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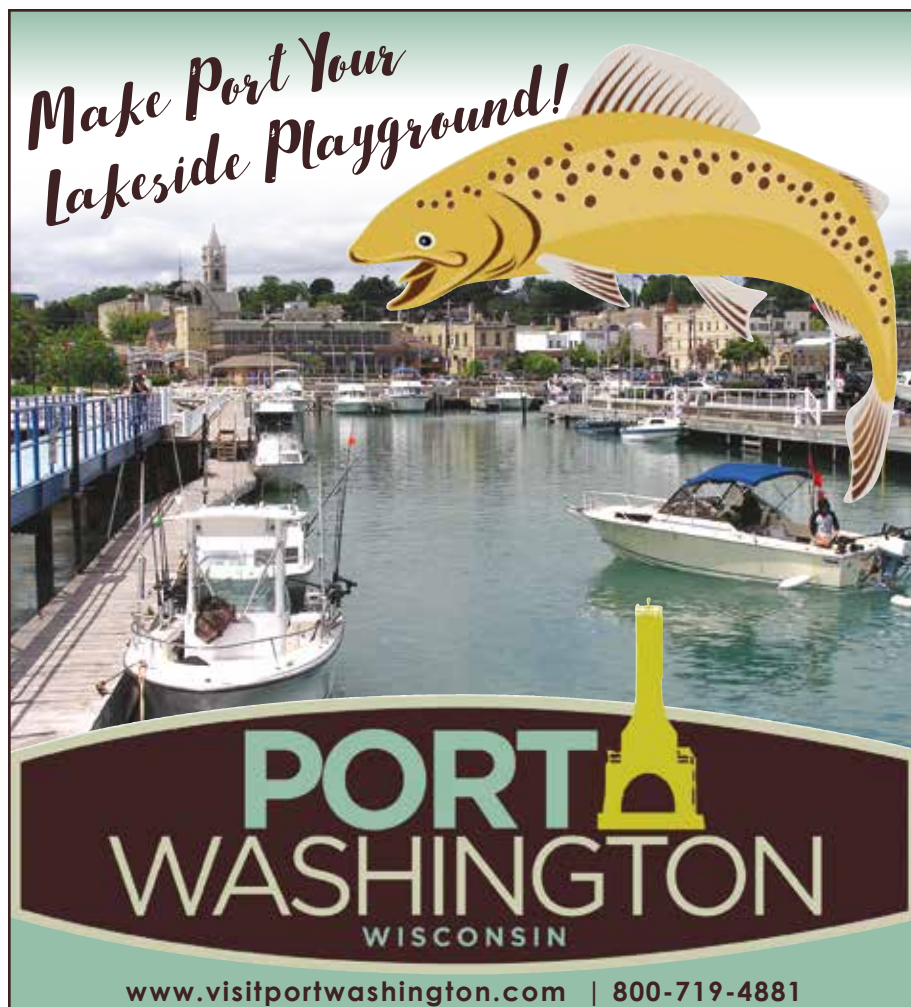
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TOM LUBA

Starting Shallow *Targeting spring largemouth*

The season for actually keeping largemouth bass caught in Wisconsin starts on the first Saturday in May. If you want the best chance to catch your biggest bass of the season, start opening on a shallow lake.

Shallow lakes warm quicker than large ones, and once warming starts, bass will be moving toward spawning areas. Tracking water temperature can pay dividends now. Combining warming water with a hard bottom can point you to the right areas. They become a lot more attractive when cover, like weeds, laydowns or rocks that bass can nest near is available.

Even if the shallows aren't quite ready, staging females may be fairly close. I have seen males in shallow waters and larger females holding on clumps of weeds only a foot or so deeper waiting patiently. Since the spawn happens sooner on shallow waters, staying on top of the weather to locate fish is key.

A spinnerbait is a good search bait. Twin willow blades create flash and call fish in, as can a bait with a single, larger Colorado blade. A chatterbait-type blade bait also produces fish-calling vibration with its wobble. I go with silver blades and a grub or boot tail trailer. On a twin willow blade, I like a larger silver blade teamed with a smaller gold one.

If blades aren't working, I look at a one-quarter ounce jig, black and blue, tipped with a Berkley PowerBait MaxScent, black, Power Chunk. The MaxScent allows the scent to disperse from the bait into the water to draw attention. Flip it tight to laydowns and cover. Using a Strike King Structure Jig, which has a 180 degree eye coming out the front of the jig is a good choice. Teamed with a fiber weed guard, it slides through weeds fairly easy. The inline eye also works in wood and rock and as a swim jig to cover water quicker, especially if the bass aren't interested in a spinnerbait.

The other lure I have on deck is a five-inch plastic stick worm. I work this through the same areas as the jig, but it also draws fish deadsticked on bottom, especially when cold fronts intrude. I like the MaxScent General, black with blue flake, to deadstick for the same reasons I



Spring offers the opportunity to catch your biggest bass of the year.


use the Power Chunk. It disperses scent to get the fish's attention.

I like to toss the stick worm into pockets in the weeds. Last season, when the jig bite stopped cold one day, I found several keepers that hadn't come shallow yet, spread out over a small weed area near a spawning site. The easy sway of a weightless stick worm on a 3/0 Gamakatsu round bend hook sinking in the openings popped several bass.

We know spring is lunker time. But once the water gets near 60 degrees, be advised, the big fish can be there and gone pretty quick.

While you're hunting, move carefully. Though the shallows hold your chance at a hawg, undue noise, including overusing the trolling motor, can spook fish. Making longer casts when possible can also increase your odds of hooking up.

It helps to know how your baits feel when retrieved through the water column. Bass pickups can be incredibly soft. So, be ready to set the hook if you feel anything at all different.

Pulling together the package of prevailing weather, bait sensitivity, angler stealth and casting distance during the Spring window can lead to some very successful outings. 

Tom Luba loves bass fishing and tries to be on the water as often as he can when the fish are biting.

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PHIL SCHWEIK

Staying Versatile

Locating post-spawn fish

Come June, many anglers find themselves spending hours on locations where they found much success during spawning season but are now no longer productive. They often chalk it up to just a bad day of fishing. That isn't the problem. The fish went somewhere and the trick now is to find them.

People get way too caught up in going back to the same spot that they caught fish the last time. If the spot you're at isn't producing, move to another location. There are plenty of other places to fish and some can be real sleepers. Technology can help you find those places and wake them up.

Modern fish locators have made it increasingly easier to find fish. In addition to locating fish, they are available with a multitude of features, including the ability to chart courses, read depths and temperatures, display side and 360 degree images, and identify underwater terrain. I normally begin my day checking weather and water conditions, such as flow and clarity. Once determined, I target locations where I caught fish under similar conditions. I then use the locator to find submerged structure where I believe that fish can be found during this time of the year.

Walleyes, bass and panfish all have similar instincts when it comes to early summer patterns. I like to find structure - preferably wood, but rocks can be good at times - in four to 10 feet of water. Once I find what I am looking for, I mark those locations on my mapping screen and position my boat in an optimal area to cast bait and target structure.

When targeting structure, I like to run a simple 1/16 to 1/8 ounce lead head jig that has been tipped with either a minnow or a crawler. Sometimes plastics work even better. As far as presentation, I like to cast right into the structure and let the jig sink. I then slowly work the jig out of the structure and back to the boat, feeling for a strike. I often run slip bobbbers over the structure and target suspending fish that may be lurking off the bottom. I will work an area for five to 10 minutes. By then I have a pretty good idea if fish are there or not. If they are, I will stay and pick it apart, and if not, I am off to another location.

Technology and versatility are always key to finding and catching fish. This is especially so in the early summer months as we look for where the fish have gone after they are done spawning.

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Alice Westphal with a nice walleye.

On Wisconsin
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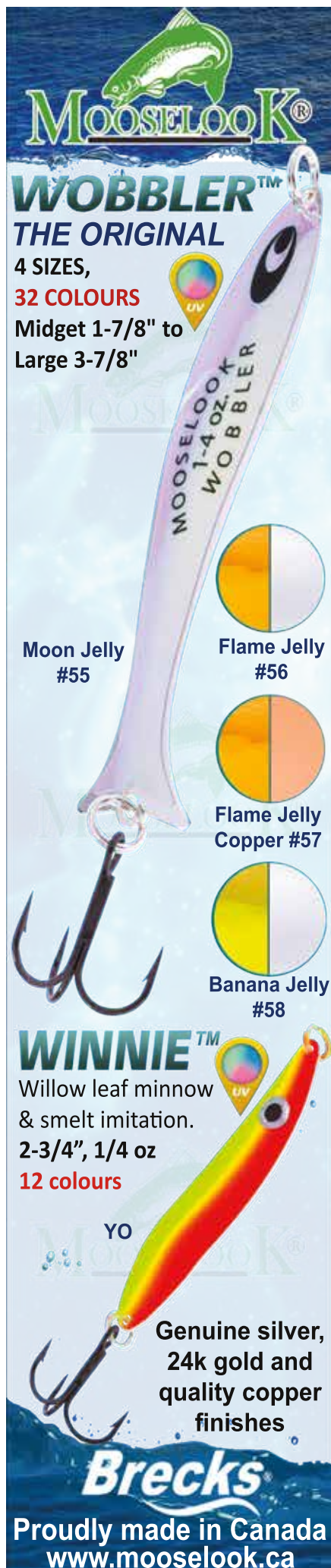

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CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

Transitioning Crappies

Understanding weedlines, inside and out

There are two weed lines, the inside and the outside edge. The inside is shallower and is typically the first that crappies will use after spawning season. When the water starts to heat up, they will slowly move to the deeper weed edge. I find the outside edge the more productive and easier to fish, especially with good electronics to help find crappies.

The inside weed line is generally found in four to six feet of water. The best inside weed lines are in close proximity to where the crappies spawned. Because of the weeds, a bobber is almost always a necessity. Without the bobber you would have to move the bait too fast to prevent it from sinking and getting snagged on the weeds. With this depth of water, I will choose a Thill fixed float with either a small fathead minnow or small plastic fished beneath. I start about one foot to 18 inches above the weed growth. If fishing clear water, it can be challenging not to spook the fish, consequently long casts are necessary.

