

FREE

On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the

Dick Ellis Experts

- **An Awakening Wisconsin**
Invitations from our tourism partners
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Return of a long lost friend
- **Trail Riding Wisconsin**
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Fat tire biking a "Nine Mile" Jewel
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SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA

CAPTAIN LEE HAASCH

April Showers Mean Spring Fishing

Ice fishing really picked up recently and now is the time to jump into late winter and early spring fishing mode. March and April mean lots of steelhead can be found in the streams. It is not uncommon for seasoned anglers to catch and release a limit of fish on a regular basis.

Did you ever have a steelhead (rainbow trout) smack your bait, bend your pole totally in half and scream out drag on your reel as it dances downstream in the rapids? There is nothing more exhilarating than doing battle with a 12-pound steelhead on light tackle.

Lake Michigan shoreline is a hot area in March and April. Giant brown and trophy lake trout cruise the shoreline while feeding on gobies in the shallows, providing many opportunities to cash in on some very tasty fish. Anglers trolling with light tackle with stick baits in 12 to 25 feet of water will find huge fish along the shoreline.

Algoma is open for business and fishing is only one part of what we have to offer. Our 2023 summer line-up is filled with fishing tournaments, festivals, car shows and musical events. We look forward to your visit!

Experience for yourself what Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma! For charter information and fishing reports, visit my website at www.FishAlgoma.com or call 1-888-966-3474.

From Captain Lee and the crew aboard the NEW Grand Illusion 3, good luck and good fishing! 🎣



Capt. Tyler Yunk holds a typical steelhead caught on the Ahnapee River for a quick photo before releasing it back into the water for the next angler to enjoy.

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SPRINGTIME IN ALGOMA
Spring is upon us and along with the beautiful birds and flowers that return, the world class, open water fishing that this area is famous for, and our hiking and biking trails that we have. Algoma is open for business! We look forward to our many summer events like:

- Kewaunee-Door Salmon Tournament
- Shanty Days Festival
- Soar on the Shore - Kite Fest
- Wet Whistle Wine Fest

Watch for more upcoming information on these and other events.

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PHIL SCHWEIK

The Spring Fishing Rush

A final goodbye to Old Man Winter

Early spring can be a fun and productive time for fishing. During March, a few diehard anglers can still be found hitting the last remaining ice. At the same time, some hardy souls are digging out their boats and fishing any open water that they can find. Anglers taking to the ice will find that some fish have moved into shallow waters while others will be found suspended.

With most inland lakes closed to large gamefish, the very plentiful and easy to catch panfish will be the primary target of choice for ice anglers during early spring. In March and April, anglers can often find panfish among shallow weeds in three to eight feet of water. Small teardrop ice jigs or tungsten jigs that have been tipped with plastics or live bait like wax worms or spikes work well. Use the same arsenal in the few lakes where fish are still found suspended over deep water. Locating these fish can be somewhat difficult because they are constantly roaming and on the move. This is where your electronics make time on the hardwater easier.

River fishing for walleyes is just getting started in early spring with pre-spawn fish staging in deep water haunts within the main river channel. Walleye season remains open on the Wisconsin River year-round and at this time of the year, I target fish in 14 to 18 feet of water and sometimes even deeper. This is not only some of the best fishing you will find throughout the year, but the best time of the year to hook a really big fish.

Fishing a sunny day, don't hesitate to move up shallower to eight to 10 feet of water because the walleyes will slide up with the warming of the sun. For targeting these early season walleyes, I typically run lead head jigs tipped with plastics or live fathead minnows. I work them very slowly on the bottom of the river.

A variety of great fishing opportunities await anglers as Old Man Winter heads out and spring rushes in. Get out and enjoy what this time of the year has to offer you!

Phil Schweik | Hooksetters Guide Service | Phone 715-693-5843 | Web: www.hooksetters.biz



Late ice crappies for a mom and her son.



Andy Teller and his buddy with some nice early spring walleyes.

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On The Cover

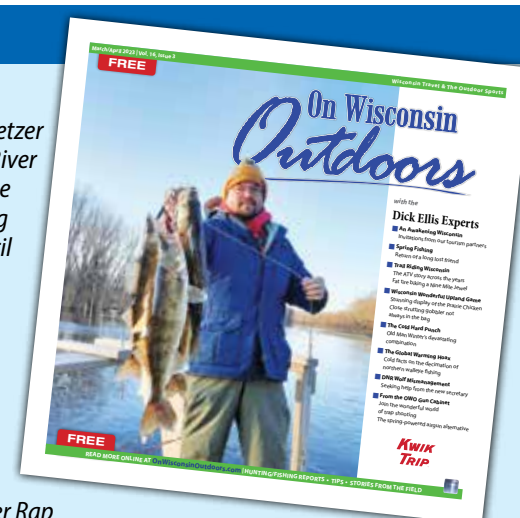
Wolf River Wonder

John Faucher of New London and Drew Fietzer of Waupaca had a good day on the Wolf River during the 2022 spring walleye run. On the cover, Fietzer shows the results of targeting down run (post-spawn) fish during an April cold front approximately two miles below New London.

Faucher, owner of Johnny's Little Shop of Bait in New London, said anglers should look forward to the same great fishing approaching the 2023 run. "People can expect really good fishing as soon as the ice goes off," he said. "I'm guessing this year about March 6. We were using Scatter Rap Series Rapalas with drop weights on a fast current line. We had a 3-fish limit per man. I know this is hard to believe, but several of those fish were really big males." Connect with John and Johnny's Little Shop of Bait for updates. Visit his shop at 1205 W. Wolf River Ave., New London, WI, 54961, or call 920-982-9802. Take it from this outdoor writer...you'll be glad you did.

Dick Ellis

Photo by John Faucher.



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

HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL
EXPLORE WISCONSIN

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PUBLISHER | EDITOR:
Dick Ellis
ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Stuart Wilke
submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

DESIGN | PRODUCTION:
A. Garrigan
ali@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

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DAVE DUWE

Pass on the Passion Teach a kid to fish

As the years roll on and I get older, I realize the importance of passing on my passion for fishing. I love the sport and was able to base a career on it. With the advent of cell phones, TikTok, YouTube and Xbox, it's sometimes harder to get your child outdoors. We can get them outside, but we need a magic wand: a fishing pole.

Being a seminar speaker and fishing guide for many years, I have taught hundreds of kids and adults about my passion for fishing. Whether it's fishing from shore or boat, the key is to keep it simple. Bobbers, hooks and worms are all that is required. As a child gets older, you can work up to lures and casting, but for beginners, the hook and bobber will suffice. When you do work up to casting, make sure there is plenty of room for practice before the treble hooks start flying.

Shallow water using a basic bobber, hook, line, and sinker offers the perfect start. This works well for two - three feet of water. The shallow water means less line beneath the bobber and will let a young angler cast without hooking themselves. A weighted bobber or split shot will be needed for longer casts. When fishing deeper water, I remove the bobber and fish directly under the anchored boat. While fishing below the boat, position the bait one or two feet off bottom. You may need to help the first few times.

Make sure the rods and reels match the size of the angler. You don't want to give your four-year-old a six-foot rod. Some of my youngest guide customers have caught huge fish on a Snoopy pole.

For bait, worms and nightcrawlers are a must. The first couple of trips with a young child is all about catching fish. My children didn't care about what they caught because a lot of action helped keep their interest. This is a good chance to teach them about the catch and release philosophy and its importance.

TOM LUBA

Fish On! Hook your kids on these three baits

Generally, the best way to introduce kids to fishing is the bobber and live bait. Keeping them hooked might best be accomplished by introducing them to artificial lures - but not just any lures.

Start with baits that produce motion. I admit I was part of the bobber brigade growing up. Until my aunt got me a No. 1 Mepps Aglia inline spinner with the brown squirrel tail. Back then, dad liked grasshoppers for stream smallmouth. After catching a jar full, I was allowed to tag along. He had his favorite stretch, so my trusty spincast rod and I wandered to the next pool.

With no expectations, I started casting the Mepps. Three casts later the bait stopped

cold. I was locked in combat with my first smallmouth ever on an artificial. The fish was hooked good, and so was I!

Later that summer, dad needed 'hoppers' again. This time he and his buddy were hitting a pond a farmer let them fish. I hitched a ride and brought along a new lure, a black plastic worm with a red tail rigged on a harness. The multiple hooks kept the worm straight and a small spinner added flash. Dad and his buddy deserted me, heading around the pond. I had just started tossing the worm harness when the bait stopped and headed sideways. It was my first largemouth bass on an artificial! When they returned, I had five on the stringer



Fishing is family fun.

When planning a trip with a young angler, try not to have any pre-conceived notions about how the trip should go. You need patience and a go-with-the-flow attitude. Remember there is no yelling in fishing. And never fish longer than the interest level of your child. When a child becomes a very bored child, everyone's attitude diminishes. Snacks are a distraction to keep the spirits high and the promise of a Happy Meal after the trip always helps.

By far safety needs to be on the top of your mind. When fishing from shore, make sure you are away from the boat launches. I prefer fishing areas with little to no current. Watch out for muskrat holes - they have claimed more than one shoe. Make sure you have a life jacket that fits properly; this is a must when on a boat and a good idea when fishing from shore or a pier as well. Remember, never allow your child to stand while the boat is moving.

Taking your child fishing can create a lifetime of memories and this remains something that you can do with your child, even when your child is an adult. 🐟

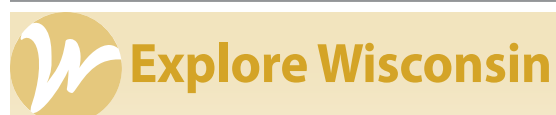
For guide trips, Dave Duwe fishes the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin. He can be contacted at 262-728-8063.



Lily Moder with a nice smallmouth bass. Shallower rivers are good places to teach kids about easy-to-use motion baits.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



SPOTLIGHT | OCONTO COUNTY

We've Got it All

Pike? Bass? Panfish? Trout? Walleye? Check. Check and check! We've got them all!

Home to nearly 400 lakes and great access to the Bay of Green Bay, Oconto County is your prime location for recreational and competitive fishing. Our waters are surrounded by scenic landscapes that are easily accessible from public parks and campgrounds. You won't be far from shops and restaurants, either, making Oconto County an easy choice for weekend getaways to weeklong family outings.

A Competitive Angler's Dream

When it comes to walleye fishing, we are your best bet to reel in those trophy catches. Through the years, Oconto County has even hosted professional anglers competing in the National Walleye Tour and the AIM Weekend Walleye Series. If you're looking for a place to prep for your next competition (or just want

to feel like a professional), drop your line in Oconto County!

Year-Round Fishing

Fishing never takes a break in Oconto. That's because you can fish nearly year-round. From flowing rivers to frozen waves, we've got you covered. It's easy to find a spot to fish for walleye, northern pike, bass, panfish and trout.

