medium to larger sucker. In early summer you don't need the largest suckers at the bait shop. I start with smaller bait and as the season goes on the size of bait increases. Suckers have the ability to survive being cast more than a fragile golden shiner. Even though the suckers are pretty durable, you still have to be gentle when you cast and avoid slapping the bait on the water. In early summer with the fish in the weed flats you want to position your sucker one to two feet above the weed growth. The greener the weed the more success you will have.

Early summer is one of the best times to catch northern pike; they are in the shallow weedy bays actively feeding. The "gators" are plentiful and easy to catch. Remember pike love cold water so as the summer heats up they leave the weedy bays and head to deeper water. Always remember that big pike can be tricky to handle so make sure you have a fish glove and pliers.

Dave Duwe is owner and operator of Dave Duwe's Guide Service, featuring the lakes in Southeastern Wisconsin.



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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | MARINETTE COUNTY

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attraction – waterfalls. Known as the Waterfall Capitol of Wisconsin, Marinette County's 15 stunning waterfalls capture the hearts and camera angles of tens of thousands of visitors each year. Self-guided tours help visitors plan the perfect vacation in The Real North.

To order trail maps or a Marinette County visitor

guide, visit therealnorth.com

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD Early Summer Sight Fishing

ne of the really special aspects to early summer fishing is how visual it can be. There's something very thrilling about seeing a school of big crappie, or a chunky cruising smallmouth bass and then trying to tempt them to bite. Situations where you can see the fish are also highly engaging for young anglers. Just knowing there's a big pike within casting distance will get those little hearts pumping!

The Hayward area offers some incredible multi-species sight fishing opportunities, with the prime time being in May and June. There's some biology behind why this time of year is so good for seeing fish. A species-by-species progression of spawning begins shortly after the ice goes out. This brings fish into shallow water to seek out ideal spawning habitat and mates. Oftentimes, fish will hang around in the shallows for several weeks after spawning to feed. It's a fortunate coincidence that the water is typically clearest at this time of the year as well, making it even easier to see fish.

Look for calm sunny days for the best sight fishing opportunities. Polarized sunglasses are a must. Fish can be spooky in some cases, so it may be necessary to cruise through and scout an area, and then back off to make longer casts to where fish are holding. Presentation of baits is always important, but that reality escalates when fishing clear water. Finesse-style baits are often a good bet for bass, while fast moving "slash baits" can fool pike and musky. Panfish can be taken on live bait, but flies are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16





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TYLER FLORCZAK Mystery Lure *Collector hoping to identify Chetek-made bait*

hris Slusar is not your average fisherman. Sure, he enjoys tangling with monster musky, catching walleyes or filling the freezer with panfish. As exciting as those fishing moments are, Slusar's niche has taken him beyond the water.

The 54-year-old researches and writes about old fishing lures and equipment he collects, particularly items made in Wisconsin. He's been collecting and researching fishing and related items for about 40 years.

Sometimes it's difficult to find the origin and background regarding certain items. The Chetek-made bait (see photo) is an example. Slusar is asking for your help.

He believes that the lure in question comes from Chetek because several similar lures like this have been found in the area. However, no name or other identification has been attributed to the piece.

"I don't know exactly what period it dates, although folks in the lure collector community have referred to it as the 'Chetek bait.' I'm really hoping someone sees this article and photo and recognizes it," Slusar said. "I am aware that Heddon (James Heddon and Sons) had a factory in Chetek near the turn of the century, around 1906–1907. I know they manufactured rods and fishing equipment at the factory, but they relocated back to Michigan shortly after. A variety of similar pieces have come out of the area, but no one seems to know the maker. This lure remains a mystery, at least for the time being."

Slusar verified that there are different versions of this bait out there, but the lure is likely buoyant and runs sub-surface, maybe a foot or two under the water. Some have line ties in different positions, some are different size, and some have feathers tied where others have feathers glued to the hole on the back end of bait.

"I have always loved fishing and been a bit of a collector," Slusar noted. Along with a keen interest in history, I suppose I was guided into collecting fishing memorabilia. For many years, my focus has been on Wisconsin made items. However, I have accumulated fishing tackle from around the country."

His collection includes lures, fish decoys, reels, rods, minnow buckets, tackle boxes, spears, gaffs and related items—thousands of pieces in total. Some of his collection is on display in his home in what Slusar refers to as the "lure cave." The lure cave is a shrine dedicated to fishing tackle, mostly of Wisconsin, and cases of old lures line the walls.

"I do enjoy hosting and participating in fishing collectible shows, and will sometimes display my collection at these events. I also go to fishing expos and similar gatherings where I will create special displays for the public," he said. Slusar is an active member in the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club and hosts one of the largest collectible shows in the nation each year in January. The event in Milwaukee draws close to 250 members from around the country.

Beyond the passion for fishing and hosting collectible shows, Slusar is fascinated by the historical aspect.

He invests an interest in each lure, but a stronger focus on the history of the lure or fishing gear. Connecting the lure to the inventor and designer is important to Slusar as knowledge of the people who made these antique lures has been lost over time.

"I'd be thrilled to get any information, but an ID on this bait would be fantastic. It's a little bit of a needle in the haystack scenario.

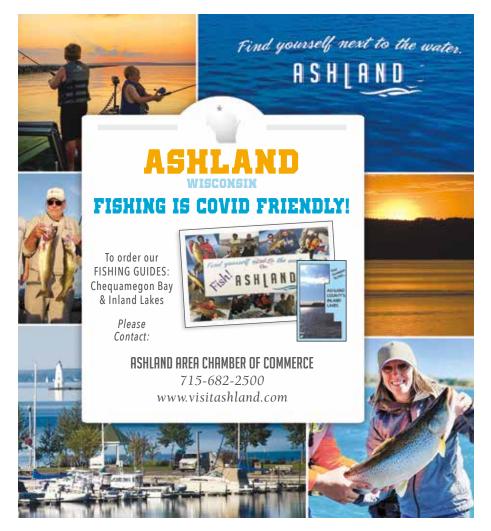


Chris Slusar has collected thousands of antique lures and fishing gear over the past 40 years. He hopes someone can help identify a lure made in the Chetek area, pictured above, most likely during the 1930s or 1940s.

You're talking about something that's 70 years old or possibly older. There's just not many people around from that era. I'll keep my fingers crossed."

If you have any leads, contact Slusar at cjslusar@gmail.com."

Tyler Florczak is the sports and outdoor editor for The Chetek Alert newspaper. He has been working as a writer, photographer and videographer for 10 years. Florczak lives on the Chetek Chain of Lakes in Chetek with his wife, son and 12-year-old dog Stella.





SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA King of Kings Algoma is Lake Michigan salmon, trout capital

he sun is peaking over the orange horizon, a wisp of clouds makes the morning sky seem like a Terry Redlin print with a flaming orange sky and calm aqua-blue water. My fishing partner, Capt. Trevor, is adjusting a port slide diver line and the captain, well I'm enjoying my first morning cup of coffee but the serenity does not last long.

"Fish on!" Trevor yells, followed by another strike and another shout, and another. Aaah, the sounds of spring. It's music to my ears. I love early spring fishing. The most exciting sound, to me, is hearing that drag scream out as a huge King Salmon decides that the opposite direction from the boat is where he wants to go.

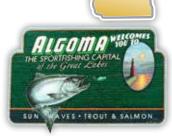
Now the fun really starts with two big kings on and lines screaming; a most enjoyable kind of chaos. Trevor has command of the back deck as he directs the customers to their appropriate spots and we begin to move rods up and out of the way to make room to fight and land the king salmon causing this ruckus. Seconds later, Trevor has slid the net under a 20-pound king, to the cheers of the anglers aboard.

My nephew sure has gained a good sense for what is going on back deck. It reminds me of when I started back in the early 1970s. Over the years I have watched this fishery grow beyond belief. Algoma has always been right in the middle of the rise of the salmon and trout fishery, hosting some of Wisconsin's early rearing ponds to hold the fingerlings a few weeks longer and enhancing early survival prior to release into Lake Michigan. The Algoma area has also held or continues to hold many of the state records for Wisconsin's Lake Michigan salmon and trout species. Because these big fish are here in quantity, we also host one of the state's largest and most productive charter fishing fleets.

For good reason, Algoma has been known as the "Salmon and Trout Capital of the Midwest". For the past 21 years, the Algoma area has been the state leader in king salmon catch numbers, and has also been the state leader in steelhead catch for 15 years running. Quite a feat considering all the ports up and down the shoreline; but the Algoma area has unique shoreline that transitions from sandy shoreline to the south to rocky structure to the north. This combination, I feel, lends itself to an ability to hold more baitfish on a consistent basis. And as we all know, where there is food, the predator fish like kings and steelhead will come.

Experience for yourself the great fishery Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma! For charter information or fishing reports, visit my website at: www.FishAlgoma.com or call 1-888-966-3474. For more information on the Algoma area go to: www. Algoma.org.

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. He 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.



The Walldog sign painters visited Algoma and created this mural on the side on one of Algoma's historical buildings, paying tribute to Algoma's great fishing.



Capt. Trevor shows off a 30 pound trophy king salmon.



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Algoma is known for large catches of kings and steelhead and along with that, happy anglers.

On The Cover

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Trophy Fish Replication *Is that real?*

The beast is in the boat. After pictures and a celebratory beer or two, she is released unharmed. Your hands are still shaking, and you get plenty of pats on the back for your achievement. It still seems unreal, but you have the proof of your success. Back at your cabin, the fanfare carries on late into the night. At some point, you muse about having this fish turned into a trophy. Either by choice or regulation, no fish are intentionally killed on this lake. You have heard of replicas, but know little about the process. You suspect you will never top this fish, so maybe this is an option. You had best go "shopping" as an educated consumer. You may not be one of those. Allow me to help you out here.

I am owner/operator of Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy, going on forty years. What started out as mostly a conventional skin mount practice has turned into a lucrative business that allows me to replicate trophies from all over the country. This generally starts off with a stream of questions. All questions are valid, since this is a specialty that most folks have no knowledge of. It is also a scenario where wrong advice is an expensive killer.

