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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA

CAPTAIN LEE HAASCH Algoma is King in the Stream Fishing Business

t was a cool and crispy morning as we headed down the stream bank, the leaves crunching under our waders with every step. We've already seen frost in October and some warm weather to boot, but pretty soon the first fluffy white snow will appear on the rooftops. The breeze was a familiar north easterly and brought the chill from nearby Lake Michigan piercing through the trees. The heavy cloud cover was keeping the sliver of a moon and the bright stars covered up. The complete darkness would give us just enough time to slide down to one of Tyler's favorite holes to attack a few brown trout and salmon.

Keeping our head lamps dim, we made our way down the trail that paralleled the stream bank. It wouldn't be long before a crimson orange and the first rays of the sun would pierce through the yellowing leaves of the trees and start casting shadows on the trickling stream. Tyler reminded me that if we played this just right, we could double up on some salmon with our first couple drifts of his custom hand-tied spawn sacs with bright orange beads. Precision, timing and a little direction from the master and, yes, a little luck doesn't hurt. As we neared the stream, I snuck slowly towards the bank and readied my first cast just as Tyler had instructed.

I flipped the sac right where he told me and within seconds the pool erupted, not once, but twice! Tyler had mirrored my cast only a few yards downstream and knowing the pool, he had a feeling that several large, late kings rested along the bank. A double! Game on! I'm used to doubles in the dark on the boat, but 15 yards apart on a 30-foot-wide section



Winter time brings out the best in a small community. Algoma has much to offer the outdoor enthusiast. Snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing and 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!

Brown trout like this are not only a fun battle, but releasing these fish will provide another battle in the stream or back in the lake. Trout are repeat spawners and will return year after year to these streams.

of tributary stream, well that is quite new. My 6'6" medium action rod was bent almost in half and my reel was peeling out 10-pound test line. I hung on to battle this monster of muscle for what seemed like an eternity, but in reality, the battle lasted about 20 minutes. What a thrill! A double on 20-pound monster kings and the day had just started!

Battling monster salmon and trout in the fall are common occurrences on the Ahnapee River out of Algoma. This tributary is packed with jumbo salmon and trout and it doesn't



www.motleyfishing.com

just end when ice forms. The ice fishing on the Ahnapee is just as exciting. Imagine a 12-pound steelhead tearing off 50 yards of line on your three-foot rod and reel combo, not once, but several times before coming to the hole and hitting the ice.

If you are not sure where to go or what kind of equipment and bait you need, Habitual Guide Service can "hook you up." You can spend an awful long time learning on your own, or you can have someone show you how. From there on it's easy. Check them out on Facebook or on the web at: www. habitualguide.com or call Tyler Yunk at 920-255-7865.

For current fishing reports or information on charter fishing in the Algoma area, check out my report page at www.FishAlgoma.com where you can also subscribe to periodic newsletters and fishing reports. From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the GRAND ILLUSION 3 – good luck and good fishing.

Lee Haasch is an Algoma charter captain with over 50 years of Great Lakes fishing experience. He's been writing and giving seminars for more than 35 years. Contact: fishalgoma.com or 888-966-3474.



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CRESTLINER



ooking for and finding locations to fish through the ice can seem intimidating to some and to others as easy as one, two, three. While I may fall squarely in the intimidated category, I do have a foolproof method that helps locate fish and puts more fillets in the freezer.

My method for finding ice fishing locations starts well before ice-up. Most of my research and planning takes place during the open water season. Well before I take to the ice, I put together a list of several lakes that I intend to ice fish. You can do this anytime before the ice forms; it's never too early to plan.

Once I have my list of lakes, I set aside several days during the spring, summer and fall to visit them with my boat and begin my research. I slowly tour the lakes with my boat and watch my sonar and side imaging. I mark and map any irregularities like humps, bars, weed beds and cribs.

This is where the real homework begins. I go to each of the previously marked locations and pick them apart from top to bottom and side to side, noting anything interesting or out of the ordinary that might potentially hold fish. Once this is done, I come back through and try fishing these locations from the boat.

If I find fish or catch a few. I mark this down as a prime location and move on to the next spot.

As you can see, once these locations are found, marked down and fished, I now have an arsenal of locations to come back to once the lake is frozen over. So now when winter arrives and the lake is a frozen tundra, all I have to do is head to a particular lake, pull out my locator and turn on the mapping page. Bingo, it will take me right to the honey holes! V

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Justin Willemon with a nice crappie

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE First Ice Fishing Fun Proven tips to early season success

ne of the benefits of living in the Midwest is the change of seasons. We have hunting season and fishing season. Shortly after the Wisconsin deer hunting season, we start the ice fishing season. The first ice is considered by some the most productive time of the ice fishing season. This is due to the fact that the fish are hungry and easily accessible. During first ice, the shallow bays and shorelines will freeze first. In most lakes, the weed flats are in four to eight feet of water. My favorite quarry is the bluegill. The shallow water has everything a bluegill requires, food and cover from its predators. The best shallow areas will have pockets of hard bottom mixed in them. These pockets in the weeds are ambush points for feeding bluegills.

When I arrive at the weed flat that I intend to fish. I will drill at least ten holes to move around to. With only a couple inches of ice, I use a hand auger. Power augers create a lot of noise and will spook the fish. The first time around fishing my holes, I will carry a

flashlight to see what kind of weed growth there is and if fish are present. Then I will start hole-hopping, fish a hole for two or three minutes, if I don't catch anything, I move on to the next. The first couple times down a hole is typically the most productive.

I prefer a longer jig rod, 36 to 42 inches. The reel is spooled with a half pound to one pound test. The light line allows you to present the jig without spooking the fish, and also to move the jig through the weeds. The drawback is that you need to use caution when lifting the fish out of the water or you

may lose a nice one due to broken line. I use a quality spring bobber on the tip of the pole as a bite indicator. Bluegills that feel the slightest resistance will let go of the bait. They are notorious for being light biters. Even a slight line twitch can indicate a bite.

My preferred jig is a tear drop or a small Rat Finkee. My favorite colors are purple, green, or black. Tip the jig with either a waxworm or two spikes. I believe you have better success with smaller profile bait. On windy days, I will switch to a heavier jig. With a heavier weighted jig, there isn't a need for



a split shot. A heavy jig will also aid in bite detection by keeping the line tight without bows in it. Fish can position throughout the water column. Start three to four inches off the bottom and work it upwards to just inches under the ice. I use a subtle jigging motion

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An 'Up Nort' Report The fall variety show

The Ed Sullivan show was a television staple when I was a kid. For those too young to remember, it was a variety show. Every week featured different acts: bands, singers, magicians, ventriloquists, comedians, acrobats, you name it. There was something for everybody.

Now, I've said it before and I'll say it again, the first few weeks of fall is the most wonderful time of the year. For the outdoors enthusiast in the Northwoods, it is the ultimate variety show. Hunting seasons for deer, bear, grouse and waterfowl kick off while fishing is still in full swing, golf courses are still open and bike/hiking trails are awash with colorful foliage.

Add to that the fact that most bugs and tourists are gone. It's truly a variety show of magical proportions.

- As an example, in the last 10 days since fall officially started, I have:
- ✔ gone up a tree with my climber and hunted deer in the Nicolet National Forest
- ✓ hung several tree stands for upcoming hunts
- ✔ played 18 holes of golf with an old high school buddy in Hayward
- ✓ caught crappies out of my canoe
- ✔ had my friend Gary 'Busch' Ridderbusch harvest a dandy bear with his crossbow
- ✔ fished for (and caught) walleyes with some buddies on Kentuck Lake
- ✓ taken a day trip to the shores of Lake Superior for some rock collecting and leaf peeping
- ✔ launched my sportboat into the pristine waters of Sylvania Wilderness Area in search of hungry panfish.

That, my friends, is quite a variety show! I'm already looking forward to the next couple of weeks. The bike trails and the grouse woods are calling, a pheasant hunt is on the calendar, and there's a turkey tag that needs filling.

Ed Sullivan may have been first, but in my opinion the Northwoods fall variety show is the best.

Just sayin'. 🕑



Catching walleyes and some great fall colors.

Gary Ridderbusch drops a nice black bear.

DUWE, FROM PAGE 3

with many pauses. Bluegills will usually hit when the jig is still.

Fish can spook easily in shallow water, and when they do, they don't bite that well. I avoid large concentrations of people. I prefer the perimeter outside the throngs of other anglers. I always keep moving to find active fish.