Barrier-Free Fishing

Oconto is home to the South Branch Oconto Barrier-Free Fishing Trail, a quarter-mile fishing trail with access to 11 fishing sites (there are only a few of these across the United States). We have flat spots along the shoreline to cantilever decks that bring you out over the stream. Anglers of all abilities and ages will find fishing comes easy in Oconto.

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Find more information at www.OcontoCounty.org



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Like diamonds, all terrain vehicles are forever. Snowmobiles are limited to snow and boats to water, but all terrain vehicles (ATVs) can be used all year round, for work and play, road and trail. They travel at a pace that most folks can manage easily and require a skill set similar to driving an automobile.

ATVs are a well-established mode of recreation and a common sight on worksites, farms, lawns and gardens, but their debut was inauspicious. Bobby Donahue of Donahue Super Sports in Wisconsin Rapids, a world champion snowmobile racer and experienced motorcycle and dirt bike rider, was underwhelmed with the first ATVs. The originals featured one tire in front, two in the back and a small motor in between. "It was a Yamaha Tri-Moto 125 three-wheeler," he said. "It was slow, not very agile, and required a lot of body movement to make it turn well and control at speed. They didn't have much utility purpose and were limited to recreational uses."

Bobby didn't see much of a future for the early ATVs. They were limited to off-road use. Dirt bikes and snowmobiles were arguably more fun and operating the three-wheelers under some circumstances could be difficult.

Not long after their debut, the early ATV manufacturers and riders found the machines to be of limited practical use. "The problem with the three-wheelers were that as they became more popular, people wanted more power, more suspension and more speed, which the machines' geometry couldn't handle," Bobby said. "They became hard to handle when they added too much power."

The platform was too unstable for too much power. The number of accidents and fatalities climbed at an alarming rate. The federal government stepped in and outlawed the machines in 1987.

In the meantime, many of the manufacturers were already transitioning to safer, more powerful and versatile four-wheel machines with more

suspension, Bobby said. Sales took off in a way that never would have been possible with three-wheelers. "People discovered that four-wheel ATVs had utility," he said. "They began adding cargo racks and trailer hitches. They used them for hunting and carrying deer back to camp and tending traplines. They went on the ice with them to go ice fishing. Plowed driveways and pulled logs, trailers and weed sprayers. You can use them on trails, on the farm and in the yard. They are very versatile," Bobby said.

In many rural areas, ATVs can be driven on road routes, within certain parameters. The vehicles must be licensed. Drivers and passengers under 18 must wear approved helmets. Riders that were born on or after January 1, 1988, and are at least 12 years old, need to pass an approved Wisconsin DNR ATV safety course. Lights must be turned on when the vehicle is in operation.

Riding ATVs is a very accessible pastime, Bobby said. There are over 1,800 miles of ATV trails in Wisconsin during spring, summer and fall on mostly public land. That number jumps to about 4,200 miles in the winter, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Some counties allow ATVs only on select snowmobile trails and only when temperatures are 28 degrees or below.

Unlike some recreational vehicles, ATVs are comparatively easy to drive, according to Bobby. Depending on engine size, some can reach speeds in excess of 50 mph, although high speed travel is not their purpose. They average 15 to 20 mpg from low emission, four stroke, fuel injected engines and typically have a range of about 80 to 100 miles per tank of gas. Automatic transmissions make them very easy to drive. Average cost is in the \$10,000 range.

"ATVs are fun, versatile, dependable and affordable," Bobby said. 🍷

Donahue Super Sports sells Can-Am and Yamaha ATVs. See their ad in this edition of On Wisconsin Outdoors.



LUBA, FROM PAGE 4

and released a bunch. They got skunked.

Those experiences shaped my angling. Even when the fishing slowed, casting and finding the right approach for the bait completely occupied me. Since then, I've used numerous baits and recommend three that kids can master fast.

A few quick lessons with a push button spincast combo should get them casting. And the Mepps Aglia spinner, with a squirrel tail or red plastic around the hook, is bait one.

A Beetle Spin has a spinner attached to the hook eye and a

plastic body on the shank. You can also take a basic leadhead jig, and get some small spinner blades from a bait store, or even WalMart, that can attach to the hook eye. Put a small plastic grub on the hook, tail down, and cast and retrieve. Go with baitfish or crawfish colors.

Once they get the hang of it, you can rig the grub without the spinner blade on a plain jig. Cast and retrieve, faster to keep it off bottom. Or slower to run deeper. The tail action attracts the fish.

Third, try the same bait I used on the farm pond years ago,

the Creme Lures Scoundrel six-inch plastic worm harness with the black worm and red firetail. It is fairly weedless and good near cover. I like rivers for jigs and spinners for smallmouth. The worm harness shines in lakes, especially around weeds, for largemouth. Beetle Spins and jig and grub work on both waters.

If the fishing is tougher, add a small piece of nightcrawler to the hook for live bait scent. Mostly, though, they work as is. When the kids start catching fish, they'll want to get out a lot more. And as they learn, you can enjoy teaching. 🍷

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DAN MOERICKE

An Up Nort' Report Going, Going, Gone

Across America, hunters are losing access to public land. Not all at once, just a little at a time. Forty acres here, 100 acres there. It's death by a thousand cuts.

The Wisconsin Recreational Immunity statute was enacted at least in part to encourage municipalities to keep public land open for all sorts of recreational activities. In a nutshell, the act says that the municipalities cannot be sued by somebody who is injured while recreating on the land or by someone recreating on the land. So liability is not an issue.

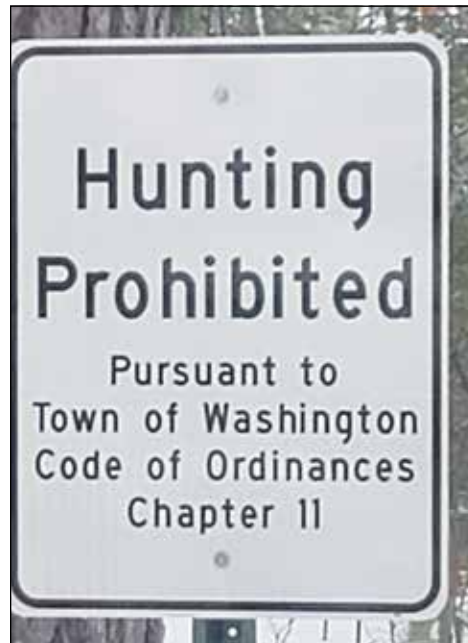
For over 20 years, I have bow hunted on a nearly 100 acre parcel owned by the Town of Washington just east of Eagle River. Located on this parcel is the town transfer station, which is open three mornings a week during the hunting season. Otherwise, the entry road is gated shut. The town board had previously banned hunting during transfer station operating hours. Fair enough. Since I didn't really want to be hunting when there was traffic going in and out anyway, that wasn't a big deal.

On one corner of the property, covering three acres, is a sledding hill. This past year the sledding hill opened around Christmas, so it overlapped the bow hunting season by about a week. Now, no bow hunter in their right mind would hunt anywhere near a bunch of kids and the sledding hill has been there for over a decade without incident.

A year or two ago, the board banned hunting with firearms on the property. Since the transfer station building/equipment is there as well as a cell phone tower with an LP tank, I could understand that.

Then, out of the blue, this past November the town board made the decision to ban bow hunting on the parcel too. Somehow, after decades of bow hunting on this property, it had suddenly become a safety issue. For the record, I've never seen another person while hunting there.

Board members stated repeatedly that it was purely a safety issue. This despite the fact



Signs like this signal the end of public land hunting.

that there's never been an incident of a bow hunter harming anyone on this property, or anywhere else in the state for that matter. This despite the fact that many municipalities have archery hunts within the city limits. This without any firsthand knowledge of bow hunting, any research as to its safety record, or any input from archery hunters.

I got the hunting ordinance put on the agenda for the next board meeting to try and convince them to reverse their decision. However, their minds were made up and they didn't want to be confused by the facts. Apparently, repeating the same fallacy often enough makes it a reality.

Though they are non-hunters, the board members adamantly denied being anti-hunting and proudly displayed a map detailing other township property on which all hunting is allowed. So I guess we're supposed to feel good about the fact that they only took 95 acres away. I don't. Never will. Just sayin'. 🐾

JACOB QUIGLEY

Nine Mile The Crown Jewel of Marathon County

Nine Mile, the "The Crown Jewel" of the Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry system, offered the perfect destination for four friends and a day on 10 miles of mountain biking trails. For me personally, it would be the perfect opportunity to christen a new fat tire bike. For you, Nine Mile might be the perfect excuse to try out 20 miles of groomed cross country ski trails, or 5,000 acres available for activities including horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. For \$20, purchase a season pass and come back as often as you like to try out whatever you want.

My friends and I arrived at Nine Mile in early afternoon and immediately geared up for the day. The great thing about fat tire biking is its year round appeal. Since it was winter, we set out our tire air pressure between 3.5 and 5 pounds. Studded tires during winter are not required, but are definitely recommended for better traction.

Once geared up, we began to venture out and see what Nine Mile had to offer. Single track biking can be risky considering how close trees can be to the trail. Remember safety first and be alert at all times. The best advice that a fellow biker gave me on trail riding is to look where you want to go instead of straight down at your front tire. If you pay attention to where you want to go, you will naturally steer in that direction. One benefit to biking in the winter is that you'll have a soft landing if you do happen to fall down!

For the first two hours, the four of us meandered our way through the single track course. Another inch of fresh powder had come down the night before, which added to optimal conditions. The trails were groomed very nicely as well.

After that first spin, we spent some time inside Nine Mile's convention center; complete with fireplace and plenty of room to sit inside and warm up with coffee or hot chocolate. After some laughs and caffeine to get the blood pumping again, we went back out to explore more trails.

We had a great day at Nine Mile and I would recommend these trails to any beginner. They are relatively flat and tame, which is ideal for anyone just starting out with trail riding.

I'm looking forward to riding new trails throughout Wisconsin and to breaking out the kayak when the weather warms up. 🐾

Note: Our Bike Wisconsin column in the January-February issue should have stated that WinMan Trails is located in the Manitowish Waters, town of Winchester area. See you there!





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SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes by Suzette

A good bowl of soup, along with crusty bread or hearty rolls, counts as an almost perfect meal at our house. My husband is happy to act as the official “taster” for the many different types of soups that are created in our kitchen, and I am always trying to create something new.

The term “mirepoix” refers to the sautéed combination of onions, carrots, and celery in a 2:1:1 ratio. It is used extensively in French cuisine and offers a traditionally flavorful base for many soups. The Wild Turkey soup base is a mirepoix (as are most chicken soups), but the addition of mushrooms and barley adds a nice twist. Enjoy!