The outside weed lines are usually about 12 to 15 feet deep in the water. Again, due to water clarity, I position my boat in 20 feet and will cast toward the shallows searching for active fish. I will exclusively fish small plastics when fishing the outside edge. I prefer a 1/32 ounce jig head with either a purple, chartreuse or pink twister tail or other crappie plastics, like a Chubbyjig or Berkley Gulp. Because of water depth and the need to make a long cast, I will place a small split shot 18 inches above the jig. This will add much more distance to your cast.

I find the retrieve the critical aspect to weed line success. Cast out and let the bait sink a little and start a slow retrieve with pauses. Somedays the fish will like it at different speeds. You will need to experiment to find the speed that works the best. I have learned that crappies love to attack on the pauses. The best weed line location is the top edge where weeds break into deep water. Use a six or seven-foot spinning outfit spooled with six-to-eight-

Tim Lindemann with a Delavan Lake weed line crappie after the spawn.



pound test line. Some crappies can be quite large, so keep a small net handy.

Some people consider crappies a soft fish with mushy fillets. The care after the catch is the key to a better eating fish. Instead of a live well, keep them on ice immediately after the catch. This will make the crappies easier to clean, plus the fillets will remain firm. Once they are cleaned, I soak them overnight in the refrigerator in water, then cook and enjoy the next day.

Always remember to be a good resource steward. Keep only enough to eat and release the rest. 🐟

Captain Dave Duwe owns and operates Dave Duwe's Guide Service featuring the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin. Contact him at 262-728-8063

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CAPTAIN LEE HAASCH

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The sun was peeking over an orange horizon as a wisp of clouds punctuated the morning sky. Suddenly, a shout rang out from my fishing partner Captain Trevor. "Fish on! It's a big one!" Aaah, the sounds of spring! There is nothing like the scream of a reel's drag when a huge king salmon decides that the opposite direction is where he wants to go!

Trevor's shout was soon followed by another. Now the fun really begins. Trevor has total command of the back deck and it shows as he directs the customers to their appropriate spots and we begin to move rods up and out of the way to make room to fight and land the king salmon. Seconds later, Trevor slid the Frabill under a 20-pound king to the cheers of the anglers aboard.

My nephew sure has gained a good sense for what is going on back deck. It reminds me of when I started back in the early '70s.

Over the years I have watched the

Algoma-area fishery grow beyond belief. The area has always been right in the middle of the salmon and trout rise. For example, Algoma has hosted some of Wisconsin's early fingerling rearing ponds resulting in a large increase of Lake Michigan salmon and trout numbers. That commitment has made Algoma the source of many record salmon and trout and home to one of Wisconsin's largest and most productive charter fishing fleets.

Algoma is known as the "Salmon and Trout Capital of the Midwest," and for good reason. Over the past 24 years straight, the area has been the state leader in the number of salmon caught. Algoma has also been the state steelhead-catch leader for over 15 years running. Quite a feat with all the ports up and down the shoreline, but the Algoma area has unique shoreline geography that transitions from sandy shoreline to the south to rocky structure to the north. This combination, I believe, lends itself to an ability to hold more baitfish on a consistent basis. If



Captain Trevor shows off a 25-pound trophy Lake Trout.

there is food, predator fish like kings and steelheads will follow.

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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.

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WAYNE MORGENTHALER

Passing the Baton

Simple fishing with kids

Spring is a wonderful season to introduce kids to fishing and public lands are a great place to start.

But before heading out, make sure you understand the latest rules and regulations, which can be found online or at bait shops and sporting goods stores. Waterproof boots and clothing that can stand up to burrs, sticks, berry bushes and mud are a must. T-shirts, short pants and tennis shoes are rarely adequate for serious outdoor adventures.

All kinds of trout and sucker angling action can be found fishing from river banks. I have had good luck with nightcrawlers fished on the bottom with sinkers attached 12 inches above to keep the bait on the bottom. Patience will produce better catches than throwing out and reeling in. Don't jerk after the first signal of a bite, but just let the fish bend the rod a little. Set the hook hard and make sure you do not have your drag set too tight. The fun part of river fishing is that you never know what you might catch. Different types of artificial lures can be

very effective. My favorite is the floating rapala to avoid the snags and a shallow running spinner that flashes like a minnow.

Lakes, by my definition, can come in many sizes from ponds to backwaters to large lakes. I prefer small ponds where you can fish from shore. You don't need to take along a boat and extra equipment. A medium size rod with a small tackle box should do the trick. A nice carry along chair can keep things dry and is a good place to change tackle. When fishing for panfish, always watch the water surface for any action. A small bubble bobber or slip bobber and light sinker with live bait will catch the most fish. Look for any type of structure, like a fallen tree, stump, log, or a beaver dam.

The free fishing weekend comes up in the first part of June. Look for different communities putting on fishing derbies with prizes and food. Kids can make new friends and have an excellent time just watching other participants of their age. Bob Pilla and I started the first Richland Center fishing derby in 2000. The Parks



Hannah with a nice red sucker.

Department has since taken it over and high school students run the event. I'm amazed at how well and how many parents are using this opportunity to introduce their kids to fishing. Once these young outdoor enthusiasts are hooked, they keep coming back. 🐟

Wayne Morgenthaler has fished southwestern and northwestern Wisconsin for the past 45 years and authored a number of articles on the topic. He is a retired high school teacher and coach.

STUART WILKE

Mystery Solved

Reader solves case of the snowy imprint

Professional outdoorsy-types are hesitant to empirically state who or what left the startling impressions on the garage roof of On Wisconsin Outdoors' writer Denny Murawska. Desperate - perhaps - not to cause wide-spread panic, some suggested that OWO's intrepid investigators stop their pursuit. "Maybe better left a mystery!" one of those consulted advised. Hypotheses from those who dared make them ranged from the mark of a raptor to the legendary Moth Man.

An astute reader may have the answer. From her recent email: "My husband read Denny Murawska's article 'Angel on My Roof.' We experience the same roof prints. They were put there by a nearsighted turkey with depth perception problems. Hah Ha. We saw it happen multiple times."

Mystery solved. Denny can now leave his house without trepidation. 🐔



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BOB SPIERINGS

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A step by step approach to fall success

Wisconsin's 2022 black bear season is right around the corner and if you haven't already, it's time to get down to business. Mating season is winding down making now the perfect time to get some scent lures blowing in the wind and bait on the ground. Help ensure a successful hunt by letting the bears know that you've got the goods starting this spring! Here are some great tips to get you started this season.

Scent Lures are #1

If you aren't using scent, your bait site will not reach its full potential and may just land you with a tag sandwich. Rumor has it that bears can smell food 18-plus miles away. Who knows if that is true or under what circumstances? What is beyond dispute is that scenting is imperative. Put scent out EVERY TIME you bait. Not only will this tell the regulars you recently baited, it will also attract more new bears from short and long distances.

Up the Protein and Fats for Fall

When fall starts approaching, bears switch their food preferences to those high in protein, fats and carbs to help them make it through winter. About two to four weeks before season opener is an ideal time to start making the switch to a dry mix filled with nuts and/or nut butters, like

those made from peanuts and almonds. This is a great way to keep them coming back for more.

Variety

With more and more bear hunters hitting the woods each year, bears are offered quite the buffet across their home range. They can afford to be picky and you'll find some bait just isn't to their liking. How do you combat this? Have a variety of dry bait and toppings on hand. Bob's offers a variety of bear bait in more manageable bags so you can buy a variety without committing to a full 55-gallon barrel only to find out that your bears aren't fans.

Consistency

When baiting, consistency is key. You'll want to think ahead and plan your hunt well before you start baiting. Are you going to walk or drive an ATV to your site? Where are you going to park the ATV? Is someone dropping you off? Are you baiting in the morning and hunting in the evening? Are you going to bait when you go in to hunt? Whatever your plan is, that is how you should bait every single time. Come hunting season, if one thing is off, wary bears won't come in.

For more great tips, stop in and visit one of our multiple locations. We've been in the bear bait business for 13 years

and our staff has years of bear hunting experience. We carry the largest variety of bait in Wisconsin, including scents, bulk bait, fruit toppings, dry bait, and more. Once the season hits, bait sells out fast. Don't wait long!

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As always, happy baiting! 



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TYLER FLORCZAK

Trail Cam Reality

A harsh northern Wisconsin captured

On a recent shed hunting excursion, I was saddened to locate a dead buck laying directly in front of my trail camera in Barron County. This particular camera was strategically positioned to keep surveillance of antlered deer that were fortunate enough to survive Wisconsin's archery/crossbow seasons, the nine-day gun hunt and muzzleloader season, along with Wisconsin's brutal winter conditions.

The cause of the buck's death, which occurred on the morning of December 13, remains unknown. Perhaps it was the result of a misplaced arrow during archery season or a gun-shot wound. Maybe he was gored during a post-rut battle with another resident buck. Regardless, the buck succumbed to its injuries.

An eerie feeling set in initially and my detective instincts were soon formulating theories of how or why the buck was perfectly positioned in front of my camera. I wheeled around in circles as if someone was watching me from afar since the situation felt staged. Was the DNR monitoring the area in hopes of catching a poacher that possibly shot the buck?

After better analyzing the kill site, I realized that it was just the reality of Mother Nature. The eerie feeling dissipated, but quickly turned into disappointment upon seeing that the trail camera's batteries died during January's subzero temperatures. I hoped that the camera was still "on" in mid-December to capture the events proceeding the buck's demise.



A pair of mature eagles fight over the fresh deer meat.

With fresh batteries and a new SD card in the camera, I headed back home to scour over the trail cam pictures.

The food plot was a popular late-season food source for deer and turkeys. Wildlife activity was nonstop in November and December. Fortunately, the camera was still working properly when the young buck meandered into the camera's frame at the corner of the food plot.

The nine-pointer was hunched over in a series of six photos taken on its final morning.

