

FREE

On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the

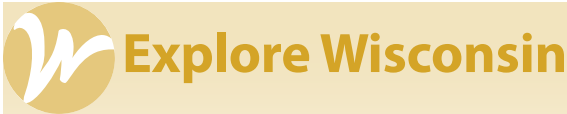
Dick Ellis Experts

- **Families Explore Wisconsin**
Time to plan your summer getaways
- **From Streams to the Great Lakes**
Summer fishing tactics
with OWO's experts
- **Run Walleye Run**
Stories from two spawning veins
- **Bear Baiting Basics**
Avoiding three common mistakes
- **Memorial Day**
 - Remembering
America's first to fall
 - Forgotten Wisconsin
and the War of 1812
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 - Skeet-the forgotten
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- **The Great Wolf Divide**
Unmanaged population
demands attention



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SPOTLIGHT | TWO RIVERS



Two Rivers Charter Fishing: A Thrilling Adventure Awaits

The port of Two Rivers is known for being one of the best locations from which to fish on Lake Michigan. For avid anglers or those looking to embark on a memorable outdoor adventure, charter fishing on Lake Michigan offers the perfect way to experience the thrill of the catch while exploring this vast and stunning waterway. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time angler, a charter fishing experience on Lake Michigan guarantees a day filled with excitement, relaxation, and a chance to reel in the fish of a lifetime.

With over a dozen charter boats calling Two Rivers home, our captains offer the benefit of local expertise. Experienced captains know the best fishing spots, seasonal patterns, and techniques to maximize your chances of success. They are equipped with top-tier gear and vessels that ensure safety and comfort during the outing.

The most popular time for charter fishing out of Two Rivers is during the warmer months. The peak season typically runs from late spring to early fall, when salmon and trout are abundant. The lake is home to several species of salmon, including chinook, coho, and Atlantic salmon, as well as lake trout and rainbow trout, all of which are highly sought after by anglers.

There are different types of charter fishing trips available on Lake Michigan, catering to various preferences, group sizes, and fishing goals. Whether you're planning a half-day excursion or a full-day adventure, there's a trip for everyone.

Looking for a fun family outing, a quiet day of fishing, or the thrill of landing a giant salmon? Lake Michigan's charter fishing trips have something for everyone. So grab your gear, book a charter, and get ready to reel in the catch of a lifetime! 🎣



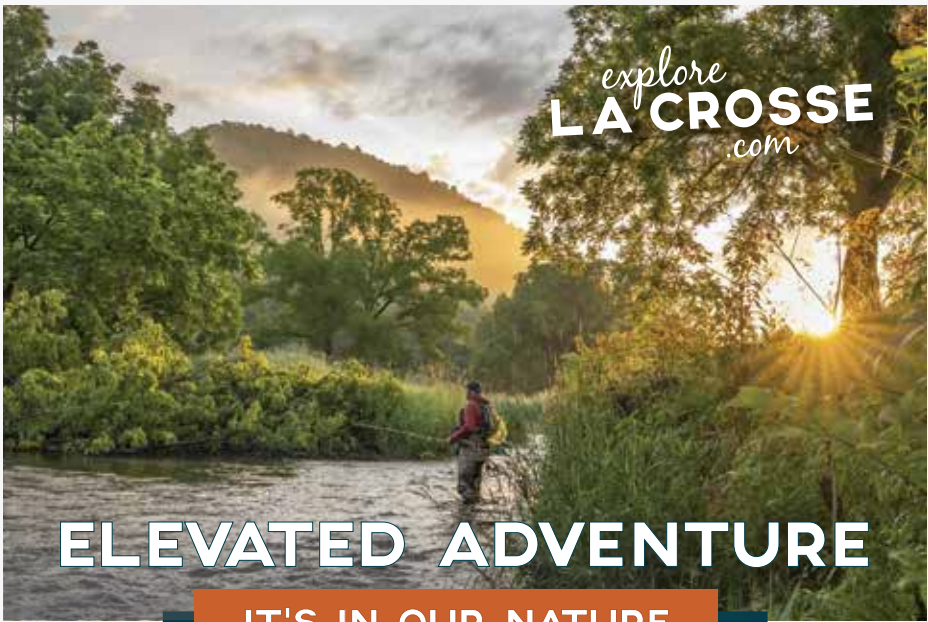
For a complete list of charter boats in Two Rivers, visit www.exploretworivers.com/explore/page/charter-fishing.