Let us start with "how much." It is expensive. Fish replications are made up one at a time. They are not warehoused plastic trinkets pulled off a shelf. A replication of your trophy will cost the taxidermist upwards of seven to ten dollars per inch of length. Ask about features that denote a quality casting to create a close match of your fish.

Then, the finishing and painting will at least double this. In Wisconsin, expect to pay around \$20 per inch of length for the finished trophy.

Does the replica feature thin, translucent fins? Is inner mouth, throat, and gill structure present and convincing? Scales should be crisp and clear. Pose should reflect the reality of a natural swimming motion. Fish that are curved too much up or down can look like



bananas or porpoises.

Insist that you see the casting before going ahead. In many cases, this will not be offered. Be firm on this. You cannot just ask for a six pound bass. Rather, before the fish is released, try to get a length, girth, and weight measure. One good side view of your catch should be photographed, with light in front of fish, not behind it.

Research the reputation and qualifications of your fish replicator. I say this because painting a casting is not technically taxidermy. Plenty of folks farm out their work to those who specialize in fish. Wholesale and retail. They may make a small profit on each sale for doing nothing.

Steer clear of "big box" operations. Some of these may advertise on outdoor channels, and may do great sailfish and shark mounts, but a generic, horrible job on a sixteen inch brook trout.

Don't let folks across a certain border talk you into leaving the work in Canada. Used to be almost a monopoly on this with outfitters getting some good perks. Bring your ideas back home.

I am sure I did not cover the waterfront here, but if you have any questions, just contact me. I will give you an honest answer and maybe talk you into using my services.

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

Fly-Fishing in Wisconsin *The Pink Squirrel nymph*

ne of the most popular nymphs used to fly fish in the Driftless Area was invented by a Wisconsin native from the area, John Bethke, from Westby. With its pink collars and sparkly, rainbow-like tails, it mimics nothing in nature. It must be the pink that attracts the fish.

Tying a Pink Squirrel is not overly difficult. The original hook was a Mustad 3906 in sizes 12 to 16; black thread, about 140 denier; a gold bead; red wire for the rib; the body was dubbed with a mixture of fox squirrel, an Amber Antron and a little olive ice blended together. The tail was tied with one piece of Krystal Rainbow Flash or Pearl Flash, doubled back to make a V-shaped tail; and shrimp pink chenille tied in at the collar tight up against the bead.

Variations include substituting some of the materials. For instance, I use Krystal Flash for the tail, but tie in four strands. Some mix two strands of the flash with two strands of a pheasant's tail. Some forget the red wire rib or use thread. Today, most tiers use only fox squirrel dubbing for the body. Any variation seems to work.

In addition to trout, I have used this fly to catch bluegills and rock bass. I usually tie them on #'10 and 12 hooks. Occasionally I will use a #14, but I can't tie any smaller than that anymore. If your eyes are good enough, you can tie them as small as # 22. I have never tried them on steelhead, but I might. Steelheads eat nymphs, so why not?

I usually cast Pink Squirrels up and across, drifting them deep and bouncing them off the rocks or undercut banks. I do not use indicators. I have nothing against them, and they probably help when the fish are nipping light, but I was not brought up using them. I was told to watch the line; if it moves, strike.

If the part of the stream I am fishing is mostly shallow - three-feet deep or less - the beadhead is heavy enough. I do not use split shot. When I fish deeper water, I use a fly weighted or whatever it takes to get the nymph down to the feeding level. I use a few turns of non-toxic wire when I tie weighted flies. I use 6x and 5x leaders and, occasionally, I go to a leader that sinks.

See you in the river and keep a good thought.

Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors and shares them through his photos, words, and workshops. He has written two books, "Tales of The Peshtigo Putzer" and "Photos, Poems, and a Little Bit of Prose."They are available at Orange Hat Publishing, Amazon, and his website: www.jerrykiesowoc.com.





Cubs Corner Don't Wing It: 6 Tips for Teaching Better Shotgunning Skills

s mentors of young hunters, it's up to us to provide budding sportsmen and women the guidelines they need to become successful wingshooters. With warm weather upon us and summer around the corner, it's high time to teach shotgunning skills to kids (and for that matter any adults) you'll be heading to the field with for pheasants, grouse, ducks, geese, woodcock, doves or any other winged game.

Head to a trapshooting range where the folks will understand you've got a new shooter to deal with. To reduce the inexperienced shotgunner's self-consciousness, go at the end of the day and ask for a special round or two.

The first goal is to get that young and/or new shooter familiar with their shotgun - where the safety is; how to get it on and off easily; how to swing the gun; what the trigger feels like; how the gun doesn't kick so bad after all; how the shotgun cycles if it's a pump or autoloader; or how to break the action and re-load if it's a single shot. If they've shot before, re-familiarize them with all these workings.

Imagine doing all this for the first time under live, field conditions! Even if a kid doesn't hit many clay targets, the safety level and comfort zone developed will increase their chances for success in the field exponentially.

After getting the mechanics down, it's time to try and hit a target. The same basics apply to practicing on the trap range, shooting a sporting clays course, or hunting live



birds.

Here's what to say to new shooters, and ones practicing to get better.

- 1: Cheek down. Get that check down on the stock. Feel the cool wood or plastic composite, and look down the barrel.
- **2: Both eyes open.** Depth perception is essential to good wingshooting, and one eye won't do the job.
- **3: Swing with the target.** Good wingshooting is not about aiming, but pointing. Swing with the target and through it, touching the trigger off when the muzzle passes it. On a bird or a duck, this usually means pulling the trigger as the muzzle passes the beak. Keep the shotgun swinging!

- **4: Imagine a water hose.** Imagine shot coming out of your barrel like water from a garden hose. You're trying to catch up with that bird and spray it, keeping the barrel moving. This produces a natural lead.
- **5: Don't overthink things.** Instinct is the best shooting tool you have. The mind is a wonderful computer the best ever made. With a little practice, it's amazing how proficient young shooters can be.
- **6: Take the pressure off.** Don't keep score on how many clay birds you hit. In many ways, hitting birds in the field is easier! The keys are being familiar and confident with your gun, and having fun.

Some of my proudest moments as a sporting father have involved watching my kids jog over to pick up a pheasant they dropped in the grass, or wading out to pluck up a duck that splashed into the pothole.

Kids and new hunters want to find some success in the field, and that means a bird down. That success is going to come down to one critical moment and question: Can they hit what they're shooting at? Don't take a chance and just wing it next fall. Start taking the time now to get your young or new wingshooter familiar with their shotgun, shooting it comfortably and effectively, and building their confidence.

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

Recipes with Suzette Summertime

arm days of summer for me in the 1960s and '70s were filled with swimming, camping, fishing and riding mini bikes. I won't write a column about mini bikes because I could never figure out how to ride them, but I will share my experience with panfish. While camping with my best friend Vicky and her family, we would fish as often as we were allowed. Even though I never cared for my job assignment (scaling the fish) I also never tired of eating them. Fried fish and eggs for breakfast, fried fish sandwiches for lunch, and fried fish with toppings for dinner was my idea of heaven. Here are some panfish recipes that go back to the decades of my childhood. Enjoy!

Stuffed Fried Fish

Heat frying pan or skillet prior to putting in the cooking oil or shortening. Use the amount you like best for frying fish. Allow one fish per person.

Clean and scale fish, keeping them whole. Rub outside with seasoned salt and oil or cream about 30 minutes before cooking.

¹/₄ teaspoon black pepper

1/2 cup hot water

Stuffing:

1 cup cornmeal

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon powdered garlic (more if needed to make meal pasty)

Or 1 T grated onion (not both)

This makes enough for 3 or 4 small fish. Fill cavities of each fish and secure with toothpicks, then roll fish in flour or cornmeal, as you prefer, and fry. The stuffing is really not to be eaten, but is only for flavor supreme.

Ma's Camper Fish

Panfish (scaled/cleaned) Lemon (sliced)

Onion (sliced) Parsley

Salt & Pepper

Prepare coals or campfire. When ready, oil cast iron skillet. Place whole fish in pan; sprinkle with salt, pepper and parsley and top with slices of onion and lemon. Cook until crispy.

"Fish Sticks"

4 Panfish ¹/₂ cup cornmeal 4 T hot bacon fat Salt & pepper

Sprinkle the cleaned fish with salt and pepper. Dip each fish in cornmeal and baste with hot bacon fat. Cook on a stick** over the fire until the fish are crispy.

** Use a "green" stick if you want to do this the traditional way, or use a well soaked wooden skewer for a more modern twist. 🚱

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.



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JACOB QUIGLEY Kayak Wisconsin Sugar River is one sweet ride

PUT IN: Belleview Community Park 3/13/21 TAKE OUT: Exeter Park

DISTANCE: 4.7 Miles (2.5 hour trip)

Luckily I was able to find shore, but with the temperatures near freezing, I had put myself at risk of hypothermia. I learned that sticking to a small body of water or a river early in the season when it's cold and wearing a dry suit are good ideas. Not doing so can put you at risk of injury and/ or death.

When my wife Kace and I started our season this year, it was on the less challenging Sugar River, which is located just south of Madison and is famous for summer tubing. We selected Belleview Community Park as our starting point and Exeter Park as our end point. Sugar River has a slow current and the width of the river does not exceed 50 feet. I didn't want a repeat of last year's incident on the Wisconsin. This trip was designed to makes it easy to swim to shore in case of capsize in the cold water that is common early in the year. Kace and I enjoyed the scenery as we looked above at a road overpass and a wooden railroad bridge which had been converted to the Badger State Trail. Anglers fished along the shore enjoying the beautiful spring day. Fish native to the Sugar River, by the way, include bluegill, catfish, crappie, largemouth, smallmouth and rock bass, walleye, drum, and even northern pike and muskies.

The first mile of our trip had a slow, calm current and was mostly a straight shot, but as we approached mile two, the current picked up and the river began to show some character. It began to wind left and right, which is what I enjoy most about kayaking on rivers. They provide a sense of mystery and make you wonder what will be around the next bend.

Gravel bar deposits were present at most of the bends and the woods began to get more dense, giving a feeling of solitude and seclusion. The only log jam we encountered was near the end of mile two, an obstacle easily avoidable via paddling without portage.

