

FREE

On Wisconsin *Outdoors*

with the

Dick Ellis Experts

■ Explore Wisconsin

Warm up to these winter trips

■ The Cold, Hardwater Facts

Advice from OWO's fishing experts

■ A Badger Welcome

Central Wisconsin Fun and Adventure Club

■ The Outside Comes In

Return of Wisconsin's sports shows

■ Filling the Bear Tag

Fall success starts now

■ Home Field Advantage

Cagey bobcat wins the day

■ Deer Hunting Wisconsin

Calling in a wall hanger

Camp review from the deer desert

Observations from a November stand

■ From the OWO Gun Cabinet

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD

The Perfect Snowmobile Day

It is a brisk February morning with a light dusting of fresh powdery snow covering the lake. We've cemented our plans the night before in anticipation for perfect riding conditions today. The weather is calling for bright sunshine, bluebird skies, and a high temperature of 18 degrees for the day. We are meeting our good friends on the lake in front of their house for a 10 AM "wheels up" takeoff.

I must admit, my husband and I are quite spoiled in that our property is adjacent to the snowmobile trail that takes us right onto the lake and feeds into the entire Sawyer County trail system. We are even more spoiled that our friend, who does grooming for our local club, drives the groomer right through our gate to get to the trail, so it's like a snowmobile super-highway right out of our garage!

Our adventure begins by heading seven miles down beautiful Lac Courte Oreilles Lake. The trail is in perfect condition, the lake is smooth as glass, and the fresh snow is sparkling like diamonds. A short jump across Highway K and we are on Grindstone Lake, skimming the shoreline until our next trail intersection. We traverse through the winding forest trails, leaning into our corners and taking off on the straightaways

until we are on picturesque Lake Chippewa Flowage.

Keeping our eyes peeled for bald eagles and other wildlife, we make our way from the west to the east side of the flowage, enjoying the beauty and scenery along the way. Once we cross the flowage, it is into the forest we go! A short ride down a wooded trail leads us to the first of many Chequamegon Forest roads that we will follow until we reach our first stop - wherever that may be. With conditions like these, we don't have a solid plan, other than to ride and enjoy wherever the trail takes us.

The Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance builds, maintains, and grooms over 600 miles of trails within the county. The trails connect to gas, food, and lodging throughout Sawyer County. If you haven't ridden our trails yet, what are you waiting for? Come join us this winter in Sawyer County and the Hayward Lakes Area. I hope to see you out on the trail!

For additional information, check out the Hayward Lakes website at www.haywardlakes.com or call 715-634-4801.

Written by Mindy Simons, Marketing Assistant for the Hayward Lakes Visitor and Convention Bureau.



Mindy Simons is an avid snowmobiler who enjoys working and playing in the beautiful Hayward Lakes area.

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Scouting for Success

Increasing the odds by learning new water

My major ice fishing objective last year was to locate and fish as many new bodies of water as possible. I spent a ton of time traveling to new areas and covered acres and acres of ice. My ultimate tally amounted to 61 lakes

Now this may sound like a bit of overkill, but when you are guiding all winter long, you need an arsenal of lakes to fish. You cannot keep hitting the same spots over and over again. You need multiple locations to fish or you will wipe out the population.

Having said that, not all of the lakes I fished were productive, but a number were and I was able to put my clients on some really nice fish all winter long. We were able to target everything from walleyes and pike to bass and panfish along with an occasional catfishing trip. Yes, catfish.

Being able to produce consistently is one of the most important factors when guiding for ice fishing. People expect to catch fish when they are with a guide and without scouting I never would

have been able to put my clients on the fish that we did.

Scouting new bodies of water is not as hard as it seems and it can be broken down by location. I looked at a map and sectioned out areas that I intended to try and fish. Once the areas were selected, I picked out several lakes that looked good and did a little internet research to learn if they held what I was looking for.

After my initial research was done, I headed out to the lakes and gave them a shot. Some lakes produced and some did not. I learned that I needed to hit some of them several times to ultimately determine if they were productive options.

Exploring and ice fishing new lakes with the goal of adding them to your list of fishing sites is a great way to spend some time during the winter months. 🐟

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Stephanie Borelli with a nice crappie.

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

A Search for the Perch

Winter's perfect deep basin pattern

As winter wanes and the ice fishing bites slow, we hit the dog days of winter. The first ice period is over, and most fish have pulled out of the shallows. The panfish become less abundant in the shallows because the weeds are dying, and the forage base is substantially less. This is the time of year to chase yellow perch in the main lake basin.

During the midwinter period the most consistent bite is the yellow perch. The best time to fish for main basin perch is late January through early February depending on the ice conditions. The depth to concentrate on is 20 to 50 feet of water. The biggest challenge of ice fishing perch is locating them. Perch can be found from a single fish to a massive school and finding an active school can provide all-day action. The perch are feeding on emerging larvae and small blood worms coming out of the soft bottom.

When beginning your "search for the perch," select locations with main lake points or saddle areas. The perch are often tight to bottom or suspended just above it. With so much room to roam, the schools of perch are like ghosts; they are there one minute and gone the next. Once you get to a desired area, it is best to drill a bunch of holes and start searching. It is better to bring a friend along both for safety and to eliminate unproductive water. A good fish locator and lightweight drill is the most important gear you can have. Make sure to fish every hole a sufficient amount of time as perch will often not show up on a locator until a bait is presented to them. When fishing an active school of fish, I always fish those on top of the school first so I don't spook those on the bottom by pulling a fish through the school.

Unlike the first ice period, the fish become a bit less aggressive so a subtle approach will be required. For this



Nathan Duwe with a nice deep water yellow perch.

situation, I find that using a tear drop jig or tungsten jig works well. When fishing deep water applications, your color choice is important; always start with fluorescent colors which add visibility to the bait. I like to use "glow" colors in morning and evening as that seems to get the most bites in lower light. Be sure to charge your glow jigs every 10 minutes to make them effective. I tip the jig with one to three spikes. In these deeper water situations, tungsten jigs are preferred to get back to the bottom

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

**On Wisconsin
Outdoors**
With the Dick Ellis Experts

**HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL
EXPLORE WISCONSIN**

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | **FERRYVILLE**

From Eagles to Ice Fishing Fabulous Ferryville Awaits

Ferryville and Crawford County are in the heart of Wisconsin's "Driftless" region, the area that was not glaciated during the ice age. The majestic and breath-taking bluffs are prominent from every angle of your vision. So are the American Bald Eagles and other raptors that sweep along the Mississippi River to catch fish, and glide along the bluffs and on the updrafts that make their flights look so effortless.

Check your calendar and make a date or two to visit the area and bring your binoculars, ice fishing gear or hiking boots. Check out the Rush Creek Nature Area for the route to the river or up the creekside along Rush Creek. See the bubbling springs and watch for beaver.

March 5 marks the return of the Ferryville Tourism Council & Friends of Pool 9 Eagle Day event at the Ferryville Community Center. Doors open at 9:30 AM with two live eagle programs – one at 10:30 AM and one at 12:30 PM. Other activities include the annual "Hooting" contest and programs about the Decorah, IA Eagles and Eagle Cam. Special programs for children will be offered and there will be eagle art and projects by local middle school students on display.

Treats and apple cider will be available and masks are encouraged.

Happy trails and remember we would love to have you visit Ferryville any time of year. You are always welcome here! 🐾

Written by: Sherry Quamme | For more information, see our website at <https://visitferryville.com/more-information/> or call 608-734-9077.



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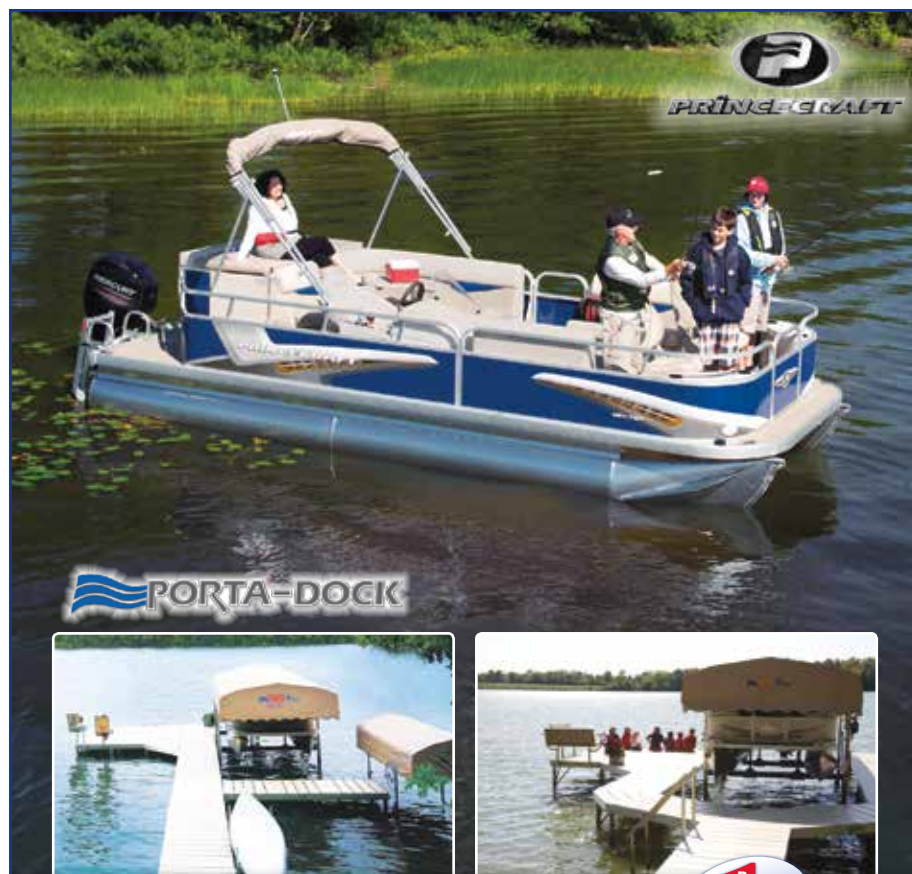
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CAPT. LEE HAASCH

Algoma's Winter Magic

Door Peninsula swings wide open to outdoor enthusiasts

A pristine beauty emerges from winter in Algoma as trees lose their leaves and the countryside becomes barren. With winter comes a variety of seasonal activities to Algoma, such as snow covered trails for cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, as well as frozen lakes and ponds for ice fishing. The Ahnapee Trail connects Algoma to Casco, Kewaunee and Sturgeon Bay and offers over 50 miles of perfectly groomed snowmobile trails. The Ahnapee connects to hundreds of miles of additional trails that wind through Kewaunee and Southern Door Counties. Cross country skiers can also enjoy these same snowmobile trails and their many accessible local county and city parks.