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TOM CARPENTER

No Better Time The Brown Trout of Spring

There is no better time to go trout fishing than spring. The creeks gurggle merrily along. The water runs cool. The fish are hungry.

In Wisconsin, the brown trout is most common to catch. When you can catch them. Brown trout can be cagey characters indeed. But, armed with a few secrets and strategies, anybody can figure them out and bring them to net.

They Love Cover

Brown trout often retreat to the gnarliest, hardest-to-get-at cover available. Tree roots, log jams, undercut banks, and rocky places can make getting your bait in front of a brownie difficult.

They are Paranoid and Spook

When they do come out to feed in a run or at the head of a pool, brown trout are extremely spooky. Clomp right up to the creek bank, throw your shadow on the water, or move with heavy footfalls, and any trout around will dart away. Trout fishing is a stealth game, as much hunting as fishing in my book.

They Inhabit Unlikely Places

While it's true that you'll find browns in some of the standard, tried-and-true "trouty" looking places (riffles, runs, the

heads of pools, pools themselves), consider the brown's penchant for slow-moving bends (if the water is deep), headwaters far upstream (I once caught a two-pounder in a brook only two feet wide), and downstream water more suited to smallmouth bass or catfish.

They are Crepuscular or Nocturnal

On a cloudy day you can catch a few fish, but when the sun shines and the water is lit up, brown trout retreat to their protected lairs and hidey holes, only to come out when the sun is low, below the horizon or absent altogether. Good fishing is often an early or late-in-the-day affair.

Keep Your Gear Simple

Fly fishing is grand. But spinning gear can do the job. A nice ultra-light or light-action graphite rod, five-and-a-half or six feet long with just a little back bone (for when you hook a big one), is about right. Attach a good spinning reel spooled up with the high-quality, four-or six-pound-test monofilament.

Use the Right Baits

Nightcrawlers are almost unbeatable as trout bait. A fat, sassy half-crawler, drifted freely into a brown trout's lair, is usually too much for brown trout to resist. Use a size 10 hook and small split-shot about 18



inches ahead. Minnows can work wonders (increase your hook size to six or eight). I like grasshoppers and crickets, too. Be sure to follow regulations though; some streams don't allow live bait.

On the hardware side, little in-line spinners and tiny spoons offer flash that trigger strikes, while small minnow baits can really pull in hungry trout. Tiny crayfish-imitating crankbaits can do the job. Little jigs tipped with small Gulp-style minnows work too.

Approach with Stealth

On the creek, work your way upstream - that is, with the current coming at you. Trout face into the current as they watch and wait for food, and you at least have a chance to locate a fishy spot before the fish locate you. Cast, flip or toss upstream of where you think that fish can be found. Let the current do the work of carrying your offering naturally to the trout.

Enjoy the Experience

Get out and drink in the solitude of a gurgling trout stream. Your heart and soul will thank you. 🐟

On The Cover

Wisconsin anglers love their fish. The question is, just what fish moves you to the water, and what makes any water your favorite target? It's an individual calling of course, but for this cover we chose the brown trout. That image, surely, has some readers reliving a memory of a wary brown misled from his ambush in a deep, brush-laden hole.

