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TOM LUBA

Fall River Smallmouth Rockin' the Rip Rap

The nice thing about Labor Day and anglers is that the holiday now opens areas to fish that were usually under siege from the wakes of summer boaters and skiers. That includes rocky shorelines, known as "rip rap," which is used to help curb soil erosion along the water.

Rip rap rock provides great cover for smallmouth bass, as well as walleye and pike. Experienced anglers approach that rocky cover with care because it can hold a lot of fish on a regular basis.

But not all rip rap is the same. There are certain things to look for. And once you can analyze a stretch of that rock, you can better pinpoint fish location. Good locations draw fish. When one is caught, another moves in, sometimes rather quickly. With food as the draw, bass aren't very polite.

Rock also holds heat and that is one of the main reasons fish will take up residence in fall, waiting for current-delivered dinner. If the food source is plentiful, a school of bass can crowd in along the rock, just waiting to eat.

The best rock provides shoreline control that extends from shore to bottom. Rip rap that only goes into the water deep enough to help with erosion is more cosmetic and doesn't draw many residents.

Below the waterline is what is important. It gives the fish a definite path from shallow to

deep, giving the bass a refuge when a fall cold front comes crashing down. All they have to do is drop down and wait for the weather to moderate. Then they can slide right back into

When you look at a stretch of rip rap, don't consider it a straight wall of rock. After fishing areas a number of times in my favorite river, I found instead there were small areas where the rock swung in, and back out. Hard to notice, but those indentations made little current-breaking cubby holes. And the bass used them. When I realized there were similar irregularities below the waterline, I paid attention. As an example, from that type of area, I once caught four bass in fifteen

Sometimes rock may have spread out differently on the bottom, forming small points, or mini-rock piles that extend out from the rip rap. These small areas can serve as gathering points for groups of bass. Look at the shore rock and use your electronics, especially if the rock looks like it may extend out into the river bed. These can hold fish regularly and are often overlooked because they're further away from the shoreline rock.

During fall, smallmouth migrate from shallow feeding areas to pools that can be 20 feet deep or more to winter. They usually start

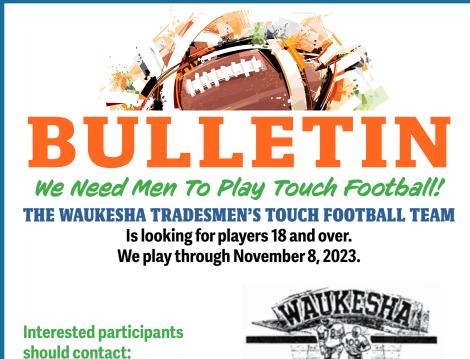
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A feisty migrating river smallmouth taken from the rip rap pictured over the angler's shoulder.





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CAPTAIN DAVID P. DUWE

Schools In *Fall fishing patterns worth studying*

he early fall season starts with students heading back to the classroom and the end of those fabulous summer vacations. The local lakes have a significant reduction in pleasure boaters, but don't put those fishing boats away. Like the students mentioned earlier, the fish also start schooling this time of year. Look for those schools on rock structures or in the main lake basin. The consistent part of the fall bite is that those schooling fish are hungry and working to fatten up before winter.

In September, crappies are suspended off the weed lines in 20 to 30 feet of water. As a rule, the crappies will suspend 10 to 15 feet down. Crappies like to be close to the weeds to have an escape route to safety from the feeding gamefish. Small twister tails on a lead head jig always do the trick. Use a stop and go retrieve for best results. On the initial cast, make sure you let the jig sink before you start to retrieve. You want the bait to be in the same depth of water as the suspending fish, about 10 to 15

feet down. Experiment with the speed of the retrieve to see what works for enticing the bite.

Most of my summer is spent chasing largemouth or northern pike, so when fall arrives it's time for a change of pace. Feisty walleve pike becomes the quarry. The full moon periods make bait fish active and offer the best success. Wind is always a plus as the bait fish tend to gather in large schools. My choice of presentation for fall walleyes is using a jerk bait; a minnow style crankbait that will suspend in the water column. Because of the time of year, the water is clear, so fishing at night will out produce daylight hours. Find the baitfish and you will find the walleyes. Like the crappies, a stop and go retrieve produces a lot of fish; when you pause on the retrieve the bait will suspend. Don't be too aggressive on the jerk and retrieve. The water is cooling and the slower presentation works better.

Don't overlook the main lake rocky points. Walleyes love to feed on the rocks where baitfish are plentiful. The best points have

deeper water associated with them. It gives the walleye access to deeper water in bright light conditions. The go-to-method of catching them is a lead head jig and a minnow. The deeper the water, the heavier the jig.

In early fall the easiest and most plentiful fish to pursue is the bluegill. The lakes I fish have depths over 50 feet, and the bluegill will suspend over the open water. They suspend 10 to 20 feet down. When you locate the fish with a good graph, the screen will light up like Christmas. I choose to fish straight beneath the boat. A hook, line and sinker are all one really needs. Leaf worms and wax worms are the bait of choice.

Just because it's getting cooler, don't put the boat away. As the end of open water nears, the fall bite can produce some of the most exceptional fishing of the whole year.

Captain Dave Duwe fishes the lakes of Southeastern Wisconsin and can be reached by text or phone at 262-728-8063.



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With Wisconsin not among states known for wild pheasant populations due to lack of habitat, OWO highly recommends two out of state fall or early winter trips that will pull you and your hunting dogs back again and again. Follow us to Dickinson, North Dakota and Marshall Minnesota. We'll be heading back to both, and we make it easy for planning your own trip too.





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SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA

CAPT. LEE HAASCH

From Waterfowl to Fishing Algoma is your recreational paradise

lgoma is in the heart of Wisconsin's Exterior Zone and offers fantastic opportunities during waterfowl and early goose season. Recently I was hunting with DFF Outdoors and the action was nonstop. The lakeshore area holds a lot of native waterfowl. Besides miles of rivers to hunt, the agriculture area is an abundant food source for the birds. Hunting not your thing? Algoma is known as the Salmon and Trout Capital of the Midwest! Fall is a great time to capture the trophy of a lifetime, or just fill a cooler of "eaters" for grilling or smoking.

Looking for other outdoor activities? Try hiking or biking the miles of trails through the countryside or spend an afternoon picking your own apples in one of the many orchards in the area. Check out the cherry products at Country Ovens or sample some wine at von Stiehl Winery. Algoma has loads of fall activities for everyone to enjoy.

Experience for yourself the great fishing Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma! For charter information or fishing reports, visit FishAlgoma.com or call 1-888-966-3474. From Capt. Lee and the crew aboard the Grand Illusion 2, good luck and good fishing!

Capt. Lee Haasch is a charter captain out of Algoma. He has over 40 years of Great Lakes fishing experience and has been instructing anglers for over 30 years with educational seminars and articles in outdoor publications.

LUBA, FROM PAGE 3

moving in late September when the water hits 60 degrees. Lure choices run from crankbaits early, while the water is still warmer, to jigs, tubes, flukes and other baits fished along deeper bottoms as the water cools.

Time-wise, the bass slow down by later October. But locate areas where they stop along the course of their migration, and October is a great time to be rockin' the rip rap on your rivers.









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

Charitably minded investors can satisfy RMDs with QCDs

Estate & Giving

ualified charitable distributions allow your required IRA distributions to benefit a worthy cause – while you benefit from a reduced tax liability.

Helping others when you're gone is a noble and rewarding aspiration. But think how much more rewarding it could be, both personally and charitably, to help others while you're still here.

Giving during your lifetime can take many forms, one of which is using qualified charitable distributions (QCDs). It's an option that can also reduce your tax liability, as it involves donating pre-tax dollars before they become taxable income as a required minimum distribution (RMD).

Here's how it works.

Transform RMDs into QCDs

Philanthropy is often reward enough, but charity and tax deductions seemingly go hand in hand. As the standard deduction has risen to \$13,850 for individuals in 2023 (double for married filing jointly), you may want to consider giving strategies that don't require itemizing on your tax return. A QCD is a great way to carry out your charitable intent that doesn't require itemizing and also reduces your taxable income.

The required start age to begin taking distributions from your IRA has increased over the past few years from 70 1/2 to 73. However, the age that you can begin QCDs is still 70 1/2. These RMDs are generally treated as taxable income. Thankfully, the Protecting American from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015 permanently allowed an IRA owner to make qualified charitable distributions of up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to a charity without getting taxed on the distribution. Basically, you can satisfy your RMD amount without reporting additional income.

There is, however, another important benefit. When a QCD is used to satisfy an RMD, that amount is also excluded from tax formulas that could impact multiple categories such as Social Security taxation, Medicare Part B and D premiums, and the Medicare tax on investment income.

Rules to follow

You must be eligible. You must be age 70 1/2 or older at the time of the QCD (but remember, RMDs now begin at age 73). QCDs from Ongoing SEPs and SIMPLE IRAs are not permitted.

There is an annual limit. Your QCD cannot exceed \$100,000 per tax year, even if your RMD is greater than \$100,000. New legislation, the SECURE Act 2.0, will index this \$100,000 limit for inflation starting in 2024.

Only qualified organizations count. The IRA trustee or custodian must make the distribution directly to a qualifying charity (private foundations and donor advised funds are not eligible). For instance, you cannot take the distribution yourself then write a check to the charity.

RMDs: A real-time legacy

By donating the RMD to a qualified charity, you can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are helping a worthy cause while simultaneously reducing your taxable income. This strategy also helps you live out your values in real time, effectively living your legacy in the here and now.

To learn more, seek guidance from your financial and tax advisors. They're a good source of information when it comes to living and giving generously.

Raymond James does not provide tax or legal services. Please discuss these matters with the appropriate professional. \square

For full article, please see: https://www.raymondjames.com/commentary-and-insights/estate-qiving/2023/01/10/charitably-minded-investors-can-satisfy-rmds-with-qcds



8 September | October 2023



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BOB SPIERINGS

Bob's Bear Bait

It's time! You've scouted, found the perfect site, baited diligently and now the season opener is right around the corner. You have bears coming in and have a spot on the wall picked out for your rug. However, when it comes down to the wire it's not always that easy. Here's our top five tips to know before hitting the stand this season.

Scent, Scent, Scent

You've heard us preach it time and time again, for good reason. Scent is one of the most overlooked keys to harvesting a bear. You should never stop putting out bait because one, it continually draws in bears. Two, it lets them know the bait is fresh and that they should check it out. Three, it covers your own scent when you're in the stand, but be sure to never actually apply scent directly to your clothing.

Dawn and dusk

If you're limited on time, just like other wildlife, dawn and dusk are when bears are most commonly active and will hit your bait. However, most dedicated hunters will sit from sun up to sun down the first few days to ensure the highest odds of harvesting a bear.