There is something special about the quiet that accompanies ice fishing while waiting patiently for a hungry fish to take your bait on the end of a three-foot ice rod and reel. It's an exciting moment when a

trout or walleye pokes its head into the hole and comes to the surface, presenting itself to the angler tugging at the other end of the line. Whether bucket sitting outside in the elements or in a wood fire stoked ice shack, ice fishing in the Algoma area is more than a past-time, it's an obsession for many avid anglers.

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 www.FishAlgoma.com or call 1-888-966-3474. From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 2, good luck and good fishing!

Capt. Lee Haasch is a charter captain out of Algoma. He has over 40 years of Great Lakes angling experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with educational seminars and timely freelance articles in outdoor publications.

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Across the peninsula, the Bay of Green Bay is only a short 15-minute drive to trophy walleye fishing.

DUWE, FROM PAGE 3

quickly before the school moves on.

Fishing in such deep water, you will need a medium action rod/reel combo with a maximum of four-pound test. The lighter line helps the bait get down quicker while the medium action helps you get a good hookset. If you use too light of a rod, it will often result in lost fish. Consider adding a spring bobber when perch fishing deep as bites can be hard to detect. Always try to have multiple poles rigged so you can change baits quickly without having to re-tie in the event of a broken line or tangle. A change of bait type can also entice "non-biters" and get the school active again.

During the mid-winter period, yellow perch are the most consistent bite. Because the perch are in the deepest part of the lake, make sure the ice conditions are safe.



Captain Dave Duwe guides the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin. Contact Dave at 262-728-8063.

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Winter time brings out the best in a small community. Algoma has much to offer the outdoor enthusiast. Snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, ice fishing are just a few of the many activities we offer outdoors. For the indoor person, try bowling, winery tours, dining and of course, shopping in many of our fine shops!

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Making Hardwater Memories

The simple joys of ice fishing

Catching a limit of fun on the ice, even for the beginner, is almost as easy as one, two, three.

Ice fishing requires only an ice auger, an ice dipper for cleaning the hole, a five-gallon bucket, ice fishing poles, and some bait. Some rules of etiquette when choosing a location to fish: 15 feet from closest person, try not to make a lot of noise, return fish if you are not keeping them, know the fishing regulations.

If you are taking kids, make sure their feet and hands are well protected. Hand and feet warmer packets often will keep kids on the ice longer when conditions get cold. A sled makes the load easier to handle. Snacks and drinks are a must. Taking some type of ball will keep them active when they get bored. Don't forget to take some pictures. Those memories can last a lifetime.

Pay particular attention to detail if it is your first time out. Watch those people that are catching fish. How are they jigging their rod? How deep are they fishing? What type of bait are they fishing with? My general rule is to have some red worms, waxworms, and small minnows. There should be different colored jigs, small sinkers, single hooks, razor blade, and some type of hook removal device in your tackle box. Bring a depth finder. A small plastic bag to put your fish in will keep your equipment from smelling fishy.

I don't think you can beat the taste of fish caught in the winter. It is like putting fish on ice to keep them fresh. There are many ways to clean fish. My suggestion is to Google a video and find the method you like.



"HERE'S A LITTLE SONG I WROTE
ABOUT THE TIME I CAME HOME AND FOUND
ANOTHER MAN USING MY ICE FISHING HOUSE."



A morning catch on Lake Redstone.

Some years ago, I took my two sons on their first ice fishing trip at ages four and seven, landing on Lake Redstone in January in a one-man shanty targeting crappies. Our bait of choice was minnows.

Down went the bobber and an unusually hard battle ensued between man and fish. The boys were all excited and had their heads right over the hole. As I began to pull the fish out of the hole, up came a monstrous-looking channel catfish with a gaping mouth and long evil whiskers. One look at this prehistoric-like creature and out the boys flew from the shanty! After that frightening incident, they decided to play outside the shanty with a ball for the rest of the day. Other activities that can be enjoyed on the ice are snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, four wheeling, and just walking.

But safety first! Ice fishing is a great way to enjoy the Wisconsin outdoors, provided you're careful and prepared. We've all seen news reports about people, snowmobiles and motor vehicles falling through thin ice, sometimes with deadly results, because the victims weren't cautious.

Start your ice fishing excursion off right by being careful about where you enter the ice. Boat landings and parks are the best. Follow the footprints out and head for the crowd.

Be careful, be prepared and take a friend or the family. It's always safer and more fun when you enjoy an activity with someone. Now, you are fully packed and ready to begin making those memories. For life! 🍷

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

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT

SPOONER • WASHBURN COUNTY

The Northwoods Winter Wonderland

Winter fun is in full swing here in the Northwoods and your opportunities for outdoor activities are superabundant in the Spooner Area. Whether you're looking for excitement in the heart of town, out on the trails or fishing on a quiet lake, Spooner has something stimulating for everyone!

One of the very best ways to take in Spooner's scenic winter landscape is out on the local snowmobile trails that link up to the largest network of snowmobile trails in the Midwest. Dedicated area snowmobile clubs work incredibly hard making sure over 240 miles of trails stay expertly groomed throughout the season and help to provide easy access to the Spooner area's many snowmobile friendly businesses along the trails. For trail maps stop in the Visitor Center at 122 North River Street in Spooner.

Spooner provides ample opportunities for all the ice fishing enthusiasts out there. With the Yellow River Flowage, over a dozen lakes in the Spooner area and nearly 1,000 countywide, you're sure to find a few sweet spots that will have you coming back year after year. Stock up on all the essentials at AAA Sports Shop, Spooner Outlet or Schmitz's Economart and you might even be lucky enough to pick up some tips from the seasoned locals on where the fish are biting.

The temperature outside might be dropping but the activity in downtown Spooner isn't cooling off anytime soon! Check out College Street Park's seven kilometers of multi-loop trails groomed for both skate and classic cross-country skiing, or it's three-mile multi-loop snowshoe trail that is suitable for all skill levels. The Park also boasts an outdoor skating rink and one of the best perks is that you're only a couple blocks away from all the action downtown.

After a long day of outdoor adventures warm up with a hot drink at one of our cozy coffee shops or cafes before checking out some of the gorgeous galleries, quality outfitters and unique specialty retail stores that line Spooner's streets. No matter what type of winter activities excite you one thing is certain, Spooner is a true Northwoods Winter Wonderland just waiting for you to come explore! Plan your trip today at www.spoonerchamber.org.

Written By: Lauren E. Seifert, Spooner Area Chamber Director
Photo Credits: Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce.



KATHY JAMISON

Wind in Her Hair *Cycling again at 94 years young*

Vivian is 94 and a hospice patient residing in an assisted living center. She was born without a hip socket on her left side and has walked with a significant limp for most of her life. The last time she rode a bike was over 80 years ago. Her absence from bike riding ended when Cycling Without Age - Marathon County came to her city. When initially asked by the organization if she would like to go for a bike ride, she exclaimed "Absolutely not!" But with a bit of encouragement and explanation from the bike pilots, she agreed to give it a try.

Vivian was helped into the seat of a trishaw - a three-wheel cycle - next to her daughter in law. They buckled their seatbelts and the trishaw pilot began their ride. For the first time in over 80 years, Vivian felt the wind in her hair while traveling by cycle. The pilot was careful to go slow so that she could take in and enjoy the sights, sound and scents of life outdoors. The look on Vivian's face was one of wonder, wrapped up in a beautiful smile. During the ride, she shared stories from her childhood about getting bike rides from her older brother.

Cycling Without Age is a movement started in 2012 by Ole Kassow. Ole wanted to help seniors get back on their bicycles, but he had to find a solution to their limited mobility. The answer was a trishaw. He started his mission by offering free bike rides to the local nursing home residents. Cycling Without Age was launched with the purchase of five trishaws in Copenhagen, Denmark and has now spread to another 50 countries around the world, including the United States' Wausau chapter.



Vivian enjoys a trishaw ride with Kathy on a warm summer night.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31





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TOM LUBA

More Bass in 2022

Five rigs with one bait is first step to success

When a new bait works, word spreads fast. Once proven, it won't take long before anglers modify it to catch even more fish.

The soft plastic stick worm for bass is an example. You might ask why the bass fishing world needs another straight piece of plastic with the word "stick" (as in straight as a...) in its description. Easiest answer is it really is different from the original straight plastic worm. It's a bit thicker at the head, more uniform and tapers slightly at the tail. It's a little more compact; the five-inch model is standard, but other sizes are available. As is, it sinks more horizontally with a subtle wiggle when rigged weedless. That slowly settling motion as it moves through the water column has a definite appeal to bass of both colors, green and brown.

Weightless and rigged weedless on a 3/0 round bend worm hook is the normal starting point, but bass anglers soon began making modifications. First came the wacky rig, where the hook is rigged through the egg sac, which is closer to the head. The retrieve was to jig it along over weeds and by cover, then let it sink toward bottom. The first minor change was to switch to a weedless hook to avoid snagging the green stuff.