Be aware that first ice can be dangerous and ice depths can vary. Always be aware of the ice conditions before venturing out. There is never truly ever safe ice! I always fish with a buddy as well.

Dave Duwe owns and operates Dave Duwe's Guide Service, featuring the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin.

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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD LAKES

Putting Great Family Memories on Ice

inter can feel long. Winter inside with kids can feel even longer. Ice fishing is a fantastic activity to get kids outdoors and make winter more wonderful. As both a fish biologist and a dad, I have a lot of experience planning great family ice fishing trips. Here's what you need to know to get started:

Of course, safe ice is critical for any fishing outing. Safety is even more important when you're taking kids out on the ice. Don't rush out when ice first forms and avoid areas that are known to have flow. You can learn more about ice conditions by calling local bait shops and talking with other anglers in your area.

Ice fishing comes with its own set of equipment needs, from augers, to shacks, poles, bait, and tip ups. It can be useful for first-timers to venture out with experienced anglers who have their own gear. You can also look for "learn to fish" events that may be taking place in your area as an introductory experience. Once you've built up your experience and get access to gear, you'll find ice fishing can be fun for all ages.

An expansive frozen lake can feel like an endless playground



for stir-crazy Wisconsin kids, with no limits to how far they can run around. But not all areas are equal when it comes to fishing success and quality experiences. Look for bays with weeds. These areas will hold lots of fish that kids can catch, and may also be protected from the wind, which is important for keeping kids warm. A pop-up ice shack can be a great investment. Even a few minutes out of the elements (maybe with a handful of snacks) can really extend a fishing outing with kids.

The fishing itself doesn't have to be complicated. Tip-ups are as good as it gets for kids ice fishing. Set tip-ups near weed beds and then tell the kids to keep an eye out. The moment the first flag pops up and everyone races to the tip-up will be one of heart-pounding excitement. In Wisconsin, anglers can fish up to three tip-ups each, creating lots of great opportunities to generate bites.

For more information on ice fishing for families, check out the DNR website: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/icefishing/icefishKids. Article by Max Wolter - DNR Fisheries Biologist, Hayward, Wisconsin.



A Cinch to Clinch Hemostats to the rescue

hings don't get easier as we grow older. All through my middle aged years, well-meaning folks, especially my Dad, warned of increased sensitivity to cold, heat, and eating scalding hot peppers. I scoffed. Yet, Dad was tough. He could out-walk, outshoot, and ignore the elements as well as anyone I have known. He never mentioned that tying thin monofilament line might get to be nearly impossible. As a near septuagenerian, I have had cataracts removed from both eyes and replaced with distance lenses. I cannot see close without glasses. I mean near objects are really out of focus. My fingertips are stiff and numb. Diabetes can cause this. Fine motor skills become diminished, so manual dexterity is reduced. Every day I feel like Mr. Fumblebumble.

I still relish the experience of fishing in its totality, even the cleaning and cooking of fish. Heck, I better. I am a fish taxidermist. So



when ol'Denny gets an invitation to go on an angling expedition, he never turns it down. These days, part of my tackle is my coke bottle lenses that can help me to see well enough to tie a clinch knot, or my shoes. The other is a common item in the angling gear of many people; that special something is a hemostat.

Like a pair of skinny, highly precise fingers, this tool makes tying clinch knots and a number of others a breeze. Instead of

RICH PALZEWIC

Brown County Reforestation Camp *A Wisconsin outdoor playground worth the trip*

f you're looking for a multi-use facility with plenty of options, a trip to the Brown County Reforestation Camp in Suamico – slightly north of Green Bay – should be in your travel plans.

The camp offers biking, hiking and horseback riding during the warmer months and cross-country skiing when temperatures plunge. About 17 miles of biking trails and 6 1/2 miles of hiking trails are available.

The single-track trail - wide enough for one bike - covers 10 miles, while the double-track covers seven miles. Horses are permitted on certain trails and are rated as either easy or intermediate. The double-track utilizes the ski trails and is mostly flat, with a few bigger uphill/downhill sections.

The riding surface is usually hard-packed dirt, but there are some sandy sections. About 75 percent of the single-track is flat, not technical, and fun for all levels. The other 25 percent is more technical, with hard uphill/ downhill sections and curves. A yearly permit is \$30, otherwise it's \$5 per day. Trail permits - which can be purchased online or at the trailhead - are required for all persons 16 years or older. User fees go back into the trails for maintenance and improvements.

Campground

The newest campground in the northeastern Wisconsin area is off to a good start. On June 3, the Brown County Reforestation Campground opened to the public. "Overall, it's going fantastic," Brown County Parks Director Matt Kriese said. "Opening a new campground in northeastern Wisconsin doesn't happen often."

Brown County invested \$1.2 million to develop the space and anticipates about 20,000 visitors a year and the campground is estimated to generate about \$125,000 in annual revenue. "Despite opening a month later than expected, we still foresee getting to \$125,000," Kriese said. "In July, we were at \$60,000, so if the trends continue, we'll be good."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



The Brown County Reforestation Camp in Suamico offers about 17 miles of mountain biking trails. The single track covers 10 miles, while the double track – pictured here – covers approximately seven miles. Rich Palzewic Photo



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WAYNE MORGENTHALER Ice or No Ice, that is the Question Preparation for the cold fishing season

Before you put your open water fishing equipment away for the year, it's a good idea to properly prepare it for use in the spring. If, for instance, the line has had a lot of use, then it is time to change. Check the rod's eyes to make sure there are no grooves which can fray the line. Take the spool off and examine it for dirt. An air compressor works great to remove dirt and grime. Use reel oil, just a drop works, to lubricate everything that looks like it moves. Wipe down the rod and eyes with vinegar and water. Don't forget to take some practice casts with different baits and set the drag to your liking. Now you are ready for the spring opener without any rod and reel problems.

Ice fishing usually becomes possible in December. To save on expenses, I use my ultra-light reels from the summer. If you are an early ice fisher, don't forget to bring along a spud/ice chisel when fishing unknown waters. Just keep hitting the ice in front of you as you work your way out. Better to be safe than taking a cold lake bath. I speak from experience, which is why I always have an extra set of clothing in the truck.

If you are the free lancer-type who likes to explore the waters and don't use a shanty, then you are my type of ice fisherman. I will use a shanty, but not until January or February when the weather turns below zero. Technology can be an asset for the ordinary ice fisherman. Read reports from previous years. I like to look at Lake-links.



Ryan bass fishing during the late fall.

com. Dates on these reports give you a good idea about what time they usually freeze up. When looking for territory, try Google Maps. Type in a town close to the water you want to fish and drag the cursor to the location. Zoom in to get the roads and boat landings. I like to fish the backwaters of the Wisconsin River and go to small lakes that are not fished much during open water. I often fish the middle of the lake where the deepest water is and seldom is more than eight to 10 feet. Drill a bunch of holes and work each one. The best bites seem to be early morning or just before dark.

Good luck and take a friend along. 🐶

MURAWSKA, FROM PAGE 6

manipulating hairlike monofilament line that you can barely see without a microscope, you only have to deal with large loops and your shiny tool. I cannot extoll the virtues of this method enough. It is slick. Even the tying of two separate lines together with a blood knot is easily mastered. Many concise and easy to follow videos are displayed for these knots online, and the array of knots that can be facilitated by the simple hemostat is substantial.

The cold is on its way. If you have ever tried to tie fishing line in bitter weather, you know the pain of it. When perceptual disabilities are added to this equation, just forget it. You need to lean on a tool that will make your angling life much simpler and more efficient.

Denny Murawska has been a published author since high school. His church is the pine cathedral gracing Wisconsin's Driftless Area he calls home. He is the owner and operator of Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy and author of "The Elk Pool." Contact him at www.aa-taxidermy.com.

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | WASHBURN COUNTY

Trail Riding Bliss



friends and family. Now is also time to start tuning up your sleds and shopping for new winter gear. Washburn County has miles of trails to explore, as well as county forests to wander. Once the snow falls and the volunteers have the trails groomed, it's time to start exploring the 150,000 acres of Washburn County Forests.

Explore these county forests on ATV/UTV or snowmobile:

Located just southeast of Minong in the Wagonner Forest Unit is the Canadian National Bridge on Trail 8. The bridge runs over the railroad spanning 98 feet and is 25 feet from the bottom of the bridge to the top of the rail. Trains pass at least hourly. Watching the train cars go under the bridge is worth the wait.