Play to the wind

If you're an avid deer hunter you've heard this line before, but with bears it's even more important. Black bears' sense of smell is 100 times greater than humans and even more powerful than a bloodhound. If your bait is downwind from your stand, don't set it!

OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

Go for the double lungs

Different from deer hunting, you almost always want to aim for the lungs on a bear. A double lung shot will often kill an animal quicker, is a larger target and are further away from big bones that will stop penetration. Also note that with the large amount of fat and thick hair that bears have, entry and exit wounds get plugged up quickly resulting in weak blood trails so having an accurate, clean shot is crucial in recovery.

Don't give up

As you've probably heard, if you don't harvest a bear within the first few days of the season; opener, your season is over. While your chances of getting a bear will drop with each passing day, it doesn't mean it's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26





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DICK ELLIS

Marvelous Marshall Minnesota

Quality wild pheasant hunting, close to home

☐ar to the north Mike Duffin and Asa **→** methodically worked the meandering edge of a sprawling Minnesota cattail marsh until another pheasant made the mistake of holding tight. The season was moving through early December, these roosters had already been hunted for two months, and many were bailing out early under pressure from bird dogs like Duffin's Pointing Griffon.

I watched this newest show from the opposite lip of the marsh a few hundred yards across. Steve Henske was out of sight somewhere in between, swallowed up by the cattails with his veteran golden retriever Maya insane with scent. The not-so-easy task for Steve from the frozen bottomland was to find a shooting window when another bird flushed. Most often, hens or roosters broke early and sailed to another piece of safe harbor. Behind somewhere, John Ellis worked his own piece of grassland paradise with Shiloh.

Duffin's orange vest stuck out against the light brown landscape as he approached the



point. A flush and a puff of smoke told the story before the shotgun report fell across the field. As a brought the rooster back in exchange for the bargain price of a master's praise, and this old game, in a new state, resumed again.

We had caught a break in our hunt to

Marshall. Like Wisconsin, good weather is a roll of the dice proposition when planning trips. Thirty miles from the South Dakota border in southwest Minnesota, this lonely land in the state of "no Super Bowl wins" could have unleashed Old Man Winter on us and given our planned two day wild pheasant hunt the cold shoulder. Instead, we walked into no snow, blue skies, beautiful country wide open to hunters, no competition, and plenty of pheasants.

Our Wisconsin group caught another break when we met veteran Minnesota bird hunter Ron Prorok from Marshall in the field for an afternoon of hunting with his yellow labs Lilly and Poppy. Ron has hunted the area for 15 years and was willing to share his knowledge of public land that routinely gives up birds. Good pheasant habitat, he said, requires an entire mix in different areas, including nesting cover, chick rearing cover, fall cover and good winter cover. Marshall, he said, has that mix in a good ratio with cattails significantly bolstering the winter survival rate. To serve as true guinea pigs for Wisconsin hunters to follow, we also did not hunt private land in



"There are hundreds of public areas within an hour of Marshall," Prorok said. "They range from 10 acres to thousands of acres. Our regional Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR) team does a great job. They utilize prescribed fire, rotation grazing, weed control and other methods to promote a healthy environment. There are a lot of WMAs (Wildlife Management Areas) that need to be managed and hunters will find them in various states of management so some may be better than others. In addition to WMS, we have a boatload of federal duck land."

Prorok said the pheasants in the Marshall region are all "produced on the landscape", meaning wild birds. Both Lyon County Pheasants Forever and the DNR, he said, know

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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CASSI WEISS, DIRECTOR

Visit Marshall *Ready for your hunt*

arshall, Minnesota in southwest Minnesota is ready to welcome and host all hunters with thousands of acres of public hunting land surrounding us and five dog-friendly hotels. Your hunting party can choose public hunting options and great hunting opportunities including state wildlife management areas (WMAs) and Walk in Access Points (WIAs). WIAs and WMAs are easy to find, with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offering online resources to find and scope out each property before hunting. DNR also maintains a number of hunting trails in the area, providing easy access to some of the best hunting spots in the state! These areas provide an opportunity to hunt a variety of game on both public and private land.

Need a little tune-up before hitting the field? Marshall is home to Shooters Sporting Clays and offers an enjoyable shooting clay experience and atmosphere for experts and novices. For deer hunters, Marshall Archery Park is a public park with targets ranging from 10 yards to 100 yards.

We have many stores for your hunting needs including Runnings, Borch's Sporting Goods, and Barrels & Arrows. Marshall is also home of Action Trackchair, creators of the ultimate all-terrain wheelchair that makes hunting accessible for everyone. The chair is designed for sitting down, standing up, and will provide an experience with unlimited opportunities. Find these chairs at several Minnesota state parks at no cost including Camden State Park right outside of Marshall. We'll show you exactly where.

If you're looking for a great hunting destination for your hunting party, plan your trip to Marshall Minnesota today. Need some advice or want to talk to a local? Reach out to Visit Marshall and we would be happy to connect you with local hunting enthusiasts so you can hunt like a local.





STEVE HENSKE

Return to North Dakota Four decades in paradise

orth Dakota has been long known for its waterfowl hunting. The numerous prairie potholes and vast grain fields lying in the middle of the Central Flyway migration route host a large percentage of North America's locally produced and migratory bird population. For over 40 years I have been traveling west for duck and goose hunting to enjoy this beautiful high prairie region.

Too often overlooked, even by my hunting partners and me in earlier years, is the fantastic upland bird hunting also available. With South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa touted as the places to go for pheasants, many a North Dakota rooster pheasant has never been flushed by an upland bird dog, and left only to die unceremoniously of old age or natural causes.

In recent years we head west from central Wisconsin solely to target pheasants and sharptail grouse. The Bismarck area seems to be epicenter of the upland bird population in

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JOHN ELLIS

Planning Your Hunt

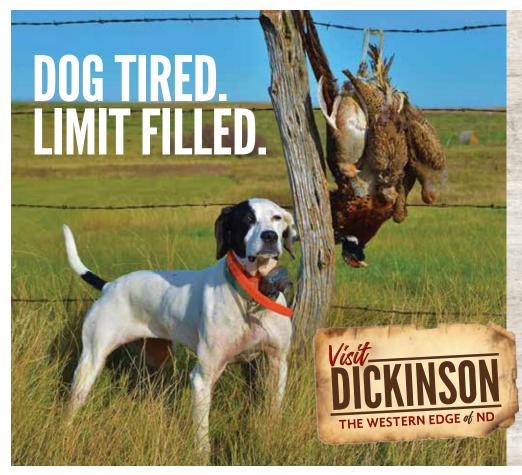
Dickinson, North Dakota upland game

orth Dakota is a sportsman's paradise and, for those looking for a great experience, an easy trip from Wisconsin. The drive time from Milwaukee to the city of Dickinson, our hub for the annual On Wisconsin Outdoors hunt, is approximately 12 hours. We target the state's excellent pheasant and sharp tailed grouse population. The cost of a non-resident license is \$122.00.

We stay at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, 552 12th Street West, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601; located conveniently off of highway 22 and surrounded in all directions by opportunity. General Manager Silvia Hofland, Assistant GM Julie McCallum and staff go out of their way to make sure our stay is enjoyable. Connect for reservations or information at 701-456-2500.

While it's absolutely an option to pay for access to private land, we spend our time hunting the state's P.L.O.T.S. (Private Land Open to Sportsmen). The P.L.O.T.S. program entered its 26th year in 2023, with the ongoing goal of providing walk-in access for the purpose of hunting on private land. No asking permission to hunt these private properties is necessary, but leaving the land

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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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, or call us at 800-279-7391. We'll get you ready for your next hunt in southwest North Dakota.



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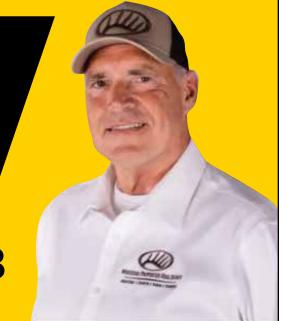


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Fox Valley Retriever Club

Training You To Train Your Retriever



TOM MUELLER

Picking Up the Pieces

Addressing interruptions in your retriever training

Interruptions in the training of your retriever should be avoided as much as possible. Consistently working at it each day is the key to what makes the dog learn. Sometimes life circumstances force us to put the training of our hunting partner on hold. When that happens, even a dog that has been trained or is in the process of being trained will get rusty and even forget some of what it has learned. How rusty will depend on a few factors. The dog's age and personality, the stage of its training, the length of time that it has not been trained, and of course the trainer. In the case of a very young dog with a novice trainer, this can set a training program back to a point

where your dog has a persistent problem and you're not able to move forward. Because dogs are creatures of habit, once a concept is thoroughly learned, they really don't forget, but steps do need to be taken to refresh their memory.

The first step is to break down the issue. For example, one of my dogs, Ollie, was solid on returning to me while holding a dummy and sitting to deliver to hand as early as 11 weeks. Last spring my wife broke her ankle and Ollie's training came to a halt. When I was able to start training again, Ollie now wanted to play the keep away game and run back and forth with the dummy in his mouth and

not returning. Frequently he would drop the dummy. His recall had to be improved and his hold had to be reinforced. I first worked on the recall starting out using a 50-foot rope giving it a tug when I commanded "here" and gave a food reward when he came to heel and sat. Eventually I replaced the rope with using the e-collar to reinforce "here" and giving food rewards. Once his recall was re-established holding the dummy, he quickly remembered that vital skill.

Tom shares his skills teaching others how to train their retrievers at the Fox Valley Retriever Club. For more information contact him at winddancer.rtrvrs@ hotmail.com or Facebook.







LEOVARDO AGUILAR

Call in the Cranberries

Often maligned at the table, let's try a different approach in the kitchen

ranberries hold a unique place in the minds of most Americans. On a positive note, they are known as a super food with their juiced form often found inside our cupboards. On the other end of the cupboard, stashed away, is the alter ego: jellied cranberry sauce. Despite the best efforts of advertisers, it seems this unique berry doesn't get the treatment it deserves. Considering Wisconsin is the country's leading producer of cranberries, we need to reexamine this fruit and how we use it in the kitchen.

You've probably seen the commercials on TV where shiny red berries float in knee deep water as far as the eye can see. So, do these fruits just naturally bounce around and wait to be picked, juiced and canned? Not exactly. Cranberry plants are small evergreen shrubs or vines related to blueberries. Much like their sweeter tasting cousin, they prefer to grow in or around peat bogs and other wet environments. In commercial growing operations, plants are grown in sandy soil to allow proper drainage while flooding is typically reserved for the fall harvest season. Extreme buoyancy is possible thanks to natural air pockets inside the crimson fruit.