Second came the realization that running the hook through the worm would rip the bait apart fairly quick. Some enterprising soul found an "O" ring washer that would slip over the worm body and remain snug. Slipping the hook between the worm and the ring saved baits. I have used baits that won't hold a Texas-rigged hook after catching several fish as a wacky rig without the "O" ring.

The next step in the rigging evolution came by setting it up wacky style and placing a weight into the fat end of the worm. This gave the bait a whole new movement and let it sink faster. So was born the Neko rig.

Anglers continued innovating and soon another rig was born. Take the Neko rig with the weight in the fat part of the worm, and get rid of the "O" ring. Take a smaller hook and rig it Texas-style in the skinnier tail area. Now it falls straight, weight-first. The hook sheds weeds and slips right through cover to bottom. You can buy nail-shaped weights to use for this, or even use a small machine screw, based on how deep you need to go. Called the "Tiny Child Rig," it has become my favorite stick worm set up for fishing deeper cover. I'm still quite wedded to generally fishing the bait Texas-rigged weightless for shallow cover, to about six or eight feet.



A close up of the stick worm "Tiny Child Rig." Using all the various rigs here will help you put more bass in the boat this coming season.

While I'm espousing the virtues of the stick worm evolution, don't forget that by rigging the worm Texas-style at the head, with a cone worm sinker for weight, it fishes just like the venerable plastic worm.

Fishing stick worms for bass gives you a way to fish at any depth and in any season by switching rigs. Make sure they are in your box in 2022. 🐟

Tom Luba loves bass fishing, but if they aren't biting, it's time to find something else that is.

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON

From Surf to Turf



The warmth and hospitality of lakeside town Port Washington can be experienced year-round. If you've been here, you know that the opportunities to play outside never end. The marina may be closed, but Lake Michigan and Port Washington are still open for business, sport, entertainment and relaxation!

Our nearby state park and a nature center offer trails for cross-country skiing, winter hiking, birding and breathtaking views everywhere you turn. Bring the binoculars and your camera. The lakeshore melds with winter's touch to provide dramatic photo opportunities and breathtaking views.

Back in the heart of town, you can park your car and simply walk and enjoy. Visit our specialty shops, galleries, and fun boutiques. Looking for specialty foods? Check out an old-fashioned butcher shop and a smoked fish market, a gourmet popcorn store, our decadent chocolate and ice cream shop, a winery, tea room, an artisan bakery, and more.

Then stop in and warm up at any of our great

Surf's up in Port Washington.



restaurants, coffee shops, or pubs. Make sure you don't miss the Port Exploreum, a highly interactive museum that will appeal to the whole family. Learn about Lake Michigan, fishing, our local history – all delivered in an atmosphere of pure fun.

Our lodging establishments will provide you with that perfectly cozy place and accommodating place to spend the night after your outdoor activities. Spend winter how you like it! We're close enough to be convenient – but what a great getaway! 🌊

For more information, contact Port Washington Tourism at 1-800-719-4881 or 262-284-0900, log on to visitportwashington.com, or find us on Facebook.

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND



Your 4-Season Destination Starting Now!

Chequamegon Bay in Ashland is now in the process of transitioning from water to ice. In the meantime, great ice fishing can already be found on the area's frozen inland lakes.

If you're looking to snowmobile, hike, hunt and/or shop, we've got you covered. Copper Falls is open to enjoy. Ashland has a variety of lodging opportunities with seasonal, reasonable rates, and yummy, independently owned restaurants featuring priced-right, excellent food!

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Nestled in Northern Iron County, the Hurley area is an outdoor adventurer's paradise. With access to hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails, downhill skiing, inland lakes to catch that record breaking fish, cross county ski and snow shoe trails, everyone has plenty to keep them active.

Hurley's historic past of mining, logging and stories from Prohibition gives Silver Street some exciting stories. Visit the museum and take a walk right into the past. Explore a variety of flavors at local eateries.

Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

No Business Like Snow Business

Iron County is THE snowfall capital of Wisconsin with an average of 180 – 200 inches of snow per year. Knowing what to pack is key for your North Iron County adventure. From snowshoeing to cross country skiing, we have trails to explore. Some of the area waterfalls are accessible in winter with a little hike, but well worth the journey.



The trails are beautiful and plentiful in Hurley.

Along with significant snowfall, we have ice on 214 inland lakes, which includes the Gile Flowage. Spanning over 3,380 acres with a maximum depth of 27 feet, the flowage is home to walleye, smallmouth bass, muskie, northern pike, crappie, bluegill and perch.


Anglers can enjoy a day of tournament action by registering for the annual ice fishing contests on the Gile Flowage, which is sponsored by Bank Club, and Island Lake, which is sponsored by Willy's Still. Both events take place on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

Snowmobile race fans in 2022 can check out several contests in the Hurley area, starting with Pro Vintage Snowmobile Racing on Saturday, January 1, at the Gogebic County Fairgrounds on the Historic Half Mile Ice Oval. On Saturday, January 9, join the crowd for the USSA ProStar Racing competition at the fairgrounds. Come back for more action in February with the return of the Copper Peak Hill Climb on Saturday, February 19. We wrap up action on Saturday, February 26 with Terra X Racing at the Iron County Fairgrounds.

What's Terra X? It's a form of snowmobile time trial competition that is a combination of oval and sno-cross racing. Terra X is a recent form of snowmobile racing that is especially appealing to trail riders. It is fun, accessible to all kinds of riders, and presents fewer risks than many other types of snowmobile racing.

Cross country skiing opportunities are plentiful throughout North Iron County by way of the Historic Montreal Ski Trails and the Uller Trail. The seven-mile Montreal trail takes skiers through remnants of the Old Montreal Mine, which includes some remaining mining era artifacts and older buildings along with interpretive signs to provide a glimpse of life in an early 20th century mining operation.

The Uller Trail has 11 miles of backcountry skiing through remote rolling and hilly terrain. Hikers and snowshoers are welcome, but please - stay to the sides of the packed trail and off the groomed track.

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. 

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes with Suzette
Erika's special sauce

While some of you may have your favorite method of cooking venison (roasting, grilling, broiling, etc.), sometimes all you need to change things up is a new sauce recipe to serve alongside. My husband calls me the "Sauce Queen," but our daughter, Erika, may be close to taking over that title, if she hasn't already. Here are a couple of her favorites and one of mine for you to try. Enjoy!

Roasted Red Pepper Sauce

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 10 ounce jar Roasted Red Peppers, drained | ½ teaspoon Crushed Red Pepper |
| 2 cloves Garlic, coarsely chopped | ¼ teaspoon Mustard Powder |
| 1 small Yellow Onion, coarsely chopped | ¼ teaspoon Salt |
| 2 T Balsamic Vinegar | ⅛ teaspoon Black Pepper |
| 1 teaspoon Ground Nutmeg | |

Add all ingredients to food processor. Puree until well blended. Transfer to small saucepan; simmer over low temperature until heated through. Serve atop venison or alongside for dipping.

Red Grape Tarragon Sauce


- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 T Extra Virgin Olive Oil | ½ to ¾ cup Dry Red Wine |
| ½ Yellow Onion, chopped | ½ cup to ¾ cup Dry White Wine |
| 1 ½ pound Red Grapes, whole | 1 T Dried Tarragon |

Heat oil in large sauté pan over medium heat. Sauté onions until translucent. Add grapes; sauté several minutes until grapes start to wilt. Add both wines; increase temperature to medium high. Cook, stirring frequently until reduced by about ½.

Squash grapes; reduce heat to low; cook for 5 minutes longer. Transfer to a tall vessel and use an immersion blender to make a smooth sauce. Return sauce to pan and stir in tarragon. Continue to cook over low heat until desired consistency.

Red Currant Sauce

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Cup Red Currant Jelly | Zest from (1) Orange |
| 1 T Dijon Mustard | ½ cup Fresh Orange Juice |
| 1 teaspoon Onion, minced | Zest from (1) Lemon |
| ⅛ teaspoon Ground Ginger | 2 T Fresh Lemon Juice |

In a small saucepan over medium heat, stir together jelly and mustard until well combined. Add onion, ginger, and zest from both orange and lemon; stir well. Blend in juices of both lemon and orange and cook for 6 to 8 minutes until heated through. Spread atop Venison to serve. 

Suzette Curtis, of Oshkosh, cooks for a family of hunters and fishermen and tries to fill their menu with recipes for meals made with venison, upland birds, and fish.



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Looking Forward- Fall bear success starts now

Spring is right around the corner and now is the time to be thinking about ways to improve your chances of bear hunting success. As with all animals, bear densities are heavily influenced by food availability. Unlike many other species, bears are willing to travel long distances in search of food, sometimes several miles in a single day. If there is a feast right in front of them, they have no need to travel, which presents hunters with a better opportunity for harvesting a bear come fall.

We all know that bears love berries, but it's important to have a variety of vegetation for bears to feed on. By creating small openings for sunlight to reach the forest floor, you'll encourage a variety of grasses to grow, as well as many berry and bulbous

plants. If you have the opportunity, food plots are a great way to attract deer and bears. Deer hunters are often shocked at the amount of bears that stroll through their clover food plot. Clover, oats, wheat, and soybeans are great options, but consider some taller crops as well. Corn and cane provide great cover and can serve as a traveling corridor if placed properly.

The key to an optimal bear habitat is a variety of hard and soft mast producing trees, such as oaks, sweet pecan, hickory, or hazelnut. For soft mast, any fruit tree will do, but most common are apple trees. Since there is a wide variety of apple tree species, it's easy to get a few different ones that will ripen weeks apart, keeping the bears - and deer - in your area for longer lengths of



Proper planning now will result in hungry bears at bait stations.

time. Bob's Bear Bait offers two great food plot apple trees, perfect for both deer and bear. We give bulk discounts when six or more trees are purchased.

