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TOM LUBA

Ready for Battle

The full fall arsenal for smallies and big mouths

Interpreting seasonal signs is the key to unlocking fall bass. Come September and October, I lean toward river smallmouth and shallow flowage largemouth. But the approaches can be quite different.

For fish activity, fall wins. The water is cooling, allowing the fish to embrace the season. Overall, it's far less erratic than springtime.

Sixty degree water is the magic number for smallmouth to put up their dukes. Largemouth put on the gloves a little earlier. Yet, I've seen river smallmouth moving in the mid-sixties. So sometimes it can pay to beat the clock.

River smallies prefer rock, gravel and wood, with current breaks offering shallow feeding areas. The bass migrate from area to area as the water cools, setting up near their 15 - 20 foot wintering sites. Keep in

mind, river smallmouth move farther to winter, while bigmouths go vertical, along remaining green weeds.

On rivers, start by covering ground. Find preferred feeding spots as they migrate and they produce every year. Moving baits, like deep crankbaits, in browns or chartreuses, are effective until water dips below 50 feet. At that depth, bottom bouncing lures like tubes, jigs, grubs, four-inch centipedes and flukes take over.

Tangling with a big smallmouth in current is a fight. I suggest 10 to 12-pound line for spinning, and 12 to 14 for baitcasting. Medium heavy rods provide more leverage. I like fluorocarbon line on baitcasters. Consider a fluorocarbon leader attached to monofilament for spinning. Lighter tackle works, but a good fish can take you to task. I try balancing both spinning and baitcasting reels to handle

one-sixteenth and one-eighth ounce jigs and weights. Watermelon seed and green pumpkin are good starting colors. Keep something chartreuse handy as a change. Sharp hooks do matter; a round bend, z-bend 1/0 or 2/0 hook for Texas-rigged smaller baits and a 3/0 round bend, z-bend to hold longer baits like the fluke.

The above also work on normal level flows. In high water and heavier current, I rely on three-eighth or one-half ounce swing jigs where the bait swings freely behind the weight. A Berkley PowerBait MaxScent Creature Hawg rigged weedless gets the nod here. But, don't be afraid to fish the heavier jig on bottom under normal water levels, when a severe cold front muscles in, or heavier boating or fishing pressure pushes the fish down. With heavier weights, keep the bait moving slowly across bottom to avoid snags.



Tracking river smallmouth as they move to wintering areas can result in some exceptional fall fishing

Largemouth come alive in the lower 60s. The bigmouths opt for the still green weeds, which on smaller, shallow lakes may be a depth change of as little as four feet. Mobile baits along weeds, like shallow brown crankbaits, spinnerbaits, a swim bait, or a minnow-shaped crankbait in Tennessee shad or baby bass pattern

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

TOM CARPENTER

A Different Kind of Hunt

The golden trout of fall

As the mornings put some chill in the air and the leaves begin to change color, few folks think of trout fishing. As much as I am a hunter in my heart, I am a hunter of fish as well.

So it is that, sometime in September and maybe even on a bluebird day in early October, my mind and heart and attention turn to trout, if only for a morning or afternoon.

We head down toward the stream, the bird dog and I, through meadows looking like autumn. I think she thinks it must be odd that we are not hunting, but then again I think: She doesn't care when we are in a place such as this and she is free to romp and roam. She lives in the now. I try.

The last of the hardy fall wildflowers bloom. The goldenrod is turning brown. Above, the forested bluffs twinge with reds and yellows and russets toward the full glory they will be in a couple weeks.

Finally, the stream. I hear it before I see it, and then smell it before my eyes lay upon it: springwater fresh and gin-clear and cold and pure, rushing over cobble after every bend and then zooming off once more after pooling up again.

I could tell you a tale and say that the fishing itself is beside the point and that it is the being here that matters. And while that is



CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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DAVE DUWE

Deepwater Bonanza

Smallmouth Bass on the down low

In late summer and early fall, smallmouth bass will school up in the deep reaches of the lake. Most of the time, this phenomenon happens on lakes that have a thermocline. A thermocline is the separation in a lake between the warm surface water and the colder water near the bottom. This happens because the warmer surface water is lighter than the cooler water down deep. It makes the lake stratified like a layer cake. There are several lakes that fit the bill for deep smallmouth bass in southeastern Wisconsin. My favorites are Lake Mendota in Dane County, Lake Geneva in Walworth County, and Pine Lake in Waukesha County.

Smallmouth bass prefer areas of scattered weeds and rock. The main forage for the fish is the crawfish earlier in the summer, and as fall progresses, their taste will switch to the baitfish such as chubs, shiners, and yellow perch.

There are a lot of ways to catch these deep fish. My personal favorites are drop shotting, Carolina rigging or live bait rigging.

For drop shotting, I will use a 3/8 ounce Xcalibur Tungsten weight and a one-foot leader with a size two octopus' hook. I prefer a red hook. It seems to produce the most action. I tip the rig with a Yum brand Houdini worm, watermelon with red flake

is always a great choice. I fish straight beneath the boat. I like a longer fishing rod, 6' 6" to 7'. My reels are spooled with six to eight pound test Trilene; the clearer the water, the lighter the line. I use a shake (four to five times) and pause method to initiate a strike.

For the Carolina rig approach, I choose a baitcaster reel spooled with a 17 pound and 10 pound fluorocarbon leader. For over 20 feet of water, I will use a 3/4 ounce weight with a 1/0 worm hook with a 24-inch leader. My lure selection is an Arkie Crawlin' Grub in root beer or watermelon black/red flake. If the grub does not work, I then switch to a green pumpkin six-inch lizard. I make long casts and basically drag the rig back to the boat. Most of the time, I will cast perpendicular to the structure and work it over the structure.

If artificial methods are not working, I am not shy about lindy rigging them with live bait. Due to the deep water, I will use a 1/2 ounce walking sinker with a size six hook. The preferred length of the rig is similar to the Carolina rig of 24 inches. I work the rig backtrolling vertical over the structure; fishing with a lot of line out will make you lose the feel of the presentation. The bait of choice is either nightcrawlers or small suckers. Both will be hooked in the head. The gear I fish is exactly like that of the drop shot rig.



Author Dave Duwe with a Lake Geneva smallmouth.

The primary locations I search for are rock and scattered weeds. Main lake deep points are a great place to start. The spots are evident with the use of a good color graph. With the color graph, the bottom hardness will be easy to detect, solid red is the best.

As a rule, the fish will be schooled up. If you catch one, you will probably get sore arms reeling in a lot of fish. An average day for me with schooling fish would be 15 fish in a four-hour fishing trip.

Do not be like most people and fish too shallow. Deep water offers an abundance of opportunities. This late summer, try some deep-water smallmouth. You might just be surprised at how well you do. 🎣

Dave Duwe is the owner of Dave Duwe's Guide Service, fishing the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin. Dave can be reached at 262-608-8063.

LUBA, FROM PAGE 2

can work early on these waters. With more weeds, I suggest baitcast with 14-pound fluorocarbon. Warmer weather can spur a September frog surface bite; so, consider packing one heavy outfit for thicker weeds.

But, as the water hits 60, or below, a five-inch Senko stick worm rigged weedless on a 3/0 round bend z-bend hook can score big. Let it sink down among those remaining green weeds. When the largemouth are not chasing, they are certainly receptive to this approach.

If the river smallmouth are active, but the shallow largemouth aren't, it might mean moving to a deeper lake, which cools slower, for largemouth. Find the deeper breaklines off of bays and points, or humps that host green weeds to locate them.

Fall is time for exciting fishing and the approaches outlined here can keep you enjoying hot smallmouth and largemouth action as the season progresses. 🎣

Tom Luba likes catching both largemouth and smallmouth when fall comes a knocking. But he's also happy with fall crappie, bluegill, pike or walleye.

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When All Else Fails Mother Nature sometimes knows best

With so much technology available to find and locate fish, many anglers may be relying too much on their electronics at the expense of observing their surroundings. They can be so caught up in the latest and greatest that they sometimes overlook the obvious.

There are ways to catch fish without electronics or the latest technology, and we will explore one in this article. This method doesn't work for all species, but it definitely works on muskies and the occasional big pike!

I discovered this technique during an unproductive guided fishing trip. My client and I had been out on the water for the entire morning and had not seen a fish. We had already worked my "good" spots and even tried a few new ones. We switched up baits several times with no success.

Then I noticed something I had overlooked all year. Schools and schools of small carp right at the surface. They were sucking in whatever they could right off the top of the water. There were hundreds of them in multiple pods all around me.

After a few moments of thought, I put a Bulldawg on a line and cast right over the school. I let my lure sink a little

and then proceeded to rip it right underneath the school. On my second or third rip, I felt what I thought was the lure snagging one of the carp. Within seconds, a four-foot musky skyrocketed out of the water with the Bulldawg securely in its mouth.

Immediately I reeled back and hammered the hooks home and was rewarded with a solid hookup and a big fish. I quickly handed the rod off to my client and the fight was on! While it seemed like forever - but was probably less than a minute - a big musky was laying in the net. All 48 ½ inches of her. After a few handshakes, high fives, and a quick photo, the big girl was released to fight another day.

After catching that fish we started searching out and looking for schools of carp feeding on the surface and targeted them the rest of the day. We not only found several other muskies, but we encountered some nice pike as well. We had a day that had started out very slowly but quickly turned into a spectacular outing and a day that I will never forget.

Over the years I have watched for carp feeding on the surface to locate muskies and it has worked unbelievably well. I look for schools of carp and then I cast around them, over them, and sometimes even right into them. My goal is to find muskies lurking in the distance, waiting for

Dave and Noah Fredel
with Noah's big musky
taken on a bull dawg
- The fish referred to in
the article.



an opportunity to strike an unsuspecting prey. I believe that the muskies are watching the schooled-fish, striking those that ill-advisably break ranks. That's when a properly placed lure comes in play, the muskies' instincts take over, and the strike is your payoff!

The next time you're out fishing and success is eluding you, just sit back for a minute, turn off your electronics and let Mother Nature show you the way. Sometimes finding fish is not as hard as it seems and the obvious is right in front of your face, or in this case, it's right on top of the water!

Have a great season! 🎣

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DICK ELLIS

A Welcome Streak

Bob Ellis Row Trolling Classic, and beyond, is one for the books

Most of us know the streak in the outdoors, both bad and good; six years without a deer, or six muskies in one nice stretch of hot fishing. We all learn to wait out the unwelcome times in the field, knowing that the good times hang somewhere out there on the horizon.

The annual Bob Ellis Musky Row Trolling Classic held to memorialize this publisher's uncle annually for his expertise as a musky angler exclusively row trolling has been good and bad over the years for the Ellis/Dlobik families, comprised of nephews and nieces who took up the baton and row troll in large part to simply remember a great uncle...and of course, because the technique works.

Even if certain nephews...me... didn't inherit his uncle's talent on the water and ability to find fish, other nephews and nieces also know the act of trolling means the lure is being pulled in and out of productive water...even if by accident. The coveted strikes will come.

Bob caught an estimated 1000 legal muskies pulling homemade lures across the lakes of Vilas County, including a large fish of 41 pounds and too many in the high 20s and 30 to count. Bob is widely credited as being the pioneer who would look at swarms of baitfish like perch or cisco lighting up a fish locator screen as the true "structure" an angler should look for when hunting predator fish instead of the rock, wood or weeds more familiar to Angling 101. Find those baitfish most often in deep water Bob theorized mainly by experimenting and ultimate success, and the prowling musky and trophy walleye would be close by.

His knowledge (and humility), love of row trolling, and success bought Bob an induction into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame headquartered in Hayward. His passion for the technique meant even pushing his tiny Shell Lake 12-foot boat across ice to reach open water until Mother Nature absolutely refused to cooperate would also cost Bob his life. He was killed in a boat collision with the only other boat on Papoose Lake on a November morning in 1989 at age 73.

I'm writing this from a Bob Ellis cabin built in 1951. As a young man, Bob purchased 1500 feet of lakefront on the Manitowish Chain and slowly built four cabins staggered of the frontage properties from which he could run a resort, and chase his passion. Nephews and nieces all joined him as young children, watched his unique tools and approach on the water, took in the uncanny knowledge of this great uncle, and ultimately, followed suit in row trolling. When we lost Bob, we also purchased his properties broken up to make that purchase affordable for several of us who still didn't own a home.

The Bob Ellis Classic (BEC) would never happen without coordinators Kevin Wallenfang, Geoff Crandall, Steve Reinstra and Jeff Koser making it happen, motivated by their own love for rowtrolling. We, Bob's family, appreciate their efforts annually, virtually with nothing expected by the coordinators in return. The BEC generally draws about 25 row trollers, purists who love to row for muskies and other gamefish. Many of the participants bring row trollers purchased or built seemingly too beautiful to risk taking out on the water. Call it artwork, and in fact, the boats are voted on at the BEC each year under categories including "The Row Troller You'd Most like to Take Home" and "The Classic Row Troller". Participants also bring prizes from the world of fishing to raffle off and purchase tickets to claim the merchandise at the dinner concluding BEC festivities.

Now back to the Classic, and those welcome and not-so-welcome streaks.

The Ellis Family has done well...at times...in the Classic...and not so well. As an example one year taking a 1st and 3rd place on the lake where Bob lost his life decades before, with each fish taken on homemade baits made by a nephew, Jim Ellis, who started to make the baits in the first place as a way to remember and grieve a very close uncle lost. Some of us have also experienced the lows of not having a rod bend over under the weight of a musky strike for an entire Classic...or six. It comes with the outdoor territory.

The 2021 Classic, and the days beyond, were so good to the Dlobik/Ellis family that it felt a little like Bob was hanging over our shoulders with each stroke of the oars, dictating where those baitfish might be hanging. On Crab Lake, Bob's nephew Dave Dlobik used a Gramma bait to bring in 1st place with a 40-inch plus fish and a homemade lure to catch and release 38-inch beautiful bonus for 3rd place. Dave row trolls from the renovated Bob Ellis 12-foot Shell Lake his uncle used so many years before, with routine success. With Dave, the skiff is in the best hands possible to continue, and appreciate, such a unique tradition.

"I caught the bigger fish on the Gramma Bait that Barb (Johnson-Bob's niece, Dave's cousin, and this writer's sister) had brought to raffle off at last year's Classic," Dave Dlobik said. "I told her before we started this year that I was using her bait."

On Island Lake, Bob's home water, Jim Ellis used a crappie-finished homemade lure to take second place with a 39-inch musky, and this writer added a 5th place fish that measured in at 30-inches after smacking the lure not 200 yards from leaving Bob's



Bob Ellis nephew Dave Dlobik caught and released the 1st and 3rd place muskies in the 2021 BEC. He caught the 40 inch fish on a Grandma bait, and the 38-inch fish on a homemade lure.

