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SPOTLIGHT | PRAIRIE DU CHIEN



## Celebrate the Holidays

Take a moment during the holiday season to gather with friends and family at this year's Prairie du Chien Turkey Trot on November 23. The Turkey Trot event allows participants to partake in a three-mile run/walk and is open to everyone of all ages and abilities. The race begins at 8 a.m. at Hoffman Hall located at 1600 S. Wacouta in Prairie du Chien.

Christmas is here!

We're so excited to celebrate the holidays in Prairie du Chien. There are so many fun events, including the Annual Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 1, and Holiday

Market & Craft Event on December 2 at the Ferryville Village Hall. The Victorian Home for the Holidays will be held at the Villa Louis Historical Site on December 2nd, 3rd, 9th, & 10th. And don't forget to check out our Fort Crawford Museum's Annual Christmas at the Fort event Saturday, December 9th and bring in the New Year at Carp Fest, a week-long family friendly event.

All these events are family-friendly and perfect for holiday getaways, so make sure you visit [prairieduchien.org](http://prairieduchien.org) for a complete listing of all holiday happenings in Prairie du Chien. 🍷

LEIS DOCKEN

## Buck of a Lifetime

*Massive non-typical cooperates in Columbia County*

Tracking the movement of deer throughout the year using trail cams on property in Columbia County, Scott Baer shot this massive non-typical buck using his crossbow on September 27, 2023.

It had been raining most of the morning and Scott knew the deer would be moving in the afternoon. He left work a bit early, established himself in his tree stand and not long after, this beauty came up from behind.

The deer came ten feet from him when he took the shot. Measured unofficially at 198.5". 🍷



SPOTLIGHT | SPOONER



## Spooner is The Gem of The North For Sportsmen

The temperature may be starting to drop, but the action in Spooner isn't cooling down anytime soon! From hunting trips to a festive downtown spirit, Spooner is the perfect place for your November and December family getaways.

Washburn County has over 148,000 acres of county forest, and nearly one-third of the county is public land. All of that accessible land makes for an outdoor enthusiast's paradise during hunting season. Stop into the Spooner Visitor Center and purchase a plat book to navigate the public land and check in with the DNR and Washburn

County Forestry Department before heading to AAA Sport Shop, the Spooner Outlet, and Yellow River Trading Company for all the newest gear to keep you ahead of the game.

A favorite Spooner winter pastime is ice fishing. With nearly 1,000 lakes county-wide, you will be coming back for years to come in search of sweet spots.

After spending a long day in the north woods or on the frozen waters, downtown Spooner has you covered from coffee to cocktails, art galleries to the only craft brewery in the county, and then some. Stop

into the Spooner Bake Shoppe or The Dock Coffee for some fresh pastries and a nice toasty cup of java, grab a beer at Round Man Brewing Company, and hit up some of the amazing specialty retail stores along the way.

Spooner is truly the gem of the north woods, especially when the snow starts to fall. So, what are you waiting for? Plan your trip to Spooner today at [spoonerchamber.org](http://spoonerchamber.org). 🍷

By Lauren E. Hartwig, Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. Photo courtesy of Washburn County Tourism Association.





**BILL THORNLEY**

# A Healing Place

## Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital rescues, rehabilitates birds of prey

Survival in the wild is a day to day struggle. There are many things that can lead a raptor to the doorstep of Dr. Kim Ammann at Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital, a new hospital built through donations in Spooner.

"We have x-ray, surgery, and some caging," said Dr. Ammann, an avian veterinarian. "This was vastly needed. Now we have space, places for the birds to exercise, and a place for healing.

Winged Freedom is 100 percent funded by donations. All rescue, transport and veterinary care is donated. The hospital only takes in birds of prey. Red tailed hawks, merlins, and occasional golden eagles have been treated. Bald eagles and various species of owls are the most common birds to come in. "As people hear about us, more birds come our way. I think the birds have always been out there, people are just now finding out there is a treatment area," said Dr. Ammann.

Most of the eagles and owls that come in are suffering injuries from collisions with cars. They often feed on road kills, and get startled off the carcass as a vehicle passes. Flying out of the ditch, they get hit. On occasion, a bird is injured too badly to be saved and must be euthanized.

"The last thing we want to do is put a bird back out into the wild that is fated to starve," said Dr. Ammann. She can



*Dr. Kim Ammann monitors healing birds of prey on the camera system at Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital in Spooner. Dr. Ammann, an experienced avian vet, designed the hospital, built on donations, and serves as president.*

monitor their heart and breathing, keeping them pain free with anesthesia.

"Our camera system monitors the birds. When a fracture heals, the birds go into an exercise area. We test them to know how well they are healing. To be released, a bird must be strong



*On powerful wings, a healed mature bald eagle soars into the air during a public release in Spooner. The onlookers cheered as the bird disappeared into the wooded area near Spooner.*

and have good body weight," she said. "We feed them things they would hunt in the wild. We want them to know what they are supposed to be eating. Once I check all the boxes, I can let them go."

The hospital includes a lab, perches, and even an inside flyway so the birds can get exercise. There are clear skylights in the large exercise area, and semi-transparent panels in the roof to offer natural lighting. The birds have a pond area with a depth of about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
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THORNLEY, FROM PAGE 3

10-inches.

Trappers donate beaver meat and fishermen donate fish, but it still costs hundreds of dollars to feed the birds. To donate or learn more, call 715.781.2595 or 715.205.4266.

Back to The Wild releases of eagles and owls are often open to the public, and people love watching the rehabilitated birds return to the wild. Recent releases at places such as Spooner Elementary School and Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary have attracted enthusiastic crowds of supporters, including a lot of children.

These are good days for the raptors, and for the hospital. And Dr. Ammann is hoping that they continue.

“Hopefully, this will last many years, beyond when I stop doing it,” she said. “My goal is that someone takes this over. I don’t want this place just to wither away. I want Winged Freedom to have a long, long life.” 🐦



A young barred owl perches in the exercise area at Winged Freedom.

DICK ELLIS

## How Many Wolves Are in Wisconsin?

### OWO needs your trail cam shots

The Wisconsin DNR recently said that it’s not possible to count wolves in our state. On Wisconsin Outdoors disagrees. We’re asking for your help to count them.

Please send your trail cam photos of wolves to: [wolves@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:wolves@onwisconsinoutdoors.com). Include what county the photos were taken in, the date, and verify the number of wolves visible in the photo. Your name will not be published or used in any way without your permission. With your help, we hope to reach an accurate estimate of the number of wolves in Wisconsin.

Researchers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division and Michigan State University are working to ensure the wolf count across the U.P. through their “Wolf Abundance Project.” Utilizing 1,230 wildlife trail cams placed across the U.P., the project seeks to ensure confidence in the number of wolves to allow the state to accurately manage the population when the wolves are de-listed from the Federal Endangered Species Act.

According to Michigan DNR Wildlife Research Specialist Tyler Petroelje, with wolves recovered and densities increased, the state is looking at new tools to offer better precision in estimating wolf abundance across the U.P.

This photo of seven wolves sent to OWO from Jeff Chernach was taken on October 5, 2023 in Iron County, U.P. Michigan 200 yards from Florence County, Wisconsin. 🐺



## ON THE COVER

A beautiful day to go for a sleigh ride at Palmquist Farm, Brantwood WI. The Farm also provides lodging, sauna, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, and skating in a winter-wonderland setting. Get more info at [palmquistfarm.com](http://palmquistfarm.com) or call 715-564-2558 to book your ride or stay this winter!

Photo Credit: Jeff Nelson



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PUBLISHER | EDITOR:

Dick Ellis

[ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:

Stuart Wilke

[submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

DESIGN | PRODUCTION:

A. Garrigan

[ali@onwisconsinoutdoors.com](mailto:ali@onwisconsinoutdoors.com)



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SPOTLIGHT | **PORT WASHINGTON**



## Warmth and Hospitality, 12 Months a Year

Winter in Port Washington has its own beauty and charm. Things slow down a bit, but the warmth and hospitality of this lakeside town can be experienced year-round.

Port Washington is a town where you can park your car and walk. Visit our specialty shops, galleries, and fun boutiques. Looking for specialty foods? Check out an old-fashioned butcher shop and a smoked fish market; a gourmet popcorn store; a yummy chocolate and ice cream shop; a winery; a tea room; or an artisan bakery. Stop in and warm up at any of our great restaurants, coffee shops, or pubs, including our new brewpub. Make sure you don't miss the Port Exploreum - a highly interactive museum that will appeal to the whole family. Learn about Lake Michigan, fishing, and local history - all while having a lot of fun!