Bob's Bear Bait supports youth and disabled hunters by providing bait at discounted prices during the month of May. We encourage seasoned hunters to consider donating their tag to someone who might otherwise not get the opportunity to harvest a bear. Your gift will be appreciated and give you a memory to last a lifetime.

For more great tips, stop in and chat with us. Our dedicated staff has many years of bear hunting experience and we've been in the bear bait business for 12 years. We carry the largest variety of bear bait in Wisconsin

and have multiple locations in Wisconsin and Michigan.

We are your one stop shop for all of your baiting needs, including scents, bulk bait, fruit toppings, dry bait, and more. Once the season hits, bait sells out fast. Don't wait long if there's a particular bait you want to purchase.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Bob's Bear Bait or check us out at bobsbearbait.com to keep up-to-date with our latest news, products and sales.

If you wish to speak to Bob directly, email him at sales@bobsbearbait.com or call (920) 419-1238. Happy baiting and congratulations to those who draw bear tags this year!



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | MARINETTE COUNTY

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As one year fades into another, Wisconsin trails transform into a powdery playground of white and winter wonder.

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Not your speed? Set up tip-ups and bring your auger onto 12,000 acres of frozen lakes located throughout the area. Catch your limit of pan-fish and northern and enjoy a day on the ice.

Ski, snowshoe trails, sledding hills and much more can be found to help you get outside and enjoy the crisp fresh air!

If your idea of fun doesn't involve snow-pants and boots, no worries! Spend a day downtown, soaking up the local



scene. Find a winery or brew-pub, hand-crafted home decor, antique stores, craft shows and sweet shops; you're sure to find something to enlighten your soul and wash away the winter blues.

After a day of fun, wind down with a delicious hot meal at a local dining establishment. Enjoy some tunes and good conversation before you hunker down for the night with the moon lighting the stunning view from your window.

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RON STRESING

Home Field Advantage

Cagey bobcat wins the day

The air was a crisp one degree below zero when we stepped out of Dale Marson's cabin in Prentice, Wisconsin. Dale had called me early the day before to ask if I wanted to observe his second attempt at filling his bobcat tag. He had been applying for nine years to draw a First Season, Northern Zone bobcat kill tag. An earlier attempt at running a bobcat with hounds had resulted in a day long chase without harvesting a cat. A fresh snowfall meant a new chance at filling his tag. A friend in the area had called Dale and suggested he take advantage of the fresh snow to trail another cat.

The dog pack owner and a few friends cruised the roads early that morning, shining spotlights into the ditches, looking for fresh bobcat tracks. The tracks from a mature tom (Male Bobcat) had been found crossing into a tag alder swamp. Dale rendezvoused with them, and a plan was quickly formed. The cat had crossed into public land, and dog owners also had permission from local landowners to run hounds in that area. If the chase ventured onto private land where the dog owner's lacked permission, or moved too close to busy highway, the dogs would have to be pulled off the scent.

The return of bobcat hunting in Wisconsin is another DNR success story. Once about extirpated from Wisconsin, bobcats now roam almost the entire Badger State. A conversation with Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Biologist Shawn Rossler confirmed a healthy, growing bobcat population with verified sightings on trail cams all the way down in the greater Milwaukee area. Northern Wisconsin is about the limit of the far northern range for bobcats. Bobcats are not picky eaters, and will consume anything from crayfish and frogs to fawns.

Hunters generally use shotguns to harvest bobcats, whether run with dogs or called in with a predator call. Most of the hunters I talked to preferred buckshot in 00 or #4 caliber. Steel BB or BBB shot will also work, and may be easier to obtain than buckshot. Treed cats



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are often harvested with .22 caliber rifles or pistols.

Dogs were put on the track, and the chase was on! The bobcat apparently hadn't read the script, and led the dogs in larger, then smaller circles, even crossing the same frozen creek three times. Almost seven hours and two changes of dogs later, the hunt was called off. The mature tom had won the day.

Hunting with a pack of hounds is far from a done deal that anti-hunters will tell you it is. Truth is, predators know the area better than the dogs, and use their home terrain to its maximum advantage. These were experienced, well-trained dogs, well cared for and handled by expert hunters, yet the bobcat evaded them all day long.

I hope that cat survives the second season, and sires lots of kittens. 🐾

Contact the Wisconsin DNR for information on bobcat seasons, quotas and gathering preference points.



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Fox Valley Retriever Club

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TOM MUELLER

Ingraining Training

Proven steps to a disciplined retriever

At this time of the year, many hunters are considering or even picking up a new retriever pup in anticipation of the upcoming hunting season. All have high hopes of their dog being ready for the fall, so they start its training as soon as the pup walks through the door of its new home. The pup's first training involves housebreaking, and teaching the pup that it must do its business outside gets worked on very diligently and consistently. The puppy is not allowed to make mistakes.

As the pup grows and matures, going to the bathroom outside has become so ingrained in the pup's brain that it is no longer an issue and teaching obedience and working on its retrieving become the

regimen in its training. But this is where trouble can begin.

Maybe an obedience issue has developed where your retriever breaks occasionally when a dummy or bird is tossed. Possibly it doesn't properly heel or return to you when called. Your issue might be that your dog won't hold and deliver to hand consistently even though you thought it had learned to do that reliably. Further down the road in its training it might be refusing "sit" whistles or not taking casts correctly. Whatever issue you've encountered, the rule of thumb in retriever training is that all training must stop until you've worked on and corrected the issue. Until you do that, the problem you're having will always be there, and the longer

that it's allowed to continue the more ingrained it will become and the harder it will be to fix.

Most issues that pop up start in the training process because the person training the dog let it to do something it wasn't supposed to do and allowed it to happen too many times. The trainer got sloppy which enabled the dog to become sloppy. They want to see the dog do the work, but ignored the mistakes the dog makes. When that happens what gets imprinted in the dog's mind is that it's okay to make that mistake.

When you're working with your dog, and you see it consistently doing something undesirable, your training program must stop. You then need to

change your program to teaching the dog the correct response and work on that with the same diligence and persistence that you put in when you were housebreaking your puppy. More importantly to avoid any issues, the effort that was put into housebreaking your pup should apply to every phase of its training. Every concept must be drilled on repeatedly until your dog shows that it will always give the correct response to the given command. 🐾

Tom has been training retrievers since the early 1980s. He shares and imparts his passion with others at the Fox Valley Retriever Club. For information regarding retriever training or the Fox Valley Retriever Club, contact Tom at winddancer.rtrvs@hotmail.com or visit foxvalleyretrieverclub.com or Facebook.



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JACOB QUIGLEY

Kayak Wisconsin

The Ties that Bind

Being new to the Wausau area, my wife Kace and I found that meeting people who shared similar outdoor interests was not necessarily easy. We moved here in June of 2021 and a couple of months went by with our "circle" remaining just Kace and me. Trying to make friends when you move to a new area

as an adult can be difficult if you don't put yourself out there.

Although many people turn to Facebook as a social platform, I generally avoid it. The platform spreads too much negativity revolving around controversial issues for my personal taste (not to be negative!). But it can be a great platform too. I came across a group called Central Wisconsin Fun and Adventure Club on Facebook, and I'm thankful that I did.

Mark Blaubach and his wife Faye turned a Facebook group into a community of outdoor enthusiasts that take part in events on a regular basis. I found Central Wisconsin Fun and Adventure Club in August and saw that they had an event at Rib Mountain on a Saturday morning. I decided to attend with the goal of meeting others in our area who share a love of the outdoors. Being new, I was nervous as a kid on his first day of school, but I was



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

DENNY MURAWSKA

Incidental Finds

Chance encounters of the outdoor kind

I never tire of stumbling upon memories. It seems like each time I go afield, incidental finds are brought home along with me like burrs on a flannel shirt. These serendipitous encounters are never planned, yet the remembrances stay with you. During the bitter heart of winter, they warm the soul much as a campfire does, from outside as well as within. There are times when life seems to be not much more than a string of these remembrances interwoven into the fabric of family and friends in the overlapping fabric of our existence.

The many hours spent perched in tree stands have been punctuated with quite a collection of encounters that remain impressed in vivid mental images. There was that evening when a pair of bobcats on the hunt paused just a stone's throw away. To experience their wild beauty in this manner is a rare treat indeed. Equally rare is the sight of a fisher. This member of the weasel family looks all the world like a tiny, elongated bear. I have only witnessed these once in my life. Their active snooping into every crevice in the woods is fascinating to watch. I can only imagine the fear they invoke in their prey, for they are ferocious predators and kin to the wolverine.

Sounds can conjure worthy keepsakes as well. Hunting on the edge of a swamp near Conover, I was greeted one morning to the splooshing footfalls of a doe that knew where she wanted to go and did not care who heard her. If she only knew how close I

was concealed above her trail. Then there was the big thump in an otherwise silent woodlot surrounded by corn. Surely squirrels, raccoons, and other climbers are expected to meander along tree trunks and branches with the greatest of ease. They do make mistakes from time to time. That big thump that woke me from an early morning meditation was a plus-sized raccoon that slipped and tumbled maybe thirty feet and hit the ground just a few yards away. I do believe it looked embarrassed. It was up and on the prowl again without injury, and I could only chuckle quietly. Pileated woodpeckers are always a loudly audible delight. Their unearthly calls seem to come from a Jurassic swamp, while their loud drumming announces their presence to all.

No mention of bonus wildlife encounters would be complete without the wolf. It was on a Canadian fly in trip as a teen when the yipping and squabbling of coyotes echoed nearby. Then, as if to silence them, a much deeper howl pierced the night. We stood in awe of one of the wildest sounds in all of nature. My youthful werewolf fantasies were finally distilled into a real world potion that one only gets to sip in minuscule quantities. Somewhere out in the depths of that boreal coniferous forest, a kindred spirit reminded me of whose woods these remain. 🐾

For more of Denny Murawska's work, read his recent book "The Elk Pond." He is the owner and operator of Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy at www.aa-taxidermy.com.