Cranberry fruit can be found fresh, frozen, dried, juiced, canned, and baked or mixed in other food products. The farther you go down the list, the more processed and sugar-filled the final product typically is. In their purest form, cranberries are nutrient dense balls of tart, bitter, and astringent flavors. But no one is expecting you to eat a handful of raw cranberries! Their full potential comes from cooking them. The trick is buying fresh or frozen cranberries and testing out a variety of recipes yourself.

Most cranberry sauce recipes rely on heaps of granulated white sugar to make this bitter fruit edible. A healthier alternative is to use pure maple syrup, another easily sourced local product, instead of granulated sugar. The swap will add more nutrients and instill real flavor. The maple and cranberry flavors mix wonderfully and create a taste unlike anything else. Since syrup is a liquid, you should decrease the use of other base liquids (like water) by three to four tablespoons for every one cup of syrup you use. If you prefer to avoid sweets, don't worry. The naturally tart berry lends itself well to spicy and savory



A bison New York strip topped with a tequila and cranberry based salsa with wood sorrel garnish. This cranberry-based condiment has a savory, spicy and sour combination that can be added to or withheld from each bite.

dishes alike. Cooking your favorite meats with a few cranberries will add a lemon-like burst of flavor.

Harvest season picks up in Wisconsin around September and October, with mesh bags filled with bouncy fruit being found in grocery stores soon after. Fresh fruit will hold up for about three to four weeks at home. Frozen berries can be stored for about a year and in most cases, outside of baking, can be cooked without defrosting. Regardless of what dish you're working on, you'll know the berries are done cooking after a distinctive POP causes the berries to split open. Keep this in mind, as sensitive palates believe overcooked berries add a bitter flavor.

If you need more convincing of how powerful these supercharged berries are, make sure to visit one of the several annual cranberry-centered festivals in the state. Every year, cranberry growers open their lands for marsh tours and unique photo opportunities. Other events include parades, harvesting demonstrations, and the chance to try a multitude of delicious cranberry based products. All of which can lead to the perfect inspiration for your next signature dish. If you start practicing now, you'll be ready to rake in the compliments during the coming holidays.



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 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**.





TOM CARPENTER

Welcoming Woodcock 10 Tips for Timberdoodle

hen autumn leaves turn color and the first frosts hit, it's time to think woodcock, often referred to as "Timberdoodles." They provide great hunting when their migration is on and the flight is "in." The trick is predicting when birds will arrive, then knowing where to find them. These tips will help you fill your game bag with woodcock.

1 Note Tradition

You can find local birds in September, but woodcock traditionally migrate through Wisconsin in the first two weeks of October. This coincides with peak leaf color and frosty nights, but is ahead of deep freezes that lock up the woodcock's food supply of earthworms that the long-billed birds probe for in soft soil. Decreasing day length triggers migration, as do weather events and lunar patterns.

2 Watch the Temperatures

Watch the thermometer. Look to the north. Study the temperatures in northern Minnesota, upper Michigan and southern

Ontario. When hard freezes (a couple nights of 27 to 28 F or below) happen there, watch for woodcock to arrive as they travel ahead of the cold.

3 Observe the Moon

Moon phase affects woodcock migration. Woodcock fly mostly at night, so the moon serves as a navigational tool. Woodcock movement in the fall increases with a more than 50 percent moon. A moon moving toward full seems to spur more woodcock movement than a waning moon. An ideal situation is a full moon within the traditional woodcock migration period.

4 Consider Wind and Barometric Pressure

Wind and barometric pressure affect the migration's timing. A north, northwest or northeast wind brings woodcock into Wisconsin, as the birds ride the flow southward. Rising barometric pressure, associated with the clear blue skies and strong tailwinds of a departing low pressure system The author's son Noah bagged this autumn woodcock off a point from Lark, a little Eapgneul Breton pointing dog.

and an arriving high, also brings woodcock.

5 Work the Maps

Use a topographic map or mapping tool. Woodcock concentrate in low, moist spots, the better for hunting earthworms. Focus your efforts on creeks, brooks, beaver ponds, bogs and marshes. Stream corridors, especially those that run north-to-south, often serve as migration routes and provide food and holding cover for stopover woodcock.

6 Know Woodcock Cover

Aspen and tag alder - particularly young stands with trunks of buggy whip to pole-size attract woodcock. The clean forest floor lets timberdoodles hunt for worms, the stem density protects them from land-based predators, and the overhead canopy foils would-be avian enemies. Dogwood, sumac, meadows and abandoned fields with goldenrod also produce.

7 Hunt the Edge

Woodcock prefer transition zones or edges.



Seams between cover types hold the most birds. Aspen to tag alders, tag alders to marsh or bog, forest to dogwood, willow to marsh, second growth timber to brush, and any forest to wetland zone, are all edges to investigate.

8 Keep the Dog Close

When danger nears, timberdoodles sit tight, relying on coloration rather than wings for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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DAVE FIDLIN

Lapham Peak

A Wisconsin natural wonder

hroughout its rolling terrain, the Kettle Moraine in Southeastern Wisconsin truly is a natural wonder that provides a unique vantage point into the state's beauty. Several specific venues, including Lapham Peak State Park, give visitors a unique glimpse into this phenomenon.

Throughout Wisconsin's network of state parks, the 50-acre Lapham Peak is among the most popular - and for good reason. It offers a little of something for everyone, from physically challenging courses to leisurely recreational activities. Located on the outskirts of scenic Delafield in Waukesha County, the park offers activities for people of all ages and all walks of life.

Lapham Peak was formed at a time when glaciers covered much of Wisconsin. A 45-foot observation tower perched atop the peak provides spectacular views of the surrounding area. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which oversees Lapham Peak State Park, the observation tower is located 1,233 feet above sea level and holds the distinction of being the highest point within Waukesha County. On a good day, with optimal visibility, spectators can gaze across various locales within Southeastern Wisconsin, all the way to the northern edge of Illinois.

Within the park itself, the topography gives visitors the opportunity to partake in a number of recreational activities. In the warm-weathered months, hiking, backpacking and mountain biking are popular. Because of its abundant, winding trails, Lapham Peak is known for horseback riding.

When the temperatures dip and snow falls, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing become popular sports on specially lighted trails covering more than 20 miles. The park is also noted as a popular spot for dog sled training.

Other notable natural features and attractions include a dedicated area for birdwatching, a butterfly garden, and a prairie restoration site. The park features such amenities as an amphitheater and three picnic areas.

Lapham Peak State Park has a deep-rooted history that has evolved since its first recorded use 172 years ago. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society, the current site of the park became a tourist attraction in 1851. From the get-go, a tower was constructed at the site so visitors could marvel at the surrounding landscape, though it is not the same one in use today.

Over time, the surrounding area served other purposes, including use by the U.S. Army Signal Corps to relay data about approaching storms.

Weather is at the heart of the park and the peak's name. Revolutionary meteorologist Increase A. Lapham had been using the site to make weather observations. Lapham is credited with creating today's National Weather System.

The state of Wisconsin purchased the land on today's park in 1907 for a variety of purposes. The site was given a conservancy designation in 1939, making the eventual creation of the state park possible.



Lapham Peak State Park, which is part of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, provides stunning views from miles in any direction. The park's 45-foot observation tower is atop the highest point in Waukesha County.

SUZETTE CURTIS

Recipes with Suzette *Game Day Appetizers*

have my favorite game-day appetizers that friends and family often count on me to make. But once in a while, it's fun to mix things up and try something new. Check out one or all of these with pita chips, crostini, raw vegetables or your favorite crackers. Enjoy!

Warm Venison Dip

1 Pound ground Venison
 1 T Olive Oil
 1 T Olive Oil
 2 Cup Onion, chopped
 3 Teaspoon Oregano
 1 Teaspoon Sugar

1 Clove Garlic, minced 1 (8) Ounce Package Cream Cheese 1 Cup Tomato Sauce 1/3 Cup Parmesan Cheese, grated

Heat olive oil in large skillet over medium heat. Sauté venison, onion and garlic until meat is browned. Stir in tomato sauce, ketchup, oregano and sugar. Cover and simmer over low heat for 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in cream cheese and parmesan until cheeses are melted. Serve warm.

Spicy Fish Dip

1 Cup Mayonnaise1 Teaspoon Oregano½ Cup Canola Oil½ Teaspoon Thyme¼ Cup Red Wine Vinegar¼ Teaspoon Salt½ Cup Sour Cream¼ Teaspoon Pepper

3 T Dijon Mustard 1 Pound Fish fillets, cooked & flaked

Combine all ingredients except fish in glass bowl and mix well. Fold in flaked fish. Cover and chill at least 4 hours or overnight. Serve cold.

Wild Duck Spread

1 Cup Duck breast meat, cooked and very finely chopped

3 Slices Bacon ¼ Cup Sour Cream ½ Onion ¼ Teaspoon Salt 1 Rib Celery ¼ Teaspoon Pepper 1 Egg, hard boiled Dash of Hot Sauce

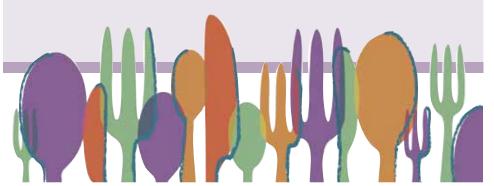
34 Cup Mayonnaise

Cook bacon until crispy. Drain on paper towels and set aside.

Place onion, celery and egg in food processor; pulse until finely chopped but not pureed.

In a glass bowl, combine onion, celery and egg mixture with mayonnaise, sour cream, salt, pepper and hot sauce. Mix well. Fold in duck meat. Cover and chill at least 4 hours or overnight. Before serving, crumble bacon over top of spread.

Contact Suzette at recipesbysuzette@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



DENNY MURAWSKA

Deer Parks A trip back in time

Toften wonder about the many paths, taken or not taken, that ont forget the allure of video games and water parks. In the led me to where I am at now. Having grown up in a Chicago suburb, vacations in the north woods of Wisconsin were eagerly anticipated. It was a big deal to drive down sand roads in the twilight and see deer. Bear roamed the dumps at night, and folks lined up in their cars to view them like in an outdoor drive-in theater.

My parents invariably took us to deer parks. The theme was always similar. Lots of deer, a few miscellaneous critters like turkey, coons, foxes, and maybe a bear. Most of a visit was spent feeding deer by hand from vending machines that resembled gumball dispensers. A quarter got you a handful of pellets. As a child this direct contact with deer was truly exciting. I suspect my folks enjoyed it as well.

