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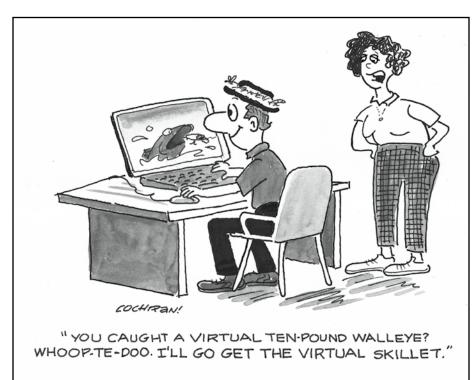
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Hardwater, Open Water Mixing it up for panfish and walleyes

hether on the ice or in a boat on open water, perhaps the best time to target panfish and walleyes is as winter winds down and spring approaches. Snow levels are depleted, the weather is warmer, and ice conditions are manageable. Ice anglers will find that panfish are abundant and usually easy to target. If you're willing to brave the open water, walleye fishing on a river can also be rewarding.

Panfish can be found in shallow weedy bays using a variety of jigging techniques along with some plastics and live bait combinations, but you might dramatically increase your catch with a fish locater when icefishing. Panfish will be suspended at different levels and your locater will show you where they are in the water column.

If you're willing and up to the challenge, instead of hitting the ice, head out to open river water. You'll be pushing your limits by crawling over ice heaves to hit water, but the results







Dave Hansen, Brad Stroik and Chris Blank with some nice perch.

can be phenomenal. Walleyes are concentrated in the deepest water in the river system and they can be caught in a variety of ways.

A simple 1/8 or ¼ ounce lead head jig tipped with a live fathead minnow or some sort of minnow imitating plastic will do the trick when lightly jigged on the bottom. Another very simple method for catching walleyes is by using a plain hook and sinker rig with a minnow. Toss it out and let it sit right on the bottom in the deepest part of the pool and it will work all day long.

Spring can be a wonderful time of the year to get out and enjoy some fantastic fishing. Whether you are still on the ice chasing panfish or hitting the open water for walleyes, you can't go wrong!

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TOM LUBA

Open Water Ahead *Springing into multi-species action*

ome early March, winter begins to unbutton its heavy coat. Rivers and lakes transition from ice to open water. Walleye are moving beneath the remaining ice. While fish on the Wolf River move to flooded marshes to spawn, others head to the dams that govern their flow. Jigs tipped with minnows are a good bet downstream. Drift or anchor on slacker current sides. Fish will duck the current going upriver, but will ride it back after the spawn. Jigs work well under these conditions, but the venerable Wolf River Rig (three-way swivel with weight on bottom) stringing along a floating jig/minnow or even a floating Rapala will also bring results when anchored.

River smallmouth start moving with April warmth. They'll frequent eddies and slack water on the edge of currents and get more active as the walleye spawn ends. Hair jigs, grubs and tubes work well for bronzebacks.

With bass fishing now open year round (but only catch and release until the general opener), it pays to look for early ice-free small lakes in April. Some may even have winter aerators to help prevent fish kills. I lived close to a 65-acre lake with a wealth of shallow laydowns. There were so many they should have had addresses posted on them. Both the north and south shores were stacked and the largemouth used the cover to hunt.

A friend of mine had such fast success the first time he used a bass jig tipped with a No. 11 Uncle Josh pork frog that the next day he bought every bass jig he could find. After we had caught as many as six bass out of a single tree on day one we lost count. The secret was a one-quarter ounce jig and pork (I now use Berkley's MaxScent Power Chunks), consistently working the trees from the outside in.

When you find your own little piece of bass paradise, be prepared. Working early weed growth can be tackle friendly, but wood demands stouter tackle. Fourteen pound fluorocarbon is my baitcast starting point to get the fish out of the lumber as soon as the hook is set.

While they don't spawn until later spring, crappies also prefer meat. They know that baitfish will go shallow as April gets warmer and they make sure to be on time for dinner.

Crappies have a one-track mind in April...food. Find a school. When you do, you'll be busy; sometimes the bite is as fast as catching, re-baiting and getting your line wet again as quickly as possible. Fish them with anything from a medium or light action spinning or spincast rig, but go ultralight if you like your rod bent in a hoop.

Fathead or shiner minnows on a No. 6 Eagle Claw Aberdeen hook with a light sinker and a slip rigged bobber is standard. If they're a little deeper, a light 1/64, 1/32 or 1/16 ounce jig tipped with a minnow works. And if they are really active, a light jig tipped with scented plastics is also an option.

Spring is coming. Plan your options as the ice melts and you can have yourself a good time from day one.

Note that there may be river systems, counties and bodies of water that have special regulations. Check out the 2022 Wisconsin Fishing Regulations to be sure you are following the rules for the areas you fish.

Tom Luba enjoys all aspects of bass fishing, both species, from surface to bottom. Chasing crappie and bluegill with a fly rod and popper is also a rewarding change of pace on a picture-perfect



Early season largemouth (caught and released) from a small lake that warmed quickly in April.



Turkeys in 1976 that
were released near the
Mississippi River. Due
to harsh winters, the
expectation then was
that turkeys would never
migrate north beyond
Stevens Point. Today,
because of the bird's
great adaptability,
all of Wisconsin is
open to hunting Tom, with
hundreds of thousands of kill permits issued.



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Check out the online issue at onwisconsinoutdoors.com



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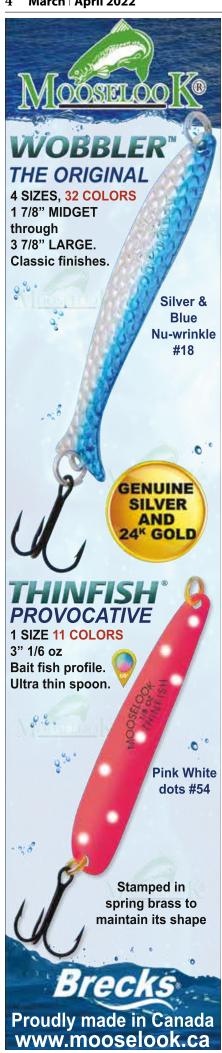
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SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA | CAPTAIN LEE HAASCH

Shore Bets for Limits of Fun, on the Water and Off

here are few things more exhilarating than doing battle with a 12-pound steelhead on light tackle as it smacks your bait, bends your pole in half and screams out drag while it races off. Seasoned anglers know that catching a limit of steelhead in March and April is not uncommon in Algoma. Lake Michigan shoreline is a hot area during spring when giant brown and trophy lake trout cruise shallow shoreline feeding on gobies.

Trolling from small boats, wading shorelines and simply working from piers are excellent ways to cash in on some tasty trout. Huge fish can be had with light tackle and stick baits in 12 to 25 feet of water this time of the year.

Algoma is open for business and fishing is only a part of what we have to offer. You can look forward to a wide open 2022



summer line up of fishing tournaments, festivals, car shows and musical events. Visit us again or for the first time. You're always welcome.

Experience the great fishing Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma! For charter information or fishing reports, visit my website at www.FishAlgoma.com or call 1-888-966-3474. From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the NEW Grand Illusion 3, good luck and good fishing!

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



n Wisconsin Outdoors is looking for freelance writers! We are especially interested in articles about snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, hiking and biking, and travel destinations. Have other ideas? We are happy to hear them.

Whether you're an experienced writer or looking to publish your first piece, we're interested in stories up to 600 words but very short articles are welcome too. Submissions accompanied by pictures are preferred.

Compensation is based on length and quality of articles. For more information connect with submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



WAYNE MORGENTHALER

Love at First Bite

The Mississippi River's jumbo perch

he best time to fish for jumbo perch in the Mississippi River is during early spring when the ice is melting. Start early to get the best fishing spots on shore or boat. There are several dams along the river that can provide some very good fishing spots.

At the beginning of the season, I do well fishing on shore for crappies. I use minnows hooked through the mouth with a sinker on a four-pound test line tied about a foot up from the jig or bare hook. This combination takes the bait to the bottom of the river where there are fish.

Fishing for perch from a boat allows for more vertical jigging, so I hook crappie minnows through the dorsal fin. Perch tend to be found in schools, so move around until you find them. Don't despair if the first fish you catch are small. They are males. Females will not be far away and may very well move to your location.

As the weather starts to warm up near the end of March and the beginning of April, I switch to half a nightcrawler. I have had fantastic luck with the 1/32 second of an ounce pink mini mite (without the white plastic tubing), fished on the bottom with four-pound test. The light jig will be near the bottom and with just the right amount of weight, you can detect the lightest bite. I like to use an ultra-light rod and reel and I bring a longer pole with eight-pound test to fish for walleyes or northern pike.

Before heading out, research the most up-to-date rules, regulations and fishing reports. They are readily available on the internet. Dressing appropriately can make the difference between success and leaving





Kevin Morgenthaler on the Mississippi.

early for home. The temperature outside might be okay, but the breeze on the river can increase considerably along with the wind chill factor. That doesn't mean the fish won't bite. I vividly recall one late April when a friend and I went fishing while the temperature was 39 degrees and the wind was blowing out of the north at 15 mph. We did not have much competition on the water that day and we dressed for the weather. Our fingers may have froze putting on crawlers, but the fishing was tremendous! Thanks to our mittens, muck boots, stocking caps and wind breakers, we caught our limit of jumbo perch. We sealed the day with hot coffee from Kwik Trip.

Give the jumbo perch a try. That first one will bring you back to the river for years. Call it love at first bite. Don't forget to share the fun of fishing with friends and family.

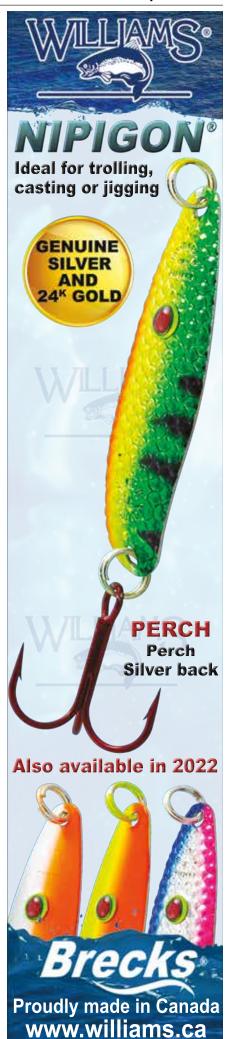
Wayne Morgenthaler has fished southwestern and northwestern Wisconsin for the past 45 years. He is a retired high school teacher and



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CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

A View from the Water Boat launch blunders

Boat launches can be an intense and scary proposition if you aren't prepared. As a fishing guide for 30 years, I've been involved in over a thousand launches and have had my own share of mishaps. Some are once in a lifetime mistakes, while others are avoidable.