Painting of bobcats by Kathy Murawska.



Painting of wolf by Kathy Murawska.

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DICK ELLIS

Hand Painted by God

Another day in a bowhunter's paradise

Dave Goodwin strained through tree branches and the dropping sun to the west to track the extraordinary buck moving through the Grant County grasslands. The whitetail breeding season, or rut, opens a narrow window of opportunity for the bowhunter when even the most wary bucks, survivors of many seasons passed, will make mistakes. The age old pursuit of female companionship will do that. Goodwin felt the shot of adrenalin of a hunter on the edge of a rare encounter, and settled in hoping to take advantage of one of nature's true gifts....

In Goodwin's eyes, each day is a gift on its own. For the two time cancer survivor, there is no need to look for an extraordinary event or new memory to imprint on the mind to make it a welcome event. He carries a certain appreciation for life, period.

"People don't always realize what we have," Goodwin said. "I told my daughter and son-in-law on their wedding day that there are only so many sunrises and sunsets. They're never the same. Try not to miss too many of them. All of them are hand-painted by God's finger. My own love for hunting and fishing lets me take a stand and watch life appear right before my very eyes."

When the "extraordinary" does occasionally intrude on a day in the field though, Goodwin won't argue. He recalls as a younger man seeing a buck with massive rack in northern Wisconsin. For approximately 20 years, he and Larry and Grant Whiffen stayed and hunted near Mercer with national and Wisconsin archery legend Art Laha, a 1996 Bowhunter's Hall of Fame inductee. The Whiffens were the sons of Larry Whiffen, co-founder of the Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association and a 2001 inductee into the Hall of Fame. His son verified that Dave's description was no exaggeration.

"I watched the buck put his head and antlers back so that he could walk into the tamaracks with that rack," Goodwin said. "Larry saw it twice later and told me, anyone who shoots that buck shoots a world record."

Over the years, Goodwin and his son Nick would transition to hunt private property owned by in-laws in Wisconsin's southwest. Dave's skilled taxidermy work he undertakes solely to capture extraordinary family memories tell the stories of many successful days in the field. The 2021 archery season revealed another impressive buck working the Fennimore area landscape, and caught November 1st on trail-camera near Dave's stand. He arrived November 5th in the heat of the rut and took an afternoon stand.

Two years ago injury initiated Dave's move to a Mission crossbow. He has a passion for calling deer with measureable success, but also quickly points to many mistakes made on the road to learning what works. He carries two grunt calls with different tones to simulate the local bucks' hierarchy and the age-old "fight for the girl". Another ace in the hole is a doe-in heat can call. On this afternoon, calling would play a major role in bringing in a memory for the ages.

He is adamant regarding the importance of using scent or scent eliminators. He stresses 'de-scenting socks, underwear, and the towel you dry off with' and strongly recommends the use of Evercalm Deer Herd stick. The calming scents combine natural deer smells and scents from bedding deer to cover human scent and help keep deer at ease. The stick, according to common review themes on the web, "saves hunts".

"Don't leave home without it," said Dave. "In nine years I've never

been busted using it. The crossbow has given me the ability to get back in the field. I was forced to make the change to a crossbow but it also puts deer down quicker; it's accurate and humane. Whatever you use, you owe it to the animal to know your equipment."

Before taking stand, Dave walked the property "repairing" scrapes with a Conquest scrape maker, a tool that enables the hunter in part to leave a scented hoof print in the scrape while raking licking branch hanging above the scrapes. Licking branches are made and used 365 days a year and not always above a scrape, according to Legendary Whitetails. During the rut, though, each visiting buck to the scrape is posting his calling card for companionship with his unique scent.

Following his own protocol, Dave put all his tools to work that would send very definitive signals to any bucks in the area; not only was a doe in estrus right here ready and receptive to breeding, more than one buck was also here settling the matter of just who would claim the spoils of a fight about to happen.

A cautious forkhorn entered the stage well within range of Dave's stand and exited the scene after a short stay. Looking west through trees into a dropping sun, Dave watched an extraordinary rack above 4-feet of grasses as the buck responded to the calls. As the distance closed, the buck picked up on the scent that Goodwin had laid in the scrape and turned to come directly at him.

His hunting priorities would mean a clean shot, or no shot.

"I almost had a heart attack when I first saw him, and after the shot I was just numb," he said. Although confident in the shot, he also asked for a bit of help. "Please God. Let me have made a good shot on that deer."

A field prayer answered. The Rage broad head had taken the heart and left a blood trail making a quick recovery certain. Dave had taken the extraordinary, near 300-pound buck captured on trail camera days before. Not including six busted points, the buck carried 16 points with 6-inch diameter antler bases and a 17-3/4 inch spread. The buck also had a unique middle though broken antler with its own base.

"I could not believe the size," Goodwin said. "He was everything I thought, and more. My prayers were answered. I was blessed."

Just another day in Goodwin paradise, defined simply by a sunrise and a sunset. This day though... brought a little something extra in between.

A GREAT TRADE

Laborers Local 113

Dave Goodwin is president of LiUNA Local Laborers Union 113. As a third generation blue-collar professional who understands the mutually-beneficial relationship of employer and employee, he is perhaps the best advocate for the trades and in particular, his laborer's union. "Ours is the most cost-effective trade out there," he said. "We work with all the trades. We're first on the job and the last to leave."

He refers to a "trickle-down effect" as vital to both keeping the quality of work high and maintaining safety on the job. That same term might also be used to define both his own start in the trades and his introduction to the outdoors. This acorn didn't fall far from



A true student of the game, Dave Goodwin has called in and tagged many impressive bucks. In addition to strict attention to scent control, his arsenal includes rattling and grunt and can calls.



Nick Goodwin with a beautiful Grant County buck taken during the 2020 bow season.



Prior to release back into the shallows of Green Bay, Dave Goodwin holds a 56-1/2 inch musky sporting a 28-inch girth and weighing in at an estimated 52 pounds. Look for the story in the May-June issue of OWO.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



Team Up With LiUNA & Their Partners For A Career In The Construction Trades

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WiSportShow.com

TOM CARPENTER

Wildlife Parade

Observations from a deer stand

We whitetail chasers all hunt for different and good reasons – time with family and friends, the finest meat on the planet, or just to revel in the outdoors.

Regarding that last factor: This year was an especially fine one for wildlife watching from my perch on what is called the Valley Brook Stand down in my home stomping grounds of Green County.

As a preview to the hunt, something flushed underfoot as I tiptoed the last few steps toward the stand in the dark. My heart stopped and a little cotton ball tail weaved and waved goodbye through bramble and vine. Good morning bunny!

The full show started with turkey clucks before dawn, the flapping of wings, some raspy yelping and seven wild turkeys, gobblers all, gathering right in front of me. The big birds wandered around for several minutes, preening and rubbernecking and sizing each other up in the pecking order, before deciding which direction to head out single file.

As their pink heads bobbed away down the forest trail, I hoped for an encounter with any one of them come May.

Sound was again the harbinger of my next wildlife sighting. The cackling of ring-necked pheasant roosters rang out on down “my” little draw, where it opened up into a fuller creek-bottom graced with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasses.

Soon, one bird lit up on the hillside right across from me in the abandoned pasture’s grasses and plum thickets. Movement made me bring my binoculars up, and through glass I watched the splendid rooster picking his way along, heading toward his cackling buddies.

It was a delight to witness and study the bird at ease – well, as much ease as a pheasant ever is – compared to the running, evading, skulking, hiding roosters the dog and I work on all fall and into winter, only to see them speeding skyward in a flurry of wingbeats.

The highlight of watching wildlife that day came midmorning. Movement in the brook-bottom caused my heart to skip beats, but the animal was too small to be a deer and it made absolutely no noise.

Coyote? Fox? Raccoon? Nope. As it climbed up an embankment, it paused for a brief couple seconds in an opening before slinking back off. A bobcat! It was the first one I have ever seen in all my years wandering these southwestern Wisconsin hills.

The squirrel action was good all day long – fat grays and rusty-red fox squirrels kept me alert. The afternoon sun brought out a stream of songbirds, such as white-breasted nuthatches, downy and hairy woodpeckers, bright scarlet cardinals, black-capped chickadees, brown creepers, blue jays and red-breasted woodpeckers. The highlight was an hour-long visit by a loose group of tufted titmice, handsome little chickadee-cousins that rarely venture this far west in their range.

Along toward sundown, movement in the shadows across the small brook-bottom made my heart skip a few beats again, and this time a whitetail was picking its way along, heading out toward feeding fields.

I had almost forgotten I was deer hunting. Almost. But that’s fodder for another story and another time. 🦌



A visit from a tufted titmouse was one of several highlights seen from the vantage point of the author’s deer stand perch.

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

DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report

Camp review from the deer desert

My friend Norm called me in early November to tell me that he had been invited to hunt with a buddy up in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest during the deer gun season. He lives in central Wisconsin and sees deer in great abundance on a daily basis. I counseled him to set his expectations low as he would be venturing into the deer desert. Now he knows.

"In three days of hunting I never saw a single deer," he reported. "Heck, I didn't even see many tracks." Yup. I know. I counted my season a success when two does sped past me in the hardwoods on Sunday morning. I never saw another deer after that.

Thankfully, there is more to deer camp than just shooting deer. As is our custom, our group of four seasoned hunters visited several other camps to share stories, commiserate, and stay hydrated. After a one-year Covid hiatus, the Monday night Thanksgiving feast at the Pat Zingler camp was rebooted. Roast turkeys with all the fixings fed 21 hunters with plenty to spare. After three days of hunting, there was one eight point buck to report among that entire crew. Half had not seen a deer. For full disclosure, one member of our group was fortunate enough to shoot a spike buck on opening day, which I guess makes the success rate for our camp 25%.