At mile three the forestry began to open up as we drifted in between farm fields and a gorgeous view of houses set upon hilltops in the distance. The temperature was nearing 60 degrees and being in the open beneath the sun was rewarding. The last mile and a half were similar to mile



two, surrounded by woods and dotted with some houses. Just before we hit Exeter Park, we were greeted by two more scenic bridges.

Overall I would say that Sugar River is great for an early season paddle, but if you are an adventure seeker like me, you won't find many challenges. The lack of thrills, however, is what makes it an excellent river for beginners and a great place to practice maneuverability and navigation. Easy launching and take-out add to its novice appeal.

Challenging or not, the Sugar River is a wonderful place to enjoy a beautiful spring Wisconsin day. \mathcal{V}



TOM CARPENTER Badger Birds *Eastern Meadowlark*

A flash of sunny yellow and a melodious, flutelike song ... must be an eastern meadowlark!



These cheerful birds brighten up grasslands across Wisconsin. Lightly

grazed pastures, grassy fields, traditional hayfields, some farm fields, golf courses, parks with open space - and of course meadows - make prime habitat for eastern meadowlarks. There's nothing quite like driving through the countryside with open windows on a fresh late spring or early summer day and filling the car with bubbly meadowlark song.

Listen for the flutey, whistling song of a meadowlark. Eastern meadowlarks (such as we commonly have in Wisconsin) offer a mellow and short *see-you see-here* song. Western meadowlarks (which occasionally make it into the state) sing a longer *whee-chir-weedle-ee-ee-chee* tune.

Look for meadowlarks perched atop fenceposts, stiff stalks of grass, or barbed wire or other fences. Meadowlarks love to sing from most any elevated spot, where their song is better heard. Their flight is low to the ground. Meadowlarks nest on the ground. As a prairie bird, the meadowlark prefers short grass – maybe a foot in height.

Appreciate meadowlarks for their pest control services. They hunt and eat grasshoppers, crickets, insect larvae and grubs, all with great efficiency. That long bill is spear-shaped, sharp and strong for a reason.

Distinguish between western and eastern meadowlarks as follows: Western meadowlarks have more yellow up through the cheeks and are lighter colored because of the more arid environment. Both subspecies sport a black V-shaped bib on the chest. The other distinguishing characteristic is the song, described above.

Did you know that meadowlarks are not true larks? Rather, meadowlarks belong to the blackbird family, and are related to crows. It's also important to know that disappearing grasslands have caused a decline of more than 80 percent in eastern meadowlark populations since the early 1960s.

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

TOM CARPENTER Just May Let me count the ways

et's float a random but fun hypothetical question here. "If you could have one calendar month off over the course of a year in Wisconsin, just for doing outdoor things, what month would it be?"

I'd be hard pressed not to choose October. That's probably the hunter in me coming through.

But I am going to be honest from the depths of my heart. Give me May. Let me count the ways.

There is some hunting to be had – specifically, for the magnificent wild turkey – and that is indeed grand. Some hunters think May is "too late" for good hunting. Let them have April. Give me the steadier and warmer weather of May for good gobbling and enjoyable hunting conditions.

Turkeys aren't the only birds of May. Our woods, meadows, prairies and wetlands teem with bird life of all kinds in May. Many migrating songbirds, including warblers, come through. Waterfowl abound. Grouse drum. Pheasants crow. Geese honk. Bluebirds trill. Robins nest. Wood ducks squeal. The first hummingbirds hum. May is for birding.

May is also for foraging. While the year's berry crops are just a promise for summer, the search for morel mushrooms makes my heart glad on a sultry May day as I poke through the forest duff around a downed elm or oak. To add to the bounty, last year I discovered the ramp, also called the leek or wild onion; garlicky breath has never been such a pleasure. Oh, and wild asparagus always makes me remember my dad.

We almost forgot about fishing. Here, take your pick.

My first choice in May is trout. I often wonder what heaven is, but it in my mind it could well have something to do with wandering along a gurgling creek (can you smell the wild mint?), tossing a line into the springwater, and hoping to hook into a couple golden-bellied brown trout before jungly summer takes over the meadows, thickets and woodlands.

We cannot forget about all the other fishing – some of the season's finest – that happens in May. Walleyes on the big water. Pike getting active. Crappies hitting the beds (once again – April is usually just on the early side), and toward the end of the month, bluegills. Only take what you can eat for a meal or two.

It is hard to imagine a better time of the year to hike than May. There just isn't the swelter or humidity of summer, the foliage is not as thick, and there is a certain freshness to the "new green" of the landscape. You might see a doe and fawn.

Put biking into this locomotion category too. No better time to go on a trek over scenic back roads or one of Wisconsin's dedicated bike trails, and smell the good earth from fresh-plowed cropfields



sprouting with corn.

I was once enchanted by a May morning. Turkeys gobbled up and down the valley. I sat against an ancient bur oak and a scarlet tanager – more red than red can be - landed above and sang his song. A wild crabapple tree, glowing pink with blossoms, wafted its sweet-gentle perfume. Sunlight dappled through new oak leaves. I lucked into a meal's worth of morels on my walk out of the woods. Later in the day, I caught a couple fat trout.

Laying in bed that night, windows open to a breeze neither warm nor cool but perfect, I thought maybe it had all been a dream.

But it was just May. 💯

Explore Wisconsin SPOTLIGHT | POLK COUNTY Discover. Explore. Enjoy.

Polk County is waiting for you this summer with open arms and so much more. Polk County is located in scenic northwest Wisconsin, about 50 miles northeast of St. Paul, Minnesota. Before coming up personally to say hello, allow us to introduce ourselves and what we have to offer your family via our website. Connect with www.polkcountytourism.com.

Once on our homepage, the links in the left margin will take you to pages containing information about our scenic and recreational attractions, accommodations, forestry, parks, UTV and ATV trails, wineries, museums, recreation, the arts, and so much more. We have 3,500 miles of shoreline to fish, swim, canoe and kayak, horse trails, bike trails, festivals and music events and on and on. We're betting you didn't know that the Ice

Age National Trail begins in Polk County's Interstate Park and travels through the entire county on its 1,200 mile meandering journey throughout the entire state.

Check out the details on our Events Calendar 2021, and when you see what's most interesting to you throughout the summer and the rest of the year, let's plan that family get-a-way. For example, listed below are a handful of the events and activities

BOB SPIERINGS Bob's Bear Bait

A summer rapidly approaches, we do so much running around that we forget to stop and appreciate everything we have and can do that others cannot. One of those is to bear hunt. Unfortunately, not everyone is able to participate in bear hunting every season. For those with disabilities or young kids, this could be a once in a lifetime experience. We at Bob's Bear Bait have been lucky enough to assist those that graciously donate their precious tags to the youth and individuals with disabilities. We encourage those who will not use their tag or simply wish to put a smile on someone's face to donate their tag today.

We've been very grateful to have a strong BBB (Bob's Bear Bait) family for over 13 years. This season we encourage you to not let it end when you leave our shop. Baiting can be a great time to get the whole family involved! Kids can feel like a personal chef as they mix their own concoctions of granola, frosting, sprinkles and other goodies at our shop. The best part is you won't have a dirty kitchen afterwards! It's these simple activities that kids will remember, and there is nothing better than getting kids involved in the great outdoors. Our hunting heritage depends on it. We encourage you and your family to pick out the best goodies at one of our three shops. We have plenty of lightweight bait that is great for drawing in bears. Because it's light, it's easier to pack for long distances. This is especially true for youngsters who think "they've got it," while leaving a trail of crumbs as they drag a heavy bait bucket with them to the site.

For more great tips, stop in and chat with us. Our staff members have over 20+ years of combined bear hunting experience and over 13 years in the bear bait business! Bob's Bear Bait carries the largest variety of bear bait in Wisconsin. We have multiple locations in Wisconsin and Michigan, including our new location in Birnamwood, Wisconsin. We pride ourselves as being your one stop shop for all your baiting needs. We offer scents, bulk bait, fruit toppings, and dry bait. The list goes on. From spring to fall we have it all!

Stay up to date and see our locations and bait selection by signing up for our email newsletter at bobsbearbait.com. Use code OWOSUMR21 for a free bacon smear with an online order of \$48 or more. Make sure to add the bacon smear to your cart to receive the coupon. As always, happy baiting and good luck to all the hunters!



Bear Hunting in Northern Wisconsin

isconsin bear hunting is more and more popular each year. In 2016, over 109,000 hunters applied for 11,250 permits. Obtaining a kill tag is done by accumulating "preference points". Applications are available ONLY online or at any license sale facility. Applications are due December 10 each year, with the drawing held in early-mid February.

Applicants must apply at least once every three years or your preference point total returns to zero. To learn more about Wisconsin's bear hunting laws, visit dnr.wi.gov or call us for details.

Rough It Bear Hunts is located in North Iron County, Zone A. In 2019, the harvest goal was 900 with 1,590 authorizations available, 946 bear were harvested. Our service has over 20 spots which are camera monitored and baited from early May up to and through the hunting season. Guide packages vary depending on need and can include a stay in our rustic cabin located on a private lake with musky, northern and bass fishing.



Rough It Bear Hunts

HURLEY | WISCONSIN

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GUIDE: JOE FRANZOI Call or Email for package information 715-862-2970 | roughitbearhunt@yahoo.com

MIKE FOSS Bear Season Advice Staying ahead of regulation changes

Some confusion is always expected when rules and regulations are changed. So it's no surprise when some bear hunters received that longawaited Wisconsin bear tag in the mail only to realize the area they hoped to hunt is now considered a different Zone.

There was plenty of warning of the new zone changes from the Wisconsin DNR. So what do you do now? Consider these options:

Look for a bear guide service. This late in the game, however, some may not be taking on any more hunters.

Ask a guide service if you could book your hunt for the second week of the season when most first-week hunters are gone.