Wild Turkey Soup

1 T Olive Oil	2 Bay Leaves
2 Onions, peeled and chopped	1 Teaspoon Dried Thyme
1 Carrot, peeled and sliced	1/2 Teaspoon Salt
1 Celery Stalk, peeled and sliced	1/2 Teaspoon White Pepper
8 Ounces Mushrooms, sliced	1/2 Cup Barley (1 Cup cooked)*
4 Cups Chicken Broth or Stock	2 Cups Turkey Breast, cooked and shredded

Heat oil in soup kettle or large pot. Add onions, carrots and celery and sauté until onions begin to turn translucent, about five minutes. Add mushrooms and sauté for an additional five minutes.

Add broth, bay leaves, thyme, salt and pepper to pot. Bring to boil; cover and reduce heat. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add barley and turkey to pot and continue to simmer another 15 minutes. Remove bay leaves and serve immediately.

*Cooking ½ cup barley per instructions on package yields the one cup cooked barley required here.

Venison Borscht

1 Pound Venison, cut into bite-sized pieces	4 Cups Beef Broth
1 Large Onion, chopped	2 Cups Cabbage, thinly sliced
4 Cups Water	1 T Dried Dill
1 Large Potato, peeled and chopped	3 T Lemon Juice or Red Wine Vinegar
4 Carrots, peeled and chopped	Salt and Pepper
4 Beets, peeled and chopped	Sour Cream

Place meat and chopped onions in soup kettle or large pot and cover with 4 cups lightly salted water. Bring pot to boil; cover and reduce heat to simmer until meat is tender, about 1 hour.

While meat is cooking, prepare vegetables for roasting. Preheat oven to 400°. Cover a large rimmed baking pan with foil. Add potatoes, carrots and beets to pan, drizzle with olive oil and spread vegetables out in a single layer. Roast for about 30 minutes until vegetables are fork tender.

Add roasted vegetables to soup pot along with cabbage and dill. Pour beef broth over all and stir in the lemon juice or vinegar. Cover pot and continue to simmer another 15 minutes. Season to taste and serve with a dollop of sour cream.

While this can be served immediately, it keeps well for a few days in the refrigerator. The taste and coloring actually improve over time, so preparing a day early might be the best idea. 🍴

Suzette Curtis, of Oshkosh, cooks for a family of hunters and anglers. Contact her at recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



BOB SPIERINGS

Bob's Bear Bait

Question & answers on bear baiting

Spring is here and with it the bear baiting opener. If you've drawn a tag, you're one of the lucky few. Many wait several years, some over a decade, just to draw a tag in hopes of harvesting a Wisconsin black bear. While the harvest quota has been increasing, so have the number of applicants. If you're new to the sport, chances are you have googled “tips on hunting black bear” and have found that bear hunting information is about as elusive as black bears themselves. So to help you get off on the right foot, here are a few tips to get you started.

When should I start baiting?

Ask 10 hunters and you'll get 10 different answers. Most importantly, though, it depends on your budget, time and if you want to increase your odds. If you can start baiting in late spring that would be ideal. As bears travel through looking for a mate during this time, they'll take note where they found an easy, reliable meal and you won't need to go as heavy on the amount of bait or as frequently. We've heard of hunters placing bait two weeks before season, but we don't recommend it. During this time bears seek out other ripening food sources and quit hitting bait sites, greatly reducing your odds of even getting a bear to hit. The sweet spot though, is the beginning of July.

Where should I place my bait?

Picking a site that is brushy and secluded with minimal human traffic can make a bear feel more comfortable, resulting in them coming in even during daylight hours. About two weeks prior to the season opener, bears may quit coming in because they are feeding on ripening corn, acorns and other crops. Plan ahead for this by placing a bait site adjacent to hardwood ridges, corn fields, clover patches, and other habitats that are bountiful in natural foods which will keep bears close to your bait site even when the natural forage ripens.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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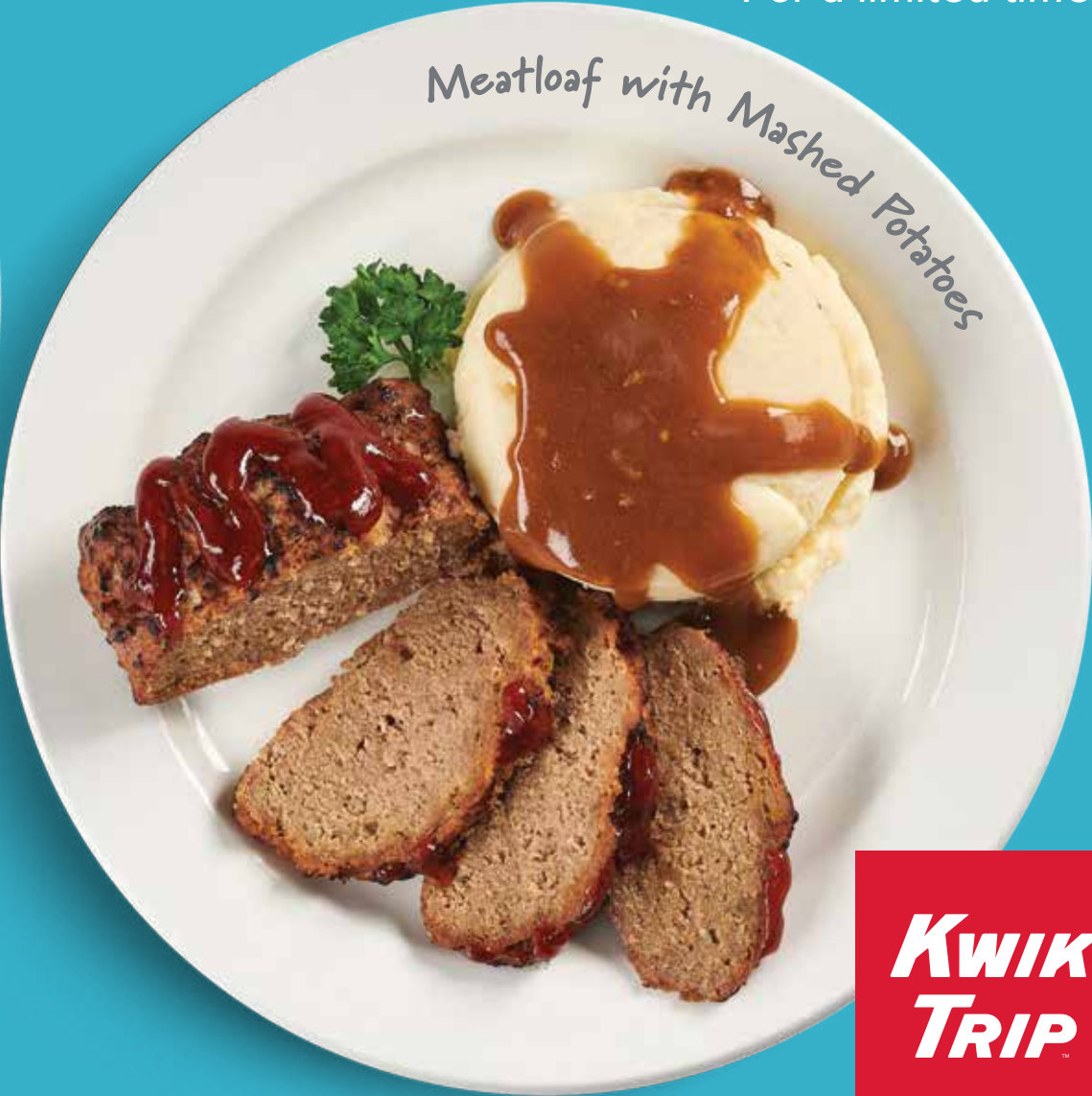
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TOM MUELLER

Relaxed Retriever Training

Training fun on the run

One of the things that I really enjoy doing with my retrievers at this time of the year is taking them for a “fun run.” Whether at the Fox Valley Retriever Club training grounds in Muskego or one of the fields near where I live, I will head out to give them a run so they can burn off some energy. Most retrievers are bred to be high energy dogs with a lot of drive and fire power. That often means that they have to get some exercise so they can burn off that energy and be relaxed. Walking them through a large field lets them run freely in whichever direction they want to go, and do whatever they want to do, but that’s okay because that’s what we’re there for.

Sometimes though I will change things

and turn the “fun run” into a “training fun run.” I’ll tuck a training dummy or two under my arm or carry them in a shoulder bag and do some easy and fun drills as we walk through the field. These might be drills that the dog has just started learning and can then be reinforced, or they might be drills that it already knows that you just want to keep polished.

One of these drills is called “stand-alone retrieves.” If your dog is very good at sitting on the whistle, then blow the whistle to have it sit. If need be, reinforce the “sit” command with a nick from the e-collar. Toss the dummy and have the dog sit for a bit before releasing it for the retrieve. Once it delivers the dummy to hand, just continue your walk for a while

and then do it again. If your dog doesn’t sit on the whistle very well, then have the dog sit at heel. Reinforce the sit whistle as you walk out from the dog 10 to 20 yards. Toss the dummy a short distance. Reinforce “sit” and then release the dog for the retrieve. When your dog delivers the dummy to hand, tuck it under your arm and continue on your walk for a bit, then do it again.

Another drill you can do is a “marking memory drill.” With a dummy in your hand and your dog walking at heel on a lead, drop a dummy, but don’t let the dog pick it up. Keep on walking for 10, 20, 30 or more yards depending on your dog’s skill level. Turn and send the dog for the retrieve. After it delivers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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—Gregg Borneman



TOM CARPENTER

Planning the Happy Ending

Shooting tips to tag your gobbler

If you haven't missed a turkey, you haven't been hunting turkeys very long. Missing a turkey is no sin, but failing to learn from the experience is inexcusable.

The Reasons We Miss

Didn't sight-in. It's amazing how many hunters don't shoot their shotgun before the season to know where things are hitting and make sight adjustments.

Not ready for a turkey to appear. Arriving unannounced, within range of an unsuspecting and unready hunter, saves many gobblers their feathered skins.

Panicked and rushed shot. Fear of losing that turkey causes misses when we shoot too quickly.

Didn't get butt of stock up, and head down. Failing to get the butt of the gun's stock up on your shoulder and your head down on it starts the bad cycle of shooting high - turkey hunting's most common miss.

Peeked. In their excitement, some hunters

will lift their heads while pulling the trigger to see him drop. Except he doesn't.

Failed to line up sights. Wait until the sights are lined up (and then double check them) before shooting.

Jerked trigger. Jerking the trigger pulls your sights off the bird. Squeeze the trigger

Turkey moved. Turkeys are nervous. They take steps and bob their melons at inopportune times — such as when a hunter is pulling a trigger.

Turkey too far away. Taking a poke at a too-far gobbler is a sure miss. Worse, you could cripple it.

Turkey too close. Full chokes and special turkey chokes leave little to no room for aiming error when things are up close and personal.

Plan for Success

Positive Attitude. Expect a turkey at all times while hunting. If you get passive or pessimistic and your gun is on your lap or

lying at your side when a bird shows up, the extra movements you need to make are sure to spook it. Be ready.