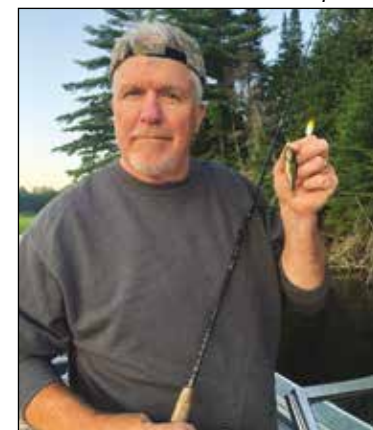


Bob Ellis nephew Jim Ellis followed up his 2nd place finish with a 39 inch musky in the BEC with this 47-inch fish also caught and released row trolling that same week in July.

Bob Ellis nephew Mark Ellis fished the week of the BEC to catch and release 42 and 40 inch muskies near Minocqua.



Ellis cousin Dean Pavletich caught and released this 44 inch musky on a blue Cisco Kid the week of the BEC.



After taking 5th place in the BEC with a 30-inch muskie, OWO Publisher Dick Ellis again proved his expertise on the water that same week by catching and releasing this record-class largemouth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

DICK ELLIS

A Long Drought Ended... Tammy's first musky

Tammy Ellis's long drought in search for her first musky ended July 24st. Instead of dampening the enthusiasm for the Wausau area resident, the long and unwelcome streak included enough close encounters of the heart-stopping kind to make her resolve for catching a first legal grow. Let's say Tammy took the near misses a bit personal.

"It's her nature," said Tammy's husband and fishing partner Mike Ellis. "The harder something is, the harder she works to conquer it, the more determined she is to succeed. The failures were starting to bug her. She got serious. She bought a second musky rod and a pink musky shop hat. That's when I knew she was getting into it."

Tammy, Mike said, began fishing muskies two years ago, evolving from a "mostly worm on a hook" angler with a growing addiction to targeting a single, not-so-easy species. The journey included learning how to use a bait-casting reel, and learning too how experiencing a follow will kick the adrenaline glands into high gear. Close encounters with follows appearing from nowhere, strikes and lost fish on baits that included topwater runners came on Vermillion in northern Minnesota, and on the Wisconsin River, where a legitimate 50-inch fish took Tammy to the deepest hole in the river before eventually throwing the lure. Along the way of paying her dues, she caught northerns, but she wasn't looking for a cousin of the king, and the resolve

grew.

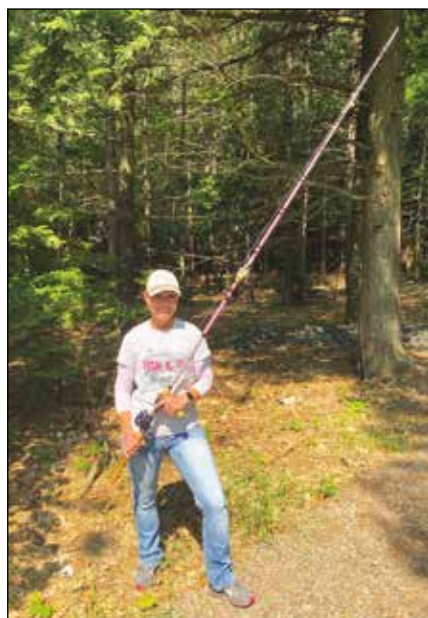
"I love musky fishing because it is not easy," Tammy said. "Everything from casting, learning how to use my reels, picking baits and mastering the figure-8 has been a struggle. Adding a handle to my rod (See photo-a gift from a friend) was a game changer, allowing me to stay in the game longer and do more. Seeing these fish follow, experiencing strikes and swirls used to freak me right out. Now I just get more determined to finish the job."

Mike and Tammy were camping on Big Lake in late July intent on targeting Vilas County Lakes, starting with Round Lake, with a major feeding cycle on the docket between 1 and 3 pm. Throwing a bucktail, Tammy and Mike moved three muskies, including one really good, aggressive follow and a short strike. Toward evening, they moved for a first time exploration trip to Big Lake.

Tammy and Mike found some weedy bays largely protected from a strong wind, and Tammy took top water Cisco Kid out of her arsenal to try to stir things up. When the musky hit and a really good fight ensued, Mike said, Tammy was all business and let it be known that she was calling the shots.

"She was all business and looked like a professional," Mike said. "It was a really good fight. She told me where she wanted me with the net. When the time was right, she slid the fish right in."

All 38-inches of Wisconsin's most



A pink musky rod with a special handle allows Tammy to throw large baits much longer without tiring in her ongoing search for muskies.

sought after fightin' fish. A first musky only happens once. With Tammy, maybe her appreciation grew with the wait.

"I am ecstatic to have that first musky in the bag," she said. "No matter what it takes to get the next, I now know I can! Much like life, musky fishing requires focus, dedication and effort. I think it's the sacrifices and failures that ultimately help achieve the goal. After recently hooking and losing a big one, I was not going to let this one go. I have been coached, but no explanation replaces the experience of actually hooking, fighting and landing a fish. Once I felt it on the line I told myself, out loud, to set the hook. I did not do this before. Then I paid close attention to what the fish was doing and how it was moving to assure I did not pull the hook out of the mouth again."

"I am grateful to Mike for being patient and dedicated to help me achieve this accomplishment. We have made unforgettable memories already and I know there are many more to come. I encourage more women to explore this challenge. Being on the water, casting and pursuing this predator is a great escape from all the other stressors we deal with every day."

With the first fish in the net, there was really only one thing left that any professional angler could relate to. "She screamed so loud, I'm pretty sure everyone on the lake knew she had caught a fish," Mike said. "It was a long time coming for her. And very well deserved."



ELLIS, FROM PAGE 5

old cabin. Kevin Ruffing caught and released the only other fish netted during this BEC, a 37-1/2 inch fish that claimed the Classic's 4th place.

The family streak would continue during a few hot days of fishing just "for the fun of it" trolling and casting after the classic. Mark Ellis of Minocqua caught three muskies that included fish that measured in at 42 inches and 40 inches. Jim Ellis again put his lure making prowess to work and caught and released a 47-inch fish, again on Bob's home water. And Ellis cousin Dean Pavletich, a usual Classic participant, could not in 2021 but used day one of his return to Presque Isle to land and release a 44 inch fish taken on a blue Cisco Kid that same week.

This year, those nieces I referenced were mostly absent. Yes, they row troll and cast for muskies, but during this Classic the ladies were promoting Joan Ellis Beglinger's (Bob's niece) run for Wisconsin governor at the Farming Days Extravaganza in Eau Claire. Barb Johnson, for example, mentioned above, has taken many muskies and a legitimate 30-inch walleye row trolling. My wife Lori Ellis row trolls with me including during one very welcome streak of 11 musky strikes in one week. And great niece Tammy Ellis didn't let her two year streak of bad endings hunting muskies keep her from the ultimate goal of bringing to net a real beauty and her first fish the week of the BEC. Read that story in the online version of On Wisconsin Outdoors at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

The Ellis/Dlobik family again would like to thank BEC Coordinators Wallenfang, Crandall, Reinstra and Koser. For 10 years, they have put their time and effort to making the BEC something that row trolling purist look forward to. And, regardless of how many fish are caught... or not... that's one streak that we sincerely appreciate.

A man of God in all aspects of life, Bob Ellis used a prayer on the water whenever an especially large musky was hooked but the outcome of the battle still in doubt....

"Thy Will be done..."

It is also a prayer of forgiveness that Bob would have taken with him his when he pushed off of the shore of Papoose that final morning on Papoose.

With Wallenfang and crew coordinating the BEC annually, and expecting nothing in return, the family knows too ...it will be done. And done right. And that, is one good, long, welcome streak....with no end in sight.



Tammy Ellis's look says it all on Big Lake in Vilas County with her first musky caught and released after a futile two year pursuit.



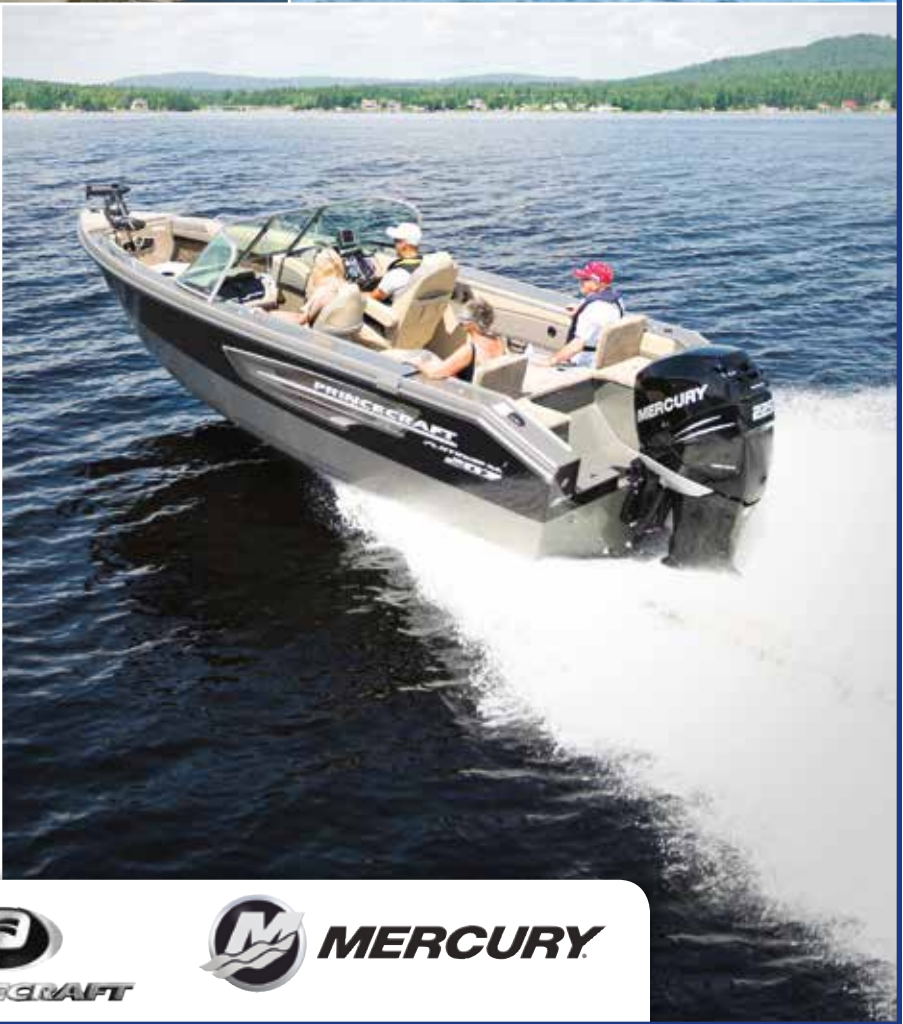


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RON STRESING

On to Ontonogan

A Superior Do-It-Yourself fishing trip

My buddy Bob Nowack and I were camped out near Eagle River for a week of fishing. Part of our plan was to take a day away and fish Lake Superior, a bucket list item for me. Bob had left his trolling board with four downriggers attached to his boat, and brought his Lake Michigan trolling tackle along. Since Ontonogan, Michigan, was only an hour and 20 minutes north on of Eagle River on Highway 45, we bought our one-day, \$10, non-resident Michigan fishing licenses online and hit the road the next morning.

Ontonogan has a public boat launch about two miles off of Highway 45 on the Ontonogan River that flows into Lake Superior. It's an industrial looking marina, with a \$5 launch fee and a large parking lot. There is also a small fish cleaning station on the end opposite the launches. The river itself is fairly busy with commercial boat and barge traffic, so use caution.

We followed the Ontonogan River out into Lake Superior, passing up the long plume of warmer, stained water from the river. About six miles out we found a 55 degree surface temp and clear water. We set out six lines just as we would have on Lake Michigan. We set two flat lines on planer boards with a standard flasher and fly combination and four spoons on downriggers. We marked fish in 92 feet of water, so Bob set one line at 80 feet, one at 70, another at 60 and one at 40. Bob worked a drop off that went from 92 to 115 feet of water, and the trout seemed to be stacked on the drop off.



We found most of the lake bottom in the area had no structure and was as flat as a pool table. Within the first hour, a small coho inhaled a pearl wobbler on the 40 foot deep rod. Our next hits came about an hour later, when both the 40 foot and 60 foot rods both started bouncing. I lost my fish, Bob landed a lake trout of about six pounds. Bob landed another, larger fish, and I lost a dandy. A little later Bob landed his third fish, and was limited out on trout. I landed the next two fish, and had my limit. My last fish was a thick nine-pounder with three healed over lamprey scars.

Neither of the flat lines with flasher-fly combinations had a hit. The best producing spoons were a classic pearl wobbler, a gold, hammered finish KB spoon, and glow green Northpoint Nailers. Michigan has a five-fish limit, with only three lake trout allowed. There is a minimum size limit of 10 inches, and only one lake trout over 34 inches is allowed. As mentioned, there is a fish cleaning station on the opposite end of the parking lot. It has two work stations, so please be courteous when processing your catch. Good luck if you go!

WAYNE MORGANTHALER

Falling into the Great Outdoors

September, October offer unsurpassed field time

Many outdoor enthusiasts consider September and October as the best two months of the year for hunting and fishing. September brings cool mornings and a splendor of colors. The insect population tapers off after the first frost. Later in the fall as foliage decreases, wildlife become more active and easier to find. Fishing picks up as water temperatures go down.

During this time of the year, my fishing priorities are big trout, sturgeon, pike and muskies. Crappie action can be non-stop and there are huge, high-flying bass to be found.

Fall is a good time to fly fish for trout on Richland County streams. I recommend night crawlers on the bottom and artificial lures when fishing upstream. Make sure

to read the regulations as each stream is different.

Smallmouth bass are active on the Wisconsin River. Floating Rapalas on the Wisconsin are personal preference, but surface lures are always worth a try. Look for structure along the shorelines like dead trees or stream outlets. Fish will often be found schooled up and, when they are, the action can be fast and furious.

I enjoy traveling to the Hayward area to fish for pike, muskie, and largemouth bass. Wind is a big factor on where to fish. I like to float local rivers for pike using spoons of various sizes. Orange, green or red seem to appeal to the river fish. On lakes we try for big largemouth bass, and pike. I prefer to use heavy weedless jig heads along with a plastic crawdad. Cast to shore and use

different types of retrieves. If I can see the weed line, I wait until I get to the edge and then let the bait drop. Largemouth will make some acrobatic leaps at this time and will send chills up your spine when it's a big one. Another good tactic is to cast parallel to the weed line using crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Northern and muskie prefer the deeper water at this time of the season.

October is a month when it's important to keep tabs of the weather in Hayward. The last two years saw temperatures in the low 40s and snow squalls made visibility tough. Dress properly, wear warm clothing and insulated boots. I have found the fishing to be excellent in bad weather conditions, if the winds are not too strong. Hand warmers can be the ticket if you are



Northern pike caught on a Mini Mite with Alex Hubing on the backwaters of the Mississippi

going to do a lot of casting.

Enjoy your time in the outdoors and don't forget to take a friend fishing.