The highlight of this deer season for me, though, came after Thanksgiving. My son Steve, who is a school teacher in southern Minnesota, said he wanted to come up and hunt. With the cost of a non-resident license being nearly \$200, I reminded him that he would be paying good money to hunt in a deer desert. He grew up hunting up here, but I thought maybe he had forgotten how paltry the pickings can be. He hadn't, but he bought a license anyway.

Sharing a hunt with your son is probably one of life's highlights for an outdoor dad. This one got even better when Steve told me on the second day that he wanted to take his son Peter with him. He knew that I had a pop-up ground blind set up that would be a perfect place to sit with a six-year-old. According to Steve, no deer were seen, but there was a lot of time spent drinking hot chocolate.

As Steve and Peter crawled into the ground blind, I went up a ladder stand one ridge to the south. Sitting there, I got to thinking. I never knew my Grandpa Moericke and found out only recently that he was born in 1871, just six years after the end of the civil war. That is 150 years ago! I have a hard time wrapping my head around that fact. Anyway, Grandpa John died about twelve years before I showed up on the planet. I regret not getting to know him and not quizzing my Dad more about him. I don't even know if Grandpa John hunted or fished.

Which got me to thinking about how fortunate I was to be able to be there for Peter's first deer hunt. Whether Peter grows up to be a hunter or not remains to be seen, but he will always know that his Grandpa was one. Just sayin'.

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



Three generations of Moericke men head to the woods.

The 81st Journal Sentinel Sports Show returns to State Fair Park March 10-13. Bow hunters can sign up online for the 3-D Archery Tournament with \$7000+ in cash prizes. Discounted tickets online Jan. 15-31 at jssportsshow.com.



New and making its first appearance at the 81st annual Journal Sentinel Sports Show March 10-13, the 5,000 GALLON HAWG TROUGH stocked with fish will bring demonstrations to life. Discounted tickets online Jan. 15-31 at jssportsshow.com

QUIGLEY, FROM PAGE 18

quickly greeted by people that made me feel welcome.

We went on a two-hour hike around the quarry located off Grouse Lane in Wausau. Great conversations with wonderful people of all different backgrounds and ages had me hooked from the start. This group is incredibly active. Whether it's hiking, biking, or kayaking, there is always an activity to take part in year round. At least four events take place each week. These activities are held throughout Wisconsin and are designed to expose members to Wisconsin's natural beauty.

Central Wisconsin Fun and Adventure Club really took off in early 2021 under Mark's leadership. The group now boasts 1,400 members and most of its events draw approximately 30 members on a regular basis.

If you're interested in outdoor activities and enjoy the company of others, you can message Mark Blaubach on Facebook and he will be happy to set up a meeting for you with a group member.

Since joining this group, my amount of physical activity has tremendously increased. I am very thankful to now have company on kayaking trips in the future on days when Kace is working long hours as a paramedic. With so many rivers yet to cross off my list, I am very excited to see what 2022 has to offer! 🙌



Central Wisconsin Fun and Adventure Club members ready to ride.

UNDER THE HOOD WITH BRAD

1940 Buick Special Coupe

Installing the wiring system

In the last issue we covered getting the engine and transmission set in place. Naturally the next thing any gear head craves is to “Let’s hear what it sounds like!”

Given that desire, this phase may seem a little out of order. I decided that rather than just run a enough wires to fire it up, it made sense to start installing the permanent new wiring system. This will allow the oil pressure, water temperature, tachometer and volt meter to be operational for initial startup.

Over the years I have talked to hundreds of car guys and girls and I would guess at least 75 percent say they hate everything related to car wiring. It’s kinda like Kryptonite to Superman.

Fortunately there are several manufacturers that specialize in making this a relatively painless process. Their systems allow the builder to upgrade to modern fuses and wiring in one complete package. Included are the following:

- A very thorough instruction manual with easy to follow instructions and diagrams
- A new modern fuse block with plugin fuses, horn relay and signal flashers
- High quality wiring, color coded, with wire numbers and termination points marked every 12”
- Terminal ends and splices as needed

I will say, when you open the box your first reaction will probably be “Uh Oh.” I’m just sayin’, there is a ‘lot’ of wire. However, when you read the manual and realize there are four separate bundles of wire tie wrapped together, engine compartment, front wiring, interior wiring and rear wiring, it starts to make sense.

As stated earlier, each wire is marked every 12 inches. Believe it or not, the wire in picture ‘C’ has the following printed on it:

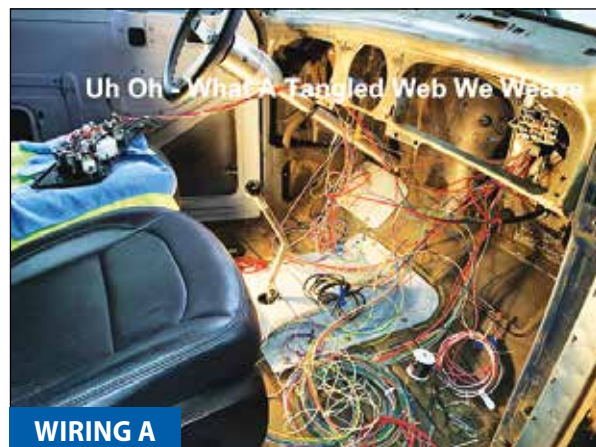
<<To Headlight Switch>> #907
<<To Dimmer Switch>>

I quickly purchased a good, illuminated magnifying glass. Worth every penny. If you decide to take on a wiring project, look at it like decorating a Christmas tree. That “ooh-aah” moment when you turn the lights on. Trust me, when you wire the left turn signal, you will turn out the garage lights and watch it blink for half an hour.

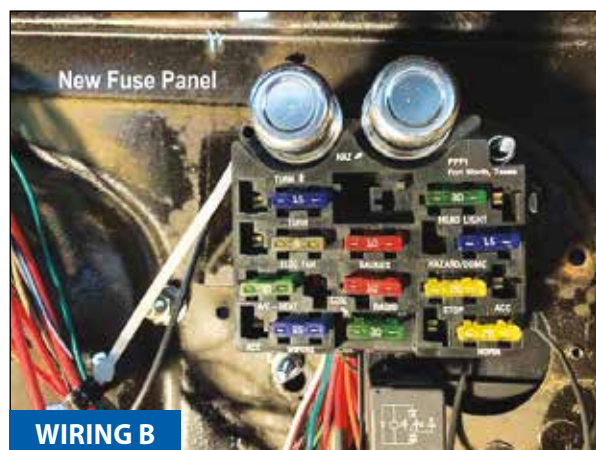


Note to our gear head readers: If you have question on parts used by Brad as he builds his Buick Special Coupe, costs, are any questions in general, contact OWO at ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors and Brad will be happy to respond. Brad will also see you at the Wisconsin car shows this summer with his finished machine.

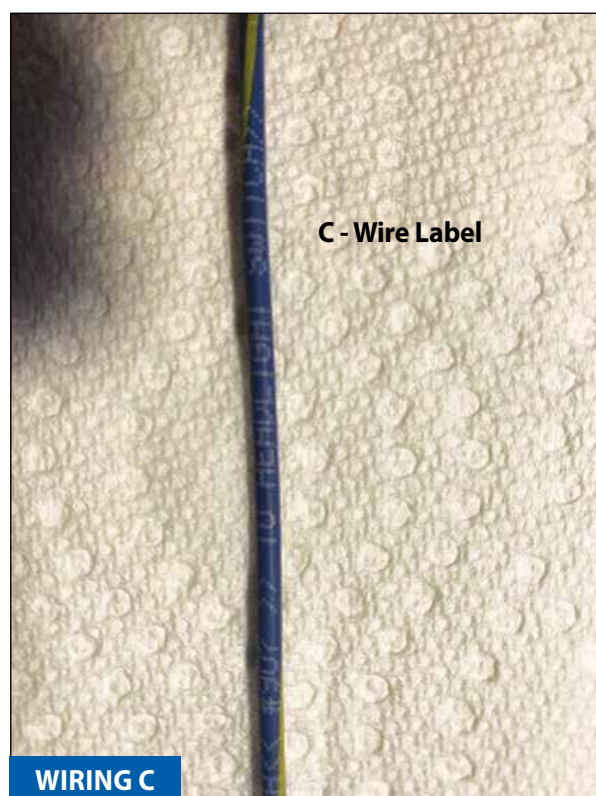
Watch the 1940 Buick Special Coupe fire up for the first time.
Connect with the OWO homepage video at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



WIRING A



WIRING B



WIRING C



TOM CARPENTER

Badger Birds

Evening Grosbeak

Evening grosbeaks are named for the time of day you are most likely to see them, as well as the male birds’ sunset colors of yellow (the setting sun), white (the day’s last clouds) and rusty-brown fading to black (the darkening sky). A bright yellow stripe crosses the forehead and flanks the eyes. They are extremely handsome birds.

Female evening grosbeaks are gray with a yellow wash to their chest and neck feathers.

Both males and females sport handsome black-and-white wings, and thick, sturdy, conical bills for cracking the seeds (mainly of conifers) that dominate their diet.

These stocky and handsome finches have steadily expanded their range from the mountain west all the way to the Atlantic. In Wisconsin, we most often see evening grosbeaks in late fall and winter, as the birds travel the countryside (they prefer forested habitat, especially with conifers) on their nomadic search for seeds.

Look for the evening grosbeak’s thick, sturdy bill that is capable of cracking even the hardest of seeds. Males’ bills are yellow, females’ yellow-green.