Nestle In, Make Adjustments. As the turkey approaches, get ready to shoot. Bring your stock up, pull your head down tight onto it, and nestle your cheek in. Actively make adjustments to keep a good shooting angle on the bird. Shift only slowly, both when and at the speed he moves. Better yet, shift only when his head is out of view.

Know Ranges. Know your outside range limitation and your ideal distance. Don't shoot beyond the first. Strive to bring the turkey into the second. Believe it or not, don't let the bird get too close. The sweet spot is between 20 to 30 yards.

Confidence and Patience. Be patient. Don't rush. Unless he's getting spooked, that gobbler has nowhere else to go. Shoot when the time is right.

Double Check Sighting. This is the most important step to ensure getting that turkey.

Remembering basic shooting tips at the moment of truth can mean the difference between a photo with your gobbler, like the author's son Ethan Carpenter, and kicking yourself on the ride home.



Really think about your sight picture, and take time to double check your sights' alignment. I shoot with two beads, lining the back one up with the front one to make sure I'm not shooting high. If I take an extra couple seconds to really consider those sights' alignment and placement — back one lined up with front one, front one placed on the bird's wattles — it's a dead turkey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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LEOVARDO AGUILAR

The Prairie Chicken Love Dance

Stunning display attracts mates, appreciative audience

Every spring this dance troupe returns to select stages for their annual performance. Sporting a striped suit with orange accents, the greater prairie chicken's mating ritual is the biggest show you haven't heard of. That's right, we're talking about a wild bird - not some underground rock band. In patches of central Wisconsin grassland, they perform a well-rehearsed song and dance mix that's best seen with a guided tour. Let's shine a light on our stars before the season peaks in April and the curtain drops once more.

A state threatened species, greater prairie chickens are a group worth looking into. Relatives of grouse and turkeys, these medium-sized birds are covered in deep brown, crème and white barred feathers. Females are dressed simply while males boast orange eyebrows, orange air sacks with pink streaks, and a pair of black neck feathers that are raised and lowered on command. As their name suggests, large swaths of prairies, grasslands and meadows are preferred habitat

- a rarity in modern Wisconsin.

It's here in locations known as "leks," where the birds host their courtship dances. Leks are strategically located to guarantee food and shelter alongside aerial and terrestrial visibility. Small groups can be found performing in patches of farm fields and other open areas, offering viewing opportunities from afar. For those of us who prefer front row seats, you'll need VIP access. Lucky for us, environmental groups in the Stevens Point area sell tickets annually for trips into local nature preserves to experience the active "booming grounds," a term of endearment inspired by the call of male chickens.

To prevent stressing the birds, dedicated ticket holders must first jump through some hoops of their own. Meeting at designated parking areas around 4 AM, groups head out in search of their seats before sunrise. Reflective metal poles are illuminated by flashlight to guide everyone through the sea of grasses, receiving the odd sing-song of a waking bird in the distance as

encouragement. After a generous walk into the heart of the preserve, the blind eventually reveals itself. People are quietly seated before erupting in whispers and smirks of anticipation. Vocal exercises of all types become more common as daylight slowly washes over the land.

Rapid foot stomps, 180-degree spins, head bobs, puffed up throat sacs and raised neck feathers make up a fraction of the scene. A booming wooo-wrooo-wooo call sends a mass invitation across the horizon to females and competitive males looking to prove themselves. The whip and snap of feathers, clashing of competing males, calls of aggression or high alert - it all comes together with the chorus of other bird species. Year-long residents or migratory visitors, these curated plots of land are vital for an array of plants and animals. The greater prairie chicken just happens to be the headliner for a few weeks.

With the bird's hypnotic dance lasting from sunrise to early afternoon, human guests



With good dancing space at a premium, chasing away competitors is a must. Photo by Sparky Stensaas/theptonaturalist.com

aren't allowed to leave the blind until the chickens exit the stage first. As for those who prefer more interactive sports, you're out of luck. Wisconsin hasn't held an open season on the upland birds since the 1950s when shifting land use caused local populations to plummet. Western states like the Dakotas, Kansas and Colorado - those with strong, intact grassland habitats - still hold stable populations and open seasons. But before you head out of state to pursue prairie chickens, go out to see the local ones perform first. They put on a great show and deserve our attention. 🐔

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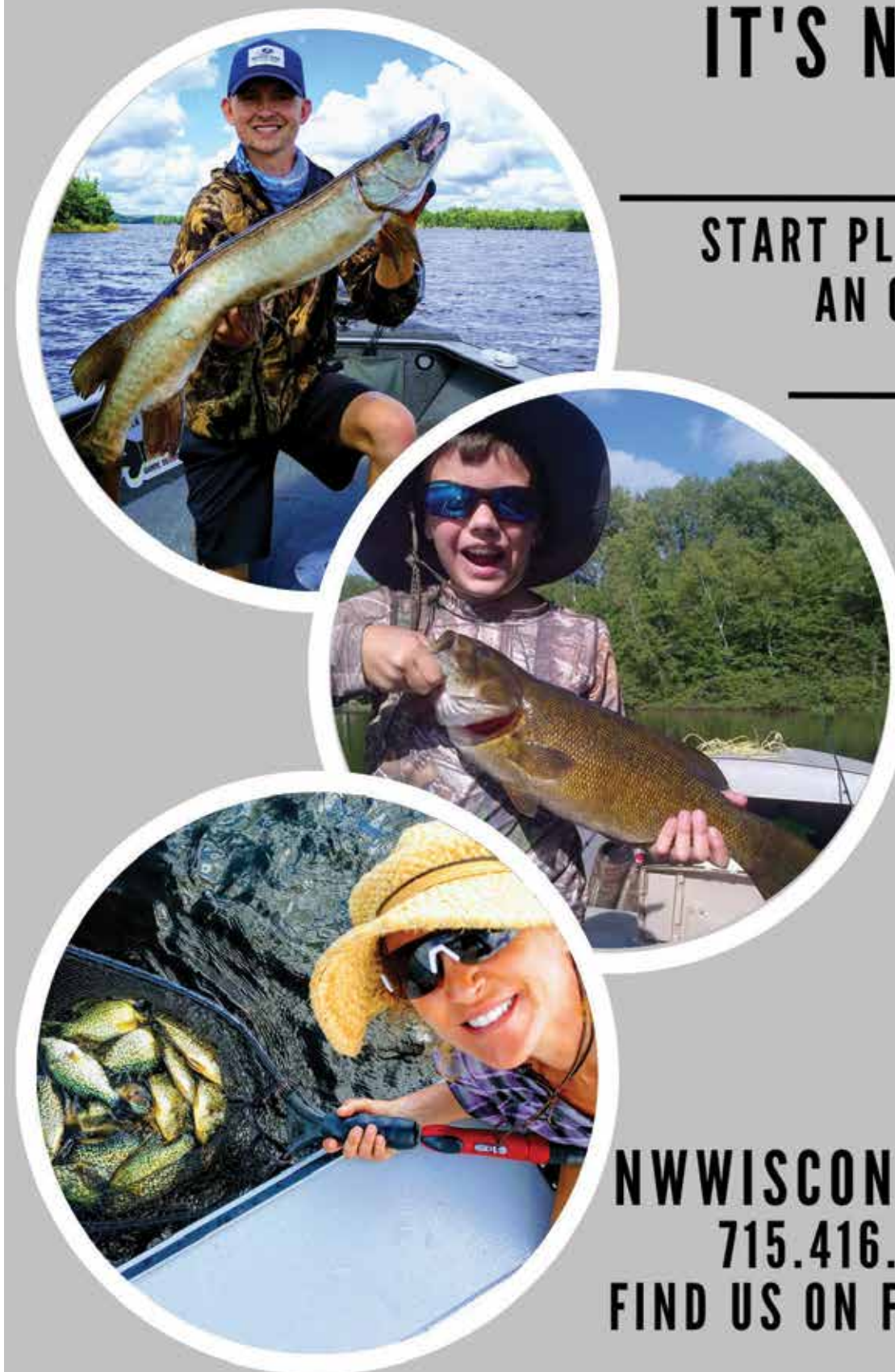
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Game fish are abundant in Northwest Wisconsin making it the perfect place for anglers to get out and enjoy time on area lakes.

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD



Riding Chequamegon

Where do you go to explore the beauty of nature and feel the wind on your face? To immerse yourself in the vastness of the forest and escape the bustle of town? The residents and visitors of the Hayward and Cable area have the perfect answer. They lace up their shoes or hop on their bikes and head straight to the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) trails that the area is so well known for.

Whether snow or sun, rain or shine, there is always a single track section or gravel stretch for you to explore year round. Experience the ever-changing greens and florals of spring and summer or the fantastic display that fall brings while navigating the flowing single track. When the world turns white, bring the fat bike out of storage and explore the winter wonderland of the groomed CAMBA trails.

As the current weather warms from our long winter and trails begin to thaw, more and more riders are flocking to the northwoods of Wisconsin to get out on two wheels. During the time where the snow is still melting off of the narrower trails, gravel poses the perfect opportunity to get outside and transition back into mountain biking after a winter of skiing or fat biking. CAMBA gravel routes highlight many fire roads and forest service roads in the area that not only form winding loops through the woods, but also connect many of the CAMBA single and double track trails.

While the single and double track trails may be closed for a few brief weeks in the spring, once they open for spring riding, they rarely close again. The trail experts who built the CAMBA trails constructed them with not only fun and flow in mind, but durability and sustainability

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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SPOTLIGHT | PRAIRIE DU CHIEN



St. Patty's Celebrations and All the Fixings

Kick your St. Patrick's Day vibes into high gear with the annual Shamrock Shuffle on Saturday, March 11, in Prairie du Chien. This 5K, 3.1-mile fun run/walk is held at Hoffman Hall, 1600 S. Wacouta Ave, Prairie du Chien. Registration begins at 7 am and the race starts at 7:45 am.

After the race, reward yourself and head downtown to Blackhawk Avenue where more Irish festivities will be underway at Prairie du Chien's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, led by St. Patrick himself and followed by parade royalty.

This year's bagpiper is Thomas Dillon from the Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band of St. Paul Minnesota. Mr. Dillon will provide several Irish tunes during the parade and will amuse Irish music lovers at several sponsored businesses throughout the day. Many area businesses will be serving corned beef and cabbage, green beer, and other Irish specialties. After lunch, check out all the retail specials at any of our area businesses. 🍀

For more information on upcoming events, visit prairieduchien.org or contact the Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-732-1673.



SPOTLIGHT | FERRYVILLE



Springtime in Wisconsin's Southwest

Simply put, Ferryville rocks with fishing season's opening day and Rummage Along the River.

The sounds and sights of spring and early summer are always a thrill for Ferryville visitors and residents alike. Join us on the opening day of fishing season. Whether fishing on shore or in a boat, you'll find everything you need like bait at Cheapo Depot or food and beverages at Ferryville Cheese, Swing Inn or The Wooden Nickel.