Within four hours of the deer's death, it had been located by two ravens. Deer, including numerous bucks, visited the death site frequently over the course of the next week, often sparring in visible sight of the dead buck. A variety of



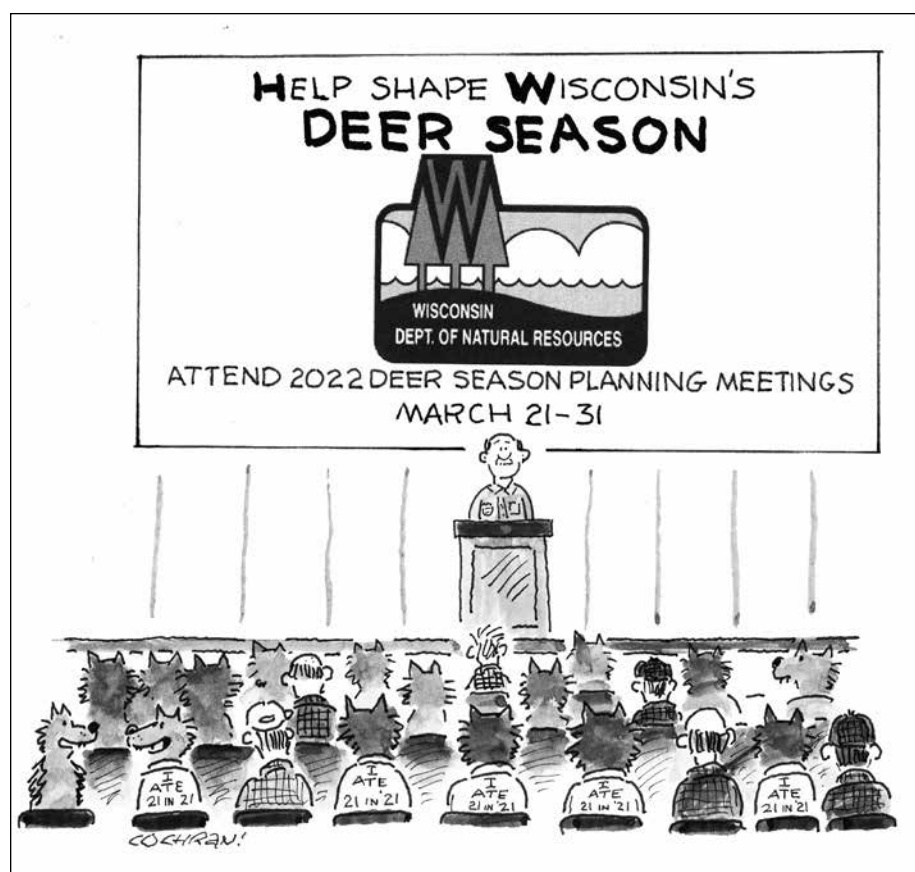
An injured buck staggers into the frame of a trail camera before taking its final breath.

animals such as owls, hawks, eagles, coyotes, fisher and fox soon found the kill site, all of which took turns feeding on the deer. Nothing went to waste.

Yes, it was disappointing to find the remains of the young nine-point buck that had the potential to become a future trophy. It also painted a clear picture of how animals interact and feed when it comes down to survival of the fittest during a typical Wisconsin winter.

If you happen to be one of those hunters who live and breathe chasing whitetails, you've likely stumbled across similar experiences in the woods. Part of me wishes the buck could have lived to reach its full potential, allowing my wife, myself or another family member an opportunity to harvest and eat the deer. Conversely though, it is fascinating to see how animals depend on Mother Nature to survive the harsh winters.

The reality is, the circle of life can be rewarding and unforgiving. 🍖



Wisconsin Seasons...



Especially with the erratic spring weather over much of Wisconsin, early summer is a great time to enjoy hunting shed antlers and morel mushrooms during more stable weather. Scott Heitman (shown) and his son Ty found these antlers closing out April that they measured unofficially at 190. The photo above taken in 2020 is believed to be the buck that dropped the antlers.



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JOHN CLER

Shelter from the Storm

Wilderness survival skills start here

Anyone that has spent any amount of time in the outdoors has probably wondered: "What would I do if I got lost or stranded in the woods?" The answer often depends on your familiarity with the area you are in, the experiences you have had in the past, and the knowledge gained from those experiences.

Survival skills are like any other skills. They need to be practiced. Practicing with others is a great way to share the experience and work involved. Children are almost always ready to try new things. Sharing survival skill outings is a great way to form bonds with the youngsters in your life.

Survival priorities are shelter, fire, water and food, in that order. The only exception to that rule comes when you are wet. In that case, fire would be priority number one, with drying your clothing being the immediate order of business.

The easiest survival shelter to build is a "debris hut." It is made of whatever materials are available in the area. The debris hut requires no tools and does not require cutting live vegetation. It begins with a tripod of sticks, with one longer one being the ridge pole and the two shorter

ones framing the door. There is usually no need to tie the tripod, as there are usually branches that may be linked to make the tripod stable. One variation has the ridge pole over a low branch of a living tree, leaving the tree in the middle of the door. The door of the shelter should be faced toward the east or south, as most cold winds come from the other two directions.

Dead sticks are now laid against the ridge pole to form a lattice. There should be little room between sticks, as a layer of leaves is going to be placed on top. An ample layer of leaves is piled over the finished framework. This layer should be the length of your arm, or two and a half to three feet. This is a lot of leaves and the most labor intensive part of the job. A lawn rake or two will speed this process up if you are building your first practice shelter. A check for daylight from inside the shelter will help guide where loads of leaves need to be added. A final layer of sticks over the leaves will hold the leaves in place and prevent the wind from blowing them away. A debris hut may be roofed with long grasses or cattails if deciduous leaves are not available. Your debris hut should be both wind and water proof if you have done a good job.

It should be obvious that a fire would



Front view of a completed debris hut.

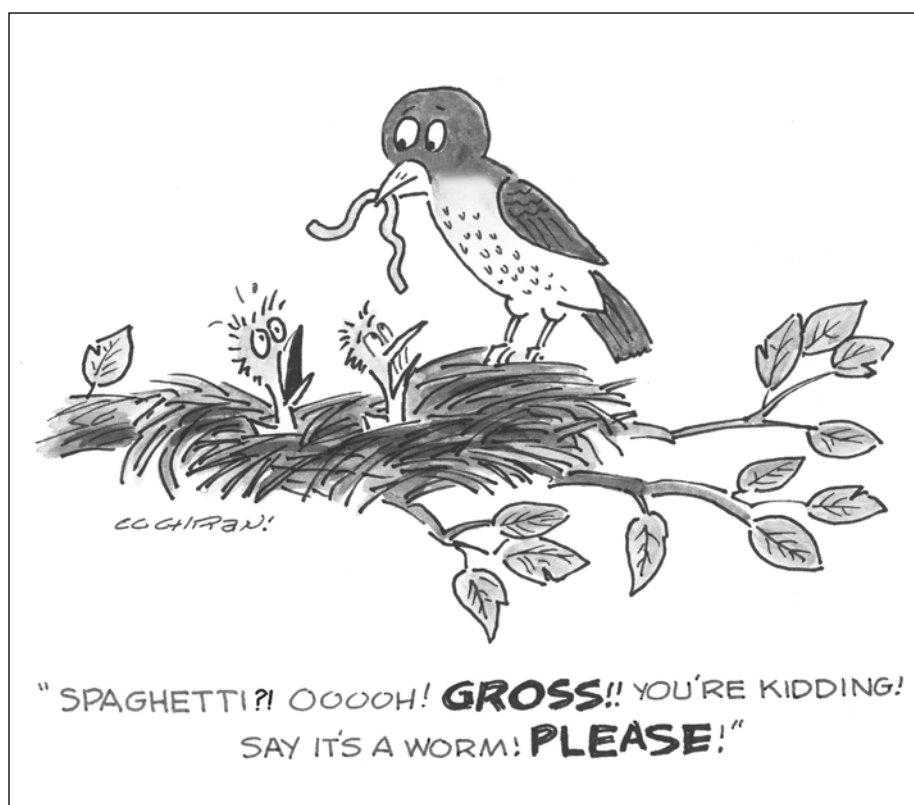
not be a great idea in a debris hut! A reflector of logs or rocks, placed beyond a fire placed near the door, will send heat into the shelter. Rocks heated in the fire and rolled into the shelter will release heat all night long, but must be kept a distance from the shelter's residents. A door made of a pile of vegetation will help keep heat from rocks and bodies inside the shelter.

Take some time to experiment with building survival shelters and sleeping in them. Try doing this without taking something of convenience on each trip. Leave the rake at home. Don't take a sleeping bag. Leave the flashlight in your vehicle. Eventually you will find that you can do just fine with only what nature provides. 🌿

John Cler has taught wilderness survival skills to students of all ages for more than 40 years.



Debris hut viewed from the side.



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TOM CARPENTER

Late Spring Gobblers

Saving the best for last

Common knowledge is wrong. Opening day is not necessarily the most productive time of the season for turkey hunters. In reality, ignoring late May opportunities is a mistake.

Proof? By late spring, the breeding season is either caught up, slowed down or smoothed out. You can more easily predict what the gobblers will be doing at season's end: acting lonely and looking for hens, many of which are sitting on nests. Birds are dispersed.

All of this combines to make late season a great time to hunt. And late season brings a grab bag of twists, turns, advantages and opportunities. Learn to play them.

Use the extra cover. With more foliage leafed out, you can move closer to birds before calling. Late-season birds are more cautious than early season gobblers, so make yourself easy to get to: Use that leaf cover to squeeze in just a little tighter.

Discount distances. The sound of a gobble doesn't resonate so loudly or carry as far in late spring's foliage. When you hear a bird, discount the distance to him when hatching a plan or making your move, or wondering when he will show up. That gobbler is closer than you think.

Address the calling dilemma. One late-season strategy is

to call only lightly and minimally because these birds have heard it all. The other strategy says fire 'em up with loud, aggressive, and bossy calling like they haven't heard in a while. The best plan? Put both strategies in your arsenal of late season tricks.

Start out light and coy. That's better than spooking a bird with aggressive calling that could send him running. Hens generally aren't very talkative or bossy in the late season, so you shouldn't be either.

But if no birds are responding or one just isn't budging, then it's time to step things up a couple of notches. Get aggressive with yelps, cutting, maybe even some cackling. There's nothing to lose.

Sit or move? Each has its time and place, depending on the circumstances.

First rule: Never give up on a late-season turkey you are working. It may take hours for him to come in, but he will eventually do it. A gobbler now is worth much more than early in the season. Stick with any bird you have going and don't expect him to come in gobbling!

Re-position your setup if you have to and can. Remember - the extra foliage will help hide your shifts.

If you need to, go on the move to find a bird to work. But



The author and his son Jeremiah with a late-season Green County gobbler that fell for soft-and-simple calling. Photo by the author.

with all the cover leafed out and greened up, it's easy to get lackadaisical and barge onto birds just because you can't see them from far off. Stop to call more frequently now. Use your locator calls often.