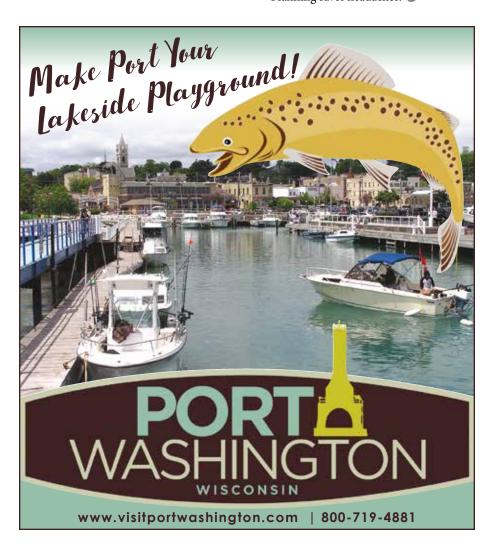
Donate your tag to a youth hunter or veteran.

Plan a Do It Yourself (DIY) hunt. Start knocking on doors and put your boots on the ground. There's nothing more



Bear hunting success does not happen by luck. Planning ahead will increase your odds of filling the tag, maybe even like this dream bear caught on trail cam and weighing in at 639 pounds in 2009.

satisfying than doing it yourself. For those that are thinking of applying or might be getting a tag for 2022, do your homework now. Research the new Wisconsin bear zones before applying and learn, on average, how many points it takes to draw a permit. If you plan on hiring a bear guide, call now and discuss hunt details. Planning saves headaches.



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Fox Valley Retriever Club

Training You To Train Your Retriever FOXVALLEYRETRIEVERCLUB.COM



TOM MUELLER Retriever Hunt Tests *Tremendous benefits for both owner, retriever*

The Fox Valley Retriever Club's first test is May 15 and 16. Many of the other retriever clubs in southeast Wisconsin will follow shortly thereafter and through the summer. This may not peak your interest as a typical retriever owner and hunter, but training for and competing in hunt tests can be immensely beneficial for you and your dog.

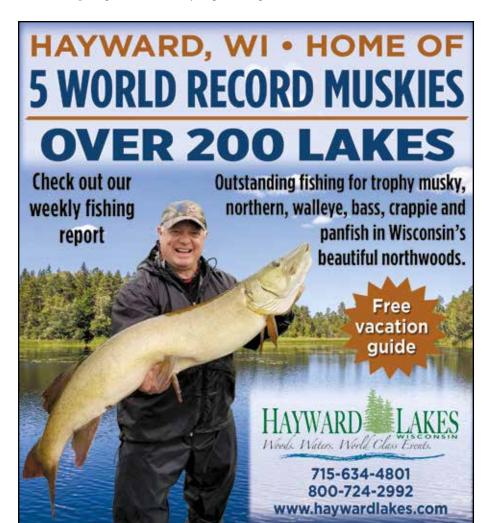
Although I've touched on this topic before, I can't stress enough the importance of the consistent training that comes with competing in hunt tests. When I started testing my golden retrievers, I was like most; a guy who liked to hunt and hunted with a retriever. Once I started training for and competing in hunt tests, my dog's skill set and my skill and knowledge as a trainer improved dramatically. My dogs progressed to achieve almost perfect obedience, especially in the various hunting situations that one would encounter when in the marsh or field. They sat still in the blind or next to the blind in spite of all the distractions that a retriever will encounter when on a hunt, enhancing my hunting experience.

Most hunting retriever owners buy a pup with FCs (Field Champions), AFCs (Amateur Field Champion), MHs (Master Hunter), and SHs (Senior Hunter) packed throughout the lineage. Puppies with pedigrees may have the potential to become superb retrievers, but are never given the chance because their owners just want a "huntin' dog." Given the opportunity and training, a retriever pup can learn and grow above and beyond being predominantly a house pet. Your dog will become more than just a seasonal hunting dog; it's natural and genetic abilities and talent can be conditioned and developed so it's confidence, skill, and focus have improved to a whole new level above and beyond being just a "huntin' dog." The benefit for you as owner is that your knowledge and skill as a retriever trainer will develop and improve also.

When you run in a hunt test you are given a score. Because you and your retriever are not competing against other dogs, but are being judged according **CONTINUED ON PAGE 21**



When competing in hunt tests the gals often do as well as the guys. FVRC member Katie Oszewski and her chocolate lab Bo after a good day at a hunt test.



HAYWARD, **from page 6**

another great option that can add a whole new dimension to your arsenal.

The Hayward area offers some excellent sight fishing opportunities on the clearer lakes. Grindstone, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Sand Lake offer awesome opportunities for smallmouth bass. Round, Sissabagama, and many of the smaller lakes in the area are worth a look for panfish. Rising trout

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are another great sight-fishing opportunity, with some phenomenal May and June hatches leading to consistent brown trout bites on the Namekagon River. Spider Lake and the Tiger Cat Chain, among many others, are a lot of fun for clear water musky action. Keep your eyes peeled on the water for those follows!

Call 715-634-4801 or 800-724-2992 or connect with www.haywardlakes.com.





BILL CUNNEA Reliving the Day *Creating a photo essay*

Simply put, a photo essay is the selection and placement of a series of related images to tell a story and re-create some sense of the textures, sights, and experiences of the event.

Today's digital technology facilitates and encourages the taking of images. Unfortunately, rather than displaying them, we have a tendency to put the pictures in some electronic device for storage and then bury them with countless additional pictures. We archive our memories.

I don't much like that. Better to display some of the images that have enlivened my memories of days and dogs gone by. I want to walk by and with a casual glance, give a faint smile at the images, the memories, and the document of life-lived well.

Capturing and preserving these images doesn't take much effort, but it does take some thought.

You make the rules, but here are some guidelines:

Go through the pictures of your hunt, select one or two you think have greater impact than the others. Make these larger and, perhaps, more of a center focus when you look at the assemblage. Pick other shots, such as those that feature your dog running, pointing, retrieving, or just standing there figuring things out. If you have one, pick an image of the grounds, or the weather, to give a sense of scale to the grouping. Most of us take a trophy shot of the birds harvested to be included as part of the statement of a successful hunting outing.

Now, there are many sites online where you can send your digital images and have prints made. Select one or two for larger format, i.e., $5 \ge 7$, $8 \ge 10$, keeping in mind that you can trim these down for the final product. The others will serve to set the scene, the atmosphere of the day, and stimulate your memory as you view and remember the stops, accelerations, and physical expressions of your dog.

Looking for OUTDOOR STORIES? Check out ONWISCONSINOUTOORS.COM!



If you don't want to get the images online, then Walgreens and other stores have kiosks where you can take your digital images and make a physical enlargement in the store.

Don't be too critical of the smaller prints you select. A blurred shot of the dog running may not be great photography, but it imbues the image with a sense of speed and urgency; it adds to the memory of the hunt.

The essay with the smaller pictures was made with a point-and-shoot 35mm film pocket camera. When I had the images processed, the first one turned out much better than I thought it would, and consequently inspired me to use the others to capture the hunt for a wall hanging. This only took selection and putting together the array.

The larger photo essay was created from images using a short telephoto (100mm) lens on a quality 35mm film camera. I took more time, some variety of image size, and what skill I had to create the images.

Both essays please me and take me back. Try it, I think you'll like it. 🗭

JOIN THE HUNT! www.wernvalley.com Hunting Preserve & Sporting Clay Conveniently located just minutes west of Milwaukee in Waukesha, Wern Valley offers the finest in upland bird hunting as well as a professional full-time staff dedicated to the avid sportsman and woman. Our nationally recognized sporting clays course is open to the public year round. Bring along your family, shooting buddies, or your four-legged companion and see all that Wern Valley has to offer! For more information on how to Join the Hunt, give us a call at **262-968-2400.**



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY ATV/UTV trails and So Much More

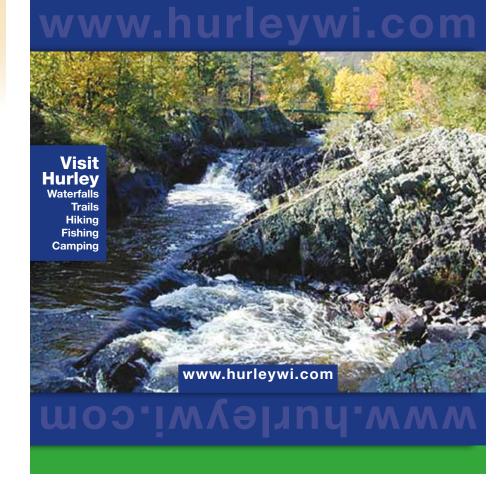
Plan a trip to Hurley and enjoy over 300 miles of trails to ride. Kick off your day in Hurley and head west to the Plummer Mine Headframe. At 80 feet high, the last of the steel giants remains with an interpretive park that honors the Penokee Range iron miners and their families. Continue west through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

On the way back to Hurley from Saxon Harbor, the choice can be made to head south to the

Island Lake area along Trail 9 or 11 - either way the ride is enjoyable and there are miles to explore. A stop at the B47 Veterans Memorial is a must on the to-do list, as well as Spring Camp Falls. Bring your camera and capture the memories.

Along the way be sure to stop and enjoy local establishments with unique menu items, some with traditional foods that have been passed along from generation to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30







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Explore Wisconsin

SPOONER

SPOTLIGHT | SPOONER • WASHBURN COUNTY

Hit the Trails in Spooner

Summer is just around the corner and it is the perfect time for silent sport enthusiasts to hit the trails in and around Spooner! From awesome mountain biking and hiking trails to horseback riding trails with plenty of relaxing pavilions and picnic areas along the way, the Spooner area is home to many unforgettable trails that wind through a variety of picturesque landscapes you won't soon forget.

Spooner is well known as a premier ATV/UTV destination, but what you may not be aware of is that it is also home to a couple top-notch mountain biking trails. Located only three miles east of Spooner on Highway 70 you will find the renowned Wildcat Trail constructed and expertly maintained by local mountain biking enthusiasts. This trail boasts a combination of single track, old logging trails and portions of the Beaverbrook ATV trail that accommodates a wide range of riding skills and experiences. Another great choice is College Street Park, located in the city of Spooner itself, which offers six miles of easily accessible multiple loop trails suitable for bikers of all skill levels and close enough to

MUELLER, FROM PAGE 16

to a performance standard, the score provides a measurement of your retriever's skill and ability. The score you receive may be high enough to allow you to pass, but that score, and watching your dog's performance or lack thereof, will readily tell you how effective or ineffective your training program has been. Along with the judges, you will have a front row seat to judge your dog's performance. You will be able to see where your dog has done well, and where it needs more training and work. downtown to ride and grab a bite to eat afterward or shop at Spooner's many specialty retail stores.