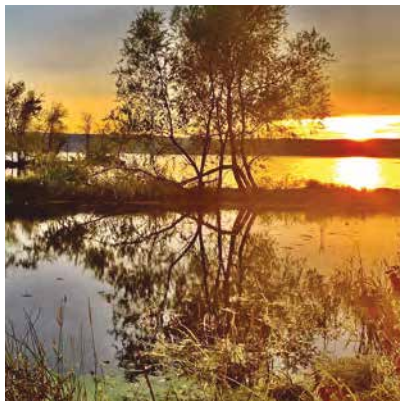
Listen for this grosbeak’s simple call -- a series of short *chink*, *chirp* or *clink* notes used to keep a feeding flock in contact.

Attract evening grosbeaks with black-oil sunflower seeds. Tray, platform and screen feeders are best, as these birds like sturdy footing.

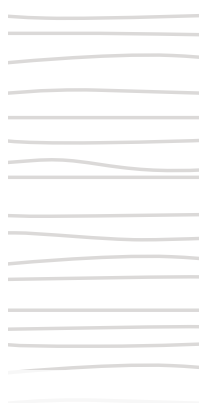
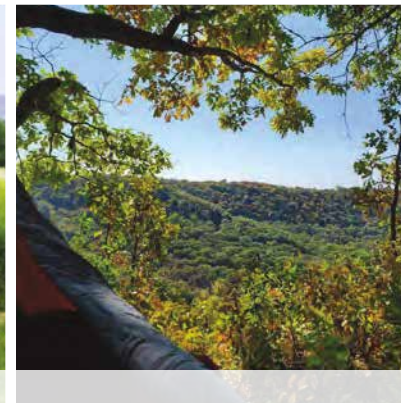
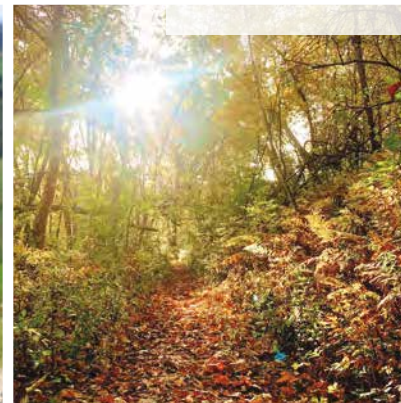
Consider that a much-maligned “weed” tree -- the seed-rich box elder -- may be responsible for the evening grosbeak’s happy and successful range expansion into Wisconsin and further eastward.

Know that as fall progresses and winter arrives, your chances of seeing nomadic evening grosbeaks increases. It takes cold weather and a seed shortage to the north to bring flocks of grosbeaks -- an invasion known as an irruption in birder circles -- into our state from Canada.

Did you know that the evening grosbeak’s Latin species name, *vespertina*, is the root of the word *vespers*, which means evening prayers? 🙏



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Our Dishonest Media is Our Greatest Threat

In the last issue of OWO, we exposed how the response to COVID-19 has been a vast abuse of government power.

This issue we'll dive into the greatest threat to our democracy - the dishonest media. Our founders understood that a free and honest press is critical to a free society. They must be our watchdogs of truth. Dishonest career politicians and corrupt political parties would pose a far lesser threat if we had real investigative reporting and journalistic integrity. Instead, we have a media that pushes a political agenda and is complicit in the dishonesty of government officials.

Here are some examples of big issues, beyond COVID-19, that we all need to understand so we can responsibly exercise our right to self-governance. A watchdog media would be all over them:

The 2,702-page Infrastructure bill and the 2,135-page "Build Back Better" bill will radically change our country. They include massive expansions of social programs including Medicare, childcare, and family medical leave; billions for climate change; changes in immigration; and more government intrusion into our lives. What else is in these bills? The media acts as the government's mouthpiece by reporting the bills are popular with the people and are paid for. Lies.

\$20 Billion flowed into Wisconsin under the umbrella of COVID Relief. Where has it gone? What outcomes, if any, have been produced?

Migrants are flowing illegally across our southern border in record numbers. Who are they? Where are they?

Law enforcement is under attack and our criminal justice system is failing. Crime is on the rise. Murder and mass stealing are everyday occurrences. The massacre at the Waukesha Christmas parade brought it home in our own backyard. Public safety takes a back seat to fantasies about criminals. The pandemic is blamed for crime.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction released 2020-2021 report cards for our schools. Low proficiency rates in reading and math don't prevent a grade of "meets" or "exceeds expectations" for poor performing districts. The media passes on a deep dive into how creative math makes failure look good.

Our freedom is seriously threatened when the media fail us. Until they prove themselves trustworthy, we must turn them off and tune them out. Go to the primary source when possible so you can evaluate for yourself what is true. Think critically and resist acting on emotion.

As your governor, I will always tell the truth. I won't sign any bill until its contents have been fully communicated to the citizens. I will go around a dishonest media directly to the people. Doing what's right means standing alone when you must. I've done that many times and will do it again while we await the re-emergence of journalistic integrity. 🗣️

Want to learn more about Joan?

She would love to come and talk with your group. Please contact her at Joan@beglingerforgovernor.com to make arrangements. You can also listen, and watch for her, on your local radio station, or TV affiliate.

JIM ELLIS

The Wolf Factor *And the decline of Wisconsin deer hunting*



What is going on with Wisconsin's deer hunting?

The numbers below reflect the decline in deer killed by hunting from 1998 through 2020. The numbers were supplied by the Wisconsin DNR and for simplicity 3 year averages were taken in 5 year blocks so you don't have to read endless numbers.

3 year averages over 22 years also covers variations in the severity of winter and its impact on deer population.

Gun kills in 2018-2020 are down 197,977 on average annually from the 1998-2000 time period.

Wisconsin firearms hunters killed 593,932 less deer in 2018-2020 compared to 1998-2000.

Bow kills in 2018-2020 are up 13,660 on average annually from the 1998-2000 time period.

Wisconsin archery hunters killed 40,980 more deer in 2018-2020 compared to 1998-2000. This increase does not explain the reduction in gun kills because we're still down 552,952 deer killed by gun and archery hunters combined from 2018-2000 when compared to 1998-2000.

From this writer's perspective the two greatest impacts are the purposeful reduction in deer herd because of fears of CWD and the increase in the wolf population due to not managing the numbers.

If CWD is a real threat, then baiting and feeding should immediately be banned statewide instead of waiting to see what counties are testing positive before the ban. If baiting and feeding bans assist in CWD reduction, why wait for the disease to show up before reacting? It's like saying smoke until you get lung cancer...

then quit smoking.

The wolf advocates say that based on modeling the wolf numbers are not out of control and don't have much impact on deer hunting success.

The model that I was given from the "wolf expert," formerly a Wisconsin DNR employee and now an activist for the group bringing lawsuits to prevent wolf hunting, never shows any increase in the wolf population no matter what number of wolves you start with. So we know the model is incorrect because the wolf population has grown by their own estimates to over 1,100 wolves in 2020 from 250 wolves in the year 2000. The DNR also uses other modeling instead of actually counting wolves to estimate population.

The same advocates who say the wolves don't reduce deer populations enough to negatively impact deer hunting say that wolves are needed to reduce over browsing of forests by deer and reduce car/deer accidents. Deer browse; they are not harmful to forests.

Logically you can't say wolves reduce the deer herd enough to prevent over browsing and car/deer accidents but don't impact hunting success negatively.

Information regarding wolf pup survival rates and population growth, received from a different and trusted wolf expert, puts the population of wolves in the state at over 5,000 wolves. We need an actual count, not modeling to reach the accurate number of wolves.

When proper management does call for deer reduction in any Wisconsin Deer Management Unit, man, not an overpopulation of wolves, is by far the most effective tool to accomplish the goal. Control of deer herd numbers is the job of hunters, not wolves. 🗣️

	Total Gun Kill <i>Includes Muzzleloader</i>	Total Bow Kill, <i>Includes Crossbow</i>	Total kill
1998-2000 Average	420,984	84,767	505,751
2003-2005 Average	396,482	92,543	489,025
2008-2010 Average	282,500	90,119	372,619
2013-2015 Average	233,440	85,457	318,897
2018-2020 Average	223,007	98,427	321,434



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STUART WILKE

Collectors' Corner

Gun Collecting for the Rest of Us

As the industrial age fades in the rearview mirror and society continues down the information highway, old firearm enthusiasts become increasingly annoyed with today's youth. A common refrain among old duffers - and I am one so I can say that - is "These kids are only interested in 'tacti-cool' and plastic guns. They're not interested in collecting 'classic' firearms like Colts, Winchesters and Lugers. What's wrong with them?"

Have you priced guns "real" collectors swoon over? Yowza! There is no such thing as an entry level, affordable, generally recognized classic firearm. Not so long ago, say 10 years past, surplus, reasonably priced Colts and Lugers were still available on the surplus market as nations across the world emptied their armories of obsolete guns.

Those were the days, my friend, and we thought they'd never end. But they did. Yesterday's \$89 bargain basement Mosin-Nagant 91/30 rifle is now \$400 and no longer a ubiquitous gun show staple. Other WW II Russian Front relics, like rebuilt captured German K98s, have quadrupled in price in the last decade. Both of these guns were considered junk by many collectors. Just goes to show what they know.

Fledgling gun collectors are not out of luck. Touchstone examples of bygone Americana and early Post-War society are still plentiful and cheap. They may not command the respect - or the exorbitant prices - of a Perazzi shotgun, but I contend these guns are more interesting.

America wasn't built by today's hedge fund managers, let alone yesterday's Robber Barons. No, it was built on the shoulders of farmers, factory and textile workers, and skilled laborers, among others. A Nash autoworker wasn't prancing around hunting for pheasant on a game reserve with a Purdey over and under. Chances are he was on a farmer's property with a Sears slide-action shotgun. The farmer probably had a Hamilton or similar break action, single shot 12 gauge on hand to shoot bunnies for dinner and dispatch skunks caught terrorizing the chickens.

Urban dwellers forsook Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers for much cheaper Iver Johnson and Harrington and Richardson alternatives that worked just as well for self defense purposes. Single shot .22 rimfire rifles were much more common among the working class than were Winchester repeaters.