Conclusion: Some of spring's best turkey hunting happens in May's last two to three weeks when the weather has smoothed out and the birds have spread out, and the hens are likely to be on their nests full time, leaving the gobblers to look for love.

But you have to hunt with a plan. Start working cautiously and subtly. Don't be afraid to call with excitement and volume after you've given "coy-and-soft" a good try. Sometimes that's what you need to get a bird

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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Fox Valley Retriever Club

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TOM MUELLER

Teaching the Basics

Early retriever training for pups

One of the most successful Fox Valley Retriever Club offerings is the Puppy and Obedience session for novice owners and their puppies or young dogs. This program helps get dogs off in the right direction, provided their owners do their assigned homework.

Most retrievers bred today are extremely high energy dogs. As adult dogs, they exhibit the power and drive that owners seek. Puppies exhibit that energy quite early on, usually around 10 to 12 weeks of age. Their energy continues to increase up to the point where they can become intolerably unruly and difficult to train. Working with dogs that ignore commands and won't focus is extremely frustrating. Such problems can be avoided by starting your puppy's training as soon as it is brought home. This should consist of obedience training and teaching the pup to hold onto a dummy. Once those concepts are established, your training will more easily progress. Generally, this takes six to seven months of consistent daily sessions.

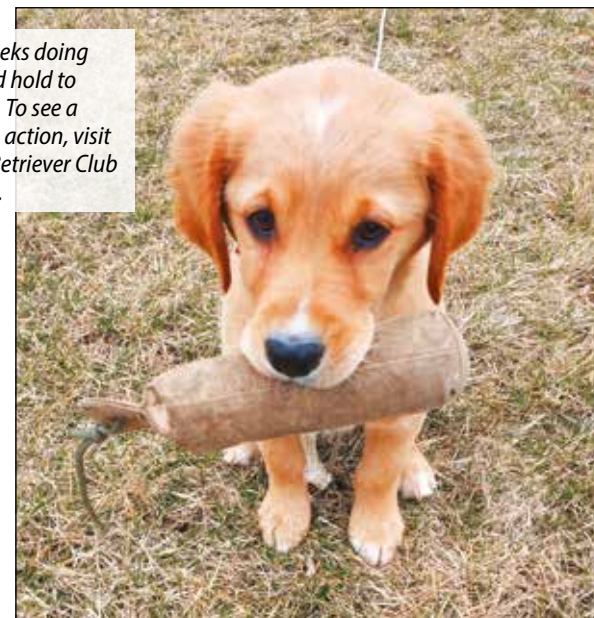
Over the years of running the Puppy and Obedience sessions, I occasionally have to deal with a member who

wants to train their pup themselves but won't do their "homework." For whatever reason, they don't do the daily 10-minute sessions. The end result is a pup that, as it gets older, becomes an uncontrollable and untrainable disaster. The solution then, if they want a reliable hunting retriever, is to turn the dog over to a professional trainer for approximately six months. Plan on spending around \$3,000 for the time the professional will be training your dog. The time and money spent on having your retriever professionally trained can be avoided by simply doing your homework.

I recently acquired a new pup. His name is Ollie. Because I worked with him a little each day right from the beginning, at around nine weeks of age he was doing an eight to 10 foot retrieve and returning to me holding the dummy all the way. Upon getting to me he would sit at my feet and hold the dummy while I petted and praised him. Eventually I would take the dummy from him and give him a treat.

All in all, it's not a complicated process. First teach "sit" using a treat. Next start doing very short retrieves using

Ollie at nine weeks doing a perfect sit and hold to deliver to hand. To see a video of Ollie in action, visit the Fox Valley Retriever Club Facebook page.



a puppy dummy or a paint roller skin. Toss it, then walk away calling him to you. When he gets to you, have him sit. Pet and praise while he holds the dummy. Then take the dummy and give him the treat. Repeat and practice each day.

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 visit foxvalleyretrieverclub.com or Facebook.

DICK ELLIS

Love is Love

Cycle of life carries on with new puppy

Long ago, I filed a note from good friend Steve Henske of Stevens Point who wrote: "Do you want to know the trouble with dogs? You get them as a puppy, they spend countless days with you as loyal companions, and then they break your heart. Give your dog a rawhide and a hug. Life is much too short for dogs."

Steve, of course, was saying goodbye to another dog, his chocolate lab Jess. That final goodbye is part of the bargain for all of us, and of course, it's worth it. It must be; we go out and do it again, and again, and again.

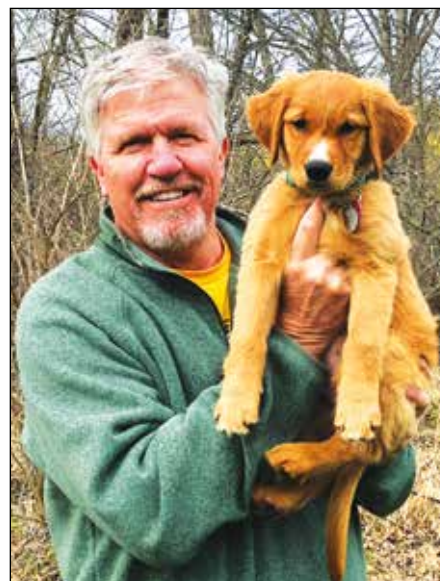
But the promise of endless tomorrows never was the condition for bringing home the puppy. On the contrary, the certainty of a never-really-ready goodbye is the sole ingredient...the soul ingredient... that makes whatever years, and whatever hunts

we are given so much easier to burn into the mind for recall later. When he's not there anymore.

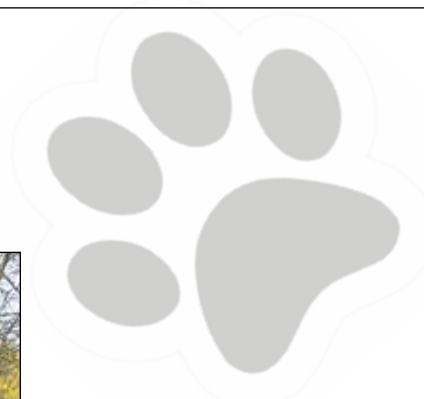
So, all of that said... (And remembering Soldier Blue and Micah now on the wall behind me) allow me to introduce Deacon James. Deke for short and James after his father. And guess what? Steve Henske's beautiful Golden Retriever and tenacious hunter Maya, a few dogs down the years from Jess, is the mother.

Love is love, you know? And eventually it hurts the heart a while. If you're a dog owner... like Lori and me, you already know that. If you are a first time dog owner about to bring home a tiny puppy on your lap, you're also about to find out a little secret...

The real lucky dog... is you. 🐾



OWO Publisher Dick Ellis with the family's new Golden Retriever pup, Deacon James.




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Marinette County's ATV/UTV trails share the spotlight with another popular attraction – waterfalls. Known as the waterfall capital of Wisconsin, Marinette County's 15 stunning waterfalls capture the hearts and camera angles of tens of thousands of visitors each year. Self-guided tours help visitors plan the perfect vacation in The Real North.

To order trail maps or a Marinette County visitor guide, visit therealnorth.com

CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 14

going, or pull him those last crucial steps.

There is something special about May turkey hunting new-green leaves unfurled in the sun's first golden rays, crabapples and wild plum and forest wildflowers blooming, morel mushrooms sprouting, migrating warblers singing – and big old gobblers strutting in.

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GREG KRUEGER

Losing Access to Wisconsin Paradise

Seven northern national campgrounds being dismantled

The last brochure produced for Sevenmile Lake Campground describes what drew visitors to this 27-site rustic national forest campground just east of Eagle River: “Located high on a ridge overlooking Sevenmile Lake, this campground offers enjoyable camping and great views. Cool lake breezes provide natural air conditioning, even on hot summer days.” A 1999 Guide to Camping on the Nicolet adds “A sandy beach and swimming area are rated excellent by visitors. Take a dip in the lake after a hike on the scenic two-mile trail or enjoy a cruise around the lake.”

Sevenmile Lake Campground was closed due to budget cuts in 2015. It has not reopened since.

This January, the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest published a decision memo signaling Sevenmile and six other closed campgrounds across the forest will be dismantled this year.

The forest’s 2019 Recreation Facilities Strategy estimated that \$52,500 would be spent across the seven campgrounds to tear down vault toilets, remove water pumps, and barricade entrances to vehicle access. These seven campgrounds are among 23 developed recreation sites the forest will cease to maintain under their new strategy. Usage levels and operating costs weighed into their decision, along with several other criteria.

Forest staff say there are other operating campgrounds near the closed locations. They also point to improved amenities - like electricity - at other campgrounds as something visitors can look forward to.

The seven campgrounds slated to be dismantled are clustered in three areas of the forest: Brule River, Sevenmile Lake and Windsor Dam are east of Eagle River in Forest County. Lake Three and Mineral Lake are west of Mellen in Ashland County. Kathryn Lake

and North Twin are northwest of Medford in Taylor County.

A hundred miles west of Sevenmile Lake, Mellen-area resident Jeff Peters grew up frequenting national forest campgrounds.

“Hardly a day goes by that I don’t go out to the national forest,” he said. “That’s why I live out here.” “What these campgrounds provide in terms of access to Mother Nature is invaluable. Campgrounds are an asset to the area.”

“At Mineral Lake Campground there’s a foot trail to the waterfront,” he recounted. “That was my spot for fishing.”

Walking past vacant storefronts in Mellen’s downtown, he speaks to a missed opportunity for his hometown if those campgrounds are torn out. “Campgrounds bring in visitors to our businesses,” he said. “As a Mellen-area citizen, I believe a meeting here is important before the campgrounds are permanently closed. This decision will impact the community now and into the future.”

A couple miles outside Mellen, Copper Falls State Park attracts upwards of 200,000

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

AL WISNEFSKE

Selling Your Property

A closer look before you decide

Where to start when selling your property? Should you call up a local real estate company?

Look online for prices? Post your property for sale to test the market? Ask your family and friends what they think? The answer to all of these questions is an emphatic NO.

Selling your property is your decision and there are many factors driving that decision. You need to have a conversation with yourself about this change. A pen and paper do wonders here. Here’s an exercise you can do right now if you’re thinking about selling. Ask yourself these questions and write your answers down.