Wayne Morgenthaler has fished southwestern and northwestern Wisconsin for the past 45 years. A retired high school teacher and coach, Wayne is married with three children.

CAPT. LEE HAASCH

Fall Into Algoma

Everything Algoma includes great fishing

Looking for a great adventure this fall? Check out Algoma. From picking apples to visiting farmers' markets to taking in a kermis or two, the Algoma area has much to offer. Fall is also my favorite time of the year. I can catch a cooler of fish in the morning and spend the afternoon in the woods.

Fall festivals are happening throughout the area, including Algoma's Wet Whistle Wine Fest in mid-September. Almost every weekend within a short drive from Algoma, you can attend a community festival and enjoy some of the most delicious local ethnic food fares imaginable. A short distance to the west, you can attend a Packer practice or take in a game and tour the Packer Hall of Fame.

A trip to the Door Peninsula would not be complete without stopping by Country Ovens and Cherry Delight in Forestville to load up on an awesome assortment of cherry products. Who could skip Wienke's Market, just north of Algoma, loaded with pies, jellies, fruits, vegetables and canned goods, all locally grown and prepared? While you are there, stop next door at Renard's Cheese Factory for a wide assortment of cheese products, straight from the factory. Don't forget the squeaky fresh cheese curds!



Algoma is known for large steelheads, like this state record holder at over 27 pounds.

Bearcat's Fish House is a must-stop to get fresh smoked fish - my favorite is the brown sugar salmon - and other wonderful seafood products. Take in a tour at von Stiehl Winery, Wisconsin's oldest licensed winery and sample award winning wines.

A trip to Algoma would never be complete without doing a little fishing. The Ahnapee River running through Algoma is full of ready-to-spawn chinook salmon and later brown trout and even coho salmon. But my favorite

is heading off-shore in one of the many local charter boats and filling a cooler with silver steelhead and young salmon.

Heading off-shore in the pre-dawn hours and watching a colorful sunrise while battling a silver steelhead is a thrill like no other. The action can be fast and furious this time of year. These acrobatic fish make for table fare that I like to call the "prime rib of the lake!"

Fall is harvest season in Wisconsin and the Algoma area offers the beauty of autumn colors, wonderful opportunities to purchase farm fresh products, award winning wines, and local apple and cherry products. The community is home to the "Sport Fishing Capital of the Great Lakes." Visit Algoma. We've got it all!

Experience for yourself the great fishery Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma! For charter information or fishing reports visit my website at: www.FishAlgoma.com or call 1-888-966-3474. 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, Wisconsin. He has over 40 years of Great Lakes angling experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with educational seminars and articles in outdoor publications.

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JERRY KIESOW

Fly Fishing in Wisconsin

Autumn work begins in the streams

“So, you’ll be fishing tomorrow instead of doing yard work?” My wife will surely ask when she sees the fall “tool” I’m preparing is not the rake but the flyrod.

“Most likely,” I’ll reply. “Most of the leaves are still on the trees. Yard work can wait a few days.”

This autumn show has played before. The next morning will find me standing and wading in a local river that runs into Lake Michigan, one of the streams that the salmon come into to spawn and die during September and October. The river will be full of kings and four-year-old chinooks and some of them still fresh looking. You can tell the old from the new by their color; old fish are dark, nearly black, and are beginning to get moldy. New ones, the ones you hope to catch, are only dark grey, with no mold.

I will look in my fly box and likely choose a Green Butt Skunk streamer, as I often do, and tie it on to the end of my tippet. As the morning progresses, I will change flies often, trying to find a pattern that the fish will strike. They may not be in a striking mood, only interested in reproducing.

Even then, I will hook a few fish. When the river is full of these spawners, it is difficult not to accidentally foul hook some fish, especially when picking up to make a new cast. Keeping a foul-hooked fish is illegal, and a fish thus hooked must be released, even if the hooking was not intentional. A foul-hooked fish often takes the tippet, along with the fly, as it attempts to escape. I use

barbless hooks because fish can sometimes be shaken loose from accidental, but illegal, hook-ups.

Most of my fishing for salmon and chinook is by sight. I look for them through the riffles in the quiet water on the backside of a rock or two as they rest before moving on. Often times I use streamers like the Green Butt Skunk when pursuing them. The skunk pattern doesn’t replicate anything in the natural world that swims, but it excites the salmon and is generally a good fly to use. Success can also be found with egg-sucking leaches, plain egg flies, and Wooly Buggers of various sizes, colors and weights. Despite what some anglers say, colors do make a difference and some days white is the only “color” that works.

“Well, can we get to the yard now?” My wife will likely ask upon my return.

“Sure,” is my usual reply. “I should give the river a rest anyway. I can wait a few days until I try again. Maybe the cohos will be in.”

Another morning to look forward to, like so many others across the years. I hope this conservation tradition continues this September and October.

See you in the river and keep a good thought! 🍷

Jerry Kiesow has written two books, “Tales of The Peshtigo Putzer” and “Photos, Poems, and a Little Bit of Prose.” They are available for purchase at Orange Hat Publishing, Amazon, and his website: www.jerrykiesowoc.com.



A few of the flies the author uses for salmon when they spawn in the rivers.



The Green Butt Skunk. (The image shows a pinkish wing it is really white.)

DENNY MURAWSKA

Shadow Cats

Voices in the Wisconsin forest we’d rather not meet

Back in the early nineties, I had permission to hunt a very productive woodlot, along with a few other fellows, and spent as much time as I could sitting in a tree stand during the glorious days of September and October. With all senses tuned to picking up the telltale presence of a deer, it was impossible not to hear a strangely wild growl that seemed out of place. Far in the distance, there was a distinct roar penetrating the darkness. I reasoned quickly it was not a buck grunt. I could not place it at all. For the most part, it sounded like something from a documentary on African big cats. For a moment, the reptilian part of my brain shot adrenaline into every fiber, and I became the Neanderthal facing a saber tooth cat. I could not use logic to figure this one out. I wanted to hop back in my vehicle, and made my way to it a bit more quickly than usual, waving my flashlight wildly back and forth and hoping not to catch a massive pair of glowing eyes

staring back at me.

I mentioned this to a couple of my hunting partners who were from the area. It turns out Wisconsin is one of five states that allow citizens to own large, exotic cats. Bad idea. Nearby in Sharon Wisconsin, there is a sanctuary and retreat for animals that used to be in circus acts, or had to be abandoned by owners. So, I had indeed been hearing a group of lions at feeding time. What a relief. The retreat is known as Valley of the Kings and is still in operation. For years as I occupied my stand, I fancied myself deep in the African bush, waiting and watching for footfalls too silent to hear.

The thumps in the night do not end here. A few years back, a barber told me the story of a local black “panther.” I did some research, but didn’t find any records of any such critter. A friend who allows me to hunt some of the most wild country in Wisconsin told me he too had seen a black cougar. On a recent

television show, the explanation became clear. While a black phase known as melanism is fairly common among jaguars and leopards, it is not among cougars. My thoughts now are, perhaps someone who legally raised and sold these exotic cats might have allowed a few to go feral to prowl the vast local forests.

Finally, at the beginning of the 2020 bear season, just a few miles from my home in the Merrilan area, an eleven year old girl shot probably the largest black bear ever taken in Wisconsin. Its estimated weight was over eight hundred pounds! Included in the hunt were trail cam pics of wolves chasing the bruin off a bait pile. I can only smile. I really do live in the backwoods. 🍷

Denny Murawski’s columns have appeared in a number of outdoor publications. His church is the pine cathedral gracing Wisconsin’s unique Driftless Area that he calls home. He is the owner and operator of Angler’s Art Fish Taxidermy at www.aa-taxidermy.com

SPOTLIGHT | **FERRYVILLE**

All-American Great River Road National Scenic Byway

Ferryville is now part of the Wisconsin All-American Great River Road National Scenic Byway. The byway is an awesome 250 mile route between the Mississippi River and bluffs rising up to 900 feet. Ferryville is located on U.S. Highway 35 along the Mississippi and we are thrilled and honored to be part of the Great River Road.

Come visit us in September at the start of bird migration season. This is a prime time to watch white pelicans, hawks, falcons, eagles, small birds and, later in the season, swans flying south. Join us on Nov. 13 for Bird Migration Day beginning at 9 a.m. at River View Park.



Explore Wisconsin



Do you love fall colors? September is "Drive the Great River Road" month and an opportunity to check out the area's many apple orchards and other sites. Sugar Creek Park Fall Fest is September 18 and will feature many vendors offering a multitude of crafts, seasonal produce, pumpkins for carving, food, beverages, a great time and more. 🍂

While you're here, check out Ferryville's many shops, businesses and outdoor opportunities. Relax and reset with a visit to Ferryville. Stay a while and come back often! Sherry Quamme, Treasurer | Ferryville Tourism Council | PO Box 236 | Ferryville, WI 54628 | Cell: 920-210-4560

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Bob's Bear Bait

It's time! You've scouted, found the perfect site, baited diligently and now the season opener is right around the corner. You have bears coming in and have a spot on the wall picked out for your rug. However, when it comes down to the wire it's not always that easy. Here's our top five tips to know before hitting the stand this season.

Scent, Scent, Scent

You've heard us preach it time and time again, for good reason. Scent is one of the most overlooked keys to harvesting a bear. You should never stop putting out scent, one reason, it continually draws bears in. Two, it lets them know the bait is fresh and that they should check it out. Three, it covers your own scent when you're in the stand but be sure to never actually apply scent directly to your clothing.

Dawn and dusk

If you're limited on time, just like other wildlife, dawn and dusk are when bears are most commonly active and will hit your bait. However, most dedicated hunters will sit from sun up to sun down the first few days to ensure the highest odds of harvesting a bear.

Play to the wind

If you're an avid deer hunter you've heard this line before but with bears it's even more important. Black bears sense of smell is 100 times greater than humans and even more powerful than a bloodhound. If your bait is downwind from your stand, don't set it!

Go for the double lungs

Different from deer hunting, you almost always want to aim for the lungs on a bear. A double lung shot will often kill an animal quicker, is a larger target and are further away from big bones that will stop penetration. Also note that with the large amount of fat and thick hair that bears have, entry and exit wounds get plugged up quickly resulting in weak blood trails so having an accurate, clean shot is crucial in recovery.



Don't give up

As you've probably heard, if you don't harvest a bear within the first few days of the season opener your season is over. While your chances of getting a bear will drop with each passing day it doesn't mean it's impossible to harvest a bear later in the season.

The later it gets the more bears travel. They'll travel far and wide, fattening up for winter. This is a great time to possibly capture a new bear's attention by continuing to spray scent diligently, as well as always keeping your bait site stocked with small quantities of fresh bait. This is also the time to find a new bait site where bears might frequent, like oak trees, corn fields, etc. Late season hunting takes dedication and commitment but the reward will be one of the best memories along with a great thick hide to boot!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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MIKE FOSS

Practicing what he Preaches

Guide to be guided on 2021 bear hunt

Minnesota, here I come! Ironically, I am long - time former bear hunting guide but I have only harvested one bear in my life. That was a 305-pounder I got in Minnesota with a bow in 2006. I've never been lucky enough to draw one of Wisconsin's coveted bear tags, so it's back to Minnesota for me.

On this trip, I will be using the skills I've honed over the years, but this time, they will come into play on my behalf, not those of a client. But like my former clients, I will be using a guide to significantly improve my chances.

The teacher is going to be taught. I wanted to experience and feel what it is like to be guided on a bear hunt. During my research for an experienced guide, one name came to the forefront, Jim Wallner of Fall Rivers Outfitters, LLC. Jim was not unknown to me. Although we never personally met, we have shared successes and failures through 'phone calls and emails over the years. Jim is super experienced and a guy I knew I could put my trust in.

While boning up on Minnesota bear hunting, it quickly became apparent that this is not Wisconsin. Everything is much different, from regulations to baiting techniques and everything in between, but most of all the terrain, which reminds me of Canada.

Dreams of bear hunts past are beginning to fill my mind as the season approaches. Brian Bolson from Green Bay will accompany me on this hunt. He'll help me drag my bear out if I harvest one. Physically and mentally, I am already preparing myself for this hunt. It will be great to see others I guided years ago in this Minnesota bear camp.

I am more than ready to once again smell the sweetness of the bait buckets, the aroma of the scents, and feel that adrenaline rush of bear updates as the season nears. Will there be success? Please follow along in the next issue story. Good hunting 🐾

Publisher Note: Read Mike's Minnesota bear hunt success story in the November-December issue of On Wisconsin Outdoors.



A bear on a bait station set by Fall River Outfitters in Minnesota likes what he smells during the 2020 season.

Chest deep in a frost-covered field, a pair of young whitetail bucks wander on a September morning, their bloody antlers showing the signs of rubbing off the velvet covering.

**BILL THORNLEY**

A Welcome Change

Early autumn days arrive

A gentle, wispy white fog drifts over suddenly golden fields, with grass so moist that heavy water droplets hang from each blade. As the early morning sun inches over the horizon, it illuminates silver spider webs hanging from trees and bushes, glorious creations of intricate beauty.

Lining the fields, the trees suddenly look a little pale, a bit washed out. The oaks and maples are mostly still green, but something is different than it was even a few days ago. Things just don't look the same.

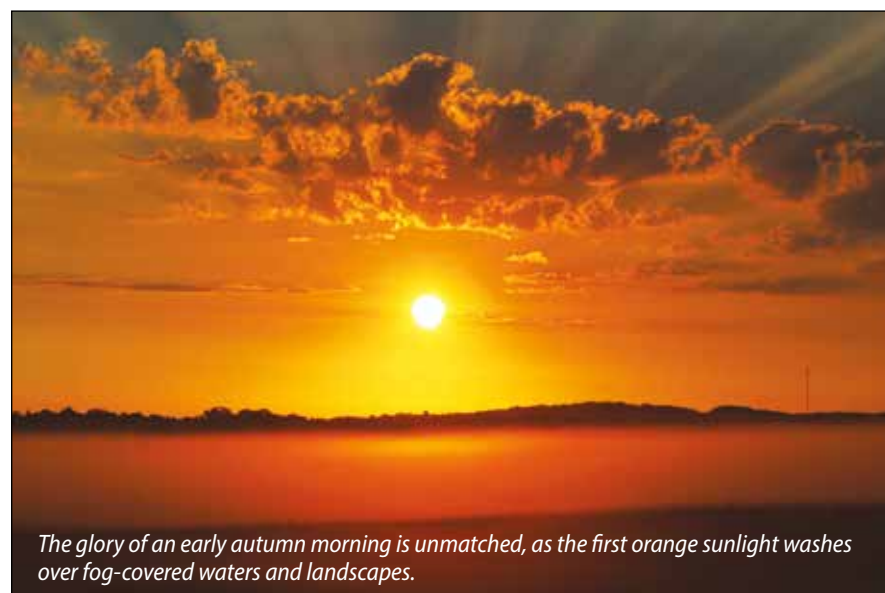
Change. That is the key word.

September and early October are days of change. Mother Nature knows it, and if you may have been in the woods long enough, you know it as well.