Now is also the time to lace up those hiking boots and check out some of the many trails that meander in and around the Spooner area. Located just outside of Spooner in Trego, Heartwood Resort is a breathtaking 700-acre wilderness paradise. The resort has 16 miles of well-maintained trail loops offering incredible views of two private lakes as well as Wisconsin's Moving National Park the Namekagon River. Want to add an extra level of fun to your expedition? Check out their Namekagon National Championship Disc Golf Course that features a 9-hole par 3 course and 24 holes of scenic tournament level play. Your possibilities for fun here are endless!

Another opportunity to really take in some of the Northwoods beauty lies between Spooner and Stone Lake off Highway 70 where you will find the Dugan Run Horse Trails. With just over 32 miles of designated equestrian trail loops winding through gently rolling hills, you are sure to fall in love with this serene landscape that presents riders with views of numerous

Competing in hunt tests forces you to train more consistently and with a purpose. It gives you a goal to strive for and enables you to keep your dog physically and mentally fit. It will also improve your relationship with your retriever. Your dog will be more focused on you. You will become more of a fun, go-to-guy rather than just the mundane, everyday guy that fills the bowl full of food and lets it outside to go.

Your retriever will have an improved attitude towards you and your attitude towards your retriever will also improve. Your dog's performance and increased abilities will make it worthy of the many credentials before



bodies of water and beautiful forest. The two different trail heads also offer a range of accommodations with peaceful pavilions and picnic areas throughout, in addition to campsites being available for only \$10 to \$15 per night.

No matter how you choose to traverse its terrain, Spooner is an absolutely incredible place to explore the many fabulous trails Northwestern Wisconsin has to offer!

For more information, contact Lauren E. Seifert, Membership and Office Manager, Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 635-2168, 122 North River St. | Spooner, WI, 548010r info@ spoonerchamber.org | Photo Provided by Washburn County Tourism/James Netz Photography

and after the dog's names that are listed in its pedigree. Getting your dog titled at any level, whether it be AKC American Kennel Club) or UKC (United Kennel Club), speaks volumes about your dog, its training, your relationship with it, and its relationship with you.

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 found. For information regarding retriever training or the Fox Valley Retriever Club, contact Tom at winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com or visit foxvalleyretrieverclub. com or Facebook.



An Uplifting Solution Bringing car problems down to size

or those us who literally spend more of our lives under a car, than in a car, finding better and more comfortable ways to work is key. Especially as we grow older.

A little about me; I am not a certified mechanic. I have no formal training. I'm 73 years old and have been modifying and building cars since I was 18. In addition to a '66 Vette and '66 Impala the current project is a 1940 Buick Special.

Ninety percent of what I've learned has come from screwing things up royally, but learning from the mistakes and looking for ways to make life easier. Common knowledge, for example, states you need at least an 11-plus foot ceiling height to work, standing under a 4-post lift. Absolutely true...if, you want to be common.

I have dreamed of a lift in my own garage for years, but believed it was limited by the height of my garage ceiling. One day it hit me; instead of raising the ceiling...lower my tired old body. I had a lift installed, bought a cheap Cosco wheelchair....with the result so fantastic that now I don't know how I ever worked on cars without it. <complex-block>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



UNDER THE HOOD, FROM PAGE 22

As shown in the photos, everything is just a slight reach above my head. In addition to being under the car, being next to it at waist height also has many advantages:

- Waxing the lower body.
- Checking tire pressure.
- Brake work.
- Other things I'm sure I haven't thought of yet.

One word of caution; when welding, it's hard to dodge sparks on a wheelchair. Buy a welding blanket and put it on your lap....I have a pair of jeans with burn holes as testament.

Have fun. See you at the Wisconsin car shows. **Publisher Note:** *Connect with*

www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com and watch Brad's 5-minute video as he takes his '66 Impala from a thousand pieces to awesome machine. You've probably seen Brad and his Impala at Wisconsin's many car show...right next to his '66 Vette. Although he's not very comfortable using his talent to offer unsolicited advice, we asked him to share some of the tricks he's learned under the hood. We think you'll like what he occasionally has to say in OWO, and we're betting he will make your life in the garage easier.



SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE The All-American Road Trip Destination

ikely you have been thinking about what to do, where to go and how to get there these days with the sunshine and warmer weather just giving you the itch to do something fun and get away for a bit. Ferryville is just the ticket and so easy to reach on a road trip from anywhere in Wisconsin, northern Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. This is the place to set your GPS on and take a trip.

May 14 & 15 is Rummage Along the River 70- Mile Garage Sale. If you need ANYTHING this event will be sure to help you find it. There are fishing poles, hunting gear, boats, deer mounts (get one for your wall and tell your friends you bagged the 'big one'), boat motors, water skiis, sporting clothes, you name it, you will find it. Look for lawn mowers, big sized clothes, teapots, antique books from 1900 – 1913, dishes, household items, vintage Tupperware, Amish quilts and baskets and beyond. Villages of Lynxville, Seneca, Mt. Sterling, Ferryville, De Soto, Genoa and Stoddard are where this is at. Food is everywhere and the pubs will be hopping. This is a really fun time. Need a place to stay? Book it NOW.

So you want to hike or ATV? Hiking on Sugar Creek Bluff is awesome and easy to get to on North Buck Creek Road. Spring bird migration is in full tilt and the rare birds are winging through the region now. ATV your thing? Check out the Crawford County map and trails for a super ride to places you will love.

One fun road trip option - Take Scenic Byway Hwy 60 to Prairie du Chien and then Hwy 35 – the Wisconsin All-American Great River Road North along the Mississippi River. You can fish from shore at Gordon's Landing or at Cold Spring both located right off of Hwy 35 and just north of Prairie du Chien. Try the Ferryville Boat Launch for fishing and get your limit of pan fish. Camp at Sugar Creek Park – Ferryville or Blackhawk Park – De Soto.

Kick back and make your Wisconsin Memories. 🕑

Submitted by: Sherry Quamme, Ferryville Tourism Council | 14767 Eagle Ridge Road | Ferryville, WI 54628 | Cell: 920-210-4560 | Email: squamme43@gmail.com

Photo credit James Netz



A Place for All Seasons SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Explore Wisconsin

May 14th & 15th Rummage Along the River

June 9th & July 14th Chautauqua Summer Series

July 24th River Bluff Daze Hike

August 11th Chautauqua Summer Series

STUART WILKE Henry 180 Returns to Road America A celebration of freedom, firearms, and racing

Henry Repeating Arms is coming back home to the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Road America in Elkhart Lake. This year's Henry 180 will see the green flag on July 3. Both the pole qualifying and race winners will receive custom-built Henry 180 edition lever-action rifles. Road America is just a few hours east of Henry's headquarters in Rice Lake, Wisconsin and, according to president and owner Anthony Imperato, "Returning to our home track in Wisconsin is something that we are very much looking forward to. This year will be even more special since the races take place during the July Fourth weekend. It's going to be a fun, patriotic weekend, and we can't wait to see our fans and make some new ones at the track."

Henry Communications Director Daniel Clayton-Luce added that "Celebrating America, guns, gears, and the Henry family is what it's all about for us."

Henry Repeating Arms is the main sponsor of the Stewart-Haas Racing Ford Mustang, which will be competing in the race. Henry will soon have some exciting news regarding the team. "Leading up to the race, we will be announcing our driver and car design with Stewart-Haas Racing," Clayton-Luce said. "Following us on social media is going to be the best way to stay up-to-date on those announcements."



The Henry Repeating Arms Xfinity Mustang (front left) at the Henry 180 in 2020.

Originating in 2010, the Henry 180 is known for being extremely competitive with unpredictable results. The skills needed at Road America are far different from those required at conventional oval race tracks. Rather than just two straights and four turns, Road America is a fast track with elevation changes that challenges drivers with 14 turns and multiple straights. It is truly a test of cars and their driver's skill, stamina and team preparation.

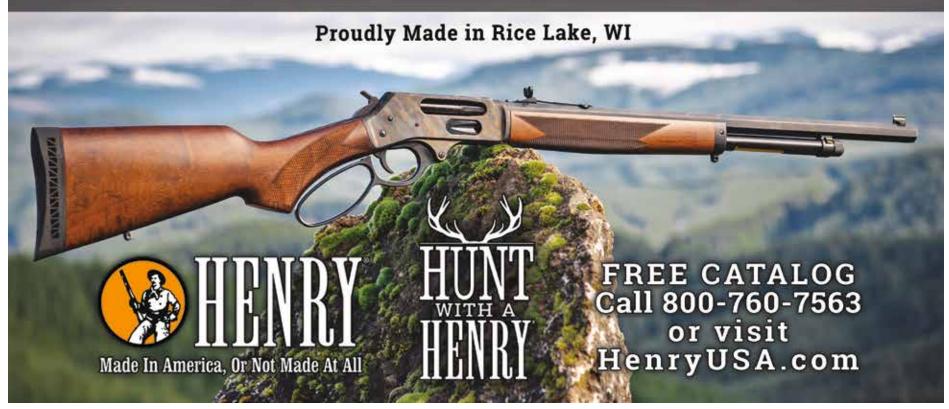
As Imperato said, this year's event is particularly noteworthy because it falls on Independence Day weekend. Clayton-Luce added that "We wanted to do something special and continue our support of our country's military. This year, we are going to be giving away free general admission to 180 U.S. military active-duty members, veterans, retirees, or family members so that they can come out and enjoy the race with us."

Henry and racing are a natural fit. "We feel that so many motorsports fans also enjoy the outdoors, hunting, own at least one firearm, or enjoy visiting the shooting range with their friends and family on the weekend, " Clayton-Luce said. "We see a lot of excitement in people when they come across our display at the track, so we feel that we're at the right place and doing the right thing."