Among the worst and most expensive launch calamities involve vehicles sinking into lakes. I have witnessed four or five such incidents. The causes ranged from a bad transmission, unfamiliarity with the boat launch to just plain carelessness. The most common is probably a lack of familiarity with the launch site. Boat launches can be confusing and intimidating for those with no or limited experience, but most accidents can be avoided with practice and common sense. Practicing is key, but doing so at a busy launch on a Saturday morning is just asking for trouble. New boat owners can gain valuable experience by practice parking between the lines of a vacant parking lot before attempting a launch.

Every boat launch ramp should be inspected for washouts and big rocks on or near it before use. Some have huge washout holes after the concrete ramp; back up too far and it can pull your trailer and truck into the lake. The next vital step is boat preparation. This sounds simple but I have seen countless folks forget to remove the straps or put the plug in. A word of caution: Make sure you know where to put the plug!

If you put it in the live well hole, your boat will sink and, yes, I've seen that too!

Even experienced boaters forget steps. Try to create a routine and don't deviate. Avoid distractions or you may leave straps on or forget the transom saver. If that occurs, pray that it happens when the weather is nice and the water is warm!

DO NOT PREP YOUR BOAT ON THE RAMP. There are two very important reasons for this; first it will help you avoid angry confrontations with other anglers and secondly it will help you avoid serious damage due to a premature launch. Full disclosure, this one has happened to me. I put the boat on the concrete ramp and it slid off of the roller trailer, broke off the skag and damaged the transducer. I learned then to leave the racket strap and safety chain on the bow. I felt incredibly stupid when this happened, but I've never forgotten to leave the safety chain on again.

Once you're in the water, it's time to undo the racket strap and take off the safety chain. Always have a front and back rope. Nothing frustrates others waiting to launch than a boater with only a bow rope whose boat is swinging in the wind and preventing everyone else from moving. Ropes can prevent serious irritation and accidents. I have seen unsecured boats swing 360 degrees and damage skags by hitting ramps.

With your boat secured, it's time to park



Don't forget the plug!

the truck. Park carefully and within the stall; it's very easy to take two spots if you aren't in straight.

Hopefully your launch was a success and you enjoyed your day on the lake. Now it's time to put your boat back on the trailer. This can be as tricky as off-loading. Two ropes (front and back) remain critical, again to prevent damage to your boat and others. Note: You should not need to go swimming to get your boat on its trailer!

Load your boat and get out of the way. I have seen a lot of clumsy off-loading and an extreme lack of patience from fellow boaters that nearly resulted in blows at launches.

Accidents do happen, but with practice and a routine, launching blunders can be avoided.

Dave Duwe is the owner of Dave Duwe's Guide Service, specializing in the lakes of Walworth County in Southern Wisconsin. Contact him at 262-728-8063.

DENNY MURAWSKA

Angel on My Roof *Avian navigational affair*

s I pulled into my snow covered driveway, it immediately became apparent that my home had been visited by some kind of intruder. There was a snow angel on the roof of my garage. That is an accurate first impression. The problem with this perception is that, in my off-the-grid homesite, there are no children running around the neighborhood of pines atop a sandstone bluff. So what was this roughly four foot by four foot image of some avian that slammed into eight inches of fresh snow to leave a deep crater?

The outline suggests an impression of a sea turtle. Obviously not a contender for my visitor. It soon became evident that the mystery creature had wings. However, there were no other tracks on the roof, and this thing was big. The portion of the garage roof shown



is roughly 20 feet from the door overhang to the peak. It appeared the avian culprit hit the roof hard, then flapped to the peak and took off.

I searched the far side of the roof, and even the surrounding woods. Further evidence was not forthcoming. Many possibilities scrolled though my brain. A goose? An eagle or large hawk? How



DICK ELLIS

Good Work, Good Workers

Celebrating the Southeastern Wisconsin Building Trades

Brian Olig let the tiny Marmooska jig fall from the jigging rod to tumble through the depths of Silver Lake. With the finesse of a man who has spent his share of hours in a shack on a cold winter's morning, Brian peered through the augured hole into the green hues and danced his jig until another gill could stand it no more and rose to the occasion.

"Oh, that's a good one," the retired Director of Maintenance for Rheocast Company in Fall River said softly as the rod bent and bounced in agreement. After the expected wrestling match Brian had hoped for when he wound 1-pound test on the ultralight reel, this fish measured in at nearly eight inches and found itself in a growing pile on the bottom of a 5-gallon bucket.

Outside the shack, knifing winds and temperatures hovering near zero gave no hint that the Wisconsin February would give in to 50-degrees the very next morning. It didn't matter. Inside the shack, Brian was reaping the benefits of his son Chris' handiwork in creating a balmy environment with all the comforts of home...almost. Cabinets with a 1970s feel and holding food and drinks, equipment hanging orderly in its place, and the real head turner; a large wall-mounted television monitor capturing everything the underwater camera was spying on just a few feet below the ice. It seemed unlikely that anything swimming was going to sneak up on the Olig boys.

So what's better than a father and son



Chris Olig works the jig in the augured hole and watches the big screen for approaching fish below in his hand-crafted ice fishing shack.

WISCONSIN BUILDING TRADES 3RD ANNUAL ICE FISHING DERBY

Workers and their family member representing the following unions participated in the The Southeastern Wisconsin Building Trades 3rd Annual Ice Fishing Derby on Silver Lake

- LiUNA! Local #113!
- Heat & Frost Insulators Local 19
- Boiler Makers Local 107
- Bricklayers Local 4
- Carpenters Local 161
- Cement Masons & Plasterers Local 599-845
- Electrical Workers Local 127 &430
- Glaciers DC7 Local 1204
- Teamsters Local 200
- Iron Workers Local 8
- Operating Engineers Local 139
- Painters DC7 Local 934 & 108
- Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 118
- Roofers Local 65
- Sheet Metal Workers Local 18
- Sprinkler Fitters Local 669

fishing in a warm shack on the hardwater of a Wisconsin lake on a Saturday morning? How about a wide band of brothers representing 15 building trades spread over that same lake and doing the exact same thing? The Southeastern Wisconsin Building Trades 3rd Annual Ice Fishing Derby, open to all union building professionals and their families, was in full mode February 19 on Silver Lake in Kenosha County.



Paul Sievert checks his tip-up while high winds in subzero temps pound his back during the Wisconsin Building Trades Third Annual Ice Fishing Derby for working trades union members and their families on Silver Lake. Paul's wife Dara works with the Bricklayers union.





The "Silver" payoff, so to speak, would be "big fish" winners in six categories for a lucky or talented few landing walleye, pike, bass, crappie, bluegill or perch. For everyone though, raffle drawings and prizes mostly donated by the unions ranging from tip-ups to ice shanties, reels, gear and equipment, and more brats than even these estimated 200 professional workers could eat waited in the park shelter on shore when the derby concluded.

Outside the Olig shack on the tundra, this reporter sought out short interviews and photos with as many of the tradesmen as I could intrude on. Some nice bass pushing 16 inches, the occasional pike, panfish and a lone walleye did their part to make the anglers happy. But most anglers sat on buckets with backs to the wind futilely looking for fish, worked to keep tip-up lines from freezing, answered false flags tripped by the wind, or simply tried to remember what properly working

fingers were supposed to feel like. For these electricians, plumbers, painters, laborers, bricklayers, cement finishers, carpenters and many others who have chosen the trades as life's best route, this day was more for just shooting the breeze than of high expectations for catching fish.

No one cared. They were, after all, fishing on a Saturday. Simply mix those two ingredients...and add ice.

I was welcomed into shacks and along on futile dashes to tripped flags by tradesman who tolerated those requests for photos and nosy OWO reporter's questions. Thanks to John Hawley, John Swan III, Octavio Huicar, Richard Reinhardt, Mike and Brett Burkee, Jeff Stauss, Nick Goodwin, Paul Sievert, Jim Haubrich and his son Jaminson, Charles Binninger and Roger Clark. Your time was appreciated.

My day on the ice ended where it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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Real Estate Tips

A buyer's first job is to get qualified

In real estate terms, a potential buyer's first step is to get FINANCIALLY QUALIFIED. This will come in the shape of a pre-approval letter or proof of funds and sets the tone for the rest of your buying journey. It's here where you'll figure out your comfort level on both a total loan amount and monthly payment. You'll also be quoted estimated closing costs and interest rates.

If you're paying cash, having proof of the amount you're willing to part with is huge. This can show yourself and the seller that you're committed. It's also a simple process - the bank can type up a one page document on their letterhead and send it to you.

The second qualification is determining your NEEDS and WANTS. This will shape the type of property we search for and spend time looking at. A needs assessment will go a long way in this regard and will help piece together your current situation and where you want



to go. Some things to consider when conducting a needs assessment are to ascertain an ideal move date, ideal price and monthly payment, location, size of

II MLS 宜

the property, any additional features, etc. This is where you get to shape your new property . . . so details matter.

The third qualification is REALITY.

Realizing that not every property is perfect. Realizing that you may lose out on one because of multiple offers. Or the Seller may not budge on anything. Buying and selling real estate is a process. A process that can go quick or lag into months with nothing to show for it. Cooler and calmer heads always prevail. Once you have these three boxes checked it's all about showings. Properties will come on the market and you'll see some while driving around. The best part about getting qualified is that you're ready to go when that property becomes available. You'll be ready to write a strong offer that has a high chance of being accepted.

Be the Buyer who you'd want showing up to your property. My guess is you'd want them to be financially strong, confident in what they're looking for, and in tune with reality.

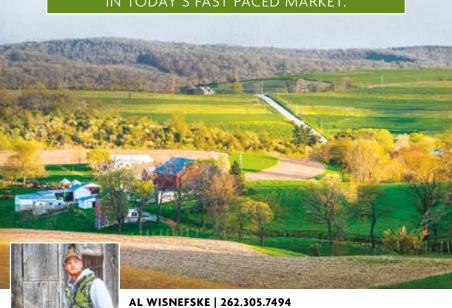
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MOERICKE, FROM PAGE 6

could a sharp eyed, high soaring raptor make such a mistake?