You can feel it in the air. Oh, the afternoon sun still warms the landscape. Sometimes it can even get downright hot, but on occasion the evening air has a slight chill. For many of us it is a welcome chill. A lot of us wait for early autumn days with open arms and flannel shirts.

As summer melted away, we welcomed autumn like an old friend we hadn't seen in a long time. This is the quieter time, this time of change. The weekend traffic lines are shorter, the lakes less crowded. We really notice the differences and the peacefulness that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



The glory of an early autumn morning is unmatched, as the first orange sunlight washes over fog-covered waters and landscapes.

STUART WILKE

Recognizing Wisconsin Heroes

Mildred Fish-Harnack Memorial Obelisk at Madison's Marshall Park

A poisonous combination of politics and the lies of an unrepentant Nazi long impeded the recognition due Wisconsin native and Nazi-resistance hero Mildred Fish-Harnack. She is the only American woman to be executed on Hitler's direct orders.

Born in 1902 on Milwaukee's west side, Harnack was a gifted child who excelled at West Division High School (now the Milwaukee High School of the Arts). She was a talented writer and worked as a journalist and instructor while pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While attending Madison, Mildred met Arvid Harnack in 1926, a young German studying economics. They soon became a politically active couple. University students and staff, among them the Harnacks, helped develop legislation that would evolve into unemployment insurance, workers' compensation and social security, among others.

Mildred received her master's degree in 1926 and she and Arvid moved to Germany in 1928 to pursue doctorate degrees. Arvid found employment in the German government's economics ministry. Mildred worked as a university instructor, translator and writer. They brought their Wisconsin ideals to Germany and formed study groups among other American expatriates and German citizens.



Mildred Fish-Harnack, the only American woman killed on Hitler's order

Their timing couldn't have been worse. Germany's attempt at democracy after the Great War was failing. Unable to mediate, let alone govern, a populace torn apart by extremists on the left and right fighting pitched battles in the streets, the Weimar government collapsed. A coalition of far right parties united under Adolph Hitler's National Socialist Workers' Party ultimately rose to prominence and soon dominance.

The Harnacks chose not to sit idly by and watch Germany slide into despotic rule, grounded in anti-semitism and

bent on world domination. They, with a group of like-minded Germans, began to covertly disseminate anti-Nazi literature. More importantly, they reached out to the American and Soviet officials with information about Germany's rearmament and war plans. Mildred, through her association with American expatriates, and Arvid, from his work with in the economics ministry, opened up lines of communication with the United States Embassy. Mildred became great friends with the American ambassador's daughter, Margaret Dodd. As a trusted member of the economics ministry, Arvid had knowledge of Nazi war plans, including the invasion of the Soviet Union. Mildred tutored a young Wehrmacht officer in learning English who was privy to Nazi intentions and talked too much.

Intelligence gleaned from these sources was provided to American and Soviet officials. Included among the information was evidence of Hitler's planned invasion of the Soviet Union. It was ignored and the Soviets soon after lost contact with the Harnacks and other members of their organization. During their frantic attempts to reconnect, Soviet agents broke all protocols and transmitted the actual names and addresses of resistance members in a message to agents in Belgium. Nazis intercepted the message and soon after, the Harnacks and more than 100 associates

were arrested and promptly put on trial.

Arvid was sentenced to death by hanging. He was executed in late December of 1942. Mildred was given six years in prison. Upon hearing the verdict, Hitler himself interceded and voided her sentence. Mildred was retried, found guilty and sentenced to death by guillotine. She was executed on February 23, 1943, days after the Germans' surrender of Stalingrad and the beginning of the Third Reich's end.

Harnack's prosecutor, Manfred Roeder, was captured by American forces after the war. Under interrogation, he was asked why the Harnacks and others were executed. His response was that they were communists. Not long after, he was recruited by the American to help identify surviving German communists. He never faced war crime charges.

There is no proof that the Harnacks were communists and the United States government still has not released classified information about them and their work. After the war, there was a movement to honor the Harnacks, but concerns about their political leanings, based on a Nazi's testimony, prevented their heroism from being recognized for decades.

Finally in 1986, the Wisconsin legislature honored her by declaring September 16, her birthday, as Mildred Fish-Harnack Day. An obelisk in her memory was placed in 2018 at Madison's Marshall Park. 🍷

THORNLEY, FROM PAGE 13

has largely been replaced by the sounds of sandhill cranes and barking foxes.

The late afternoon sun bounces off the waves, creating those beautiful diamond lights that dance across the water in autumn when the sun is in just the right position. The cabins "up north" have been closed by many. Docks have been pulled, boats put into storage. The old shotgun and bow can be taken out again. It's time to focus on hunting ducks, deer, and squirrels.

Early hints of autumn are subtle. Flocks of birds start to gather on power lines. You might notice two or three branches in the grove of sugar maples out back tinted with red. Driving to work in the morning you may notice a small flock of Canada geese sitting in the middle of a suddenly frosty farm field. The first frost of the year is always beautiful.

As you round a corner, your eyes focus on a couple of small whitetail bucks. You notice one has blood on the antlers from rubbing. With effortless grace they clear a three-foot fence and disappear like ghosts into the woods. The yellowing grasses and browning ferns indicate more change, as do mushrooms on the forest floor.

Mornings are often foggy now, the haunting call of a loon dancing on the icy still waters of the nearby lake. It is time to hit the deer woods, to check out your tree stand and make sure it remains sturdy for another season with bow and with rifle. That sight of the bloody

settles over the land with fewer people around. "Human noise"

buck antlers makes you wonder what new trails, rubs and scrapes you might find.

Apples hang heavy from the tree branches. A few juicy blackberries can still be found. Sweet corn stalks have been dry for a while. At roadside markets early pumpkins are sold, along with zucchini, acorn squash and beans.

For many, the best season of the year has arrived with the coming of autumn. Hunting seasons are starting, fishing picks up. The first days of autumn are as welcome as a hot cup of coffee and the sweet smell of woodsmoke from an early morning fire. 🍷




Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | **ASHLAND**

Fall is Fabulous in Ashland County

Fall fishing means angling for world class smallmouth bass is at its very best on beautiful Chequamegon Bay. If you prefer, enjoy pan fish for supper on our inland lakes! Order a free fishing guide at visitashland.com to plan your trip, and we'll see you on the water.

Fall color doesn't get any better during Ashland County's September Colorama, especially from our many vantage points. Think Big Bay State Park on Madeline Island to Copper Falls State Park in Mellen, or Morgan Falls and St. Peters Dome, to name just a few.

Feeling lucky this fall? Then stop at the Bad River Casino and try your luck! Stroll through the beautiful, historic downtowns of Ashland County's small communities. 

Need help planning? Connect with travelashlandcounty.com



Explore Wisconsin

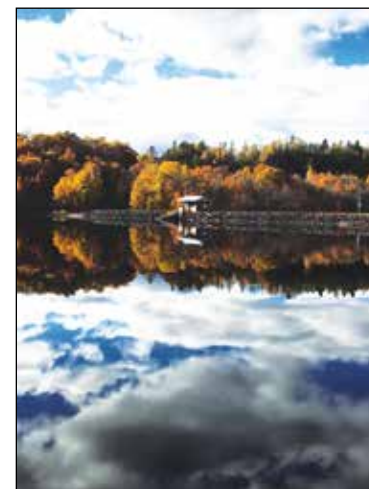
SPOTLIGHT | **HURLEY**

Your Colorama Exztravaganza

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

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

Hunter walking trails are found throughout the area. The Montreal and Uller cross country ski trails make for great hunter walking trails. Logging roads provide excellent walking trails for hunters, some may be gated or bermed to prevent vehicle access. To find areas to explore, detailed Sportsman's Maps are available to guide you through our lakes for the best adventures.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD

Fall Color Adventures in the Hayward Lakes Area

As the days get shorter and the nights grow cooler, nature goes to work to reveal the true personalities of the trees. The bright yellow, orange, and red colors of autumn are a once-a-year show that never disappoints.

A quick science lesson is appropriate to explain how the colors will reveal themselves each year. Chlorophyll is the pigment that gives plants their green color and is used to capture the sun's energy. Over the summer and into the fall as the levels of chlorophyll decline, the brightly colored pigments of the leaves become visible. While many factors can influence the quality and duration of leaf colors, the single most important is the weather during the time that the leaves are changing color. Cool, sunny weather will result in the brightest foliage colors; conversely, warmer weather will accelerate the processes within leaves causing them to drop from the trees faster and oftentimes reducing the red pigments produced.

The Hayward Lakes Area is a wonderful place to view the beauty of autumn. The Hayward Lakes Visitor and Convention Bureau has six different Fall Color Tours that highlight the beauty of Northwestern Wisconsin. Drives range from 45 miles to 70 miles traveling through some of the most scenic foliage in Sawyer County. Maps and details are available at the Information Center in downtown Hayward or online at www.haywardlakes.com.

Fall fishing opportunities are abundant as well, and what better way to take in the beautiful colors than from the water, while chasing a trophy musky! Stop in at the Information Center and pick up our Explore Map which shows all the public boat launches in Sawyer County. You can also give us a call at 715-634-4801 and request a map

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Whatever your chosen method of transportation, the Hayward Area is a must-stop Fall-Color getaway. Colors typically peak around the last week of September to the first week of October, so plan your visit accordingly and enjoy all the beauty that the Northwoods has to offer! 🍂



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



BOB'S BEAR BAIT, FROM PAGE 12

For more great tips stop in this season and chat with us, we have multiple staff on hand with over 20+ years of combined experience bear hunting and over 13 years in the bear bait business! 🍂

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TOM MUELLER

Training for Retriever Hunt Tests

The Senior Stake - a big step up

A retriever running in the Junior Stake is doing its work at the most basic level. Walk to the line using a lead and a collar, sit and mark where the duck fell, make the retrieve and deliver it to hand. The next level in AKC hunt tests is the Senior Stake. Training for and running in the senior is a big transition. At this level a retriever must walk to the line and run without wearing a collar or the use of a lead. It's required to do a double retrieve and a blind retrieve outside of the marks on both land and water. It must retrieve a diversion bird and will have to honor. All ducks must be delivered to hand. It will encounter a walk-up situation.

Sound over-whelming? It certainly can be for a retriever that has qualified at the junior level and has just started its training for the senior.

In a hunting situation, a retriever must be under verbal control and comply when it is given a command. That is the reason for the dog not wearing a collar or the handler not using a lead when running at a senior hunt test. It forces you to train your dog to be obedient to a verbal command or when the whistle is

blown. Also, in a hunting situation there is a good probability that when a flock of ducks are coming in to your decoys that more than one will be shot and fall. Your retriever must look out, mark, and remember where each duck landed, then retrieve each one-by-one. That is the reason for training your dog to do double retrieves and even learning to do three and four retrieves.

A blind retrieve is one where the dog has never seen the duck fall. When hunting, this might happen when the dog is already headed to retrieve a duck and you shoot another one after your dog was sent for the first duck. Your dog did not see this second duck fall because it's focused and on a line to the duck that it's going after. Another situation for a blind retrieve might arise when several ducks are shot out of a large flock. Your dog most likely won't mark or remember all of them so you help it by sending it on a line to where the duck fell and then use hand and arm signals to cast him to the duck. Training to run blinds for a senior hunt test greatly improves your dog's retrieving capabilities.

A diversion bird is when the retriever

is coming back with a duck in its mouth. A gun shot is sounded and a duck is thrown a short distance from the dog as it returns. The dog must finish the retrieve with the bird that it has and then is sent to pick up the diversion bird. The hunting scenario for this would be your retriever is returning with a pheasant when another pheasant flushes and you also shoot that one. Your retriever must finish bringing you the first pheasant you shot and then go to retrieve the second.

Training for walk-ups at a hunt test trains the dog to be extremely steady and under control. The dog walks at heel with the handler carrying a fake shotgun pretending to be hunting. A gun shot is sounded and a duck is thrown. The dog must not go because it has to mark the subsequent ducks being thrown. Similarly, honoring another dog is the same as if you were hunting with another dog. Each retriever must wait its turn to be sent to retrieve. It's all about the retriever remaining under control when hunting and training for a senior hunt test gives you that and more. 🐾

Tom has been avidly training retrievers since the early 1980s. His passion has evolved into helping others train their retrievers through the Fox Valley Retriever Club so they can achieve the satisfaction that he has found. For 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.



Fox Valley Retriever Club member Brian Schlomann and Chessie Belle honoring a running dog at the Senior Stake.

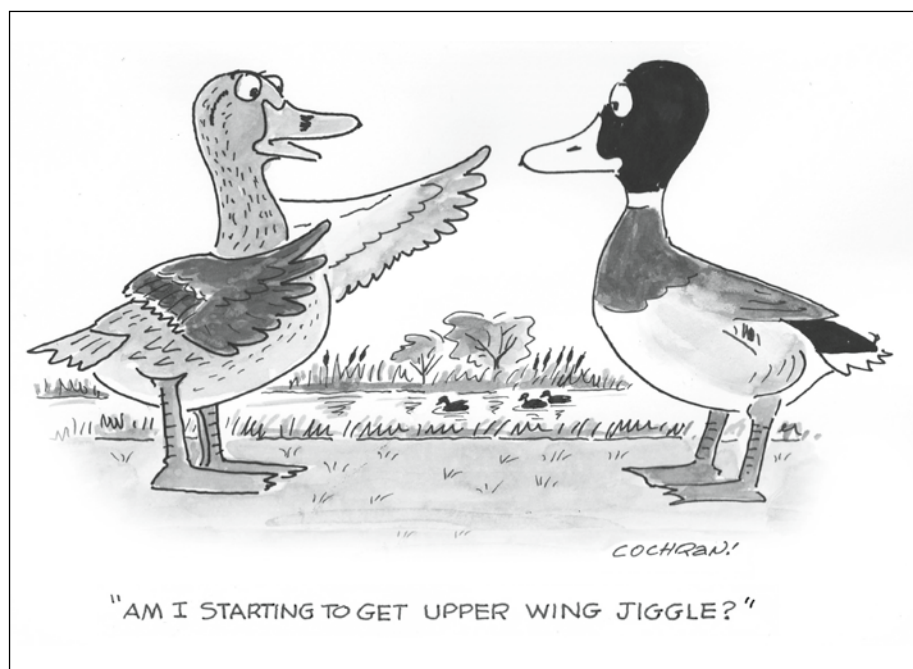
HURLEY, FROM PAGE 15

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

As September draws to a close, the days get shorter and nature prepares itself for winter. The lack of light and water during the winter months requires the trees to go into a rest mode. As the green fades, the leaves show other colors. The brilliance of the colors we see in fall depends on the weather conditions. The brightest colors are seen when late summer is dry and autumn has bright sunny days with cool evenings. Rain will keep the leaves on the trees longer and help enhance the color. Our area hardwood forests show spectacular color with many opportunities to view beautiful vistas, lakes and waterfalls. Contact our office for a brochure to guide you along some blacktop roads to view the scenery.

