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TOM CARPENTER

Where to Look

Trout fishing's top 10 ambush spots

Summer is prime trout time across Wisconsin. Whether you use live bait, throw small lures or cast flies, you need to know where stream trout live, hide, hold and feed. Seek out these 10 “trouty” places when you’re prospecting the creeks for browns, rainbows and brookies.

Riffle

A riffle is a shallow section of fast water, a “soft rapids” of sorts. A riffle is well oxygenated and contains plentiful food in the form of minnows, crustaceans and insects. A trout is in a riffle for one purpose: to feed. Flip your bait or fly ahead and let the current tumble your offering back toward waiting fish.

Run

A run moves slower than a riffle, the creek is narrower, and the water deeper. Trout in runs are less aggressive than those in riffles. Do more dabbling and precision fishing with your bait or fly, trying different current seams and exploring positions where trout might hold. Let spinner blades flutter and flash to attract trout.

Pool

A pool is a deep section of water where the flow progressively slows down after entering at a rapid rate, often from a riffle or run. Cast upstream and across, letting the current carry your bait or fly through and

swing past your position. Work the close water first, then move a little farther out with each drift.

Undercut

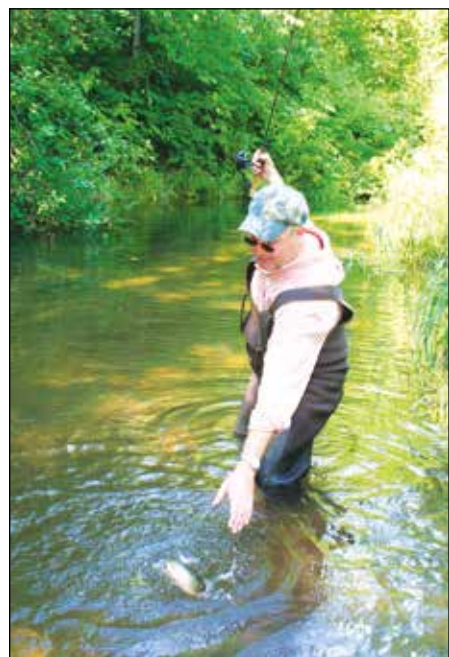
Trout love the overhead cover an undercut bank provides. Undercuts are also great because what hides the trout from predators also hides your approach. Cast upstream and let the current sweep your bait or fly in and under the bank. Bounce a little spinner or spoon along with the current.

Rock

A great trout spot in a fast-moving stream is a big rock or boulder. The obstruction protects trout from the current, and provides a holding spot where the fish can watch for food. It's natural to fish behind the boulder. An even better spot may be in front of the boulder, where a pocket of slack water is created before the flow careens off; this is where the most active feeding trout will be.

Eddy

Another fast-water trout hold is an eddy - a backwash created below rapids, behind



OWO columnist Tom Carpenter tells you exactly where to play hide and seek this summer with stream trout.

chutes and to the side of fast flows. Here the current “backs up” instead of flowing downstream. Food accumulates, and trout hold position easily. Cast above and let the current carry your live bait, fly or lure naturally into the whirlpool.

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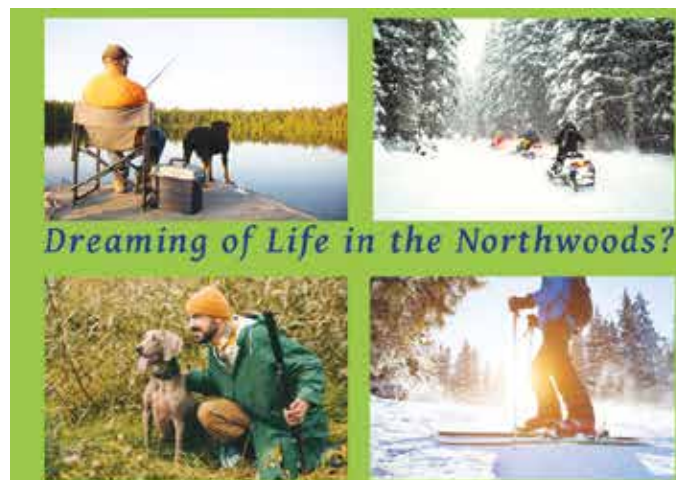


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DAVE DUWE

Deep Thinking *Electronics lead the search for quality fish*

Catching fish in the middle of summer can be a challenging proposition. As the spawning ends and the water warms, most fish will head to deeper depths of the lake for food and to escape the summer heat. If you want to find them, you need the right techniques to bring the big ones in the boat. I have been a fishing guide for over 25 years fishing one of the deepest lakes in Wisconsin, Geneva Lake. Here are a few tricks and techniques I have learned over the years.

The biggest key to deep water fishing is good electronics. In my case, I use a Humminbird teamed with a Minnkota bow mount with spot lock. To start, I target weed lines in 15 to 25 feet of water. The best weed lines have scattered spots of hard bottom. These are great ambush points for their prey. Fish in deep water tend to school up; when you find one you will most likely catch a bunch. Using my locator, I will slowly move my boat along the weed line until I locate fish before I start fishing.

You can catch a myriad of fish species in the deep waters of the lake. The easiest to catch are bluegills, largemouth bass, and northern pike. All three can be caught on similar rigs.

For largemouth bass and bluegills, I prefer a drop shot or a lindy rig. With drop shotting, the rig is a weight below the hook about one foot to eighteen inches. The deeper the water, the bigger the weight. The critical part of the rig is the hook. You want to tie the hook by using a palomar knot. The bait needs to be presented in a horizontal manner. The bluegills prefer a leaf worm while the largemouth bass like a four-inch finesse worm. Tip hook the worm on the hook. A watermelon with red flake is my favorite color on the finesse worm.

Fish straight down and shake the rod tip four or five times before pausing to encourage a strike. On clear water lakes, go to a lighter line to avoid spooking the fish. When the fish are off the bottom, one can adjust the distance from the sinker to the hook. Sometimes I will have a five-foot leader.

The second presentation, the lindy rig,

is a walking sinker ahead of a hook. Keep the sinker 18 inches to 24 inches ahead of the hook with a swivel or a small split shot. Hook nightcrawlers or leaf worms through the head and slowly back troll them, fishing vertically over the structure.

For northern pike, a lindy rig is also the most effective presentation when the fish are deep. Unlike the bass and bluegills, the pike will position on the thermocline. The thermocline is a thin strip of water that separates the warm surface water from the cold bottom water. They are associating on water temperature instead of relating to structure. I use a three-quarter ounce walking sinker and a 1/0 bait hook. Circle hooks will also work well. The leader length I like is 24 inches. I don't use a swivel, instead I prefer to use a small split shot to "peg" my walking sinker. This way if you get a deep hooked fish, you can simply cut the line and release the

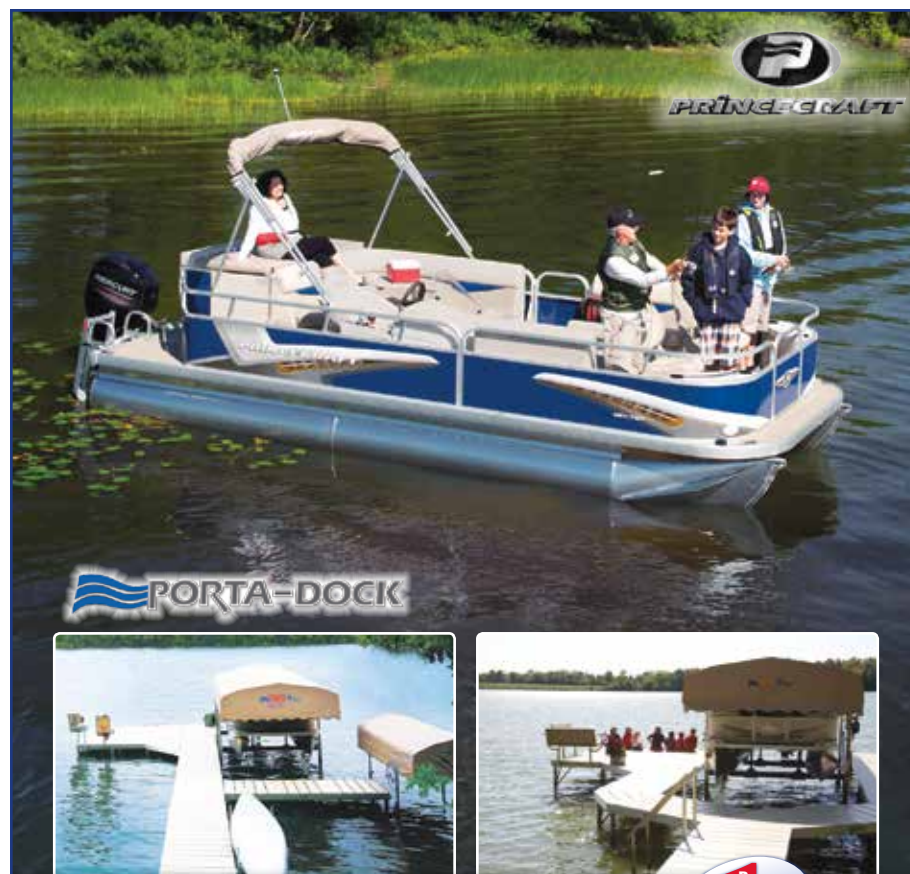


Nathan Duwe with a nice deep water bluegill.

fish. Once you re-tie a new hook, you can simply slide your weight higher. It's faster than having to re-tie a whole new leader if you were using a swivel. It also eliminates the need to bring leader material with you. Another reason I don't use steel leaders is because it reduces the number of bites. The bait of choice is either chubs or suckers.

Don't let the deep water intimidate you. Deep water has some challenges, but the rewards of quality fish are worth it. 🎣

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



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TOM LUBA

Reeds, Weeds and Feed

A winning game plan for summer largemouth

A funny thing happens each year by late June. It's called "Summer". That's when the lake suddenly comes alive with pleasure boaters, water skiers, and virtually anything else that falls under the water sports heading.

A large amount of boat traffic can negatively impact fishing. The abundance of noise and wave action can push bass into cover and make presentations difficult.

One of the nice things about summer largemouth bass is the entire water column is fair game. The bass can now hang on a variety of cover, from deep weed edges, to bridge pilings, stump fields, docks, retaining walls and laydowns, to name several.

One of my favorite summer targets for large mouth are pencil reed beds. These beds do well in water as shallow as two to three feet deep, but most summer boaters don't take the chance of running around and through them.

When I spot a potential fish-holding reed bed, I look for certain things. First, I like to

find bunches of reeds close together. Other kinds of weeds close by are key. The bass like to hang out around clumps as opposed to isolated stalks, as the clumps and other weeds draw bluegills and baitfish as forage for the bass. Having other types of weeds growing allows panfish, like perch, and bluegills to hide and find a meal of their own.

The denser shallow weeds are what makes an area so productive. Bass come to spawn in the reeds and many will use reeds as their summer home, before moving to deeper water later in August for the fall and winter.

The nice thing about this shallow mixture is that you can use a variety of approaches. Buzz baits and surface lures can be fished around the edges and over weed tops. Texas-rigged plastics and jigs can be worked through the heavier cover and pitched into the shallow weeds.

My favorite approach is to lighten up, and use no additional weight. Using a bait that lands soft works for me. The water is

shallow enough that the soft landing will still get the bass' attention. It sinks slower so the fish has a better chance to make visual contact as it closes in on bottom.

The bait that fills the bill is the Senko plastic stick worm. I like the five-inch stick, black with blue flakes, which has been successful in every water I currently fish. Normally, I'll rig it weedless on a 3/0 black nickel Gamakatsu round bend hook. Wider gap hooks also work.

What I like about the original Senko is how it falls through the water column. For the most part, it stays more horizontal as it sinks and has just a little bit of a wobble. That little sway may look like something wounded or dying, and for me, it's money. One thing I also feel helps is getting the bait as straight on the hook as possible. There have been many times when I let that straight bait just slow fall along a reed clump. And as soon as I tightened the line, I felt weight. The bass simply sucked it in without me even feeling it.

Reeds are always a summer option,



Bass like this can spend a good portion of the summer in pencil reed beds.

particularly when other shallow weeds are present. Much of the time they will be a summer home to a group of shallow bass, and away from heavy summer boat traffic. Sometimes, you can almost forget the main lake is so busy, which makes it a sought-after structure when dealing with the hustle and bustle of summer on the water. 🎣

Tom Luba likes to fish primarily for bass and panfish. If something else is biting, that works, too.