A former student suggested an owl may have attacked a mouse on the roof. Nice try, but again, no tracks unless a rodent was tunneling under the snow. Many attempts to identify this cryptid seemed like possibilities. After weeding through a number of choices, I was leaning towards a turkey sailing down from a high roost, except there were no tracks anywhere nearby in my yard. There is a great bunch of gobblers just down the road, they just never roost here.

Then I began playing games with my well-intentioned friends. An image search on the internet showed some drawings of the legendary Mothman. Scary but unconvincing. Some reptilian precursors to birds had feathered wings and feet. These would have been a great fit, but none have been spotted by bird watchers anywhere on the planet. Pretty sure they are extinct. Guardian angels supposedly watch over all of us, but it could just have well been a gargoyle that had hit the roof based on the limited amount of evidence available.

We outdoors people are always looking for tracks and signs. Snow makes it easier in some ways, but can distort the exact size and shape of its maker. Each morning, I check out the latest evidence of wild creatures in my yard. I certainly know enough to tell the difference between squirrel hops from those of a tail dragging opossum. There has never been any cause for alarm - until The Thing on the Roof landed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Wisconsin Outdoors' crack team of detectives is on the case and will announce our best guess to the Things' identity in an upcoming issue

Denny's latest book, "The Elk Pool," can be purchased on Amazon or at Barnes and Noble. For information regarding signed copies, contact him at artangler3030@genevaonline.com

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BOB SPIERINGS

Bob's Bear Bait

Sweet advice...and other bait to keep them coming

Bears are known for their love of sugary sweet food, donuts in particular, which they welcome like a gift from heaven. But even bears can tire of these tasty treats. Time and time again, usually about two weeks before the season opens, we at Bob's Bear Bait get frantic calls from hunters faced with this quandary: "Bears have quit coming to my stand!" The answer to this dilemma is often just a change of bait.

Fact: Crazy for donuts as they may be, given a menu option, bears will actually opt for corn and ripening acorns, a much healthier choice. So what does that tell us? Sweets are not necessary to attract bears to a bait stand. Now before you start shucking corn and shaking oak trees, don't give up on traditional bait. There's a time, place and method for every bait.

Cereals are inexpensive and come in a variety of flavors that will draw bears all season long. If your bait station is a long walk away, you'll appreciate their light

weight. Cereals pack enough flavor so not much is needed to change the taste of toppings. Granola and cookie mixes are great fillers at any point in the season. They serve as a great base and you can preserve their bear-appeal by regularly altering toppings.

Nuts are the ultimate dry bait. While pricey, they just may be what you need to get a bear. Packed with fats, protein and carbs, nuts are what bears crave come the end of summer. You can serve them plain or mix them with other dry baits. Start introducing nuts no later than three to four weeks prior to opening season for optimal results.

Toppings can be used in many different ways, but their main purpose is to keep bears coming back with a variety of different flavors. Pouch containers of toppings are convenient and conducive to cleanliness. Frostings are water resistant. Smear them around the inside of your bait stump.

Any nut butter, like peanut or almond, is great because it is high in fats and proteins. Fruit fillings, while packed with sugar, are probably the closest thing to a bear's natural diet and are a great way to change up flavor. Bears like variety and dry toppings are a great bait. You can create your own mix or use them as packaged.

For more great tips, stop in and chat with us. Our dedicated staff has years of bear hunting experience and we've been in the bear bait business for 14 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 type you want to purchase.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Bob's Bear Bait or check us out at <u>bobsbearbait.</u> <u>com</u> to keep up-to-date with our latest news, products and sales. Contact Bob directly by email at sales@bobsbearbait.com or call (920) 419-1238. As always, happy baiting!



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | MARINETTE COUNTY

Walleye Spawning

arly spring in Northeast Wisconsin means one thing – walleye! As water temperatures inch above freezing, the waters of Marinette and Peshtigo fill with trophy walleye for their spring spawning season in early April. Hobbyists and experts alike travel from all over the Midwest to fish the Peshtigo River, Menominee River, Bay of Green Bay, and other walleye-filled tributaries of Lake Michigan.

The lower Menominee River provides great access for shoreline fishing, boasting the nearby Hattie Street Bridge, where you can get a bird's eye view casting your line. The lower Peshtigo River, near the dam, is a hot spot for those who like to wade into the river and throw jerkbaits or minnows. Additionally, the mouths of these rivers and the Bay of Green Bay are popular for those fishing from their boats. Traffic is high during the thick of the spawning season, so be prepared to cast from your boat and wait to begin trolling until post spawn.

Before you hit the water, make sure to tap on the shoulder of one of our local experts and ask them for more information about great fishing spots and



walleye gear. Stop by a bait shop or plan a trip with one of our local guides for an amazing walleye run experience.

After you have your catch of the day, grab a bite to eat and check out the local scenery around the cities of Marinette and Peshtigo. Local favorites, such as Mickey-Lu-Bar-B-Q, Apple Jack's, and Ironworks, fill up fast around dinner and lunch. Don't forget to check out the Peshtigo Fish Viewing Platform where you'll catch a glimpse of all of the fish that are swimming around the river.

Several lodging and camping options are also available in these areas to accommodate you, your family and friends, and all of your fishing gear.

Plan your spring walleye trip and learn more about unique year-round fishing opportunities at TheRealNorth.com





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KEN GHER

Hidden TreasuresA spring search for antlers

It's a late Wisconsin day in March and warmer spring temperatures give a very welcome break from Old Man Winter's cold grip. The blanket of fast melting snow now shows hints of spring peeking through its melting layer as distant calls from migrating Canada geese echo across the spring air.

I am walking down a well-used deer trail bordering an old, abandoned agriculture field. At the edge of the field grows prickly ash and a mixture of smaller hardwood trees.

Kneeling to take a rest, I look down the deer trail ahead of me and instantly my attention is drawn to something at the trail's edge. A second look through my binoculars quickly confirms that it is indeed the hidden treasure that I've walked so many miles to find.

The treasure is a one-of-a-kind gift from a whitetail buck. Judging from its size, the large cast antler is from a mature buck that has shed his antlers for many seasons. A buck fawn is programmed to develop antlers while in his mothers' womb. As he develops, specialized tissues called "pedicels" begin to form on his skull. Pedicels are the antlers' growth platform. They're the connection between the living bone of the skull and the antler.

New antlers begin to appear on the pedicel in April, soon after the casting of the old ones, but a major part of the growth occurs during summer. By August the soft, blood-rich, growing antlers will have reached their full growth.

When full growth is attained, the pedicels cut off the blood supply to the antlers and they harden to bone. The buck's skull is living bone and the antler becomes dead bone. At this point, the pedicels act as a strong connection between the living and dead bone.

After the mating season, primarily in December and January, a whitetail buck's testosterone levels begin to drop below a minimum needed to maintain a set of



The largest percentage of shed antlers found by the author are in the open areas where two different types of deer habitat converge.

antlers. The pedicels on the buck's skull then begin to de-mineralize and soften and this is when casting - or shedding - of antlers occurs.

Food sources, such as harvested agriculture fields, are great places to start looking for shed antlers because they can be jarred loose while bucks actively dig for food buried under the snow. Abandoned



The author has found March to be the best month to find shed antlers that have just been recently dropped.

apple orchards are another good spot. Bucks will stand on their back legs to reach for spoiled apples that still cling to branches. As the buck drops back to his front feet, an antler that has become tangled in the branches can pop off.

Whitetail bucks that are strained from last autumn's rut, bed at the base

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15





NICK SIMONSON

Marshall, Minnesota The heart of pheasant country on the Dakota edge

arshall is uniquely positioned in the heart of southwestern Minnesota's pheasant range. Within a 30-mile radius of town are 40,000 acres of publicly accessible land, making it the perfect basecamp for pheasant hunters attracted to the fields of Lyon and Lincoln Counties. Hunters and their four-legged friends are welcome in the town's hotels and the community boasts many unique restaurants and other establishments to enjoy.

Those looking to explore the countryside in pursuit of ringneck pheasants, whitetail deer, wild turkeys, mallard ducks, Canada geese and other waterfowl will find them in Wildlife Management and Waterfowl Production Areas. Local conservation groups, such as Lyon County Pheasants Forever, the Buffalo Ridge Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Prairie Highlands

Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association have helped make thousands of acres available to the public.

The Marshall area is home to a great variety of game and non-game species that are attracted to its large and diverse habitat. Annual state prospect surveys for ringneck pheasants rank Marshall at the top year after year. With the support of outdoor sport enthusiasts, new public hunting grounds are continually added thanks to the efforts of groups like Lyon County Pheasants Forever, Buffalo Ridge Gobblers and Prairie Highlands.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and area Soil and Water Conservation District Offices have invested a substantial amount of work to enroll private land in Lyon and Lincoln Counties into Minnesota's Walk-In Access (WIA) Program. With the purchase of a WIA stamp, incredible hunting opportunities



are available throughout the region at Conservation Reserve Program areas and other private lands that harbor pheasants and other game for a fast day in the field.

For more information on Lyon and Lincoln County hunting opportunities, log on to <u>swmnhunting</u>. <u>com</u> or visit the Marshall Convention and Visitors Bureau at 118 West College Drive in Marshal.