The Rummage Along the River, 70 Mile Garage Sale is a major event that attracts travelers from far and wide. (Visit www.rummagealongtheriver.com for more information.) The route spans Highway 35, "The All-American Great River Road," from Stoddard to Lynxville and includes Seneca and Mount Sterling on Hwy 27. The event takes place May 19 and 20 from 8 am – 4 pm each day. Book your vacation rental or motel now to ensure a place to stay.

Fishing, hiking, birding – whatever your interest – book a vacation rental for a few days and connect with those things you love to do. For more information, visit www.visitferryville.com. International Bird Migration Day starts at 7 am on May 13 in Sugar Creek. Folks who know birds and how to call them will be in attendance to make this occasion even more fun and informative. Your adventure will take place on the Mississippi River Flyway where you will see



Mississippi River super waterfowl and fishing guide Todd Lensing with a Pool 9 super perch.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Prairie du Chien

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May 19-20

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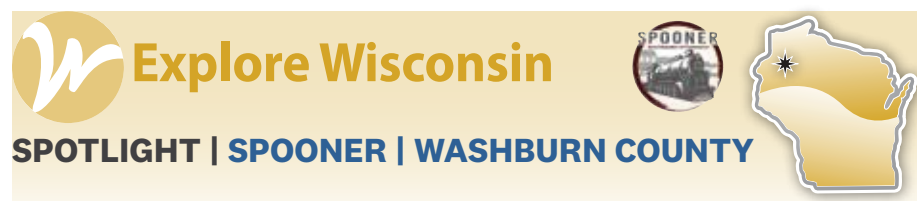
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Your Next Spring Sanctuary

After the long Northwoods winter, it's time to get outside and welcome spring. Spooner is springing back to life and there are many ways to get in on the outdoor action!

Hiking is arguably the best way to view wildlife in their natural habitat. Located just south of Spooner lies the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary boasting 13 miles of trails with various degrees of difficulty. You'll be wowed by the scenery as the trail winds through gorgeous bogs, forests and meadows. If you prefer paved trails, check out Spooner City Park. The park also offers unpaved hiking and biking trails, two miles of outdoor workout stations, a disc golf course, baseball fields and a great pavilion to take a break in the shade.

Explore the wildlife in and around Wisconsin's Moving National Park, the Namekagon River. Known as a "scenic river" with outstanding water clarity, the Namekagon is a rich wildlife habitat and a premier recreational location for canoeing, kayaking, and hiking. The river offers many primitive campsites along its banks, allowing you to pull your vessel ashore and truly immerse yourself in nature.

Whatever outdoor activity you are looking forward to, be it hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, canoeing, or kayaking, Spooner is the place to be this spring. Plan your next getaway at www.spoonerchamber.org.

Photo Credit: Washburn County Tourism Association



BOB'S BEAR BAIT, *FROM PAGE 10*

What do I need for bait?

You'll want a dry bait that acts as a filler, such as granola, cereals, cookies or nuts. Bait can be made tastier and attract more bears with the use of a topping. Fruit fillings are popular, but frosting and peanut butter are must-haves. These are easily spread inside your bait stump and will keep bears preoccupied longer while you wait for the perfect shot. In addition, it helps shield your dry bait from any water. Soggy, muddy bait is a no-go for most bears. Most importantly, you'll want a scent lure to consistently draw bears into the site.

Hunting over bait must be easy

MUELLER, *FROM PAGE 12*

it to hand, keep on walking and do it again. A different version of this is the "ladder drill." As you walk your dog at heel and on lead, drop several dummies in a row around 20 to 30 feet apart. After dropping the last dummy, walk on for another 10 yards or so, then turn and send the dog for the dummies. After they are all picked up, continue your walk for a bit and repeat.

CARPENTER, *FROM PAGE 13*

Squeeze Trigger. Slamming the trigger can mean missing the bird, especially when he's close. There's little "give" in a full choke tube, and even less in today's special ultra-tight shot-squeezers ... especially when the bird is real close.

Far from it. Your first year will most likely be humbling, but trust us, you'll want another round.

For more great tips, stop in and visit one of multiple Bob's Bear Bait 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!

See our advertisement in this edition of On Wisconsin Outdoors for contact information and our latest news, products and sales' events. Just ask for Bob to reach him direct.

As always, happy baiting! 🐾

With a little imagination, you can even do some obedience drills on a fun run. Drilling on "heel, sit" or "sit, here" while on a walk in a field is always fun for a retriever, especially when there's a dummy being tossed as a reward for a job well done. 🐾

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

Conclusion

We all miss turkeys. But you can minimize bad shots and increase your success rate. Understand the reasons we miss, then put together a simple and personalized process for thinking positively and acting confidently to make shots. 🐾

Looking for SOMETHING TO DO?
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DENNY MURAWSKA

Venison Tallow Bird Cakes

Sustaining our avian friends

I don't do much during these winter months except dream of warmer days to come. Still, my thoughts drift to the wildlife and beauty that surrounds me here in the heart of western Wisconsin. Many are the days when the only color punctuating this white silence is the scarlet cap of a woodpecker or bright flash of a cardinal. So, just like the rest of the year, I feed them well.

Suet is especially attractive and appreciated as a high energy source in this bitter cold. The stuff I buy looks kind of heavy on the lard and a bit sparse on the seeds and other tidbits. So, why not plan ahead for next year and make some special feeder cakes out of fat from your venison trim that might normally get discarded? It is easy and fun in its own way. If you butcher your own deer, this is simple. If not, most locker plants will be happy to save you a pile. Deer tallow is actually firmer than other sources like beef, and can be made to stand up to warm temperature with a few added ingredients. Of course lard or beef fat can be used as well. Many stores carry such plain suet in the meat department.

First, you must render the fat. This involves melting it under low heat and straining out any chunks of meat. The addition of corn meal or quick oats will help it stay firm at warmer temperatures. Use your imagination when considering other additions. Commercial bird food can

be the bulk of your treat cakes. Here is where you can get creative. Dried berries, including wild ones you may have foraged earlier in the year are always appreciated. Chopped dates, nuts, and protein rich mealworms will make your cakes more attractive than most commercial brands.

So, to create your suet cakes, add corn meal and oats to the hot rendered fat. A ratio of one part fat to two parts corn and oat thickener works well. Stir in the other ingredients and pour into a flexible mold. Any type of Tupperware style plastic works well. It can also be rolled into balls and hung in a nylon mesh, or plugged into a small log with holes drilled into it and perches added. Cakes can be stored in a cool place, or frozen if necessary.

Hang your bird magnet in a place where it won't be raided by other creatures. Squirrels, deer, raccoons, and even bears are fond of suet cakes. Prepare for many hours of bird watching at your site. If you are lucky, loud drumming and cawing will announce the coming of a majestic pileated woodpecker. They can make short work of your suet treats, and present great photo opportunities. 📷

Denny Murawski is the owner and operator of Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy and author of "The Elk Pool." Contact him at www.aa-taxidermy.com



A majestic pileated woodpecker sizing up a suet treat.

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Craving an adrenaline rush? Stop by the racetrack to watch car and motorcycle racing. For a truly serene experience, float down the river on a tube with friends, kayak or paddle to enjoy beautiful scenery, or hike or bike the peaceful trails.

Step back in time with a tour of Beckman Mill, an authentically restored 1868 grist mill. The great outdoor activities offered at the nature centers are endless, and as the weather warms up, the line-up of festivals, outdoor concerts, and activities continue to grow. If that's not enough, a family mud run, Old Settlers Days, Movie on the Big Lawn, and the state's second-largest Farmers' Market punctuate the calendar. Find more at visitbeloit.com/calendar



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SPOTLIGHT | **ASHLAND COUNTY**

Spring Smelt, Steelhead Runs Well Worth the Trip

With the warming of the waters comes the annual Sprint Smelt Run along the shores of Lake Superior in Ashland.

The smelt run is definitely a Mother Nature call, but typically occurs during the third week in April. Keep an eye out for the opening of spring stream season and those beautiful steelheads heading into them.

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529s are Powerful Estate Planning Tools

Most of us associate 529 accounts as college savings vehicles. They're flexible, allowing you to transfer assets to anyone, including yourself, for the express purpose of furthering the education of your beneficiary. But did you know that there are benefits for the donors, too, given the high maximum contribution limits and tax advantages?

The special tax rules that govern these accounts allow you to pare down your taxable estate, potentially minimizing future federal gift and estate taxes. Under the rules that uniquely govern 529s, you can make a lump-sum contribution to a 529 plan up to five times the annual limit of \$17,000. That means you can gift \$85,000 per recipient (\$170,000 for married couples), as long as you denote your five-year gift on your federal tax return and do not make any more gifts to the same recipient during that five-year period. However, you can elect to give another lump sum after those five years are up. In the meantime, your investments have the luxury of time to compound and potentially grow. So, that \$170,000 gift per beneficiary won't incur gift tax as long as you and your spouse follow the rules. You'll also whittle your taxable estate by that same amount, potentially reducing future estate tax liabilities. That's because contributions to 529s are considered a completed gift from the donor to the beneficiary.

Many people worry that gifting large chunks of money to a 529 means they'll irrevocably give up control of those assets. However, 529s allow you quite a bit of control, especially if you title the account in your name. At any point, you can get your money back. Of course, that means it becomes part of your taxable estate again subject to your nominal federal tax rate, and you'll have to pay an additional 10% penalty on the earnings portion of the withdrawal if you don't use the money for your designated beneficiary's qualified education expenses. If your chosen beneficiary receives a scholarship or financial aid, they may not need some or all of the money you've stashed away in a 529. So you've got options here, too.

Plus, many plans offer you several investment choices, including diversified portfolios allocated among stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs and money market instruments, as well as age-based portfolios that are more growth-oriented for younger beneficiaries and less aggressive for those nearing college age.

Saving for college takes discipline, as does estate planning. Talk to your professional advisor about the nuances of different investment strategies and vehicles before making a years-long commitment. 📌

Sources: Mercer; Broadridge/Forefield

Earnings in 529 plans are not subject to federal tax and in most cases state tax, as long as you use withdrawals for eligible college expenses, such as tuition and room and board. However, if you withdraw money from a 529 plan and do not use it on an eligible higher education expense, you generally will be subject to income tax and an additional 10% federal tax penalty on earnings. As with other investments, there are generally fees and expenses associated with participation in a 529 plan. There is also a risk that these plans may lose money or not perform well enough to cover college costs as anticipated. Most states offer their own 529 programs, which may provide advantages and benefits exclusively for their residents. An investor should consider, before investing, whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified tuition program. Such benefits include financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors. The tax implications can vary significantly from state to state.

Please note, changes in tax laws may occur at any time and could have a substantial impact upon each person's situation. You should contact your tax advisor concerning your particular situation. Every investor's situation is unique and you should consider your investment goals, risk tolerance and time horizon before making any investment. Investing involves risk and you may incur a profit or loss regardless of strategy selected.