You can play outside in Port Washington,

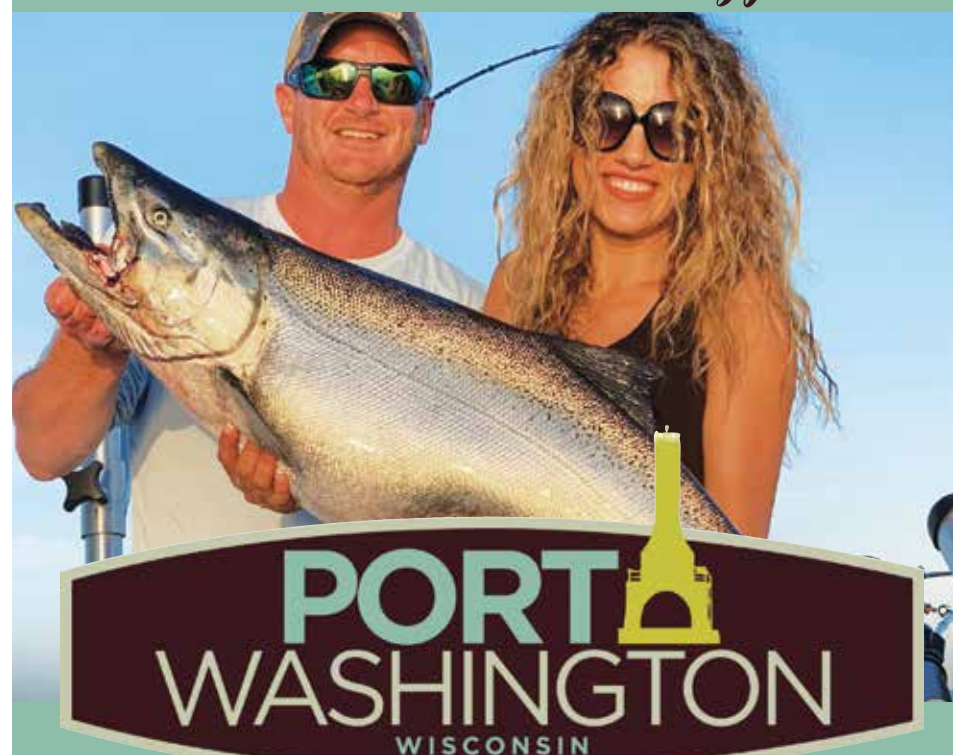


*Experience Port Washington year round. You'll be back!*

too. If you have been to Port Washington, you know that fishing season never ends here. The marina may close, but thanks to our lakeside parks, people cast their lines from shore all year round - successfully!

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 25**

## *Make Port Your Lakeside Playground!*



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SPOTLIGHT | IRON RIVER



## The Northern Pines Sled Dog Race

### *A thrill of a lifetime!*

Hey there, adventure seekers and dog lovers! Are you ready to experience something truly extraordinary? Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 17, 2024 and join us for the Northern Pines Sled Dog Race in Iron River, situated in Bayfield County and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.



**Unleash the Excitement** - The race kicks off at the scenic Northern Pines Golf & Event Center. Imagine the rush as you watch sled dog teams dash downhill, their paws pounding and breath misting in the crisp winter air. Feel your heart race as sprint and mid-distance mushers sweep through the picturesque golf course and delve into the enchanting forest trails of the Bayfield County Trail system and Tri-County Corridor. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned spectator, this event promises an adrenaline-pumping experience like no other!

**Witness Canine Might in the Weight Pulling Event** - a W3PO Sanctioned Weight Pull. Watch in awe as these incredible dogs showcase their strength and determination, racing to beat the clock - pulling a sled 16 feet, laden with weights. It's a captivating blend of history, strength, and the unbreakable bond between humans and their canine companions.

Bring the family for the Kids FUN Mutt Run! Know any little ones who are aspiring mushers? It's the perfect opportunity for kids to get a taste of the mushing world in a fun, safe environment. Open to kids 4 - 12 years of age using their very own furry friend to pull them down a 75-foot, straight course. Who knows? They might just catch the mushing bug!

**Free Admission** - Gather your friends and family and make it a day to remember! As a spectator, you'll have the incredible opportunity to immerse yourself in the heart-pounding action from multiple vantage points in the warm Clubhouse as well as along the trail route, so you're guaranteed a front-row seat to all the action.

Come and be a part of this exhilarating event that celebrates the spirit of adventure, the love for dogs, and the beauty of nature. See you at the Northern Pines Sled Dog Race in Iron River, hosted by the Iron River Area Chamber of Commerce. Trust us—you don't want to miss this! 🐾

For more information about our event, including volunteer opportunities visit: [northernpinessdr.com](http://northernpinessdr.com).

**IRON RIVER • WISCONSIN**

# SLED DOG RACE

February 17, 2024



SPOTLIGHT | ELKHORN



## Alpine Valley Resort And Ski Hill

### *Popular and beloved destination*

Located in Elkhorn's backyard, Alpine Valley Resort and Ski Hill is a popular and beloved Wisconsin winter destination. According to Kate Abbe, Marketing and Partner Engagement, Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Center, outdoor adventurers know Alpine Valley for some of the most diverse skiing and snowboarding terrain in the midwest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

It's all  
downhill  
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## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | CEDARBURG



## Where Magical Experiences Await

As the crisp autumn leaves give way to a winter wonderland, Cedarburg comes alive with festive cheer, offering an array of enchanting holiday activities that are sure to warm your heart. Named one of the “Top Christmas Towns,” this picturesque community becomes a holiday haven for all ages. Here’s a glimpse of the magical experiences awaiting you in Cedarburg.

Every Friday evening from November 17 – December 22, Washington Avenue becomes a festive paradise. The heart of Cedarburg’s holiday celebrations is “Festive Friday Eves” at the Cedar Creek Settlement, a themed holiday open house with shopping, wine tastings and live music. The historic buildings along the street are decorated with twinkling lights and hundreds of luminaries line the street, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. For an extra layer of enchantment, hop aboard the free trolley and take in the town’s holiday charm from the comfort of a vintage trolley car. Catch a glimpse of Santa and Mrs. Claus in their gingerbread house as they visit Cedarburg’s children and families.

Cedarburg is famous for its diverse shopping experience. Local boutiques and specialty stores offer festive décor and unique gifts for everyone on your list. Stores, homes, and restaurants along Washington Avenue are all adorned with holiday decorations, making it a joy to explore while picking out special presents for loved ones.

For those seeking cozy, indoor entertainment, the Rivoli Theatre hosts its annual Holiday Film Festival. Watch beloved holiday classics on the big screen in this one-screen historical movie theatre. It’s a cherished tradition that brings the community together and spreads the holiday spirit through the magic of cinema.

One of Cedarburg’s newest holiday activities is “Illuminate Ozaukee,” a drive-through light show benefiting Ozaukee County nonprofit organizations. This dazzling display features light installations and themed displays created by local businesses. It’s a perfect family outing that fills the heart with holiday cheer.

Whether you’re looking to shop for unique gifts, enjoy festive activities, or simply savor the enchanting ambiance, Cedarburg promises a magical holiday experience. For information on holiday events and attractions, visit [CedarburgChristmas.com](http://CedarburgChristmas.com). For general information on visiting Cedarburg, check out [Cedarburg.org](http://Cedarburg.org) and follow us on social media at @ExperienceCedarburg.

## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | OZAUKEE COUNTY



## Ozaukee as a Winter Wonderland

For those who prefer recreation to hibernation, Ozaukee County has plenty to keep you moving!

A great place to start is the Ozaukee Interurban Trail (OIT), a 30-mile paved trail that spans the length of Ozaukee County and connects many of its small towns. Designated a “Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail,” the OIT offers the chance to spot a lively variety of birds that stay through the winter, like woodpeckers, cardinals, chickadees, jays and finches.

When the snow moves in, municipalities south of Port Washington keep the trail clear for walking and running, but north of Port Washington offers miles of beautiful cross-country skiing and snow-showing terrain. And don’t put your bikes away too soon – with the right tires even novice riders can have a blast biking in winter.

Ozaukee County offers dozens of parks, land trust preserves and open spaces that provide beautiful trails and winter activities. A hike along the 100-foot bluffs of Lion’s Den Gorge Nature Preserve in Grafton and Virmond County Park in Mequon will take your breath away any time of year. Adjacent forests and wetlands give off-season hikers great opportunities to spot migratory birds and other wildlife. Harrington Beach State Park in Belgium offers a fantastic architecture of ice rims lining the shore of Lake Michigan once the weather turns cold.

If you’re looking to renew your holiday spirit and cross a few gifts off your Christmas list, our small downtown areas light up like a Hallmark movie for the holidays. Cedarburg and Port Washington are great destinations for that cozy “Christmas Town” feel, and all throughout the county walkable downtowns come alive with beautiful lights and decor, holiday events and bustling shoppers.

Several of Ozaukee’s small towns offer sledding hills and ice skating on park ponds, creeks and rivers when ice conditions allow. Some even offer quaint warming houses, although most are located close enough to downtown for families to warm up with a cozy meal and a hot beverage.

Ozaukee County encourages you to get up and out of the house for great outdoor fun all year long. For information on all these activities and more, visit [ozaukeetourism.com](http://ozaukeetourism.com) and follow the Ozaukee County Tourism Facebook page.





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# Ozaukee

*Smallest County, Biggest Treasures*

Treat yourself to all Ozaukee County has to offer! From unique specialty shops and trendy dining options to beautiful, accessible parks and our paved, 30 mile Interurban Trail, Ozaukee truly has it all!

Enjoy scenic winter hiking, snow-shoeing, cross country skiing, or a stop in a cozy pub or restaurant for the perfect getaway just north of Milwaukee.



For more information about events in Ozaukee County, visit [ozaukeetourism.com](http://ozaukeetourism.com)  
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Discover Cozy Restaurants, Year-Round Outdoor Experiences, Nature Preserves, Holiday Activities and More in Towns Along the Ozaukee Interurban Trail!





SPOTLIGHT | **BELOIT**

## Explore Beloit's Arts Scene

**B**eloit is home to the Beloit International Film Festival (BIFF), a 10-day tribute to the power of film and the excitement of independent film from around the world. You don't need to wait for the festival in April thanks to BIFF Year Round.

A self-guided Beloit & Beyond Outdoor Art Trail will take you around the Rock River, Beloit College campus, and downtown to take in prime artwork, including larger-than-life modernistic sculptures by Beloit College alum O.V. Shaffer. An eye-catching American flag affixed to the Ironworks complex along the Rock River is crafted with patterns once used by the Beloit Corporation. And when night falls, illuminated murals along the city's "Spine Road" dazzle.

Beloit's museums display various unique artifacts and memorabilia. The Logan Museum of Anthropology provides a deep dive into world cultures with rotating exhibits from its collection of more than 200,000 archaeological objects. The Wright Museum of Art holds a permanent collection of 6,000 artifacts. View Modernist Art, Ancient Art and more from more than 129 countries including the work of Picasso and Rembrandt.