In the southeast corner of Washburn County is the Spider Lake Forest Unit. It is home of the Birchwood Chain of Lakes and the Red Cedar Chain of Lakes. All chains are connected by a creek and you are able to travel between them. The Tuscobia Trail is the main off-road trail. Running for about 65 miles, it is well marked and easily accessible.

Just south of Spooner off the Wild River Trail is the Stone Archway. A short walk down the side of the railroad grade is a stone archway that serves as a bridge over a dry wash. The archway is fitted with limestone and a walk through it will bring you back in time. There are many unique blocks that form the curved ceiling. If you travel northeast at this point you will ride to the Fenander Forest Unit. This county forest is near the National Veterans Cemetery and Beaver Brook Wildlife area.

Head north on the Wild River Trail toward Trego to find the ATV/UTV route running along County Highway K. A quick stop at the County Road K landing will give you a panoramic view of the flowing Namekagon River. Continue north and find your way to the winding Totogatic River and the Minong Flowage. Located in the Flowage Unit Forest, you will find wildlife such as deer, turkey and bald eagles.

Forests of pine and endless routes, roads, and trails are available for you to ride and enjoy any day of the week. Meet up with friends and stop along the trail to grab a bite to eat and hot chocolate to drink. Your day will be full of outdoor adventures aboard your ATV/UTV or snowmobile. Plan a trip to the trails of Washburn County this fall or winter. You will not be disappointed. Order your free maps at WashburnCounty.org.

For more information, visit tourism@washburncounty.org or call 715-635-9696





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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON The Ideal Late Fall, Early Winter Getaway

he ideal late fall/early winter getaway awaits you in Port Washington. The town is perfectly nestled into a valley next to Lake Michigan and is home to only 12,000 residents who will make you feel right at home during your visit. Think New England charm meets small-town hospitality. No matter which direction you come from, you descend a hill with an unexpected, beautiful view of the lake and its 1935 art deco lighthouse.

Follow a self-guided walking tour through the historic downtown and along the harbor to get to know the city. For the more adventurous, walk along one of our two beaches and behold the beauty of Lake Michigan.

We have fun shops and boutiques for you to explore, including specialty food shops, a winery, and a brewpub. Port Washington doesn't have just the typical, touristy shops.



There is a fish market that can smoke, and even ship, your catch for you. The market has been in the family for over 75 years, so they know how to do it right! Include a stop into the old fashioned meat market. Even if you don't buy anything, it's worth the visit just for

the smell of it. There are two popular outdoor gear stores in town, numerous specialty retail stores, and even a surf shop!

Don't miss our great restaurants, all locally owned with their own unique offerings. The downtown is compact and walkable, so you can eat lunch overlooking the lake and within minutes be dipping your toes in the water. A variety of cuisines are offered, from gourmet, farm-to-table to homemade soups and sandwiches, and all this as you are surrounded by a 19th century downtown. Port Washington hotels boast local charm, suitable for either a romantic getaway or a family trip. And if you want to play outside, there are lakeside parks and trails nearby for hiking, biking, and birding. Remember your binoculars and camera!

Plan your Lake Michigan trip and/or vacation with our visitor's resource guide for hotels, bed and breakfasts, shopping, events, farmers markets, lakefront festivals, and more. Once you are here, make sure to stop by the historic Pebble House Visitor Center.

For more information, check out the visitportwashington.com website or call 800-719-4881.





Opening Day, Plan A Preparing for a successful deer hunt

pening day of gun deer hunting in Wisconsin is an important tradition. Families and friends come together to deer camps, or back home, across the state. It is time to reconnect, relax and hunt.

It is also a good time to shoot a deer. Ask yourself these questions, and use the answers to make a "Plan A" for success on the season's greatest day.

Am I Here to Shoot a Deer or Not?

It's amazing how many opening day gunners don't plan on shooting a deer unless it's a huge buck. I say to each his own: It lets some deer live to come past my stand.

More problematic is not deciding what kind of deer meets your opening day standards. The thoughts go like this. "Here comes one. Are the antlers big enough? It's awfully early in the morning yet." Or: "That's not a fawn, but is it a big enough doe? I think I'll just wait on my antlerless tag for later." Indecision and hesitation saves oodles of deer each year. I have regretted passing up legal deer with opening-day cockiness. But I have never regretted taking the first legal deer that came along.

Am I Prepared to Hunt Every Minute of Opening Day?

If your answer is "no," fine. But you are decreasing your chances for success. If your answer is "yes," I'm betting you're going to get a deer - or have a good chance - on opening day.

Realize you probably won't shoot a deer at the crack of dawn. Yes, it does happen. But the follow-up hours - all the way to sunset are just as full of potential. The mid-morning hours - right to and through noon - are prime time. Deer move now, often on their own, trying sneak back to their core ranges after being shunted about early on. With opening evening hunting comes more prime opportunity to take your deer.

Sit Tight or Move?

Figure out where the hunting pressure is



coming from, then take a stand on the whitetails' escape routes to those places, or in the places themselves, and wait.

Then sit tight. All day. Bring lunch. Change stands if you think it will help. I'll often move from field edges into thicker places by midafternoon, as deer finish traveling their routes and get to where they want to be.

You don't have to be the hunting world's

greatest hunting pro. Just being there all day and hunting with a purpose and a plan will make the meatpole sag that first night.

What is on My Gear List?

Don't wait until the day before the opener to line up your gear. Start early. Make a list, cogitate it a little bit, slash unnecessary items, add details when they pop into your mind.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE Rich and Rewarding Experiences

ife in Ferryville along the Mississippi River during the fall and winter is a rich and rewarding experience. Hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities abound. Turkeys are fair game as they strut around the woods, fields and backyards. Deer season comes on like a storm, starting with the Youth Hunt, bow season and then gun season. Local businesses strongly support hunting and fishing by stocking up on the supplies and equipment hunters need and enjoy. The Ferryville Cheese and More local gas station and convenience store, for example, has recently boosted their bait offerings by installing minnow tanks. Afterall, you need more than cheese curds and beverages to catch fish! Cheapo Depot, the local "Ferryville Mall," has boots, bait, hunting clothes, tools, greeting cards, luggage and more items than you can imagine to explore and purchase.

Start your morning with breakfast at the Swing Inn and return Saturday night for prime rib. Sportsman's offers the best place on their deck to enjoy your food and beverages and the Wooden Nickel Saloon has a Wisconsin Bourbon Burger to die for.

Stop at the observation deck and see the widest place on the Mississippi River. Surrounded by beautiful scenery, migrating birds soar by on their way south. Swans, pelicans, ducks, geese, hawks, eagles, peregrine falcons and more can be seen.

Some upcoming Ferryville events to look forward to include the November 10 Soup & Salad Supper at Village Hall to benefit site improvements; the November 28 Community Christmas Tree Lighting at 6 pm; and on December 3, from 9 am – 3 pm, the Holiday Market at Village Hall.

Discover more at www.visitferryville.com and on Facebook at Ferryville Wisconsin Tourism. No one is ever a stranger in Ferryville! Submitted by Sherry Quamme, Ferryville Tourism Council.

> WINTER 2022 November 13

Fall Bird Migration Day

9 a.m. – 11 a.m. is – River View Park

November 29 *Christmas Tree Lighting* • 6 - 7pm.

Santa, Sing Christmas Carols

December 3

Holiday Market - Village Hall - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Upcoming Events for 2023

International Spring, Bird Migration Hike,

Rummage Along the River



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CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 11

Make preparation and anticipation a fun part of the hunt. Do it early. Avoid eve-of-theopener scrambles. They're no fun, and they're a good way to forget important items.

A daypack is perfect for all-day stand hunting. You can carry what you need and simply wear it on your back.

Pack something decent to eat. Forget about candy bars; they'll give you a sugar high, bring you crashing down, and not fill you up. Make some sandwiches, bring some fruit, a few granola bars or cookies. Lose the potato chips and other fatty snacks. Avoid drinking pop. Instead, drink water or Gatorade, which will hydrate you, which is important when the weather is cold.

Conclusion

Opening day is better than Christmas, your birthday and a Packer game all rolled into one. Get your attitude, strategy and gear lined up and make the most of this day of days this year. Good luck!





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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | LACROSSE

JIM CROWLEY Back to La Crosse

I have always looked forward to adventure. My father started me fishing when I was just three years old. Over 50 years later and I still get excited about my next trip. Fishing is just me. It is what I do, it's where I belong and it's where I feel the most comfortable. I have been blessed to travel and fish throughout the United States as well as in several different countries. However, there are several places that I always look forward to returning. In fact, the La Crosse Region is one of those places that while I am there, I am already planning a return visit!