WAYNE MORGENTHALER

Hot Fishing

Five proven presentations to trigger great summer action

July and August can offer some of the best fishing of the year if you have the right timing and correct baits. Just five artificial lures and a few simple tricks of the trade meet my personal goals for hot fishing everything from panfish to muskies. I fish mainly southwest Wisconsin trout streams, backwaters of the Wisconsin from Spring Green to Boscobel, and Redstone Lake. Wherever you fish, your summer arsenal should include the floating rapala, 1/32-ounce mini mite in pink, beetle spin in different sizes, scum frog, and a weedless lethal weapon jig with plastic crawdad too.

In July, the best fishing is early morning or the last couple of hours before dark on the lakes and backwaters. If you are a panfish angler, the pink mini mite on a four-pound test is deadly. Fish the weed lines or bays where bluegills become active as soon as the sun starts to set. Cast out and let it sink for a couple of seconds and be sure to watch the line for any movement. Then a slow jerky retrieve will trigger the

fish. Crappies will follow the lure almost up to the boat before striking. Bluegills tend to hit right away, and the line will quickly move right or left. Set the hook firmly and enjoy the fight. Always be prepared for that big fish that will likely be a northern pike. Best results for a sustained good bite means keeping the boat moving and not anchoring in one spot.

On those hot windless nights, keep your eyes open for schools of crappies rising to the surface. In these conditions I fish mostly out in the weedless areas using a beetle spin with yellow plastic. I prefer four-pound test for fighting those crappie slabs. The big ones stay together in small schools, but are generally found in the same area.

Fishing an early August evening with the lethal weapon and crawdad seems to be the ticket for big bass and northern pike. Eight-pound test or better is needed as you will be dealing with lily pads and strong weeds. Here you need to fish the weed line. I think

the big ones have their own territory and are on the prowl for smaller fish. A slow jerky retrieve is needed here again, but occasionally a slow, straight retrieve will work. Look for points, bays and surface activity. One evening my son caught four northern pikes between 30 and 38 inches in the last hour of fishing. A friend had the same type of fishing, but landed four nice muskies during the last hours of daylight.

August is a time for big bass, and the most fun is using a floating scum frog. Eight-pound test or stronger is again recommended and be ready for those quick hits. This is your opportunity for the big one. As weedless bait, throw the frog under those trees or docks. It does not make any difference how thick the weeds are; the fish will find those little openings to smash the frog. I like a short, jerky retrieve to make it look like the frog is hopping across the pads.

Floating down a river in a kayak/canoe



Rich Modjeski and son Nate with a muskie from Lake Redstone caught on a hot August night.

and casting with a floating rapala is the best. This bait is less likely to snag up and minnows are the favorite food of most river species. Work outlets from small streams or close to shore where trees are over-hanging. It's a great way to spend a relaxing day on the water during those warm temperatures.

Don't forget to take a friend fishing. And expect some red hot action across Wisconsin's hottest months. 🎣

BILL THORNLEY

A Hunt for Special Treasure

New dawn brings new fawn

One of the absolute delights of this time of year in wild northwestern Wisconsin is the annual search for the first whitetail deer fawns of the season. They can be hard to find because they come into this world with a natural instinct and talent for hiding. Almost perfectly camouflaged, they blend into the forest landscape, seemingly melting into the foliage.

You would think that those bright white spots on the new orange body would be a dead giveaway, but that is not the case. You can nearly step on the tiny creatures and still not see them. One reason for this is their natural instinct to remain perfectly still, freezing in place when they feel they have been, or may be, spotted.

Born without much scent, this is a defense against hungry coyotes, wolves, bobcats, bears and other predators with a taste for whitetail. They take a terrible toll on the little creatures.

Recently, I set out just after sunrise to search for a fawn. My camera ready, I slowly drove on remote back roads and scanned the underbrush for any sign of movement. There was no shortage of deer to be found as the early morning sun melted over the landscape. They seemed to be out in good supply, dashing here and there to the point where driving was a little concerning.

Rounding a lake so still it looked like it was frozen, I saw an albino doe moving along the shoreline, her



reflection almost glowing in the dark water. Sometimes when you search for one thing in nature, you get the bonus of spotting something equally special. But an hour out, no fawns had yet been spotted.

About 10 minutes later I caught the silhouette of a deer on the road ahead of me. As I got closer, the doe just stood there in the middle of the road. I slowed to a crawl, and she still stood there. She then looked back behind her to a hill above the road ditch. She looked at me, then looked behind her again, as if she was nervous.

I had seen that behavior many times before, and it usually meant that the doe had a fawn trailing behind her.

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BY TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Red-Headed Woodpecker



Red-headed woodpecker populations in Wisconsin ebb and flow with the availability of dying and dead trees, which are essential for hunting food and excavating nest holes. Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borers, chestnut blight and other tree afflictions actually help red-headed woodpecker populations. But as dead trees and snags age, deteriorate and finally drop, the birds must move on.

LIKE other woodpeckers, redheads are expert hunters of larvae and insects as the birds hammer into old wood. But red-headed woodpeckers also like to stash food by wedging nuts, acorns, seeds, fruits, berries and even insects under bark, in tree-trunk crevices, or between roof shingles.

LOOK for an exceedingly handsome woodpecker with rich red head, white belly, black back, black wings with white bands, and a long, gray, chisel-like bill. Compared to other Wisconsin woodpeckers, redheads are strong flyers.

LISTEN for the redhead's call - a squawky *choy choy choy*. These woodpeckers also drum in short, staccato bursts lasting a second or two, when establishing territory boundaries or drilling for food.

UNDERSTAND red-headed woodpecker habitat needs. These birds prefer open woodlands (oak forests are prime), parks, cemeteries, orchards, old pastures, wooded neighborhoods, beaver pond meadows and timbered river bottoms. They require ample dead trees and snags in the area.

ATTRACT red-headed woodpeckers with sunflower seed in a tube or platform feeder, and suet.

DID YOU KNOW that red-headed woodpeckers often hunt insects from a perch, fluttering out to snatch their flying prey in mid-air? This is a quite unique behavior within the woodpecker clan. 🐦

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

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No Longer a Summer Surprise

Hot walleye action in shallow water

As summer progresses and water temperatures rise, most walleye anglers start targeting deeper water. Anglers in search of numbers of fish and quality walleyes often search out deep structure, including rocks and wood or large deep flats. Deep water does produce, but shallow waters can provide some of the best walleye fishing of the season.

When water temperatures start to climb, so too does walleye metabolism; even when water temperatures are in the 80s, these fish remain active. With water temperatures high, you might conclude that the walleyes would just shut down. On the contrary, in these conditions we consistently catch walleyes in less than four feet of water and sometimes in 12 inches or less.

This pattern was not found by actually targeting walleyes, but by fishing shallow

structure in search of bass. Many seasons ago a friend and I were working shallow shoreline wood in search of both large and smallmouth bass when we started picking up walleyes. We were pitching jig and pig combos underneath the structure hoping for bass, but walleyes were gobbling them up. Not only were we catching walleyes, but these were big fish weighing four to eight pounds on average.

After several occurrences of catching walleyes while targeting bass, we realized that it was no coincidence; these walleyes were actually holding in the same areas as the bass. The walleyes were there for cover and an excellent ambush point for food. Hiding under shoreline brush and wood also provided cooling shade for the walleyes and cover from unsuspecting prey.

Armed with the knowledge of this walleye location, we revised our presentation to

smaller weedless jigs tipped with plastics, minnows or crawlers and we concentrated on specifically targeting the walleyes. We methodically worked in and out of shoreline brush or around the shallow structure and picked apart every inch of available cover that we could reach. We hit the jackpot; quite a few big walleyes were caught this way, but the really impressive find was the numbers of fish that held shallow. Call it incredible.

With many seasons of fishing experience as a Wisconsin guide, shallow thinking has become a mainstay in my arsenal for targeting summertime walleyes. And it's working as well today, maybe even better, than it did in the past. 🎣

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Alice holds a nice summertime walleye taken on the Wisconsin. Very shallow water is targeted by Schweik throughout the hottest months.

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Explore Wisconsin**SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD**

The Hayward Way

Fishing for the fish fry alternative

It's Friday night in Wisconsin and what is the first thing that comes to mind? A fish-fry of course! For as long as I can remember, the Friday night fish fry has been as synonymous with Wisconsin as Brandy Old Fashions and cheese curds. While there are countless options for fish fries in the Hayward area, sometimes it is fun to mix it up a bit and go catch your own bounty to fry up!

The Hayward Lakes area boasts an abundance of lakes, all of which have a nice variety of panfish including bluegills and crappies. You don't even need a boat to get out and catch some fish; there are plenty of shore-fishing locations, including two handicapped accessible fishing piers, one on Lake Hayward near the City Beach, and the other at the DNR Boat Landing on the Chippewa Flowage on Highway CC North.



Author Mindy Simmons knows how to catch, prepare and write about her success on the water.

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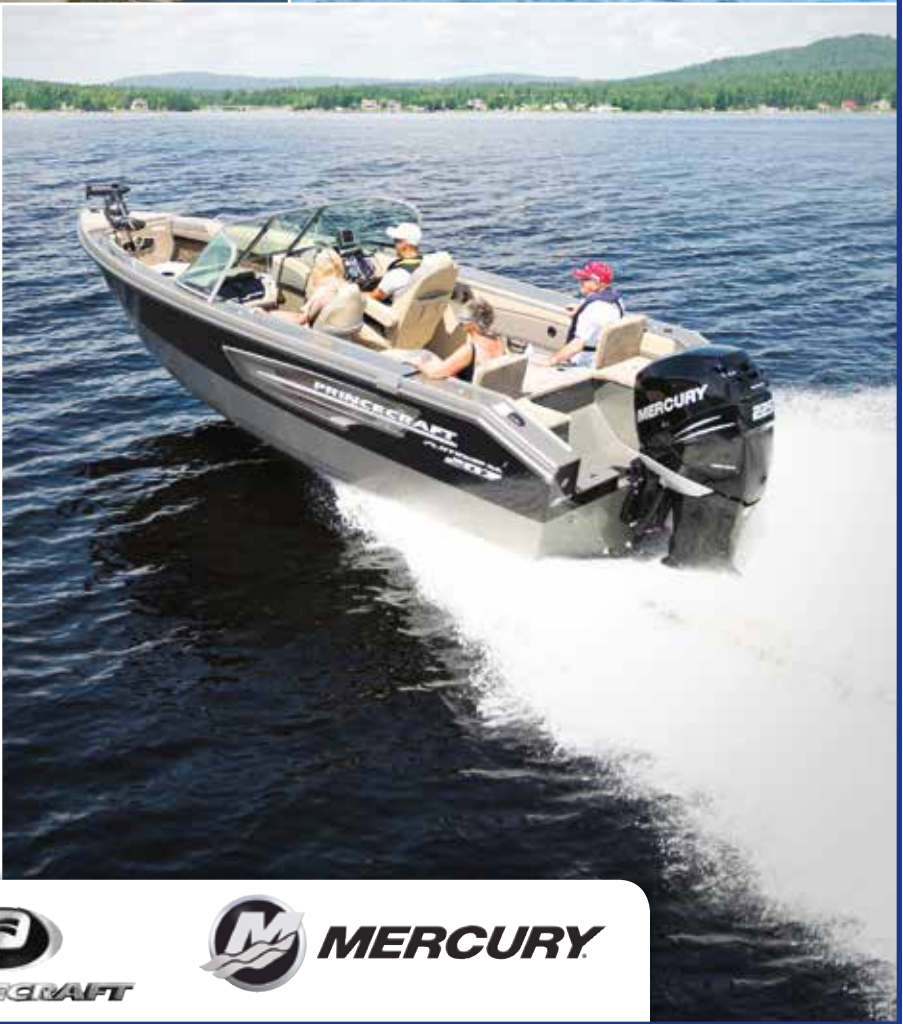


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DAN MOERICKE

An Up Nort' Report

Crappies gone wild

Our annual fishing camp is called the Great Walleye Assault. This year marked its 37th consecutive year. And, to be clear, we did make an effort to catch walleyes and were somewhat successful in that endeavor. However, it was the great crappie bite of 2021 that stole the show.

You see, we hold our annual fishing camp near Boulder Junction around the middle of May. A lot of years, depending on how the spring thaw goes, the walleyes are still spawning. Heck, there have been years that we've had to drive 50 miles just to find open water. This was not one of those years. An early ice out and rapidly warming water temps meant that the walleye spawning run was in the rearview mirror. The good news was that warming water temps brought thousands of crappies into the weed beds in anticipation of their turn on the spawning beds.