Fishing moves people. It's May, and open season again in Wisconsin. Travel with our experts as they target water from

meandering streams, to inland lakes to the Great Lakes. Experience with them quests for favorites from bluegills to muskies, and from spawning run walleyes to kings

You'll find close to a dozen fishing stories inside, from all over our Wisconsin map. Living vicariously is the next best thing if you can't, for today anyway, be on the water yourself.

Whatever, and wherever, your target, good fishing in 2025. And thanks again for looking over the shoulder of the OWO experts.



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

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DAVE FIDLIN

Petrifying Springs Park

A shining jewel of unspoiled natural beauty

Despite being a halfway point between the urban metropolises of Milwaukee and Chicago, Kenosha County has retained much of its rural heritage at the southeastern most part of Wisconsin. Petrifying Springs Park, the largest in Kenosha County's park system, is a shining example of how much unspoiled natural beauty still exists in the region.

Petrifying Springs is located in Somers, just outside the city of Kenosha. The park holds the distinction of being Kenosha County's oldest park, with a centennial anniversary not far off on the horizon. (It officially opened to the public on April 1, 1928.)

But the park's deep-rooted heritage is not its only notable distinction among the vast amount of natural spaces across Wisconsin. Petrifying Springs also has gained notoriety over the years because of the artesian well within the park.

Since the 1930s, visitors local and beyond have taken advantage of the artesian aquifer that exists within the park, dispensing pure, natural spring water. The aquifer exists because of the natural phenomena of groundwater overcoming gravity and flowing upwards through a well without the need for pumping.

History and purity are two parts of the trifecta that make Petrifying Springs a unique spot for a day trip or weekend excursion in Kenosha County. The park also boasts one of Wisconsin's most robust hardwood forests.



Petrifying Springs Park has been noted for its pristine beauty. An artesian well, dispensing natural spring water, is located at the site.

By definition, hardwood forests are classified as having deciduous trees, creating a bounty of natural foliage. Nutrient-rich soil within the area has long helped foster an environment that is hospitable to the various tree species. Petrifying Springs' distinction as a hardwood forest makes it an ideal spot for birdwatching since disparate feathered species flock to the natural preserve.

Throughout the year, Petrifying Springs offers a variety

of amenities for anyone looking for a true recreational experience. Miles of dedicated hiking trails are featured throughout the park site, with opportunities to enjoy the wooded areas of the park, as well as streams and rivers.

Petrifying Springs also features multiple picnic areas, playgrounds, a dog park, and, in the winter, a sledding hill when temperatures and snowy weather conditions allow. The University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Community Cross Country Ski Club helps groom the ski trail each winter.

In the upcoming warm weather months, Petrifying Springs also will host a variety of recreational activities, including volleyball courts, softball diamonds, a public golf course and a seasonal beer garden offering.

According to local historians, Petrifying Springs' name is derived from a Calcareous formation that appears on the south ravine of the park. Stoney clusters, which over time were created through rainwater and an accompanying chemical reaction, gave off the appearance of petrified flora material.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of Kenosha County Parks staff and local organizations, Petrifying Springs has stood out as a green space of note within Southeastern Wisconsin and remains a hot spot with its centennial celebration approaching. 🌿

Petrifying Springs Park is located at 5555 7th St., in Somers (though the official address is Kenosha). It is open daily from 7 am to 10 pm.

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

An Irresistible "Do Nothing" Offering

Simple plastic stick bait yields big bass results

Late spring and early summer are the best times to try soft-plastics stick baits for largemouth bass. How can something that has no action catch fish? Just do nothing and see.

What could be easier than spinner baits? Cast the bait out and reel it in. The stick bait is even easier; cast it out and do basically nothing, let it sink, work it in a foot or so, let it sink and so on. Lesser amounts of action equal greater numbers of strikes. For me, the initial fall of the lure is the best time for the strike. The key to the presentation is SLOW; if you retrieve too fast you won't get as many hits.