It's more than the beauty of the aptly named Blufflands Region, it is the freedom I feel from the "Day to Day." The Historic Downtown area is beautiful with a little "old Wisconsin" mixed in with the modern day. All of it remarkably close to the reason I keep coming back - and that is the fishing. Although I love to catch anything that swims, bass fishing is my passion. Smallmouth bass are my favorite game fish and in fresh water, few fish fight harder than a river system smallmouth. Smallmouth bass are curious and aggressive by nature and in a river, they are not only strong fighters, they hit lures with a vengeance that few other fish can match.

Mississippi River Pools 7, 8 and 9 of the La Crosse Region are abundant with a variety of fish and without question there is something here for every angler. If you are angling for pan fish, the crappie, bluegill, and perch fishing can be incredible throughout the season and ice fishing for these tasty fish is spectacular! Northern Pike also grow exceptionally large here and 40-inch fish are common. Largemouth bass are extremely abundant and with all the healthy weed growth in the back waters, top water fishing is excellent and exciting. Walleye also grow large here and can be caught with a variety of tactics.

I have always been careful to say that any place is a fisherman's paradise, however, if you like to catch it, it can be found in this region. As an angler, I love the idea that any cast could result in either a largemouth or smallmouth bass and finding both species sharing the same areas is common here, unlike many other areas across the country.

If you are looking for adventure, a getaway that lets you experience open spaces, beautiful scenery, and fantastic fishing as well as plenty to do with the family, you may end up doing what I am doing now - heading back to La Crosse!

Discover your next adventure at explorelacrosse.com

For more information about Jim Crowley Outdoors and SlickFish Radio, visit his website hookandhunttv.com.



Jim Crowley and his catch on the Mississippi River

backwaters of the



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BILL THORNLEY A Buck Tale for the Ages Jordan buck comes home to Danbury

n 1914, a young hunter named James Jordan shot what would come to be recognized as the world record "typical" whitetail buck near Danbury. The Jordan Buck is the second highest scoring typical whitetail by an American hunter, behind only the Huff Buck, taken with a crossbow in 1992.

Ideas for a Statue

Over a century after the buck was dragged out of the Yellow River, an idea commemorating that historic hunt began to take shape in the mind of Don Chell, 93, of Grantsburg. His dream was to have a statue placed in Danbury, near where the buck was taken.

Statue Erected

The finished statue cost \$23,650 and was funded by donations.

Several people who helped make the statue a reality gathered at the Gandy Dancer Trail on August 17, including Chell. Dick Hartmann, of Northwest Wisconsin Whitetails Unlimited in Spooner and Burnett County Economic Development Association, who had helped guide the project, was also in attendance. The statue is about a mile from where the buck was taken in 1914.

Hartmann noted Chell standing near the fiberglass statue, smiling happily. "This was a dream of his," said Hartmann. "It started around 2012. He's been at it for a while. Burnett County Whitetails Unlimited raised a big chunk of this. There was also a lot of support from Burnett County and many individuals."

The Jordan Buck is a source of inspiration and pride for hunters throughout northwestern Wisconsin. "This has been my dream for many years," said Chell. "It started when I was chairman of Whitetails Unlimited. This is a story more than 100 years in the telling."

Story of the Jordan Buck

On November 20, 1914, 22-year-old Danbury resident Jim Jordan and friend Eachus Davis began following a set of deer tracks in about six inches of fresh fallen snow.

Jordan shot a doe with his rifle, a Winchester .25-20. Davis began dressing it, while Jordan continued to follow deer tracks along the Soo Line near the Yellow River.

As a train rumbled through the area, the whistle blew and Jordan spotted several deer pop their heads up out of the tall, golden November grass, including a massive buck, which he shot at three times. He was sure he hit it, but the buck bolted.

Jordan later caught up to the buck as it was crossing the Yellow River. He had one bullet left in his rifle, and his shot was true. He recovered the trophy-of-a-lifetime from the



chilly waters of the river and hauled it home in a buckboard.

In 1971, after years of being "lost," the antlers were officially scored by Boone and Crocket judges who certified the buck as the world record with an official measurement of 206 1/8 inches. It has 10 scoreable points, an inside spread of 20 1/8 inches, and 53 7/8 inches of mass/circumference.

The original antlers are now owned by Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri, which purchased the rack in 2001. Several replicas can be found even 108 years later at various locations in Burnett County where the deer remains a source of pride.

The Boone and Crocket Club finally officially recognized Jim Jordan as the hunter

who killed the record buck in December of 1978, two months after Jordan, at the age of 86, had passed away.

Jordan Buck Day

On September 24, Danbury celebrates "Jordan Buck Day" with a festival including a parade, crafters, wagon rides, food booths, live music, a street dance, and the dedication of the Jordan Buck statue.

Behind it all is a huge buck and a young hunter who crossed paths more than a century earlier along the Yellow River. Perhaps, somewhere in those same tall, golden grasses, a young whitetail buck carries the genes of the massive Jordan Buck.

A Place for God and Family *The next generation of hunters*

y youngest grandson joined the deer hunting fraternity this past fall. I am sorry to say I was not there with him, but his grandmother and I were together when the phone rang and this is where the story begins.

Eli had saved his money from birthday gifts and a grasscutting job. He wanted to buy a .243 caliber rifle for big game hunting. After passing his Hunters Safety Course, and putting in for South Dakota deer and antelope tags, his wish came true.

My son and his father-in-law took Eli and his older brother on a youth antelope hunt. They saw animals, but nothing close enough for a shot. When he came back from this hunt, he wanted a bipod for his rifle. He said to me, "Grandpa I am too shaky and a bipod is the answer." I told him, "Bipods don't shoot deer, you do!" My son, Mike, took him out several more times during the youth deer season and he saw several bucks. However, during this season, in South Dakota, Eli could only shoot a doe.

On October 30, 2021, the cell phone rang. My wife answered and put it on speaker. This is what we heard: "Grandma, this is Eli. I just shot a deer. There are only four people in the whole world who know about it – God, my dad, you and Grandpa. Dad is getting the truck and I am calling you."

He told us what happened and we were very happy he had called. Just before the call ended, he told me, "Grandpa, I didn't need the bipod." I just smiled, knowing our hunting legacy has passed on to the next generation.



A Blast to the Past *Crafting a wingbone turkey call*

Before the days of mass produced or lab-tested hunting gear, our ancestors relied on hand crafted tools and hard-earned knowledge to get the job done. After harvesting a turkey last year, I knew it was time to follow their lead and further my skills by building a wingbone turkey call. As the name implies, this low-tech tool is crafted with a bird's actual bones. In a few simple steps, anyone can create their own version of this functional memento.

Most people are familiar with the friction and diaphragm calls offered at box stores, but the original turkey call is the wingbone call. Invented by Native Americans millennia ago, these tools are still in use today. The radius, ulna and humerus bones are combined to make a mouth call capable of producing yelps and clucks. All a person needs are the bones themselves, reliable glue, a small handsaw and a screwdriver or similar tool. Sandpaper, pencil, ruler and other tools are optional.

Cleaning the bones is easy. Remove them from the wing and simmer in soapy water for 15 - 30 minutes. With the flesh removed, cut off the connecting ends of the bone and remove the marrow. If using the humerus, the bone formations inside



Comparison of the angled and the rounded ends, the rounded ends becoming glued together.





Decorated wing-bone calls with decorative string and painted designs

will need to be broken with a metal tool. Be careful not to break the bone's exterior during this step. Degreasing is done by soaking in warm soapy water for a few days. Afterwards, a few days spent in hydrogen peroxide will safely whiten the bones.

With the pieces prepped and dry, practice assembling the call before gluing. You'll notice the radius, the smallest bone, has a round and a flat end. The flat end will become the mouthpiece. Apply your preferred glue on the outside of the radius' round end and insert it roughly one-half inch into the ulna's round end. Adding the humerus is optional at this point. It will add bulk but increase volume. Follow the procedure above to glue the ulna to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Worth Passing On - Hunting Traditions in the Beautiful Northwoods

Time to get those kiddos ready for lifelong outdoor learning experiences. There is nothing like the smell of the autumn air and the feel of the cool brisk breeze as we transition into early winter. The one thing about hunting whether it is deer, grouse, turkey, or waterfowl, is the chance to just sit, listen and take in the smells and sounds.