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

Join us soon in Hurley! www.hurleywi.com



TOM CARPENTER

Cubs' Corner

Make a duck hunter this fall

The number of waterfowl hunters in Wisconsin, and nationwide, is in decline. That's sad. There is grand sport to be had; and ducks, and the wetlands they love, need advocates. As dedicated sportsmen and women, we all know that saving and enhancing game habitat, and promoting a species' well-being, begins with the hunter.

Take a young outdoorsperson duck hunting this fall, and pass that baton. Your best opportunity may be Wisconsin's annual youth waterfowl hunt on September 18 and 19. The regular season is also a great time. Here's how to have some duck hunting fun and bring home a couple of ducks.

Find and scout a place to hunt This can be the most challenging part of the whole process. Call local game wardens, talk to other sportsmen, check out local marshes and ponds. Don't be afraid of public land, and don't shy away from small spots; some of my best youth hunts have been on little backwoods wood duck ponds. Once you've located a hunting spot, get out there and watch the ducks, see where they like to be, and plan your ambush spot. Do this only a week or so before your hunt.

Gather gear As the "finding and scouting" phase happens, you should also be gathering gear. A half-dozen to dozen decoys will do it. Borrow them, or buy a six-pack or two of mallards or teal, or a mix. It's fun

to rig decoys, so do it together. Secure a couple duck calls. What kid doesn't love to make sanctioned noise? So let them practice and do the calling on the hunt.

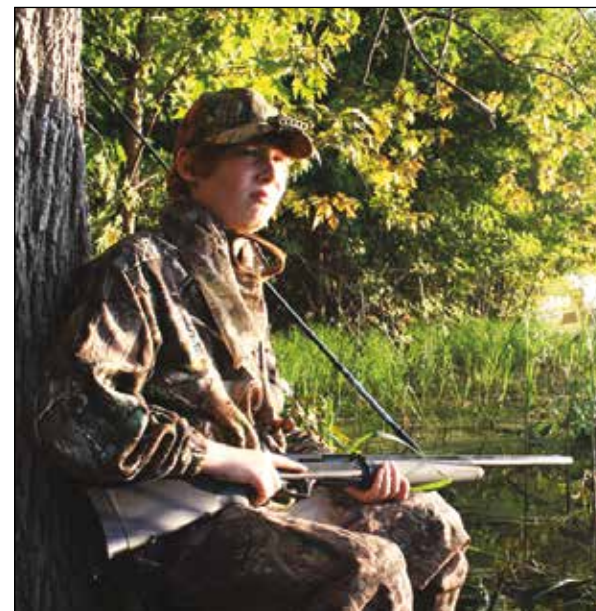
Find some camouflage for the young hunter to wear and knee-high rubber boots

You wear the waders and act as retriever if you don't have a canine up to the task. Get the young hunter some practice with their shotgun (choked improved cylinder, modified at most). Remember, you will need nontoxic shot (steel, bismuth or tungsten) for hunting.

Hunt fun, hunt smart Set up well before legal shooting time. Throw out the decoys - I like an odd number like seven, nine or 11, and leave a little opening in front of you as a place to invite the ducks to land. Have the breeze at your back or from either side, because ducks land into the wind. Rig up a little jerk cord on one of the decoys to give some movement to the spread.

Wait for a 20- or 25-yard shot Some ducks, like teal or wood ducks, will head right in. Take 'em when they set their wings and are about to land, that is, when they're slowing down but not yet on the water. Be prepared for a trophy mallard!

Bring along snacks and plenty of refreshments



That's what the bucket is for - a place to carry everything and a seat for hiding among the cattails or brush. Wear head nets so ducks don't see your faces peering up at them.

The whistle of duck wings in the air, quacking on a duck call, the sweet smell of the marsh, and getting a little dirty are what makes duck hunting fun. Take a kid. You'll probably get some ducks, but the day's best harvest is always measured in memories created. And of that there is always a full limit. 🦆

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



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-Gregg Borneman



SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes with Suzette

Duck / Goose Rumaki

It's football season, and this fall we have the opportunity to gather with friends and family while watching the games. We can also share some good food, and now is a great time to try a new recipe or two when it comes to our game time spreads. Enjoy!

Duck / goose breasts
Bacon
Water chestnuts
Soy sauce

Worcestershire sauce
Teaspoon sugar
Toothpicks

Marinate slices or cubes of duck or goose breast in 50/50 mixture of soy sauce and Worcestershire sauce and a teaspoon of sugar for an hour or so. After marinating is complete, wrap pieces of bacon around a water chestnut and a piece of duck or goose breast held together with a toothpick. Bake in oven at about 375 for 15 or 20 minutes.

Spicy Hot Pepper Dove

Dove breasts (about 20 halves)
¼ cup Dijon mustard
1 T minced garlic
1 T minced ginger
2 T chopped green onion
2 - 4 peppers, chopped & seeded (your choice depending on the amount of "fire" you like)

1 T chopped fresh oregano
1 T ground cumin
¼ teaspoon ground allspice
1 T sea salt
1 T ground black pepper
2 T chopped fresh cilantro
Lime wedges



In large bowl, combine all ingredients except dove breasts, cilantro and lime wedges; stir until smooth. Add dove breasts to coat completely.

Grill dove breasts over medium-high heat on gas grill or over direct flame on charcoal grill; turning occasionally until desired doneness (about 4 to 8 minutes total).

Place breasts in large shallow bowl, sprinkle with cilantro and garnish with lime wedges. These are a nice alternative to hot chicken wings on game day!

Venison Liver Pate

1 pound venison liver
1 stick butter, softened
¼ cup mayonnaise
½ T sugar

2 T olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 hard boiled eggs, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced

Heat olive oil in large skillet. Cut liver into small pieces and sauté in olive oil until cooked through but still tender. Meanwhile, combine remaining ingredients in medium sized bowl and mix thoroughly. Place in food processor and add cooked venison; blend until smooth. You can do this in a blender also (which is how I usually do it because my food processor is too small), but be careful not to burn out the motor on your blender. I speak from experience; I am on blender #3 with this recipe.

This makes a great appetizer with crackers, bread sticks, or crostini.

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

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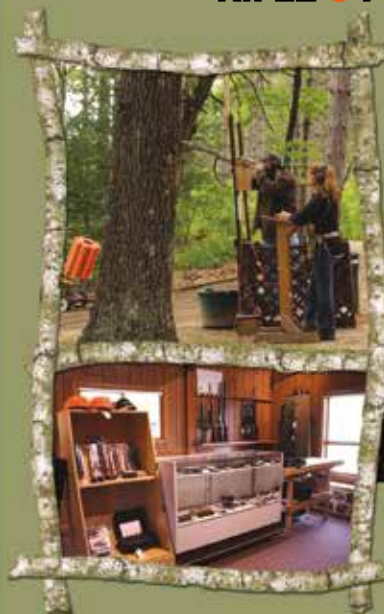
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SPOTLIGHT | MARINETTE COUNTY

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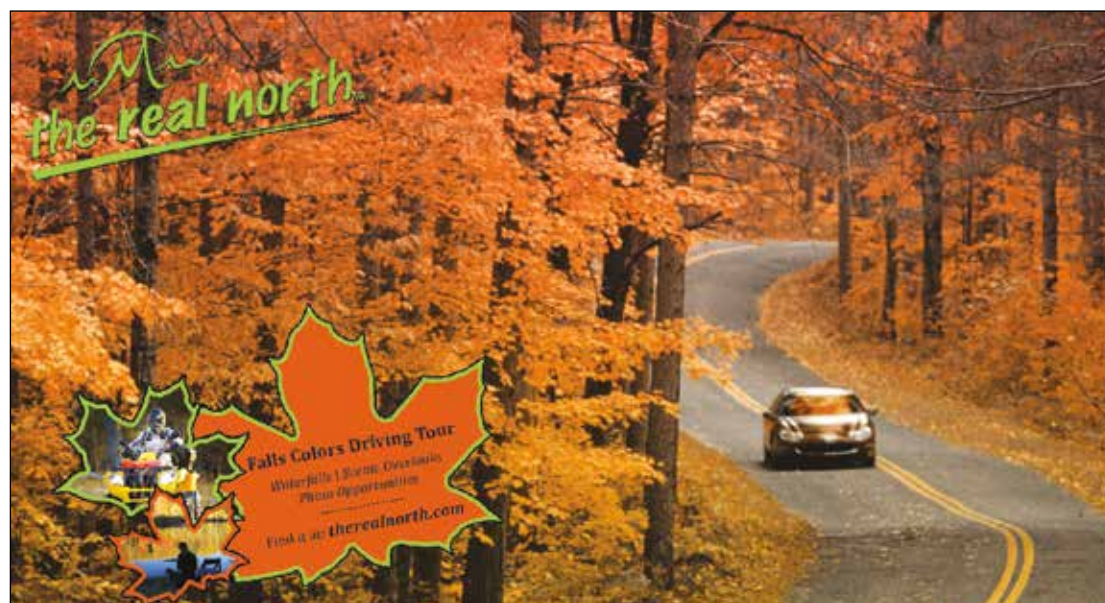
As the long hot days of summer give way to shorter days and cooler nights, produce stands, apple orchards and pumpkin patches come alive with fall harvesters enjoying the freshest of the season's bounty. Fall colors explode, making a breathtaking transformation across Mother Nature's canvas. Fall is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

Clear your calendar and gas up the car for an adventure to Marinette County for the Fall Colors Driving Tour. This tour features an easy to follow route, complete with driving directions, that will guide fall color enthusiasts to a sampling of the most scenic views in the county. This self-guided, four- to six- hour tour includes stops at four waterfalls: Dave's Falls, Strong Falls, McClintock Rapids and Veterans' Falls, and is highlighted with a stop at the picturesque Thunder Mountain Overlook. You'll give in to the urge to stop the car and study the beauty on Rustic Road 32, where the brilliant canopy covers the entire road.

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

Turn on the oven, and while your zucchini bread is baking, chart your fall adventure to Marinette County. Find maps and more information online at therealnorth.com.

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TYLER FLORCZAK

Public Land Trophy Whitetails

Wisconsin early archery season hot spots

Public grounds are a sometimes overlooked, but potentially productive, opportunity to harvest a trophy buck and put meat on the table during the early bow season.

The following is an overview of some public hunting grounds for your consideration this September and October.

WESTERN REGION OF WISCONSIN

The western region of the state is often referred to as the “Big Buck Mecca of Wisconsin.” Buffalo, Trempleau and La Crosse are known nationally for producing Boone & Crockett bucks. The region’s habitat includes lush river bottoms overseen by steep bluffs to rolling ridge tops contoured by crop land.

“The majority of public hunting land in this region is found along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, along with a good size tract in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve,” said Thomas Mlsna, of Untamed Ambition. “All of these areas hold an abundance of wildlife, including record-book whitetails. However, due to the relatively small amount of public hunting land on this side of the state, there is no shortage of human pressure.”

Mlsna has harvested trophy bucks in the early season, including his two biggest, both in the first week of the archery season—“Candy Man” was the most recent in 2018, grossing 213 6/8 inches, while “The Boss,” measured at 196 6/8 inches. Mlsna said hunters can find hot spots by knocking on doors and searching for private land that is enrolled in the Open Managed Forest Law program. He suggested finding a food source and hunting the adjacent pinch point from or within transitional cover.

Mark Rasmussen, DNR wildlife biologist for Buffalo and Trempleau counties, highlighted the Tiffany Wildlife Area in Durand and the Borst Valley Wildlife Area, near Independence. Both hold quality bucks and good-sized deer herds. The Tiffany Wildlife Area covers 13,000 acres and Borst Valley is over 1,300 acres. Both are dominated by oak trees that provide food sources early in the season.

NORTH REGION OF WISCONSIN

Steep bluffs and ridges subside to flatter land in the northern region. The northwestern part of the state is covered with farmland and mixed hardwoods, while the

land turns into dense hardwoods and conifer forests as one travels further north and east in this region.

There are literally millions of acres of public land to hunt in the north region of the state, specifically the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The Flambeau River State Park is another viable option with thousands of public acres and is known to produce wall-hangers each fall.

Curt Rollman, a DNR deer biologist, highlighted the Oneida County Forest and Marinette County Forest as public properties with promising early season archery opportunities. Boone & Crockett-type bucks annually come out of these county forests. Rollman noted that oak trees are numerous and heavily managed on these properties.

The western side of the north region, such as Barron, Polk, Rusk, Burnett, and Washburn Counties, have a healthy amount of agricultural fields which allows archery hunters to focus on large-scale food sources and travel corridors heading to and from these food sources. According to DNR wildlife biologist Kevin Morgan, “There are some Barron County Forest blocks totaling about 16,000 acres scattered around the county. Other quality public land in this area includes the Governor Knowles State Forest in the far northwest along the St. Croix River. Both of these counties produce good numbers of deer as well as trophy bucks.”

EASTERN REGION OF WISCONSIN

The landscape of the eastern region, specifically the southeastern area, is known for its prime soil and farm land. When searching for mature deer in this area, hunters need to find their bedding habitat. The next necessity is early season forage, such as soybeans, alfalfa or clover. They are the area’s biggest deer attractant during the season’s early weeks.

A big buck haven is the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit, which stretches 30 miles across Sheboygan, Fond du Lac and Washington Counties. Come October, it receives a good amount of hunting pressure. Early season archery hunters have the greatest success

The 30,000 acre Kettle Moraine State Forest has great potential for harvesting deer. Farming agreements on this



Chetek resident Tyler Florczak poses with a Boone & Crockett buck he harvested on opening weekend of the 2015 Wisconsin archery season. He arrowed the 182-inch buck on a property adjacent to public hunting grounds in Barron County.

property allows for smaller fields with soy beans, corn and winter wheat are one of the reasons.

Some not-so-well-known public properties include the Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area (800 acres), Nichols Creek Wildlife Area (800 acres) and Mullet Creek Wildlife Area (2,000 acres).

The Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area is another unique property that borders county-owned land, making the 7,000-acre tract pristine deer country and habitat.

SOUTHERN REGION OF WISCONSIN

Glacial hills, kettles, lakes, prairie restoration sites, pine woods and hardwood forests can be found in the southern region of Wisconsin. Bucks grow big quickly and many of trophy size are harvested in the three and four-year-old range.

Especially notable is the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit which boasts 22,000 acres and a forest 30 miles long. The unit extends from the village of Dousman (Waukesha County), almost to the city of Whitewater (Walworth and Jefferson counties). This giant public property is home to hundreds and possibly thousands of deer.

Some of the parks around Dane County are part of the Dane County Parks Hunting Lottery Program. There are more than 20 properties in this program, which gives opportunities to explore some new areas with low hunting pressure.

The Lower Wisconsin Riverway is known as another early season archery hot spot, although several spots are only accessible by boat/canoe. 🎣

Maximize your early season archery hunting opportunities this fall and take a chance on some new public land. Hopefully, it leads to a trophy buck before breeding season hits.