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Aug 12

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

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

Hurley Chamber of Commerce

316 Silver Street, Hurley WI 54534

715-561-4334

hurley@hurleywi.com

Explore Wisconsin

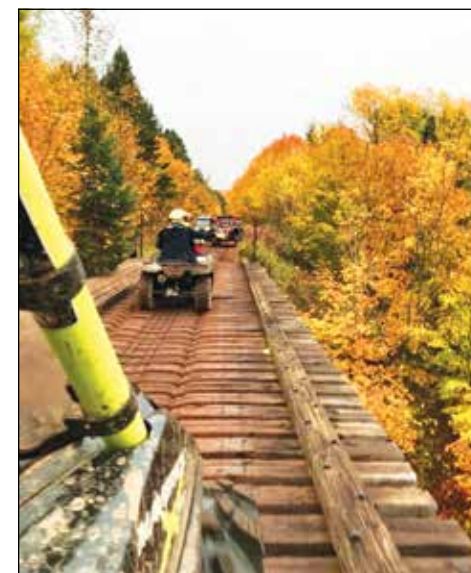
SPOTLIGHT | **HURLEY**

Light Up the North

We are anxiously awaiting our annual Hurley Memorial Day ATV/UTV Rally! Save the dates: May 25 - 28, 2023. An ATV/UTV parade will take place on Friday night on Silver Street. Decorate your machine and join the fun! Line-up will be in the Carey Mine Field around 4 pm, with music, food, and drinks. Our poker run will go all weekend with various restaurants and bars on the list. This year's theme is "Light Up the North." Register online. Shirts, koozies, and bandanas will be available. Our new 2023 ATV Trail Map will be available in May.

If you have questions or need more information, contact us at hurley@hurleywi.com or 715-561-4334.

Iron County has the largest ATV Trail System in Wisconsin. Plan a weekend away the Hurley way! 🏍️



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | **ELKHORN**

A Trip for the Entire Family

All year long we celebrate what nature has to offer in Elkhorn. With area preserves, nature lands and state trails spread across Walworth County, visiting Elkhorn keeps you central to outdoor fun. As we pack up skis and sleds and trade in our ice skates for fishing poles and kayaks, we welcome spring and with it, full access to outdoor adventure.

The Kettle Moraine and White River State Trail are area highlights. Pack your hiking boots and mountain bike and check out eight miles of varying terrain at Alpine Valley Resort. Be sure to leave room for the golf clubs and spend the day on the greens at Evergreen Golf Club.

After a full day of Wisconsin wilderness, settle in for a home cooked meal at one of our local eateries and pubs. From fish fries to pot-pies to paninis, the local menus are a real treat. Find daily entertainment at the local brewhouse, Duesterbeck's Brewing Company. Be sure to plan a trip with the whole family to walk the 40 acres at Apple Barn Orchard & Winery.

Tired from the open-air exploration? Check out our local accommodations ranging from area campgrounds to lakeside camp posts to area hotel lodging. Be sure to visit Elkhorn this spring, summer, fall and winter! 🌲

For a full list of activities and events, check out www.visitelkhorn.com.

Your adventure awaits...

...in Elkhorn, WI!

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HAYWARD, FROM PAGE 16

as well. Many other trails in the Midwest close when summer rain storms blow through, but the CAMBA single track is known for its ability to drain and hold up where others experience greasy and wet conditions.

The CAMBA trails are not only some of the most well-constructed in the area, but they also feature a vast selection of beginner and family friendly trails, from the warming cabin and smaller loops at trailheads like “OO,” the Hospital, and Hatchery, to the lesser known loops in Namekagon. Trailheads feature options for gravel and double track to beginner, intermediate, and advanced single track. 🚲

Author Keely Jackson grew up riding local trails in Hayward and is now a freelance writer and content creator through www.wildsibe.com



CALLING ALL WISCONSIN SPORTSMEN & WOMEN

WCC Delegate Elections, Spring Hearings Looming...

Delegate elections for Wisconsin Conservation Congress will take place during the WCC/DNR in-person Open Houses to be held April 3-6 in each of 72 counties from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

The WCC and the DNR will hold the Spring Hearings online.

The link will be placed on the WCC and DNR's Spring Hearing webpage and can be found at dnr.wi.gov by searching “Spring Hearings.”

The link will “go live” on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 12:00 PM and will remain open for 72 hours until 12:00 PM on Thursday, April 13, 2023.



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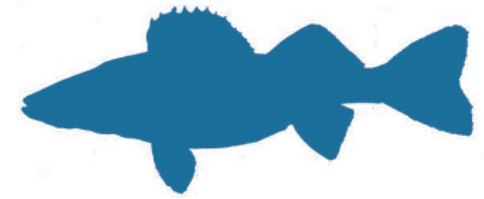


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JOHN ELLIS

Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory

The real reason for their population decline



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Zachary Feiner of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, want you to believe that “climate change” and not mismanagement is responsible for declining walleye numbers in our state. They say Wisconsin lakes where walleyes have always thrived, have suddenly become too warm for them. Feiner of the UW Limnology Department, and a liaison to the DNR, said in a recent article, “Much of the work in the future is, I think, going to be on the social side, laying the ground work for people to be able to accept changing fisheries.”* Feiner and the DNR want to condition you to believe the ridiculous, so you don’t look too closely at the obvious. That is, walleyes are doing great all over Wisconsin except in the Ceded Territory.** There, the walleye population has been decimated by poor management of the fish by the people in charge: Chippewa Tribal Leaders and the DNR. For nearly four decades they have presided over the continuous removal of walleyes from the lakes as they tried to reproduce. The method used for their removal has been tribal spearing. Get your calculators out and follow along. Here’s a look at what actually happened to the walleye

population in Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory.

It takes roughly 1,000,000 walleye eggs to produce 125 “keeper walleyes”. These are very nice sized fish that weigh between 1 ¾ and 2 pounds. The average egg drop per walleye during spawning is 85,000 eggs. This means that it takes 12 female walleyes to produce 125 keeper walleyes.*** The math rounded to the nearest number is: $1,000,000 \div 85,000 = 12$ female walleyes.

According to the Wisconsin DNR the number of walleyes speared in Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory between 1985 and 2022 is 1,040,789. Ten percent of those were females, or 104,079. The math is: $1,040,789 \times .10 = 104,079$ female walleyes speared.

Because of the 104,079 female walleyes speared, 1,084,156 keeper walleyes never hatched. The math is: $104,079 \div 12 \times 125 = 1,084,156$ keeper walleyes that never hatched.

Because a 50/50 male to female ratio is the norm in nature, if half of the 1,084,156 keeper walleyes that never hatched were females that only spawned once, we have an additional 5,646,646 keeper walleyes that never hatched. The math is: $1,084,156 \div 2 \div 12 \times 125 = 5,646,646$ keeper walleyes that never hatched.

Because it takes a female walleye four to five years to reach maturity, and the average age of walleyes in Wisconsin is seven years, we can conservatively assume two spawning years or an additional 5,646,646 keeper walleyes that never hatched.

The total impact of 37 years of spearing Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory.


- 1,040,789 walleyes were directly removed from the lakes as they tried to reproduce, and 104,079 of those were females.**
- 1,084,156 keeper walleyes never hatched because of the females speared.**
- 5,646,646 keeper walleyes never hatched because of the loss of one spawning year.**
- 5,646,646 keeper walleyes never hatched because of the loss of a second spawning year.**

When it’s all added up, 13,418,237 keeper walleyes (1 ¾ to 2 pounds) were removed from the Ceded Territory by spearing. Some lakes were speared more than others, but if you divide 13,418,237 by the number of lakes speared to date (331), you get an average of 40,538 keeper walleyes removed per lake.

Math and biology are reliable tools that can be easily understood and proven when applied properly. Walleyes are not a fragile fish. They have been around a long time and do great in Wisconsin where their reproduction is not abused. From Green Bay and the Winnebago Chain, to the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, walleye fishing is excellent. Climate change has absolutely nothing to do with the declining walleye population in Wisconsin’s Ceded Territory. But extremely poor management of the resource, by those it was entrusted to, does.

*Resistance is (Sometimes) Futile: Study says that, in many lakes it’s time to accept change and plan for the future of fishing. Adam Hinterthurer. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**The Ceded Territory is approximately the northern third of Wisconsin. There, Chippewa Tribal Leaders and the Wisconsin DNR have joint responsibility over walleye management.

***Walleye Tactics, Tips and Tales. Mark Strand. North American Fishing Club. 

JOAN BEGLINGER

Money Talks

The annual Super Bowl is an All-American tradition. This year’s game, even without the Packers as contenders, was a lot of fun. Two excellent teams that were well-matched, two spectacular quarterbacks destined to become greats, unbelievable plays, unexpected turns, and enough “iffy” calls from the officials to keep the fans haggling. No doubt Wisconsin fans tuned in across the state to enjoy themselves. This is all most of us want from our sports teams.

The NFL is alienating fans with its growing political activism. It has joined many other American corporations and professional associations in careening us toward a totalitarian government that attempts to assert control over all aspects of our lives. Ironically, while we are being force fed the “Black National Anthem” and “End Racism” in the end zones, the NFL is in the crosshairs of the equity police for not hiring enough highly qualified black head coaches. If the NFL wants to promote social justice, they should confine their efforts to hiring players and coaches based solely on their qualifications and not concern themselves with how the rest of us manage our morality.

Our free-market economy is fundamental to our liberty. It is based on some key principles:

Supply and demand drive production, use of resources, and prices.

Goods and services are produced in the private sector.

The government does not intervene in the economic system.

In contrast, the main goal of totalitarian governments is control over all aspects of life including the economy, education, arts, science, media and the private lives of citizens. We have all increasingly experienced the long fingers of the government reaching deep into our lives in recent years. Often corporate leaders are complicit in coercing free people to bend to the will of the government. We cannot tolerate American corporations serving as instruments of the government.

Many of us have paid little attention to the political leanings of the companies we buy from. We have been unaware of the dangerous co-mingling of political agendas with the economic system. The growing activism within companies, and their willingness to “cancel” the non-compliant, pose a real risk to

our free-market economy.

Consider United Airlines. Josh Earnest, Press Secretary in the Obama administration held his last press briefing in 2017 and, in 2018, became the Senior Vice President and Chief Communications Officer for United. He joined a liberal and aggressive administration. United was the first airline to mandate COVID vaccines for employees. They made “Black Lives Matter” pins available for their employees to wear on their uniforms, have queried employees about gender and sexual preference, and have people pretending to be the opposite sex flying their airliners (despite the flight physical including an assessment of mental health). Their new Aviate University for pilot training has a goal of more than 50% of its graduates being women or minorities, a goal that may be met at the expense of the most qualified candidates and the public.

United and organizations like them are creating hostile environments for those of us who reject liberal ideology and social engineering. They don’t hesitate to threaten the livelihood of anyone who will not step in line. Freedom loving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

JOHN ELLIS

Polar Bears and Walleyes

One is properly managed, and one is still abused

For years, organizations like the World Wildlife Fund and Humane Society International have told people that Polar Bears were in danger of extinction because of “climate change.” They subjected us to heartbreaking television commercials that showed the bears stranded on icebergs, or swimming for their lives as their homes melted.