The Beloit Art Center and Gallery ABBA (Art of Business/Business of Art) host several exhibitions and art shows in beautiful, spacious galleries. Exhibitions are generally free and open to the public, and pieces are available for purchase.

The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra and Turtle Creek Chamber Orchestra perform a series of classical and pops concerts throughout the year. For the jazz aficionados, the award-winning Beloit Memorial High School Jazz Band should be at the top of your list.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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SPOTLIGHT | **SPARTA**

## Experience The Magic

**C**ome and "Experience the Magic" of Sparta this holiday season. Our award-winning Kriskindlmarkt opens November 24 at 2 pm and can be found downtown Sparta along Water and Main Streets.

This authentic European outdoor market will house over 28 different vendors of artisan goods and crafts for four weekends leading up to the Christmas holiday. Food will vary from Bavarian pretzels to roasted nuts, schnitzel and homemade cheese curds and soup. Grab a collectible mug and sip on some warm gluhwein or grab a glass of perfectly crafted holiday brew from our brand new Bier Hausl.

Enjoy the musical stylings of the Silent Monks or the Sparta High School Vocal Jazz Kids. Grab a s'more and support our local backpack program that provides meals to students when school is not in session. The Mueller Square stage will be the set for our story-teller, wreath making, a chainsaw carver, and live broadcasts with our local radio station.

On Friday, December 1, at 5:28 pm, be a part of the Santa Scamper, a fun-run that benefits our local Boys and Girls Club of Sparta. Be back at 6 pm for our annual lighted holiday parade, "Candy Cane Christmas." Follow Santa down to Evans-Bosshard Park where he will officially light the park for the holiday season at 7 pm.

Close your eyes and picture yourself sitting by an open fire, sipping hot chocolate, listening to the laughter and festive music playing throughout the market. The lights sparkle as the snow begins to fall. The wagon rides roll past the decorated storefronts full of color and holiday cheer. This is our Hallmark Movie that we want to share with you.

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### Kriskindlmarkt

A variety of artisan wares and gifts, food, and drink. This award-winning holiday market is adding five new huts and a bier haus for the 2023 season. Kriskindlmarkt is an outdoor, traditional European-style market located in downtown Sparta.

### Dates/Hours

Friday, Nov 24, 2:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Saturday, Nov 25, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM  
Friday, Dec 1, 4:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Saturday, Dec 2, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM  
Friday, Dec 8, 4:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Saturday, Dec 9, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM  
Friday, Dec 15, 4:00 PM-8:00 PM  
Saturday, Dec 16, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM

### Other Events:

Friday, Dec 1, 6:00 PM  
Holiday Parade  
Friday, Dec 1, 7:00 PM  
Holiday Lighting Ceremony  
Evans-Bosshard Park

December 5th, 6:40 PM, CP Holiday Train,  
Milwaukee Street and Water Street

Whitetail Resort Ski and Tubing Hill-  
watch their website for opening date

Snowmobiling Trails open  
when adequate snow.



[www.bikesparta.com](http://www.bikesparta.com) for a complete listing of winter events





## SPOTLIGHT | CHIPPEWA COUNTY



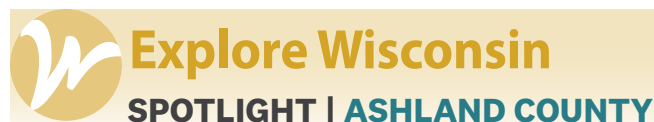
## Chippewa County, a Slice of Paradise Any Time of Year

Often it's hard to pick a vacation spot. Will it be to experience the great outdoors or to discover the local culture? When you visit Chippewa County, you don't have to pick just one. You'll find so much to do that you'll wonder why you haven't visited sooner.

You'll find local charm in our idyllic downtowns, natural beauty on the trails or the waterways and amenities to meet all your get-away needs. For the outdoor adventurers, fat tire biking, cross country skiing, ATV-ing, boating, hiking and fishing experiences are aplenty. You can hit the trails in this snowmobile friendly county, ice fish some of the best lakes in the state, such as Lake Wissota, or hike a segment of the Ice Age Trail.

Cultural experiences are awaiting your itinerary. With wineries, distilleries and handcrafted beverages, you're sure to find a new flavor that will become your new go-to. Indulge in a flavorful meal at one of the many locally owned restaurants with chefs dedicated to delivering you a delicious experience. Make sure to listen to the sounds of music, visit historically significant attractions, and admire the spectacular Christmas Village with more than 60,000 lights as beautiful Irvine Park is transformed from Thanksgiving until January 1.

Your next adventure is in Chippewa County. Visit our website to start planning. We look forward to having you experience our little slice of Wisconsin. 🍷



## SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND COUNTY

## Easy on The Eyes, Anytime of Year

Hunting season is upon us, but visiting Ashland and the Chequamegon Bay is quite beautiful anytime of year. With the majestic waves on beautiful Lake Superior as our front door view and the quiet, relaxing, colorful woods and waterfalls in our back yard, the county has a four season "scenic" view that is easy on the eyes anytime of year! Escape the chaos, and spend a weekend with us!! Visitashland.com. 🍷



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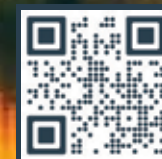
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\*Minimum purchase may apply. Subject to availability. Rates expressed as annual percentage yield (APY) as of 10/18/2023. APY may reflect a current market discount. About FDIC Insurance: Currently, the FDIC limits the insured amount (including principal and interest) for all deposits held in the same capacity to \$250,000 per depositor, per insured depository institution and \$250,000 for certain retirement accounts. Therefore, excess holdings may not be insured. About Liquidity: Funds may not be withdrawn until the maturity date or redemption date. However, the brokered CDs are negotiable, which means that, although not obligated to do so, Raymond James and other broker/dealers presently maintain an active secondary market at current interest rates. Market value will fluctuate and, if the CD is cashed out prior to maturity, the proceeds may be more or less than the original purchase price. Holding CDs until term assures the holder of par value redemption. CDs are redeemable at par upon death of beneficial holder. For detailed overview of these and other risks refer to the Certificate of Deposit Disclosure Statement at [raymondjames.com/liquid.htm](http://raymondjames.com/liquid.htm). Additional information is also available on the SEC Certificates of Deposit: Tips for Investors website at [sec.gov/answers/cds.htm](http://sec.gov/answers/cds.htm). © 2022 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC. 22MFI Retail -0171 JPR 6/22

**CHARLES P. ALBRECHT, CIMA®, CRC®**  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR – INVESTMENTS**

## Make Your Final Tax Saving Moves Before December 31

**P**roactive investors know that the months before year-end can be an ideal time to make strategic adjustments.

### Mind your RMDs

Investors who reach a certain age are required to take RMDs from their IRAs. You'll face a hefty 25% tax penalty on amounts not withdrawn from your IRA to meet the RMD.

A few reminders for future distribution planning:

- RMDs can be automated to help ensure you don't miss applicable deadlines.
- Your first RMD can be delayed until April 1 of the year after you reach 70 1/2, 72 or 73 (depending on your year of birth). If you delay, however, you must also take your second RMD in the same tax year. This can inflate your income, which may affect your tax bracket.
- Subsequent RMDs must be taken no later than December 31 of each calendar year.
- Qualified charitable distributions allow traditional IRA owners who are 70 1/2 and older to gift up to \$100,000 from their IRA to a qualified charity. This is a non-taxable distribution from their IRA and can be used to satisfy an RMD.
- Be mindful of how taking a distribution will impact your taxable income or tax bracket. If you are in a low tax bracket, discuss with your tax professional about taking an additional strategic distribution at that lower rate.

### To harvest or not to harvest


Evaluate whether you could benefit from tax-loss harvesting – selling a losing investment to offset gains. If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, your excess losses up to \$3,000 (single or married filing jointly) can be used to offset ordinary income. Any additional losses can be carried forward to future years. Consider the following subtleties when aiming to decrease your tax bill:

- Short-term gains are taxed at a higher marginal rate; aim to reduce those first.
- Don't disrupt your long-term investment strategy when harvesting losses.
- Be aware of "wash sale" rules that affect new purchases before and after the sale of a security. If you sell a security at a loss but purchase another "substantially identical" security – within 30 days before or after the sale date – the IRS likely will consider that a wash sale and disallow the loss deduction. The IRS will look at all your accounts – 401(k), IRA, taxable, etc. – when determining if a wash sale occurred.

### Manage your income and deductions

Those at or near the next tax bracket should pay close attention to anything that might bump them up and plan to reduce taxable income before the end of the year.

- Determine if it makes sense to accelerate deductions or defer income, potentially allowing you to minimize your current tax liability. Some companies may give you an opportunity to defer bonuses and so forth into a future year as well.
- Certain retirement plans also can help you defer taxes. Contributing to a traditional 401(k) allows you to pay income tax only when you withdraw money from the plan in the future, at which point your income and tax rate may be lower or you may have more deductions available to offset the income.\*
- Evaluate your income sources – earned income, corporate bonds, municipal bonds, qualified dividends, etc. – to help reduce the overall tax impact.

*Withdrawals from qualified accounts, such as an IRA, prior to age 59 1/2 may also be subject to a 10% federal penalty tax. RMDs are generally subject to federal income tax and may be subject to state taxes. Consult your tax advisor to assess your situation. Raymond James does not provide tax or legal services. Please discuss these matters with the appropriate professional.* 

**For full article, please see:** <https://www.raymondjames.com/commentary-and-insights/tax-planning/2023/10/03/make-your-final-tax-saving-moves-before-dec-31>



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**Explore Wisconsin**

**SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA**

## Stream, Big Water Fishing

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Battling monster salmon and trout in the fall are common occurrences on the Ahnapee River out of Algoma. This tributary is packed with jumbo salmon and trout and it doesn't just end when ice time rolls around. Ice fishing on the Ahnapee is just as exciting. Imagine a 12-pound steelhead tearing off 50 yards of line on your three-foot rod and reel combo, not once, but several times before coming to the hole and hitting the ice.