Most of these parks had a store on the premises that hawked souvenirs like miniature, brightly painted totem poles, stone tomahawks, and moccasins, along with ice cream and a few other refreshments designed for humans. In the middle of hot summer days, there was no better place to bring your family as you vacationed off the grid in Wisconsin.

Then came high school, college, and a move to Colorado. Time moved on, and deer parks disappeared. Chronic wasting disease and other factors contributed to their decline. Let's

The author menacing a tomahawk and his sister, Kathy, at a Dells deer park in the 1960s.

Wisconsin Dells area, there is still a classic park, with all the goodies it has offered for over 50 years. You can even purchase mounted deer racks in their gift shop. Many of their deer live much longer than those in the wild, so their shed antlers can get interesting indeed. These petting zoo-type operations in Hayward and the Dells keep grass trimmed short to eliminate ticks. Visitors are educated in the fact that deer cannot really bite because they have no front teeth. A little nibbling is just

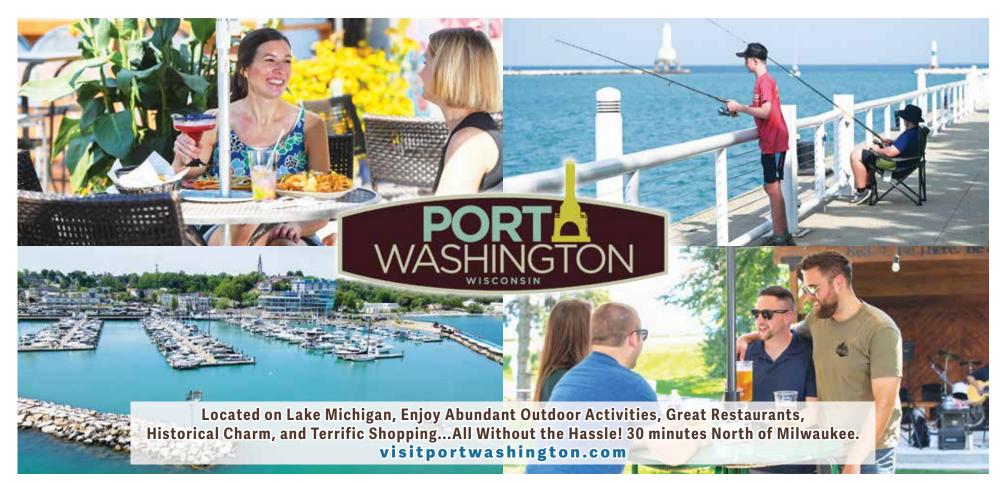
While I dearly miss those earlier days of yore, I have my own deer park of sorts. In 2009 I moved to my present location north of Black River Falls. Part of choosing this property was its ideal potential to turn it into the ultimate hunting site. It has exceeded those expectations. With a small orchard and large garden at the foot of an 80-foot tall sandstone mound, it has everything a deer could want. But I no longer hunt deer on this

Over the years, many, many fawns were born here. Moms have become so used to me that I can sit in my garden on a chair just a few feet away and initiate many a conversation. They know my voice. Since some return year after year, I believe the locals do not bother these does. Right now, apples



and pears are falling in abundance. The fields are bursting with corn and beans. A small trout stream flows nearby. I wish more parents still had the opportunity to take their kids back to a simpler time, where kids could buy a handful of pellets and feed deer at a tourist attraction.

Denny Murawska is owner and operator of Angler's Art Fish Taxidermy at www.aa-taxidermy.com and author of The Elk Pool.





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SPOTLIGHT | SPARTA



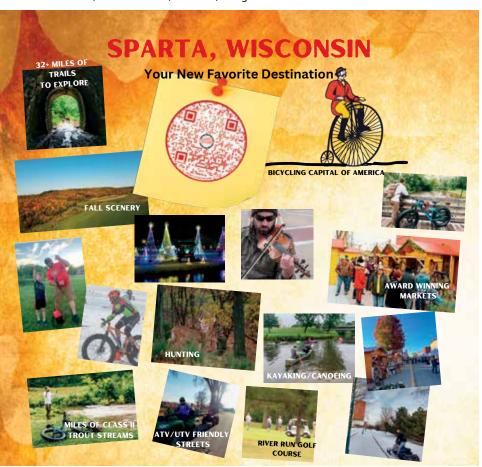
Your Fall Season Recreation Destination

ake Sparta your fall season recreation destination. When the leaves begin to change, we are the place to be for bike riding, kayaking, hiking, touring, trout fishing, and four-wheeling - to name just a few activities. Ride through the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail tunnels. Get your pick of seasonal vegetables, flowers, and homemade goods on Saturdays, now through October, at the Sparta Farmers Market in our downtown park, Mueller Square and Creekside Village.

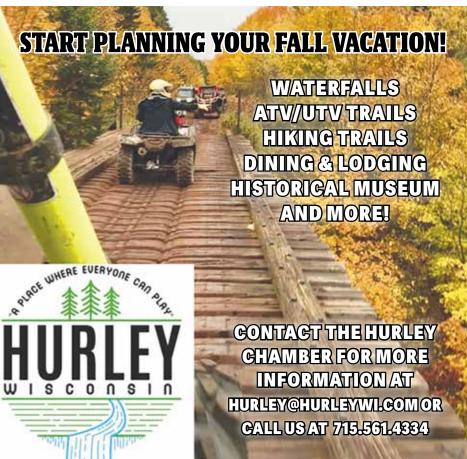
Don't miss PROST! our downtown annual "Sip, Stroll, and Sample" event on October 5. Ticket holders can taste different beers from around the region and foods from our best restaurants. Fall Fest commences on Saturday, October 7, from 8 am to 3:30 pm. Water Street will be filled with a variety of vendors, chalk art, vintage tractors, ax throwing, kids' activities, and a chili contest. When you're done, head over to Sparta's very own House of Shadows - a haunted house brought to you by the Boys and Girls Club of Sparta. This one-of-a-kind haunted house is located in an old infirmary that was built in the 1930s and is one of the most elaborate haunted houses in the area.

Come back to visit Thanksgiving weekend to catch our award-winning Kriskindlmarkt. This authentic European outdoor market will house over 25 different artistic goods and craft vendors for four weekends leading up to the Christmas holiday. Food will range from Bavarian pretzels, to roasted nuts, schnitzel and homemade cheese curds and soup. Grab a collectible mug and sip some warm gluhwein while taking a wagon ride to see the beautiful holiday lights display at the park.

For more information, visit our website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.







Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

Bursting with Epic Experiences

Prom bluffs to the mighty
Mississippi River, the Prairie
du Chien area bursts with
epic experiences. Nestled between
towering bluffs and along the
Mississippi River and the Great
River Road, ride along the miles of
stunning highways and soak in the
wonder of famous overlooks.

The Annual Carriage Classic from September 8 - 10 is one of the largest carriage driving



competitions in the United States. The event features more than 100 carriage drivers and includes tours of the Dousman family estate.

Octoberfest in Prairie du Chien is October 18 - 21. Celebrate the season at Oktoberfest as we embrace our German Heritage with German food, beer, games, and fantastic views of the Mississippi River Valley, and lose yourself in the wonder of our apple orchards, pumpkin patches and corn mazes. With festive flavors, charming history, vibrant vistas, and unparalleled outdoor recreation, autumn adventures are calling and are just a road trip away.

For more information, visit prairieduchien.org. Robert Moses, President/CEO Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce & Prairie du Chien Tourism Council



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SPOTLIGHT | CITY OF MARINETTE



Make Memories With Us This Fall

h, the captivating power of scents! It's remarkable how our sense of smell can transport us through time, conjuring up memories and evoking emotions with a mere whiff. The smell of certain foods can remind us of a family dinner long ago. If we are such visual creatures, why would our sense of smell go to the head of our "senses" line? Maybe it's because we have over 1,000 different types of smell receptors and only four types of sensory receptors, and only four types of touch receptors. In a recent study, smell receptors were found to be connected to long-term memory receptors. That explains why a favorite sweater you wore to a well-loved restaurant now reminds you of that delicious chicken pot pie.

By now you may be asking yourself what the heck does that have to do with Marinette and fall fishing? Autumn is in the air! The crisp, fresh smell of leaves bursting with colors fills your soul and lingers and floats in the air like a bald eagle above. With salmon and walleye filling the Menominee River and your line hooked up to a monster, you will find the adventure of a lifetime.

Your days will be filled with world-class fishing, sensational color tours of trees bursting with a symphony of colors, and waterfall tours that will take your breath away! As you stroll along the Menominee River banks, the cool breeze of adventure whispers to you as you delight in the brilliant canopy above while you breathe in the deep smells of autumn in Marinette. The best part? Those 1,000 receptors are taking this moment in time and making it a memory that will last forever. Make Memories in Marinette this fall!

For more information, go to www.fishonmarinette.com or contact the Marinette Tourism Center at 715-732-4333 and ask for your Marinette Memory package today!



Marine Trewisconsin Call-Gibring Marine Trewisconsin Marine Trewisconsin Marine Trewisconsin Www.fishonmarinette.com

ELLIS-MARSHALL, FROM PAGE 10

the key is habitat and releasing pen raised birds is a waste of resources. A surprising number of birds survived the hard winter and the area saw a good spring with good numbers of birds.

Regarding coming earlier in the season, or like we did, later, Prorok laid out the pros and cons. "Early you are going to see more birds and the conditions are going to be nicer," he said. "Later the birds are more concentrated, there are fewer hunters, but you're going to have to work for them. Early you are going to see more hunters but that's the nice thing about having a lot of areas to hunt. If you see hunters you move to the next public spot. Hunting pressure really slows down after Thanksgiving. Generally, December hunting is not that bad if you don't mind a little snow. It usually doesn't get really cold until January."

In a sentence, we'll be back to Marshall Minnesota. See you there.

The 2023 season opens October 14th for residents/non-residents and closes January 1. Cost of a non-resident season long license is \$102.00 or \$76 for a 3-day hunt. A \$7.50 pheasant stamp is required. After a 6 hour drive from southeast Wisconsin, we stayed at the Everspring Inn & Suites, 1500 East College



Drive Marshall MN 56258, conveniently off of Highway 23 & Highway 19. We could not have asked more from General Manager Londa Lund and her staff. Connect for reservations or information at 507-532-3221.

To order a Walk in Access guide contact the Minnesota DNR at 651-296-6157 or go to their website at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting. For more information contact Visit Marshall Director Cassi Weiss at 507-537-1865 or cell 612-590-9581 or connect at www.visitmarshall.com.

The Wisconsin group returning to North Dakota in 2022 (and again this year) included Dick Henske of Manitowish Waters, Eric Pacey and Steve Ellis of Wausau, Steve Henske of Stevens Point, John Ellis of Muskego, Dick Ellis of New Berlin, and Jim Ellis of Forest Lake, Minnesota.