It's that time we are able to share the beauty and mystique of the Northwoods with our children. Ashland County is home to the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest and several areas here offering public hunting. Be safe, and enjoy the beautiful Northwoods in all of its glory this hunting season.

For more information connect at 1-715-682-2500 or www.travelashland county.com.



Hunting Ashland County offers more opportunities to pass down the rich outdoor heritage to our children.



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Fox Valley Retriever Club

Training You To Train Your Retriever FOXVALLEYRETRIEVERCLUB.COM



Perfecting the line *Retriever lining work*

A perfect retrieve occurs when the dog heads straight to the dummy or bird and never deviates from the line that it has to take to get there. Whether it's a land retrieve or a water retrieve, the dog zeroes in on the spot where the mark has fallen or where it's being sent for the blind and heads straight despite any obstacles that might cause it to veer off that line. The dog that "pins the fall" or "lines the blind" exhibits the epitome of the perfect retrieve. The retriever that does this repeatedly is one that has had consistent and exceptional training.

Some inexperienced members of the Fox Valley Retriever Club will let me know that they want to start teaching hand signals and casting. I explain to them that training the dog to run straight lines is more important than being able to give hand signals to help their dog find the dummy or bird when it gets off line.

If the dog is holding, it won't need to be told to "fetch it up." Don't get me wrong. Teaching a retriever to "fetch" a dummy or bird off the ground or to follow hand signals is important and will save the day if it drops the bird or dummy or if it gets off course when doing a retrieve. When you're at that point in its training, teaching your dog to run straight lines over long distances and changing cover and terrain takes precedent.

There are various drills that one can set up to train your retriever to carry a line. One such drill involves walking your dog into a field with ankle high grass. Have the dog sit while you take four to six dummies and a white five-gallon bucket around 20 to 30 yards into the field. While your dog is watching, set the bucket in the grass and then drop the dummies about five feet in front of it. Walk back to your dog. Make sure its nose and spine are lined up as it looks at the bucket. Next give it a command to look out at the bucket. In the retriever world typically that command is "dead" or "dead bird." When it's focused on the bucket, send it using the "back" command. Let the dog do one retrieve and then **CONTINUED ON PAGE 19**



Rob Schultz's golden retriever focused on its line to the bird



OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

On The Cover

this great

Ferryville

in the Lake

Winnesheik

backwater

area of the

Mississippi River.

near

rutting buck in November

Photographer Patty Sampson had her camera

ready on the front seat when she came across

Fox Valley

Retriever Club

AGUILAR, FROM PAGE 17

humerus' small end.

This is a suction type of call, requiring that you inhale to create the desired sound. With all pieces fastened together, rinse or blow out any potential debris before testing it. When you're ready, bring the small end of the call to the tip of your lips but outside the mouth. Using a swift lip-smacking action, air should be pulled from the call into your mouth. When done correctly, this action will produce a sound. Try moving the mouthpiece to different sides of your lips and closer or farther away from your mouth until you find the sweet spot. It will take time to create a convincing yelp, but you'll get there.

Lastly, add artistic flair as desired and be careful of excess dust from dry cutting or sanding. You can write dates, add images, attach a lanyard, or sand sharp edges. Next year's strutting Tom won't care about your creative ability, but folks have been known to dedicate serious time to making these pieces. Whether you want a low-cost call or are looking for a creative outlet, start saving those turkey wings. They're sure to be your new favorite cut of the bird. 🕑

Leo Aquilar is an artist, father, horticulturist and Oneida tribal member who enjoys learning about and implementing Native American crafts. He grew up along Lake Michigan.

MUELLER, FROM PAGE 18

repeat at that distance.

For the following retrieves, as the dog is running out, walk backwards until it starts to return to you. Send the dog from there on the next retrieve. Doing that gradually increases the distance. The dog never notices because its focus is on the bucket which shows it where the dummies are. Over time, repeating the process your dog can be taught to line to a pile as far as you want it to go. Once the dog shows

confidence in knowing where the dummies are, the bucket can be eliminated. Eventually, you can then move on to running this drill to teach it to run to the pile through heavier cover and rougher terrain. Again, start short and increase the distance gradually.

Tom's passion for training retrievers began in the early 1980s. He now shares his skills teaching others how to train their retrievers at the Fox Valley Retriever Club. For more information, contact Tom at winddancer.rtrvrs@hotmail.com or Facebook.



Processed bones, basic tools and a completed wing-bone call.



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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

A Weekend Away, the Hurley Way

inter season is upon us, which means it's almost time for snowmobiling, ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill, sledding and so much more! Pick your favorite winter activity and find it in Hurley! Even if it's a new hobby, we offer numerous events throughout the area for our guests to simply come, experiment and enjoy.



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Plan a weekend away, the Hurley way!

Hurley has plenty of local lakes to enjoy ice fishing! One of my favorites is the Gile Flowage. Whether you catch crappie or northern pike, you're guaranteed your limit of fun. Ice fishing is great for all ages. We have to start the kids young to keep the traditions going. Safety always comes first no matter what outdoor sport you are enjoying.

We'll see you right here! For more information on snowmobiling, ice fishing, or any winter activities-request a free map!

PALZEWIC, FROM PAGE 7

Kriese said campers are pleased with the facility. "It's a unique property," he said. "It's 1,400 acres with hiking, biking and horseback trails. With the new Zoo and Adventure Park nearby, visitors can stay a full weekend and take advantage of the property."

August is the busiest month for camping, Kriese said. "With Packers Training Camp and various concerts, the campgrounds fill up fast," he noted. Kriese said many people are surprised to hear campgrounds quickly fill up when it involves Packers season. "For someone who has already invested in a camper, camping is what they want to do," he said. "It saves people from staying 60 miles away in a hotel. Even during the week for training camp, it's full."

Kriese said the new campground proves camping is still a valuable resource people seek. "People like to get outside and enjoy nature," he said. "That's one of the reasons the county board wanted this campground. We know RV industry trends are increasing."

Officials are looking to add a few more amenities in the future to the camp site. "We'd like to add a small playground and a small asphalt basketball court," Kriese said. "It's nice for parents to send their kids off for additional activities. Depending on things, that may be in place for 2023."

The campground is anticipated to stay open until the end of October. Sites can only be reserved online at browncountyparks.org.

"The online system has worked great," Kriese said. "People can show up and make a reservation with their phone – or, they can make a reservation 364 days in advance."





This is not really the way we wanted to celebrate 15 years of bringing you OWO. We unexpectedly lost our fabulous outdoor humorist and cartoonist Bruce Cochran recently. A peek back to what he did for us included this first cartoon published in November of 2007. Goodbye Bruce and thank you. We'll miss you. But we will exit laughing.

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Water from the Wilderness *Clean water in a survival situation*

ater is the most common compound on earth. It can be found in the form of water vapor, liquid water and ice or snow in different regions of our planet. Water is in the atmosphere, underground and in oceans, lakes and streams on the surface of the earth. Water that is safe for humans to drink, however, is a fairly rare commodity.

Humans need about four to six cups of water per day. Obtaining and consuming this amount of water is not an issue under normal circumstances. Wilderness survival situations are another ball game and require some knowledge and preparation in order to obtain safe water to drink.

Modern water supply and sewerage treatment systems have made dangerous water-borne diseases a thing of the past in the United States. Modern medicine has also played a role in eliminating the periodic typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery outbreaks that, historically, caused much suffering and death. Dangers still exist in drinking water that has not undergone treatment.

The most common water-borne disease today is giardiasis. Symptoms include severe intestinal cramping and diarrhea. This is very unpleasant, but generally not life threatening. The disease is caused by drinking water containing protozoan parasites in the giardia genus. Some people are able to defeat giardiasis on their own, while others require treatment with anti-parasitic drugs. It is, obviously, best to avoid infection.

If you are forced to drink surface water in a survival situation, it should be boiled first. This requires a container of some sort. Containers made of flammable materials like plastic or birch bark may be used, as long as heat is applied



Diagram of a solar still.

to part of the container that has water on the other side. The water absorbs the heat and boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, well below the temperature that burns plastic or birch bark. Water needs to be boiled for twenty minutes to kill any giardia organisms present. A birch bark container may be fashioned by taking a sheet of bark and folding up the four sides. Thorns or sharpened sticks can be used to hold folded corners together.