Firearms like the ones described are common and inexpensive, rarely costing more than \$200. They are a fascinating link to days past and the people that made America possible. For those reasons alone, I consider them highly collectible. 🗳️



Vintage single shot scatter guns are a worthy and affordable gateway to a firearms collection.

STUART WILKE

Recognizing Wisconsin Heroes

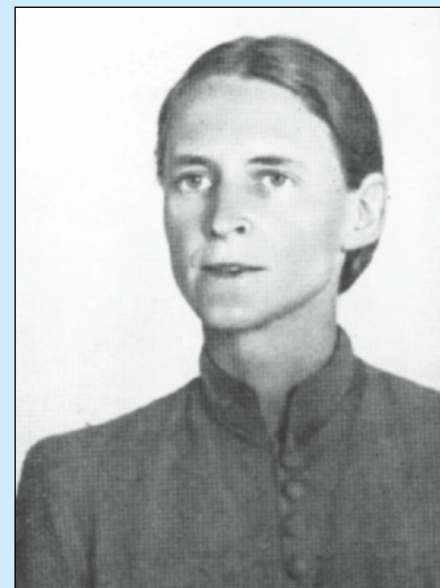
Mildred Fish-Harnack Memorial Obelisk at Madison's Marshall Park

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 order, which was carried out 79 years ago this February.

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



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

expatriates and German citizens.

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 German Workers' Party ultimately rose to prominence and soon dominance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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WILKE, FROM PAGE 28

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 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 Americans 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 2019 at Madison's Marshall Park. 

ELLIS, FROM PAGE 20


the family tree.

"My grandfather, Wilbur Scott, was an iron worker, a master rigger," he said. "My dad was a lineman. I was working at a power plant and met guys that my grandfather had mentored. I found out from them that he was legendary."

His grandfather also learned that his grandson at 16 was testing different bows on the archery lanes, and told Dave's mom that he would make the purchase. "Grandpa said, 'he wants to hunt. Get him what he needs.' I still have the Pearson Renegade."

Goodwin stressed that laborers who bring a willingness to work and a safety-first attitude can make a great living. After 25 years with Local 113, he should know.

"The opportunities are right at your fingertips," he said. "All you have to do is reach out and grab them. Show up on time. Be safe. Do your job right. Respect your union and the company you work for. And those opportunities are not just for men. Women are also welcome and excel in the trades. I've been blessed with the people I've worked with."

Connect with Laborer's Local 113 at www.local113.org. Ask for your future. 

 On The Cover

John Kubiak of New Berlin gets creative with his camera and sends OWO a different perspective of Wisconsin ice fishing. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but any way you look at it, up or down, another bluegill in the hole looks great to us.

Check out the online issue at onwisconsinoutdoors.com



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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

A Gift for Life

Proper care and maintenance for the Christmas firearm

I'm sure thousands of those lovely, long boxes filled with the gift of a firearm appeared over the holiday season. So now what? Properly maintained and cared for, this is a gift that will last a lifetime, and can be passed down to future generations. It's up to the new owner to take a few moments to insure it's operated safely, cleaned, maintained, and the proper ammunition used. Take a few minutes to ensure you know all about your new firearm.

Read the owner's manual from cover to cover. My .45/70 hunting rifle is a prime example. When Iowa allowed the use of straight wall centerfire rifles for deer hunting, I purchased a single shot .45/70. The rifle was made about as simply as one can possibly make a firearm. It's a break open single shot with an exposed hammer. The first thing I did was took my own advice and read the owner's manual from cover to cover. Why? One of the recommendations was the ammunition to use. The manual said the rifle grouped best using ammunition loaded with 300 grain to 350 grain bullets. This is probably due to the rate of twist in the rifle's barrel. This saved me a lot of range time, effort and



expense. Sure enough, with 300 grain bullets, my rifle will print 3-shot 1 1/2" groups with boring regularity. Longer, heavier bullets tend to wander off low and left. With the current price of a box of factory .45/70 shells at about \$45 (or more) per box, I saved wear and tear on my wallet as well as my shoulder.

Shotguns: Just about all shotguns on the market today come with interchangeable choke tubes including some lower price point single shots. Never fire or clean your shotgun without a choke tube installed, as you will damage the threads in the barrel. Many times, the choke tubes are marked on the top of the tube with notches. One notch equals full choke, two notches equals improved modified,

three notches equals modified, four equals improved cylinder and five notches equals skeet choke. Your shotguns owner's manual will tell you what chokes are safe to use with steel shot. It will also recommend a type of anti-seize lubrication to apply to the threads of the choke tubes. A stuck choke tube can potentially damage your shotgun, and make for an expensive trip to the gunsmith. Follow the advice on cleaning the barrel, action, and trigger group. Avoid getting lubricants or gun oil on wood surfaces. I've seen plenty of older guns with ugly black oil stains in the wood where it met up with the steel. Failure to follow the manual can be dangerous, as well as void the warranty.

Unsure how to disassemble / reassemble your firearm? Consult the manual, and if you still have any questions, review a few of the videos on YouTube. Other good information in the manual will tell you how to safely store the firearm to avoid rust or corrosion. In short, use the manual to help protect your investment in a quality firearm. A future generation of your family may thank you!



STUART WILKE

Delafield Oaks Range

World class indoor gun range comes to Wisconsin

Groundbreaking is expected this spring for Wisconsin's most unique and comprehensive indoor shooting range and event center. When complete, "The Delafield Oaks Range" will fulfill Brian Dorow's dream to bring a first-class range and event center to the Lake Country area and surrounding counties.

Dorow, a former Homeland Security deputy assistant secretary, WCTC dean of law enforcement training and former Waukesha Police Department supervisor said, "I want to build an incredible, safe, highly respected gun club and indoor range, as well as a family oriented destination for the entire region. This is an underserved area for the shooting sports and target practice, which continues to grow, and I want to help keep it prospering for younger generations. I also want it to be the desired location for anyone who served or who is servicing as a public servant in all positions and capacities."

Delafield Oaks will be built on the 34-acre site of the former Hartland Gun Club, which has been inactive for a decade due to an outdoor target shooting incident. Dorow recently obtained the property. He is no stranger to



A rendering of the proposed building being constructed for the new Delafield Oaks Range.

building gun ranges from the ground up. While at WCTC, he designed, fund-raised and built an indoor shooting range that has safely operated without incident thanks to the safety and security measures he built into the project. Delafield Oaks will feature that same commitment to safety. "A highly trained, professional staff will be on sight at all times with the utmost safety protocols in place," he said.

Membership will be required to shoot pending an approved background check and safety orientation. Hourly usage will be available with gun rentals. All firearms and ammunition will be inspected for safety and the ranges will be continuously monitored.

Members will find a shooting experience like no other in the state and perhaps the nation. For example, Delafield Oaks will boast eight to 10, 300-foot indoor rifle ranges, the only ones outside of a few Wisconsin firearm and accessory manufacturers. Another first will be an indoor trap range and three simulated trap ranges for shooters to sharpen their trap and hunting skills. Handgun shooters haven't been forgotten; there will be 12 to 15, 75-foot pistol ranges. Ranges will be well lit, ventilated and supervised. Those new to shooting will be able to rent firearms for use on the ranges.

When done target shooting, members will be able to relax and enjoy a beverage, including beer and wine, a hamburger or pizza, at one of the club's several kiosks. Delafield Oaks will feature a club house and lounge for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

JAMISON, FROM PAGE 8

Wausau's group began in 2019 and now has more than 60 trained, volunteer pilots who give rides on five trishaws. The trishaws are strategically placed at senior and assisted living centers around the area. The bicycling community has stepped up in a huge way to support the program and make it successful.

Vivian couldn't wait to call her son when she got back to her apartment. Now there were two people thrilled at what had just taken place! 🎉

For more information, visit the Marathon County Chapter of Cycling Without Age website at cyclingwithoutage.com/marathon-county.

WILKE, FROM PAGE 30

members.

Dorow has made a concentrated effort to make Delafield Oaks a community asset and partner and has done so since the inception of the project. He began by working to be a good neighbor. "I knocked on the doors of 85 homes adjacent and near the range seeking input. I held community meetings and responded to every call, text message and email. I learned there was support for an indoor facility, but there was opposition to outdoor shooting." Safety and noise concerns were voiced by opponents to the project. Dorow dropped plans for an outdoor range. "All of the ranges will be below ground. No one outside will know there is a shooting range or hear it."

Delafield Oaks will be much more than a shooting range. "There will be a retail store where guns, ammunition, accessories and equipment will be for sale," Dorow said. Personal protection seminars, concealed carry classes and other firearm and shooting programs for individuals and families will also be offered.

"The Delafield Oaks site is a spectacular piece of land with a beautiful view and landscaping," Dorow said. "To enter, you'll drive 300 yards under a canopy of oak trees. The grounds and sunsets are stunning." Sounds like the perfect place to hold a wedding or business seminar, which in fact, is part of the Delafield Oaks plan. The site will include a large reception area, class and conference rooms, and wrap-around outdoor balconies to view the club grounds, among other amenities.

Delafield Oaks is expected to be open to the public in early summer. 🎉

For more information, contact Dorow at bdorow01@gmail.com or 262-385-0964.

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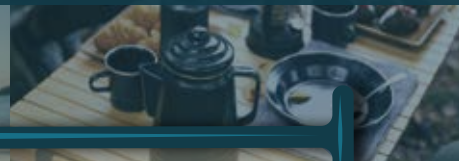
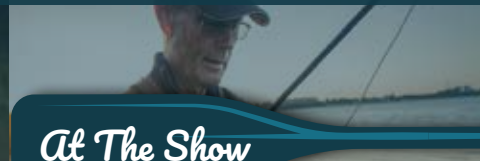
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