Our early scouting efforts resulted in meager numbers found hanging out in the shallow weeds. But every day, more and more showed up to the point that it seemed crazy to spend hours trying to catch a walleye when that same time spent chasing crappies would fill a livewell.

The crappies were hanging out in five to six feet of water where new weed growth was rapidly developing. While they certainly could be caught with minnows, it was much more effective to throw small plastics or Gulp minnows suspended about three feet below a clip-on bobber. My personal favorite in the bobber department is called a Rattlin' Pear. I can cast it a long way and the black push button on the top is a great indicator when a fish pops the bait. It does have small BBs in it that actually rattle, but I couldn't tell you whether that helps or not. I just like it.



When crappies like this are hitting, it's easy to forget about walleyes for a while.

On the business end of things, we use very small jigs, typically 1/64 ounce. I'll thread on a one-inch Gulp minnow in either silver or chartreuse and that's about it. Cast it out and retrieve very slowly while watching for the bobber to twitch or slowly sink. Instead of Gulp, one of the guys in camp used a plastic tail called a Crappie Magnet and it was an absolute killer. Similar in profile to the Gulp, but

much more durable. I probably caught three dozen crappies on the one he gave me and would have caught more if a northern hadn't made off with it.

The great thing about crappies going wild is that they are a lot of fun to catch and they make a heck of a fish fry when coated in Fryin' Magic and dropped in hot oil for two minutes.

We're not going to change the name of our fish camp to the Great Crappie Assault anytime soon, but when the crappies are biting like they were this year, we're also not going to be stubborn about the whole walleye thing. Maybe I've never mentioned this, but I love setting the hook. Just sayin'.

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

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Explore Wisconsin



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Cap off your day with fireworks at dusk from a barge along the shores of the Mississippi River in the village center. It's FREE! Don't forget your lawn chair and bug spray.

Special thanks to the wonderful people and organizations that make River Bluff Daze events happen, including the local River Bank, a prime sponsor.

Put River Bluff Daze on your calendar now! Book your room or vacation rental and stay a while.

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July 24th

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FREE admission for kids
11 and younger and
well-behaved dogs



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Show September 10 through 12 in
Chippewa Falls.*

Wisconsin Sport Show

An indoor/outdoor extravaganza for the entire family

The Wisconsin Sport Show – Fall Edition will take place September 10, 11 and 12, at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls on 50 acres of outdoor grounds and indoor buildings.

Admission to this event is free for kids 11 and younger and well-behaved dogs. For adults, advanced discount tickets are available online at WiSportShow.com or local ticket outlets for just \$9, or at the door for \$12. On Saturday, 9/11, Sport Rider of Altoona is sponsoring FREE Admission (Saturday only) for Active and Retired Military members and first responders with an 11 AM Memorial Flag Raising Ceremony featuring local speakers and music.

This year's event is a true family affair featuring: Steve Porter's live trophy bucks, Timberworks Lumberjack Show, North America Diving Dogs, dog stage, Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club trophy scoring, live music, food trucks and beer garden, two indoor exhibitor/retail buildings, petting zoo, youth BB gun trials, and more.

"The Timberworks Lumberjack Show will feature two shows Friday night, four shows on Saturday, and three shows on Sunday with log-rolling, pole climbing and chainsaw competitions, and is included with the price of admission to the show," said Lisa Gill, Event Promoter. "In addition, the Bear Creek Band will be playing from 5 - 8 PM in the beer garden Friday evening, and we have a 20th Anniversary 9/11 Flag Raising ceremony on Saturday. This event is something a family can enjoy all weekend – which is good because the admission is good for the entire weekend, not just one day!"

The Wisconsin Sport Show – Fall Edition is also a great place to promote your business. "We still have exhibitor spaces and sponsorships available," mentions Joy White, Sales Director. "We expect to have 12,000 - 15,000 people go through our show and many of them are looking for new products to purchase, puppies to take home, and vacations to plan. You can give us a call at (715) 579-7127 or visit our website for opportunities."



Dogs and kids...this is really a family event. Register your dog in advance online for quick admission when you arrive and make sure you pack sunscreen and bring a stroller or wagon for the kids! There are food and beverages on-site and Leinenkugel's is even selling their "crawlers" for grownups to take home at the end of the day. There really is something for everyone at this year's Wisconsin Sport Show. Get your tickets and information at www.WiSportShow.com.

*Ron Klimcke took this great
photo of twin fawns suckling
mother doe in Sawyer County.*

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can-am

SPOTLIGHT | **ALGOMA** | CAPT. LEE HAASCH

We Should be in Algoma

Big Kings, sand beaches, cool breezes

Explore Wisconsin



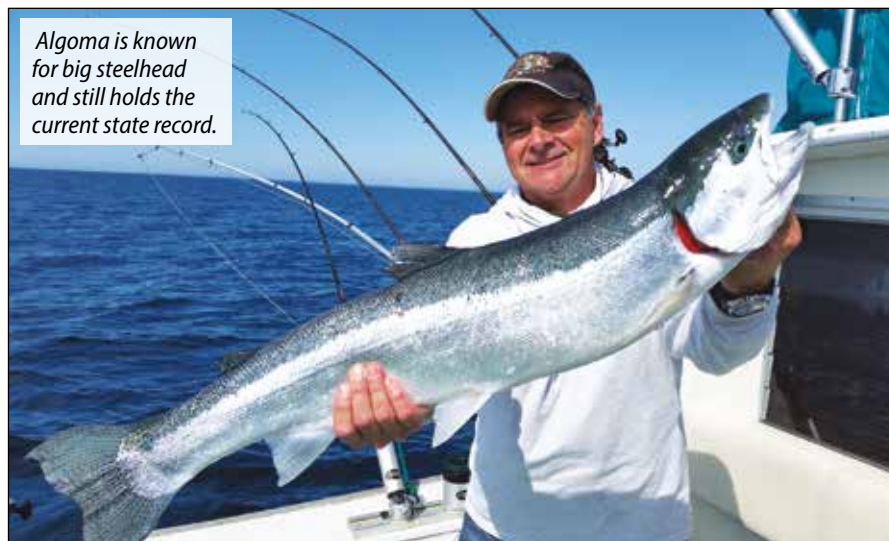
The customers had just arrived, the engines were warmed up and after short introductions and coffee, Trevor pushed us off from the dock. Minutes later we were powering down in 80 feet of water and with first line barely in, Trevor sounded the first of many welcome bulletins:

"Fish on! Fish on!" he yelled. "It went off with the rod still in my hand! Who's up? It's a big king!"

Line was peeling off the Altum reel. I grabbed a rod and started setting my side with the same, almost instantaneous return on the investment; the Slide Diver started pounding, with the tip of my Ugly Stick dipping in and out of the water. "Fish on!" I shouted. "Another big one!"

It started with the double but the action didn't stop there. The overcast morning was full of excitement. By the time first light touched the clouds with

Algoma is known for big steelhead and still holds the current state record.



streaks of orange and yellows, we had three massive king salmon in the cooler. Almost half of our space was gone and there were two more chinook lying on the deck waiting to be added to the trio in the cooler. Five king salmon already

boated ranged from 19 pounds to just a few ounces shy of 30, and the morning was still young.

Soon, our customers were shedding their sweatshirts and light jackets and commenting that it felt good to have a cool breeze on the lake. It's familiar talk on the big water off of Algoma. Back home inland throughout Wisconsin or bordering states, warm breezes offer our clients little relief to hot summer days. Out here, the story is different, and our anglers welcome the comfortable weather, including the cooler transition of predawn.

On this summer day, like so many others, crowds will be taking to Algoma's Crescent Beach to enjoy these cool breezes and take a plunge in Lake Michigan's cool, clear waters. Our mile long sand beach is one of the largest stretches of sand beach within a single municipality. A long boardwalk separates the sand from the hillside. Throughout the summer, visitors will be walking on the boardwalk, enjoying the breathtaking views and peaceful sounds where surf and turf meet.

Algoma in summertime is loaded with a mixed fishery offering both extraordinary action and table fare. Expect acrobatic steelhead (rainbow) trout, the occasional coho salmon, and the emergence of strong lake trout numbers to entertain your group. First and foremost though, is the king salmon, the most sought after trophy in our



Capt. Trevor Haasch sports a giant trophy lake trout, tipping the scales at just under 34 pounds this spring.

waters. The Algoma area has led the state in king salmon catches for over 20 years, and has also been the top steelhead water for almost 15 years. This is the area on the east side of Wisconsin that produces big fish, big numbers of fish, cool breezes and warm beaches.

With one of the largest charter fleets in Wisconsin and state-of-the-art public fish cleaning facilities, the Algoma area has everything to offer the Lake Michigan angler. Come with your own boat, or simply bring friends or family for a true charter fishing adventure and leave the work to us. The potential waiting in our waters is the same for one and all.

Either way, experience the great fishing Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want big fish, check out Algoma! For charter information or fishing reports visit my website at: www.FishAlgoma.com or call 1-888-966-3474. From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 2, good luck and good fishing!

Capt. Lee Haasch is a charter captain out of Algoma. He has over 45 years of Great Lakes angling experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with educational seminars and freelance articles in outdoor publications.

ALGOMA!

www.algoma.org

Fishing. Festivals. Fun!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN ALGOMA

Visit Friendly Algoma this summer and join us for these summer events – *Algoma is open for business!*

- Concerts in the Park
- Blessing of the Fleet
- Sunday Farmers Market
- Shanty Days Festival
- Soar on the Shore Kite & Beach Event

Visit our website for current information on these events and more.

Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | POLK COUNTY

So many reasons to visit

There are so many reasons to visit Polk County that your biggest problem may be deciding exactly what days and weeks to circle on the calendar! The following are some of your choices.

July Festival and Music Events

Music on the Overlook in St. Croix Falls is offered weekly Fridays through August and features local music and food venues.

Music in Triangle Park in Luck weekly on Tuesdays through August featuring local music and food venues.

Music weekly on Thursday in Amery at Michael Park at 6 PM.

JULY 2 - 4 Balsam Lake Freedom Fest - Arts and crafts, boat parade, street dance, fireworks.

JULY 3 St. Croix Falls - farmer markets every Saturday.

JULY 3 - Wanderoos - Independence Day

Celebration at the ballpark.

JULY 3 - 4 Osceola Fireworks Express Train Rides. Visit www.trainride.org for more information.

JULY 4 - Fireworks at Amery High School at dusk.

JULY 8 - Amery - Music in the Park - Tribute to Johnny Cash at 6 PM at Michael Park.

JULY 10 - Balsam Lake - Balsam Lake Ski Show at Waterside on Lake Wapogasset at 3 PM Visit BLWSST.COM for more information.

JULY 10 - Amery - Honey Open House at Z-Orchard at 1 PM.

JULY 10 - 11 Turtle Lake - Inter-County Fair and Grand Parade.

JULY 10-11 Centuria Memory Days - craft sales, street dance, car show, parade, antique tractor show/pull.

JULY 16 - 18 Luck - Lucky Days Festival -

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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Eliminating the bear hunter's biggest mistake

We see it every year. Hunters buy one bottle of scent lure at the start of the season and end it with a tag sandwich. Scent lures are crucial to bait site success and the biggest mistake bear hunters make is not using scent lures all season long.

You may be in an area where there are plenty of bears, but are they aware of your bait site? Your goal should be so many bears coming to your site that you can be picky. Frequently applying scent will greatly increase your odds of seeing bear even in areas where they are not abundant.

Why Scent Lures Are Important

Bears can smell seven times better than a bloodhound and can pick up scents over a mile away. Scent lures make bears curious and interested in your site and they will visit it all season if you use scent. Scent will also help mask your own smell, but NEVER apply scent to yourself when hunting!

Scent lures will draw new bears to your site and inform regular customers that dinner is served. Mature bears often will not return to a site if they don't smell a strong, tasty odor. They will assume you haven't baited and, being cautious, decide that a visit to your site isn't worth the risk. Seasoned hunters know that the sound of ATVs approaching a bait site or

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 31***MIKE FOSS**

Tips for Tag Holders

Preparing mentally, physically for the bear hunt

Did you draw that precious Wisconsin 2021 bear tag? There is nothing more exciting for a bear hunter than receiving that news, but the anticipation can lead to a long drawn out wait for a season that never seems to arrive. Don't just sit there counting the days on the calendar; there's plenty to do to prepare yourself for your hunt.

I have preached this many times before, prepare physically for the field rigors of baiting, hiking, and climbing, but most of all mentally; your relatively long wait is going to come down to a short, close encounter, and your ultimate goal is a quick, humane kill.