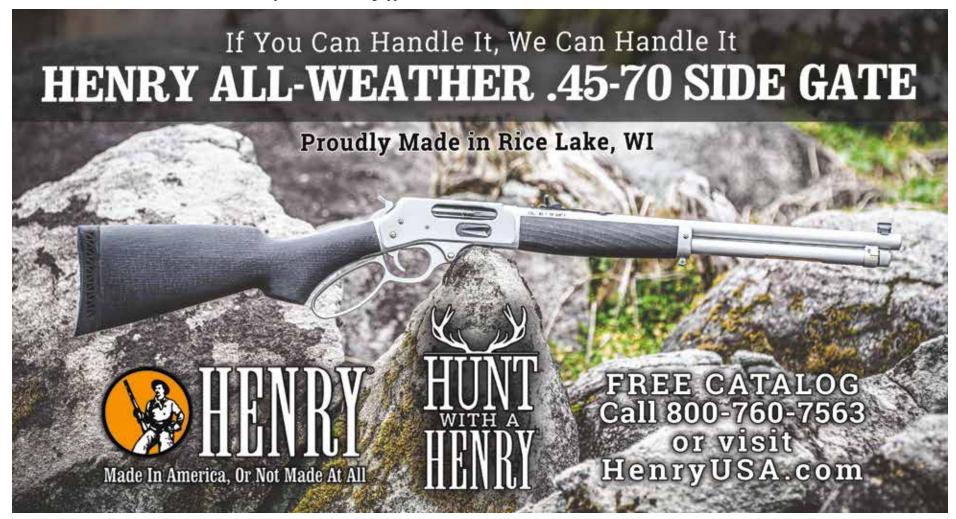
GHER, FROM PAGE 14

of southern-exposed hillsides in the warm sun, conserving as much energy as possible. Taking refuge at the base of a warm sunny hillside, versus a cold wind-swept hilltop or the cold shade of a north-facing hillside, just makes sense.

Areas that seem to coincide with all the others mentioned are known as "edges." Any noticeable edges between deer habitat that has a combination of food, water, seclusion, and exposure to warm daytime sun is best. Squirrels and other small rodents chew on shed antlers for their mineral content, such as calcium and phosphorus, and it also helps wear down their continuously growing teeth. If an antler is dropped in an area with a large rodent population, it can be chewed to bits in just a few weeks.

With a good pair of waterproof hiking boots, warm clothes, and some binoculars, you too can get out and enjoy Wisconsin's beautiful outdoors and collect some hidden treasures.

Ken resides in Sauk County and is an avid archery hunter, author, photographer and cyclist. Additional hobbies include flyfishing, hunting for morel mushrooms and woodworking.





Fox Valley Retriever Club

Training You To Train Your Retriever FOXVALLEYRETRIEVERCLUB.COM



TOM MUELLER

Obedience Training for Retrievers *Too much talking, not enough training*

hen running puppy and obedience training sessions for the Fox Valley Retriever Club, I often witness young dogs ignoring commands or not responding thoroughly or long enough. For example, an owner calls their dog to them and the dog either starts to come but gets distracted by something it smells and stops coming, or it completely ignores the command and just keeps sniffing.

Same thing with the "sit" command. The dog is told to sit, but shortly thereafter stands and starts walking around even if it's on a lead. Understandably, these are young dogs with short attention spans that are anywhere from three months to almost a year old. You can expect this to happen with a puppy that's three to four months old and is just starting its obedience training. With a dog that's six months to a year it shouldn't happen, nor should it be allowed to happen. Not

drilling on and perfecting a solid obedience response is just leaving the door open for sloppy obedience down the road when the dog is older.

One of the biggest flaws in any retriever owner's obedience training is that once the dog has learned the command, it's not sufficiently drilled to make the dog's response perfect. Any command is easy enough to teach, but often not drilled on long enough to solidly reinforce. A second flaw is repeating the command too many times. In the beginning, repeating any command is part of the training process, but once the pup or young dog has learned that command saying it once should be enough. Often at training sessions I observe dogs ignoring repeated commands. This primarily occurs with supposedly "thoroughly" trained young retrievers whose owners haven't adequately enforced commands nor taken the necessary

steps to enforce them at a training session. The result is a dog that habitually ignores or walks away from a command.

Teaching and training obedience to a puppy is probably the easiest part of training a retriever, but it's also the most boring. Ideally, teaching obedience should start right after you bring your pup home. Whenever you start, once you start you must work on it consistently day in and day out for months. You must never accept an ignored command. Never give a command you can't enforce. Finally, the puppy or young dog must always be on a lead so it can be corrected for a lack of response.

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

TOM CARPENTER

Too Short the Visit *The ephemeral wildflowers of spring*

Phemeral (noun): Something that lasts for a very short time.

On a warm April day, just before turkey season, the dog and I left a ridge in the Driftless Area after a few hours of hiking and gobbler scouting. The afternoon sunshine streamed onto the south-facing slope, and I was daydreaming about something - probably turkey hunting or trout fishing later that afternoon – when

I stopped in my tracks. There, right in the middle of the trail, a clump of the most elegant little white flowers you ever saw: the first woodland ephemerals of spring!

During a very short window in early spring, before the trees have even begun thinking about leafing out, spring ephemerals sprout from the warming soil. They quickly flower, set seed and (for the most part) retreat to let other forest-floor

plants and wildflowers, the ones that thrive better in full or dappled shade, take over.

Here are three wonderful woodland spring ephemerals to know.

Bloodwort

Bloodwort (sanguinaria canadensis) is one of the first ephemerals to emerge, yet I was quite surprised and pleased to spot an unexpected clump so early in April.







Certainly the slope's southern exposure - angled just right to let in the sun to warm the soil - helped. Bloodwort grows in loose clumps and colonies. The plants are generally under a foot tall, and usually more like six to eight inches. The flowers close at night, so midday is the best time to spot bloodwort, after the flowers have opened completely but haven't started closing toward evening. Bloodwort flowers offer the first tiny, emerging bees and insects of the year a chance at pollen. Bloodwort's minuscule seeds are spread by ants.

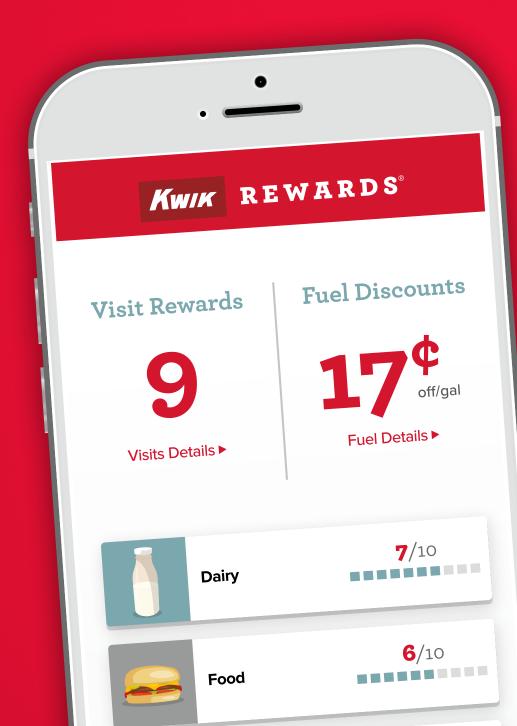
Rue Anemone

Later that same afternoon, as I scrambled up the bank from fishing a trout hole, I came face to face with a patch of



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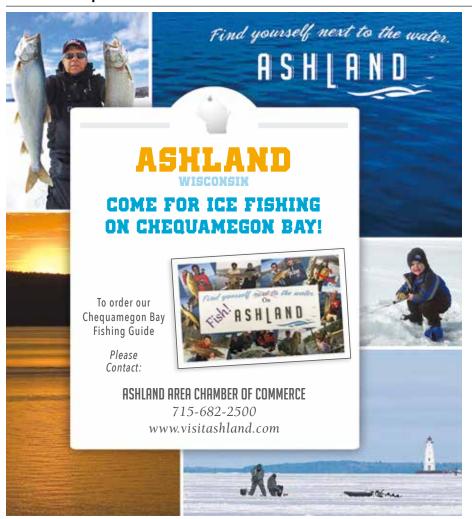


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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND

The Cure for Cabin Fever

pringtime in the Ashland area is beautiful. Fed by the spring thaw, the cascading waters of Copper Falls State Park, for example, are at their best. The park is open year-round for hiking and adventuring out.

Multiple species of birds are migrating home to Ashland and as the ice starts to leave Chequamegon Bay, it's time to get ready for smelting. The smelt spawning run is ultimately Mother Nature's call and water temperature is key! Typically, the



run lasts 12 - 14 days and occurs during the third week of April, or when the ice moves out of the bay.

Smelting enthusiasts can set up their campfires right on the shores of the Chequamegon Bay. Bring some firewood, food and beverages, waders, dip nets, and buckets and catch smelt along the south shore starting from Ashland and to Washburn.

Early in spring, there may be some ice on the bay so it's a good idea to check ice conditions by contacting a local bait shop, like Anglers All and River Rock Inn & Bait Shop

Tired of Cabin Fever? The AmericInn and Conference Center has an indoor water

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD

Spring into the Fundamentals of Fishing

Tgrew up on a lake in northwestern Wisconsin, so naturally fishing was a part of life. I fished as a kid with my parents and my grandpa with nothing more than a simple rod and push button reel and thought nothing of it. Fast forward to the mid-2000s when I started dating my now husband, who at the time was still dabbling in tournament bass fishing, my eyes were suddenly opened to the unbelievable variety of tactics available to catch fish.

Being rather overwhelmed the first time setting out in the boat for a day of angling, my patient teacher kept reminding me to "focus on the fundamentals." We started with the basics of tying a bait on using a Palomar knot, casting a spinning reel, properly presenting the bait to the fish, and finally a good hook set. After a few hours, I remember begging to learn how to cast with "the other reel," the elusive bait caster. With nerves of steel, my now extremely

patient teacher tightened down the tension on the reel and gave me a lesson, with the constant reminder to stop the line with my thumb, or the dreaded backlash would occur. I caught on rather quickly and enjoyed bettering my technique as our time on the water went on. What I really learned was that good fundamentals can make a difference in the number of fish you catch.

This time of year, when the snow is starting to melt and anglers are itching to get on the water, is a perfect time to brush up on your fundamentals or, better yet, get a young person interested in fishing even before it is time to get in the boat.

One of the easiest ways to practice casting fundamentals is to rig up a rod, tie on a bait, tape the hook with some duct tape for safety and start practicing. Use a bucket to practice precise flipping and pitching, practice roll casting from different angles, or if you are a complete beginner,

just work on gaining more distance and getting a smoother cast. The possibilities are endless.

In addition to casting, if you are working with a new angler, teach them how to tie some basic knots and rigging techniques. Again, practical application is great here, so tape off a hook for safety and start with the basics. A Palomar knot is an easy first-knot to master and can be used in a variety of applications. Tutorials can be found on the internet. Teach new anglers some of your favorite techniques. I, for instance, love to fish the drop shot technique for deep bass, but it is more than just tying on a hook. Share your knowledge so that the younger generation can get a jump start and feel empowered to handle their own tackle.