But none of it was true. Before 1973 the Polar Bear population was in trouble, but climate change had nothing to do with it. They were simply over hunted. After 1973, countries started to manage them properly and their numbers rebounded. Today, the global Polar Bear population is more than three times larger than it was in 1960, and growing.

Global Polar Bear Population Estimates*

- 1960 - 10,000 Bears
- 2005 - 22,500 Bears
- 2014 - 25,000 Bears
- 2015 - 26,000 Bears
- 2021 - 32,000 Bears -Plus

Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory are exactly like Polar Bears before 1973. Their population has been severely damaged by 37 years of mismanagement, not climate change. The walleyes

can recover just like the bears, but only if those responsible, Chippewa Tribal Leaders and the Wisconsin DNR, start managing the fish properly. 🐻

*Susan Crockford, Ph.D. Zoology, University of Victoria, B.C. Canada. The State of the Polar Bear 2021, and The Polar Bear Catastrophe that Never Happened. Polar Bear Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



BEGLINGER, FROM PAGE 24

Americans need to let these corporate leaders know we will not stand for this.

The 1792 Exchange was formed in 2021 to protect people from the “woke capitalism” that is infiltrating our companies. Their purpose is to help steer public companies back to neutral on controversial ideological issues. Over the past two decades, public corporations have become the left's weapon of choice in driving rapid cultural change. This politicizing of corporations undermines the democratic process, divides employees, alienates customers and limits returns.

Through the 1792 Exchange, consumers now have an easily accessible resource called the Spotlight Report (<https://1792exchange.com/spotlightreports/>). 1,000 companies have been analyzed to determine the likelihood they will take actions against others based on their beliefs. They are ranked as lower, medium, or higher risk. United Airlines is well-deserving of its higher risk rating.

During safer times, most of us didn't concern ourselves with the political activity of American companies. We can no longer afford to be in the dark. It's time to flex the muscles of consumerism. In 2022, Disney stock fell 44% after they publicly flaunted their “wokeism” to the country. Refusing to do business with companies that trample on freedom is a powerful way to express ourselves. Money talks. 🗳️

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DICK ELLIS

The Great Wolf Divide

The people speak, DNR ignores

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation held a listening and sharing session in Solon Springs focusing on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (W-DNR) DRAFT Wolf Management Plan February 18. According to WWF Representatives Matt Lallemon and Laurie Groskopf the session was an opportunity for people to share their personal experiences with wolves and concerns with the DRAFT plan.

The event was organized by the WWF in response to the DNR's refusal to hold public hearings on the draft plan. The DNR was invited to the event and chose not to send representation. The listening and sharing session recording was sent directly to the DNR so they could hear the concerns of people in attendance.

Individual experiences shared included:

- A pet owner's experiences with dogs killed by wolves that had broken into their kennel. The pet owner was later stalked by a wolf as she searched for one of her missing dogs.
- A grandmother's experience encircled by wolves over her deer harvest after returning to the carcass on an ATV with her 3-year old granddaughter.
- A taxidermist has experienced a transition from large numbers of local deer being brought to him to deer coming to him from other states. Wisconsin hunters are leaving the state to hunt.
- A farmer shared his cattle depredation experience and the added cost and burden depredation places on the small farmers, including lost pasture land, increased feed

cost, reduced weight gain and aborted calves.

- A Douglas County farmer shared how they lose 15 to 25 calves annually to wolf depredation and only receive a small percentage of their value.
- Due to recent encounters with wolves, a horseback rider never before afraid in the field has purchased her first firearm to protect herself, her horse, and her dog as she trail rides.

Comments on the DRAFT plan included:

- The plan itself is an expansion plan and not a management plan.
- Buffer zones around the tribes give management to the tribes.
- Private property owners who live in the buffer zones around the tribes are given unequal treatment.
- Demands for the 350 population goal to be added back to the plan.
- The wolf advisory committee was heavily weighted by wolf expansionist groups.
- DRAFT does not have a good compensation plan for cattle and dog depredations considering the time and genetics in these animals.
- Concern that wildlife managers "fall in love" with the species they are obligated to manage and they no longer manage the species but turn to expansion.
- The wolf population goal has been moved from 80 to infinite over the decades.
- Questioning who at the DNR should be held accountable for the plan.

Common themes included:

- Deer hunting is not fun in Wisconsin anymore.
- Wisconsin hunters are leaving the state to hunt and non-resident hunters are finding other states to hunt.
- The Wisconsin DNR has Madison and Milwaukee interests in mind and not those living with wolves and directly impacted by wolves.
- The Great Lakes states have approximately double the wolf population of the Western states.
- Wolves do not make good neighbors.
- The people of rural Northern Wisconsin impacted by wolves do not support the DRAFT wolf Management plan.

Noteworthy:

- Numerous requests to the DNR were made but ignored by WWF representatives to hold public hearings as DNR does with every major management plan. Previously four listening sessions to be held in wolf country requested by WWF were ignored. DNR responded "nobody attends public hearings and it would be a waste of time."
- WWF responded that any public hearing regarding wolf management particularly in wolf country would be well attended. With minimal public promotion, WWF/Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dogs, Farm Bureau, Farmer's Union, Cattlemen's Association, and the Douglas County Board Chairman drew 60 concerned residents to the remote location of Solon Springs. In contrast the DNR zoom public input session

February 7 advertised widely had just over 120 registered and ultimately 55 speaking.

- WWF sent 20 invitations to DNR personnel with direct impact on wolf management for the in-person Solon Springs listening session. None were allowed to attend. Newly appointed DNR Secretary Adam Payne did attend via zoom.

OWO Publisher Note:

DNR held a virtual listening session via zoom for the Proposed Wolf Management Plan February 7. DNR stated in media releases that all people who registered to speak would be taken in order of registration.

That did not occur. Wisconsin tribal leaders were granted first right of speaking "out of respect for tribal sovereignty and deference," DNR said at the zoom session. In response OWO specifically inquired "Was that decision announced in any pre-meeting DNR media release? Who made that decision? Should tribal members be given more respect or deference than any other registered speaker to the point that tribal members are given priority in presenting?"

DNR responded: "No, that wasn't announced, except at the event. The practice of allowing elected officials and tribal representatives to speak first is a long-standing practice at both DNR and NRB functions. As stated...It's intended to be a sign of respect"

Public Review and comment for the Draft Wolf Management Plan ended February 28.



Vote Constitution First April 4th

Daniel Kelly for Wisconsin Supreme Court

The 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court election will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, to elect a justice to a 10-year term. The election will turn the court 4-3, conservative or liberal.

Candidate Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz is liberal embraced by the radical left. She is an activist who will disregard the Constitution. Former Wisconsin Supreme Court justice Daniel Kelly is conservative with an established record of following the Constitution.

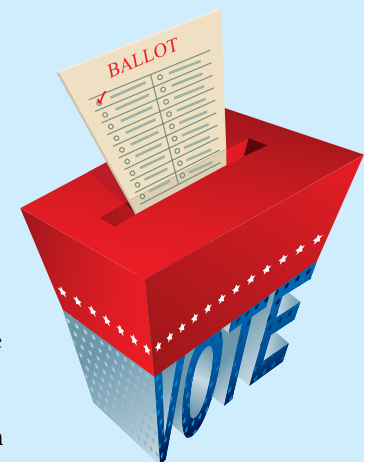
At all levels, judicial activism ignores existing law, disregards judicial oaths to defend the Constitution and seeks to establish from the bench rulings based on personal or political consideration. Judicial activism is a potentially lethal threat to the Constitution and your freedoms guaranteed by it.

The US District Judge in 2022 who reversed the Trump Administration decision to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list presides in Northern California and ruled in favor

of the Humane Society of the United States and other animal rights groups. Huge money to the Protasiewicz campaign has come in from radical donors in Illinois, Minnesota, California, New York, Washington, Washington D.C., Maryland, Vermont, Virginia, Maine, Nevada, and Texas.

The Constitution offers the greatest gift we have as Americans; the ability to protect our freedom with the ballot.

On April 4th, vote Daniel Kelly to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.



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BILL THORNLEY

A Cold, Hard Punch

Old Man Winter's devastating combination

As I made my way through the knee-deep snow, I turned my burning face to the butter-yellow orb in the sky. Nope, no warmth there. What was I doing in this sub-zero purgatory? I enjoy going out with a camera, but this is already shaping up to be a nasty winter.

Tall golden grasses poked through the deep crusted snow, bobbing in the gentle, yet biting wind. Animal tracks crisscrossed the landscape.

Winter cold never used to bother me. Now it does. I never even used to own gloves. Now I've become a cold-weather wimp. Thoughts of hiking, gathering outside to ice fish all day or play a game of tackle football once excited me. But at 65, aches and pains linger.

My eyes begin to water, and my cheeks turn red and start to sting. I used to think nothing of working or playing outside all day in such weather. As I exhaled, a cloud of swirling white breath lifted into the air.

Winter Severity Index (WSI) is a tool used

by the Department of Natural Resources to measure winter impact on wildlife. It uses the number of days with a minimum temperature of 0-degrees as a measure of winter air-chill, and the number of days with 18 inches of snow on the ground to estimate the snow hazard. Days when both conditions occurred are scored as two. These are added together from December 1 through April 30 to obtain the WSI.

Winters are considered "mild" if the calculated WSI is less than 50, "moderate" if it is between 50 and 80, "severe" if it is between 80 and 100, and "very severe" if the WSI exceeds 100. I worry we are already headed toward tough days for wildlife with early deep snow.

I recall back in 2013 when winter started like this and turkeys had problems. Birds couldn't reach food because of the snow depth. Some starved and literally fell dead out of the trees where they were perched.

They would dig into farmer's fields, trying to reach corn scattered on the ground. I saw

many of them die there, their tales sticking up out of the holes they never pulled out of. It was a terribly sad sight, their feathers blowing in the unforgiving winter wind. I'm hoping we are not headed for a repeat.

Even the toughest winter has much to love. Northern Lights blaze in a clear night sky and the beautiful tones of a small country church bell ring out on a silent Sunday morning when the air is crisp and biting.

Many love this weather. There are the snowmobilers, cross country ski enthusiasts, dedicated ice anglers, snowshoers, trappers, builders and loggers who work outside day after day. Farmers rise long before the sun, pulling on their jackets as they prepare to milk their herds. There are plow drivers and others whose jobs it is to be outside when the weather is the worst.

Nature amazes me when the weather turns bitter. Tiny chickadees flit here and there, surviving on berries and seeds. A small downy woodpecker works on a hole, his rat-a-tat-tat reverberating through the stillness



of the forest. The haunting sound of a barred owl echoes across the hills sounding lonely and cold as darkness settles.