ELLIS-DICKINSON, FROM PAGE 12

like you found it, litter-free and carcass-free, is the expectation.

Locate private properties enrolled in the program in the North Dakota Conservation P.L.O.T.S Guide obtained with your license purchase. Broken down statewide into 44 separate, one-page maps with a back-cover index, thousands of P.L.O.T.S properties throughout North Dakota are marked in yellow. The properties are easy to find with the maps, and physically marked with yellow triangle signs. The P.L.O.T.S boundary markers make any second guessing that you may have wandered on to private property not enrolled in the program a non-issue.

To order a P.L.O.T.S. guide contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300 or go to their website at gf.nd.gov. The guides are also available at numerous walk-in locations like sporting goods stores and groceries throughout the state.

Besides finding plenty of birds we see Mule deer, Whitetails and Prong Horned Antelope on a back drop of open land as far as the eye can see. Even though we hunt on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we never have to compete with other hunters. If you want a quality upland bird hunt, that is reasonably priced and relatively close, consider hunting North Dakotas western edge; there's a lot of fun waiting.

NEED MORE ANSWERS?

Wild pheasants and dog work were our primary draws, but so much more pulls us back to North Dakota. Starting with Executive Director Terri Thiel of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau, Dickinson people treat us like they would very much like us to return. Pheasants, scenery, wildlife, hospitality and our sharptail bonus pull us back to the prairie every fall, and some of us in the late season too.

One of the best tips came to our Wisconsin group on our first pheasant hunting trip west from a young hunter working in a sporting goods store. We struck up a conversation and asked him if he had any advice for Wisconsin boys hunting P.L.O.T.S terrain. "Try this one," he said, circling property within 20 miles. The small tract gave up three roosters and a miss or two in less than an hour. It's our first stop back every year on opening day. Sometimes, even on the prairie, it's who you know. Like Terri Thiel.

"We welcome you to the plains and rolling buttes of Dickinson, North Dakota, just east of the Montana border," she said. "With plenty of lodging properties and dining options, hunters and dogs can relax each evening after each day's hunt. October may be the opening month, but the season lasts until the first part of January giving plenty of time and opportunity to hunt the birds. Give our office a call for ideas, tips and lodging information, or go to visitdickinson.com"

Connect with the Dickinson CVB at www. visitdickinson.com.





Natural Beauty, Unrivaled Hospitality

Fall is an amazing season in the Northwoods whether you are on your ATV or bike or hiking the trails. If you have a fishing pole in your hand, the scenery is awesome on the inland lakes and around Chequamegon Bay.

Copper Falls is exquisite with its regal waterfalls and backdrop of Mother Nature's color palette. Chequamegon Bay offers excellent fall fishing, notably for bass. These fish are ready for a fight!

Bring the family and enjoy the beauty that Ashland has to offer.

For more information, see visitashland.com









Destination Ferryville – Wisconsin's Mississippi River Coast

The air is crisp. The sun is bright and high skills and knowledge of how to hunt properly in the sky. It is time for fall fishing on the backwaters of the Mississippi River and the time to target superb trout fishing on the inland streams. This is "The Driftless Area," and being here to experience this very special season is a gift. Take in the magnificent fall colors on the ridgetops, in the coulees, and along the Wisconsin Great River Road - State Highway 35. It is a destination unto itself, and it's waiting for you and your crew.

Fall turkey hunting is a big reason to get out on the land or on the water to target the waterfowl that make the Mississippi a major migration route. Time to do some archery hunting for deer in the Rush Creek Nature Reserve. Bring your family and friends to make it your special time together. Pass on the to our youth while protecting our wildlife habitats. This is a great time to build the legacy for the tomorrows in your family.

Visit the apple orchards to collect the bounty of the season. It is Driftless Area Art Festival time in Soldiers Grove. Stop in our vineyards to enjoy the wine, pizza, music and cheese. Shop the small towns like Ferryville where you can pick up your fishing and hunting supplies, "to-go" snacks, bait and ice cream cones and set out on an adventure. Stop by the local bar & grill to enjoy your prime rib, supper club dinner or a special-made burger.

Watch the eagles. Enjoy the migration of the pelicans and swans as they head south for better weather and new places for the cold season. Look for the thousands of hawks that

will be using the Mississippi River Flyway as their personal highway south.

This is a magical season on the shores of the Mississippi River in Ferryville. Make Ferryville your destination and know you are always welcome here. W

Submitted by Sherry Quamme, Ferryville Tourism



A Place for All Seasons

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



September 16

Fall Fest. Mega Market, music and food at Ferryville Sugar Creek Park 9am - 3pm.

November 27

Christmas Tree Lighting. 6 - 7pm. Santa, Sing Christmas Carols and treats.

December 2

Holiday Market and Craft Event 9 am - 3pm, Ferryville Village Hall.



CONTACT: PO Box 236, Ferryville, WI 54628 • 920-210-4560

VISITFERRYVILLE.COM

BOB'S BEAR BAIT, FROM PAGE 8

impossible to harvest a bear later in the season.

The later it gets, the more bears travel. They'll travel far and wide, fattening up for winter. This is a great time to possibly capture a new bear's attention by continuing to spray scent diligently, as well as always keeping your bait site stocked with small quantities of fresh bait. This is also the time to find a new bait site where bears might frequent, like oak trees, corn fields, etc. Late season hunting takes dedication and commitment, but the reward will be one of the best memories along with a great thick hide to boot!

For more great tips stop in this season and chat with us, we have multiple staff on hand with over 20+ years of combined experience bear hunting and over 13 years in the bear bait business!

Bob's Bear Bait carries the largest variety of bear bait in Wisconsin, with multiple locations in Wisconsin and Michigan, including our new location in Birnamwood, WI. We pride ourselves in being your one stop shop for all your baiting needs including scents, bulk bait, fruit toppings, drybait, the list goes on. From spring to fall we have it all! To stay up to date with our latest news sign up for our email newsletter at bobsbearbait.com as well as see our bait selection and locations. As always, happy baiting and good luck to all the hunters!



SPOTLIGHT | OCONTO COUNTY

Explore the Great Outdoors

conto County is the place to go if you're looking to explore the great outdoors. For prime leaf-peeping, time your visit for late September or early October - and make Mountain Fire Lookout Tower your first stop. The restored 1935 steel tower stands 100 feet tall over a thick forest, with an unbeatable view of the colors below.

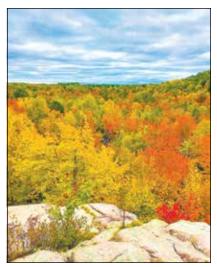
Want to really break a sweat? Hike to Butler Rock, the highest point in the county. A two-mile trek will get you to the top of the peak. Oconto County also offers hundreds of miles of scenic trails open to ATV riding with an easy-to-get pass at bit.ly/atvpass.

To get a feel for the city of Oconto, consider visiting on September 23 for Harvest Fest, a daylong celebration on Main Street with local vendors, kids' activities, food, drinks and live music.

When it's time for dinner, you have plenty of options for nourishment. Oconto County's two supper clubs, Maiden Lake and Weatherwood, both offer classic Wisconsin fare in scenic, nostalgic dining rooms. For a sweet treat to cap your trip, head to Sweet Memories Candy Shoppe, which has an original 1959 vintage Coke machine and plenty of homemade candies.

For more information, visit ocontocounty.org.







OCONTO COUNTY

Wisconsin's Oconto County is an incredible place to experience the beauty of fall.

With stunning forests and pristine lakes and rivers, it's the perfect destination for outdoor fun. Take a hike through the woods, go fishing or boating on the lakes or camp out under the stars. The county also offers plenty of exciting festivals and events to add to the season's festivities.

And don't forget to take in the stunning views of the changing leaves! From a scenic drive through the countryside to a hike up the Mountain Fire Lookout Tower, you can admire the beautiful oranges, yellows and reds of autumn in all their glory. Whether you spend your time exploring or relaxing, the fall season in Oconto County is sure to be an unforgettable adventure.

WWW.OCONTOCOUNTY.ORG







Explore Fall Colorama Like Never Before

s the air turns crisp and nights get cooler, I look forward with anticipation to the beauty that is fall in the Northwoods. The cool breeze and the crunch of leaves under your feet will make you feel alive and refreshed. Mother Nature paints the trees in hues of crimson, scarlet, amber, russet, and gold, creating a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that is unique from year to year. The scenery is nothing short of spectacular, and the Hayward Lakes Area is a wonderful place to find the perfect autumn adventure.

The Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau has curated six self-guided fall color tours of the area. Drives range from 45 miles to 70 miles and travel through some of the most scenic foliage in Sawyer County. Explore the area as you never have before, traveling on picturesque county roads, scenic stretches of local highway, and even through the gorgeous Chequamegon National Forest.

Rivers, lakes, and streams complete the beautiful byways and provide a sparkling addition to the colorful backdrop. Maps and details are available at the Information Center in downtown Hayward or online at www. haywardlakes.com.

Hiking through the woods surrounded by a kaleidoscope of vibrant colors is another way to experience autumn in the Hayward Lakes Area. With a variety of hiking opportunities for the novice to the expert, there are ample opportunities to lace up your boots, embrace the spirit of adventure, and set off on an aweinspiring journey amidst the fall colors. Visit www.haywardlakes.com for information on hiking maps and trail descriptions.

Looking for a thrilling way to take in the stunning fall foliage in the Northwoods?

Look no further than our extensive network of ATV/UTV trails. With miles of scenic routes to explore, you can immerse yourself

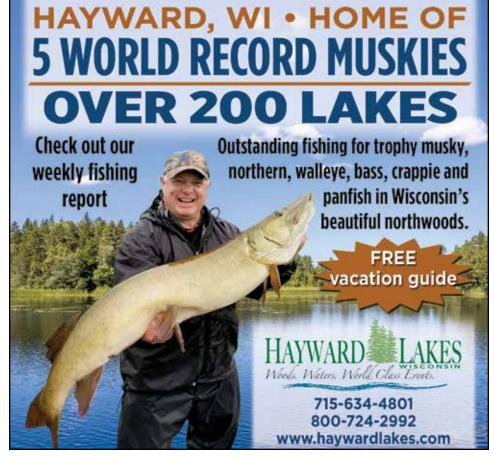
in the vibrant colors and crisp air of autumn like never before. Whether you're a seasoned rider or a first timer, the Sawyer County Trail System offers something for everyone. Visit www.ATVHayward.com to find maps, food, lodging, and ATV/UTV rentals.