If you are not sure where to go or what kind of equipment and bait you need, Habitual Guide Service can "hook you up." You can spend a long time learning on your own, or you can have an expert show you how. Duplicating what you learn on your next trip without a guide is easy. Check out Habitual Guide Service on Facebook or the



Tyler and his partner Tim Maher excel at providing anglers who are willing to be "one with nature," a unique experience to learn their craft of carefully drifting hand-tied spawn sacs past hidden trout and salmon.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 25**

# Prairie du Chien

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DAN DURBIN

## Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo

### Oshkosh Sunnyview Expo Center welcome state's largest dedicated show December 8-10th

Oshkosh, WI- The Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo will take place December 8-10th at Sunnyview Exposition Center and will come out of the gates as the state's largest dedicated ice fishing expo. Nearly every major ice fishing brand will be present as well as smaller brands that aren't found in big box stores.

Ice fishing lures, shelters, augers, electronics, and retailers will be packed into over 35,000 square feet of exhibition space. Some of the industry's top ice fishing professionals will provide seminars all three days. There's also a trout pond and kids' zone with various youth activities! Attendees can win fishing gear randomly if the "Prize Patrol" pays a random visit! Several food trucks will be on hand with subs, gyros, burgers and more. 🐟

For more information go to [www.icefishexpo.com](http://www.icefishexpo.com). Tickets are \$10 with kids 12 and under free. FREE PARKING!

#### ELKHORN, FROM PAGE 7

"We're coming to the most perfect time of the year to get out your winter sports gear," Kate noted. "As soon as the temps are cool enough, Alpine Valley Resort will start making snow so guests won't have to rely on Mother Nature to start hitting the slopes."

Alpine features over 100 skiable acres

with 20 runs to accommodate skiers of all skill levels, from beginner to expert. The longest run is 3,000 feet and there's a vertical drop of 388 feet. The ski hill also provides a variety of other amenities, including three terrain parks with a variety of rails, boxes, and snow features. Alpine is the perfect place to enjoy the freedom of nature and learn or perfect your skiing skills. 🐟

#### BELOIT, FROM PAGE 10

Beloit Civic Theatre has been Beloit's community theatre since 1932 producing three productions each season. Beloit College Theatre stages four shows every year. Every other year, the department produces a musical or stages a Shakespearean play.

Learn more about Beloit's thriving cultural art scene at [visitbeloit.com/see](http://visitbeloit.com/see). 🐟



#### SPARTA, FROM PAGE 10

Magic can be found on Tuesday, December 5, at 6:40 pm with the arrival of the CP Holiday Train at the intersection of Water and Milwaukee Streets. The boxcars open to the south and will fill the air with music and lights as Santa collects canned goods for the food pantry. Local not-for-profit organizations will be available to purchase hot chocolate and baked goods.

Sparta is your next favorite destination this holiday season. Join us November 24 and 25 and December 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 15, and 16 to "Experience the Magic" of it all!

Visit our website for more information and a full listing of all of our events. Be sure to like our Facebook page so you don't miss a single thing. 🐟



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## Early Ice Family Fun

### *The best bite is first ice*

Ice fishing is not a complicated activity. Some bait, jig poles and a couple tip-ups are about all you need. Keeping it simple is often the key to making the trip enjoyable.

Before venturing out on the ice, safety should be your top priority. Four to five inches of ice is what I like to fish on in early ice. When taking kids out on the ice, making sure they have the proper warm clothes is imperative. Waterproof boots, hats and plenty of mittens are necessary. My son Nathan had a tendency to go through three or four pairs of mittens in a few hours. Early ice doesn't usually have much snow on it, so consider ice cleats for dad or grandpa to prevent a fall.

When taking your family out, pick a day

that is warm. I prefer the first light period; it seems the fish are the most active. Shallow lakes or a bay of a larger lake provide the safest early ice. When taking children out, I will always go out to locations with other anglers; it helps to identify the safe ice areas.

For early ice, we are typically fishing in less than six feet of water. For my jig pole, I will use what is called a long pole. The long pole is the 48-to-60-inch rod with one-to-two-pound test running through the hollow rod blank. The reel is typically used just to hold line. The longer pole allows the angler to fish while standing up, making it easier to move from hole to hole searching for active fish. I prefer fishing for bluegills on early ice. They are fun to catch and are tasty to eat.

Reid Henningfield  
with an early ice pike



Fish On for Nathan Duwe



Early ice success for Nathan Duwe



While bluegills are tasty, there is nothing more exciting to a small kid than catching a huge fish. Early ice provides the opportunity for northern pike in shallow water. The method I like for northern pike are tip ups. Tip ups are designed to straddle the hole and a flag is used as the bite indicator. The spool of the tip-up has 20 to 30-pound Dacron. There is a monofilament leader attached to the Dacron line. The leader length is 12 to 20 inches. The hook I prefer for the pike is a treble hook. Make sure you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



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**JANET MARTENS**

## A Step Back in Time Iron River Sleigh and Cutter Rally

Take a step back in time to over 100 years ago to see what winter life was like. The Northwoods Harness Club will be hosting its 35th Annual Sleigh and Cutter Rally on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at the Northern Pines Event Center, 69420 Airport RD, Iron River, from 11 am to 3 pm.

The Rally offers a unique opportunity to show off beautiful horses pulling vehicles from around the world and costumed passengers dressed in period clothing. Enjoy narrated and judged divisions, including youth, in an entertaining and educational family-centered event that you won't want to miss. A comfortable indoor viewing area with a raffle, vendors, and delicious food will make your visit a truly unique experience. 🐾

For more information connect with Event Coordinator Janet Martens at [jmartens1960@gmail.com](mailto:jmartens1960@gmail.com). Photo credit to JoAnn Jardine



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### Community Events

#### NOVEMBER 19:

Grafton Tree Lighting  
Outstanding Citizen  
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Ceremony

**LUMBERYARD PLAZA**  
**AT 6-9PM**

#### NOVEMBER 25:

Breakfast with Santa  
Enjoy a pancake  
breakfast with Santa,  
Mrs. Claus and all other  
characters

**CIRCLE B AT**  
**7:30-10:00AM**

#### NOVEMBER 25:

43rd Annual Christmas  
Parade

**DOWNTOWN GRAFTON**  
**AT 11:00 AM**

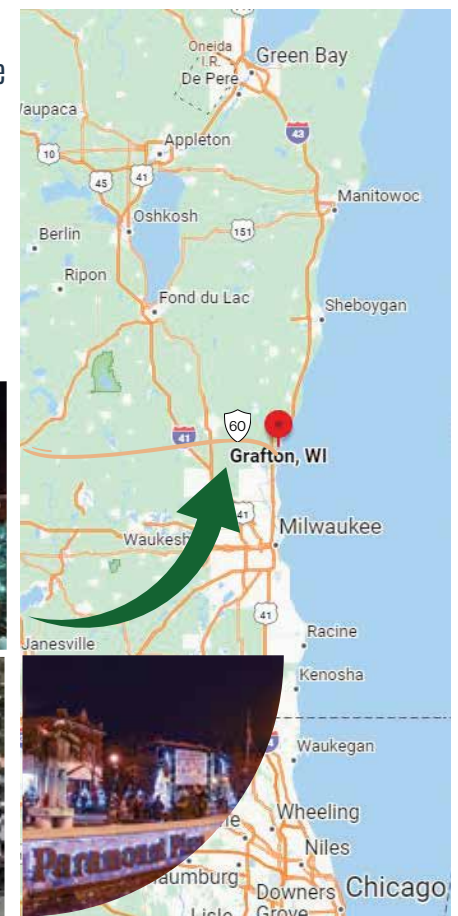
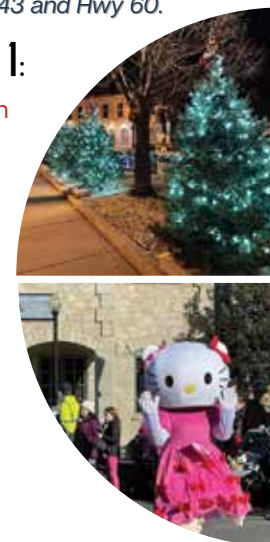
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## Small Town – BIG Adventures; Marinette

When it comes to lifelong memories and adventures that will stir your soul, you need to look no further than the small town of Marinette. Packed with adventures in the city and the county, Marinette is a small town that delivers BIG adventures.

Marinette's history is as rich as its natural beauty. As the birthplace of the Menominee Indian Nation, the town is steeped in American heritage. Make your way to Menekaunee Harbor, and you'll be greeted by a magnificent 15-foot bear that proudly graces the island's tip. This iconic statue, an exact replica of its counterpart at the Menominee Indian Museum, symbolizes the legendary tale of a bear emerging from the water, bestowing life upon the Menominee Indian Nation. Next to the bear, a monument pays tribute to the five nations of the Menominee. As

you cross the charming wooden bridge, you'll embark on a restorative journey through a path that beautifully showcases the Menominee Indian culture. And this is just the beginning – Marinette boasts five unique walking paths, each offering its own enchanting experience.

Head to historic Stephenson Island and learn about Marinette's logging history. Marinette, a logging industry mecca in the mid-1800s, attracted lumber barons like Isaac Stephenson and many people looking to earn their way in the new frontier. Soak in the city's history as you walk through Marinette County's Historical Lumber Museum and experience Marinette in the 1800s. See an original old sawmill, information on the people who built Marinette, a model of the original Marinette Lumber Camp, and much more. Directly across from the museum is an original

log cabin from one of the first Marinette settlers.