Practice with your firearm of choice until your confidence level is high, and then practice some more. Mentally prepare yourself for possible long vigils in your tree stand (which means being physically prepared too). Without packing everything in but the kitchen sink, review in fine detail what hunting items are really necessary in the field, and what are not and make lists to ensure they're packed. For those investing in a guided hunt, talk with your guide, and discuss what you might expect in the field. Your guide has most likely seen it all before, and from his client, there are no dumb questions.

There seems to be a little confusion but yes, there is a new bear baiting rule change (2021 Senate Bill 45) relating to the use of wood to contain bear bait or feed in logs or stumps. A processed wood bottom may be affixed to a hollow log or stump using adhesive nails, or screws for the purpose of containing bait or feed.

If you're having trouble with bears destroying the plywood that's attached to the bottom of your hollow stump, consider this tip; take some time and trace the bottom of your stump onto your piece of plywood, and cut it with a jigsaw to fit. Bears won't have the leverage or board overlap to get at the plywood. Keep in mind, though, while using the plywood on state, county or national forest lands it could be viewed as litter if not removed at the end of the season. You should be removing all trace of your baiting anyway.


Dream often of your outdoor adventures. The bear hunt is special, and in large part due to your wait for that tag. But September is coming fast. Will you be ready? 🐾

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT

SPOONER • WASHBURN COUNTY

Making memories that won't soon be forgotten

It's officially summer in the Northwoods and your options for outdoor adventures and excitement are readily abundant. From its city parks to its lakes, rivers and miles of hiking and biking trails, your visit to Spooner and the memories you make here won't soon be forgotten!



Photo Credit: Washburn County Tourism/James Netz Photography

With nearly a dozen lakes in the Spooner area and almost 1,000 county-wide, it seems like everywhere you turn offers a new opportunity for fun on the water. Feeling fearless and wanting to try your skill at waterskiing, wakeboarding, or surfing? Both Spooner Lake and Lake McKenzie offer public boat landings and provide plenty of room for watersports.

Casting your line into the water and relaxing on the boat more your pace? Lake McKenzie is abundant in musky, northern pike, and walleye whereas Spooner Lake will offer you more opportunities to catch panfish for that shore lunch you've been craving.

Pristine lakes aren't the only bodies of water to explore here. With Wisconsin's Moving National Park, the Namekagon River in Spooner's back yard, you will be wanting to come back for years to come. While kayaking and canoeing are the most common ways to traverse the river during the summer months, friends and family also come from all over to float down the river on tubes. While some spots move slightly quicker, for the most part this portion of the Namekagon moves along quite gently and offers you the perfect chance to kick back, relax and enjoy the ride. Need to rent equipment for your journey? Try AAA Sports Shop right in Spooner, or Jack's Canoe & Tube Rental just outside of Spooner in Trego.

Spooner is also home to picturesque parks that offer options for the kids to play, a quick hike or bike ride, educational opportunities, and are perfect for those picnic lunches you've been waiting to have all year. If you are looking to hit the trails a bit to enjoy hiking or biking, check out College Street Park which also has a nice restful picnic shelter. Spooner Railroad Park also offers up a stunning picnic pavilion and you have to check out the Railroad Memories Museum rich in railroad history.

So, whether you're looking for outdoor adventures to up your adrenaline, solid rest and relaxation, or both, head up to Spooner this summer for a truly unforgettable experience! 🍷

Lauren E. Seifert, Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce Office & Membership Manager | Photo Credit Washburn County Tourism/James Netz Photography

Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

The easier question might be, what don't we offer?

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

Iron County has 136 miles of trout streams and over 200 named lakes to enjoy; 154 of them have public access. The lakes provide a variety of different fishing opportunities, from bluegill to musky. Lakes are accessible by hiking or boat launches. Detailed sportsman's maps are available to guide you through your lake adventure.

Iron County has over 378,00 acres of forest land, much of which is accessible through back roads and old logging trails. Adventurers can explore and camp anywhere along the lands for free, for up to two weeks. Campers are also welcome at county parks, including Weber Lake and Schomberg Park. Both have ATV/UTV trail access. Located close to Saxon Harbor are Frontier Campgrounds and the Driftwood, both privately owned with ATV/UTV trail access. Call our office for a guide to campgrounds.

After a day of adventure, stop at one of the local eating establishments for great food and service. A variety of cuisine is available from fresh homemade pastas and pizzas to prime rib and fresh hand-packed burgers.

Plan a getaway and enjoy our local heritage

The Iron County Heritage Festival begins Friday, July 26 and continues through Sunday, August 11 throughout Iron County. Sign up for the Heritage Days Parade on Saturday, July 27, held annually in Hurley. Featuring the famous Hurley Alumni Band along with many class reunion floats, everyone enjoys the parade. The parade starts at 2 pm. For more information, contact the Hurley Chamber @ 715-561-4334.

Fun, food, music and raffles await at the annual St. Mary's Church Bazaar on Sunday, July 28. Starting at noon you can enjoy fry bread, burgers and more! Bring the kids to enjoy games and don't forget bingo! For more information, call St. Mary's at 715-561-2606.



Iron County Fair will be held August 1 - 4, at the fairgrounds in Saxon. Friday, August 2 will be the 4H Youth Horse Show, market poultry judging, and live music beginning at 3 pm with Flashback and at 7 pm, the Whitehouse Players. Saturday's schedule includes the Antique Tractor Pull, Kiddie Tractor Pull, Horseshoe Tournament and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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DeerFest Is Back

The nation's largest all-deer festival returns to Washington County Fair Park, August 6-8, and will feature more than ever before.

Owner, Hugh McAloon, said that he is thrilled to have a show back again this year after having to take a year off due to the pandemic in 2020.

"The 11th Annual Event will be highlighted by the largest collection of free door prizes in event history," he said. "One lucky DeerFest attendee will drive away a new Polaris Ranger Side by Side."

Other door prizes will include a Radix Blind, bows, treestands, tail cameras and more.

"DeerFest will feature over 200 booths and exhibits all with deer-related products, expert seminars, celebrity appearances, archery courses, tournaments and bow testing," McAloon said. "Of course, the Browning Trail Camera Photo Contest will be back again. That's always a popular feature."

With ammunition being difficult to come by, McAloon is fired up to once again have a live ammunition auction, right at DeerFest.

"Anyone who's into the shooting sports



knows that a lot of shelves are empty when it comes to ammo," he said. "I was thrilled to be able to secure this auction and I'm sure attendees will love it."

New to the event in 2021 will be FREE BOW FRIDAY where any attendee who brings their bow to shoot the archery courses or tournaments will receive free admission.

"We want people to get out shooting and a free ticket just for shooting your bow seems like a good way to do it," he said. "To make it convenient for the archers, we will have a free bow check all weekend, so consumers will know their bow is safe while they tour the rest of the show."

Friday night will feature Happy Hour courtesy of Outdoor Addiction where all



concessions will be half priced from 6pm to 9 pm.

"This makes for an affordable option for families to stay for the day and enjoy some homemade specialty brats and other great food," he said.

DeerFest title sponsor DSG Outerwear will be offering closeout products all weekend.

DeerFest is also sponsored by Rage, Muzzy, Block Targets, Outdoor Addiction, Browning Trail Cameras, Budwesier, Kwik Trip, Brew Pub Pizza and Cedar Creek Motor Sports

HAYWARD, FROM PAGE 6

A simple bobber and some small live bait will do the trick. Small leeches can be fabulous in the spring and early summer, but nightcrawlers produce all season. Adults and kids alike can't help but be excited when a bobber goes under, a sure sign to set the hook and let the fight begin! In the spring it is best to focus on the inside weed lines in 2 to 3 feet of water. As the water warms and brings on summer, move your focus to the outside weed lines or small open pockets in the weeds. You will generally find the larger bluegills/

panfish focused on weed cover between 5-15 feet in the summer and hard spots along weed edges will definitely produce action. As you venture toward deeper water, a slip bobber or small drop shot work great on the deeper weed lines. It is also fun to switch up to soft plastics (such as Berkley Gulp) and other panfish options from a host of brands, instead of or in addition to a live bait presentation.

Hayward Bait & Bottle, as well as Bobber Down Bait & Tackle, are two local shops that have a wealth of knowledge and are ready and willing to help! Be sure

to check the panfish regulations for the body of water you are fishing, and only keep enough for the meal you are working to prepare so there will be plenty to go around and keep the fish population healthy. But most of all, remember to have fun!

For more information on the Hayward Lakes Area, visit www.haywardlakes.com | Submitted by Mindy Simons-Marketing Assistant-Hayward Lakes Visitor & Convention Bureau

HURLEY, FROM PAGE 15

live music at 3 pm with Bella Musik and Starlette's Web at 7 pm. Come on out to the fair for exhibits, rides and of course, food!

Festival Italiano, Saturday, August 31

A trip to Hurley for the last hoorah of summer won't disappoint! The day is filled with food vendors lining Silver Street, games, craft vendors, and music throughout the day. An afternoon performance by Marty's Goldenaires will get the crowd ready for the evening street dance featuring IV Play from Mankato, Minnesota.

Join us soon in Hurley! For more information, visit www.hurleywi.com

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All guest bringing their bows to shoot DeerFest archery courses and tournaments will receive a **FREE ADMISSION** to the event. A **FREE BOWCHECK** will be offered the entire weekend to allow attendees to check and store their bows in a secure environment.

www.deerfest.com

For complete details and tickets Limited to the first 100 attendees.

FRIDAY NIGHT:

Happy Hour Courtesy of Outdoor Addiction

All Concessions are Half Priced from 6-9pm.

SUNDAY:

Military Appreciation Day

All Active Military and Veterans Receive Free Admission!



Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | MARINETTE COUNTY

Visit the Real North

Marinette County has an extensive, well maintained ATV/UTV system with over 200 miles of trails, interconnected with almost a thousand miles of Northeastern Wisconsin's finest and most scenic riding. Ride for the day and access the trails from park and ride locations, or stay the night and leave from your hotel or campground. Trails are open year-round for ATV/UTV use, except when conditions warrant closure.

ATV and UTV riders enjoy smooth, wide trails, brushed overheads and, of course, plenty of opportunity for mud! Forest road trails journey through the heart of Marinette County's 230,000 acres of county forest, yet you're never far from fuel or a bite to eat.

Marinette County's ATV/UTV trails share the spotlight with another popular 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



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Photos: Team WinnebagoLand-Marinette County Ride



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TOM MUELLER

Retriever Hunt Tests

Training for the Junior Stake

There were some exceptional - and not so exceptional - dogs and handlers at the recent Fox Valley Retriever Club Junior Stake Hunt Test. The junior stake is a relatively easy test; a dog must do two single retrieves on land and two single retrieves in water. All retrieves involve decoys as a distraction. Dog and handler are given a score from zero to 10 on how their performance in each of four categories for each retrieve. The "Marking" category measures how well the dog saw and whether or not it ran straight to where the duck fell. "Style" refers to the dog's manner and attitude with regard to its work. "Perseverance" is the dog's ability to persist at running a straight line to, hunting for, and finding the duck. "Trainability" refers to how well the dog exhibits its obedience training.

Entering and running a retriever in a hunt test isn't just about how well the dog retrieves. Obedience is a key factor as to whether or not it receives a passing score. At the junior level a dog must tractably walk at heel to the line. It does not have to heel perfectly, but it must not be pulling the handler and leash with all its strength. The dog should be somewhat relaxed and demonstrate a sense of heeling. The dog must also be reasonably steady. Even though it can be held by the collar, it cannot lunge or attempt to go for the duck until it is told to do so. It also must be quiet when coming to and sitting at the line. A young retriever that has not received adequate training in obedience will most likely receive a low score in the Trainability and Style categories.

A retriever that hunts excessively for the duck will receive a lower score in Marking, Style and possibly Perseverance depending on the judge's perception of that. The dog that can't find or returns without the duck receives a zero in Marking and fails.

The dog must also cleanly deliver the bird to hand. It doesn't have to sit or come to heel. It just has to hold the duck until it is taken by the handler. For quite a few Junior dogs and their handlers this is where

it falls apart. The dog drops the duck before the handler can take it. The handler then tells their dog to "fetch," meaning pick up the duck. The dog doesn't pick it up and then the handler starts commanding the dog to pick up the duck by repeating the command "fetch" over and over. Eventually the dog might pick up the duck, but by then the handler no longer trusts that the dog will hold it long enough to be taken and resorts to what's called the "fast hand" delivery. This is where the handler catches the duck just before it hits the ground when the dog drops it. Not holding the duck or refusing to pick it up is cause for a zero. Picking up the duck after repeated commands to "fetch" merits a low score in Trainability and Style and again possibly in Perseverance.