The Hayward Lakes Area is a must-stop fall color getaway. Colors typically peak around

the last week of September to the first week of October. Use Travel Wisconsin's Fall Color Report - available at www.haywardlakes.com - to time your visit perfectly. You'll love all the beauty that the Northwoods has to offer!

By Mindy Simons, Assistant Director, Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau.









Come for a Visit, or Come For...Ever

Come on up to the Northwoods! Whether you're looking to stay, or looking to play, we have what you need. Connect with 715-561-4334 or hurley@hurleywi.com to start planning your trip.



SPOTLIGHT | ELKHORN



174th Walworth County Fair-Something for Everyone!

oin us in Elkhorn for the 174th Walworth County Fair August 30 through September 4 and celebrate the theme "There's No Place Like Home." The Walworth Fair is one of Wisconsin's oldest, largest and finest and features a wide range of activities and entertainment for all ages. Visitors can enjoy livestock shows and competitions, carnival rides, games, and delicious fair food.

One of the highlights is the Grandstand entertainment, which includes concerts, demolition derbies, truck and tractor pulls, and rodeos. There are also daily performances on the main stage, featuring live music, comedy acts, and other forms of entertainment. Make sure to visit www. walworthcountyfair.com for tickets to Chris Young/Dillon Carmichael, Styx Live! and

Casting Crowns.

For those interested in agriculture, the fair offers educational exhibits and demonstrations on topics such as farming, gardening, and animal care. There are also competitions in areas such as baking, canning, and photography. The Walworth County Fair has a large commercial exhibit area, where vendors sell a variety of products and services. Visitors can shop for crafts, clothing, home goods, and much more.

The Walworth County Fair is a fun-filled event that celebrates the agricultural heritage of the area by providing a great opportunity for families and friends to come together and enjoy a day of entertainment, food, and community spirit.







Looking for MORE OUTDOOR STORIES Check out ONWISCONSINOUTOORS.COM!





SPOTLIGHT | SPOONER



Your Must-See Fall Destination

all is quickly descending upon the Northwoods and there is no better time to visit Spooner than right now! The changing color of the leaves offers the perfect opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to come out and play.

The Spooner area is packed with all kinds of beautiful trails for you to stop and appreciate the serene scenery. With access to hundreds of miles of ATV/UTV trails, your chance to take in some breathtaking views are virtually endless. Loud engines not your speed? Grab your bicycle and check out the gorgeous and expertly maintained bike trails in Spooner City Park or at the Wildcat Mountain Bike Trails. There are also many hiking trails in the area such as the more primitive Beaverbrook Wildlife Area trails, as well as multiple well-traveled skillfully groomed trails located at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary and Heartwood Resort.

Another exhilarating way to experience the array of fall colors is along "Wisconsin's Moving National Park," the Namekagon River. Whether you are looking to hike, fish, canoe, or kayak, there are so many ways to enjoy this spectacular portion of the St. Croix Riverway. Looking to rent or buy equipment before you head out? AAA Sports Shop and the Spooner Outlet have everything you can dream of to outfit both novice and expert outdoorsmen alike.

So, whether you are looking to hit the trails or the water, one thing is unquestionable: You have to add Spooner to your must visit list this fall!

Before you head out to explore, stop into the Visitor Center located at 122 N. River St. in Spooner to stock up on trail maps or visit www. spoonerchamber.org.

By Lauren E. Hartwig, Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce.



Photo Credit - Washburn County Tourism Association



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | WASHBURN COUNTY



Riding the Colorama Rails and Much More

ashburn County bursts into brilliant color in September and October, luring visitors and residents alike onto the highways and trails. Fall ATVing, fishing, and exploring the hiking trails are excellent ways to experience the extraordinary fall colors. Along with the scenery, you'll also want to partake in the Stone Lake Cranberry Festival that celebrates the local harvest. You won't want to miss out on sampling the unsurpassed fall produce, including the finest apples, pumpkins, cranberries, wild rice and honey.

The stunning scenery is on full display when you hop on board the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad just north of Spooner. Through the north woods and along the mighty Namekagon River - "Wisconsin's

Tashburn County bursts into brilliant color in September and October, luring visitors and residents alike ighways and trails. Fall ATVing, de exploring the hiking trails are ways to experience the extraordinary

Moving National Park" - the train offers great rides such as the Dinner Train, Family Pizza Train, and even a Bed & Breakfast Train Ride. If you're looking for a short trip to see the fall colors, the Wine & Cheese Train Ride is the perfect ride for you!

Whether picking pumpkins or careening down a 100-foot gunny sack slide, the Burch Barn has it all for your family-friendly fun. From corn cannons to grain train rides and everything in between, you'll be glad you chose this pumpkin patch for your fall adventure. Don't forget to challenge your friends to a cow milking contest!

For up-to-date fall color reports and information to plan your autumn visit to WashCo, head to WashburnCounty.org.



HENSKE-NORTH DAKOTA, FROM PAGE 12

the state, but draw a line from Devils Lake to Rugby, through Minot and down to Dickinson. Everywhere south of that line to South Dakota will have very huntable populations of pheasants and grouse with the outlying fringe areas great for sharptails.

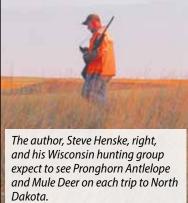
Our annual October hunt targets Dickinson area in west-central North Dakota. This terrain is drier, has fewer potholes with the topography more defined by hills and rugged terrain than the east central region. But we've also experienced less competition for areas to hunt on the P.L.O.T.S. (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) properties. Offered statewide for hunting purposes only, the 2023 program enrolled 800,000 acres. For late season hunting we target the Bismarck area and hunt frozen potholes where the birds seek heavy cover in the cattails.

For 2023 the North Dakota DNR has determined the pheasant crow counts are up 30%. Granted it seems to be a banner year in all of the pheasant producing states but 30% is a huge number. And with a 7% decline in duck and goose numbers for 2023, changing up your target species may be worth it. A non-resident upland game license is \$122.00 which allows 14 consecutive or two 7 day hunts. The non- resident pheasant opener is October 14 in 2023. A 3-bird pheasant daily limit with a maximum of 9 in possession is allowed with the same applying to sharptails and Hungarian partridge.

Do we limit out every day? No, but we see plenty of birds, educate a lot more with our misses, get back to the hotel worn out with tired dogs every night and enjoy every minute in the outdoors of our western neighboring state.

Yes, North Dakota is a bit of a drive. And yes it will cost you a few more bucks than buying birds at a shooting preserve. But hunting a native population in their natural habitat and enjoying the wide open spaces of the highland prairie has been calling me back for 45 years. And we'll be back again October 14.









SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE



Fall Fishing Feeding Frenzy: Guides of the La Crosse Region

Ishing in the fall can be like fishing with dynamite! The Mississippi River, its many tributaries in the La Crosse Region and the incredible, cold-water trout streams are primed to deliver a memorable excursion filled with lively bites and potentially your next wall-hanger.

The fish are aggressive as they heavily feed in preparation for the cold winter months ahead. Cooler water temperatures congregate the fish and dissipate recreational boat traffic, leaving more water for you to enjoy without the crowds.

Let's dive. Massive schools of predatory fish, like bass (smallmouth and largemouth) and northern pike, put on a fireworks show as they explode the water's surface and send baitfish fleeing in all directions. Hordes of feisty walleyes congregate on wingdams and deeper holes in the main channel of the Mississippi River making them easier

to target and provide plentiful rod-bending action. Giant, pan-sized bluegills and crappies can fill livewells in no time. Yellow perch, aptly referred to as "footballs" due to their bulbous stature, are sure to score big in your on-the-water adventures as well as in your fryer. Heart-pounding fights and chess-like battles are plentiful with massive Mississippi River flathead catfish, typically in the 20- to 30-pound class and even weighing as much as 50 pounds! Beautiful autumn colors aren't only found on the foliage this time of year; brown and brook trout colors pop with vibrancy in the endless cold-water creeks and streams of the La Crosse Region.

Area guides have years of experience navigating the region's bountiful waterways and finding success in the fall season is no exception. Take out the guesswork and plan your trip with these experts to enjoy the most

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33





ADVENTURE AWAITS BETWEEN THE BLUFFS AND ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER!

Nestled between bluffs and along the Mississippi River, the La Crosse Region bursts with experiences as unique as each explorer. Discover savory craft beverages and sophisticated shops, epic festivals like Oktoberfest USA, exciting angling, vibrant overlooks, and over 100 miles of trails. This fall, adventure is just a road trip away!

CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 18

safety. Keep your dog close and be ready for an unexpected flush or a stop-in-his-tracks point from your pointer.

9 Hunt Slow

The best hunting approach is slow, methodical and thorough. Pause often. Lots of stops are essential for letting the dog work and come across the narrow scent cone that an idle woodcock creates.

10 Shoot Quick

Take the first good, open shot you can get. Woodcock are hard to hit! They dart, juke, veer, dodge, change course and fly fast. Use a wide-open choke (improved cylinder or even skeet) and light low-brass loads with number 7-1/2 or 8 shot.

LA CROSSE, FROM PAGE 32

exciting fishing of the year while making life-long memories! Our featured guides include Adam Christianson, owner of Adrenaline Angling and Mike McCormick of McCormick's River Guide Service. The Adrenaline Angling team will teach you new tactics and techniques to conquer the Mississippi River. Additionally, with over 20 years of experience fishing the waters of the Upper Mississippi River as a fishing guide and professional walleye angler, Mike McCormick is an expert with knowledge of the finer details behind jigging, bottom bouncers, casting, trolling, and more. He is sure to put you on the season's hottest bite!

The La Crosse Region is vibrant with fall colors between the bluffs and along the Mississippi River. Reel in memories with those that matter most - the La Crosse Region is calling!



SPOTLIGHT | PLATTEVILLE



Check Out These Fall Attractions

here's much to see and do this autumn in Platteville. For a sampling, take a look at the highlights below.

Farmers Market

Begin your day at the Platteville Farmer's Market held each Saturday from 8 am to noon from May to October. Located in the heart of downtown Platteville, you'll find everything from delicious vegetables to flowers, great gift items to canned preserves, and just about everything in between. All the products are locally grown, harvested, or handmade by local vendors.

Historic Re-enactment

Experience life during the early 1800s at the 25th Annual Historic Re-enactment held at Mound View Park from Friday, September 8, through Sunday, September 10. Listen to live music (some with bagpipes!) and visit the many demonstrations of period blacksmiths, woodworkers and colonial men and women. Experience a voyager camp, military demonstrations and Native American storytelling. Kids will love the games and food at this historic event.