A solar still uses the natural processes of evaporation and condensation to purify water. A sheet of clear plastic is required, but it is a common item used as a camping ground cloth or survival shelter. A three-foot diameter hole is dug to a depth of three feet. A water collection container is placed in



Picture of solar still. Drinking tube is visible on the left. Red water collecting vessel can be seen at the center.

the middle. If available, a section of rubber tubing is placed in the collecting vessel to allow accessing water without disassembling the still. A piece of clear plastic is used to cover the hole and secured around the edges using dirt removed from the hole. A rock is placed in the center on top of the plastic.

The solar still uses sunlight passing through the plastic to heat and vaporize water in the soil. The water vapor hits the cool underside of the plastic and condenses. The water forms droplets that flow to the point underneath the rock and they drip into the collecting vessel. Dirty water, salt water, crushed plant material and even urine may be placed in the dirt of the hole and be turned into clean water. The evaporation/ condensation process is the same means that nature uses to provide clean rainwater to the planet.

Making a solar still with the kids in your life is a great way to practice survival skills and teach the youngsters a bit of science. Time spent with children in the outdoors is priceless, no matter what the project.

A Wisconsin Soldier of the Great War The Wisconsin Veterans Museum helps tell the story of a quiet veteran

Ritjof Skorstad fought in one of the bloodiest battles in American history. You'd never know it from his telling, because the Blair, Wisconsin, farmer rarely, if ever, spoke about his World War 1 experience. "If he ever said anything about it, it wasn't to me," his grandson Peter Skorstad said.

The Skorstad family did have some evidence of Fritjof's service, including a portrait of him as a soldier, his uniform and a picture of the ship he sailed in to Europe. But Peter wanted to learn more. A Google search revealed that the answer might be found at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. Unfortunately, most of Fritjof's service records, along with those of 17



PFC Fritjof Skorstad fought in the bloodiest battle in United States history.

million other veterans who served from 1912 to 1960, were destroyed in 1973 when the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, Missouri went up in flames. Fortunately, the museum did have access to some rudimentary service records which were provided for a very small fee. Those records and some known family history helped shed light on Fritjof's service.

The records indicated that Fritjof enlisted on April 26, 1918, at the age of 21, in Minot, North Dakota. The North Dakota wheat crop came in months before Wisconsin's all-important corn crop. The Skorstad family knew that Fritjof was one of many enterprising young men who traveled by the thousands each spring to North Dakota to supplement their income. There, they harvested wheat with giant steam-powered threshing machines. The work was brutal, but money was scarce. Why Fritjof enlisted is a mystery. Perhaps it was simple patriotism or the income needed to wed his sweetheart, Anna Gilbertson. Maybe both.

After enlistment, Fritjof traveled by train to Camp Funston, Kansas, where he received several weeks of infantry training before being packed aboard the USS Agamemnon along with thousands of others for a two-week voyage to England. There, he underwent additional training before sailing to France in early August. Fritjof soon found himself facing the German army's Hindenburg Line in preparation of the Allies' Meuse River/Argonne Forest offensive in northeast France. The ensuing battle would bring the German army to its knees

DAVE FIDLIN A Natural High Rib Mountain among Wisconsin's highest elevation points

isconsin has quite a few outdoor wonders from one corner of the state to the next. But when it comes to Rib Mountain and its state park, the attraction on the outskirts of Wausau stands out metaphorically and physically.

Down below, Rib Mountain is visible well before its approach. Conversely, a visit to the highest altitudes within its state park provides some of the most breathtaking views that are possible in Wisconsin.

Rib Mountain has a rich history in Wisconsin's expansive ecosystem. The seeds of today's state park were planted 95 years ago when it was conceptually formed. In 1934, the locale officially joined Wisconsin's state park system and has grown and evolved from one decade to the next.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, more than 400,000 people visit Rib Mountain State Park annually - and with good reason. Beyond the breathtaking views, the state park offers a ski resort, 15 miles of hiking trails, dedicated picnic areas, and an amphitheater.

Over the years, geologists have pinpointed what makes Rib Mountain unique amid the broader Wisconsin landscape. Quartzite,



Rib Mountain has one of Wisconsin's highest elevations. The presence of quartzite, a very hard rock, has been attributed to its stature.



Quartzite is a hard, sturdy rock that is able to withstand erosion and other natural factors that have slowly disintegrated similar sites with softer and more vulnerable types of rock. While the surrounding plains inevitably eroded away over time, the quartzite making up today's Rib Mountain endured.

of land.

process.

Thanks largely to quartzite and its never ceasing durability, Rib Mountain stands as a monument to one of Wisconsin's highest elevation points. It stands 1,942 feet above sea level, ranking it the third highest point. It also stands 741 feet above the surrounding terrain, giving it the distinction of Wisconsin's tallest hill.

The 60-foot-tall observation tower, which annually is one of the most visited attractions within the park, provides stunning views of land down below. By virtue of its placement, the tower itself is about 800 feet above the terrain outside the mountain.

Throughout its evolution, the park also has been a popular spot for special events. The Friends of Rib Mountain State Park organization, for instance, holds a variety of programs geared toward visitors of all ages. History hikes, so-called concerts in the clouds, and lectures with animal experts are among some of the examples.

I typically visit Rib Mountain State Park at least once a year. I am constantly in awe, and I never leave disappointed.

DICK ELLIS Editorial page content is solely the opinion of the OWO Publisher and in no way represents the views of our advertisers or contributors. New direction needed at DNR

andidate for governor Tim Michels indicated in October that if elected he would break up the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to serve 1) business and 2) the hunting and fishing, or sporting community.

"It's not my opinion that the DNR is broken," Michels said. "It's what I hear everywhere I go."

As a hunter and publisher who has reported extensively on the agency's mismanagement of Wisconsin's wolf population and correlating decline in the northern deer herd, count me among those who consider the DNR severely broken. Change starting at the top with the governor's appointment of the DNR secretary is imperative to returning Wisconsin to a place where quality deer hunting is the expectation regardless of where you hang your stand.

On Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO) publishers sat down with Michels and Joan Ellis Beglinger in September to inform him that Beglinger, our sister, was stepping down as a gubernatorial candidate to endorse Michels and protect freedoms. Michels made a similar comment then that he believed as outdoorsmen we would appreciate changes on the horizon at the DNR.

We will cast our ballots for Michels November 8. Do not cast your vote for Beglinger, who by law will remain on the ballot.

Michels does speak for many when he said he believes that "sportsmen don't feel like the DNR has their backs right now." From my perspective after watching the agency closely and reporting our opposing views in each



A hunter from Barron County sends this photo of 5 wolves on his bear bait in late summer. Send us your wolf trail cam shots or stories.



Ellis camp hunters are sighted in, scout, carry portable tree stands in to remote areas, don't bait and wait. The payoff prior to wolf mismanagement included the occasional buck considered exceptional. OWO publisher Dick Ellis with a buck living long enough to grow a rack with a 19 inch inside spread.

issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*, that means a wolf population out of control that has sent deer numbers plummeting.

Connect with www.onwisconsinoutdoors. com and OWO's Views on Wolf Management in Wisconsin for our detailed reporting in eight issues provided as a link and PDF.

As importantly, we've heard from you. Our readers and Wisconsin hunters know the wolf population is much higher than reported by the state, that wolf pack numbers are much larger than reported, and that wolf territories continue to expand. The Wisconsin deer herd and your hunting opportunities are in decline because of it. We've received your photos and we've heard your stories. Please continue to send us your trail camera wolf shots and field experiences that will continue no doubt to contradict DNR reporting.

As one example, in this issue read how one bear hunter's vigil on stand and walk out to her truck included a standoff with aggressive wolves. When predators are not hunted but instead are protected by mismanagement and liberal judges, confrontation with humans increase. The large majority of hunters appreciate wolves in moderation in Wisconsin. Unmanaged numbers without reason to fear humans can become a direct threat to anyone who uses the northern forest.

Wisconsin hunters and anglers are not





Dick Ellis now wears a handgun when scouting Vilas County due to the number of wolf encounters. This CZ 9MM has a 7-inch barrel. Note the buck and wolf tracks on each side.

the priority of the DNR. The agency is currently led by the liberal left with animal rights radicals holding advisory positions and protected by too many in the media. The agency is not transparent in management decisions, including interaction with Wisconsin tribes who have been untruthful as partners in the wolf harvest that demands truthfulness to keep the predator/prey numbers in proper balance. DNR decisions are not based in science.