- Why do I feel the urge to sell this property? (I.e., is it no longer used? Do I need something bigger or smaller? Do I want a fresh start somewhere else?)
- What do my finances look like? (I.e., Do I need to sell to buy something else? Will there be tax implications? Does some go to “fun money,” retirement, or something else?)
- Is this a permanent or temporary feeling? (I.e., Am I just sick of winter and once it gets through I’ll be fine? Or, I’ve always wanted to move to a different state.)
- Who do I need to contact? (I.e.,

accountant, attorney (especially for trusts/estates), real estate company, bank/lender, contractors, etc.)

Whether you know it now or not, you have a team that will help you sell. It’s just up to you to pick the best members of that team. Sometimes family and friends are good for that, but most times they’re not. You need members that don’t have an emotional attachment and won’t try to sway you one way or the other. What’s even better - most real estate professionals have a network you can lean on if there’s a void on your team.

These questions will help guide you to the decision to sell or not and also help you build your team that will execute the plan.

If you need a sounding board after answering these questions, send me an email at: al@landandlegacygroup.com. Use the subject line: BUILDING MY TEAM

Happy team building! 

Al Wisnefske is the broker/owner of Land & Legacy Group and has been named a Top 500 Broker by Milwaukee Real Producers. His #1 philosophy is: “Relationships over Transactions.” Through his LEGACY Process, he helps rural property buyers and sellers build and sustain their legacies. This has provided him and his company with many fans. He is a multi-million dollar producer specializing in land, farm, and country home sales in Southern Wisconsin.

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DAVE FIDLIN

A National Wonder Hiking Wisconsin's Horicon Marsh

For a century, the protected confines of the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge have been an awe-inspiring wonder within Wisconsin's natural ecosystem. The marsh's expansive 32,000 acres have been a popular hangout for waterfowl and other animals, garnering attention beyond Wisconsin. Canadian Geese have made the habitat a home because it is an ideal mix of water, shelter and food.

Horicon Marsh also has gained international acclaim as the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States. The United Nations considers the refuge a "wetland of international importance."

While much of the refuge is, understandably, off limits to people, there are a number of hiking trails that give visitors an opportunity to gaze at the peaceful marsh habitat and the various species that call the refuge home.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service oversee different sections of the marsh. Each governing agency has carved out trails in specific spots, resulting in miles of natural beauty that is accessible by foot. Visitors can take in the various forms of the marsh, including wetlands, wooded areas and grasslands.

Depending on the time of year - and which specific trail is hiked - visitors will encounter a number of species that are

lurking around the marshland in the daytime hours. Mink, muskrats and otters are commonly spotted near the shallow water areas of the marsh. White-tailed deer are also known to make frequent appearances.

Amphibians and reptiles are abundant throughout the marsh. Turtles love the habitat for nesting. It is not uncommon to see a turtle sunning itself on a log or other stationary item within the water. Snakes, frogs and salamanders are among some of the other species that are frequently spotted throughout the refuge.

The star of the show is the waterfowl. The Horicon Marsh commonly is referred to as a birder's paradise, especially in the autumn, when Canadian Geese migrate to escape Wisconsin's winters. While the geese are the most commonly cited feathered fowl, others include egrets, herons, marsh wrens and pied-billed grebe.

State and federal authorities have enhanced the hiking accommodations within the marshland. Examples include a multi-faceted, user-friendly trail off Highway 28 in the state-owned portion. It features a boardwalk over wetland areas of the marsh and a series of different loop configurations.

In the federal-run portion, a zigzag-styled floating boardwalk has been installed and is accessible off Highway



In late spring and early summer, hikers may encounter families of Canadian Geese on the trails.



Canadian Geese flock to the Horicon Marsh annually because of its ideal habitat.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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3	Street Car Tuesday	4 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	5 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	6 BIKES & Fun Racing for Everyone	NSCB	8 MOTHERS DAY CLOSED
10	Street Car Tuesday	11 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	12 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	13 BIKES & Fun Racing for Everyone	24 JUNIORS #2 BRACKET RACING FUN RACING	15 BRACKET RACING FUN RACING FOR ALL
17	Street Car Tuesday	18 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	19 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	20 EARLYBIRD Race Day Races Start 11AM SHO-MO	21 Open Fun Racing	22 Mark's Street Wars
24	Street Car Tuesday	25 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	26 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	27 BIKES & Fun Racing for Everyone	MEMORIAL DAY OHIO	29 Open Fun Kenosha Area Drag Racers
30 Memorial DAY FUN RACING	May 31 CLOSED TUESDAY	GREAT LAKES DRAGAWAY		Memorial Day Classic Show Saturday May 28	SHOOT OUT SHOOT OUT RACES	

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 31 Closed on Tuesday	1 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	2 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	3 BIKES & Fun Racing for Everyone	4 JUNIORS #3 BRACKET RACING PEAKED SOCIETY	5 BRACKET RACING HEART 1900 FUN RACING	6
7 Street Car Tuesday	8 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	9 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	10 REAL STREET TAKEOVER	11	12 Open Fun Racing	13
14 Street Car Tuesday	15 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	16 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	17 EARLYBIRD Race Day Races Start 11AM SHO-MO	18 NSCB	19 IMPACT WALS Drifting	20
21 Street Car Tuesday	22 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	23 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	24 Vintage Racing, Car Show + Swap OUT + Swap OUT + Swap OUT + Swap DRAGS	25	26 Mark's Street Wars	27
28 Street Car Tuesday	29 Fun Race for ALL LADIES NITE	30 SLICKS & DRAG RADIALS	31	32	33	34

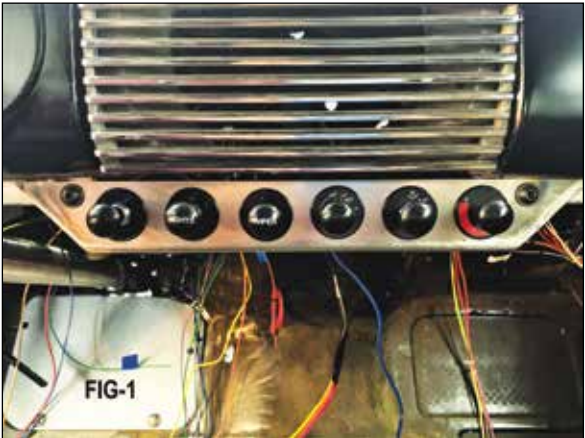
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UNDER THE HOOD WITH BRAD
1940 Buick Special Coupe
Completing the dashboard

In the last issue I mentioned that I needed to fabricate a panel for the Buick's dashboard to house controls for lights, heat, etc. I added the panel below the speaker grille where the original controls were.

I found a company that sold ignition, lights and wiper switches that had control knobs with an old timey look. They also sold the knobs separately. After purchasing a heater/defrost system, I replaced the control knobs so that all six switches would appear to be from one manufacturer. (Fig-1) The glove box door came with a large clock in the center. It did not match the new gauges and was in pretty bad shape. While surfing You Tube, I came across a video of a guy putting a new radio in his boat; it was round and appeared to be roughly the size of my clock. After some research, I found it was exactly the same size. It fit the glove box door perfectly and gives me AM, FM, Bluetooth and USB. (Fig-2) Once the entire dash is painted satin black, it will all blend together. Please note, everything is just loosely mounted and the steering column is pulled back for the picture. (Fig-3)

I wonder. Now that I have a boat radio, do I have to register the Buick and put boat numbers on the fenders?



FIDLIN, FROM PAGE 21

49. Five years ago, the US Fish and Wildlife Service rebuilt the entire structure to enhance accessibility and viewing opportunities.

I might be biased, having grown up near it, but I truly do regard the Horicon Marsh as a place onto itself. Regardless of your age or interest, the refuge is not only a place of sanctuary for the various animals, birds, reptiles and amphibians; it also is a place of solace for us humans from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Dave Fidlín is a Wisconsin-based freelance writer and a Horicon native. He credits his formative years within the "City on the Marsh" for his love of the outdoors and his respect for all creatures great and small.



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DICK ELLIS

Ashland's Natural Highs

Paradise expands on friends' trip to Chequamegon Bay Golf Club

The Ashland Natural Highs had become very familiar for this outdoor writer and my wife Lori as the decades passed and a trip to Chequamegon Bay became a must on the yearly calendar. In my younger days, a trek to Ashland meant a coveted day on the bay, any season, to tangle with everything that swims, from smelt, to world class smallmouth, to battling monster Browns, Steelhead or Lake Trout through the hard-water. With the blue doorstep to Lake Superior as a backdrop, Ashland in 2021 meant golf clubs and kicking back, a short getaway with two of my golf partners from southeast Wisconsin and our wives who love a day on the course as much as we do. Chequamegon Bay Golf Club was calling.

When you plan your own Ashland golf adventure this year from spring through autumn, don't forget to pack the rods, too. The Bay, of course, remains among the premiere angling playgrounds in Wisconsin. And we highly recommend inviting your wives to first take a virtual trip around the Visit Ashland website at www.visitashland.com to plan exactly where to stay, dine and play. That in itself will be an adventure and deciding when to head north no easy task. It would almost be easier to list what they don't do here. Ashland has it all. Take this trip with the wife, a vacation with the family, or golfing and fishing or hunting with the boys. Golf, though, is just the beginning.

I found out in a hurry just prior to our trip with Doug and JoAnn Haberlein and Paul and Gina Schulz that Chequamegon Bay Golf Club co-owner David Bretting could relate to my all-season love of Ashland from the water to the fairways. David's final e-mail to me as we made our plans for the links said it all.

"...Also had a decent early goose hunt yesterday with 11 birds down," David's e-mail read on September 7. "Not a bunch around yet, but looking forward to my favorite time of the year for me and my pup, Louie. Duck season!"

Yes, Ashland has it all. As Bretting simply laid it on the table, "The course is always in great shape and well maintained. We have a fully stocked pro shop, range and a fine restaurant and bar, The Local. Ashland is a great city located on the shores of Lake Superior, with a vibrant historic downtown, restaurants and mural walk."

What Bretting cannot relate to though, is that my definition of 'Ashland Highs' unfortunately also includes my golf scores. My neighbor, in fact, took a look at my scratched face and arms after a turkey hunt and asked, "Oh golfing again hey?" My buddies and I watched Bretting's foursome tee-off number 10 just before we let her rip on the first hole, adjacent, with each of their balls traveling long and straight down the alley to settle into the short grass of the fairway of the beautiful course.