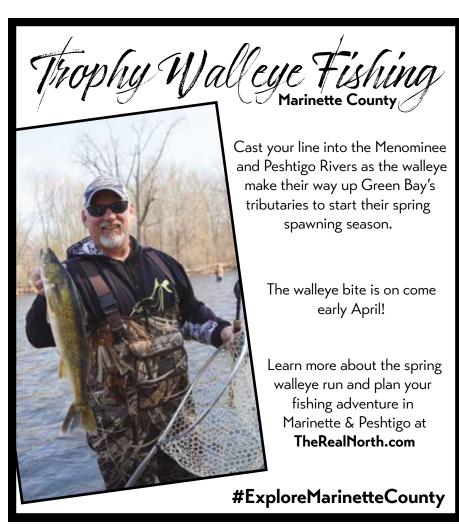
As we look toward open water fishing, I hope you will be inspired to get back to your fundamentals and pass them on.





Mindy Simons, Marketing Assistant for Hayward Lakes Visitor and Convention Bureau, with a beautiful largemouth bass that she caught and released.





Road America

The fans' choice for best NASCAR track

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

Not so at Road America. The course remains true to its 1950s roots. Located just outside the quiet village of Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, the racers mecca – in operation since 1955 – is one of the last proper road courses left in the United States and is more affectionately known the world over as America's National Park of Speed. In 2021 Road America was recognized as USA Today's Best NASCAR track in a fan poll, and once you set foot on the grounds, it is easy to see why.

Unlike most tracks, Road America guests are not limited to watching their favorite racers from a distance. You can visit the paddock and pits with a ticket, get an autograph, take a picture, and talk to the drivers and crews. It is one of the only facilities in North America where you can place a lawn chair and cooler beneath a shade tree and rest your feet in green grass



while watching world-class racing. If you want to get a different view, you can get up and move to many popular locations around the expansive 14 turns and several straight stretches comprising over four miles.

If you want to take a break from the action, you can do that too. Many vendors are offering exceptional food and beverages at reasonable prices. Feeling the need to take a walk and stretch your legs? Road America has more than 600 acres of rolling hills, trails, and grounds to explore. Not

unlike a national park, perhaps even more so, Road America is an excellent place to camp. Pop-ups, RVs, and tents are welcome. There are approximately 1,600 campsites (you'll need to pre-register) to select from, each with its attributes. Parking is FREE and plentiful, (except on Sunday of NASCAR), and there are ample restrooms and showers and lots of places to hike, eat, relax, and enjoy things to do, such as disc golfing, the Bank First Family Fun Zone (at select events), and go-karting.

Considering that Road America is one of

the world's most illustrious racing courses, one might think that admission price would be out of this world. Think again. Admission for a typical weekend event is about \$80 per person. Plus, kids 16 and under get FREE general admission to all Road America season racing events with a paying adult at the gate. Veterans and active military also receive FREE admission to select events. For tickets or to learn more about upcoming events at Road America, please visit Road America online at www. roadamerica.com or call 800-365-RACE (7223).

2022 Race Weekends

Road America's first race weekend will be May 20 - 22, when it hosts the SVRA Spring Vintage Festival.

Two-wheeled action takes to the track when the MotoAmerica Superbike Series & Vintage MotoFest comes to Road America June 3 - 5.

The NTT INDYCAR SERIES Sonsio Grand Prix presented by American Medical Response takes center stage June 9 - 12.

The WeatherTech® Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints® returns to the 4-mile circuit from June 17 - 19 - Road America's longestrunning annual sports car event.

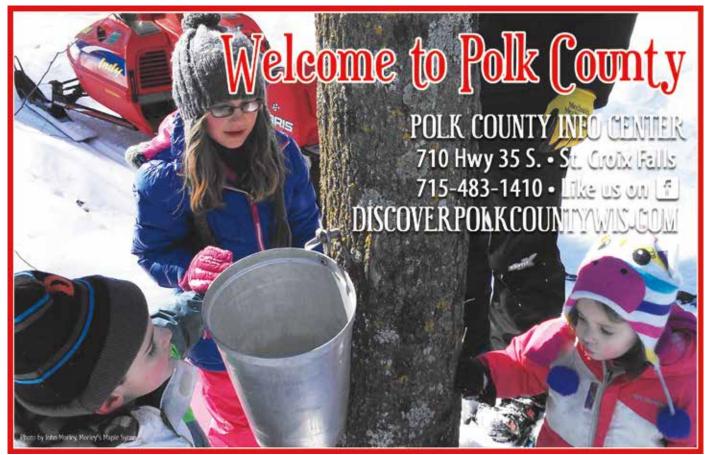
The NASCAR Cup Kwik Trip 250 presented by JOCKEY Made in America and NASCAR Xfinity Series Henry 180 roll into Road America June 30 - July 3, bringing intense door-to-door racing action to the nation's most intimidating road course.

A mid-summer classic, The WeatherTech* International Challenge with Brian Redman, takes place July 14 - 17 and has quickly grown to become one of the country's most significant vintage racing events.

August 4 - 7, the IMSA WeatherTech*
SportsCar Championship and IMSA
Michelin Pilot Challenge take over Road
America's four-mile circuit for what will be
one of the most incredible sports car racing
weekends in the world.

August 19 - 21, the SRO GT World Challenge returns to America's National Park of Speed.

September 16 - 18, the Ariens Art on Wheels Weekend featuring VSCDA will showcase several impressive vintage machines.





VOTED 2021 BEST NASCAR TRACK IN AMERICA BY USA TODAY READERS



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE

Epic Fishing Awaits

s spring approaches, so does open water fishing in the La Crosse Region! From the Mississippi River Pools to Lake Onalaska, the La Crosse River and beyond, epic fishing awaits – but don't just take our word for it! Jim Crowley, of Jim Crowley Outdoors on Wired2fish TV, visited last spring and his reviews are in!

Crowley has fished the Mississippi River from its most northern point all the way down to the mouth in Louisiana. However, Crowley had not fished in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area until last spring. When asked about his experience, Crowley replied "I've never seen a



Angling professional Jim Crowley of Jim Crowley Outdoors on Wired2fish TV caught plenty of fish and great scenery fishing the mighty Mississippi near La Crosse.

more beautiful stretch of river than pools 7,8,9 there in the La Crosse area. The scenery in some places is just breathtaking and the fishing was everything that we expected and more."

Visiting in early spring, Crowley focused mainly on the banks where the water was a bit deeper. Largemouth and smallmouth bass were the main targets and Crowley clued that "Finding rocks was the key." He noted, "in parts of pools 7 and 8 the water can be really clear from what you expect to see in a river system. Your spinning rods

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25





Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | SPOONER | WASHBURN COUNTY

Birding in the Spooner Area

e made it through the long winter and it's finally springtime in the Northwoods. Some may tell you that spring is a mythical season in Northwestern Wisconsin, but that couldn't be farther from the truth! Not even late March and April snow showers can deter outdoor enthusiasts from getting outside to bear witness to Mother Nature springing back to life.

Birding is a favorite pastime in the Spooner area. Many migrating birds return home here in the spring. Now is the perfect time to grab your binoculars and hit the trails. Finding a good spot where birds can find access to water and food increases your chances of spotting interesting species. With two rivers and almost 1,000 lakes county wide, your opportunities are abundant to try your hand - and eves - at birding.



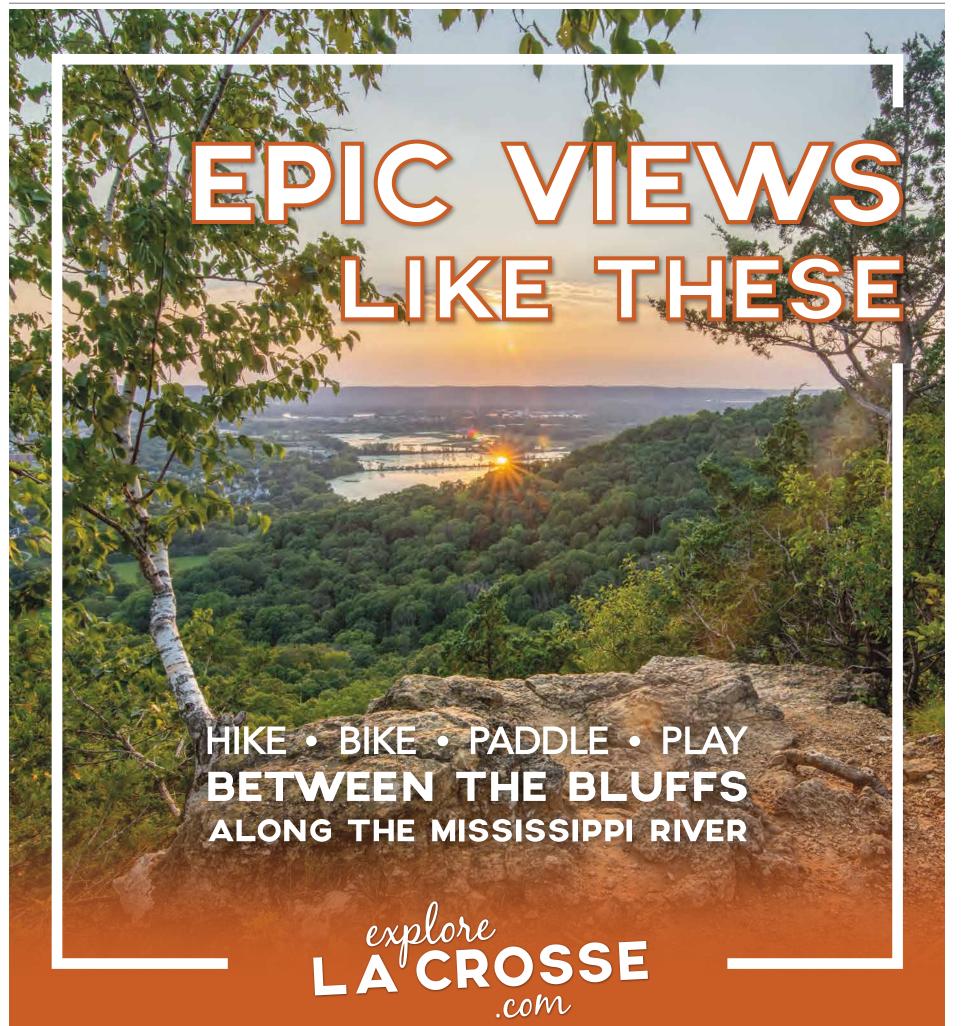
Located just southeast of Spooner in the Town of Sarona is Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary. This gorgeous 600-acre property has 13 miles of hiking trails and many unique habitats such as bogs, old growth forest, meadows, and views of four different glacial lakes. Now is also the best time to try and catch sight of the many different waterfowl birds beginning to migrate back to our area as well as the emblematic bald eagle.