It's right that this debate take place on the eve of the mid-term elections, and on the eve of the Wisconsin deer hunt, when 600,000

Better days. John and Jim Ellis with a memorable opening morning in Vilas County prior to the wolf's return to Wisconsin in high numbers. The Ellis camp with an average of eight hunters would typically see four deer on the meat pole by the end of season. They have hung two deer in the last decade.



In days gone by, a typical Ellis camp meat pole after opening weekend. The Ellis camp has hung two deer in the last decade.

Wisconsin hunters who also vote will take to the field. Remember too when you cast your ballot that when the northland is missing the hunter, the hospitality business owners are missing you too.

As a Wisconsin hunter, you don't want a guarantee that you will kill a deer. As a hunter you want a reasonable chance if you pay your dues that you will have an opportunity to put venison in the freezer for yourself and family.

Enough is enough. Time for change at the Wisconsin DNR.



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Waiting on Success Aggressive wolves, weather challenge bear hunter

First-time bear hunter Vicki Wichlacz did her homework prior to taking a stand in Bayfield County for her Zone A season beginning September 7th. Studying trail cam photos though, and asking questions of experienced hunters wouldn't prepare her for a too close encounter with wolves both on stand and walking in the dark back to the truck.

"I viewed different size bears throughout the year, both males and females, females with cubs, movements and stances, and the strange things bears do," she said. "After reviewing many pictures I started to watch videos of best shot placement and the importance of placing a 'through shot'. When I finally did see a bear, I knew what to watch for instead of freezing and just wondering what to do. I also listened to advice from very successful hunters."

Vicki was told by an experienced hunter that Bayfield County had a high wolf population. If she did encounter a wolf on stand, Vicki was advised to yell and the animal would skedaddle. When a young wolf came to the bear bait, she did just that from her elevated box blind, and the wolf exited the scene "unbelievably fast".

"That made me feel confident that all I had to do was yell at them and they would leave," she said. "As it got late in the day, two adult wolves approached and circled the box stand where I was sitting. So again, I yelled out, 'Get out of here!' One of the wolves just stood there unafraid of my human voice. This was a bit unnerving. I began to wonder how I would leave my stand with wolves circling that were not afraid of me. I turned on my cell phone and despite uncertain reception was able to text a friend and my husband asking if I should try to leave the stand before it got too dark. The friend assured me I would be okay and I would miss the best time for hunting if I left early. At quitting time, thankfully my husband and friend walked in with flashlights to meet me."

The wolves though, followed at what the friend who spends most of the hunting

seasons in the fields of Bayfield County estimated to be at less than 80 yards. Nearing the trucks, the wolf thought to be an adult female unhappy with the humans near her pup, began to yelp or bark. When the group arrived at the vehicle, she broke into a long series of extended howls for 15 minutes. Even the experienced hunter called it hair-raising.

Back on stand, day two brought sweltering hot weather, and day three brought thunderstorms; but no bears. On day four time on stand reached 40 hours with no bear encounters. Wichlacz moved to a Bayfield County food plot maintained by the friend, with a second bear bait station.

"As the sun started to set, I kept thinking about what my mentor had told me," she said. "The best hunting time is the last 20 minutes, so be patient, and be quiet. From a spot I didn't expect, the bear appeared and headed right to the bait. I drew my rifle and running through my head was all the information I was given over the year of preparation."

Of all the curriculum she had tucked away preparing for her first bear hunt, one lesson



With the last light fading on day four of her first season, Vicki Wichlacz made a perfect shot to claim the first bear she had seen.

took front-of-mind: If she did not want to be tracking a bear at night, make the shot true in the fading daylight. She did just that, putting the bear down virtually where it walked and leaving Vicki Wichlacz in her first season a successful Wisconsin bear hunter.

"Immediately I knew it was a good shot," she said. "I guess the last 20 minutes are the best."



JOHN ELLIS Mismanagement of Wisconsin Wolves Comparing Michigan elk success with Wisconsin failure

he state of Michigan had only 200 Elk in 1975. After 9 short years, the herd had grown to 850 animals. Since 1984, Michigan has managed its elk herd through annual hunts, to between 500 and 900 animals. A January 2022 aerial survey found that Michigan's herd is healthy and growing with an estimated population between 870 and 1684 animals.

Wisconsin's elk herd, by comparison, has only grown to an estimated 450 animals since 25 elk were reintroduced 27 years ago, in 1995. Since then, Wisconsin has held only four elk hunting seasons between 2018 and 2021. During those hunts Wisconsin hunters took 17 elk and tribal members took 14, for a total harvest of 31 elk. During the same four-year period, Michigan hunters harvested a total of 809 elk.

A major reason for Michigan's elk management success and Wisconsin's failure is that the Michigan herd lives in the Lower Peninsula where there are no wolves. According to a former Wisconsin DNR Big Game Specialist, the number one reason for elk mortality in Wisconsin is predation by wolves. Despite this, according to Wisconsin's Elk Management Plan posted on the DNR's website, "A predator reduction policy to boost elk population growth is not biologically

JOHN ELLIS Simple Yes or No Questions OWO'S answer to media, Marquette Law School deception

or years the Marquette Law School Poll, headed by Charles Franklin, has been used by many in the Wisconsin media to control the narrative of our elections and steer voters toward a liberal agenda. This is how the coordination works. The media keeps people uninformed by withholding news or fabricating stories. Mr. Franklin, who is liberal, then asks poll questions that are complicated, vague, and designed to make people rely on him to tell them what Wisconsin voters are thinking. His conclusions are then repeated by the liberal media to shape public opinion. It is all very dishonest and none of it should be believed. To counter this, On Wisconsin Outdoors is asking our own questions. They are intended to inform you of things that the media won't report on and allow you to privately decide what you think about these issues.

Many of our public schools are teaching children that they can change their sex and the incorrect use of male/female pronouns. Should this be tolerated?

The Supreme Court recently returned responsibility for abortion laws back to states. By doing this the court returned power to citizens. Do you welcome this return of power?

"Gun violence" is a phrase that incorrectly attributes a behavior to a gun, rather than a person, making the behavior impossible to correct.

It is commonly used by many in the media and in Marquette Law School Polls. Do you think the media, and Marquette, are purposely misusing English to mislead you?

Since Joe Biden became president, inflation is at a 40 year high, the U.S. is no longer energy independent, and gas prices are the highest they have ever been. A poorly planned withdrawal from Afghanistan left Americans and military equipment behind and 13 U.S. soldiers killed by a suicide bomber. Millions of illegal aliens and tons of illegal drugs have entered our country via the southern border. The drugs are causing over 100,000 deaths annually. Did you vote for this?

Since Tony Evers became governor, violent crimes are way up in Wisconsin. From 2018 to 2021, murders were up 82%, aggravated assaults were up 16%, and vehicle thefts were up 111%. He allowed the Kenosha riots, of August 2020, to go on for days without serious challenge. He ordered lockdowns that forced many small Wisconsin businesses to permanently close. Did you vote for this?

The Wisconsin DNR has a Wolf Management Plan that calls for a maximum of 350 wolves, but they have allowed the population to explode to as many as 5000 wolves. This has severely damaged the deer population, including elk, and Wisconsin's travel and tourism economy. Should the DNR manage the number of wolves in Wisconsin back to 350? 1

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ELLIS, FROM PAGE 26

necessary and would be unacceptable to many people. The Department would not implement predator control to support elk populations."

The Wisconsin DNR's refusal to properly manage wolves has made the reintroduction of elk in our state an enormous waste of time and money. It has also severely damaged deer hunting opportunities in northern Wisconsin and the very large travel and tourism economy that goes along with it. Preston Cole is an irresponsible and incompetent Secretary of the DNR. After our November election he must be replaced by someone who has the knowledge, skills, and desire to properly manage our state's great natural resources, including fish and game. 🕑

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

Opportunity Not Wasted 20th anniversary of Wisconsin mourning dove hunting

Hunting mourning doves wasn't always a thing here in Wisconsin. We've only had a modern dove hunting season since 2003. Way back when, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, the forerunner of the Wisconsin DNR, gave mourning doves total protection, proclaiming that mourning doves were song birds, not game birds. It was not until the late 1990s that the DNR would propose making mourning doves a game bird, with seasons like our neighbor to the south, Illinois. At the time, the annual harvest in Illinois was approximately three million birds. Wisconsin served as a dove factory that was not allowed to sample its own product. It took about five years of intense efforts by various sportsmen's organizations to finally get the modern mourning dove season that we enjoy today.