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JACOB QUIGLEY

Team River Runner, Whitewater Park *Supporting veterans with Kayaks*


Wausau is a dream location for kayakers and Whitewater Park helps make that dream a reality. The park is one of the first natural waterways in the country modified to create Class I - III rapids. This one-third-mile stretch is packed with adrenaline-filled excitement from start to finish. As a seasoned kayaker, I have learned that you often have to work your way downstream to get to the action due to a lack of access points. You won't have that issue in Wausau. You can jump straight into the fun.

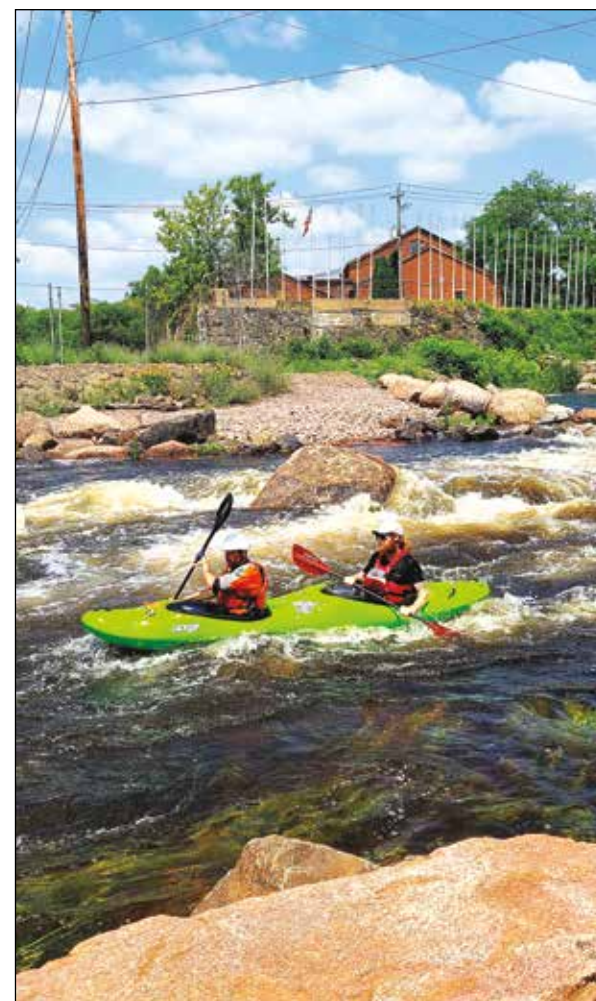
Whitewater Park is fed from the Wisconsin River, which runs parallel to the park. The city is split by the Wisconsin River as it flows north to south. A branch comes off the river which leads to a dam that can regulate the water flow. This alone makes it one of the few man-made enhanced courses in the world that can always guarantee proper kayak conditions. Most similar courses are dependent on precipitation and natural water flow to operate. Since it is powered by a dam and not dependent upon other variables, Whitewater Park provides optimal conditions at all times.

The park also hosts activities and events. Recently, my wife and I watched Team River Runner in action. Team River Runner's mission is to provide veterans and

their families with opportunities to find health, healing, community, and purpose through adventure and adaptive paddle sports. The organization was founded in 2004 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Team River Runner is a national cause with many chapters across the country. Coming from a family with a strong military background, I'm thankful for the great things that volunteers do for our veterans. The Team River Runner event included a weekend camping trip for the vets with catered food as well. I spoke with a veteran who was eager to take part in the experience. I asked him how much previous kayaking experience he had. He laughed and said he kayaked on a lake once. His goal was to gain knowledge and experience with Team River Runner and work his way up to Class III rapids. I could see on his face how much joy this organization has brought to him.

I highly recommend visiting Whitewater Park and the beautiful city of Wausau to discover for yourself what they have to offer. For more information about Team River Runner and how to make a donation in support of our veterans, visit their website at <https://www.teamriverrunner.org>. 



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CARPENTER, *FROM PAGE 2*

true, it is only part of the story. I am also here to catch fish, gold-sided brown trout memories that I will slip back in the water to carry me through winter, to catch again next spring and summer and two, just two, to pack out and put on ice for the trip home and eat fresh.

Two facts make my dog an ideal trout fishing dog. One, she is more interested in birds and mice and rabbits and squirrels and butterflies than fish, so spends most of her time in back in meadow or forest or whatever we are fishing through, in search of her game. Two, she is not much interested in water, which can be a liability when a rooster falls into the slough while we are pheasant hunting, but is quite the handy trait when you don't need a little French Brittany sloshing through a trout hold.

And so I fish. Today, in the spirit of the kind of hunting we are not doing, it is a simple size 10 gold hook and size seven split shot drifting nightcrawler halves through riffles and runs and into holes.

At first, I focus on the holes, but not much is doing other than a few small but pretty ones. The bigger fish must be feeding harder, so I start concentrating on faster water, and get a good hit. Setting the hook fast again, to be able to release any fish I don't want to creel, it's a hookup. A nice brown trout leaps out of the water then streaks down the run and bulldogs and flashes gold through the hole before I finally net it: Not as big as I thought, but bigger than the others, the perfect eater.

A couple hours later, I have released a couple handfuls

of trout and have one more in my vest. I fish the run into one last pool, this one green-clear with depth, until finally, a take.

This fish makes my hands shake and heart thump, and I slide into the water to net it.

Flanks of the golddest gold fading up to silver blue. Dime-sized spots of ruby red and inky black. Hooked jaw. Toothy maw. It's all my hand can do to hold the trout's ample girth as I snap a forever picture in my mind's eye and then watch it shimmer off in an autumn-gold flash into the current.

Our trout season is over. 🐟

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



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT

SPOONER • WASHBURN COUNTY



Fantastic Fall Foliage in Spooner

It's time to jump in the car and head to Spooner to take in some of the most spectacular views of fall's fabulous color displays in Wisconsin. Whether you're hitting the ATV/UTV Trails, canoeing the Namekagon River, fishing on Spooner Lake or taking a nice leisurely drive in the country the fantastically colorful landscapes will have you coming back for years to come so you can soak in its festive fall atmosphere.

Get those helmets out and gas up, because one of the best ways to view the fall colors is on the area's meticulously maintained ATV/UTV trails. Spooner has access to over a hundred miles of trails in Washburn County giving you plenty of opportunities to take in the eye-catching yellows, oranges and reds of the leaves while you're cruising along. Be sure to stop into the Washburn County Visitor Center before you head out and grab an ATV Scenic Tour brochure and trail map where the destinations are sure to wow and educate you on the history of the area all at the same time.

As many of the locals here will tell you, canoeing or



kayaking down the Namekagon River, Wisconsin's Moving National Park, is the perfect place for nature and wildlife. The portion of river just outside of Spooner moves along at a pace that's absolutely perfect to view fall's spectacular colors and wildlife preparing for the cold. The river here is suitable for all skill levels and if you don't have your own equipment don't worry, both AAA Sports Shop and

Jack's Canoe Rental can help you out with getting you set up with everything you need to venture out. AAA Sports Shop can also set you up with a fishing charter on Spooner Lake that's sure to be full of excitement and provides you with picturesque views of the colorful fall foliage along its shoreline.

Another exhilarating way to view fall's colorful landscapes is by taking a drive on the many gorgeous country roads in and around Spooner. First stop by the Visitor Center, located at 122 N. River Street in Spooner, and pick up a copy of the brochure and map of scenic routes of Washburn County. A particular favorite is Spooner's West Loop. At just over 46 miles this remarkable route will take you past over a dozen bodies of water where fall's many colors provide striking reflections that will leave you awestruck. 🐟

No matter how you choose to journey out, Spooner's magnificent fall views are just waiting for you to come out and admire. So, what are you waiting for? Plan your trip today at www.spoonerchamber.org!



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Return to the Western Edge

North Dakota-a quality hunting experience

There is an old advertising adage that states, "Quality is a sales 'gimmick' that works". North Dakota fits that bill. The people *On Wisconsin Outdoors* work with both in state tourism and the local community of Dickinson on the western edge didn't need to ask us twice to return to hunt their upland game. In fact, this will be our fourth consecutive October returning to North Dakota, and our Wisconsin group keeps on growing.

Eric Pacey, and my brothers Steve, Jim and John Ellis began to hunt North Dakota several years ago. Dick Henske of Manitowish Waters and Steve Henske from Stevens Point joined us last year. Gregg Bornemann of Waukesha makes it an even eight in 2021.

Like our group, if you hunt, and own dogs, North Dakota's wide open, rolling prairies are paradise. Season forecasts change year to year, and are affected locally and statewide by factors like this year's drought conditions hanging over much of the country. But we have always found quality bird hunting, plenty of flushes in fact, to make the trip a tradition.

Steve Ellis and Pacey scout for us annually, arriving in North Dakota two days ahead of the opener for out-of-state hunters. We like to say they create our own western edge by simply putting us on pheasants and sharptails. You should scout too if any in your party can afford the extra time. Hunters must choose 14 consecutive days to hunt within the season or two different seven day periods. We hunt mainly private land. You can too, by becoming acclimated to North Dakota's Game & Fish Department's Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program. The program provides walk-in access for the purpose of hunting on private land. No asking permission to hunt private property is necessary, but leaving the land like you

The hunt starts with first legal shooting hours in North Dakota.



found it, litter-free and carcass-free, is the expectation

Local properties enrolled in the North Dakota Conservation PLOTS Guide are obtained with your license purchase. Almost 800,000 acres are enrolled and broken down statewide into 44 separate, one-page maps with a back-cover index. Thousands of PLOTS properties throughout North Dakota are marked in yellow. The properties are easy to find with the maps, and yellow triangle signs physically marking the PLOTS properties make any second guessing that you may have wandered on private property not enrolled in the program a non-issue.

Wild pheasants and dog work are always our primary draws, but sharp-tail grouse are a true bonus. In Wisconsin, we simply don't have vast acres of upland prairie with the chance of seeing mulies and antelope, relatively close to home. And Dickinson employees treat the Wisconsin hunter (and our dogs starting with LaQuinta) like they want us to return.

"Our job is to give you the best information you may need to not only make your decision to try our area a great one, but to also to provide the information once

you arrive in Dickinson for a successful, fun hunt. It might be the questions on lodging and dining options, the information on how to find your area to hunt, or it might be where you can clean your birds, or find a veterinary clinic if you should need one for your hunting dog," said Executive Director Terri Thiel of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"October may be the opening month, but the season lasts until the first part of January, giving you plenty of time and opportunity to hunt the birds. Often, mid-November and early December is a great time to run the fields and PLOTS areas. Check out www.visitdickinson.com for information on hunting, lodging and dining and more."

Sounds like North Dakota will want you back too. Our money...and their bird hunting...say it's a good bet you will return too

To Hunt North Dakota...

The drive time from Milwaukee to the city of Dickinson, our hub for the *On Wisconsin Outdoors* hunt, is approximately 12 hours. The cost of a non-resident license to hunt pheasant and sharptail grouse remains \$122.00.



Badgers Steve and Dick Ellis find typical terrain and a typical hunt for wild pheasants and sharptail grouse on private land open to hunters through the North Dakota P.L.O.T.S. program.



Wisconsin hunters can expect to have encounters with bouncing muleys, whitetail and antelope both on the drive to North Dakota and while walking creek bottoms and rolling prairie for pheasants and sharptails.

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

While it is an option to pay for access to private land, we spend our time hunting the state's (Private Land Open to Sportsmen). There are literally thousands of acres of PLOTS property clearly marked, easy to find, and holding birds. To order a PLOTS guide contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300 or go to their website at gf.nd.gov.



On The Cover

Trail riding throughout the seasons continues to grow in popularity in Wisconsin. In our feature story by OWO writer Stu Wilke, Bobby Donahue of Donahue Super Sports credits the enthusiasm to not only tremendous advances in ATVs and snowmobiles, but the fabulous maintenance of trails throughout the state. And that...is one smooth ride.

Check out the online EXPANDED ISSUE at onwisconsinoutdoors.com





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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE

A hunting and fishing heaven

From captivating views above the clouds to sensational fishing and hunting, fall in the La Crosse Region is dynamite for outdoor recreation! Located in the Driftless Region, you will not want to miss the autumn colors dance across the many scenic overlooks. Even better is the explosion of wildlife activity, making La Crosse a hot spot for sportsmen in the latter half of the year.

Fishing in the La Crosse Region turns into a feeding frenzy in the fall. The mighty Mississippi hosts a wide variety of river monsters that become more aggressive as they prepare for the long winter ahead. Hordes of feisty walleye become an easy target as they move into the deeper holes and wingdams of the main channel. Flathead catfish can also be found lurking in the Mississippi as they bulk up to 40, even 50, pounds in the fall months. Notable tributaries include the Black River, Lake Onalaska and the Trempealeau River. Predatory fish, such as bass and northern pike, are plentiful in these areas. Bait fish do not stand a chance as these fish blow up the water's surface like fireworks. Last, but certainly not least, the many coldwater creeks and streams are a fly-fisher's dream. Local anglers take pride in the La Crosse Region's abundance of beautiful brown and brook trout. Come catch your next wallhanger in the La Crosse Region this fall!

Duck and deer hunting are also popular fall activities as the Driftless is home to wooded bluffs, expansive meadows, and seemingly endless marshes. The Mississippi acts as the most heavily used migratory flyway in North America. The La Crosse Region becomes a duck motel in the fall as they stop for a brief rest on their journey South. The Van Loon Wildlife Area and Coulee Experimental State Forest both provide an unparalleled hunting experience with deer, grouse, turkeys, ducks, furbearers and waterfowl.

Concerned about hunting or fishing in an unfamiliar area? Not a problem! The La Crosse Region is home to dozens of guides and schools dedicated to teaching age-old Midwestern traditions. McCormick's River Guide Service and Galen Bremmer Guided Fishing Tours will make sure your next fishing trip in La Crosse is full of Lunkers. As for hunting, the Driftless Folk School and Hunt Fish Camp Wisconsin provide a comprehensive directory of populated areas and classes on survival skills as well as butchering and dressing game.

Learn more about visiting the La Crosse Region online at ExploreLaCrosse.com and plan your La Crosse getaway today!



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STUART WILKE

Donahue Super Sports | Wisconsin Snowmobiling

Tremendous machines, trails combine for one smooth ride

Winter is Bobby Donahue's favorite season. Considering that he is a former Formula One Snowmobile Word Champion, this may not come as a surprise. The owner of Donahue Super Sports in Wisconsin Rapids does, however, make a compelling case for why he considers snowmobiling the ultimate outdoor recreational activity.

"Wisconsin is a snowmobile paradise," Bobby said. "We have plenty of snow and about 25,000 miles of the best trails in the world and a huge number of clubs that maintain them."

The Donahue family puts those trails to good use. "We snowmobile practically every weekend and average about 200 miles a weekend. I ride about 3,000 miles a season, which is more miles than I put on my motorcycle all summer."