Unlike a plastic worm, where the hook set is immediate, the stick bait hook set begins with a pause for a short period of time to let the fish eat it. The fish will not let go. Largemouth bass will pick up the lure and run with it and start to eat it; you must wait and watch your line. By waiting, you can be sure the fish has the bait well and your hook up will increase significantly.

Location is important when fishing sticks. I prefer the largemouth bass pre-spawn haunts, shallow, weedy bays near the hard sand bottom where they will spawn. I work a depth range of one to five-feet of water. I always prefer to fish the sticks weightless. Without any extra weight, the bait fishes with ease in the heaviest weed choked parts of the lake.

I prefer to use Texas rigged bait that makes the lure completely weedless. Texas rigging the stick is exactly like a plastic worm; you take the tip of the bait and penetrate the hook one-half inch down, twist the hook underneath and poke the hook back into the body to make it weedless.

The most critical part of fishing a stick is the rod/reel and line. The only effective way to fish a stick is on braided line. Use 15-pound test. The braids create the ultimate feel and sensitivity. The no-stretch aspect also aids in a solid hook set. The hook I tie on with a Palomar knot is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Young client with a dandy largemouth.



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Bluegills group up to spawn. Finding a big bunch of beds can provide fast fishing.

TOM LUBA

Targeting Two The one-stop shop for largemouth, gills

In baseball going two for two is batting 1.000. In May and June, anglers can also bat 1.000 by being in the right place at the right time for two species.

Spring means shallows and spawning. In May, largemouth bass are front and center.

Start with small, shallow waters that have laydowns, stumps, rocks, weed growth and rocky riprap. They warm fast and the cover absorbs heat to draw the fish. It provides ideal protection for spawn beds. Those are prime areas, especially when close to deeper wintering areas.

You don't need every lure in the box to score, either. Two anglers in your boat will also help by letting one work shallow and the other the deeper side.

Start with a quarter ounce silicone skirt bass jig (black/blue) tipped with a black Uncle Josh No. 11 Pork Frog or Berkley MaxScent Power Chunk; they're good for inside weed lines, laydowns or other cover. Water temperature near the 50s means things are starting. If not, try a little deeper. A spinnerbait works closer to the surface, but a ChatterBait bladed jig will work both shallow or deep with different actions.

Another solid spring bait is the Yamamoto Senko stick worm rigged weedless and weightless. Use in emerging weeds, where bass may be staging. Females hold there, while males build nests. Be sure to let it sink into open pockets. Think water temp and weather.

Never overlook Spring bluegills. They'll spawn in the same areas as the bass, from mid-May into June. More beds make it easier to locate bigger groups of fish.

There's no rocket science here. Just stay back as far as you can and make longer casts. Use a pencil type bobber, a small pinch-on weight and a No. 6 Eagle Claw Aberdeen bronze hook. Pencil bobbers provide less water resistance. I recommend slip bobbers. The line goes through the bobber making casting easier. The weight pulls the bait down. Fixed float rigs are ok, but not as easy to cast. Leaf worms and crawler pieces are good choices as bait.

As a side note, if you are finding smaller gills near the beds, try going a bit deeper without a float. Sometimes the bigger gills, like the bass, wait to move in. Bigger fish don't stay shallow long.

Stable weather makes for better fishing. I like a medium light six-foot rod and four-to six-pound test line.

Go two for two this Spring. It may mean a trophy largemouth and some good eating panfish. 🐟

DUWE, FROM PAGE 4

number two gap worm hook. I prefer to use Owner or Gamakatsu hooks, both are ultra sharp. By using a Palomar knot, the line never slips, like other knots sometimes do. I use only spinning tackle when fishing a stick, but it has to be heavy action, with the reel having a large capacity. On the reel it is important to "back" your braid with monofilament. I will fill one-quarter of the spool with monofilament, then fill the rest with my braided line. If you don't back the superlines, they will spin around the reel making it impossible to set the hook.