When I was a kid, I loved it when the drifts would pile up and the temperatures would plunge so low that the schools closed. Now I catch myself mumbling unflattering things about this already nasty winter.

We will endure. We always do, even when Old Man Winter slaps us right in the face. 🐾



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DICK ELLIS

Careers for the Good Life

Celebrating the Southeastern Wisconsin Building Trades

Workers representing 15 building trades took a welcome Saturday on the ice to pull up a bucket and drop down a jig or shiner in search of anything willing to strike and fight. Fish or no fish though, a limit of fun on the hardwater and off was already guaranteed. The Southeastern Wisconsin Building Trades 4th Annual Ice Fishing Derby, open to all union building professionals and their families, was held February 18th on Silver Lake in Kenosha County.

The day on the Silver Lake ice included “big fish” winners in six categories including walleye, pike, bass, crappie, bluegill or perch. Raffle drawings and prizes mostly donated by the unions ranging from tip-ups to ice shanties, reels, gear and equipment, and great food waited in the park shelter on shore when the derby concluded for an estimated 200 workers.

“The building trades offer careers that pay family sustaining wages and retirement benefits,” said Tobin Boyle, President of the Southeastern Wisconsin Building and Construction Trades Council. “Our ‘earn while you learn’ apprenticeships are also free of student loan debt.”

Workers representing the following unions participated in the Derby on Silver Lake:

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
Laborers Local 113
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

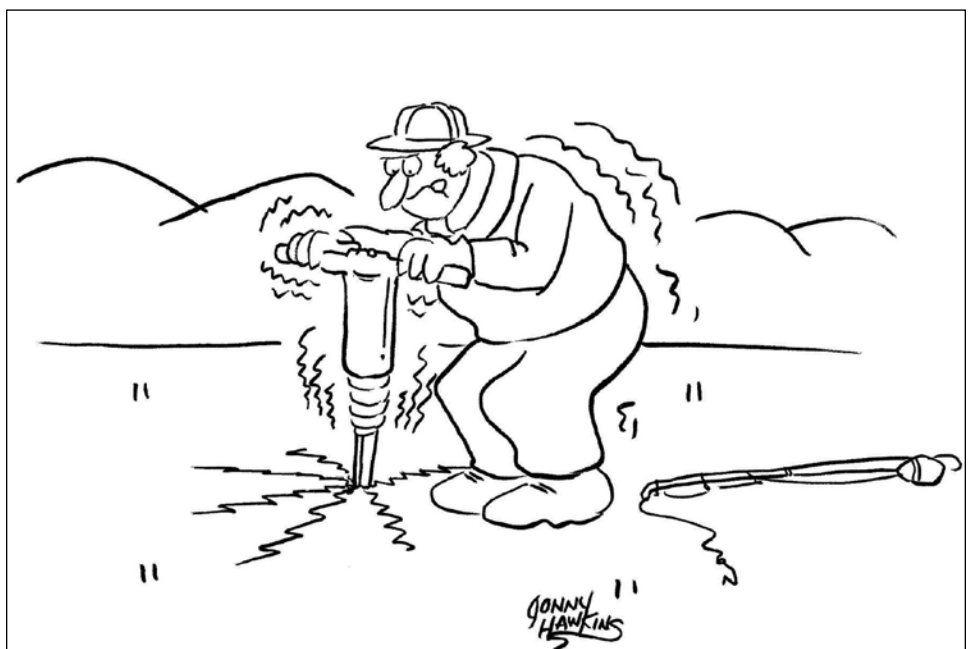
For more information on starting your career in the trades, connect with www.wisconsinbuildingtrades.org.



Workers and their families caught a limit of fun at The Southeastern Building Trades 4th Annual Ice Fishing Derby on Silver Lake in Kenosha County February 18.

To the Hart of the matter...

Mike Hart took this great whitetail with a crossbow on his own land in Adams County November 7th. Not to be outdone, Mike's granddaughter, Michaela, 9, was hunting with her mentor dad Jason Hart on the same property November 25th when her very well-placed shot dropped this monster with a Youth Model Savage 350. It was Michaela's first deer.



When street construction workers go ice fishing



Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Easy As One, Two, Three Getting into clay target shooting

Spring is in the air, and soon thousands of Wisconsinites will take to the trap, skeet, and sporting clays ranges. Twenty-week summer trap and sporties leagues and high school trap competition will be starting up. So how can a novice shooter get in on the fun? It's simple really. All you need are a few basic items, initial instruction, and practice time.

Safety First: All shooting ranges require eye and ear protection. My advice: Don't cut corners. Yes, the Dollar Store safety glasses will suffice. The little foam ear cones or the hardware store's \$4 ear muff hearing protectors will meet the requirement and are better than nothing. However, you are only issued one set of eyes and ears; don't skimp! I wear prescription, amber tinted shooting glasses. The polycarbonate lens will protect from target fragments, unburned powder blow back, and even an errant pellet. The tint highlights orange clay targets. I wear well-fitting muff-type hearing protectors. If I wanted to upgrade, I'd get the electronic ones that allow you to hear normal conversation, but damp out

gunfire. A vest to hold your ammunition and spent shells makes life a lot easier. Yes, you can use a hunting-type vest, but a vest designed for clay target sports works better.

Basic Instruction: Most shooters have a mentor that helps them get started. A dad, uncle, cousin, grandfather, or friend who helps instruct you in basic form and swinging of your shotgun. Most experienced shotgun hunters usually break right around 50 percent of the clay targets. Talk to your local gun club. Often they will allow you to instruct a beginning shooter on an out of the way trap house. For example, a local gun club gave my cousin permission to use a trap house all to himself to mentor his grandson. McMiller Shooting Center offers a do-it-yourself clay target range. You rent the time, bring your own shells, and launch your own targets. For more advanced shooters, they offer a course to help you improve your sporting clays game. I also suggest watching trap, skeet or sporting clays videos on YouTube. I've gleaned a lot of good information out of the videos.

Firearm: Yes, you can shoot clays with your hunting shotgun.



It's easy for beginners to safely enjoy the shooting sports.

With a modified choke, you can get away with shooting trap and sporting clays. If your shotgun has an improved cylinder choke, you can shoot skeet. Will your scores be as good as someone with a gun made for competition or with a stock adjustable for gun fit? Nope. But it's a good way to get in the game. Learn now, upgrade later.

Finally, before you walk up to the line for the first time, sit

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

STUART WILKE

Spring Powered Airguns A powerful, economical, accurate alternative

Ralphie's Daisy Red Ryder BB gun certainly could have put an eye out and help tame the Wild West in a young boy's daydreams. In real life, the Red Ryder, star of the movie, "A Christmas Story," and similar airguns, have their limitations. They aren't particularly accurate and they are absolutely incapable of humanely downing anything larger than a grasshopper at spitting distance.

High-velocity, spring-powered air guns, however, are perfectly capable of harvesting small animals and assorted vermin while providing incredible accuracy. These guns, sometimes referred to as "springers," are activated by breaking open their barrels or cocking levers located along side or beneath their barrels. Springers can propel .177 and .22 caliber pellets up to and in excess of 1,000 feet per second (fps), compared to about 200 fps from a Red Ryder. A Red Ryder can put out an eye, but a high power spring airgun will humanely dispatch rabbits, squirrels and pigeons.

Generally speaking, an air gun capable of shooting an eight grain, .177 caliber pellet at 600 feet per second from the muzzle and generates about 11 foot pounds of muzzle energy

is powerful enough to stop small game at distances up to 150 feet.

By way of comparison, a typical 40 grain, .22 rimfire long rifle bullet exits the muzzle at about 1,200 fps and delivers around 140 foot-pounds of muzzle energy and is accurate up to 100 yards. Firearms chambered in .22 long rifle are more powerful than pellet guns, but they may not be as practical for many people, especially urban dwellers with limited places to shoot. For those folks, target shooting can be an expensive proposition, even with inexpensive .22 rimfire ammunition. Many gun shops have target ranges, but the cost of using them can be exorbitant. Range time is usually in the neighborhood of \$40 an hour. For just about the same price, an airgun range can easily be put together in a typical basement. All that's needed are targets and a safe back stop. NRA-sanctioned competitive airgun matches take place at 10 meters and are similar to small and large bore competitions and a great way to enhance shooting skills.

Decent, spring-powered air rifles are commonly available for less than three shooting sessions at a typical gun store



Spring powered airguns are a powerful, economical, and accurate alternative to rimfire firearms.

range. Good quality .177 caliber target pellets cost about \$15 for 500 rounds, as opposed to \$50 for a similar amount of generic .22 rimfire. Whereas an adequate spring-powered air rifle can be had at any big box sporting goods store for around \$125, that same establishment will charge upwards of \$250 for any .22 rimfire rifle barely worth owning.

Which means that you will have money to spare towards the purchase of a super high quality spring-powered air rifle, most of which will cost upwards of several hundred dollars, or the price of a mediocre .22 rimfire rifle. Perfectly adequate airguns are made (like most things on earth) in China. They are built to a price point and some are better than others, but virtually

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FERRYVILLE, FROM PAGE 17

rare birds traveling to northern locations where they will nest, lay eggs and raise their young. Swans and pelicans are returning. Warblers will be plentiful. Bring your binoculars.

The Ferryville Farmers Market will take place every Saturday from May 20 through October 28 at Sugar Creek Park on Highway 35. Among the products that local vendors will have for sale will be seasonal canned fruits and vegetables, homemade breads, cinnamon rolls, cookies, pies, craft designer soaps, Yard Art by Hurda Kountry Krafts, Amish quilts, baskets, furniture and more. Bring a super-size shopping bag - you will need it!

Plan on a great time making memories. Ferryville - A Place for All Seasons. 🍷

Article by Sherry Quamme, treasurer of the Ferryville Tourism Council.

STRESING, FROM PAGE 30

back and observe. Watch how the shooters wait for and then engage the target. You can learn a lot just by watching others shoot. 🍷

WILKE, FROM PAGE 30

all of them share one common trait: lots of plastic parts. Most very high quality airguns originate in Europe and will exhibit better materials, workmanship, accuracy, and durability. They are comparable to match grade rimfire and centerfire guns and well worth the cost.

If you're frugal by choice or circumstance, consider a high quality, spring-fired airgun. But be careful that you don't put an eye out. 🍷

Contact Stuart at submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

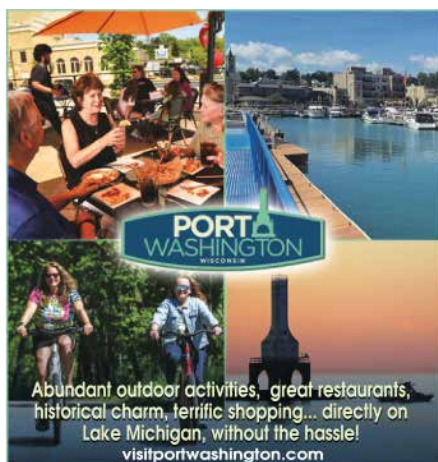


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