Snowmobiles have come a long way since their mass market debut in the 1960s. They are not the "noisy, smelly, smokey machines they were in the past," he said. "You don't need to be a mechanic, or know one, to ride snowmobiles like you did in the 1960s and '70s. They are much more reliable and dependable today and far easier to operate."

Riding a snowmobile during that era was not for the faint of heart or out of shape. Those of us old enough to remember may recall the snowmobiles of yore as crude, ill-handling motorized sleds that much preferred traveling in a linear fashion than taking curves, which they did only under protest. Braking was something to prepare for well in advance and lumber trucks were comfortable in comparison. Tipping over, rocketing into space over bumps, and getting stuck were par for the course back in the day. So was five miles to the gallon and unscheduled stops due to mechanical failures. Modern snowmobiles get much better gas mileage, while at the same time delivering light years ahead more horsepower. Inhaling and polluting the atmosphere with blue clouds of toxic two-stroke exhaust are long in the past.

Operating a snowmobile has become much easier. "The ride is absolutely phenomenal," Bobby said. "Suspension systems have come a long way. Riding a snowmobile may actually be easier than driving a car and almost as comfortable. There are only two controls, the throttle on the right handle bar and the brake lever on the left. You push the throttle to go and then you pull the brake to stop. And snowmobiles have practically total visibility. There are no roofs or door pillars to get in the way of your view and no shifting involved, except to go in reverse. They are extremely stable and require about the same amount of coordination as an ATV. Basically if you can ride a bicycle you can operate a snowmobile."

Wisconsin law requires the completion of a Department of Natural Resources approved safety course to operate a snowmobile for those born on or after January 1, 1985. Many, if not most, of Wisconsin's hundreds of snowmobile clubs offer state-sanctioned safety courses, which are well worth every rider's time. "I've been riding snowmobiles for over 40 years, but every time I took my kids to a safety course, I learned something new, too," Bobby noted.

Snowmobiling is very much a family activity. "Everyone can enjoy riding a snowmobile," Bobby said. "In the distant past, snowmobiling was a guy thing. Women were usually passengers. Today, they are just as likely to be driving them as men. Many snowmobiles can seat two. Mom and dad can each carry a passenger and the whole family can enjoy the sport together." The average price of a new snowmobile is about \$10,000, Bobby said. The cost of two machines, a trailer, plus equipment, including clothing and helmets, runs about \$25,000.

"The future of snowmobiling in Wisconsin is great, and the reason is the hundreds of snowmobile clubs throughout the state," Bobby said. "They voluntarily mark, sign, groom and maintain the trails and keep debris off them. The clubs do this with expensive equipment that they purchased. We wouldn't have thousands of safe snowmobile trails if it weren't for them."

And those trails will soon be open. "I can't wait for winter!" Bobby said. 🍂



Snowmobiling has evolved from a "guy thing" to a sport that the entire family can enjoy.





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		1 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	2 5 pm-10 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	3 Noon-10 pm BIKES + FUN RACING	4 9 am-6 pm TIME MACHINE	5 9 am-6 pm TRUCK INVASION
	7 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	8 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	9 5 pm-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	10 Open Noon BIKES + FUN RACE M.K.E. Takeover	11 9 am-6 pm M.K.E. Takeover	12 9 am-6 pm Big Walker Memorial Race FUN RACING
	14 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	15 5 am-9 am FUN RACE + LADIES	16 5 am-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	17 Early Bird FUN RACING +BIKES+	18 NITROUS STREET CAR BRAWL	19 9 am-6 pm IMPORT WARS
	21 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	22 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	23 5 pm-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	24 5 pm-9 pm BIKES + FUN RACING	25 9 am-6 pm MARKS STREET WARS	26 9 am-6 pm BIG SHOW for the AVERAGE JOE FUN RACING
	28 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	29 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	30 5 pm-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)			

October

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	SAT.	SUN.
				1 Open at 10 am Early Bird BIKES + FUN RACING	2 9 am-6 pm M.K.E. Takeover	3 9 am-6 pm OPEN FUN RACE for All
	5 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	6 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	7 5 pm-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	8 5 pm-9 pm BIKES + FUN RACING	9 NITROUS STREET CAR BRAWL	10 9 am-6 pm IMPORT WARS
	12 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	13 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	14 5 pm-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	15 Early Bird Open at 10 am FUN RACE/Bike M.K.E.	16 9 am-6 pm MARKS STREET WARS	17 9 am-6 pm OPEN FUN RACE for All
	19 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	20 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	21 5 pm-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	22 5 pm-9 pm BIKES + FUN RACING	23 9 am-6 pm OPEN FUN RACE for All	24 9 am-6 pm OPEN FUN RACE for All
	26 5 pm-9 pm Street Car Tuesday	27 5 pm-9 pm FUN RACE + LADIES	28 5 pm-9 pm SLICKS ONLY (Really)	29 5 pm-9 pm BIKES + FUN RACING	30 9 am-6 pm OPEN FUN RACE for All	31 9 am-6 pm OPEN FUN RACE for All

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DICK ELLIS

Ford vs GMC

A reckoning on the strip at Great Lakes Dragaway

It was embarrassing, to say the least, to be “caught” in public driving my wife’s Nissan Rogue when OWO Editor Stu Wilke and I first traveled in June to Great Lakes Dragaway (GLD) to write a story on the Biggest Little Race Track in the World. I didn’t know longtime GLD owner Randy Henning would ask, “What are you driving?” I didn’t know Randy would say, “Well go get it, you can’t write a story without experiencing the track.”

After our run down the strip in the Rogue turned in a quarter-mile time of approximately an hour and 20 minutes, I assured Henning that I really drove a man’s truck, a GMC born at the turn of the century that still hums like she’s a baby. “Come on Randy,” I said. “Give me another run. I have an outdoor guy reputation to protect...kind of.”

It was time, two months later heading into production of the September-October issue, to shine the spotlight on the Yukon and simultaneously challenge my lifelong friend Larry Calvi to a drag. I still hold a grudge that Larry drove wheels in high school and beyond wearing muscle car names like (1968) Torino GT and (1977) Trans Am-Bandit edition. I drove...well I’m not sure what it was...but I do know it had a \$175 price tag and for a while there an athletic tube sock where the left wiper should have been.

Two images come immediately to mind when reminiscing. Larry working the drive-in outdoor theatres or Highway 100 before it was shut down by the cops to cruising. And, the night Larry and I ran out of gas three times and pushed the Torino down Greenfield Avenue to the station for another gallon of premium. Larry was notorious for running out of gas.

Fast forward 40 years. Larry is a carpenter. I publish OWO. Larry hauls his tools and lumber in a 2006 Ford Expedition carrying 180,000 miles. I haul loads of papers for delivery at pick-up points in the GMC wearing the battle badges of 283,000 miles in the field. Larry had the hot cars of yesteryear. Yesterday’s gone. On this hot summer’s night, I would smoke him at GLD.

We would take our trucks down the quarter mile strip, as anyone can five nights a weeks with trucks, cars, snowmobiles, motorcycles... anything that rolls. The best part for us was watching the serious gearheads here to challenge their cars and driving talents, on the straight pavement or “Drifting” course. Like the Nova that topped out over 140 before returning to the staging area to coax the engine for even more on his next run. Mustangs, Corvettes, Chevelles...your wife’s girlie car....you name it, they run here.

This is the real deal; a strip maintained to keep your rubber on the road, blinking “ready lights” as the drivers anticipate the green “go” call to jolt off the line, speeds recorded for the crowd as cars crack the finish line, and finally, the return to the starting area where the report card of seconds and MPH reached are printed out for the drivers.

Inching to the line, tension was thick. Larry stood on the pedal to warm the tires and allow the Ford’s V8 to send out a growl of intimidation. The GMC answered. This was it. Two yellow lights clicked solid as we eased forward, warning us the real countdown was looming. The blinking yellows traveled down the board until we anticipated the green and jumped on the accelerators. I should have brought the parachute I thought as (in my mind anyway) G-forces pinned me to the seat. The real goal now was not to sideswipe my friend and disappear into eternity in a plume of fire and smoke (although that would make a good story ending).

And then quickly (although not so quickly as a finely tuned Nova, my 81 MPH printout proved), it was over. I had taken my revenge on Larry...New Berlin’s own muscle car girl magnet.

The calls and texts began to trickle in from the boys that still remain our friends from the class of ’76 who knew of the showdown. “Well?” Doug the Goose Haberlein texted. “I’m watching the news but they’re not saying who won the big race.”

“I was embarrassed to be on the same track with that turtle,” I responded.

“Nice job” Doug replied before summing up yesteryear in just a few words.

“But are you sure Larry didn’t just run out of gas?” 🐢



A stones throw from the drag racing grandstands, GLD fans enjoy drivers testing their skills and cars in the Drifting area. Expect squeeling tires and plumes of smoke as drivers take on the pylon courses at uncanny speed, spinouts and fishtails by design and of course, roaring engines tuned for performance. Hollywood stunt drivers have nothing on these cats.



Ford versus GMC. Lifelong friends Larry Calvi and Dick Ellis go through a safety check prior to facing off on the Great Lakes Dragaway quarter-mile strip in trucks carrying almost 500,000 miles on the odometers.



PUBLISHER'S NOTE: For you gear heads, and those of us who wish we could be, OWO asked Brad to let us follow along each issue as he takes his 1940 Buick Special Coupe from major project to classic car show-worthy. We all may learn a thing or two along the road.

Under the Hood with Brad

1940 Buick Special Coupe - a front suspension overhaul

As I noted in a previous issue of OWO, there are several options to pick from when you decide to take on a project car: restore it to as it came from the factory or modify and upgrade to modern standards. I have decided to restore the body and general appearance of my Buick to look like it came from the factory in 1940, but completely upgrade the suspension and driveline. The first step was to completely remove the original front suspension and replace it with modern components.

I researched the many options and selected a complete new weld in universal front suspension kit from TCI Engineering (Total Cost Involved). The kit completely upgraded the suspension and handling to current standards including:

- Power Rack and Pinion Steering
- Disc Brakes
- Sway Bar
- Tubular Control Arms
- Urethane Bushings

The first step in the process proved to be the easiest physically and most difficult mentally...cutting off the original frame and suspension mounts. After welding angle iron across the top and bottom of the remaining frame to keep it in alignment, I proceeded to cut the front section off. After removal it's one of those moments when you stare at two bare frame stubs sticking out and think "Uh oh. There's no going back now"

After recovering from that "What the heck did I do moment?" the rest of the project was very enjoyable. It only took 30 minutes to cut off the old and slide the new sub frame into its approximate location. However, it took two days to ensure it was level side-to-side, front-to-back and that the left and right wheelbase were equal before final welding.



Once positioned correctly I cut, trimmed and blended the old frame rails to match the new section. When the splice point was welded solid, I added a 3/16" gusset plate that extended 3" on either side of the splice point for added strength.

Over the years I have learned that cars are like puppies.

They have personalities, become attached to their owners and love treats. As proof, when I got done I asked "Well, what do you think?"

She answered by wagging her left rear tire. 🐾

Next Issue: Engine Transmission

JOHN LUTHEN

A Superior Paradise

Kayak camping the Apostle Islands

Seagulls cried as my daughter and I crested another roller and paddled to keep our sea kayak on a steady course into the mist of the Apostle Island chain. Camping gear rattled in the storage compartments and 65-degree water lit into icy rainbows that sparkled down the fabric of our waterproof spray skirts. We felt akin to the earliest explorers who foraged into the historic waters that wash northward from Chequamegon Bay – prepared as possible for an island voyage, but ultimately leaving it to the whim of Lake Superior as to what might be discovered.

Shimmering in the furthest reaches of northern

Wisconsin, the Apostle Islands off of the Bayfield shoreline are indeed a historic trove of adventure. Lighthouses stand sentinel over channels that have seen sailing frigates evolve into ore freighters. Yawning sea caves and sandy coves twist into old forest glades whose trees helped build the birch-bark canoes of the earliest settlers.

With 21 islands and a peninsula of shoreline that make up 69,000 acres of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, choosing a fitting expedition might seem a bit daunting. The waters of Superior can turn fickle and are not to be taken lightly in any season, so doing advance homework

becomes paramount to a safe and enjoyable experience.

My daughter and I navigated a tandem sea kayak on our journey, which is longer and narrower than traditional lake and river kayaks and is designed to cut through wind and waves on exposed water. It also sports a rudder on the back to help steer in a straight line and has larger storage compartments for carrying supplies.

There are dozens of campsites to choose from throughout the Apostles, with features ranging from sea

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

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.

DICK ELLIS

Casting Truth on the Wolf Issue

Who supports a Wisconsin population of 350 or less?

You're not alone in believing that Wisconsin wolf population is grossly understated by the DNR, and that the numbers need to be maintained at 350 animals or less.

Who Supports A Wolf Population Goal Of 350 Or Less In Wisconsin?

- Thirty-six Wisconsin County Boards have passed resolutions supporting a wolf goal of 350 or less, including several Boards voting for as few wolves in the state as 100, 80, or 50 or less. These 36 county boards are the elected representatives of 1,266,000 Wisconsin citizens.
- The Board votes: Barron, Burnett, Vilas, Taylor, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Lincoln, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Price, Shawano, Waushara, Waupaca, and Grant all passed unanimously. Adams 16 for, 2 against; Ashland 16 for, 2 against; Clark 27 for, 1 against; Langlade 14 for, 3 against; Rusk 10 for, 1 against; Sawyer 10 for, 2 against; Douglas 22 for, 2 against; Wood 14 for, 3 against; Bayfield 9 for, 3 against; Portage 22 for, 2 against; Marathon 32 for, 2 against; Marquette 16 for, 1 against; Richland 13 for, 8 against; Outagamie 30 for, 4 against; Juneau & Polk motion carried, voice vote. Washburn voted for 50 or less: 11 in favor, 9 opposed; Iowa voted 100 or less: 13 in favor, 7 opposed. The 7 opposed wanted 50 or less. Lafayette voted 80 or less: 15 for, 1 against.
- The Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 46,000 members support a wolf goal of 350 or less.
- The Wisconsin Farmer's Union supports a wolf goal of 350.
- The Wisconsin Cattleman's Association supports a wolf goal of 80, the original recovery number.
- The Indianhead Polled Hereford Assoc., Northern Wisconsin Beef Producers Association, and Wisconsin Hereford Association all support a wolf



What You Need to Know Before the Fall Wolf Hunt

After the February 2021 Wolf Hunt, Wisconsin had a conservative estimate of 900 wolves in the state based on the DNR's own pre-hunt numbers (Many, including this publication, believe those pre-hunt numbers were far below the actual numbers). Since then, and once again conservatively, 600 more wolves were born and survived bringing the state population to 1500 today.

If the upcoming Fall Wolf Hunt harvest goal of 300 animals is met, the state of Wisconsin will still have a minimum of 1200 wolves. That is 343% more than the recommended management goal of 350; a goal that the vast majority of you want.