Wind is the only part of stick fishing that

can be difficult and out of the fisherman's control. With a lot of wind, the lure will get blown around and not sink properly. The slow lure fall is what tempts the largemouth bass into biting. Excessive wind will also take the "feel" out of the angler's hands. Winds tend to be calmer during the early morning or late afternoon.

This method of fishing has yielded some of my best largemouth bass catches. This spring give a "do nothing" bait a try. 🐟

Dave Duwe fishes the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin and can be reached at 262-728-8063.

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DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report *A hole in my boat*

There's a hole in my boat. And in my canoe. And in my sport boat. And no, the holes aren't in the hulls. The hole is in the seats that were regularly occupied by my good friend Dale Johnson.

He was known as Puck, a nickname he acquired from a lifetime of playing, coaching, and loving hockey. We met during our college days and over the years spent a lot of time together on the water and in the woods. Puck passed away from an apparent heart attack in February at the age of 65.

Throughout the years, we talked and dreamed about someday retiring to the Northwoods. Thanks to good fortune and understanding wives, those dreams became a reality for both of us about five or six years ago. Since then, we've spent a lot of time in each other's boats, around campfires, and in the woods.

Puck was a great fisherman, but I think he liked exploring new water and finding new spots as much as he liked catching fish. Together, we learned numerous lakes that were new to us and had plans to learn a lot more. I'll do my best to try and fulfill some of that wish list. One of my best fishing memories with Puck was the day we were paddle trolling my canoe for lake trout and he hooked into a 40-incher. Dealing with a 24-pound laker from a canoe is both exciting and memorable. I just remember Puck saying that my landing net was "looking mighty small" as he got his first glimpse of the fish about fifteen feet down.

When it came to woodworking, Puck was a master. He taught high school wood shop for nearly two decades. When building his retirement home in the Northwoods, designing his basement workshop got his full attention. The furniture that he made is nothing short of amazing. If you visit his

website at www.dalejohnsonfurniture.com you'll see what I mean.

Puck was also a pretty darned good cook. He worked some real magic with his smoker. If you got invited over for ribs, you cleared your calendar. We also spent a lot of time tending the fish cookers and always seemed to get rave reviews.

When it came to hunting, Puck was able to drag me out of my comfort zone a few times. He took me bow hunting in Minnesota and South Dakota to see some new country. Whether in deer camp or fish camp, Puck was a great partner. He was always optimistic about what the next spot or next day might bring. A cocktail around the campfire was a great place to share that optimism.

He was one of those guys who could fix just about anything and was always more than willing to help. He was a son, husband,



Dale "Puck" Johnson enjoying life.

brother, father, grandpa, uncle, and friend to many. Thankfully, I was one of those friends.

So, I relate this all to let you know a little about my friend Puck and as a reminder that life is short. Cherish your friends and really savor your time in the great outdoors. We're all going to make our last cast someday. For now, there's a hole in my boat.

Just sayin.' 🎣

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PHIL SCHWEIK

Opening Day Muskies *Shallow, warm, slow...success*

"Fish on! Fish on!" This is what I heard as my client and longtime friend smashed the hooks home to a beautiful opening day musky. This memory comes back to me like it was yesterday and I will never forget the look on his face as he brought the fish boatside and I slid the net under her.

I have seen that look many times over the years and a lot of those looks have been on opening day of musky season. Time and

time again the same tactics and principles apply and they generally work very well at putting fish in the boat as we begin our season.

Targeting muskies early in the season is not rocket science and for the most part it is relatively self-explanatory. Look for the warmest water available and work your baits slowly. I primarily fish the Wisconsin River system and its flowages and with that it gives me the opportunity to be able to fish

a variety of different tactics and locations.

When targeting muskies in the early season I like to work incoming feeder streams, openings to the backwaters adjacent to the main river and any weeds if you can find them. The best advice that I can give you is that you cannot go too shallow. I have seen these fish and caught them in less than a foot of water - especially at this time of the year.