"We want to tell our story to a larger audience outside of those that follow the firearms industry. We want people to know that we're making heirloom-quality rifles and shotguns in the great state of Wisconsin, and we want people to stop and consider us when they're in the market for a new hunting rifle or home defense firearm. We have a lot to offer, not just in the number of different calibers and finishes that we manufacture, but also as a company, and a sponsorship that's on a national stage like this will allow us to spread our message far and wide."

Henry 180 tickets are now available by visiting www.roadamerica. com or by calling 800-365-7223. For more information about Henry Repeating Arms and its products, visit henryusa.com or call 866-200-2354.

Nostalgic Finish Meets Modern Construction HENRY COLOR CASE HARDENED .45-70



OnWisconsinOutdoors.com



Unlike most tracks, Road America racing fans are not limited to watching races from distant, cramped seats. There are plenty of great vantage points on the 640-acre sight.

STUART WILKE Road America: *Come for the experience, stay for the races*

B eautiful scenery, rolling hills, well-kept campsites, and a safe, family-friendly atmosphere are rarely associated with motorsports. Instead, modern racetracks often conjure up images of aluminum, concrete monstrosities where spectators bake in the sun on uncomfortable seats.

Not so Road America. The course remains true to its 1950s roots in Plymouth, Wisconsin, and is one of the last proper road courses left in the United States, according to Road America Communications Director John Ewert. The stereotypical racetrack travels a distance of two miles and has four turns and two straightaways. Road America boasts 14 turns and several straight stretches comprising over four miles in a bucolic rural setting.

"It's a very technical, challenging track," Ewert said. "Drivers love it, and many of the best got their early starts here and often raced here, including Sam Posey, Parnelli Jones, Bruce McClaren, Roger Penske, and Mario Andretti."

Unlike most tracks, Road America guests aren't limited to watching their favorite racers from afar. With a paid pass, "You can visit the paddock and pits, get an autograph, take a picture and talk to the drivers and crews," Ewert noted. In some cases, you can even share lunch with them.

"In 2003, Mario Andretti was at the track helping with promoting an open wheel event when a group of spectators watching from the turn yelled to him and asked if he wanted a sandwich." Ewert explained, "He did. He hopped over the fence and had lunch with them."

Fast forward to 2016, while hosting two-seat INDYCAR rides at Road America, some of the same people that shared lunch with Andretti were again enjoying the race from turn three. As he approached the turn, they held up a sign that read, "Want a sandwich?" Yes, he did. Thirteen years later, Andretti again joined them for lunch.

The Andretti episode, in many ways, summarizes the Road America experience. A legendary racer sharing a meal with fans is noteworthy in itself and speaks highly of Mr. Andretti. The fact that the fans were outside of turn three and not breaking any rules tells you something else: Seating is far from limited at Road America. "At most tracks, you're limited to one viewing area," Ewert said. "At Road America, you can take a lawn chair and cooler and set up at a turn or a straightaway. If you want to get a different view, you can get up and move."

If you want to take a break from the action, you can do that too. Many vendors are offering exceptional food and beverages at reasonable prices. Feeling the need to take a walk and stretch your legs? Road America has more than 600 acres of rolling hills, trails, and grounds to explore. "We're known as the National Park of Speed," Ewert noted. Not unlike a national park, perhaps even more so, Road America is an excellent place to camp.



DISCOVER CAMPING AT ROAD AMERICA

- 1600 campsites and 12 mini cabins
- Free entry age 16 and under with Adult
- 640 acre facility with room to roam
- www.RoadAmerica.com/camping



2021 ROAD AMERICA RACE SCHEDULE

May 14-16 SVRA Spring Vintage Festival

June 4-6 WeatherTech[®] Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints[®]

June 11-13 MotoAmerica Superbike Series with Vintage MotoFest

June 17-20 NTT IndyCar Series REV Group Grand Prix Presented by AMR July 1-4 Road America 250 Presented by Kwik Trip NASCAR Cup & Xfinity Series Henry 180

July 15-18 WeatherTech[®] International Challenge with Brian Redman

August 5-8 IMSA SportsCar Weekend

August 27-29 World Challenge

Sept 17-19 Ariens Art on Wheels Vintage Weekend





Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin - 1-800-365-7223 - RoadAmerica.com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT ANTIGO • LANGLADE COUNTY Visit, Live It, Love It

njoy discovering endless choices ✓ of activities, events, and FUN in Langlade County! Your whole family will enjoy an abundance of outdoor activities while embracing the relaxing, stress-free pace of the Northwoods.

Spring and Summer will soon bring blooming flowers and warmer days offer an abundance of recreational opportunities. Langlade County is the outdoor enthusiast's playground. For excitement and thrills, there is nothing that can compare to the heart-bounding speed and beauty of



whitewater rafting. We offer the best rafting fun on the famous Wolf River. You will appreciate our unsurpassed spectacular scenery as the river carries you downstream.

Whether you own an RV or enjoy primitive camping, we have a site for you. The area's surroundings offer many picturesque camping spots for a weekend getaway or longer. Experience the Northwoods' atmosphere in Langlade County when you camp among the vast hardwood forests and our magnificent waters. The beautiful outdoors will meet your expectations whether you decide to rough it or camp in luxury.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Play outdoors in Langlade County! And when you're done, Antigo/Langlade County come indoors for great dining, unique shopping, **Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center** and inviting lodging.

Visit, Live It, Love It!

888-526-4523 • ANTIGOCHAMBER.COM **24-HOUR INFORMATION AND VISITORS CENTER**



SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE **Catch Spring Memories and Win** in the La Crosse Region

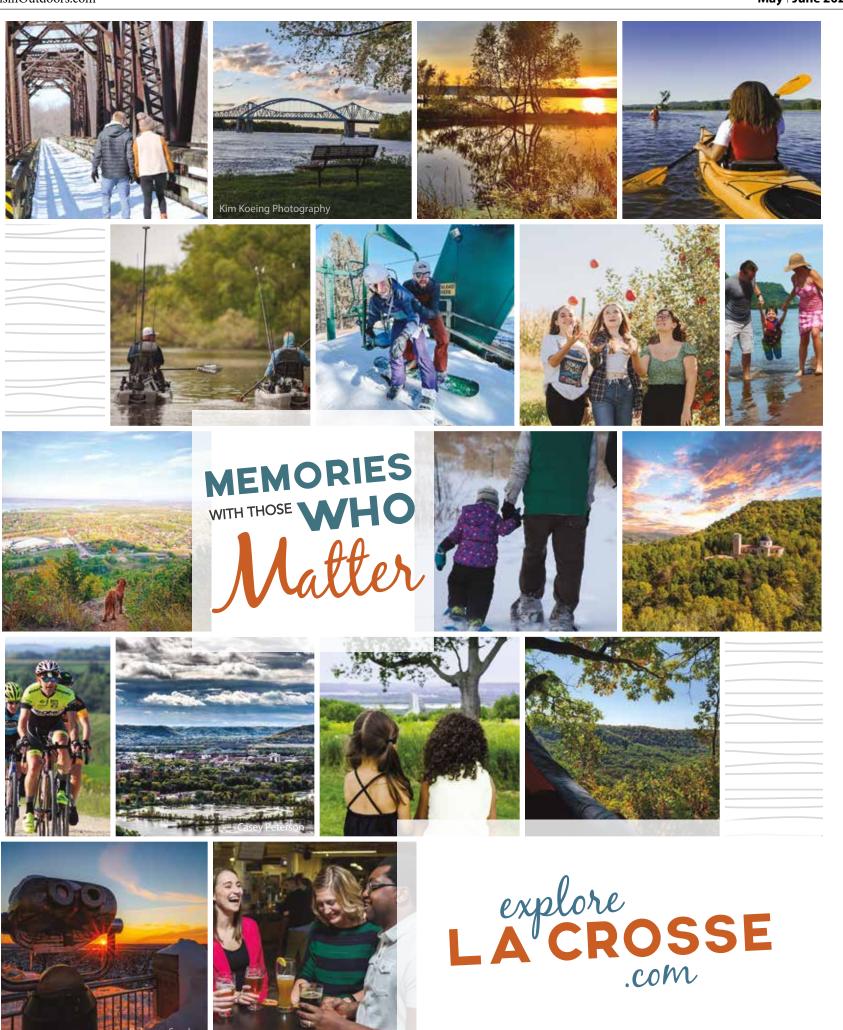
C pring is primetime for phenomenal fishing and an excellent opportunity to catch yourself a lunker, no matter which species you're seeking. As fish prepare for the Uspawn and recovery thereafter, they will be eating everything that passes within striking distance. This is the perfect time to check out some of the pristine streams for trout, hit the main channel of the Mississippi River for big walleye, perch, sauger, and smallmouth bass, or navigate the scenic backwaters for tasty bluegills, crappies, big northern pike and largemouth bass.

A lunker is not only a term for a big fish, but also an accreditation to the angler that catches it with the newly launched Lunker League Master Angler Program from Fish La Crosse. The new Lunker League is a program that celebrates anglers fishing in the La Crosse Region and the memorable fish they catch! There are different goals and milestones to earn your way into the elite program, get various accreditation, and win additional awards. This free, year-round program promotes a variety of fishing types and includes unlimited entries for both residents and visitors alike.

"Traditional Master Angler programs have become stale. Get ready to join a league re-vamped for anglers of all skill levels with fun, unique and growing opportunities to enjoy year after year," states Jeremiah Burish, avid angler and Director of Sports Sales at Explore La Crosse. Whether you're a weekend warrior, local or visiting youth, or a seasoned professional, submitting legendary catches to Lunker League is easy. Snap a measurement photo of your catch against a bump board or measuring tape, fill out the Lunker League submission form with your details if it meets fish-length requirements, and earn awards!