"So that's what a fairway drive looks like," I said to Paul and Doug. "They're half way through and not a scratch on any of them..."

Chequamegon Bay Golf Club offers a fabulous course with an amazing history. The Chequamegon Country



When asked about his experience playing Chequamegon Bay Golf Club, veteran golfer Paul Schulz of Waukesha responded, 'What a beauty it is.'

Club was constructed in 1925. Nine-holes and log cabin-style club houses were erected on a 60 acre tract of former farmland. The designer, Sandy Campbell from Scotland, created a Scottish links-type course with rolling hills and adjacent fairways. Already sensing future interest in expanding the course, the Chequamegon Country Club leadership purchased a 40-acre parcel of land adjacent to the southwest corner of the course in 1930.

Ashland Lodge # 137 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elk, which traces its original charter to 1889, acquired the Chequamegon Country Club property in 1944 and the name was changed to Elks Country Club. In 1945, Ryder Lund, sports editor for the Duluth News Tribune, came to Ashland to help create the Elks Country Club's first tournaments. "The Shortstop" has continued annually. In 1966-67, the Lodge sold its downtown building and built a new lodge home at the golf course on the site of the former log-cabin clubhouse.

"Our annual Short Stop golf tournament (second weekend in July) welcomes nearly 200 golfers and is one of the oldest, continuous tournament in the state in its 77th year," Bretting said. "Hundreds of golf fans follow the final matches on Sunday."

Planning began in 1995 to expand the nine-hole to an 18-hole championship course that would be both challenging and enjoyable for golfers of all skill levels. The existing nine-hole course was renamed the Ashland Elks Golf Course and was opened for the first time to the general public.

The award-winning (Golf Digest) architectural firm of Garret Gill & Associates was selected in 1996 to design the new course. It was deemed important to take advantage of the natural beauty and lay of the land in planning the expansion. Construction of new holes, redesign of existing holes and other improvements was completed in 1997/98. The new 18-hole championship course opened in July of 1999. The following June, a grand opening celebration was held.



Doug Haberlein finds another fairway playing the Chequamegon Bay Golf Club in the early autumn beauty of September.

"The course offers four different tees allowing golfers of all skills and ability to enjoy our course," Bretting said. "Our goal is to make golf enjoyable and affordable to all. The course is very walkable with views of Superior."

In the spring of 2001, the course owned by Ashland Lodge #137 was renamed the Chequamegon Bay Golf Club. The Elks continued to own and operate the golf course through 2011. Beginning with the 2012 golf season, a group consisting of members of the Chequamegon Bay Golf Club purchased the course.

"Golf is an important part of the Ashland community with multiple charity events held at the course each year," Bretting said. "Our program for junior golf is free to the kids and welcomes nearly 75 kids each year. We continue to invest dollars back into the course each year from a complete new cart fleet to new equipment for our ground crew."

The rest, as they say, is familiar history. My friends and our wives played well. I checked for poison ivy. The tradition continues. But this is Ashland and Chequamegon Bay. I'll be back, God willing, and so will our friends.

"As you walk out the door of the pro shop at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25




Golfers Lori Ellis, JoAnn Haberlein and Gina Schulz enjoy a beverage after 18 at Chequamegon Bay Golf Club.

ELLIS GOLF, FROM PAGE 24

Chequamegon Bay Golf Course, you can't help but notice the expansive view of the bay from the course," said Paul Schulz. "The impression it makes lingers long enough to almost make you want to pass on the warm-up swings and just take it in. But that passes as the group of golfers gathers at the first tee. From the Northland College golf team to the regular old timers they all stand ready to tell us all we need to know to enjoy our day on the course. What a beauty it is. Be sure to enjoy the view one last time before you leave with your favorite beverage and friends on the patio."

Connect with Chequamegon Bay Golf Club at www.cbaygolf.com or call the golf shop at 715-682-8004 (chequamegonbaygolf@gmail.com.) Special thanks to River Rock Inn and Bait Shop for our great lodging on Lake Shore Drive overlooking the bay in Ashland which included local art, smoked fish, and had we needed it this time, bait and tackle. Connect with River Rock Inn at www.riverrockinn.net or 715-682-3232.

"The River Rock Inn was welcoming with surprisingly authentic northland décor including pine log bed frames and furniture," my wife Lori said. "We had stunning lighting, mini-kitchenette, extra full bathrooms, beer and liquor and bait on site, a gorgeous view of Chequamegon Bay. Everything we wanted, including restaurants, were within walking distance. I would absolutely recommend it." 🍷



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | BURNETT COUNTY

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND



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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.

Looking for affordable family fun? 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 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).

Here's a snapshot for what's happening in May and June.

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

Spring Vintage Festival. This vintage racing event brings the past back to life with the sights, sounds and smells from motorsport's pioneering age both on and off the track.

Two-wheeled action takes to the track when the MotoAmerica Superbike Series & Vintage MotoFest comes to Road America June 3-5. Attend the practice and qualifying bike racing on Friday and experience all-day racing on Saturday and Sunday with eight classes of road racing. A highlight of the MotoAmerica Superbike weekend is Road America's Vintage MotoFest on Saturday, June 4. Widely regarded as the premier Wisconsin ride-in vintage motorcycle show and party featuring an eclectic mix of Euro, Japanese and American vintage café racers, choppers, sport bikes, racers, supermotors, scooters, and sidecars. All makes and models are welcome!

The NTT INDYCAR SERIES Sonso Grand Prix presented by American Medical Response takes center stage June 9-12. The NTT INDYCAR SERIES races faster and closer than any other form of motorsports and the series has witnessed 96 races with a margin of victory less than one second, and eight races have had less than one-tenth of a second between the 1-2-3 finishers. See these athletes compete for victory at Road America!

The WeatherTech® Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints® returns to the 4-mile circuit from June 17-19 - Road America's longest-running annual sports car event. The June Sprints have been held every year at Road America since 1956 and the 67th running at Road America will feature everything from showroom stock to highly modified purpose-built race cars from nine distinct race groups.

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. NASCAR races feature thrilling door-to-door and wheel-to-wheel action through stage racing, which ensures more highlight-reel moments during a race, increases the sense of urgency, and emphasizes aggressive racing and strategy. 🏆




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Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | SPOONER | WASHBURN COUNTY
LAUREN E. SEIFERT

Planning Sooner for Spooner

It is almost summer in the Northwoods and Spooner is full of life! Now is the perfect time to visit the area and take advantage of its pristine waters and incredible wilderness.

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area is a 1,964-acre property less than one mile southeast of Spooner that offers visitors tons of recreational opportunities. Wildlife management and non-motorized recreation are the main goals and uses of the property. Perhaps its most unique feature, however, is an artesian well site that offers the best water around. Beaver Brook is fed by ten spring ponds and many seeps on its banks that help make it a premier Class 1 brook and brown trout stream. Along with the numerous wetlands associated with the Wildlife Area, red oak stands, aspen, mixed hardwoods, upland and lowland brush, conifer, tamarack, pine, and old fields make up other natural habitats that are ideal for viewing wildlife.

At the north end of the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area, the brook flows into the Yellow River that also connects to the Yellow River Flowage. The flowage is an 85-acre lake that is very popular amongst local anglers. Visitors have

access to a public boat landing located just off Highway 63 in the heart of Spooner. Fish include largemouth bass, musky, northern pike, panfish and walleye. The lower reaches of the river and flowage are home to one of only six naturally reproducing lake sturgeon populations in the nation numbering over 1,000 of these prehistoric fish.

Lake sturgeon are not the only fish getting attention in the area. Located along the Yellow River in Spooner is the Governor Tommy G. Thompson State Fish Hatchery, which is made up of 46 rearing ponds. This is the state's largest cool water facility and world's largest muskellunge hatchery. In fact, many years the hatchery produces more than half of the musky and walleye stocked throughout Wisconsin.

Whether you are heading out to view diverse wildlife in their natural habitat or looking for a fun filled weekend of fishing, one thing is for sure: Spooner is the place to be this summer! Plan your trip today! 🐾

Lauren E. Seifert is Director of the Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce.



Governor Tommy G. Thompson State Fish Hatchery. Photo Credit: Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce/James Netz Photography

KRUEGER, *FROM PAGE 20*

visitors per year. Mineral Lake and Lake Three were the two closest national forest campgrounds to the state park. "Who wouldn't pay \$20 to stay at Mineral Lake today?" Peters asks, referencing the increased interest in camping the area has seen in recent years.

Once infrastructure is removed from the seven campgrounds, forest staff say the areas will remain open to dispersed camping. Dispersed camping is allowed across most of the 1.5 million acres of national forestland in northern Wisconsin.

Former Sevenmile Lake campers tell me the campground has a history dating back half a century. Sty North, a former national forest campground host in Ashland County, says he believes Mineral Lake Campground first opened in the 1960s.

Peters worries that once these campgrounds are dismantled, they're unlikely to be rebuilt for future generations. "Once these campgrounds are torn out, they'll be gone for a long time," he says. 🐾

Outside of work and school, you can find Greg camping, hiking and paddling the forests of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.



A sign directs hikers to Lake Three Campground west of Mellen. Lake Three is one of seven campgrounds slated to be dismantled this year across the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest.



WWW.SPOONERCHAMBER.ORG

SPOTLIGHT | **HAYWARD**

My Escape. . . and Yours!!

If you're bored in Hayward, you're doing something wrong." It's a phrase I have come to live by over the course of the last few years. One might view a small town with a giant musky in the middle of it as a place where nothing happens, but I can assure you that you'd be wrong. Hayward is home to many world class events such as the American Birkebeiner, the Lumberjack World Championships and the Chequamegon Mountain Bike Festival. But what happens when you're looking for peace and quiet? When you're trying to avoid the crowds, the traffic and all of the noise? I'll tell you where my sanctuary is: nature.

It's seemingly harder and harder to unplug these days with the constant noise from notifications from texts, emails and social media. This idea of media overload is not something I constructed myself and people have been discussing it since the dawning of the internet. Yet, when it comes down to it, we need this media to feel connected to the world. But what if in order to connect, we must disconnect?