Annie Tufto with a beautiful musky.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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JOHN FAUCHER

Wolf River

In it for the long run

NEW LONDON – The Wolf River, a 225-mile-long scenic waterway that begins in central Forest County, offers anglers year-round opportunities. Best known for its seasonal walleye, white bass, sturgeon, catfish and smallmouth bass runs, it also holds abundant crappie, perch, northern pike, trophy musky and bluegill populations.

The Wolf flows through large tracks of undeveloped land. From the Shawano Dam upriver, it is considered a wild, undeveloped river ideal for trout fishing and whitewater rafting. Below the dam it flows through an unimpeded 125-mile stretch of river, often overpouring riverbanks into lowland marshes and flooded forests. Annually, this is where multitudes of baitfish gather and schools of spawning fish migrate.

New London is located roughly 80 river miles downstream from Shawano and approximately 40 river miles upstream from Poygan. Poygan joins Lakes Winneconne, Butte des Morts, Lake Winnebago and Lake Pukaway via the Fox River system. The entire watershed is referred to as the Lake Winnebago Fox-Wolf Basin. All waters joining the Wolf below Shawano Dam are classified as Winnebago System waters.

The first walleyes migrate up the river under the ice in mid-to late February and their numbers continue to increase throughout spring as the ice breaks up and

signals the open water season, usually in March.

Often the first batches of fish arrive at the marshes above Shiocton, and below the Shawano Dam long before some fish even exit the lakes below. Some schools are already far upriver beginning to spawn, as later schools from lakes farther down like Winnebago are just entering the river.

DNR telemetry has shown some fish make the journey, spawn and return to the lakes in as little as a week's time. Others show fish may spend weeks, months and even entire seasons up in the river.

It all depends on factors and feed. Walleye spawn when water temperatures reach between 42-50 degrees F.

"Up-run" anglers target migrating pre-spawn fish on sandbars and shallow water areas with less current. Best methods of fishing for these up-run fish include anchoring and using Wolf River Bottom rigs tipped with a minnow, streamer flies, and jigs.

Down-run anglers target migrating post-spawn fish in faster current on outside bends and down the middle of the river drifting using jigs, crank baits, plastic swim baits, streamer flies and often dragging night crawlers later in the run. Fish that are freshly spawned out use the current to help them coast back towards the lakes as they feed on the easiest prey they can find.



John Faucher holds up a mixed stringer of up-run white bass and down-run walleye on the Wolf River.



Veronica Tautges with a stringer of Wolf River walleye from the 2025 run.

About the time mass walleyes finish spawning, the lake sturgeon start spawning on the rocks near New London and Shiocton. This usually coincides with natural or dam-influenced increases in current volume and water levels. These changes, usually around mid-late April, can create a temporary lull in walleye action but triggers an increase in whitebass and catfish migration and activity.

Mistakenly, many Wolf River anglers believe the walleye run is now over. Instead, when the water rises, walleye will reenter marshes for their rich food sources. Walleye move out of the marshes with rapidly dropping water levels and or rising water temperatures. Depending on the spring and onset of summer, the walleye back-run can last into early July.

Anglers on the Wolf River in May or June

should stay observant. Watch for small, one-to-two-inch minnows skipping the surface of the water and darting all over. These northern pike fry will draw every predator in the system. When observed, cast to this forage base with a jig and green twister tail, tube jig, or a pike-colored or natural-colored Rapala. Expect strikes from feeding walleye, white bass, or smallmouth and largemouth bass. This bite lasts into July. 🎣

John Faucher is a 25-year veteran photographer and journalist who worked at Johnny's Little Shop of Bait on the Wolf River for 38 years. Today, John and his wife Ann own the shop located at 1205 W. Wolf River Ave., New London, WI 54961 in Riverside Park. Connect at 920-982-4802 or www.thelittleshoppeofbait.com.