As you can see, a retriever requires the same skills for both hunt tests and hunting. Training it adequately to pass a hunt test makes for a good hunting retriever. To learn what is expected of a retriever at the Junior level, google "AKC retriever hunt test regulations."

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



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FVRC member Jim Wick with his dog Rex steady and marking the fall



Rex holding the duck for a nice delivery to hand


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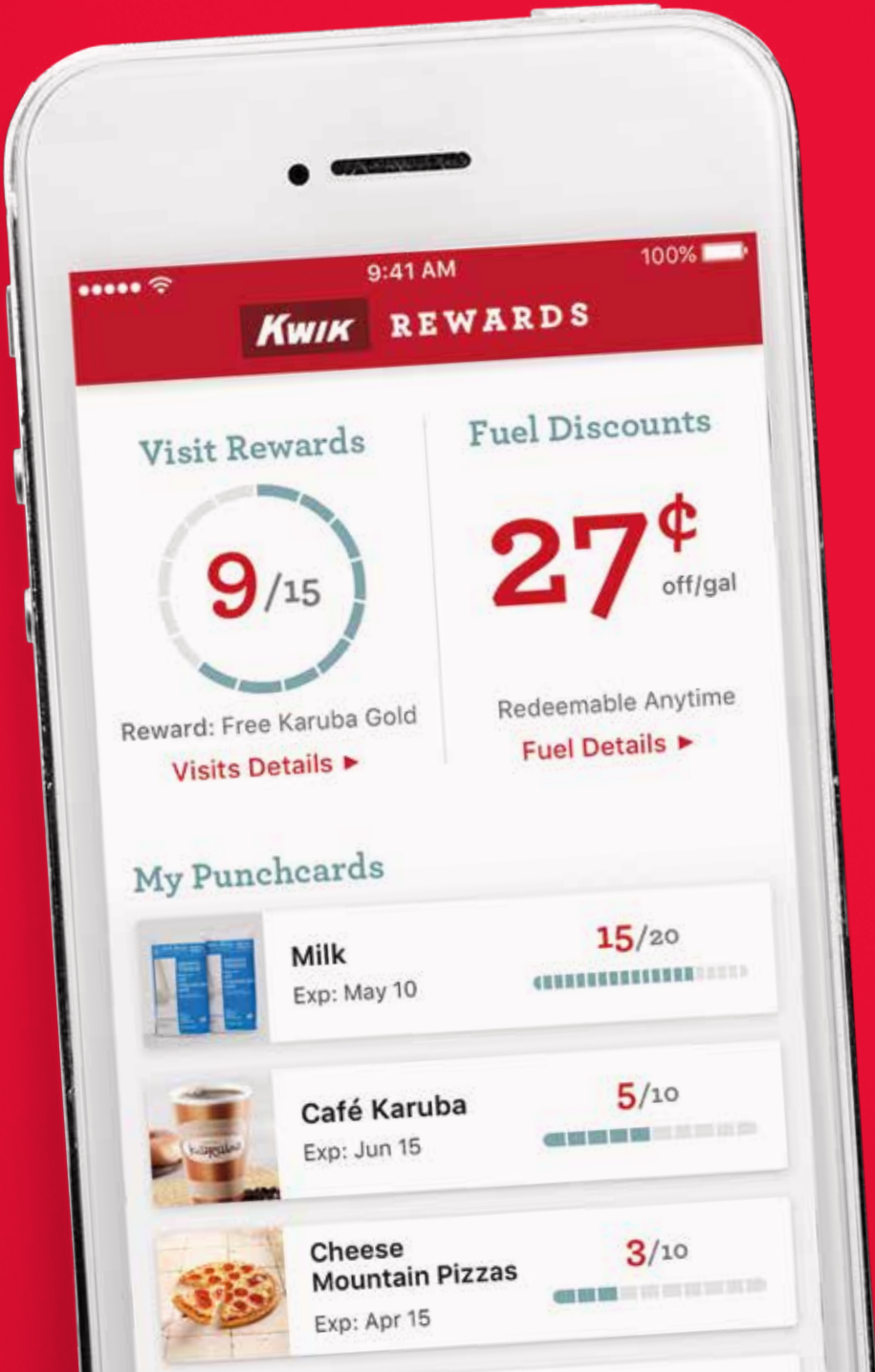
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STUART WILKE

A Forgotten Hero

Heg Memorial Park in Wind Lake

When Union hero and abolitionist Col. Hans Christian Heg's memorial was unveiled at the state capitol in 1926, he was a revered Wisconsin hero. In June of 2020, an angry mob tore it down in protest of racial inequality.

Which was ironic. As a long-time abolitionist, Heg was fiercely opposed to slavery. He was shot and killed leading his troops at the Battle of Chickamauga against rebels whose leaders sought to preserve slavery. My guess is that those who tore down and decapitated Heg's statue did not know who he was, let alone had any knowledge of his deeds or the fact that over 12,000 Wisconsinites died in service to the Union, a mortality rate of more than 13 percent.

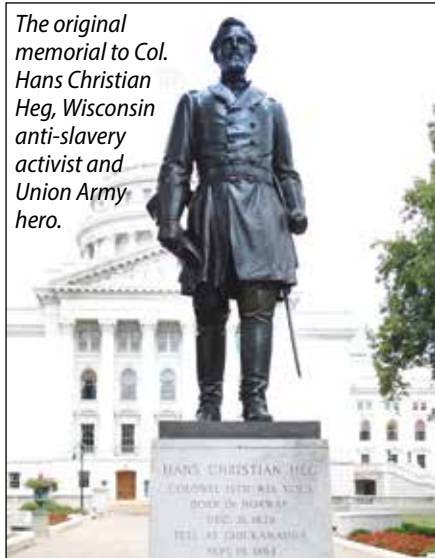
Many Wisconsin soldiers who fought with the North during the Civil War were immigrants. Heg, who was born in Norway in 1829, was one of them. He came to America with his family in 1840. His father, Even, and mother Sigrid, brought the family to Muskego, the state's largest Norwegian settlement at the time.

Hans' father helped establish the nation's first Norwegian language newspaper in 1847, which attracted many politicians to Muskego in search of Norwegian votes. Hans was introduced to a number of politicians at the paper and this is probably where his interest in political office began. Not long after the paper began publication, the California Gold Rush started and like many others, Hans joined in search of fortune. But just as Hans and his partner were finding success, he received a letter informing him that his father had died. Hans dutifully returned home to take the reins of the farm and care of his family.

Heg's political career blossomed upon his return to Muskego. He jumped into the political fray and became active in the abolitionist community. He was so committed to the cause that he helped hide a prominent abolitionist in 1854 who encouraged a crowd to free an escaped slave held in a Milwaukee jail cell under the Fugitive Slave Act.

In time, Heg's political aspirations and abolitionist beliefs led to his service as a county commissioner, justice of the peace, and commissioner of the state prison system, where he enacted a variety of important reforms. He was a prominent

The original memorial to Col. Hans Christian Heg, Wisconsin anti-slavery activist and Union Army hero.




member of the Free Soil and later the new Republican party. With his political connections and constituents' respect, when the nation finally and inevitably fractured over slavery, it was no surprise that Gov. Alexander Randall granted Heg's request to lead a Wisconsin regiment on behalf of the Union.

Heg commanded the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment and was known for his courage. He led from the front, not while safely ensconced in the rear like many Union officers of higher rank. It was at the front, once again personally leading his troops into battle, that Heg was felled by a Confederate sharp shooter. He was shot in the stomach during the Battle of Chickamauga. Still, he briefly continued his charge before lack of blood caused him to fall from his horse. He died the next day.

According to a friend present at Heg's death bed, the Colonel stated that he was willing to die because he, like hundreds of thousands of others, gave their lives for a just cause.

Heg's memory lives on at Col. Heg Memorial Park in Wind Lake. The quiet, well-maintained, 20-acre park is located at 6300 Heg Park Road. In addition to a nearly 10-foot-tall statue of Col. Heg, the park includes several unique structures that portray the story of the area's Norwegian settlers, including an 1830s log cabin, museum, and the home of early settlers Rev. Elling and Mrs. Sigrid Eielson.

Restoration work on Heg's statue in Madison is expected to be completed in July. 



CUBS' CORNER

Summer Shooting with Young Hunters

Building confidence, making memories

Young hunters love the wonders of nature and being with their parents or mentors. But kids are still very eager for success in the form of game in the bag, and you want to help them succeed. One of the most challenging and critical parts of that process is making the shot.

Getting your young hunter to shoot correctly is critical. They want to be familiar with their firearms and feel confident that they can make good shots. A lot of effort goes into taking a kid hunting and shooting practice is essential.

Here are a few approaches for making your summer shooting experiences good ones.

Find a Shooting Range

Check out local sportsmen's clubs, as many will have a day fee, and most are downright economical to join anyway. Another resource is wheretoshoot.org, a resource from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Also check out the Wisconsin DNR's shooting ranges page at dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/WisconsinShootingRanges.

Plan Several Trips

Don't do it all in one day. If you're going to hunt upland birds or waterfowl, conduct a trapshooting day with your shotguns. Later, have a rifle day with your centerfire rifles, slug guns or muzzleloaders. Take a plinking trip with .22s or pellet guns to stay

sharp for deer hunting and prepare for a fall squirrel hunt.

Familiarity Creates Safety and Success

One of the biggest missions you'll accomplish is getting the young hunter confident with each firearm and how it works - loading and unloading, where the safety is, aiming correctly, trigger squeeze, working the action ... these are all things that kids worry about, and are best practiced under the relaxed and comfortable conditions of a warm summer day.

Teach Shotgun Basics

It's tough to get kids hitting a moving target, but young reflexes are fast and hand-eye coordination is great, so just keep at it. Teach the shooter to swing through and pull the trigger while the barrel is moving past the target.

Whitetail Session

Wisconsin's gun deer hunt is religion. Summer is a great time to sight in: The weather is pleasant, the pressure's nonexistent, and the gun's zero isn't going to change between now and November. Start at 25 yards, anchor the gun with sandbags on a good permanent or portable bench, and shoot. Get confident at 25 yards. Then move to 50, with maybe a couple shots at 100 yards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

JACOB QUIGLEY

Kayaking Wisconsin

Adventure awaits on the Wisconsin

**PUT IN:** County Road W Pine River**TAKE OUT:** County Road WW
Brokaw public launch**TOTAL DISTANCE:** 10.6 miles (3 hours)

Kayaking has become much more accessible since my wife Kace and I recently moved to Brokaw, Wisconsin. Brokaw is a small town in the Wausau area and is close to many kayaking opportunities. My maiden voyage since moving here began from a bridge over the Pine River which flows to the Wisconsin.

The current on the Pine was very slow, making for an enjoyable, leisurely pace. Underneath County Road W, I was welcomed to the Wisconsin River by graffiti on a railroad bridge that read “New adventures await.”

Surrounded by deep forest on either side, there was no civilization in sight. The water was quite shallow, averaging about two feet in depth. Once on the Wisconsin River the current picked up and I began moving at a good pace, lightly paddling downstream and taking in the sights. During river trips I consult my GPS periodically to pinpoint my location and regulate my speed to time trips to my liking.

At mile five I passed the Trappe River and the literal “rush” of excitement began to mount. There are three spots

between this point and Granite Heights that have small sections of rapids. These sections do not reach all the way across the river, so I quick paddled from the left side of the river to the right in order to hit a few boulder gardens along the way. I couldn't count how many snapping turtles sun bathed on top of rocks. I also spotted two bald eagle nests.

This trip features many sand bars, as well as islands that provide opportunities for camping. Most of these sand islands are open to the public, but be aware that a few are privately owned.

Sailing was smooth and fast towards the end of my trip on County Road WW in Brokaw as force from the Trappe River's mouth came into play.

Throughout this 10.6 mile voyage, I did not see a single person and o more than ten houses. Whether you're looking for solitude, camping, wildlife viewing, or anything in between, I highly recommend this stretch of river. It was only fitting that I made this trip my first because it leads to my new home. My wife and I are looking forward to seeing what Wausau has to offer and we have many more rivers in mind for the future. 🍷

Please contact On Wisconsin Outdoors if you have a river in mind for my next story.

THORNLEY, FROM PAGE 5

It's body language that I look for whenever I see a doe this time of year.

Seemingly reluctant, she proceeded to the other side of the road. She then stopped, once more looking to the top of the hill. I also stopped. She had just confirmed my suspicion that she had a fawn. As good at hiding as they are, their moms often give them away. I scanned the small hill above the ditch and there she was.