Friday, September 9, is School Day and the Historic Re-enactment. These events will provide a memorable, hands-on, up-close look at the history of our region and country and is free of charge to students. Participants will learn about early Wisconsin's role in war, trade, cooperation, and communication throughout the region and the world. Explore the contributions of Wisconsin's

native nations, including Ojibwa and Potawatomi. Demonstrations may include: Native American heritage, traditional hunting and trapping, lead mining heritage, 1750's French military, 1812 American military, historic music, canon and musket firing demonstrations, historic foodways, traditional woodworking, blacksmithing and silversmithing.

Dairy Days

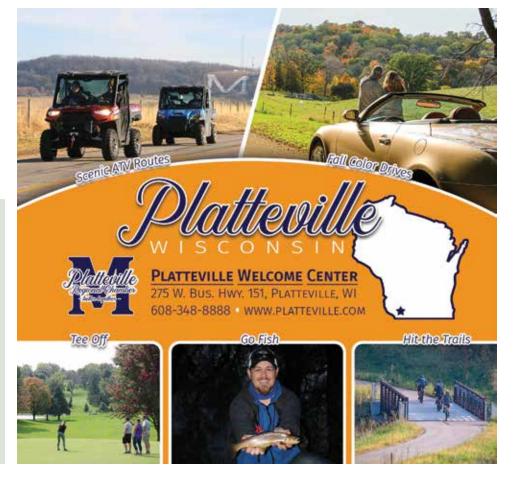
Friday (School Day), 8 am - 4 pm; Saturday, 11 am - 5 pm; Sunday, 10 am - 3pm. Location: Mound View Park. Dairy Days will celebrate its 76th anniversary this year with a great weekend of activities. Many events are free of charge, including the Main Street Parade, Main Stage entertainment, and viewing exhibits by local students and adults.

Dairy Days is supported by Platteville businesses that provide sponsorships and volunteers. The Platteville Regional Chamber coordinates the parade and assists the Dairy Days committee with website and promotional materials.

Dairy Days' weekend begins with a flea market, amusement rides and beer tent. The Main Street Parade on Saturday morning is followed by the dairy cattle show at Legion Park. While at the park, enjoy the flea market and plenty of "fair food." Evenings feature truck and tractor pulls, live music and much more. Return Sunday for the dairy goat show and music on the Main Stage and then head over to Platteville High School for the 49th annual car show and swap meet hosted by the Southwest Wisconsin Auto Club.

For more information, see our advertisement in this edition of On Wisconsin Outdoors. Platteville Dairy Days website: plattevilledairydays.com. Visit platteville.com or call the Platteville Regional Chamber and Wisconsin Welcome Center at 608-348-8888.





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JOHN ELLIS

Election Integrity in Wisconsin-Part Two

ERIC, Badger Books, and regaining control of our voter registration lists

lection integrity in Wisconsin is being compromised by the people we entrusted with protecting it.

"Election Integrity in Wisconsin-Part One; How those we entrusted with election integrity have been taking it from us", was published in the July-August issue of On Wisconsin Outdoors and can be viewed in an archived issue at onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

Part I exposed the allocation of \$2,318,000 in 2013 by the Waukesha County Board, to subsidize the purchase of new election equipment for 37 municipalities. Because there was no referendum on the issue, the allocation was made without the knowledge or consent of Waukesha County residents. Among the equipment subsidized was 8 Express Vote ballot marking machines bought by the City of Muskego. Once again, because there was no referendum on the issue the machines were purchased without the knowledge or consent of Muskego residents.

Part II • ERIC and Badger Books

The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is an organization formed in 2012 and made up of election officials from 24 states around the country. * Wisconsin was required to join ERIC as part of legislation signed by Governor Scott Walker in 2016. The Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC) has been using ERIC to maintain a statewide, centralized, and computerized Wisconsin voter registration list. The list is kept in a database called WisVote, that was activated in 2016.

Under Wisconsin law, municipal clerks are specifically authorized to maintain voter registration lists, authority that was confirmed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2021. Clerks are to use the lists to create a poll book for their municipality, which is the official list of active, lawfully registered voters.

Instead, Wisconsin clerks are downloading their poll lists from WisVote before elections. When asked by *OWO*, the WEC confirmed this:

OWO: Is the voter registration list clerks' access through WisVote before an election, taken from the centralized voter registration list maintained by the WEC?

WEC: "Local election officials generate their poll lists from WisVote, the statewide voter registration database that the WEC maintains."

This is the exact opposite of how voter registration lists are supposed to be maintained and used in Wisconsin elections. While the WEC's website says "Wisconsin elections are highly decentralized", they're obviously not. They have become highly centralized with voter registration lists not being maintained by clerks as the law provides, but by the WEC with input from ERIC. This must change before our 2024 elections. Municipal



clerks alone must maintain, and be able to account for, their registration lists. We have to be able to verify voters locally, from clerks who are accountable to us, rather than statewide from the unaccountable WEC.

Badger Books is an electronic poll book that was developed by the WEC to replace paper poll books. While the WEC is authorizing municipalities to use Badger Books, its own website says that it's not certified for use in elections. The definition of certified is "Endorsed authoritatively as having met certain requirements; guaranteed". Our elections are required by law to be certified after they're held. Because Badger Books has not met any certification requirements, it obviously should not be used in Wisconsin elections.

Along with not being certified, signature verification is not possible with Badger Books because it uses E-signatures to sign voters in before they can receive a ballot. E-signatures are commonly used for legal transactions, but they're not the same as a signature written by hand with a pen on paper. A video by the WEC, intended to instruct poll workers on how Badger Books works, clearly shows the instructor completely disregarding the importance of voter signatures. In the video, just a scribbled line in the E-signature box in Badger Books is good enough for a person to receive a ballot. This means that if an election is contested, signatures gathered through Badger Books will not be useful in determining the legitimacy of voters.

When we asked the WEC about this, they responded:

"While Wisconsin statute 6.79(2) does indeed require a voter to provide a signature to receive his or her ballot, there is no further requirement for election officials to perform a

signature verification before allowing an elector to vote."

The WEC knows that Badger Books does not meet the signature requirements, or intent, of Wisconsin election law, but they have still authorized its use in our elections. Signatures are required under 6.79 (2) to verify who a voter is. At a time when the integrity of our elections is in serious doubt, and true signature verification is critical, the WEC's position is negligent.

In operation, clerks using Badger Books login to WisVote and download the voter registration lists maintained by the WEC and ERIC to a memory device. They then upload those lists into Badger Books before an election. If ERIC is the source of bad voter registration information, Badger Books in use throughout Wisconsin will be the vehicle through which it travels and it will be nearly impossible to track down after an election.

In July of 2022, the City of Muskego bought Badger Books from Paragon Development Systems LLC (PDS). Just like it did with Express Vote ballot marking machines, Muskego purchased Badger Books without the knowledge or consent of Muskego residents at a cost of \$47,648.00. In January of 2022, 6 months before the purchase, PDS was bought by Converge Technology Solutions headquartered in Gatineau, Canada. Muskego bought, and is now using, Canadian owned equipment in United States elections.

In Wisconsin, we have a serious problem with election integrity because the people we entrust with it refuse to make it their first priority. Among those people are state and local politicians, government employees, and the WEC. Their lack of urgency on the issue, combined with the belief they can operate independent of the will of the people, is setting the table for more unverifiable elections in 2024. We can't allow that to happen.

It's extremely important that you contact Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (608-237-9163) and Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (608-266-2056) to tell them they must immediately move to write legislation that removes Wisconsin from ERIC, and bans the use of Badger Books in Wisconsin elections. Follow that up with a call to your state Assemblyman and Senator to drive home the message. Finally, contact your municipal clerk to find out how they verify the voter registration lists they're responsible for. Remember that these people work for us. Regaining control of our voter registration lists is not personal. It's essential.

*Many states are leaving ERIC. Louisiana left in 2022. Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virgina left this year. Texas lawmakers have sent a bill to the governor and will be leaving soon. Non-members, North Carolina and Oklahoma, have passed bills that would make it much harder for them to join.

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JOAN ELLIS BEGLINGER

The Marquette Law School Poll An unholy alliance with political parties, media

The Marquette University Law School released its most recent poll of Wisconsin voters accompanied by much fanfare about major changes in how the poll is going to be conducted. Charles Franklin, the poll's director, described the impetus for change as growing obstacles to traditional polling. Among them were increasing difficulty getting people on the phone and reaching voters under 30.

There are a number of changes Franklin reported. The poll is now going to select its sample from Wisconsin's official list of registered voters rather than rely on asking respondents if they are registered. Franklin claims the voter rolls will also provide information about the voters that will be useful, though he did not offer any specifics. The poll will also survey a "panel" of respondents, who have agreed in advance to participate through letters and surveys sent to their homes (their willingness to participate on an ongoing basis disqualifies them as "representative" of the voters). One quarter of the survey respondents will come from this panel and three quarters will come from the registered voter list. Respondents will now also be offered the option of responding online.

In recent years, the extent of the corruption of our political process has been exposed. The unholy alliance between the political parties, the media, and the pollsters exerts a stranglehold on information and deprives voters of access to the truth.

The role of the polls in this corruption is shaping and manipulating opinion rather than reflecting it. They are designed to influence. The changes being made aren't intended to address the problem.

In the June poll (There is no doubt that there will be another one after the first Republican presidential candidates' debate on August 23.), there were 913 respondents. In a deeply divided state with more than 3.5 million voters, it is inconceivable that any approach to sampling such a tiny fraction of voters will yield a "representative" group. Further, the response rate for the June poll was a dismal 1.5%. Nearly 61,000 voters had to be contacted to secure a sample of fewer than 1,000 voters. The first important question Charles Franklin may want to answer is why so few Wisconsin voters are willing to participate.

There are far greater problems than the response rate for this poll. The questions that are asked, how they are worded, and the intentional complexity that leaves ample opportunity for misinterpretation, lock respondents into answering questions that may be meaningless to them. Inclusion in the poll is arbitrary. When I ran as an Independent for governor in 2022, Charles Franklin refused to poll the voters on their opinions of me, or the concept of an Independent candidate, until I was officially on the ballot in June of 2022. I had been a declared candidate and running an active campaign since January 2021 and am highly qualified for the governorship. In the latest poll, Franklin correctly asked voters for an opinion about Eric Hovde and David Clarke for Senate, even though they are only rumored to be interested in running. But why the difference?

The arbitrary and complex questions and poll structure make Charles Franklin a very powerful and sought after source. The news media flock to him as the man with the answers.

Credible polling would seek to understand what the voters of Wisconsin care about and what they are thinking. Meaningful changes would start with integrity and trustworthiness. The changes being made don't come close.

Rearranging the deck chairs would not have saved the Titanic.