Wisconsin's Moving National Park, the Namekagon River, is also located in the Spooner area. Along the shores of the thawing Namekagon, you'll have seemingly endless opportunities to spot various species of birds. The Namekagon Barrens, a spectacular 6,428-acre property, is home to the largest population of sharp-tailed grouse in Wisconsin. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to spot some of the males dancing in their attempt to attract a female during their mating season that runs from March through May

You don't have to travel outside the City of Spooner to go birding. Veterans Memorial Waterfront Park is located on the shores of the Yellow River Flowage and provides ample opportunities for bird watching. College Street/Spooner City Park also has winding trails through the woods where you can spot many different birds. The park has a great picnic shelter to enjoy a nice rest or lunch with friends and fellow park goers.

Now is the time to get back outside and breathe in the fresh air, and there couldn't be a better place to explore the many different habitats and abundance of wildlife than in the Spooner area! Plan your trip today at www.spoonerchamber.org.





JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER

All Is Not Well

Our one year journey from riches to rags

e are in serious trouble and we all know it. Politicians pretend all is well because of the potential political consequences, but that dog won't hunt.

Things were humming in 2020. We had the lowest unemployment ever for all groups, less regulation, lower taxes, improved trade agreements, energy independence, allies paying their share, and secure borders. The government was out of our way and we were living free.

Elections have consequences. We now have soaring inflation; open borders, inviting more than 2 million illegal entries into our country along with drugs that now kill more Americans between 18 and 45 than any other cause; government mandates; soaring crime; closed schools; and increased dependence on government.

We're fed the lie that the pandemic caused these problems. Really? Incompetence, dishonesty and a political agenda to grow government have brought us where we are today.

Career politicians from both parties point fingers and jockey for position, eyeing the next election. I entered the race for governor as an Independent to keep the government in check and protect our Godgiven rights guaranteed in the constitution.

I've traveled all of Wisconsin non-stop since last April and I've heard you loudly and clearly. Threats to our freedom concern you most. Protecting our freedom is my top priority and I will use every means available to me as the governor of Wisconsin.

Election Integrity

There is no freedom without election integrity. Election integrity is not voter suppression. The legitimacy of the 2020 election is in serious doubt because the Democrats, aided by a corrupt media, want nothing to do with seriously evaluating what happened. The Republicans, who controlled the legislature, did nothing to address the egregious violations of laws that occurred under the guise of the pandemic. We are told to move on, yet this remains the top concern of most people I meet.

Going forward, the unelected Wisconsin Election Commission should be dismantled and the full accountability for Wisconsin elections returned to the state legislature. We will demand that every aspect of the process be clearly defined and tightly controlled. Democracy in the Park, drop boxes, indefinitely confined, ballot curing, outside funding from politically interested groups, early voting, absentee voting, and ballot harvesting only scratch the surface. If the legislature doesn't do a good job, you can fire them. They work for you.

Vibrant Economy

Wisconsin's financial security is vital to our freedom. \$20 billion in "COVID relief" flowed into our state; we have no idea where it is. The state owes it to us to operate as responsibly as we must in our personal lives. You won't be surprised to learn that the state's budgeting process leaves ample room for padding, and the state doesn't use the same accounting principles required of all other businesses. This allows for game playing in reporting our state's financial

health. I was responsible for a \$200 million budget as a hospital administrator. We will budget responsibly and report our financial picture accurately to the people.

Businesses that operate with integrity and contribute to our quality of life fuel our economy. Our state must be a place where businesses of all types and sizes can thrive, unburdened by unnecessary regulation and taxation. They must provide work environments that respect our rights and where dreams are realized. I will engage with business leaders to make Wisconsin a workforce magnet.

Effective Schools

Taxpayers fund our schools through 12th grade to produce critical thinkers and young adults with the mastery of the fundamentals required to be self-sufficient. Proficiency in reading, writing, math and science are the appropriate measures of success. We are failing miserably. I will not prop up ineffective schools. Parents need choices and any public, private or home school setting that can produce the required outcomes should be eligible for state funding. Competition fuels excellence. Poor performers won't survive.

Safe Communities

We aren't free if we are in danger in our own communities. Crime is soaring as lawlessness is tolerated. Despite the latest lie being pitched, the criminals are not the victims. I will support whatever is necessary to stop the crime. We will protect the public from dangerous, hardened criminals and support and encourage people who made a serious mistake to become productive





citizens

This election will not be determined by the traditional gatekeepers. The stranglehold of the parties and the media on our political process must end. You will decide this election. Together we will win in November. Please go to Beglingerforgovernor.com and join us in taking back our state.

Want to learn more about Joan?

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



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | POLK COUNTY

Sugarmakers are Busy

Polk County sugarmakers are busy in March gathering, cooking and preparing bottles of fresh maple syrup. This is great news for your pancakes and a wonderful time to visit Polk County's maple syrup producers.

Many of the sugarmakers, the age-old term for syrup producers, will be offering tours of their facilities and sugar bush, the woods where the maple trees grow. While on tour, you will learn how maple sap is transformed into delicious maple syrup. The journey

starts from a tapped tree to container to processing (boiling and evaporating) to filtering, grading and finally into a bottle destined for your kitchen.

Of course there will be maple syrup samples and more during the tours. For additional information and maps, contact the Polk County Information Center and the Northwest Wisconsin Maple Farm Tour Facebook page for tour dates and events.



MARINETTE, FROM PAGE 18

park and many year-round outdoor activities to enjoy, including bike riding on the waterfront trail. A stay at the AmericInn includes bonfires to watch and complimentary s'mores to munch.

Ashland is home to a variety of unique and fun independently owned pizzerias and restaurants that are family- and kidfriendly. Shopping on main street and checking out the murals is another activity to add to your Ashland visit agenda.

Discover more about the Ashland area and its many activities at www.visitashland.com

UNDER THE HOOD WITH BRAD

1940 Buick Special Coupe *Building the Dash*

In my last article I discussed the need to install gauges to monitor initial engine startup. Rather than just temporarily hanging them under the dashboard I figured it would make sense to redo the dashboard and get it over with.

Until the mid-1950s cars had 6-Volt electrical systems, switching to 12-Volt around 1953/54, so the entire electrical system had to be upgraded.

Since I want to keep the car as original looking as possible, retaining the existing dashboard (fig-1) look was important.

The factory dash had three gauges with a partially raised curve shape stamped around the bottom of each. To retain the look, I fabricated a 1/8" steel panel big enough to house new gauges and still retain the factory dash pattern (fig-2).

I purchased new gauges that have an old timey feel and new indicator lights. Once I came up with a layout the panel was cut and tack welded from the back side so no fasteners would be visible (fig-3). The gauges were arranged with the most important, water and oil, on top to be most visible with fuel and voltage under them. The speedometer, which is basically irrelevant and overrated in my opinion, wound up in the middle by default.

I still have to fabricate a small panel under the radio speaker to hold lights, heater and wiper switches in the future, as well as paint the whole dash one color.

Given the 454 cubic inch engine installed.. I am also designing a small spring system on the gas gauge to keep it on the full side longer.







LA CROSSE, FROM PAGE 22

and lighter line can really come into play. The more you get into summer, with more grass and more weeds, your heavier casting equipment is going to be best." Frogs are also recommended to help increase the excitement on your next fishing trip. Crowley assured that whenever he comes to La Crosse, unless there's ice on the water, he will definitely have a frog in his tackle box!

Jim Crowley shared a stellar anecdote from his trip as he claims "In 45 years of bass fishing, I have never seen something like this." He painted a wonderful image of how, while he was unhooking the smallest catch of the day, he noticed a mouse still in the mouth of the fish! He was surprised to see just how ferocious the fish in the Mississippi can be. "If you are on your first trip, chances are you won't see all of it. La Crosse is centered perfectly, whether you are from the Chicagoland area or from farther north, it is a great destination that doesn't take very long to get to with so much to offer."

For more La Crosse Region Fishing Tips: ExploreLaCrosse.com | HookandHuntTV.com



GREATLAKESDRAGAWAY.COM



RON STRESING

Shooting Straight *Gear up now for summer trap leagues*

pril in Wisconsin signals the start of 20-week summer trapshooting leagues. Joining a summer league is an excellent way to improve your shooting, track your progress, and have fun while competing with friends. I shot summer trap league at various gun clubs for over 35 years and enjoyed every moment of it.

Trap shooting is an educational experience. I recall one novice shooter who was the safety director where I worked. He wanted to improve his wing shooting skills and joined our summer league team. Randy, who said he "had trouble hitting his plate with a fork", improved steadily. He went from early rounds of 13 and 14 birds to shooting 22 or 23 consistently by the end. Our team took home trophies in our division that year, in large part thanks to Randy and his improved scores.

Summer leagues generally start in mid-April and run 20 weeks. The 20 weeks of shooting means 500 targets, so a shooter will need at least 20 boxes of shotgun shells, plus whatever shells used for practice rounds. For shooters who don't reload, most of the "big box" sporting goods stores often run specials on cases of shells in spring. Which is a good thing. In 2021 shotgun shells were 25 - 30 percent more than previous years. The price of loading components, if you could find them, have risen at the same rate.

The Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) sets limits on the shot charge and velocity of shells that can be used. Most shooters rely on 1 1/8 ounces of 7 ½ or 8 shot traveling from 1,150 – 1,200 fps (feet per second). That's the basic load, but I suggest trying different brands and loads until you discover the combination that patterns best out of your trap gun. I use lower cost one ounce loads for informal practice rounds.