Making her way down what looked to be a game trail, a tiny fawn was working at catching up to her mom. I was close enough to see that she was still wet, her coat dark, highlighted by brilliantly displayed, perfect white spots. She had just been born a short time ago. Her steps were unsure, her new legs wobbly as she figured out how to walk. This might have been the very first hill she had even encountered.

She froze as I began snapping pictures, and I mean frozen solid. In the middle of a step she became motionless and while not laying down, got close to the ground.

Mom took a couple of steps back toward the road as the little lady remained still. Finally she stood up and moved back to the brush, breaking into a quick step as she disappeared – she was learning to run!

Time to move on. I had gotten a few photos, and there was no need to frighten her or make mom more nervous. I'd been blessed to see a new fawn, and witness Mother Nature at her best.

Have a good life, little one! 🍷

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STUART WILKE**OWO Writer and Publisher Take on the Biggest Little Track in the World**

My first venture drag racing was not quite what I originally envisioned. A prolific model car builder and avid car magazine reader as a kid, I knew that one day I would pilot a muscle car down Great Lakes Dragaway in Union Grove to the envy and awe of an appreciative crowd, spell-bound by my driving prowess. Decades later, I finally found myself on the legendary track, and despite the lack of muscle car, envy, prowess and awe parts, it was a blast! On Wisconsin Outdoors' publisher Dick Ellis joined me on this very memorable experience.

Drag racing remains as popular today as it was in my long-ago youth and the cars are faster. According to Randy Henning, CEO of Great Lakes Dragaway, "As long as people go from point A to point B, there will be drag racing. No matter what century, people have wanted to go fast, whether it's in cars or on horses, toboggans, snowmobiles or motorcycles."

Randy felt the need for speed at an early age. He discovered drag racing in Hot Rod magazine around the age of six. By 12 he had met legendary drag racer Don Garlits and not long after made his own Dragaway debut in a 1952 Chevrolet sporting a six cylinder engine and three-on-the tree. He finished in about 18 blistering seconds at 60-some miles per hour.

A high performance '63 Ford Galaxy followed and then a VW Beetle dragster and finally an alcohol-fueled funny car. In 1970 Randy formed Motors for Competition (MOFOCO) in Milwaukee, which still builds high performance VW engines for enthusiasts world-wide.

Randy's racing days ended in the early 1990s when he bought Great Lakes Dragaway from legendary owner "Broadway Bob" Metzler. Today, the Dragaway is known as the "Biggest Little Track in the World" because of its size and great popularity.

During the 1960s and '70s, big name racers often competed at the track, but over the years they migrated to larger venues with bigger purses and more media coverage. Great Lakes may not have a television audience, but it does have something that the super tracks don't: accessibility. Fans have access to the pits and can watch cars being prepped and mingle with crews. Unlike the super tracks where fans watch from quite a distance, bleachers are set up within a stone's throw of the action.

And the action is varied. Everything from rocket cars and nitro-fueled dragsters to street cars and snowmobiles compete at the strip. Large scale events also take place, such as the upcoming Time Machine Nationals, featuring jet- and nitro-fueled cars, wheel standers and more, on September 4 and the Mopars and AMC Festival on July 24 and 25.

A fan favorite is drifting competitions as popularized by "The Fast and the Furious" movie franchise. With billowing clouds of smoke, bellowing engines, and screeching tires, drifting is especially popular with kids.

There's much more to Great Lakes Dragaway than racing, Randy said. "There's a festival like atmosphere. You can walk around, watch drivers and their teams prepare cars for racing, eat food like you'd find at a carnival, and check out the cars."

"Drag racing crosses all boundaries," Randy noted. "It's not limited to any age, race, religion or income level. If you talked to 100 racers, there would be as many white collar as there are blue collar workers. They do have some things in common, like the mechanical and physical abilities to build and make things happen. It also takes a lot of mental ability. There's more to racing than slamming a gas pedal down. It takes brains to build and maintain a race car and a lot of racers build their cars from scratch. You need to know what you're doing."

Which left Dick and I out of the picture.

If you're an adult with a properly licensed and safe vehicle, you too can speed down or drift at Great Lakes Dragaway. Lots of people do, and it's not uncommon to see Ferraris, McLarens and Lamborghinis compete, as well as run-of-the mill vehicles driven by folks for the sheer fun of it.

After spending a couple of fun hours ourselves watching street cars race and drifters drift, Dick and I went to say "hello" to Randy. He asked us if we had taken a car down the track. No, we hadn't. "Well you can't write a story about drag racing without knowing what

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE

Outdoor personality finds area unsurpassed

Explore La Crosse had the pleasure of sitting down with avid-angler and host of Hook & Hunt TV, Jim Crowley, who recently visited the La Crosse Region. Crowley has fished the Mississippi River from its most northern point all the way down to the mouth in Louisiana. Crowley, however, had not fished in the La Crosse area until just a few weeks ago.

When asked about his experience, Crowley replied "I have never seen a more beautiful stretch of river than Pools 7, 8, and 9 there in the La Crosse area. The scenery in some places is just breathtaking and the fishing was everything that we expected and more."

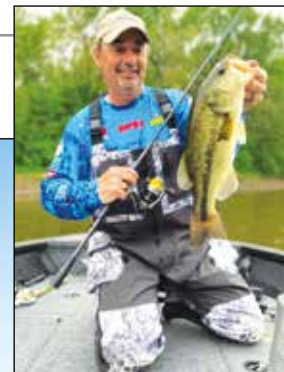
Crowley was adamant about how much he enjoyed his visit to the La Crosse area and continually expressed his new-found adoration of the area. From the great food to the excellent scenery, La Crosse received his stamp of approval. Crowley was able to share some insight on visiting the La Crosse area for the first time.

"In all of the places that we travel across the country, this area definitely has the most to offer," he said. "If you are on your first trip, chances are you will not see all of it. La Crosse is centered perfectly, whether you are from the Chicagoland area or from farther north; it is a great destination that does not take very long to get to with so much to offer. So, take it one step at a time because you are going to be able to see a lot and you are going to be able to experience a lot."

The La Crosse Region looks forward to welcoming new and returning visitors. Crowley confirmed that now more than ever, people are looking for unique and family-friendly getaways. Lastly, he mentioned that the La Crosse area deserves continued exposure for its "nice downtown, abundance of places to stay, incredible fishing, great biking, hiking and so much more!"

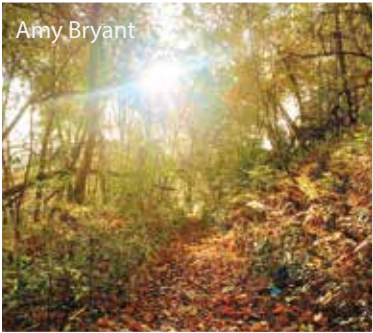
The region is genuinely a sensational spot anytime of the year. Whether you are traveling with family, a large group, or individually, this remarkable area is sure to take your breath away.

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SCAN ME

DICK ELLIS

By the Numbers...

OWO opinions, comments and considerations on wolf management

2 elephants are in the room taking up space but largely ignored anytime the Wisconsin wolf management issue is being debated. One, 218 wolves tagged in the February hunt does not translate to a kill 86 percent over the intended harvest of 200, but rather to an outcome that hit very close to goal.

Two, with 22,400 square miles covering Wisconsin's ceded territory alone, hunters reaching the harvest goal of 200 in just 1.5 days in February reinforce the reality that Wisconsin has many more wolves over the landscape than the 1195 population estimate used pre-hunt by DNR.

You will continue to hear "slaughter" as used by anti-hunters and "wolf advocates" to inaccurately define the harvest total. We'll keep telling you the truth. The wolf is alive and well in Wisconsin.

81 wolves claimed by the Ojibwe as part of the tribes' harvest allotment within the ceded territory in the recently concluded hunt should not have been considered by DNR in the preseason calculation of total harvest goal to be targeted. The obvious intent of the tribes now and in the future as established over Wisconsin's last four hunting seasons is to harvest 0 wolves.

2 plus 0 will never equal 4 and DNR will never reach the harvest goal as is their responsibility pretending that the 2 claimed by the tribes will ever come in.

5.9 million people reside in Wisconsin. Less than 1 percent of the population is Native American. The masses are depending on the small minority to be forthcoming in their harvest intentions. A commitment to truth is imperative. The tribes, of course, are welcome to participate

READER NOTE: The following OWO editorial is the opinion of the publishers solely and does not reflect the opinion of our advertisers or contributing writers.



in the harvest. They are not welcome to use their legal claim to 50-percent of wolves to be harvested within the ceded territory as a mechanism of protection.

11 tribes of Wisconsin will meet with DNR in July in consultation on both the upcoming November 2021 wolf season harvest and long-range wolf management plans. When asked in a wolf advisory committee meeting June 22 by a committee member representing Hunting/Trapping organizations if the minutes to that tribal meeting would be made available to the Wolf Advisory Committee, DNR would not commit. Consistently, DNR uses the word, "transparency" to define its wolf management work specific to the Wisconsin resident. Transparency has consistently not been the case.

1 new organization, Hunters for Wolves, does not reflect the stand of the vast majority of Wisconsin hunters on the issue. The organization's apparent theme as seen on 3 recently erected billboards reads "Real Hunters Don't Kill Wolves". I rest my case.

The wolf is offered to consumers by DNR through Wisconsin's endangered species license plate program but is not endangered at all. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service removed the wolf from the federal endangered species list on January 4, 2021, returning management authority to state agencies. The wolf plate, with the words "Endangered Species" prominently displayed, is offered with a \$25.00 rebate by DNR through December. In this time of intense debate over Wisconsin wolf numbers, every person not in the know encountering the plates beautiful graphic of the wolf with the message, "Endangered Species" will be

receiving a powerful, but untruthful, message.

1 wolf will consume 15 to 20 adult deer annually which is one more reason that it is imperative for DNR to estimate the wolf population accurately now, and manage the wolf population correctly in the future. Man is the true apex hunter. Our deer hunting opportunities in particular in northern Wisconsin's most densely traveled wolf territory continues to decline. According to Deer & Deer Hunting magazine, more deer were killed by wolves than hunters in 2019 in Iron, Jackson, Douglas and Forest Counties.

The wolf is to be admired, for many reasons and we look forward to having him live among us far into the future. The wolf is also to be managed, correctly and in balance with all other species, including man.

And that, DNR, is your obligation, first and foremost. 🐾

Wisconsin's wolf population is 80% over the recommended state goal of 350...and the DNR knows it.

The Wisconsin DNR knows the truth about our state wolf population, but they continue to allow misinformation about it to be spread without correction. The truth is that as of this writing, and based on the DNR's own numbers, Wisconsin has 627, or 80%, more wolves in the state than was recommended by the Wisconsin Wolf Management Planning Committee in 1999, and again in 2007.

DENNY MURAWSKA

Arrow Guns...

And no strings attached

When I first saw a picture of one, it was an epiphany. Here was an air-powered gun that some genius figured out how to stuff an arrow into and fire at a blistering velocity. This was an arrow gun. Oh I should have come out with it first. As a kid, I used to take my Daisy BB gun and put hollow lipstick tubes in it. I could fire them at plastic animals across the living room like a target gallery. Sick days from school became a load of fun, and I took plenty of them. Some were justified.

The concept is sound. A projectile similar to a crossbow bolt is simply propelled by a very high pressure CO2 canister. It puts my crossbow to shame. Have you seen the price on high end crossbows lately? Some are well over two thousand dollars. I own a very durable model that is solid fiberglass, with no cams or gee-gaws to constantly tune. I love it, yet it is a beast to cock. After a year of slacking off exercise because of Covid, things have not gotten easier. I can foresee a day when I might not be able to crank up my weapon the way I used to. Yes, there are winches and other devices to assist, but they come with a price tag.

It is amazing how our hunting tools have evolved. Compare a modern compound to a longbow, or a muzzleloader to a centerfire rifle. While airguns have always had a popular following, we now have weapons that can launch .50 caliber lead slugs at 760 feet per second. This is not your Daisy Red Ryder.



Arrow guns are inexpensive, hard-hitting and fun.
Photo courtesy of Umarex USA

With arrow speeds over 400 fps, some arrow guns are perfectly capable of taking down a deer and more, with jaw dropping accuracy. For meat hunters like me, it would seem the ultimate hunting tool, and capable of over 20 multiple shots as well.