When I want to "just be" I escape to the still waters of Hayward. One might have to do a few trial runs on lakes to find out which ones are more quiet than others, but with a little patience you can find your place to "just be" as well. Kayaking is one of the things that I love to do in the mornings once summer rolls around. School is out and I don't have to worry about making copies, sharpening pencils or writing lesson plans. I make sure I have a full thermos of coffee, a granola bar or two in my backpack and I head to the lake.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

SPOTLIGHT | **HURLEY**

ATV/UTV Trails

Let the rides begin

Plan a trip to Hurley and enjoy venturing over 300 miles of ATV/UTV trails. Kick off your day by heading west to the Plummer Mine Headframe. At 80 feet high, the last of the steel giants remains with an interpretive park that honors the Penoque Range iron miners and their families. Continue west through Iron Belt on Trail 77 leading to Upson Falls. Continue on to Trail 6 and catch a view of Whitecap Mountain and the surrounding scenic vistas. Trail 6 eventually turns north toward Lake Superior via Saxon where you will find more remarkable sights.

On the way back to Hurley from Saxon Harbor, head south to the Island Lake area along Trail 9 or 11 - either way the ride is enjoyable and there are miles to explore. A stop at the Veterans Memorial, which honors the crews of those who perished in two B-47 Stratojet strategic bomber crashes in 1961, is highly recommended. So, too, is a visit to Spring Camp Falls.

Stop and enjoy the unique menu items found at our local establishments. Some feature recipes that have been passed along from generation to generation. Several spots along the trails are equipped with pavilions, grills and parks where you can enjoy a meal outdoors. To request a trail map, call our office at 715-561-4334.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER


The Broken Promise of a Free Press

On June 1, I will have met every Wisconsin requirement to be on the November 8 ballot as an independent candidate for Governor. Everywhere I've gone as I traveled our state for a full year, I've answered the many people who asked me why they didn't know about me and my candidacy.

I expected the political parties and career politicians to do their best to shut me out, but it's been very eye-opening to experience first-hand the investment many others have in the status quo. On the top of the list is the media. The Constitutional promise of a free press was broken long ago when the media abandoned journalistic ethics to push their own political agendas. In April, 2021, when I formally registered as a candidate for governor, I sent a press release to every print, radio and television outlet in the state. A small handful found it newsworthy. Since that time, members of the media continue to decide who they consider worthy of inclusion in their election coverage. Well-known in political circles seems to be a requirement. The fact that I am the most highly qualified to be the chief executive of the state and have the strongest administrative track record of all the candidates, hasn't piqued their investigative curiosity. It's obvious they believe they should decide what you are allowed to know about your options.

I was surprised by those who call themselves conservative radio talk show hosts, who are, in reality, Republican talk show hosts. I wasn't prepared for them to be such a part of the political machinery. Most have ignored me. One spent airtime explaining to his audience why I can't win. Another booked me for an

in-studio interview after I introduced myself to her at an event, and then rescinded the invitation by email with no explanation. If these radio personalities were truly champions of the people, they would provide their listeners the information necessary to fully understand their choices, rather than tell them who they should vote for. There are notable exceptions. Joe Giganti (Regular Joe) and Steve Schroeder (The Schroeder Show) both hosted me in-studio in Green Bay for a full hour. Melissa Ebsch, Bay City Radio News Director, also fairly covered my candidacy. George Curtis hosted me on "It's Your Law" and Jim Schneider on "In Focus". Mike Grajeda (Mike is Always Right), Ben Dryden (DrydenWire) and Ed Delgado (The Caramel Conservative), all leaders in getting the word out through podcasts, have been fantastic, as well. There will be another handful by the time this article goes to print, but they are a tiny fraction of the media.

There's a lot wrong with our political process and the voters want change. Our campaign is going around the self-appointed gatekeepers of information straight to the people to win this race. It will be interesting to see if the media and talk show hosts continue to try to shut me out once I have secured my place on the ballot, but it won't matter. You have the power to decide. Please join me 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 Bejlingerforgovernor.com to make arrangements. You can also listen, and watch for her, on your local radio station, or TV affiliate.

JOHN ELLIS

There Is Only...Correct

Nothing is more important than truth

Our ability to communicate with each other is a gift from God that requires truth, and the proper use of language. But for many years now, we have allowed our English to become contaminated with words and phrases built on lies, and when we use them, we are using and teaching gibberish.

Politically correct is the phrase that started it all. *It was invented by Marxist-Leninists after the Russian Revolution of 1917, to make people afraid of speaking out against the Communist Party. It was then introduced in the United States in the late 1980s, to make people afraid of using language that might offend individuals or groups. It worked. Our fear of offending became more important than truth, and paved the way for all of the deceptive words and phrases commonly used everywhere today.

Here are just a few examples;

Transgender: This word gives validation to something

that is not possible. Its continued misuse has led many to believe the lie that they can change their sex. There is absolutely nothing compassionate about this. If we continually repeated that $2+2=5$, many young people would believe it, and be destined for a life of misery.


African-American: This word incorrectly labels black United States citizens. It cruelly keeps a subset of our fellow citizens separated from the rest of us, and severely weakens the unifying power of the simple word American.

Gun violence: This phrase incorrectly assigns a behavior to a gun, rather than a person, making the behavior impossible to correct.

Spin: This word legitimizes lying by politicians. It disguises what it really means to be a liar.

This type of meaningless language is destroying our ability to communicate and teach properly. It hurts

people, and is intended to confuse and divide us. It is made up and forwarded by a dishonest few in the media, government, corporations, education and entertainment fields, who pretend to embrace truth while their actions reveal a love for deceit. They are helping us to build our own Tower of Babel, and up until now many of us have been their unthinking enablers.

The solution to this very real problem is simple; start using and teaching proper English. Stop using the type of language that good English teachers and newspaper editors wouldn't tolerate, and make sure your kids are doing the same. Listen carefully to what you hear, think before you speak, and choose your words wisely. For those of you on school boards, review the curriculums and make sure proper English is being taught to your students. Remember that nothing is more important than truth, and there is only...correct. 

*The Encyclopedia Britannica

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DICK ELLIS

Celebrate the Moment

Twitter purchase offers First Amendment reprieve

Celebrate America! When **Elon Musk** announced purchase of **Twitter**, Social Media's most influential platform for \$44 Billion April 25, he made it clear his intentions were to protect the **First Amendment** under the **Constitution of the United States**.

"Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated," Musk said in a statement.

Yes celebrate the moment, literally. But know the fight for freedom resumes tomorrow. Our greatest gift as Americans handed down and earned by others is to not fear stating our beliefs. Left and right, we say what we think and hope that the majority agrees. When the opposition to your own ideas prevails, historically Americans have peacefully waited to fight again...meaning vote...another day.

We tread today on more dangerous ground; truth is a casualty and it is our liberties that hang in the balance. Social media, print and electronic media utilize blatant lies from their arsenal of propaganda or simply keep vital information from the American people essential to making their own call. They are the true insurrectionists, and they rely on the apathy of just a small percentage of the American voter to bring down this God-given gift.

How Ironic, but true to form, that the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** (MJS) chose to publish the huge Twitter story sourced from their flagship paper **USA Today** in the Business section on Page 10 of a 12 page front section.

Three stories critical of former President Trump, himself banned from Twitter, made the main news in the same issue. **Gannett** has 11 papers dominating what the Wisconsin reader receives as news throughout the state. The story was nowhere to be found in the MJS online issue for subscribers.

More reflective of Gannett's ongoing muzzling of the truth and assault on freedom is the closing paragraph in the Twitter story. Instead of giving voice to the countless sources of freedom-loving organizations and individuals who perceive the Musk acquisition as a reprieve in the assault on America's First Amendment, they quote who they introduce to the reader as a "media watchdog group."

"Angelo Carusone, the President of **Media Matters for America**," the article concludes, "...said in a statement that Musk buying Twitter would be 'a victory for disinformation and the people who peddle it.' Carusone believes that Musk could 'unleash a wave of toxicity and harassment.'"

What Gannett neglects to tell us is that **Media Matters for America** is defined by **Wikipedia** as a politically left-leaning watchdog group. It is known for its aggressive criticism of conservative journalists and media." A visit to their website verified the label.

So why don't we let Musk speak for himself? "Free speech is essential to a functioning democracy," he said, "and I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means."

In 2016, **OWO** published the editorial **Enemies Within- Corrupt government, corrupt media threaten American**.

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

It started, "The marriage of a corrupt government with a corrupt media means the most dangerous enemy the American people have ever faced is at the door."

There's one constant that defines corrupt government. They could never get away with it without corrupt media.

Since then, **On Wisconsin Outdoors** has invested an estimated 2000 hours closely watching the social, print and electronic media pretenders and recording what we see. Our many correspondences professionally seeking response have almost without exception been ignored. We promise that the reports we bring you online, on our website and in print will be a watchdog effort on any media arm regardless of political affiliation that is omitting the truth, or lying.

We're approaching Memorial Day; by definition "a solemn day of remembrance for honoring and mourning military personnel who have died in performance of their military duties." The one common theme that the 646,596 American troops who have died in battle according to Military.com (and 539,000 who died from non-combat related causes) is that they were willing to trade it all, for us. They most often saw no choice, regardless of consequence.

We don't either. This is the most dangerous enemy America has ever faced. And they are at the door. 🐺

DICK ELLIS

Wisconsin Wolf Update

OWO work offered to readers

On **Wisconsin Outdoors** has created a PDF of the work we completed over all of 2021/22 on the controversial Gray Wolf issue in Wisconsin. The 8-page PDF is now available to you on our homepage at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com, on Facebook, or upon request via e-mail. OWO's website link to our work is adjacent to a graphic video of two wolves literally eating a large whitetail buck alive. Use caution in who views the video, but we recommend that you do read and view the work to ensure that you are receiving all viewpoints prior to deciding how many wolves you believe Wisconsin can sustain. Proper game management demands balance of predator and prey.

OWO has worked in opposition to the **DNR**, Wisconsin tribes and the vast majority of other media to bring the truth to our audience to the best of our abilities. We appreciate the assistance of many on the Natural Resources

Board (NRB) and expert advisors. There is no attempted misleading in our reporting. We believe an exploding wolf population is severely harming deer hunting, associated hospitality businesses and the livestock industry. In the **DNR** Spring Hearings held last week, residents voted 2 to 1 to uphold the current Wisconsin management law to maintain the wolf population at 350 animals or less. The **DNR** claims with significant advisory support from "animal rights" groups that Wisconsin can sustain thousands of wolves. **OWO** calculates that there are currently as many as 5000 wolves in the state.