Most trap shooters use 12 gauge dedicated trap singles or over/under shotguns made to withstand the pounding of thousands of rounds shot for league and practice. Trap specific semi-auto guns like the SKB RS300 and RS400 have adjustable stocks, are reliable, and help soak up recoil. Back when I started trapshooting, I tried using the same gun I duck hunted with. Two blown ejectors later, I wised up and bought an SKB Century I trap single. I later moved on to an over/under with an adjustable stock and went on to shoot my personal best scores of 98 /100 and 99/100 with it. SKB makes adjustable stocked models of the Century III trap single and dedicated 90TSS trap over/under. Shotguns with adjustable stocks allow the shooter to fine tune the fit of the gun to them. This was a BIG advantage for me. I know it helped me to shoot much improved scores for both 16 yard and handicap (added yardage) shooting. An adjustable





Non-reloadable shells like the white box run \$3-\$4 per box less than reloadable ones like the famous AA.



Trap vest, hearing and eye protection

stocked gun would also make sense for a growing high school trapshooter.

Finally, for your personal protection and safety, trap leagues require eye and ear protection. My advice is to buy the best you can afford.

Summer leagues are an excellent way to improve your shooting, track your progress, and have fun while competing with friends. Now is the time to join one.



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | BURNETTE COUNTY

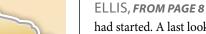
A True Getaway

Tust 1.5 hours from the Twin Cities, nestled comfortably within a landscape of winding riverways, soaring pines and incredible wetlands, you'll find Burnett County, Wisconsin.

Boasting over 500 pristine lakes and nearly 80 miles of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Burnett County is a haven for water enthusiasts of all types. From canoeing to swimming, fishing and ice fishing, memorable moments on our waters are yours for the taking year-round.

But the fun doesn't stop where the water meets the shoreline. Our natural spaces are second to none – enjoy a leisurely hike, bike ride or auto tour on one of our many scenic trailways or take advantage of over 50,000 acres of wildlife areas, including our very own wetlands gem, Crex Meadows.

A true getaway for outdoor enthusiasts, Burnett County is your premier northwest Wisconsin destination.



had started. A last look into the Olig mansion...or shack if you prefer...and an inquiry to Chris Olig on just how he had built the thing.

"Anyone who fishes hardwater is either using a portable or has a permanent ice shack," said Chris, who today serves LiUNA Laborers Local 113 as Business Representative in 6 southeast counties after working more than two decades as a mason tender. "Those that don't, wish they did. I owned a utility trailer and decided I needed a 'portable-permanent' shack. I built the shack to fit my ATV in making it easier to haul gear on and off the lakes. I have teased my wife, Tina Marie calling this project 'The Mistress'. But since she fishes with me I think we'll call it the 'We Shed'. The whole project cost about \$700 and most of that was in wheels, windows,

and lumber. It works great and I don't have to haul gear in and out of my truck anymore."

Leave it to a tradesman.

"The union trades are part of a family," he said. "Laborers and unions in general create very important careers. Everyone likes to flip the switch and have the lights go on and the plumbing work when you use the bathroom. Today, laborers can make \$35.00-plus per hour, with a benefits package worth \$56.25 per hour. This includes a health insurance package with vison and dental worth \$8.95 per hour that allows the trades professional to properly take care of himself and his family. And LiUNA is the backbone. Nothing gets done without the laborers."

Connect with **www.liuna113.org** for more information.

CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 16



the most delicate little low-to-the-ground pink flowers you ever saw: rue anemone (thalictrum thalictroides). This wonderful little woodland perennial grows at most to nine inches tall, but usually tops out at six inches or less. The blossoms can be pink or white, but I have also seen them trend toward lavender or even blue. Rue anemone isn't quite as ephemeral as other spring flowers, and it will often keep blooming into May.

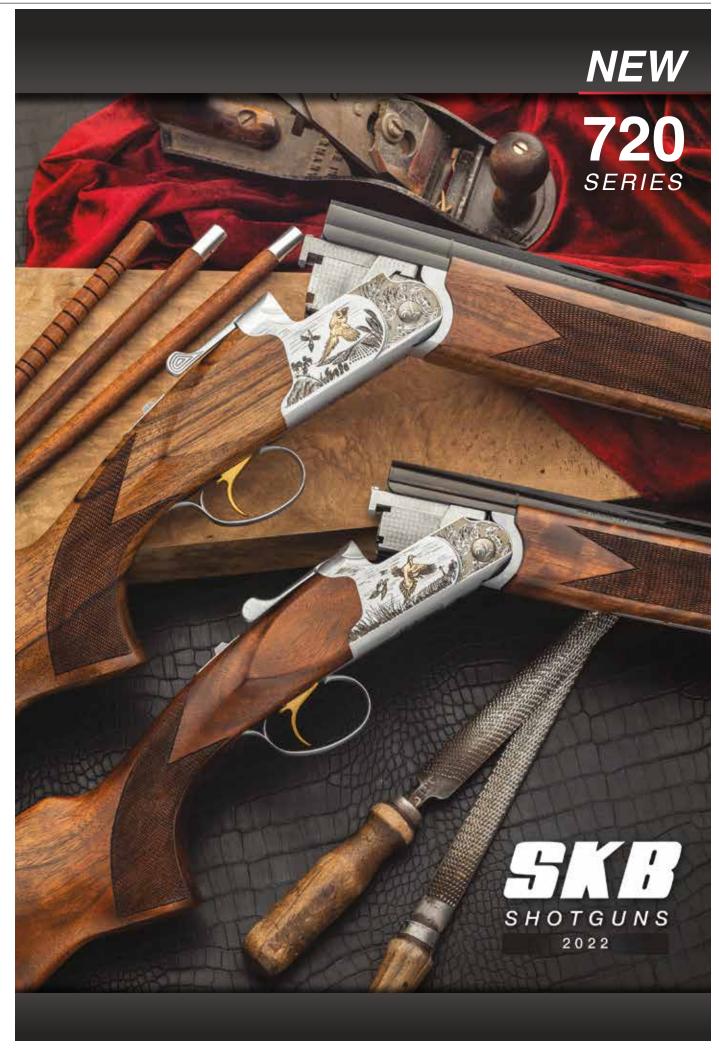
Dutchman's Breeches



I didn't find any Dutchman's breeches on that particular spring turkey-scoutand-trout day, but a couple weeks later, in the same countryside, the Dutchman's breeches (dicentra cucullaria) were blooming. The odd name is an apt description of the white, puffy-looking flowers, which look like an upside-down pair of pantaloons. The flowers line themselves up in a row along a branch of the plant, and wilt to the touch. The foliage is almost fern-like. Dutchman's breeches' blooms are important nectar sources for the year's first returning and emerging bumblebees.

The gobbling of a turkey makes my breath come short. The tug of a trout makes my hands shake. But the sight of spring's ephemeral flowers on a forest floor overflows my heart with joy.

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





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STUART WILKE

Unintended Consequences

The Mouse Gun ban didn't quite go according to plan

oday's Mouse Guns were yesterday's scourge upon humanity. "Mouse Guns" are defined as minuscule, lightweight, .22 rimfire, .25 ACP, or other small caliber, semi-automatic pocket pistols. Invented by firearms legend John M. Browning, the first of the type was the FN 1905 followed shortly after by the very similar Colt .25 1908 Vest Pocket. Pocket pistols were, as their name implies, designed to fit in a pocket.

Pocket pistols at the turn of the Twentieth Century proved to extremely popular and financially lucrative. Inexpensive copies from Europe soon flooded the American market. Browning also invented the .25 ACP pocket pistol cartridge. Attempts to make a reliable semi-auto pistol in the already existing .22 rimfire cartridge proved largely unsuccessful because of wild inconsistencies in the ammunition's case dimensions. Browning's centerfire .25 ACP cartridge could be made to tighter and consistent tolerances and therefore were far more reliable.

Small caliber mouse, pocket, or "deep carry" pistols, whatever you want to call them, may not be optimal for self defense purposes. A .25 ACP will reach in the neighborhood of 60 foot pounds of energy at 900 feet per second when fired through a short barrel. In comparison, common 9mm ammunition produces about 300 foot pounds per energy at 1,000 feet per second.

Some research indicates that simply

brandishing a handgun can deter an assailant. Anecdotal "evidence" abounds with stories of .25 caliber bullet recipients absorbing multiple rounds unscathed, only to turn around and assault their opponent. Anyone with a modicum of commonsense won't gamble on the lethality of a .25. Shot placement is a far more reliable determinant in stopping an attacker than the caliber preferences of a basement dwelling internet warrior.

Supposedly most gunfire exchanges occur at ranges of seven yards or less. At that distance, a hand held howitzer is not necessarily needed to stop an assailant. A .25 placed center of mass will probably do and one to the head, which should be possible with some training and practice at such a short distance, will almost assuredly do. Despite their small size, plenty of thunder and lightning emits from the muzzle of a .25 pocket pistol, which might alone be enough to persuade an assailant to flee.

Mouse guns are derided as ineffectual self defense tools by many of today's so-called, self-defense experts. That was by no means the case 50 years ago when Congress effectively outlawed their importation due to their easy concealability, low cost, perceived lethality and use in criminality. In an obvious attempt to appear to be "doing something" in response to the assassination of civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President John F. Kennedy and

his brother Bobby, imported mouse guns, then popularly known as "Saturday Night Specials" due to their perceived proclivity in weekend crime, were outlawed. What wasn't considered was that the vast majority of people who bought inexpensive pocket pistols were those farther down the income ladder who couldn't afford more expensive guns for self defense.

While the importation of the guns was prohibited, nothing in the the law prevented shipping their parts to the states, with the exception of their frames.

Gunmakers, being crafty capitalists, discovered this legal loophole practically, if not actually, overnight. In short order, boatloads of parts from Europe were arriving in US ports to be assembled stateside on domestically made frames.



So-called "Saturday Night Specials," like this .25 ACP Baby Browning, were banned from importation in 1968 simply because of their size.

Later the void was filled by American manufacturers of truly cruddy models, characterized by poor designs, sloppy tolerances and questionable metallurgy. Often unsafe and reliably unreliable, it wasn't long before they were extinct.

What replaced them? Larger, low cost, higher power and more reliably lethal handguns.

Sometimes "doing something" has unintended consequences.

A Place for All Seasons

Join us year round in the heart of Wisconsin Driftless Region and experience our breath-taking bluffs on the majestic Mississippi River

May 7

International Spring Bird Migration Hike

Sugar Creek Bluff Meet at Trailhead at Sugar Creek Bluff Natural Area at 7:00am for treats and information.