Joan Ellis Beglinger is a freedom loving American chasing the truth wherever it leads and exposing corruption wherever she finds it. She publishes the "Beglinger Blast" every Sunday. You can find them all on her website at beglingerforwisconsin.com or sign up to receive them in a weekly email by clicking on "join our email list" on her website.

DICK ELLIS

America the Beautiful Addressing peaceful, unfinished work

wo centuries, two-score, and seven years ago, our forefathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. In this endeavor, and others, like all men and women we have sometimes failed.

But, unlike those elsewhere under tyranny and unable to think and debate freely under the certainty of persecution, wrongs have been righted; until the next issue of controversy demands debate and hopeful resolution. Despite our failings, this God-gifted land has called and welcomed more people longing to wear the name, "American" than any before it.

Now again, we are engaged in a great test whether our nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. Unlike any conflict before it, those who would see us fall come from within, and among us. Like adversaries already faced, these too carry destruction of our foundation of God, family and freedom as essential to our end; with daily deceit of our people and darkness essential to the fall.

We have over these 247 years come together often to dedicate too many fields, as final resting places for those who have given their lives so that our nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. Such selfless recognition by those who have fallen that our freedom counted more than their own lives demand our unwavering gratitude.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—those places. The brave men and women, living and dead, who struggled there, have consecrated them far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world is watching closely now, and will long remember what happens to America in the months ahead. It can never forget what happens here. America's fate and freedoms, they know, remains their own hope too.

It is for us the living here, though, to be dedicated peacefully now to the unfinished work which they who fought before us have thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us to be dedicated to the greatest task remaining before us—that from those who came before us we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Publisher note: Respectfully submitted, the above column is our 2023 rendering of Abraham Lincoln's iconic Gettysburg Address given in November of 1863.



STUART WILKE

FORGOTTEN WISCONSIN

A Lynching in Preston *Murder among neighbors*

Richard Porter is considered to be the first settler in what is now known as Preston, a small, scenic community located in Trempealeau County. He is said to have been killed shortly after his arrival in 1855 by a pack of wolves before he even finished erecting his cabin.

The death of Porter wasn't the only violent piece of Preston's early history. Jakob Olson, 51, a resident of the town, was strung up by his neighbors on November 24, 1889. His murder was an act of maritcide and patricide; his wife and son were complicit in his lynching. Olson was a Norwegian immigrant, like many Preston residents. Those that were not immigrants were mostly of Norwegian descent. His own people killed him.

Olson was not a sympathetic character and probably suffered from mental illness. He was a struggling farmer with six children and said to have been extremely strong, vicious,

ill-tempered and, to put it mildly, eccentric. Rumors abounded that his nocturnal pursuits included peering through his neighbors' windows and torturing farm animals. He supposedly strapped deer antlers on his head one evening and chased his niece home in the dark. He forced his wife out of their home on a cold winter night, leaving her to walk barefoot for a mile to a neighbor's home in search of shelter.

When the stove of a local dry goods store owner blew up, suspicions quickly fell on Olson, who was disputing a debt he owed the man. Olson admitted to placing explosive material in his creditor's woodpile. Olson pled guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Incarceration had no effect on Olson's behavior. Within days of returning home, he was threatening his family with violence and promptly jailed for six months as a result.

Within 48 hours of his release, he was at it again, terrorizing his family with threats of burning down their home and killing them.

Olson's son Ole fled to the home of Charles Johnson and told the wealthy, prominent community leader of his father's words. After suffering years of Jakob's insufferable behavior, Johnson finally had enough. He gathered a mob of about 40 like-minded citizens with the intent of forcing Jakob out of town. As the mob approached Olson's dilapidated farm, Ole reconnoitered the family homestead and reported back that his father was asleep in a bedroom.

Johnson directed several men to apprehend Olson. He was dragged outside and told to get out of town. He refused and told the mob "This is my home and I will not leave until God calls me." Johnson and his crew were prepared for any contingency. Olson was brought to a tree just yards from his



home. Members of the mob, under Johnson's direction, had brought two ropes with them. One to restrain Olson and another to hang him. A rope was slung over a tree branch and a noose was placed around Olson's neck. He was repeatedly hoisted up and down, supposedly to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39





For vermin and pests, a flat-shooting, high-velocity cartridge is a must. So are fast follow-up shots, the ability to mount optics, and using a trim platform that won't weigh you down while on patrol. A lever or pump action rifle from Henry Repeating Arms chambered in .22 Magnum or .17 HMR is the perfect choice for keeping land and property pest-free.

MANY OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM FOR VARMINT & PEST CONTROL

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Flushed with Fall Excitement Approaching Wisconsin's October pheasant season

ll over Wisconsin small game hunters look forward to the opening of pheasant season. The season starts October 14 at 9 am this year and runs to January 7, 2024. The Wisconsin DNR has information and a list of stocked properties on its website. Some areas are roosters-only, while pheasants of either sex may be harvested at others. The DNR releases extra birds the last two weeks of the season so families can get together for holiday hunts. Remember, besides a small game license, Wisconsin also requires a pheasant stamp. Check the regulations for special rules on some DNR properties.

I harvested my first rooster at age 12 in Racine County with a well-worn 16 gauge single-shot. Over the 50-plus years I've pheasant hunted, I have carried various over/unders, pumps and semi autos. I also managed to figure out a few things about what makes an ideal gun to carry when chasing long-

tailed birds. I've mostly used a 12 gauge SKB semi-auto for about the last 40 years. When determining what pheasant gun suits you best, you must consider a number of factors; when you hunt, how you hunt, and where you hunt.

If you hunt your pheasants during the first month or so of the season, most shots will be within 40 yards. A light weight over/under or side-by-side will give you the advantage of a more open choke for the first shot and a tighter choke for the second. You also have the advantage of using a lighter load for game farm or stocked pheasants and a heavier load for longer follow up shots. A semi-auto could be used, but the hunter would have to "order his shells": load the shells in order so the lighter load is fired first, with heavier loads to follow. Please use shot no smaller than size 6, and leave the 100 round bargain pack shells with 7 ½ or 8 shot for the trap or sporting clays range. Late season pheasants have

heavier feathers, so use heavier loads.

How you hunt: Are you using a pointer or a flushing dog? Pointers will corral a bird and allow the hunter to come in and flush its bird for a high percentage shot. This would allow a hunter to use a smaller gauge shotgun, and still clean-kill pheasants. Another example would be tight sitting pheasants in frozen cattail swamps. These will also give you close shots, and is not the time to be over-choked. I usually take my 20 gauge over/under out for pheasants once or twice when hunting frozen-over cattail swamps. The light weight and choke options make it ideal.

Hunters using a flushing dog like a Lab might be better with a semi-auto. Birds flushed further out require longer shots. The option of three shots versus two shots also gives a semi-auto the advantage. If your pheasant hunt area is wide-open corn fields or marshes, long



shots are common. A good, hard working 12 gauge shotgun is probably your best choice. All-in-all, selecting the perfect pheasant gun is selecting the one that best suits you. Balance the factors of weight, gauge, choke and ammunition capacity. And most important of all, have fun!

STUART WILKE

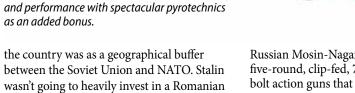
Overcoming Adversity

Despite its unhappy circumstances, the Romanian M44 was a capable firearm

Romania has not been a particularly happy country for much of its history. Vlad (Dracula) the Impaler and famously crazed dictator Nicolae Ceauşescu are just a couple of the monsters that have terrorized the country. Still, Romanians have persevered.

Despite being poorly led, underfed and wretchedly equipped, the Romanians often performed credibly during the Second World War - on both sides, first with the Germans and later, as the tide of the war turned, with the Soviet Union. At the war's conclusion, Romania found itself in ruins, economically devastated and an unenthusiastic member of the Warsaw Pact.

The Romanians never had a great love for Russia and Stalin's primary interest in



between the Soviet Union and NATO. Stalin wasn't going to heavily invest in a Romanian army, but it was in his interests to have an indigenous armed force there to keep the population cowed, subdued, and in its place - as cheaply as possible.

The Romanian M44 defies expectations in quality

Hence the Romanian's (forced) adoption of the Mosin - Nagant M44 in this article. The M44 was the carbine version of the venerable Russian Mosin-Nagant 91/30 rifle. Both were five-round, clip-fed, 7.62 x 54 caliber, rugged bolt action guns that were produced by the millions during WW II. The difference was in size and weight. The 91/30 weighed in at about 9.5 pounds and was 48.5 inches in length, and proved to be extremely ungainly in urban warfare and close quarters. The M44 was only 40 inches long and weighed 8.9 pounds, including its folding bayonet, and much handier.

The Russians did not want their buffer states to be totally dependent upon their largess, and so provided them with the means to suppress their own native populations - the M44 carbine. Romanian workers may have been sullen and belligerent, but they did a fine job making M44s. They just didn't make many of them, probably no more than 70,000. Hungary and Poland also produced M44s in much larger quantities. The two nations were also issued modern SKSs and Kalashnikovs much sooner than the surly Romanians, who were proving to be anything but a cooperative Pact member, even refusing to go on joint maneuvers with their comrades.

Lacking the resources to consistently produce and repair M44s, the Romanians were

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coerce him to leave town. Jakob would not comply. Finally, the mob left him hanging from the branch to die. His wife Bertha made them coffee. Yes, she may have been an accomplice to her own husband's murder...but she was a good host.

Word of the murder soon came to the attention of law enforcement, who quickly rounded up Johnson and several others involved in the crime. They were found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Within several years, all were pardoned by the governor and freed - thanks to the entreaties of some well-connected and wealthy supporters.

Yesterday, as today, there was, and continues to be, two types of justice: one for the wealthy, and another for everyone else.

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ROMANIAN M44, FROM PAGE 38

given unwanted M44s from other Eastern Bloc countries that had moved on to more modern Soviet arms. From these leftovers, the Romanians rebuilt, repaired, produced and issued M44s long after their comrades moved on to AKs and SKSs. By 1989 the Romanians had had enough of "President" Ceauşescu's and his nasty wife's corruption, incompetence and spending habits. The two were arrested, and after a short trial, put up against a wall and gleefully shot by their captors.

Soon after, the M44s were sold off by budding Romanian capitalists to western importers who sold them by the thousands and associated ammunition by the millions. The guns are handy, plenty accurate (expect 100 yard groups of 1.5 to 4 inches), kick like ostriches, are ballistically similar to the .308, and produce truly epic muzzle flashes. During the last great flood of imported surplus firearms, Romanian M44s in decent condition could be had for \$100. Those days are long gone.

Today, Romanian M44s are far from easy to find, but well worth the search, if only to experience the massive fireball that explodes from their short barrels when shot. But be warned: Hang on tight. The recoil is something to write home about.

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