But it's not only history that makes Marinette extraordinary; it's also a living canvas of art. From a painstakingly accurate recreation of the iconic 1923 photograph capturing men enjoying lunch atop a steel girder atop the Iron Works restaurant to the vibrant depiction of two adventurous young boys taking a daring dive from Stephenson Island to the unique metal walleye fish art scattered throughout the city the town's artistic tapestry will leave you absolutely speechless.

As for your taste buds, the culinary scene in Marinette is nothing short of awesome. Visit the Rail House Pub, where they brew award-winning craft beer, or savor the delectable burgers at Mickey-Lu-Bar-B-Q, featured on "Diner, Drive-Ins, & Dives." For dessert, nothing is better than a national

blue ribbon pie from Hometown Family Restaurant.

Once you've explored all Marinette offers, head out to Marinette County. Offering more waterfalls than any other county in the state of Wisconsin, Marinette has the title "Waterfall Capitol of Wisconsin." Hiking, biking, ATV/UTV and snowmobile trails, Marinette is overflowing with ways to touch your senses and fill your days with adventures. If you're passionate about hunting or fishing, Marinette County has exactly what you desire. Whether it's trophy deer, fish, or game birds, Marinette has the hunt for you!

For more information on how to experience all that Marinette has to offer, go to [fishonmarinette.com](http://fishonmarinette.com) or contact Director of Marketing and Tourism Shawn Katzbeck at [skatzbeck@marinette.wi.us](mailto:skatzbeck@marinette.wi.us) and start planning the adventure of a lifetime! 🐟



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### Hiller's Radar Run February 2 and 3

Hiller's Radar Run combines the fastest shaved ice tracks, manicured snow lanes, and the Midwest's largest Bikini Run into a weekend festival for racers and fans alike!

Since 2004, Hiller's Radar Run has evolved into the MUST-SEE Winter Race Event in the Midwest! Racers and fans share the tracks and browse the venue's heated tents for awesome winter gear, food, and entertainment in the Red White & Brew Bar's Concierge Tent. 🍷



For more information, please see the Hiller's Radar Run advertisement in this edition of *On Wisconsin Outdoors*

SPOTLIGHT | **OCONTO COUNTY**

## Slopes, Trails And Dining That Are Sure to Bring You Back

**L**ooking for a ski destination? Drive up to northeastern Wisconsin for a day on the slopes. Locals refer to Oconto's Paul Bunyan Ski Hill as the “Biggest Little Hill” in the midwest. Open from December to March, the hill has slopes for skiers of all ages and abilities – and lift tickets are only \$30 a day for adults and \$25 for kids.

Lakewood Cross County Ski Trails offer 15 miles of beautiful national forest to explore. Five color-coded trails offer difficulties ranging from an easy family outing through the deep forest to a challenging trek through steeper terrain. Oconto County is also a great destination to motorize your winter exploration - the county is a snowmobiling hot spot, with 480 miles of groomed trails available. Explore on your own or consider booking a guided snowmobile tour with Northwoods Powersports Adventures.

After a long weekend of winter activities, you can sit back and relax at one of Oconto County's newest dining spots, Braise North - a coffee shop in Lakewood from the owners of Milwaukee's Braise, or Lakehouse Winery, a destination on Townsend Flowage with over 30 vintages to enjoy. 🍷

For more information, see [ocontocounty.org](http://ocontocounty.org)



## OCONTO COUNTY

When the snow starts to fall in Oconto County, Wisconsin, the outdoors just get more fun! Stretching from the bay of Green Bay up to the Chequamegon- Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin's Oconto County has a lot to offer. And every winter, Oconto County transforms into a winter wonderland.

The drive into Northern Oconto County is like arriving in Narnia. You'll cross into the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest — tall pines line the road and sparkling snow covers the ground. Whether you're coming with your family or your close friends, the drive will get your crew excited for winter adventures and hot cocoa moments!

[WWW.OCONTOCOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.OCONTOCOUNTY.ORG)



## Hiller's Radar Run February 2 & 3, 2024



West Bay of Little St Germain Lake  
in St Germain, WI  
[Radarracers.com](http://Radarracers.com)







SPOTLIGHT | WASHBURN COUNTY



## The Outdoor Adventurer's Winter Wonderland

As the snow begins to fall in the north woods of Wisconsin, Washburn County turns into an outdoor adventurers' winter wonderland. Whether you wish to hit the trails, cuddle up with a good book in front of the fireplace, grab a beer at the local brewpub, or catch a trophy fish on one of the area lakes, Washburn County will not disappoint. Year-round shopping makes the downtowns in our communities a great place to spend some time. Don't miss the Tin Ceiling Historical Tour in downtown Spooner while you're checking out the local shops.

Washburn County is home to several great trail systems for cross country skiing and snowshoeing enthusiasts. Our ski trails are very family-friendly and great places to teach kids how to ski. In addition, Washburn County offers a variety of snowshoe trails. The Hunt Hill trails, located in Sarona near Long Lake, provide 13 miles of loops on a 600 acre nature reserve. The Beaver Brook Wildlife Area (Spooner/Shell Lake) provides a back-country snowshoeing experience and is

a very popular area for experienced snowshoe enthusiasts to explore.

Along with great cross country ski and snowshoe trails, Washburn County boasts some of the most scenic snowmobiling in the state. Over 240 miles of groomed trails wind through public forests and across private land covering hundreds of thousands of acres. Washburn County is unmatched for wilderness sledding and access to lodging and amenities. Our local trails link to the largest network of snowmobile trails in the midwest. Hard-working local snowmobile clubs have developed a top-notch trail system that crosses public and private lands, lakes, streams and bridges. Nearly 1,000 lakes in the area offer more than 30,000 acres of lake riding. Most trails are maintained from early December through March, depending on conditions.

For more information on planning your winter adventure in WashCo and to check trail conditions, head to [WashburnCounty.org](http://WashburnCounty.org).



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SPOTLIGHT | PLATTEVILLE



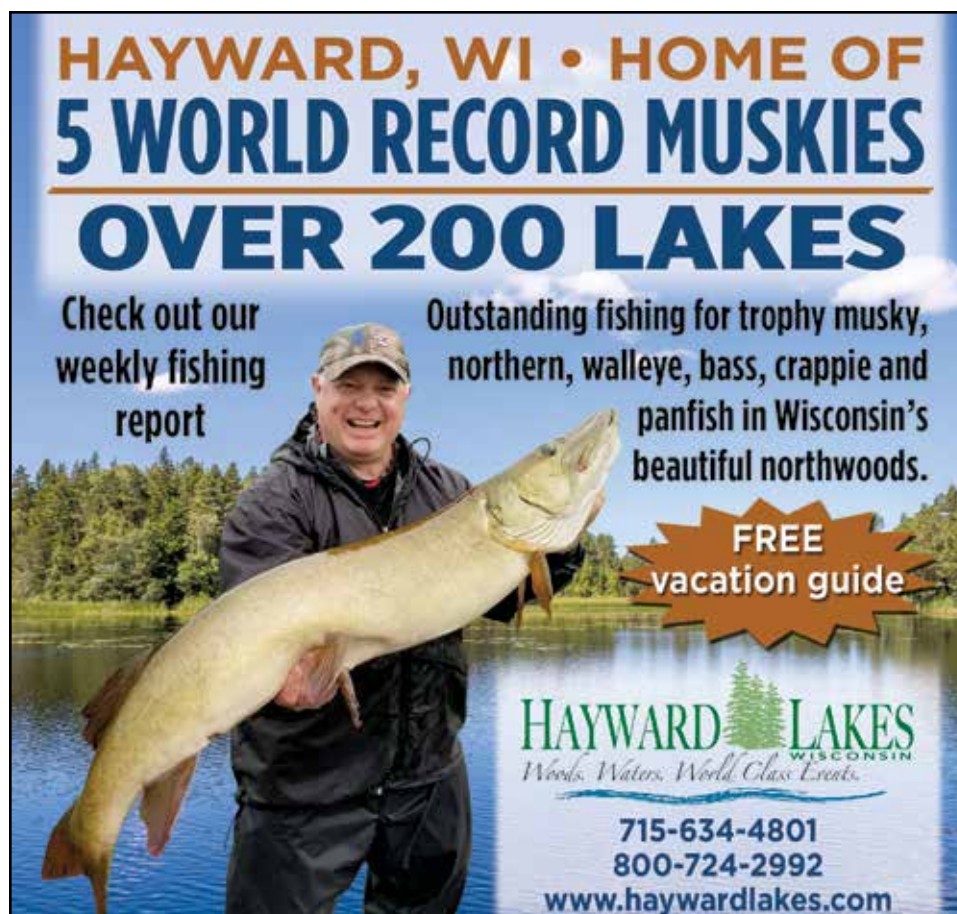
## Join Us For a Day on The Farm, Experience Beautiful Platteville

There is much to see and do as the air cools and the leaves begin to change in Platteville. Recognizing the importance of agriculture in our local communities, the Platteville Regional Chamber hosts an agricultural education event each year. This year the public is invited to A Day on the Farm, hosted in partnership with UW-Platteville College of Agriculture.

A Day on the Farm is a free event open to the public that will be held on Saturday, November 11 at UW-Platteville's Pioneer Farm located at 29200 College Farm Road, between 10 am and 1 pm. A self-guided tour of several different educational stations will be provided by UW-Platteville College of Agriculture student groups. Local businesses will be on hand to offer samples of agricultural products. A dog agility demonstration will be one of the featured attractions. Visitors can try their hand at operating a piece of farm equipment with a spray applicator simulator provided by Insight FS. Real tractors will be lined up along the driveway for a close-up view and memorable selfie opportunities.