May 20-21

Rummage Along the River

8AM - 4PM • 70 mile garage sale full of antiques and bargains. Hwy 35 -Stoddard, Genoa, Bad Axe Neighborhood, Victory, De Soto, Ferryville, Lynxville, Seneca, Mt. Sterling, WI

May 21

Ferryville Farmers Market

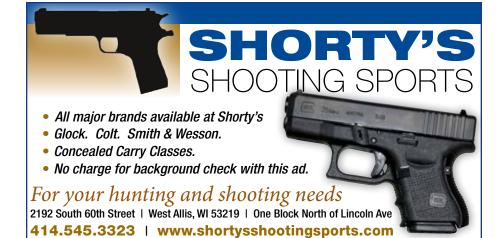
Every Saturday thru October 29th Sugar Creek Park, Hwy 35.





CONTACT
PO Box 236, Ferryville, WI 54628
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VISITFERRYVILLE.COM



Explore Wisconsin SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

A Place for All Seasons

erryville will soon be filled with the wondrous sights and sounds of spring. May and June are a great time to visit us here on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in the heart of the Driftless Area. Enjoy fishing season opening day angling from a boat or on shore. Ferryville's lakes abound with sunfish, walleyes, bass and more. Need bait? No problem! Find it at Cheapo Depot and get what you need. Low on snacks? Check out Ferryville Cheese, Swing Inn or The Wooden Nickel for food and beverages.

Rent a vacation place during Mother's Day weekend. There are lots of options, including cabins, camping grounds and hotel rooms. Take a look of them at www. visitferryville.com. Meet and hike with folks who know birds and bird calls at 7:30 AM on May 7, 2022, at the Sugar Creek Bluff Bird Migration Day. You'll be on the Mississippi River Flyway, so you're virtually guaranteed to see rare birds traveling north where they will nest, lay eggs and raise

their young. Swans, pelicans and warblers will be among our many feathered friends making the trip. Binoculars are highly recommended to see them up close and personal.

If you're looking for bargains, you won't want to miss the 70 miles of garage sales taking place during "Rummage Along the River." The route spans Hwy 35, "The All-Amercan Great River Road," from Stoddard to Lynxville, and features Seneca and Mt. Sterling up on the Hwy 27 ridge road. This event will take place on May 20 and 21, 2022, from 8 AM to 4 PM each day. Book your vacation rental or motel now. Rooms fill up fast during this very popular event. Go to www.rummagealongtheriver.com for more information

Farmers' Market takes place in Ferryville every Saturday from May 21 – October 29 at Sugar Creek Park, Hwy 35. Vendors sell local seasonal produce, canned fruits and vegetables, home made breads, cinnamon

rolls, cookies, pies, craft designer soaps, Yard Art by Hurda Kountry Krafts, Amish quilts, baskets, and furniture. Bring a supersize shopping bag - you will need it!

Plan on a great time and make memories in Ferryville - A Place for All Seasons.

Sherry Quamme is Ferryville Tourism Council Treasurer





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SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY

Springtime in the North Country Blends the Best of Two Seasons

pringtime outdoor activities are wide and varied in Hurley, even when the weather is more like wintertime. Technically, March 21 is the first day of spring, but that doesn't mean there won't be snow on the ground or ice on Hurley's many inland lakes, making icefishing still possible. Be safe and make some inquiries at the local bait shops regarding ice conditions. If there are any doubts, give fishing a try from the shores of the Montreal River.

Snowmobiling continues in Iron County as long as the trails allow. Trail conditions are updated as needed and can be checked on our www.hurleywi.com website. Iron County



Spring kayak on the Gile Flowage. Photo credit: Paul S.



Tiny creek off County A, Saxon Wisconsin. Photo credit: Snowbelt Angling

does allow ATV and UTVs to have trail access as long as the temperatures are BELOW 32 degrees. Again, our website is your best resource for information.

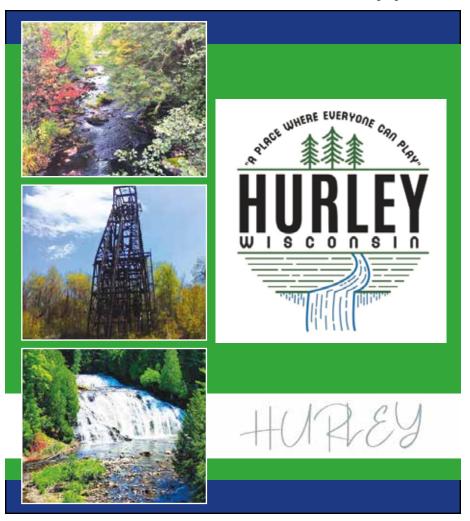
The spring thaw fills our rivers and makes for the best waterfall viewing of the year. There are 19 waterfalls in and around Hurley and most are located in remote, wild areas, unspoiled by crowds. Some can be driven to while others require walking and a little bit of orienteering to find. All are worth the trip. To request a guide, call our office at 715-561-4334.

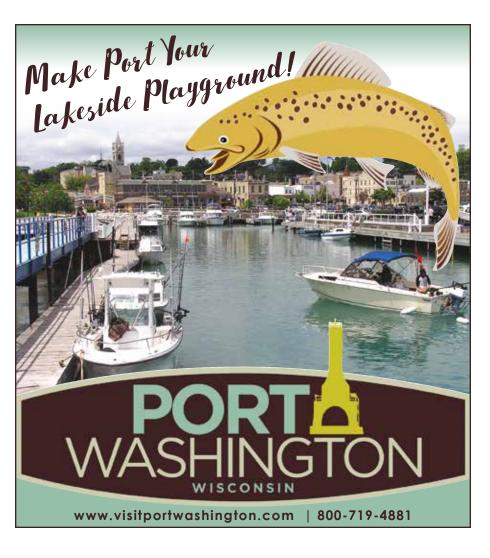
Memorial Day ATV/UTV Rally, Thursday, May 26 through Sunday, May 29

Come to Hurley for the LARGEST parade of ATV/UTVs you've ever seen. Ride the trails. Participate in the Poker Run and other events. Attempt the INFAMOUS Mud Pit. Registration and details at www.hurleywi.com

Paavo Nurmi Marathon, Saturday, August 13

Named after the famed Olympian and in recognition of the area's Finnish heritage, this event on the Gogebic-Iron range is a testament to the pride, strength and dedication of both runners and volunteers. The Paavo has HEART! Our volunteers truly love the runners and their families and have made them feel like they really belong among us. That is undoubtedly why the Paavo Nurmi Marathon is the area's longest running event of any kind.





JACOB QUIGLEY

The Tomahawk River Rapids, music & motorcycles

Put in: Swamp Lake Road, Tomahawk Take out: Prairie Rapids Tavern, Tomahawk

ne of my favorite 2021 kayak trips took place on a warm Saturday morning in September during Tomahawk's annual Fall Ride motorcycle rally. The trip began when I met up with about a dozen members of the Central Wisconsin Fun and Adventure Club. Our plan was to spend a day on the water followed later by food and drinks while surrounded by music and motorcycles.

The Tomahawk River had a nice current from recent thunderstorms to push us along its winding path. The Tomahawk is the largest tributary to the Wisconsin River in terms of flow, which is why many locals call it the "Little Wisconsin." Surrounded by wilderness with only a few houses along the way, the trip provided a feeling of seclusion. After a few pit stops and many stories and laughs along the way, we approached the most exciting part of the trip.

From the distance, we could hear roaring water as we came to the first set of rapids, a Class One rapid, which would become a Class Two thanks to an escalating rate of water flowage. We quickly buckled our life jackets and prepared to make a sharp turn straight into an adrenaline

rush. The Class One set of rapids only increased our anticipation of the Class Two set quickly approaching.

The approximate 100 yards distance between the first and second class rapids blew by. I rushed straight through, paddling quickly as I navigated the boulder gardens. We all cheered as our entire group made it through...this time... feeling like we had at least temporarily bested the river and ready for more challenges.

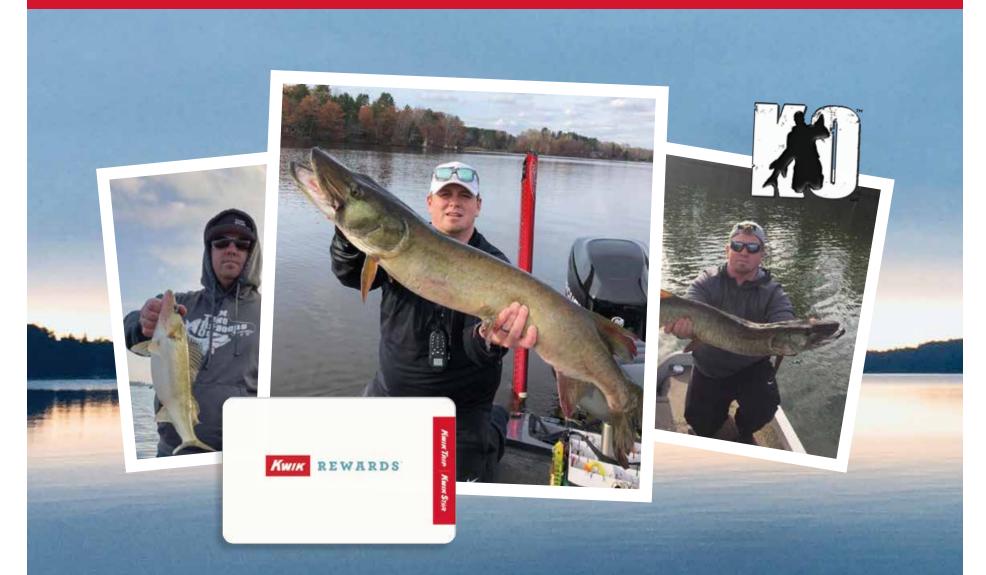
Shortly after our rush through the rapids, we approached our take out point surrounded by gorgeous fall colors, great weather, and great company. It was a perfect day. After being soaked by the rapids, we emptied our kayaks of water and changed into dry clothes. Afterwards we made our way to Downtown Tomahawk where we enjoyed great music and food from local vendors.

My 2021 trip has left me with great memories and a need to return to the Tomahawk come September. In 2022 though, I'll be attacking the Tomahawk with a new kayak and I'm really looking forward to putting my new toy through the paces. I hope you ride with me through the pages of *OWO* and our many kayaking adventures to come this season.

Better yet, I hope to see you on the river. Shall we say, Class Two, Anywhere, Wisconsin?







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