Anti-hunting, animal rights, environmental, and even bird watching groups objected to the hunt. The outdoor sports



The Wisconsin Mourning Dove season is 20 years old and has provided great opportunities for training and wing shooting in mild weather. Here, young pup Golden Retriever Micah returns with his first retrieve. writer for the Milwaukee Journal at the time, Jay Reed, was skeptical of ever having a dove season. Finally, in 2003, it all came together. Compromises were made to get the hunt approved. The mandated use of steel shot to hunt doves on public land was one of the compromises that was made to get the season.

I was introduced to the concept of doves as a game bird in the early 1980s while on a pheasant hunt in the town of Raymond in Racine County. I was hunting with a friend we will call G., and an engineer and safety director from where I was employed named Randy. It was late October and we were walking a cut cornfield for pheasants when a flock of about 20 doves flew up out of the corn stubble.

Randy had recently moved here from Pennsylvania where doves were legal game. He drew down and leveled three doves

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



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STRESING, FROM PAGE 28 from the flock, and was proud as punch of himself. G. and I were horrified. The look on Randy's face was priceless when we explained that he had just knocked down three protected song birds. We never saw Randy break any other fish or game law, and to his credit, he did take his illegal harvest home. While some may say Randy was merely a poacher who was ignorant of the law, I prefer to think of him as a farsighted visionary. All kidding aside, please read and understand all the game laws before pulling the trigger on any game.

If you want a place to hunt doves, the Wisconsin DNR has an interactive map system on its website showing various public hunting areas. I suggest using decoys, and setting up near a food or water source. I prefer an over/under for the advantage of two different choke tube options for different range shots. Steel 6 or 7 shot is ideal out of light modified or improved cylinder chokes. Enjoy our Wisconsin mourning dove season; it was a struggle to get there!

The Wisconsin Mourning dove season provides the first opportunity of fall for anxious hunters to test their shooting skills and work the dogs. Scott Heitman swings on a dove flushed by the dogs from the corn on a Waukesha County farm.











What Are You Waiting For?

The snow is starting to fall here in Spooner offering visitors a plethora of awesome outdoor recreational activities and specialty retail stores where you can find all the best holiday gifts for everyone on your list!

The Spooner Area offers access to a multitude of picturesque trails. If winter fat biking is a passion of yours you have to check out Wildcat Mountain Bike Trail that has 10 miles of expertly groomed trails. If snowmobiling is more your speed, check out the popular Wild Rivers Trail running right through the heart of Spooner. Not only does this trail provide you with some of the best scenic views of our area, but you have easy access to dining and lodging options like the Best Western Spooner Riverplace. Heartwood Resort is another perfect place to stay where you can explore their wide range of multilooped groomed trails traversing an impressive 20 km, with access to equipment rentals available for guests. Heartwood's trails are open to cross county skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers alike.

There are over 1,000 lakes county wide and two rivers within minutes of Spooner making it the perfect ice fishing destination for your next



family getaway. As soon as there is a solid layer of ice you can find most local anglers on the Yellow River Flowage right in town. Northern pike, largemouth bass and bluegills are the most commonly fished species on the flowage but walleye, lake sturgeon and musky are present as well. Before you head out on the ice be sure to stock up on supplies at AAA Sport Shop, the Spooner Outlet and Schmitz's Economart.

After your fun day out on Spooner's frozen waters head inside to warm up at one of our local coffee shops or the Spooner Bake Shoppe for some tasty treats. Be sure to mark down November 21, the Monday after the opening of gun season here in Wisconsin, when Ladies Night offers shoppers some of the best holiday deals before the Black Friday madness. Voted Washburn County's "Best Shopping Experience 2022" you are sure to leave with a few gems for your loved ones this holiday season.

Article by Lauren Siefert, Executive Director of the Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce.

JAKE QUIGLEY Waupaca Chain O' Lakes

Sunday, August 22, 2022

Knight Lane Landing Waupaca

all provides a different level of beauty when paddling, but the opportunities to enjoy the season are limited. Fortunately, this fall has given us the warm weather and open door to extend time on the water.

The Waupaca chain of lakes is best known for an abundance of interconnected lakes and the incredibly clear water that flows through them. Twenty-two interconnected lakes are fed by springs along with Emmons and Hartman Creeks. The water then exits through Long Lake into the Crystal River. The combination of beauty and entertainment provides a large variety of opportunities for tourists to sample. These include a variety of water-based activities and a wide range of restaurants and pristine golf courses.

A group of friends and I set off for the day on August 22 from Knight Lane Landing. We paddled our way from lake to lake exploring each body of water. We first ventured our way to Marl Lake to a sand bar to relax and have some snacks. We then paddled towards the Wheel House for a late lunch which I can highly recommend; great food and atmosphere.

We then stopped at the Indian Crossing Casino. We finished the night off with drinks at Clearwater Harbor which usually offers live music on weekends.

We had a great day paddling around the Waupaca area. I generally prefer river kayaking because the scenery is often more interesting, but the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes make for a very scenic paddle and ample entertainment for kayak enthusiasts.





Inherited Recipes Shared

Love preparing new recipes, and it is my good fortune that my husband is willing to try each and every one of them. In fact, we consider ourselves somewhat daring when it comes to the dinner menu at our house. In recent years, however, we have been gifted with what I refer to as "inherited recipes." These are not necessarily new for my husband as many have been handed down through generations of his family. For me, though, they are new recipes. I have copied a few of them here. Enjoy!

Venison Pie

Roast Wild Duck

Use equal parts of diced vegetables and cooked meat. Add seasonings and cover with left-over gravy which has been thinned with water. Bake in a covered casserole in medium oven (375°F) for one hour. Just before serving time, remove lid and cover with a crust of mashed potato, pastry or baking powder biscuit. If there is not enough gravy, a bouillon cube may be dissolved in water and thickened to make the gravy. The vegetables may be cooked on the surface burner and the liquid in which they were cooked may be used in the gravy. When vegetables and the meat are cooked, add the topping at once and brown in a hot (400°F) oven. Here is the dish for your favorite seasoning – thyme, bay leaf, savory – according to your taste.

LOCKING MUT

Wipe bird with damp cloth. Rub two-pound bird with teaspoon of salt and 1/8 teaspoon pepper, inside and out. Melt stick of butter in roasting pan, brown duck on all sides atop stove. Squeeze juice from one lemon, grate rind and soak in jigger of good dry sherry, not cooking sherry. With a spoon, apply rind and sherry to sides, put juice in cavity. Roast uncovered in 300° oven until skin is crisp and fork tender. Serve on hot platter with juices poured over.

Baked Bear Chops

Trim all but ¼ inch of fat from chops that are about 1 ½ inch thick. Set in deep baking pan. Salt and pepper. Spread one teaspoon brown sugar over each. Place slide of lemon atop each. Mix one cup of tomato catsup and 1 cup water, more of both if necessary, and barely cover chops with liquid. Bake 325° in oven for 1 ½ hours or until well done.

Contact Suzette at recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com..



WILKE, **from page 22**

and eventual capitulation on November 11, 1918. This was the bloodiest campaign in American history with 26,000 dead and nearly 100,000 wounded.

Meuse/Argonne was a vital railway hub and communication center. Its capture would make it virtually impossible to bring vital supplies and troops to what was left of the bloodied and exhausted remnants of the German army, still reeling from their irreplaceable losses during the failed Ludendorff Offensive.

Ill-fed, covered in lice and tormented by rats, soldiers on both sides lived and died in water filled trenches, subject to constant artillery barrages, poison gas, arial bombardment and sniper fire. At his officers' command, Fritjof and his mates repeatedly went "over the top" from their trenches, across No Man's Land, and into the crossfire of German machine guns. If they somehow made it through a hail of bullets and into the German trenches, fighting would soon degenerate into combat with trench knives, spiked clubs, bayonets, sharpened shovels and fists. Small wonder that Fritjof kept his memories from his family.

While the Allies had a seemingly inexhaustible supply of men and material, the Germans had virtually ran out of food and ammunition. Their families were starving on the home front as a result of the Allies' naval blockade. Germany had no recourse but to surrender.

Fritjof returned home to the family farm in 1919 and soon married Anna. Together they raised two children, John and Helen. Fritjof died in peace at the age of 88 in 1984.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum features a variety of events, research opportunities, and exhibits. Visit their web site for more information at wisvetsmuseum.com.





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