A visit to the milking parlor and milk house is part of the tour and includes a viewing area of the cows and robotic milking machines. Visitors will observe how the milk travels from cows to the milk house, where it is cooled and stored until its trip to the milk production plants. Around the corner is the free stall barn where the cows spend most of their time when not being milked.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD LAKES



## Beauty, Isolation And Danger in The Great Northwest

Last winter, I celebrated my birthday and the last weekend of ruffed grouse season with a trip to my hunting cabin. I drove about 10 miles north of my hometown and then snowshoed a mile into the woods, dragging a sled full of beverages, soup, and shotgun shells.

The morning after my arrival, I filled my parka with essentials, strapped on snowshoes, grabbed my hinge-action 20-gauge, and set off for the frozen outdoors. My destination was a low-lying area with a tiny creek threading through it, about a mile from my cabin, in pursuit of grouse. I didn't see any grouse, but with four feet of powder on the ground, it seemed like a great day to explore and get a workout. I decided to follow the creek bed north. I figured that a small creek, in the dead of winter, would be frozen solid. Just to be on the safe side, I leaped over the slight depression that I thought indicated a creek four feet down. I was wrong on three important counts: 1) the snow had drifted so that the depression was a couple feet downwind of the creek; 2) the combination of the drifting and the creek banks made the



CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



SPOTLIGHT | **FERRYVILLE**

# Hunting Traditions, Dining, And More on The Stunning Mississippi River Backwaters

Introducing young people to hunting is essential to keeping the tradition alive and vibrant. Ed Anderson of Ferryville is doing just that. He has spent many hours teaching his children, Brooke, Sage and Drake, hunting skills, firearms safety and the importance of preserving our natural resources.

Often times this fall, Ed has taken the three children out to the Mississippi River backwaters from the Ferryville Boat Launch to hunt. The Anderson kids are quick learners and good shooters. More often than not, they came back with their limit of ducks. (See photo) Ed, mom Janelle, and the kids' next adventure is deer hunting. Thanks, Ed and Janelle, for keeping the hunting tradition alive in your family and Ferryville.

In other Ferryville news, Swede's Swing Inn has a new groove and location. The restaurant has moved up the street to a wonderful new location, the former Sportsman's Bar & Grill, complete with a deck and a "Million Dollar View." Check out Swede's new Sunday Breakfast Buffet and old favorites including fried fish, Saturday night prime rib and broasted chicken, among many others. Click a glass with your favorite folks and enjoy that super sunset whenever you can.

You're always welcome at the Wooden



Nickel Saloon in Ferryville. Enjoy a great view of the Mississippi River from the patio and dine on their famous fish fries, burgers, appetizers, and great brew selection.

Milwaukee Magazine recently published an article on must-see attractions on the Great River Road. The magazine named Ferryville Cheese & More "The quintessential convenience store of the Wisconsin Great River Road." Check it out!

Want to paddle/kayak the Mississippi River Backwaters? Visit [merrygreenmarvel.org](http://merrygreenmarvel.org). More information will be coming in the Spring 2024.



By Sherry Quamme, Treasurer, Ferryville Tourism Council.



Located in the southwest corner of the state, **Mineral Point** is on the **Cheese Country Trail**. It's a stunning **47-mile ATV route** that offers a unique and picturesque way to explore the countryside. Passing through dairy country and farms that supply milk for Wisconsin's renowned cheese, this trail is a favorite among **ATV and UTV riders**, as well as **snowmobiles**, mountain bikes and hikers.

As you ride the trail, you'll see why we're known as the **Dairyland State**. Visit **Hook's Cheese in Mineral Point** for award-winning cheeses and their oh-so-good squeaky curds! Enjoy our local taverns for drinks and burgers, and stay in historic hotels right along the trail for a **weekend getaway**.



Visit [www.mineralpoint.com](http://www.mineralpoint.com) for questions.



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### WINTER 2023

**November 9**

*Soup & Salad Supper, 5 pm - 7 pm Village Hall*

**November 27**

*Christmas Tree Lighting • 6 - 7pm.*

*Santa, Sing Christmas Carols*

**December 2**

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

**December 14**

*Soup & Salad Supper, 5-7- pm Village Hall*

**Upcoming Events for 2024**

*International Spring, Bird Migration Hike,*

*Rummage Along the River*

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JOHN ELLIS

# Election Integrity in Wisconsin-Part Three

## *The WEC has more than 2.8 million ineligible voters on its registration list*

As of this writing, the statewide voter registration list maintained by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) includes 7,498,167 voters. But according to the 2020 United States Census, there are only 4,612,300 adults living in Wisconsin. **This means that there are 2,885,867 more voters on the WEC's registration list, than there are people of voting age living in Wisconsin.** \* This has made elections in Wisconsin **unverifiable**, and is the most important problem that must be corrected before our 2024 elections.

### *How it happened.*

In 2016, former Governor Scott Walker signed legislation that required Wisconsin to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). ERIC is an organization formed in 2012 and made up of election officials from 24 states around the country. The WEC has been using ERIC to maintain a statewide voter registration list. Because a major part of ERIC's mission is voter registration, and the WEC has not been held accountable by Wisconsin legislators, that list has grown to almost 7.5 million voters.

### *How the WEC hides total registered voters.*

The WEC maintains two websites. The website everyone is directed to for information on Wisconsin elections is called "Wisconsin Elections Commission" ([elections.wi.gov](http://elections.wi.gov)). There, by clicking on the heading of "Statistics & Data", and then "Voter Registration Statistics", you will find WEC reports for the number of active registered voters on a monthly basis. When *On Wisconsin Outdoors* (OWO) did this we found the WEC reporting that on September 1, Wisconsin had only 3,469,637 active registered voters.

The second website, that very few people know about,

is called "Badger Voters" ([badgervoters.wi.gov](http://badgervoters.wi.gov)). There, you can make a request for the **total** number voters on the WEC's registration list by clicking on the "Create New Request" button at the top of the page. After doing that, you can make three different requests from a dropdown menu for "Voter Status", including "active", "inactive", or "all" voters. By selecting "all", and pushing the "Get Estimate" button at the bottom of the page, you will find the total number of voters on the WEC's list. When OWO did this, we found the WEC actually had 7,498,167 registered voters on its list. \*\*

### *How the WEC hides ineligible voters.*

The WEC uses the words active and inactive to hide what are in fact **ineligible voters**. This has enabled them to keep ineligible voters out of sight, and on their list, when there's no legitimate reason for them to be there.

Active voters are simply people who vote regularly, while inactive voters are people who have not voted in two consecutive general elections. But ineligible voters are people who can't vote because they have died, moved out of Wisconsin, been convicted of a felony, or been found mentally incompetent to vote. **All of the 2,885,867 voters on the WEC's registration list, exceeding the number of voting age people living in Wisconsin, are ineligible voters.** \*\*\*

### *Why this is the most important problem that must be corrected before the 2024 elections.*

As long as the more than 2.8 million ineligible voters remain on the WEC's registration list, they will provide a vast reservoir from which illegal ballots can be cast and Wisconsin will continue to have **unverifiable elections**. The need to correct this is obvious and time critical, because voter registration lists must be finalized 90 days before an election.

**Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (608-237-9163), Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (608-266-2056), and Brian Schimming, Chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin (608-257-4765)** all know about this, but have remained silent on the issue. If we allow it, they will remain silent through next year's elections. We can't let that happen. It's extremely important that you contact them, as well as your state assemblyman and senator, to demand they make removing all ineligible voters from the WEC's registration list their first priority. \*\*\*\*

Nothing is more important than making sure Wisconsin has verifiable elections in 2024, and the most important step toward having them, is removing all ineligible voters from the WEC's list. Please make your calls, stay involved, and share this article with everyone you can.

\*The math is simple. 7,498,167 is the number of voters on the WEC's voter registration list. 4,612,300 is the number of adults living in Wisconsin.  $7,498,167 - 4,612,300 = 2,885,867$  more voters on the WEC's registration list than there are people of voting age living in Wisconsin.

\*\*If OWO wanted a copy of the list, the WEC would charge us \$12,500.00.

\*\*\*They are all ineligible voters because they exceed the number of voting age people living in Wisconsin. There are actually more than 2,885,867 ineligible voters on the WEC's registration list, and it's easily proven with math.  $7,498,167 - 2,885,867 = 4,612,300$  adults living in Wisconsin. Because it's not possible for 100% of adults living in Wisconsin to be both registered and eligible to vote, we know there are more than 2,885,867 ineligible voters on the WEC's list.

\*\*\*\*To find out how to contact your state legislators, go to [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov). 🗳️

DICK ELLIS

# The Real Insurrection

## *Uniparty and media corruption*

On October 24, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (MJS) published a column co-authored by reporters Deborah Barfield Berry and Terry Collins from USA Today, Gannett Publishing flagship and a sister publication to MJS: "Instilling Trust in Elections a Challenge-Fearmongering has led to calls to overhaul process."

The column was prominently positioned on page 2, began with headlines that insist elections remain secure, and reinforces that premise with unchallenged quotes from "expert sources" lacking any apparent expertise beyond a title. The column, by media design, also reinforces the same message being delivered to the voter every

day throughout America.

"Election officials across the country," the writers state, "are competing with the outside influence of Trump—who faces felony charges for allegedly trying to overturn the 2020 election—and his allies as they continue to undermine faith in the American electoral process."

"Now we have these loud voices who start criticizing our election process without proof and that scares people," adds Zach Mohr to the column drumbeat, referenced only as a professor at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25





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**ELLIS, FROM PAGE 24**

the University of Kansas. “What this simply says about America is that some Americans still don’t get how this all works.”

But we do. The greatest threat to our freedoms guaranteed by **verifiable elections** comes through media lies and omission. Both are rampant and orchestrated on a daily basis to ensure consistent messages are delivered repeatedly to a mass audience. The beneficiary of this propaganda is the retention of power and money for the “Uniparty”; democrats, republicans, pollsters, and media with zero regard for “we the people”, when the trade-off of verifiable elections means the likely forfeiture of their lucrative benefits.

Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson, in a live October on-air interview, said the Uniparty is comprised of “most democrats and enough republicans that will continue to plunder and mortgage our children’s future.” Johnson was not hesitant to name as part of this “third party”, leaders in his own Republican Party including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and former House leader Kevin McCarthy. Those examples, though, only touch the surface of the elitist republicans and democrats who inexplicably become rich

as our “public servants” and who only leave office as old men after decades of taking.

Corrupt elected officials in both parties could never succeed without the corrupt media in daily concert, promoting the process. Their sole responsibility is to bring the American people the truth to the best of their journalistic abilities, but many have abandoned that mission long ago and morphed into nothing more than the Uniparty’s propaganda wing. Well hidden within the political system spotlighted by Johnson, are many members of the self-defined “conservative” media, who will play their role, particularly through omission, to ensure that the status quo remains alive and well through the 2024 elections. Who are they? You will know them by watching and listening closely to which self-proclaimed “conservative media” players reinforce the idea that Donald Trump cannot win in 2024, rather than shining a light on Wisconsin’s current, unverifiable elections.

Fearmongering doesn’t come from those of us seeking only to deliver truth to the American voter. The Uniparty and corrupt media make up the real insurrection. And that, for anyone who values our Constitutional Republic, is something to be afraid of.



**PORT WASHINGTON, FROM PAGE 6**

There is a state park and a nature center nearby that offer trails for cross-country skiing, winter hiking and birding. Bring your binoculars! The lakeshore is on a flyway, so we often see some of the more unusual birds. Plus there are breathtaking views everywhere you turn. Make sure you bring your camera – winter provides dramatic photo opportunities along the

lakeshore.

Our lodging establishments will provide you with that perfectly cozy place to warm up after your outdoor activities. Spend winter how you like it!

Close enough to be convenient – but what a great getaway! 📍

Contact Port Washington Tourism at 1-800-719-4881, log on to [visitportwashington.com](http://visitportwashington.com), or find us on Facebook, for more information.

**ALGOMA, FROM PAGE 14**

web at: [habitualguide.com](http://habitualguide.com) or call Tyler Yunk at 920-255-7865.

For current fishing reports or information on charter fishing in the Algoma area, check out [FishAlgoma.com](http://FishAlgoma.com). You can also sign up for periodic newsletters and fishing reports. Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the GRAND

ILLUSION 3 look forward to seeing you on the water this spring. Good luck and good fishing. 📍

Lee Haasch is an Algoma charter captain with over 50 years of Great Lakes fishing experience. He’s been writing and giving seminars on fishing for over 35 years. He can be contacted at [fishalgoma.com](http://fishalgoma.com) or 888-966-3474

**HAYWARD LAKES, FROM PAGE 22**

snow in that spot more like six feet deep; and 3) the creek was not frozen.

My leap ended with my left leg post-holing all the way down to the creek, and my right knee in my right ear. I was stuck, alone, and no one knew where I was. I tried to pull up my left snowshoe, but it didn’t budge. I figured the only way out was to dig with my hands, so I tossed my gun to safety and started digging. First I dug underneath my right leg, so I could get my knee out of my ear. Then I dug all the way down until I could feel my left snowshoe. It was under six feet of snow, a foot of slush, six inches of water, and six inches of mud. I grabbed the toe of the snowshoe and pulled it upward, and eventually the whole muddy snowshoe came up with a satisfying sucking sound. After another five minutes of digging and clawing, I was able to get up the creek

bank and retrieve my shotgun. My gloves had already frozen solid, so I took them off.

My snowshoe was trashed. I searched my pockets and found a four-foot piece of twine and half a roll of athletic tape. I improvised a binding, took a compass bearing, and set off for the cabin. It was only a mile, but it was a mile of deep powder hiding a tangle of snowshoe-grabbing branches. An hour later, I was drinking a beer and telling myself, “That could have ended badly.”

At my age, experiences like this don’t teach me things; they remind me of things I should have already known: don’t trust 40-year-old bindings; don’t snowshoe in deep woods alone; tell someone where you’re going; and creeks don’t freeze under six feet of snow. I’d like to say I’ll never make those mistakes again. . . . 📍

By Matt Ostrander

**PLATTEVILLE, FROM PAGE 22**

Visitors can walk down the middle of the barn, view what and how the cows eat, where they sleep and maybe even give one a pat! For more interaction with the animals, a farm animal petting zoo can be found inside the Education Pavilion. Here visitors can pet a pig, goat, calf and a horse.

Travel our roadways and explore the countryside in your ATV or UTV. The autumn colors are breathtaking as you venture from one destination to another. For detailed information on local and county routes and maps, stop at the Wisconsin Welcome Center located in Platteville.

Along the routes, take advantage of the opportunities to see many varieties of wildlife and other interesting attractions and destinations. As fall turns into winter and the snow begins to fall, check out our trail system on your fat tire bike. We have many miles of trails in and around Platteville with great scenic views for all skill levels. Our trail system offers exceptional cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities.

Learn more at [platteville.com](http://platteville.com) or call the Platteville Regional Chamber and Wisconsin Welcome Center at 608-348-8888. 📍



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## BEAR BAITING 101

# What to Know Before You go

Will 2024 be the year you finally pull that coveted Wisconsin bear tag? Bob's Bear Bait is already planning for the 2024 season too and we're just as excited as you are.

Spring is a great time to scout before the spring blooms start! Look for creeks, water, or low dark conifer areas adjacent to hardwoods. Another important tip to remember is to steer clear of sites that hunters baited the year prior, as they may be returning with somebody from their group that has drawn a tag. We hear many disappointing stories about several bear baits within a quarter mile of each other, so it's important to plan early.



Fall quickly approaches, so remember to shop early as our natural baits sell out fast, such as berries, nuts, peanut butter, etc. With changing laws, we're slowly phasing out the use of chocolate in our baits but some will still be available at a small percentage.

Our locations include Birnamwood, Wisconsin, just east of Wausau, Appleton, Wisconsin, Phelps, Wisconsin, and Ishpeming, Michigan. We continue to search for quality bear bait for each and every location to fit the needs of every hunter, from guides to small groups. This year we will again offer some 'Shovel Your Own Products' events at a reduced price a few times throughout the year. We also offer animal-feed grade apples available on a first-come, self-serve basis 24-hours a day.

Enjoy the entire season. Baiting is one enjoyable and gratifying part of the hunt. Connect with Bob's Bear Bait at BobsBearBait.com or 920-419-1238.



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**TOM MUELLER**

## Fox Valley Retrievers Club

### *Training for the hunting retriever*

Hunting in a marsh thick with cattails means that your dog will be invisible once it enters the cattails, even if it's just a few feet. These conditions also mean that there is a good possibility that your dog might not be able to mark where the bird fell or won't be able to head straight to it. Some dogs will, but most won't find the bird without a long strenuous hunt, and because your dog can't see you, casting and hand signals are useless.

The best way to prevent situations where your retriever doesn't drive in a straight line to the bird through cattails or gets pushed off the line when fighting heavy cover is to train in heavy cover conditions. Cattails are especially difficult for

a retriever to do longer retrieves because they form a dense barrier that the dog must struggle through. To condition a dog to retrieve through tough heavy cover, go to a public hunting ground that's designated as a Class I or II dog training area. The best time to do this is after the nesting season restriction ends or even during the hunting season. The cover at those times is at its toughest.

Start your hunting training scenario with shorter retrieves to ensure your dog's success.

Gradually lengthen the distance of retrieves. Putting scent on the dummies will help because your dog will also be relying very heavily on its nose to help it get to the area where the dummy fell. Throwing the dummy high in the air will help your dog see it better and give it a better sense of how far away the dummy has landed. As with all retriever training, practice makes perfect. 🐾

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



A hunt training setup at the Fox Valley Retriever Club grounds. Only a 20-yard swim, but a monumental effort required to find a duck in a sea of cattails.

**TOM CARPENTER**

## The Art of The Sit

### *How to really hunt from your stand this gun season*

Stand hunting is much more than just sitting in the woods. Turn your deer stand experience into a real hunt and greatly increase your chances for success this gun season.

The best stand-hunting advice I ever got was from my friend Merlin Madison. Merlin worked the big woods of northwestern Wisconsin and east-central Minnesota for over seven decades and had well over a 100 whitetails to his credit, many of them shot off lonely stands back in the middle of nowhere.

Merlin told me, "When you're hunting from a stand, you need to be hunting. Most guys sit there making all kinds of movement, daydreaming, jerking their head back and forth, looking at the ground, maybe even dozing. But you have to work - listen hard, look closely, move slowly and only when necessary - and be ready."

Minimizing movement is the first step to good stand hunting. It doesn't take much to send an approaching whitetail skulking the other direction. One wayward hand movement or one ill-executed foot shift can do it. Settle in, get comfortable, and let your eyes scan and your ears listen.

Most hunters look for a whole deer. A better plan is to look for pieces and parts: the horizontal line formed by a whitetail's back or belly; four vertical legs; a patch of white from a deer's throat or rump; the twitch of an ear; the flick of a tail. Success only comes when you see the whitetail before it's upon you.

Stand hunting's biggest sin is setting your gun down. Reaching for a gun takes up critical time and makes too much movement. Instead, keep both hands on your gun, and keep it in a relaxed yet ready position (on your lap if you're sitting or cradled if you're on your feet). That means you need make only a minimum of motion to get ready to shoot. And you can do it smoothly.

Rehearse for a minute when you arrive at your stand. Think through the shots that might present themselves. Get that gun up and make the slow swings you might have to execute. Imagine places where a deer might stop.