Unfortunately, new technologies are often met with skepticism. Traditional archers have often poo-pooed crossbows. Now, crossbows are firmly integrated into Wisconsin hunting traditions. I seriously want one of these firearms, yet, they have not been accepted in Wisconsin as a legal deer hunting implement. Why the foot dragging? Anyone can read the stats on these highly efficient hunting instruments and realize they have some characteristics equal or superior to approved firearms.

With price tags of less than \$400 and the ability to launch arrows at over 400 fps, what's not to like? 🐾

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

JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER

Reject the Pretenders

In the May/June issue of OWO, I announced my candidacy as an independent for Wisconsin Governor. You've probably noticed that Wisconsin has never had a nurse for governor. You may be wondering whether this is good preparation to effectively lead the state. I'd like to help connect those dots for you, because I realize your confidence in my ability to excel as governor will be critical to winning your vote.

The governor is the CEO of the state. It is a huge bureaucracy with a multi-billion dollar budget and thousands of employees. An effective governor will manage the bureaucracy in a way that protects the freedom of citizens to live the lives they want to live. I will have a great deal to learn about the specific workings of state government, as would any CEO taking a position in a new organization, but the skills I have acquired over more than 40 years are readily transferable.

Most of my professional life I was a hospital administrator. In this role, I no longer directly cared for patients. Over nearly three decades, I developed a clear understanding that my job was to create the conditions for the organization to produce exceptional outcomes. That meant positioning those who do the organization's work, day in and day out, with the information, skills, resources and authority they needed to do their best work. At St. Mary's in Madison, where I was the Vice President for Patient Care and Chief Nurse Executive for 22 years, we consistently produced exceptional results that were in the top tier of the nation and included clinical outcomes, patient and family satisfaction, employee and physician engagement and financial performance.

Clinical practice provided me with the solid foundation that was essential to becoming an effective administrator. Nurses are knowledge workers. We often encounter people at the most difficult times in their lives and deep human connections result. There is no work I can imagine with a greater opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. My clinical practice was the care of the critically ill. As a clinical nurse specialist, I worked with patients and families experiencing multi-system failure, which means the sickest of the sick. A months-long stay in intensive care was not unusual. During my 10 years of clinical practice,



I developed expertise in evaluating the patient, interpreting the situation from an extensive knowledge base, and managing a plan of care to achieve the best possible outcomes for the patient and family. Critical thinking, problem solving and managing outcomes are hallmark skills of clinical nurses.

Many of us have turned away from career politicians and political parties because they rarely produce the results that are important to us. Producing outcomes requires skill that is acquired from both education and experience. My track record is long, public and objectively measurable. Candidates in this race will tell you about all of the great things they are going to do for you. The single greatest predictor of future performance is past performance. Competence is not what we are capable of doing. Competence is what we have actually accomplished. I have the competence to lead. 🗳️

Please follow our campaign on our website at beglingeforgovernor.com, Facebook, Instagram and in all future issues of OWO until the November, 2022 election. If our ideas ring true for you, please join us!



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UNDER THE HOOD WITH BRAD

Making your restoration project a smooth ride

You may have seen some of the many popular auto restoration/modification shows on TV and cable. Project car and 'barn find' car shows are also very popular focusing on restoring cars that have been sitting untouched for years or completing projects started but never finished.

Like others, my friend Howie and I boarded the train and set out for fame, glory and the satisfaction of accomplishment. There are two basic approaches to building your dream; you can restore it to factory original perfection, or as in our case you can cut it up and bring it up to modern performance, handling and comfort.

Some of the things we learned on the journey might help you on your own:

1. Make sure your car or truck has a clean title. Yes, you can get a lost or replacement title. I'm not sure about other states, but in Wisconsin that is not an easy or enjoyable process.
2. Thoroughly research the car you are interested in. In today's market you can practically build a classic car from catalog parts. Some of the most popular bodies are being restamped. You can buy brand new 1932 /34 and 1940 Ford bodies stamped from steel, but they are not cheap. Check the market for available parts. Popular, high production models will have tons of them.
3. When you find a car you are interested in, search the internet. You can find pictures of almost any car ever built. Download images of the four sides, interior and engine compartment and use these to verify anything missing.
4. If you are going to restore the car to original as factory built, make sure the car is complete or the parts needed are available.
5. If you are going to modify it, missing components may not be a problem. In fact lack of an engine or transmission can be a bargaining chip.
6. If you find an unfinished project, check the quality of work already done. Bad welds or fabrication can literally kill you.
7. Take a million pictures as you disassemble. After a year or so when it finally goes back together you will be glad you did.
8. Howie and I went the unusual route, we wanted something different. Howie bought a 1939 Chrysler. I acquired a 1940 Buick Special.

Some parts were available, but most were not. We made sure every part we needed was there or documented what wasn't. To restate the importance of available parts, after a year and a half, Howie is still looking for a 6" piece of side trim.

Howie's Chrysler was completed and painted in a little over a year. He did everything himself to save money. I bought the Buick in November 2020 and hope to have it running this summer.

9. A restoration project makes for a fantastic father son or daughter project. Ninety percent of the fun is doing the work. If you feel the urge... just do it. 🎯



Howie's Chrysler-pick up day.



Howie's Chrysler today.



Brad's Buick-pick up day.



Brad's Buick today.

POLK, FROM PAGE 13

parade, classic car show, bed races.

JULY 16 - 18 St. Croix Falls - Wannigan Days and River Sprit Celebration.

JULY 18 - Balsam Lake - Bass Classic Fishing Contest on Balsam Lake.

JULY 24 - 25 - Frederic Annual Gem and Mineral Show at Frederic High School.

JULY 25 Centuria - Chasing Bigfoot 25, 5k & 25K.

JULY 29 - August 1 - St. Croix Falls Polk County Fair.

August Festival and Music Events

AUGUST 7 - Amery Half Marathon/ 5K. Register at runsignup.com.

AUGUST 7 - St. Croix Show at Chateau St. Croix Winery.

AUGUST 14 - Frederic - Frederic Festival at Soo Line Park, arts and crafts, pottery, woodworking from 9-5.

AUGUST 14 - 15 Milltown - Fisherman's Party.

AUGUST 14-15 Lewis - Charles E. Lewis Days - parade, arts and crafts and more.

AUGUST 15 Luck - Fire Department Corn Feed - brats, hotdogs, burgers and beverages.

AUGUST 21 Cushing - Fun Day and Adult Soap Box Derby.

AUGUST 21-22 Turtle Lake- Moon Lake Threshing Bee.

Polk County has 3,500 miles of shoreline to fish, boat, swim, canoe and kayak. In addition, there are two state parks, Inter-State Park and Straight Lake State Park; and two state trails for biking and silent sports, Gandy Dancer and the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail. Ice Age National Trail covers 1,200 miles through the entire state. The trail begins in Interstate Park and travels across Polk County.

Don't forget our three ATV/UTV trails. All county roads and most township roads are open to ATVs. Horse trails await in Polk County's Governor Knowles State Forest and the Barrens. Call or connect for more information.

We'll see you soon in Polk County! 🐾

Polk County Information Center | 710 Hwy 35 S. | St. Croix Falls WI 54024 | 715-483-1410 | info@polkctytourism.com | www.polkcountytourism.com

BOB'S BEAR BAIT, FROM PAGE 14

hitting a bait bucket after filling it is a dinner bell to bears. Scent lures are the reassurance bears need to enter a bait site.

How to Not Make this Mistake

Apply a scent lure every time you bait! Remember, a little goes a long way. Don't over saturate your site with scent. Just freshen it up a bit each time you go to bait. Don't be afraid to use a variety of scent lures or rotate them every couple of times.

How to Use Scent Lures

There are a variety of scents available and ways to use them. One of the most common is concentrated scent mixed with corn oil. The oil will make the scent water-resistant and last longer in the heat. If you want to skip the hassle, order our convenient premixed scents and hit the woods!

Our packaged, water-resistant, strong-smelling bacon smear is a long-time favorite that will fit in a pocket. Simply smear a little around your bait and you're set to go.

How to Maximize Your Scent Lures

In order to maximize scent lures, soak an

old rag for a couple of days in our concentrated anise scent solution mixed with a little bit of corn oil. Find a sapling at your bait site that is at least 10 feet tall. Without breaking it, bend the sapling over far enough to tie your scent rag to one of its highest branches. Bears will eat the rag if they can get to it. Placed on top of a sapling, the scent will travel above the tree tops and into the wind, carrying the sweet scent to hungry bears for miles.

Our Store

For more great tips, stop by and visit us. We are your one stop-shop for all your baiting needs, including scents, bulk-bait, fruit toppings, dry bait and more. From spring to fall we have it all!

Bob's Bear Bait carries the largest variety of bear bait in Wisconsin, and has multiple locations in Wisconsin and Michigan. Our newest location is in Birnamwood, Wisconsin. Our staff has over two decades of combined bear hunting experience and over a dozen years in the bear bait business! 🐾

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Girls Rule....Too

Family trapshooting legacy continues with great granddaughter

Bayleigh Nieblaski, age 10, is too busy breaking clay targets to shoot in her home gun club's youth league. "They don't do enough actual shooting to hold Bayleigh's interest," her mom Michelle explained. "She loves it, and she shoots right on the line with grown men," Taught by her dad and grandpa, she has shown a real aptitude for clay target shooting. Bayleigh shoots year round, following her dad and grandpa to shoots in her home state of Indiana as well as Michigan.

Bayleigh started shooting with a .22 at age 8 and eventually progressed to a shotgun and clays. She was tutored by her grandfather and helped by her mom and dad who supported her interest in clay target shooting. With a great grandfather who was a state champion trap shooter and



a grandfather and dad who love to shoot, it was a natural fit and progression. Bayleigh has "kept up with the guys" so well, her

mom told me, other shooters have asked her to fill in and shoot as a substitute on their traps teams.

Like most serious shooters, Bayleigh has a preferred brand of firearm. One of the challenges for a 10-year-old trapshooting with a 12 gauge is recoil. When Bayleigh transitioned from her SKB RS 300 semi-auto to a SKB single barrel trap gun, the recoil increased. "I love my SKB gun," she said. "It kicks butt."

What Bayleigh didn't need was for her gun of choice to kick more than that. Her grandfather came up with custom 7/8 ounce loads to lighten the recoil and a moleskin patch on her stock to prevent bruising. And her results on the line speak like a 4th of July fireworks celebration.

Most shooters, myself included, have to work hard and burn lots of powder practicing to stay on their game or improve. A select few have a natural gift for the shooting sports, including the famous Annie Oakley, exhibition shooter Ed McGivern, famous for trick pistol shots, or Howard Hill, the legendary 1930s archer. I'm betting Bayleigh is a gifted shooter, whose talent was nurtured by her grandfather and parents.

So what does the future hold? My guess is Bayleigh will be a star if she shoots in a high school trap league. I would also not be surprised to see this talented young lady competing on a US Olympic Team someday in her promising future.

And wouldn't that, to quote our rising star, kick butt? 🍗

RON STRESING

Summer Charity Shoots

Good Causes, great fun...and practice!

Gun clubs all over Wisconsin are holding shoots to raise money for good causes this summer. Over the years I've attended shoots for veterans' organizations, services for those with disabilities, and high school shooting teams. Attending not only allows for some fun and friendly competition, but helps fund various charities, and service organizations. Money raised also helps to show the shooting sports community in a positive light.

Check with your local gun club or shooting range. I contacted a number of clubs and ranges but only heard back from a few before deadline. I'm sure more shoots are out there. If you support your local high school trapshooting team, check to see if they are having a fundraiser shoot. Most high school teams hold summer fundraisers, and with the skyrocketing price of ammunition, teams will need all the financial help they can get.

Wern Valley Sporting Clays in Waukesha has a whole summer full of shoots, starting with the Sara Shoot on July 17, the SCI Sporting Clays fundraiser July 24, and MBA shoot on July 27. July competition ends with Wern Valley's Great Cancer Shootout on July 31. August has the Kettle Moraine High School fundraiser on August 7 and the

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association Shoot on August 21.

The Boy Scouts Sporting Clays Fundraiser is scheduled for September 9 and the Generac Light the Night shoot is on September 11. Contact Wern Valley at 262-968-2400 for more details and information on the shoots. Along with the shoots, most organizers run raffles and silent auctions.

The Safari Club International Sporting Clays fundraiser on July 24 is a personal favorite. I've shot it for the last 10 years or so, and it's always been a great time. I'm fortunate enough to be able to shoot with the same group of five guys every year. Remember, you don't have to go on African Safaris to benefit from SCI's work. SCI lobbies for your right to hunt and provides money for worthy projects, like the \$176,000 shooting range they built for the Boy Scouts. A lunch is provided.