Spring and early summer are an excellent time to catch nearly every species of fish and enter the League. However, bass fishing really stands out. Both largemouth and smallmouth can be found in the river system around the La Crosse Region. Look for smallmouth in the main river channels in spots that protect them from the heavy current, such as rocks, downfalls, and wingdams. Largemouth bass is plentiful in the shallow backwaters. Fishing for catfish during the warmest months of the year can also be an exciting affair, with both channel cats and flatheads providing some of the best catfishing in the Midwest. 🎶

Are you ready to reel in legendary fish, buckets of memories, elite prizes, and special accreditation this season?! To learn more, visit ExploreLaCrosse.com/Lunker-League



cca Snyde

DICK ELLIS Crying Wolf Foundation of truth imperative to sound management

here is no room for crying wolf in wolf management. Proper wolf management begins with establishing an accurate current population estimate, establishing a population goal, and establishing a harvest goal to reach the intended population number. Reaching the population goal through harvest is not at all about who harvests the animals, but it is imperative that all participating parties act in good faith.

Following established precedent, the Ojibwe tribes elected not to contribute to harvest numbers despite claiming their legally allotted quota of 81 wolves in the 2021 hunt recently concluded. As In Wisconsin's three previous wolf hunts held in 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15, the Ojibwe also claimed their allotment but did not participate in the hunt, contributing 0 wolves to each harvest total. Contacted directly by OWO, a spokesman for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFW) said that approach remained consistent going into the 2021 hunt. "As in previous wolf hunting and trapping seasons, Ojibwe tribes opted not to issue permits to individual tribal members," said Charlie Otto Rasmussen for GLIFW. "For Ojibwe leaders and wildlife managers, the best use of tribal wolf quota declarations is to keep live animals, live wolves on the landscape, performing their important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems."

"Statewide wolf hunting seasons are not an effective approach to addressing local livestock depredations. Hunting wolves is not necessary to protect humans. This past season is an example of poor wildlife management, made worse by the state's inability to control the kill."

On Wisconsin Outdoors' Publishers respectfully disagreed. A 2021 total harvest of 216 wolves was very close to the intended goal of 200, and the Wisconsin wolf population remains alive and well. In fact, it is our opinion that pre-wolf hunt numbers were closer to 2000 animals, at minimum, than the 1195 estimate used by the DNR.

OWO has submitted to Wisconsin DNR personnel

he wolf management questions below are some of 35 questions submitted by OWO to the DNR and posted with answers under Ellis Blogs at www.onwisconsinoutdoors. com. The DNR is also seeking public input on the Fall 2021 wolf harvest season and ongoing revision to the state's wolf management plan. Connect with Wolf Management Plan. Comment by May 15.

Was it the assumption of NRB/DNR when setting the harvest quota that the tribes would attempt to harvest the allotment they claim, or did the 200 wolf harvest goal reflect the belief that the tribes would harvest 0 animals?

The total harvest quota is determined based on biological and scientific data. The Ojibwe tribes have legal treaty rights to declare for up to 50% of allowable harvest within the ceded territory. The DNR made no assumptions about tribal harvest intentions. Once the tribal declaration was received by DNR, permit numbers available to state hunters were calculated.

With tribal harvest numbers the last 4 seasons being 0, should future harvest goals be set knowing that the tribal contribution to the harvest total will be 0?

The DNR will continue to include tribal consultation as part of the process to establish annual harvest quotas and use that consultation to inform quota recommendations.

The 2021 hunt began with allotments of 119 for state hunters and 81 for tribal members. Was the DNR harvest goal 200 or 119, regardless of tribal contribution to the harvest?

The full quota is divided between the state and tribes (119 wolves are allocated to the state, and 81 wolves are allocated to the Ojibwe Tribes in response to the Tribes' declaration and in accordance with their treaty rights within the Ceded Territory). The DNR strived to meet the statewide quota (119) as close as possible, but it was difficult in the February season based on

the number of tags that were issued under the current season structure and the reporting timelines.

Specific to that goal, would you define the final harvest of 216 wolves as acceptable or unacceptable?

Following the tribal declaration of 81 wolves in the ceded territory, the DNR harvest goal was 119 wolves in the February season. Out of honor and respect for tribal treaty rights, harvesting 216 wolves was undesirable. Biologically speaking, the harvest goal of 200 wolves was intended to maintain the population at current levels. In that case, harvesting over the harvest goal is undesirable as well, but there is variation in the expected outcome of this harvest and the additional harvest is not expected to have significant long-term population impacts.

Is it the tribes' written right by treaty to claim but not harvest their wolf allotment?

The Ojibwe tribes have legal treaty rights to declare for up to 50% of allowable harvest within the ceded territory.

What is the primary food source of the wolf in Wisconsin?

White-tailed deer.

How many deer on average will an adult wolf consume in one year?

Research in Minnesota estimated on average each wolf consumes 15-20 adult sized deer per year or their equivalent.

What would have been the estimated recruitment number of new pups this year if a hunt had not been held and assuming the population is 1200?

The estimate of 1,200 wolves (in approximately 256 packs) is from April 2020. Assuming an average litter of 5 pups apiece, the population would be expected to double immediately following in spring 2020. The spring population will decline throughout the year influenced by prey availability and the multitude of mortality sources and reach its low point again the following winter.

leading the wolf management effort 35 questions and received answers which are posted for your review under Ellis Blogs on our homepage at www.onwisconsinoutdoors. com. OWO questions specific to tribal participation in the wolf harvest are below. Tribal intent of contributing 0 toward state wolf harvest goals is clearly established, despite consistent tribal allotment claims to 50 percent of the intended overall harvest in the ceded territories. The state refusing to acknowledge that fact will be a monumental roadblock to establishing and maintaining healthy wolf numbers in the future.

Moving forward, after four consecutive non-contributing harvest seasons by the Ojibwe, current management goals should acknowledge and accept that 0 will be a constant regardless of harvest allotment claims by the tribes. State harvest goals should be set higher accordingly.

This is a wolf management issue. Period. It requires honesty in the numbers to reach the intended population goal.

JOHN ELLIS Proper Management of Wisconsin Wolves Good for all concerned... including the wolves

olves, like all animals, need to be properly managed. The Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee recommended a management goal of 350 wolves for our state in 1999, and reaffirmed that number in 2007. That goal was met in 2004. Since then, a series of legal moves has prevented proper management and allowed the wolf population to skyrocket. Today, following the 2021 hunt, Wisconsin still has approximately 630 more wolves than the recommended management goal of 350.

This is not a question of some people liking wolves more than others; I count myself among those who like them. Rather, it's a simple question of proper wolf management. Three hundred and fifty wolves was recommended for Wisconsin and 350 wolves should be the management goal going forward. After three consecutive years of a stable population of 350, the impact should be assessed and numbers adjusted accordingly. That will serve all concerned... including the wolves.



Joan Ellis Beglinger for Governor of Wisconsin

y name is Joan Ellis Beglinger and I'm running as an Independent Candidate for Governor in 2022.

Why am I running?

I believe we are a country in serious decline. Changes have been subtle over decades, and many of us are only now awakening to the realization that if we don't turn things around, we will lose the country we know and cherish.

I did not aspire to be a politician. To the contrary, I've been living the dream in retirement. The risks to our democracy are too great to sit on the sideline. I've always followed Arthur Ashe's advice: "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." I have the character, competence and courage to lead.

Who am I?

Lifetime resident of Wisconsin. Married 48 years.

Registered Nurse with a Master's Degree in Nursing and an Executive MBA.

Professional clinical experience -10 years in Critical Care – A Clinical Nurse Specialist at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee

Professional Administrative experience – nearly 30 years as a Vice President for Patient Care at Aurora Sinai in Milwaukee and St. Mary's Hospital in Madison.

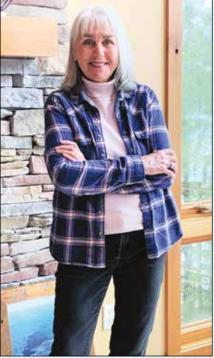
Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

How will I Govern?

Truth. I will always tell you the truth. I will seek the truth in all matters and shine a light on it for everyone to see. I will tell you what I am doing and why. I will not expect everyone to agree with me, but will always make decisions with our citizens as the focus.

Freedom. The government does not give us our freedoms. The government exists to protect our freedoms. The government must have the consent of the governed to operate legitimately. Unnecessary government intrusion into our lives is an affront to our freedom. I will not be a regulator and I do not believe government is the best answer to most questions.

Self-sufficiency. Dependence and entitlement are destroying people. They



deprive citizens of the joy of achievement and the ability to contribute. They are a source of power for the government. I will expect able bodied people to work and, while anyone may need a safety net at some point in time, dependence cannot be a way of life. I will expect everyone to contribute consistent with their ability.

Personal Accountability. I will always assume full accountability for everything I do. We all have the opportunity to develop and use our talents. With a dream and determination, the possibilities are endless. I reject the excuse of victimhood for failure and the idea we should covet what others have. We are responsible for the choices we make. The government can help its citizens realize their dreams by staying out of their way.

This campaign will be a test of whether ideas can prevail over political machinery and big money. Reaching the many voters in our state will be a monumental challenge. You can help get the momentum going. Follow our campaign on our website at beglingerforgovernor.com and in upcoming issues of OWO. If our ideas ring true for you, please join us.



POLK COUNTY, FROM PAGE 13

that Polk County has in store for you just this June:

June Events

- June 5 Milltown: Kids R 1st Fishing Contest on Half Moon Lake.
- June 5-6 Trails Day: Free ATV, biking in State Parks (and Nationally).
- June 5-6 State-wide: Free fishing and trails. • June 11-13 Frederic Family Days: Fireworks,
- concessions, strawberry shortcake at the Depot and lumberjack events.
- June 12 Deer Lake: Neil McKenzie Youth Fishing Contest. Pre-registration required. Go to www.neilmckenzieyouthfishing for more information.
- June 12: Luck FFA Alumni Truck/Tractor pull.
 June 12: St. Croix Falls City of Trails 5k and 10 k walk/run.
- June 18: Music on the River and Cruise in Car show, food vendors at Michael Park.
- June 18-20: Clayton Cheese Days, Truck and Tractor pull and demo derby.
- June 19: Turtle Lake Summer Solstice Celebration.
- June 19: Triathlon on Stower Seven Lakes
 Trail Register on line at runcionum com
- Trail. Register on line at runsignup.com. • June 26: Balsam Lake Water Ski Show Team at
- Sunnyside Marina BLWSST.COM. • June 26-27: Milltown 71st Annual Fisherman's Party.
- June 26-27: Heritage Days.