Our state wolf population is out of control and growing because of DNR mismanagement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

Explore Wisconsin



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JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER

Wisconsin's Most Immediate Threats



Election Integrity

During the last election we had laws being broken right before our eyes, and those in a position to do something about it did nothing. Some examples include;

- Democracy in the Park which was illegal, early in-person voting.
- 200,000 unaccounted for individuals were left on voter rolls after a court ordered them to be removed.
- People were encouraged to declare themselves indefinitely confined by COVID to avoid voter ID requirements.

COVID-19 Abuse of Power

COVID-19 is only a threat to a very well understood minority of the population; the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. But it was used as an excuse, in the name of safety, to mandate lockdowns which destroyed people's livelihoods, stole their freedom, and made them dependent on government. It was also used as an excuse to limit in-person voting, and expand absentee voting, severely

weakening our election integrity.

Efforts to continue this abuse are ongoing.

The Lie of Systemic Racism and Critical Race Theory

This poisonous idea is being forwarded everywhere, and Wisconsin is not immune. It's racist, and separates us by our skin color, rather than uniting us by what we all have in common...our freedom as United States citizens. We're all Americans.

A Dishonest Media

This is the vehicle through which lies and misinformation travel, and none of the above would be threats if the media kept us truthfully informed.

As your Governor I will make sure all laws are followed, your freedoms are protected, and keep you fully informed from my office when the media doesn't. I completely understand that I will be working only for you.

Please join me in pushing back hard and taking back our state. 🇺🇸



Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Joan Ellis Beglinger was born into a family that holds defense of American freedoms as a no-compromise priority, including a strong history of military service. Joan's father, Don Ellis, one of six brothers serving in WWII from Wisconsin Rapids (one gold star) was a shot down P-47 fighter pilot (1944), badly wounded and prisoner of war. Her brother Steve Ellis, was a shot down (1970) and badly wounded scout helicopter pilot in Vietnam. This 1999 Ellis family photo including four veterans was taken in answer to a series of Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorials calling for gun control. The photo appeared in a syndicated column by OWO Publisher Dick Ellis throughout Wisconsin offering the audience a more accurate portrait of the Wisconsin and American gun owner; law-abiding and patriotic.



Joan Ellis Beglinger, shown in this 2021 photo, has been a Wisconsin concealed carry permit holder for eight years. Although up against big money and political machinery, we believe our sister's strong administrative track record, ethics, and the knowledge that she will work for you only mean this independent candidate now has the republican and democratic parties surrounded. Help us work for the unconditional surrender of the career politicians. Like you, we want our country back.



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We are building a tsunami of grassroots support one voter at a time.

I cannot do it alone.

Thank You,

Joan Ellis Beglinger



LUTHENS, FROM PAGE 34

caves to secluded sandy coves. Most of the sights are equipped with picnic tables, fire rings, primitive restrooms and protective bear lockers to store food. We ultimately decided to camp on Basswood Island, which is about a mile from the mainland and has a crossing that is relatively protected from the full force of the lake. The island was thick with ferns and old growth forest, with an abandoned brownstone quarry whose rock helped build the second Milwaukee County Courthouse that was completed in the early 1870s.

The outfitters at Brule River Canoe Rental provided us with kayak and gear, including nylon spray skirts to keep the Lake Superior chill at bay. The town of Brule is about 50 miles southwest of the Apostles, so we needed to transport it ourselves, but the advice we received from Brule River Canoe regarding water conditions, kayak handling and route planning was invaluable. Cell phone reception is surprisingly clear on the islands, but we also carried a waterproof, portable marine radio for safety.

There are multiple sources closer to the lake that can offer information,



Sunset over the shoreline of Basswood Island

arrange transport and provide training, including Trek and Trail in Bayfield, who outfit tours in the Apostles as well as through the sea caves along the mainland peninsula at Meyers Beach near the village of Cornucopia.

Not surprisingly, the internet is an invaluable tool for researching maps, regulations and campgrounds throughout the Apostle Islands, and permits and information can be obtained online or by contacting the

park ranger office in Bayfield. The office also has list of certified water taxis which, although more expensive, may prove an easier way to transport gear and reach camping spots in the outer islands. 🍷

John Luthens is a freelance writer and photographer from Grafton, Wisconsin. His first novel, Taconite Creek, along with a nonfiction collection of his stories, Writing Wild: The Tales and Trails of a Wisconsin Outdoor Journalist, are available from Cable Publishing at www.cablepublishing.com

ELLIS, FROM PAGE 35

goal less than 350.

- The Wisconsin Bowhunters' Association Board and membership supports a wolf goal of 350 or less.
- The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, representing 200-plus organizations, supports a wolf goal of 350 or less.
- The Wisconsin Trappers' Association supports a goal of 350 wolves.
- The Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association supports a goal of 100 wolves.
- In an attitude study done by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW Madison, 66.5% of respondents favored a wolf population of 350 or less - Wisconsin Wolf Policy Survey - Changing Attitudes, 2001 - 2009, Adrian Treves, et al.
- The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) Spring Hearing in 2011 voted overwhelming in favor of reducing the wolf population to 350 or less (3989 for/827 against, passing in all 72 counties). 350 or less was again approved by WCC delegates at the 2013 annual convention.

Where Did The Number 350 Come From?

In the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan approved in 1999 and 2007, the goal was 350 wolves. The DNR is currently mandated by law to manage state wolf numbers to 350. 🍷

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September 1st marks the opening of the early Canada goose and teal seasons. Both require the use of non-toxic shot. Probably 90 percent of that non-toxic shot used will be steel. Mourning doves also opens, and when hunted on public land, the use of non-toxic shot is also required by law.

Non-toxic shot, especially steel shot, has evolved since it was first mandated by law in the late 1970s. As someone who used some of the first steel available, I can say without a doubt it was awful! I remember dropping a mallard drake that got back up and flew away before I could reload. The steel available today is cheaper, hits harder due to higher velocity, and patterns better due to progressive burning powders and improved wad designs. To be completely honest, I know friends who have gone over to hunting with nothing but steel to avoid being accidentally caught carrying lead ammunition. I've personally harvested pheasants, doves, pigeons, grouse, rabbits, and squirrels with steel.

Here are a few suggestions when using steel for early season Canada geese, teal and doves.

Early season Canada geese are usually hunted over crops like corn, soy beans or hay. Farm ponds are also great places to set decoys. Obviously, the best place to set decoys is a pond or field that the geese are already using. Set decoys in family groups of five to seven birds. For shorter range shots at geese coming into decoys, size 2, 1, or BB steel is perfect when combined with an IC choke. Pass shooting birds moving between feeding or roosting spots requires heavier loads of larger shot. Use a LM or Mod choke. Magnum loads of BB or BBB steel will give you the extra reach and retained pellet energy for longer range kills. If hunting geese on a farm with pigeons or doves nearby, I'll carry a few steel 6 shot shells for those targets of opportunity.

Teal, on the other hand, are much less durable than geese. Fast moving teal tend to be easy to decoy in the early season. Shots are usually within 30 yards, so using wide open chokes like Cyl or IC lighter loads of steel 3, 4, or 6 shot will give you clean kills, without excessive damage to the meat.

Doves are even less durable than teal. I've seen a single steel size 6 pellet cleanly kill a dove. Use Cyl or IC choke and steel 6 or 7 shot for doves over decoys, or LM or Mod for pass shooting. This works for their larger domestic cousins, barn pigeons, as well.

Good luck, and hunt safe. 🦋



View from author's early season goose blind. Dove and pigeon decoys were set off to the side.



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Fox sparrow

You're on your deer stand in the forest, or walking slowly along a woodland trail. You hear something shuffling slowly and noisily through the leaves toward you. There's starting and stopping. You're expecting something bigger, a whitetail, a coyote, or squirrel, perhaps. Instead, here comes a handsome, hopping little reddish-gray bird. It's a fox sparrow!

Named for its rufous feathers that resemble the coloration of a red fox, this handsome native sparrow migrates through Wisconsin's woodlands, brushy areas, backyards and thickets in autumn, and again in spring.

Fox sparrows are easy to distinguish from other native sparrows. Look for a foxy-colored bird on the ground. They are rusty-red and gray above with white underparts striped in rusty-red. On their chest is a prominent blotch and a gray stripe just below the reddish cap and above the eye. The bill is yellow to gray. They are chunky-looking birds.

Listen for the telltale scratching noises that fox sparrows make as they hop, skip, kick and scratch for seeds and insects on the forest or thicket floor. In spring and summer, fox sparrows sing a short and sweet warbling song all day long. In fall, they make simple smack calls to each other as a loose group works along the forest floor.

Encourage fox sparrows to visit your yard: Leave brushy areas intact, plant shrub beds, and build a brush pile.

Did you know that fox sparrows take on different color forms in different habitats? Fox sparrows in the wet Pacific Northwest trend toward very dark and brown, while birds in arid areas are paler and grayer. Birds in Wisconsin display true foxy red and are quite handsome. 🦋



JOHN CLER

The Deer Tick

*Small animal,
potentially huge
human impact*

The Wisconsin 2020 gun deer season was unusual for many Badger State hunters as the Covid pandemic resulted in changes to the way hunters gathered for the opening day. I missed opening day for only the second time in 56 years for a much different reason.

I began feeling ill about a week prior to the start of the season. I felt tired and experienced alternating periods of chills and fever. Feverish episodes would have me sweating profusely to the point that I would need to change my sweat-soaked shirt. One of these episodes sent me to urgent care on the Friday prior to the opener. Every test, including one for Covid, came back negative. The attending nurse proclaimed me the “mystery patient” of the day, as they could not determine what was causing my symptoms. She commented that it “might” be Covid, despite the test result.

I called my brother at the hunting cabin and told him that I would not be joining him and a friend for the hunt. I did not want to expose them if it was Covid and knew that if I hunted part of the property alone, I would not have the energy to take care of any animal I shot.

My family doctor ran several tests in the following weeks, including a “tick panel” that tests for four tick-borne diseases. She called a few days later to tell me I had tested positive for Lyme disease, anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis. I had scored the hat trick of tick-borne diseases! I was fortunate, as they are all caused by bacteria that are treated with the same antibiotic. A few days into the three-week treatment regimen had me on the mend.

The tick that spreads these diseases is the deer tick, also called the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*). They are smaller than the familiar wood tick and have an orange abdomen. Deer ticks start as eggs and hatch into the larval stage. They are the size of the period at the end of this sentence. They do not carry disease, but require a meal of blood to progress. They may feed on the blood of mammals, birds

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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LEFT HAND RIGHT HAND

The advertisement features three SKB shotgun models: the 90TSS, the Century III, and the RS300. Each model is shown in two views: a full-length side profile and a shorter, more compact view. The 90TSS and Century III have wooden stocks and silver receivers, while the RS300 has a black receiver and a wooden stock. The background is a light green gradient.



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STUART WILKE

Don't be a fool Know your surroundings, be smart, stay safe

“Fools rush in where angels fear to tread,” is a centuries’ old idiom from the poem *An Essay on Criticism* by the poet and satirist Alexander Pope. His words are as true today as they were in 1711 when they were written. People are still doing irrational, impetuous, ill-advised stuff on a regular basis. We humans are consistent if nothing else and when carrying a concealed weapon, take the advice of General James Mattis: “Engage your brain before you engage your weapon.”

If you know of a situation or location where you think you might need a gun, why go there? Consider another option. Going to an event attended by large numbers of unhinged people is the equivalent of wearing a “Kick Me” sign on your back, only with more dire potential consequences. Some locations are breeding grounds for unhappy situations, like taverns after closing time.

Actually drawing a weapon in reaction to a perceived threat opens up an entirely new world of bad possibilities. “If you’re going to point a gun on someone in self-defense, you had better understand the possible consequences of doing so,” Mike “Shorty” Govas of Shorty’s Sporting Goods in West Allis says. For instance, even trained police officers have guns taken and turned on them. Why would someone with no expertise in fending off an assailant think they would have better luck?

Wisconsin is not a “Stand-Your-Ground” state, Shorty notes. Such states allow a person to use lethal force in public for self-defense, even if that force could be avoided by retreating or when non-lethal force would be sufficient. Wisconsin state law does allow juries to consider a failure to retreat when evaluating a person’s use of force in public. The exception is if the situation occurs while in an occupied vehicle or business.

Wisconsin is actually a “Castle Doctrine” state, meaning that a person does not have to retreat from a conflict before using deadly force in their own dwelling. The key word here is “in.” This does not give a homeowner the unassailable “right” to shoot a burglar in their backyard who is fleeing their home with a stolen flat screen television.

Trouble often finds people who are not looking for it because they were oblivious to their surroundings. “At least take off the headphones and put your cell phone in a pocket,” Shorty advises. People who don’t take simple precautions, walk around singing to the music in their ear buds while their face is buried in YouTube are much more likely to miss the person that has been trailing them since they left their car in the lot. They shouldn’t be surprised when they are shoved to the pavement after their cell phone was ripped from their hands and wallet taken. A little self-awareness can prevent such incidents.

“Discretion is the better part of valor,” wrote Shakespeare in “Henry the IV, Part 1.” In other words, if you find yourself in a potentially violent and volatile confrontation, keep your mouth shut. Putting as much distance as possible between you and a potential assailant is a much better strategy than commenting on his or her parentage, intelligence or fashion sense.

Shorty highly recommends taking a legitimate and thorough concealed carry course, such as those offered by his establishment. Beware, he notes, there are more than a few courses providing bad advice and faulty information. 🗡️

For more information, contact Shorty’s Shooting Sports regarding his concealed carry courses and make yourself familiar with the Wisconsin Department of Justice Firearm Safety Course available on the internet.



CLER, FROM PAGE 39

or amphibians. Larva generally do not attach to humans.

A blood filled larva drops from its host and molts into the nymph stage. If the larva’s host had one of the tick-borne diseases the nymph may spread it to any animal it attaches to. Nymphs prefer mice, but will attach to any suitable host. Deer ticks find hosts by “questing.” This involves hanging on to vegetation with its rear legs and extending the front legs to grab onto a passing host animal. They detect the approach of a potential host by sensing body odors, breath and temperature changes. If a blood meal is found, the nymph drops to the ground and molts into an adult.

Adults quest to find a third host, with deer being preferred. Females mate with a male, usually on the host, prior to her final blood meal. Once filled with blood, she drops to the ground and lays up to three thousand eggs that will hatch the following spring. The entire life cycle takes two years. The vast majority of ticks do not complete the cycle.

Once a deer tick finds a human host it takes a minimum of 24 hours for it to locate a suitable spot to attach and spread any disease it may have. A shower after time outdoors will wash them away before they can attach to your skin. Attached ticks should be grabbed behind the head with a tweezers and pulled out.

Permethrin (Permanone) can be used to treat clothes. It must be sprayed on clothes and allowed to dry, as it is toxic to humans and pets when wet. Permethrin kills any tick or insect that touches it. It will remain effective following six washings.

Deer ticks are part of the Wisconsin outdoors. Don’t let them keep you from enjoying outdoor experiences. 🗡️

John Cler is a retired high school science teacher and principal. He hunts, traps and fishes from his home in Richland County.

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