Side by side-by-side shotgun aficionados have a special shoot all their own. The MRC Sportsman's Club in Medford will host the MEC Great Northern SxS Shoot from July 9 to 11. Hundreds of shooters with side-by-side shotguns will compete for over \$12,000 in prizes with over 50,000 targets thrown. Contact the MRC Sportsman's Club at 715-965-7613 for more information.



So have fun, break some clays, and help support a worthwhile cause. It's a win-win-win situation. 🍗

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

CARPENTER, *FROM PAGE 2***Snag**

Downed trees, logs and woody snags combine overhead cover that trout desire with current that scours out a deep hole and also brings food. You'll lose rigs here, but you'll also find big trout.

Roots

Streamside trees offer trout cover in the form of shade and, more importantly, roots that stabilize the bank and help form an undercut. The best trees are next to fast water, where trout can rest in safety while watching the main current for food.

Bend

Any place where a stream changes direction is a good place to find trout. Here, holes get scoured out, offering deeper water. Food also accumulates. Approach a bend carefully from downstream, and cast upstream. Look for seams of faster current. Fish the water closest to you first, working your way across and upstream with each drift.

Grass

Long summertime grass trails over stream banks provide excellent overhead cover for trout. Flip your bait ahead and fish near anything that might offer overhead seclusion to a trout. 🐟

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

CUB'S CORNER, *FROM PAGE 22***Create Some Reality**

Tack a few magazine pictures of game on the target board, then shoot for the vital areas. Alternatively, put up a larger paper silhouette. The goal is to teach shot placement on game. Also, try to replicate field conditions with some shots away from the bench.

Say Yes to Fun

Keep every shoot short. Take frequent breaks while shooting. Bring along plenty of change for the pop and snack machines, or pack your own drinks and goodies. Food and beverages do a lot to keep kids happy.

As high summer hits, get out shooting. It's the perfect time of year to do it, and it's a small investment that will create a big payoff in your young hunter's satisfaction and success in the woods, fields and wetlands this fall. Plus, it's just good time spent together. And in the end, isn't that the goal anyway? 🐟

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

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STUART WILKE

Shorty's Shooting Sports Safety First

Don't wave a gun in Shorty's face and tell him you know how to handle a firearm. Not knowing the first rule of gun safety, "treat every gun as if it is loaded," whether the safety is on or not, is a sure indication of ignorance or arrogance. Mishandling a weapon can have tragic results. Last July, for instance, a Wisconsin woman was carelessly handling a pistol when she unintentionally shot and killed her two-year-old daughter. Late this spring, a three-year-old Wisconsin child took a loaded pistol left on a kitchen table and accidentally killed himself.

"At least half of our sales in the past year have been to people who have never owned a firearm," Mike "Shorty" Govas of Shorty's Shooting Sports in West Allis said. "Some of them have never handled a gun before coming into the shop and don't know how. If you're pointing it in an unsafe direction and telling me that's okay because it's unloaded, that's telling me you don't know what you're doing. Too many people are buying guns from big box retailers, for instance, without knowing how to safely use them. If the person behind the counter won't spend the time to at least show you how to operate your new gun, walk out and go somewhere else."

If you are a new firearm user, train yourself to practice the following four rules until you can perform them subconsciously. Experienced shooters must be constantly aware of the danger of familiarity and how it can lead to complacency. Novice or seasoned shooter, always follow these firearm fundamentals.

Treat every gun as if it is loaded

Even if you are certain the weapon is empty, always treat it as a loaded gun. Never accept another person's word that a gun is unloaded - verify this for yourself. Many people have been killed with "unloaded" guns.

Never let the muzzle cross anything you are not willing to destroy

Imagine a laser beam coming from your weapon. Never let the beam touch anything you aren't willing to shoot. Keep the weapon pointed in a direction that will safely stop any bullet fired.

Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot

Keep your index finger extended along the frame of the weapon until your sights are on your target and you want to fire. This prevents unintentional firing because of a distraction or otherwise.

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Know your target and what's beyond it.

Always positively identify your target as what you intend to shoot. Be absolutely certain of what you are shooting. Know that bullets may travel through a target and strike something behind it. You may miss your intended target, especially under stress.

Before shooting any unfamiliar gun, read its instruction manual. If for some reason your new-to-you gun did not come with a manual, search for one on the internet. No matter how obscure or what its age, it's almost certain that an instruction manual or video is available on the internet.

Responsible gun owners keep their weapons secured, out of the reach of children and unauthorized people and properly secured. An automobile glove compartment, by the way, is not a secure location. A thief doesn't have to be a brilliant strategist to understand that simple tactics like smashing open a car window, opening the door and grabbing anything not locked down often yields valuable items, like handguns.

Never handle firearms while under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs. Impaired thinking can have disastrous outcomes. It's also illegal and subject to heavy penalties, including large fines and long prison sentences. Some over-the-counter drugs can also affect your ability to safely handle guns and their misuse is also subject to severe consequences.

Keep your firearms maintained and use the correct ammunition. Broken and poorly maintained firearms can be dangerous. More than a few people have had guns blow up in their faces because they loaded the wrong ammunition.

"Every firearm accident is caused by carelessness or ignorance," according to Shorty.

Whenever you handle a firearm, give it your full attention. Your life and those of others are at stake. 🎯

WILKE, FROM PAGE 24

you're writing about. Get your car."

We complied. After a safety inspection, directions and some mental preparation, we were off to the track with Dick's wife's Nissan Rogue crossover. Painfully aware of the Rogue's severe horsepower and torque limitations in combination with its gear-less CVT transmission, I didn't anticipate us setting any track records. There would be no burnouts to warm up the tires and improve traction because the Rogue couldn't do burnouts. Shifting through the gears was out of the question because there were none to shift. With our limited attention spans, we might not even notice the light had turned green.

I found myself somewhat baffled when the light did turn green, snapped out of it and hit the gas pedal. I sped down the track, enjoying the sensation of speed without the worry of law enforcement intervention. End result: 77.8 mph in 17.8 seconds. Not vintage GTO territory, but great fun nevertheless. Dick did better and is still gloating about it. 🎯

Experience drag racing as a spectator or an actual participant yourself at Great Lakes Dragaway. For more information, visit their web site at www.greatlakesdragaway.com

On The Cover
Log Rolling and lumberjack shows will be waiting for your family at the Wisconsin Sport Show - Fall Edition September 10, 11 and 12, at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls. See story and ad on page 10.



JOHN CLER

Out-of-State Turkeys

Planning your spring of 2022 hunt

If you love hunting Wisconsin spring gobblers, you may have considered testing your skills against turkeys beyond the borders of the Badger State. Out-of-state turkey hunts are not nearly as expensive as big game hunts and offer a huge variety of options. Like any other hunting trip, the planning needs to begin well in advance of the actual hunt.

There are five subspecies of wild turkey in North America. They all gobble, strut and respond to hen calls. Each subspecies, however, looks a bit different and resides in a different kind of habitat. Each habitat type and subspecies presents a unique set of challenges.

The Eastern subspecies calls Wisconsin home. It is generally the largest and has booming gobbles. They are considered the most difficult to hunt, mostly due to the amount of hunting pressure they see. They are found in woodlands from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Plains.

The Merriam's wild turkey lives in mountain and plains habitats and boasts a tail fan border and rump feathers of creamy white. Their gobble is more of a "giggle"

than our familiar Eastern birds. Their habitat has roost trees in limited locations, narrowing down prime locations for early morning and late evening hunts.

The Rio Grande subspecies lives on the plains and has also been introduced to Hawaii. Like the Merriam's, their habitat may have limited areas that are forested. Their terminal tail band and rump feathers are copper-colored.

The Osceola subspecies is found in a limited area of central Florida. They gobble like our Eastern birds, but have primary wing feathers that lack the white barring making them mostly black. Their habitat is wooded, thick and often swampy.

The Gould's subspecies is found in desert areas. There are populations in New Mexico and Arizona, but the greatest numbers are in Mexico. This subspecies has rump feathers and a terminal tail band that are snow white.

Many serious turkey hunters strive for the "Grand Slam" that includes the Eastern, Merriam's, Rio Grande and Osceola subspecies. These are all easily available

within the United States. A "Royale Slam" is a Grand Slam plus the Gould's turkey. A "World Slam" adds the Ocellated turkey from Central America. The ocellated turkey is a different species and sounds and looks much different from the others. The National Wild Turkey Federation has a map on its website showing where each subspecies can be found.

The planning process should begin with choosing a subspecies to pursue. The options for Merriam's and Rio Grande's are more numerous, as they are found over a large number of states. The western states they inhabit have lots of public land if a do-it-yourself hunt is your choice. Outfitters offer lodging, meals and private lands to hunt for fairly reasonable prices and will advertise which subspecies they offer. Some will have more than a single subspecies. You may also want to investigate Native American Tribal Land hunts. Tribes issue their own tags, but may require that you hire a tribal guide for your hunt.

The Osceola and Gould's turkey are best hunted with the help of a guide or outfitter, as they are confined to relatively small areas.

The author with a Gould's gobbler taken in Mexico during April of 2020.



These hunts will probably cost a bit more due to the reduced range and increased demand by those looking to complete slams. Do-It-Yourself hunts can still be had, but may require a bit more planning.

Hunt planning should start with state wildlife agencies to investigate season structure, tag prices and general turkey hunting rules. They may also provide information on public lands, tribal lands and special application hunts. Do not be afraid to look into several options during the early stages of planning your hunt. Don't rule out an out-of-state hunt for the Eastern subspecies, either.

Turkey hunting is fun, exciting and a challenge no matter where you go. Planning is also part of the fun! 🦃

John Cler is a retired high school science teacher and principal. He pursues his passions for the outdoors and conservation from his home in Richland Center.

JERRY KIESOW

Fly-Fishing in Wisconsin

Weight forward or double taper

I am looking at a recent fly-fishing catalog of a premier supplier and I notice they have a line for every species of fish that swims and even for certain kinds of flies. "Why?" I ask. Because they can and they all sell, is the answer.

Mainly, I use a weight-forward line. If I need to get down in the water column with my nymphs and streamers, like down deep for bass in the summer, fast-water trout, or steelhead in the fall, I add a weighted section of line that I attach between the line and the leader. It is of the loop generation so adding and subtracting it is relatively simple.

I also have one double taper line, for my three weight rod when a delicate presentation or a lot of mending is required. Those are the only types of lines I have. I do use different weight line to fit different rods and cast different flies.

According to several of the catalogs, I should use a special line for almost every species of fish that swims. I also must coordinate this with a special line for different flies (and I need a special line . . . just because).

Let's look at these "different" lines. All the line drawings of the "special" lines that I have looked at on the web look

like weight forward lines. Yes, the taper on each is a little different so they will cast a bit different with different rods and using different flies, but they are still weight forward lines – in my humble opinion.

The double taper line is defined by some as, "... a very traditional style of line which has a long level belly and a symmetrical taper on each end. Weight forward lines shift the weight to the front of the line and were developed to match modern fast action carbon fiber rods."

Bruce Richards, who is now retired but used to work for Scientific Anglers and has forgotten more about tapered lines than I will ever know, says on this subject: "Few fly line subjects have been discussed more than which is the better taper, double taper (DT) or weight forward (WF). The answer is, neither is inherently better, but one may be better than the other for you."

He talks about the many differences and similarities. New finishes, for example, have made the lines smoother, thereby sliding through the guides better (like ASD), which in turn makes the casting easier and the casts longer. Although the average cast is only about 45 feet - which is usually when the running line is in the rod.

Jerry carries two three-weight reels, one with the double taper line and one with the weight-forward line.



For most of us it doesn't make much difference which taper we use, most of the time we don't cast that far anyway. Make your decision not on how often you cast beyond 45 feet, but on how much short distance fishing you do. The long-range fishing will be good enough for you. You don't need a different line when you present a #18 Hendricks to trout instead of a #6 popper to panfish.

So, I guess I won't buy a different line for every time I target a different species of fish, and I really don't need one every time I change types of flies. I only need what I have. And maybe I don't even need all of those.

Either way, get out and fish your favorite line.

See you in the river.

Keep a good thought! 🦈

Editor's note: Jerry enjoys all aspects of the outdoors and shares them in many ways through his photos, words, and workshops. He has written two books, "Tales of The Peshtigo Putzer," and "Photos, Poems, and a Little Bit of Prose." Both make great additions to your outdoor library, and/or great gifts. They are available for purchase at Orange Hat Publishing, Amazon, and his website: www.jerrykiesowoc.com. Be sure to check his site out often to follow his updates and endeavors – which he does not always tell you about.

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