If you looking for ongoing fun, Music on the Overlook in St. Croix Falls is



held weekly each Friday until August and features a variety of music and food venues. Music in Triangle Park in Luck is offered every Tuesdays until August and spotlights a variety of music and food venues.

Last but not least, 2021 State Trail Passes are now available at the Polk County Information Center! Our goal is to provide you with enough information to help plan your next vacation or assist your family and/or business in the important decision to relocate here. If we can be of any assistance, please contact us and we will help find the resources you need.

Polk County Information Center | 710 Highway 35 S, Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024 | Phone 715-483-1410 | Toll-Free 1-800-222-POLK | www. PolkCountyTourism.com | info@polkctytourism. com



DISCOVER • EXPLORE • ENJOY

"2021 State Trail Passes" are now available at the Polk County Information Center!

Polk County is located in scenic NW Wisconsin, about 50 miles NE of St. Paul, Minnesota.



SHORTY'S SHOOTING SPORTS

For your hunting and shooting needs

2192 South 60th Street | West Allis, WI 53219 | One Block North of Lincoln Ave 414.545.3323 | www.shortysshootingsports.com

STUART WILKE Shorty's Shooting Sports Seeking answers to the ammo shortage

Relief is not in sight. Ammo prices won't be dropping anytime soon. "From what I'm reading and hearing from distributors, it's going to be at least two to three years before ammunition becomes readily available again," according to Mike "Shorty" Govas, owner of Shorty's Shooting Sports in West Allis. "And ammunition won't be coming down in price," he added. "Nine millimeter now goes for \$60 a box (of 50 rounds). I can see it going up to \$100 a box before this is all over."

Don't blame Shorty or the ammunition manufacturers for the lack of ammo and increasing costs. The reason is simple capitalism: supply and demand. Demand is far exceeding supply and prices are set accordingly. Less than two years ago, a gun-friendly president was in office and there was little if any gun legislation being discussed. Ammunition and firearms of all types were plentiful, and regularly on sale.

Gun sales plummeted between 2017 and 2019. Manufacturers were going out of business left and right, including Remington and its ammunition company. Manufacturers were laying employees off in droves. Then in 2020 came the covid virus, social unrest, and political turmoil, all just in time for the upcoming presidential election. Many people, including not a few non-gun owners, had safety concerns and fears that the next administration would implement draconian rules and regulations designed to limit and ban certain gun and ammunition sales. Those fears were not unfounded. President Biden has made no secret of his intent to ban the sale of so-called "assault-style" firearms. With a stroke of a pen, he could do so with imported such guns, as did Bush 41 and Clinton previously. A domestic ban would require the proverbial act of Congress.

Ammunition manufacturers - and licensed gun dealers, like Shorty - are, undeservedly, getting the brunt of the ammo shortage blame. According to Shorty, "There are 7 million new gun owners since last year and they want ammunition. Seven million new shooters buying ammunition in the most popular calibers, like 9mm, amounts to a lot of ammunition. The manufacturers are working 24/7 and their labor and material costs have skyrocketed. Machinery needs more maintenance. They pass the costs on to sellers who have to pass it on to buyers." Shorty has seen his ammunition costs more than triple for popular cartridges, like 5.56/.223, 9mm and .45 ACP. His profit margins on ammunition are small and the product is so limited that he only sells ammunition to those who make new gun purchases.

Even shotgun shells, which were not impacted in past panics, are in short



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supply. "In the past year, I've only been able to get one case of shotgun shells," Shorty said. "One case. In the past I could buy as many slugs, buck shot and trap loads that I wanted. Not anymore. The scarcity of ammunition has had a huge negative impact on competitive shooting sports."

Compounding the shortage and driving up costs are hoarders who lurk and wait at the doors of big box outdoor stores waiting for them to open. These parasites then swoop down on shelves and scoop up and buy every box of ammunition they can load into their carts and resell at a hefty profit. Some stores limit the number of boxes that any one person can purchase on any given day, which might help if these opportunists didn't show up every day for their ill-gotten gains. Some are so brazen that they will sell ammo at a huge markup in the parking lots of the store they bought it from! Shorty has been receiving calls from suspected hoarders offering to sell him ammunition at a huge mark-up. He's not playing that game. "Don't bother calling and asking me if I want to buy your ammunition. I don't. Try a gun show."

Shorty's advice to gun owners is to buy a .22. "Twenty two has gone up in price, but it's at least more affordable than centerfire cartridges and somewhat easier to obtain." Shorty has a wide variety of .22 long arms and handguns for sale.

As for the continuing ammo shortage, Shorty's advice is "Be patient."

Contact Stuart Wilke at submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

HURLEY, FROM PAGE 19

generation. Several spots along the trails are equipped with pavilions, grills and parks to enjoy an outdoor meal. To request a trail map, call our office 715-561-4334.

Waterfalls, Kayaking and Fishing

There are 19 waterfalls in and around the Hurley area, most are located in remote, wild areas unspoiled by the crowds. Some can be driven to while others require walking and a little bit of orienteering to get to. For a real adventure, park at Upson Falls and hike the North Country Trail through the Gold Mine Campsite to Wren Falls. All are worth the trip. To request a guide, call our office 715-561-4334.

Iron County has over 170,000 acres of county land, much that is accessible through back roads and old logging trails. Adventurers can explore the land and camp anywhere along the lands for free, up to two weeks.

The Gile Flowage is home to walleye, smallmouth bass, muskie, crappie, northern pike, blue gill and perch. On this 3,300 acre body of water, there are four public launches for boats, pontoons, kayaks and paddle boards. If the flowage is too busy, check out one of the 154 lakes that have public access. And there are approximately 136 miles of trout streams to fish. Call our office for a newly updated Iron County Sportsmans Map.

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A round of trap shot from the 5 stand platform.



Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

Three Ways to Break More Clays! The ABCs to improved shooting scores

Summer is a great time to hit the trap, skeet or sporting clays range. Here are a few simple ways to bump up your scores. Adjustable stocks, high performance choke tubes, and improved clays loads can all work to improve your scores.

Gun fit: Twenty years ago, if you saw one shotgun with an adjustable stock, that was a lot. Now 15 to 20 percent of shotguns seen at larger shoots have adjustable stocks. In a perfect world, all our shotguns would be custom fitted to us. Over/under and semi-auto shotguns built for competition are now widely available with adjustable stocks to allow you to custom fit the comb height and length of pull to the shooter. The price isn't out of line compared with similar guns and allow the shooter's gun to fit like it was custom made. I know when I paid \$80 years ago to have my trap gun custom fitted, my average went up by two birds within a few weeks. I went on to shoot my personal best scores (98/100 and 99/100) with that gun. Fine tuning my fit, choke tubes, and hand loads made ALL the difference.

Fine tune your choke: Most single barrel shotguns come with three choke tubes; double guns typically come with five. One of the first things I did when I bought my new dedicated over/under for sporting clays was to buy two extended Carlson's choke tubes. Extended choke tubes allow you to swap out tubes without needing tools. Trust me, as little as .005 inch difference in choke constriction can make a big difference. Do a little pattern testing, take notes, and watch your research pay off in more broken birds.

Ammunition: All clay sports loads are not created equal. Higher priced ammunition is usually more costly because it uses reloadable cases and features harder shot. Harder,

high antimony shot simply patterns better. It also costs a little more. Truth is, if you are shooting skeet or sporting clays, softer shot that opens up patterns may be just fine. Ranges that targets are engaged at are closer than at the trap range. Lower priced loads with 10unce or 1 1/8 ounce of 8 shot are perfect. For trapshooting, targets are launched at 16 yards (even longer yardage for handicap trap) and heavier loads of 1 1/8 ounce harder shot may work better. I found my old trapshooting gun actually patterned one ounce of hard 8 shot better and more evenly than 1 1/8 ounce loads. I went to handloads of one ounce of hard 8 shot and my scores improved with less recoil. Putting it all together: After pattern testing, try a few rounds of trapshooting. Watch how your targets are breaking. Are they chipping or simply breaking in half, indicating single pellet hits? Targets that "smokeball" are impressive, but indicate too tight a pattern. I guarantee once you find the perfect combination, your scores will improve.

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.

ANTIGO • LANGLADE COUNTY, FROM PAGE 26

If you like to golf, Langlade County has the right course for you. Three excellent courses are ready to challenge and delight you whether you are a scratch handicapped player or a real duffer.

Fishing Langlade County lakes and streams, you will find a variety of species from walleye to bluegill to bass. When it comes to angling opportunities and stunning scenic beauty, the Wolf River is second to none! The spring run for walleyes just saw the finest fishing in years. Lock it away on your calender for 2022!

Come to Langlade County and experience our special brand of hospitality only found in the Northwoods!

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ROAD AMERICA, **FROM PAGE 25** Pop-ups, RVs, and tents are welcome. There are approximately 1,500 campsites (you'll need to pre-register) to select from, each with its attributes. Parking is plentiful, and there are ample restrooms and showers and lots of places to hike, eat, relax and enjoy things to do, such as disc golfing and go-karting. Road America is also a safe and secure event with grounds patrolled by security guards day and night.

Motorsport enthusiasts have more than races to experience at Road America. Many local, regional, and national clubs host events during races, and spectators often bring their exotic, classic, and collectible cars and motorcycles. The parking lots are a show in themselves.

Considering that Road America is one of the world's most illustrious racing courses, one might think that admission price would be out of this world. Think again. Admission for a typical weekend event is about \$85 per person (children under 16 are admitted free), and campsites range from about \$100 to \$350, depending on amenities. For the price of a typical superspeedway event, you can purchase a season ticket and attend all 50 of the track's annual car and motorcycle races for approximately \$600.

Road America: Come for the experience. Stay for the races. \mathcal{V}

For more information, visit roadamerica.com



Unlike most tracks, Road America racing fans are not limited to watching races from distant, cramped seats. There are plenty of great vantage points on the 640-acre sight.



Recreational vehicles, trailers and tents are welcome at Road America.











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