In addition to OWO's current work and our editorial opinions that are being added to the PDF as warranted, support from political leadership seeking to bring wolf management back to local management in Wisconsin will also be included. U.S. Senators Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) introduced



Proper game management in Wisconsin demands proper balance of predator and prey, including the gray wolf.

bi-partisan legislation to return management of gray wolf populations to states and delist the gray wolf as an endangered species in western Great Lakes States including Wisconsin. Rep Tom Tiffany (Wi-07) also sent **OWO** a media release representing numerous other congressmen following the decision "by an activist California Judge" that urged Department of the Interior Secretary Haaland to appeal the decision that restored Endangered Species Act protections for the gray wolf in most states, despite the wolf being fully recovered." 🐺

SKB SHOTGUNS

Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

That's a Hit Tips for breaking more targets

I had just finished shooting my best round of sporting clays to date, and reflecting on what I had done right. Forty-two out of 50 might be business as usual for some folks, but I was rather delighted with my score! Looking back, I saw that several things had contributed in small ways to help me break more targets. The following are a few of things that worked for me. Hopefully, they can add a few birds to your average as well.

Gun fit: It's really very simple; either you adjust the gun to fit you or you have to adapt your shooting form and sight picture to fit the gun. Adjustable stocks allow for a more ergonomic gun fit and helps the gun align with the eye and point naturally. I have never seen more adjustable stocks on the trap and sporties ranges than I have now. Modern stocks adjust for length of pull, comb height, right or left cast, etc. In all, a properly done

fitting takes seven different measurements of the stock.

Perhaps the best example I've seen was an experienced lady shooter I spoke to. She showed me how she had adjusted her stock to fit the female form better. The result was not only a better gun fit, but less discomfort from recoil. Proper stock fit is a big help with felt recoil. You should be able to have a proper "cheek weld" on your rear stock without ending up with a bruised cheek. One of the things I noticed after I had a trap gun fitted to me back in the '80s was not only the two or three bird increase in my average, but much less felt recoil.

Ammunition and chokes: More is not always better. The Amateur Trapshooting Association limits trapshooting shot charges to no more than 1-1/8 ounces of shot. The only time I use loads that heavy are for Handicap (added yardage) trapshooting or hunting live game. I'm using



An example of an adjustable stock used to give the shooter a perfect fit

one ounce of eight shot 90 percent of the time I shoot clay targets. Doesn't matter if it's sporties, trap or skeet. I hand load them to a velocity of 1,200 feet per second. One of the best clay target shooters I know uses target loads loaded to 1,150 feet per second. His hand loads pattern beautifully. Lower velocity and lighter shot charges

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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May 20-21

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

May 21

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

June 8

Chautauqua Summer Series
6:30 pm. Ferryville Village Hall.

Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE

Sales Galore in Scenic Country

Hallelujah! Spring is here and the daffodils, tulips and crocus flowers are popping out of the ground. Birds are everywhere. We are sweeping off the Ferryville Boat Launch, getting the picnic tables back to the shelter and we're happy to see folks out fishing. By the looks of it, perch and other kinds of fish are biting like crazy. Bait shops, like Cheapo Depot and Ferryville Cheese, have bait and tackle for what you need and when you need it. That also goes for what's in the cooler for snacks, food and beverages.

How about that Rummage Along the River 70-Mile Garage Sale event on May 20 and 21? Things are going to be even crazier this year with more sales mixed in with Highway 35 road construction between Genoa and De Soto. Don't let that be a roadblock for you! Check out the local detours and travel tips that will be posted on the Ferryville Tourism Facebook and at www.rummagealongtheriver.com. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has detours marked, but there are local county roads that provide quicker access to the sales in the countryside between Genoa, Victory and De Soto. You have clear sailing through Stoddard and Genoa. De Soto, Ferryville, Lynxville, Mount Sterling and Seneca are a piece of cake. Easy travel.

As usual, there will be lots of unique items for sale, including boats, lawn mowers, hunting and fishing gear, collectables and antiques, toys, kids play sets, and clothing. Check out the silverware, pots and pans (Set your college kids up now for that new apartment or dorm!). Furniture, Amish quilts, and crafts galore will also be featured.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

STRESING , FROM PAGE 32

make for less recoil and lower ammo cost. I shoot 16-yard trap with improved modified chokes and use more open chokes for sporting clays. Skeet requires improved cylinder or cylinder bore chokes.

Read the targets: How are they reacting to the wind? Watch the flight of the targets and figure the angles before pulling the trigger. Remember to blot out sporting clays' targets thrown towards you and keep swinging. Always try to break the target at the apex of its flight, as falling targets can be tricky. The clay pigeons are not going to outrun your shot pattern, so take that extra fraction of a second to aim. If you miss a target, don't let it bother you. Shake it off, and move on. I missed three out of four birds on one station, but continued and shot my best sporting clays round ever. Most of all...have fun! 🎯

**FERRYVILLE, FROM PAGE 32**

You will find lots of interesting items for sale at the local parks in Stoddard, Genoa, De Soto and Ferryville and the Big Sale at the Ferryville Community Center and the De Soto Community Center. Many kinds of food and beverages will be available and, happily, more port-a-potties than last year!

Advice: Book a place to stay NOW. Do not wait. Our "Welcome Mat" is out and we hope to see you soon. See our ad for contact and other information. 🎯



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STUART WILKE

Cheap Shots The airgun alternative

Concerns regarding politics, foreign affairs, economics and society have led to an unprecedented surge in firearm and ammunition sales and shortages. Availability is somewhat improving, but costs continue to rise in many cases.

There is an alternative to traditional firearms that use rimfire and center fire cartridges that is generally more affordable, but just as fun, interesting, and challenging. Not to mention more logistically friendly - they can be safely shot indoors.

The alternative in question is air guns. They come in a dizzying variety of types, propellants and actions, from handguns to rifles, realistic to fantastical, pneumatic, gas and spring launched, single shot, semi-automatic and fully automatic.

One of the most entertaining air guns I have experienced was an electric airsoft gun bought for my then eight-year-old daughter to safely introduce her to the shooting sports. My hope was that this gun would eventually lead to something we could do together without a large capital investment.

I don't recall the brand, but the little airsoft pistol only cost about \$35 and vaguely resembled an M4 sans buttstock. Paraphrasing Wikipedia, electrically powered airsoft guns use a spring-loaded

piston pump that typically use a battery pack to power an internal electric motor, which transmits through a gearbox to compress a pump spring and propel the pellets via the compression of air.

Anything that the electric pistol produced resembling accuracy was limited to, maybe, five yards at best, and it was certainly no powerhouse. Launching lightweight plastic BBs at a leisurely 120 feet-per-second, its projectiles often couldn't punch through news print at pointblank ranges. While not target-grade or hard-hitting, the little pistol had one, important, overarching feature that made it far more tacti-cool than most introductory firearms: IT WAS FULLY AUTOMATIC! Meaning that it was a never-ending source of amusement until it died. While it didn't live long, it was instrumental in teaching my daughter firearms safety and to this day she enjoys target shooting.


Not long after the electric pistol's demise, we stepped it up a couple of notches and bought a full-size airsoft copy of a Beretta M9. This gun is propelled by "Green Gas." Again to paraphrase Wikipedia, green gas guns are those that use an internal canister (usually within the magazine) that upon trigger-pull releases the pre-filled bottled gas via a series of valves to propel the pellet and generate a blowback, which simulates recoil and cyclically chambers the next shot.

An affordable and fun Beretta M9 air soft gun. Cheap to shoot, too.



The green gas, 20-shot, Beretta does a pretty good job of simulating the real thing in looks, weight and feel. Like the actual M9, its airsoft cousin is a double action, semi-automatic pistol. The slide is forced back with each shot fired, the safety and magazine controls are in the right place and the fixed sights are well-regulated. The M9 fires plastic BBs at about 300 feet per second and is accurate to about 10 yards and cost \$125, approximately one-fifth of the real thing. A jar of 5,000 BBs runs


about \$.0024 per BB, compared to a dollar per generic 9mm cartridge.

In future issues of On Wisconsin Outdoors, we'll examine far more powerful and accurate airguns that will give their cartridge brethren more than a run for their money. 

Contact Stuart at submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

HAYWARD, FROM PAGE 29

There's a stillness that washes over me like waves to the rocks on the shoreline while I'm out on the water. After a while, I pull my paddle back into the kayak to soak up the sounds of the day. Loons cry out in the distance as what I could imagine is their form of breakfast banter around the kitchen table. I hear the chatter of a family loading up their vehicle to head into town for the day. The closing of car doors and the crunch of the gravel as the tires propel them down the driveway. In a fishing boat not too far off in the distance to my left, I hear a grandpa and a grandson swapping stories about fish from the past and what the Brewers are going to do this summer. A bald eagle flies overhead as the sunshine makes its way from behind the trees.

I dip my hand into the water to remind myself that I am alive. I am here. I am present. My phone buzzes in my pocket and I fight the urge to take a picture off of the end of my kayak. The water is like glass. No, this moment is mine. Just be. 


For more information or to order a vacation guide visit www.hayardlakes.com or call 715-634-4801.

HURLEY, FROM PAGE 29

Waterfalls, Kayaking and Fishing

There are 19 waterfalls in and around the Hurley area and most of them are located in remote, unspoiled, wild areas. Some can be driven to while others require walking and a little bit of orienteering to get to. For a real adventure, park at Upson Falls and hike the North Country Trail through the Gold Mine Campsite to Wren Falls. Call 715-561-4334 for a tour guide.

Iron County has over 170,000 acres of public land, much of which is accessible through back roads and old logging trails. Adventurers can explore the area and camp there for up to two weeks without paying a fee.

The Gile Flowage is home to walleye, smallmouth bass, muskie, crappie, northern pike, blue gill and perch. This 3,300 acre body of water has four public launches for boats, pontoons, kayaks and paddle boards. The Hurley area also has 154 lakes with public access and 136 miles of trout streams. Call our office for an updated Iron County Sportsmans Map. 

Hurley is a place where everyone can play. Visit hurleywi.com or call 715-561-4334 for more information.



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