Wear soft wool or fleece outerwear that won't make noise brushing against twigs or bark. Take time to prune branches. Work out squeaks or creaks in your stand beforehand. If you're on the ground, clear leaves and debris away from your feet so you can make foot shifts noiselessly.

Maintain focus. Become interested in the parade of birds and other nature that one



CONTINUED ON PAGE 31





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## TERRI THIEL

# Dickinson, North Dakota Welcome Wisconsin!

Pheasant, grouse and partridge hunting in Dickinson and southwest North Dakota offers a great experience for avid hunters and outdoor enthusiasts. This region is known for its wide-open landscapes, diverse habitats, and thriving pheasant populations, making it a mecca for those seeking an exhilarating and rewarding hunting adventure.

The vast expanses of grasslands, croplands, and wetlands in southwest North Dakota provide the perfect environment for pheasants to flourish. These birds are known for their striking plumage and impressive flying capabilities, making them a challenging and exciting target for hunters. Dickinson, a city nestled in the heart of this prime hunting region, serves as an excellent base camp for individuals looking to explore the hunting opportunities the area has to offer.

The pheasant hunting season typically runs from October to January, making even the late season hunt a perfect time for finding the birds.

One of the main draws of pheasant hunting in this region is the unique landscapes. As hunters walk the prairies and fields, they are treated to

breathtaking sunrises and sunsets, accompanied by the symphony of chirping birds and rustling leaves. The tranquility and beauty of the surroundings add an extra layer of satisfaction to the hunting experience.

Beyond the thrill of the hunt, visitors can also immerse themselves in the local culture and hospitality. The region is known for its warm and welcoming communities, which often embrace hunters who come from near and far to partake in this time-honored tradition. Many towns and cities host hunting festivals, bringing people together to celebrate the sport and share stories of their adventures in the fields.

Pheasant hunting in Dickinson and southwest North Dakota is an unforgettable experience that combines the excitement of the hunt with the beauty of the natural surroundings. Dickinson offers great lodging, restaurants, and a unique landscape for making great hunting memories.



Go online for more information at [www.visitdickinson.com/hunting](http://www.visitdickinson.com/hunting), or call us at 800-279-7391. We'll get you ready for your next hunt in southwest North Dakota.

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STUART WILKE

# An Enduring Failure

## Decades after its replacement, the M14 soldiers on

One of the most ill-conceived firearms ever issued to American soldiers has one of the longest service histories. The United States Rifle, Caliber 7.62 mm, M14, was the successor to the highly regarded M1 Garand, which performed admirably during World War II and adequately during the 1951 - 1953 Korean "police action." By the time of the Korean conflict, the Garand was obsolete and had been since 1947 when the Russians began issuing the Avtomat Kalashnikova 1947.

Having born the brunt of World War II, the Russians learned some very valuable lessons in preparation for another war. Heavy, long, large caliber rifles with limited ammunition capacity, such as their standard issue Mosin-Nagant 91/30, did not perform well in close quarter combat. Small caliber, compact, light submachine guns, like the PPSH-41, capable of fully automatic fire, had more than proved their worth in the bloody street battles of Stalingrad, Breslau and Berlin. Those experiences resulted in the Kalashnikov, a comparatively light, reduced caliber, high magazine capacity "assault

rifle" capable of fully automatic fire. The AK was designed and put into production in the space of several years.

After nearly 15 years of development, Springfield Armory brainiacs finally had an answer to the AK in 1957, and it wasn't the correct one. Their antidote to the AK47 was the M14, a sort of Garand with a high capacity magazine capable of fully automatic fire. Springfield billed the M14 as an improved Garand that could be built on Garand machinery and tooling, thus saving lots of money.

But wait! There's more! Springfield also promised that their 10-pound behemoth could replace not only Garands, but also the Thompson and M3 submachine guns, M1 carbines, and Browning Automatic Rifles then in service. The M14 pretty much failed on all accounts. The gun could not be built on Garand machinery and cost a fortune to produce. As for replacing submachine guns and the carbine, pffff. The M14 was too big and heavy to be maneuvered in a

tank or carried by a radio operator in the field. Firing an M14 in full auto mode was an exercise in futility; the gun was absolutely uncontrollable. Thoughts of replacing the BAR with the M14 were laughable because their barrels soon burned out and were not of the quick detachable variety.

Lets talk quality control, or the lack thereof. With the exception of TRW, not only could the other manufacturers of the gun not meet their quotas, but the guns they did produce were often out of spec, incorrectly and sloppily assembled, and prone to break on the job. The gun was not especially liked in Vietnam, where it served during much of that war. It was too big and heavy to lug around in a jungle environment and because its action was open, could easily be incapacitated by debris. In order to prevent the guns from firing uselessly in full auto, the fun switches were removed from 90 percent of them.

Within six years of their introduction, the M14 was replaced by the M16, which after



*More than 60 years after its introduction, this heavily modified M14 remains in US service as a designated marksman rifle.*

some early, easily avoidable and repairable teething problems and numerous revisions later, remains the US standard service rifle as the M4.

Still, limited numbers of M14s soldier on as designated marksmen rifles, primarily due to their caliber. The .308 caliber bullet it fires reaches out farther than the 5.56 NATO caliber M4, but the M14 needs a lot of work and care to achieve and maintain accuracy in that role. The gun also performs in ceremonial duties, most notably at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. 🇺🇸


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*Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing*

## RON STRESING

# Wintertime Shotgun Opportunities

## *No need to wait for spring to uncase the gun*

Wisconsin is once again locked in Winter's frozen embrace, which is a great time to take out your shotgun. Hunting and clay target shooting opportunities are abundant. Whether you want to participate in a winter league or become familiar with the shotgun that magically appeared Christmas morning, there are options!

### Late Small Game Hunts

Pheasant and Hungarian partridge hunting is open until January 7. Besides hunting wild or stocked pheasants, there are also private hunting preserve options. Most preserves continue to release birds until March. The cottontail rabbit and squirrel hunting seasons are open until February 28. In northern Wisconsin, snowshoe hare season never closes. Snowshoe hare populations are cyclic and are down in some areas currently.

Feral (barn) pigeons can be hunted year-round and offer an excellent opportunity to improve shooting skills. With snow covering some food sources, pigeons will decoy enthusiastically into dove or even small duck decoys. Use the same motion decoys (spinners) you use for ducks. Most working dairy farms are home to pigeons, and we have also decoyed in some that lived under a freeway overpass adjacent to public hunting land.

### Predator Hunting

The late crow season runs January 19 to March 20. Crows are known to prey on songbirds and game bird nests. Try calling them in using a recording of a crow and owl fight. I've used an owl decoy and several crow decoys to do this. Incoming crows will lock onto and attack the owl decoy aggressively. Coyote calling is best in mid-January to early February breeding season. Load #4 buckshot and use



recorded calls and full camo. Try mixing recorded howls and yipping with classic dying rabbit sounds.

### Clay Sports

A round of trap or skeet is an excellent way for a sportsman who enjoys the shooting sports to take advantage of a warm January day. Many gun clubs offer short winter trap, sporties or 5-stand leagues. Heated trailers are a game changer, allowing for extending clay shooting into the coldest months. Yes, heavy winter clothing will change how fast you can mount your gun for shooting sporties. Shooting is a perishable skill. Winter practice pays off! 🎯

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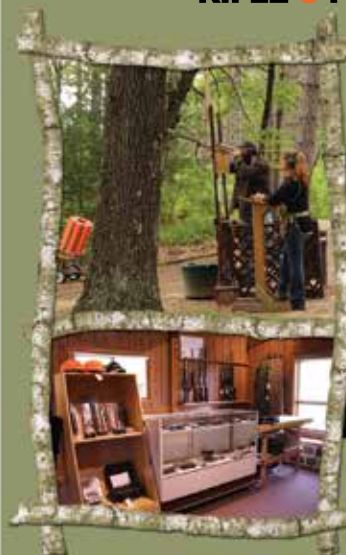
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CARPENTER, *FROM PAGE 27*

sees from a deer stand. You are more likely to hear the hoof-fall of an approaching deer if your ears are at work listening to nuthatches call. Looking for squirrels is the perfect way to notice the twitch of a deer's ear or the flick of its tail.

Tell yourself that success is just around the corner, behind that tree, over a hill, hiding in that marsh, walking your way along the deer trail. Believe that a half minute from right now you could have your deer. It can happen that fast!

What about when a deer approaches? Excitement, trembling hands, fast breathing ... why hunt if you don't feel that way in the presence of a whitetail?

Channel your focus. Make careful and calculated movements. Only move that gun when the deer is looking the other way or its head is behind a tree. If the whitetail is moving, you can usually get by with some smooth motion. Slow, confident and steady are the watchwords. Squeeze off the shot.

Good luck this season! 🍀

DUWE, *FROM PAGE 16*

use a sinker small enough that the bait can freely swim. Place your bait about one foot above the weed growth. For bait I have a bucket of golden shiners. If the fish aren't biting, the kids usually spend time watching the shiners – hence the reason to bring lots of mittens. I like to hook the shiner by the dorsal fin; it seems to make them swim harder and attract more fish. The only other thing required for the outing is an auger to get a hole in the ice. During early ice, a hand auger will do the trick.

Taking kids ice fishing is quite easy. There is plenty of room to run around as well as the thrill of seeing that flag fly on the tip up. Snacks can also be employed for keeping kids happy. The biggest mistake I see made when people take their kids fishing is staying longer than their interest level allows. Once the kids start getting bored, it's best to pack it up. You're going for good memories here.

Hopefully, our kids will look back on our ice fishing trips fondly and remember the time spent together as well as the fish we caught. 🍀

Dave Duwe owns and operates Dave Duwe's Guide Service featuring the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin. To reach Dave, call or text 262-728-8063

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