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CAPT. LEE HAASCH

Summertime in Algoma

On the water and off, limits of fun for everyone

Last year was one for the record books. Extremely mild winter, warm, early spring and the summer ushered in outstanding fishing. The salmon showed up early and kings, coho and pink salmon brought fishing in quality and quantity. Last year was a start of even better things to come in 2025, with all indications pointing to yet another season for the record books. With bait fish numbers on the rise, expect tackle-busting kings to be hitting the coolers this year.

Early spring weather will also bring spring flowers, lots of birds for the bird watchers and an abundance of outdoor activities for the hiking, horseback riding and bicycling enthusiasts. The Ahnapee Trail runs thru Algoma and is part of the Ice Age Trail System. Meticulously groomed, this trail runs 20 miles north to Sturgeon Bay and connects west and south all parts of Kewaunee County. This popular, well used trail system features spectacular country-side views.

Early spring weather will follow what has

started to be a fantastic open water start on the Ahnapee River. This river is a favorite for trout and pike fishermen and if this spring is any indication, the river appears full of tasty trout, pike and bass. And soon kayakers will be paddling the pristine 10 miles winding through the countryside to Forestville and back with some picnic rest stops along the way.

Springtime in Algoma is special and this lakeshore community has a little of everything to offer the outdoor enthusiasts. We are looking forward to a wide-open 2025 and our summer line up of fishing tournaments, festivals, car shows, cruise ship visits and musical events are booked and we look forward to seeing you. This quaint little lakeside community has it all! 🍷

Experience for yourself the great fishery Lake Michigan has to offer. And if you want BIG fish, check out Algoma. For charter information or fishing reports, visit my website at: www.FishAlgoma.com or check out our list of events at Algoma Chamber of Commerce, www.Algoma.org.



Frequent visitors to Algoma are the magnificent Viking Cruise ships that tour the Great Lakes. They are truly a sight to see.

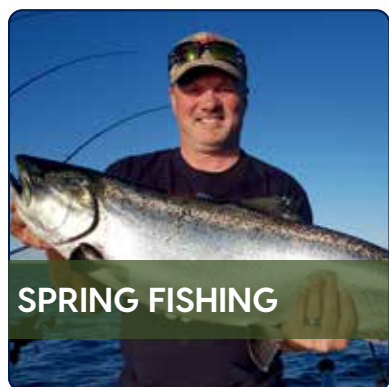
SCHWEIK, FROM PAGE 8

My lures of choice at this time of the year varies greatly from small bucktails and spinnerbaits to Suicks and Bulldawgs. I give them what they want and on any given day it can be one or the other, but most times I have someone throwing a bucktail and the other person throwing a jerk bait or rubber. On occasion I will have somebody throwing a twitch bait, but I still prefer jerk baits as my go-to.

Give these early season tactics a try and I think you will be pleasantly surprised. You may end up catching the largest fish of your lifetime. 🍷

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DICK ELLIS

Flying High

Introduction to fly-tying changes walleye game

“Four years ago, I began fishing the Mississippi River,” Mike Foss said after another late March day hammering walleyes on flies from a snow-swept shoreline near Red Wing. “I thought I knew a little about fishing, but fishing a river compared to a lake, everything is different.”

Decades ago, Foss and I first met on the hardwater of Chequamegon Bay, the doorway to Lake Superior bordering Washburn and Ashland vertical jigging and watching tip-ups for anything willing to cooperate from jumbo perch to lakereels. Friends we became, with Foss writing for OWO over many years leading hunters to bears in Wisconsin’s Zone A near Washburn, waiting out special bucks in the north country, or, just fishing.

Today, the weekly phone and online banter continues. Most recently, our focus is the walleye runs, with Foss in the northwest on the vein splitting Wisconsin and Minnesota and me on the Wolf River system in the south.

“To learn, I went out on a Mississippi float,” Foss continued. “It’s like a giant dock

with a lot of fishermen paying a fee to fish. I wasn’t catching anything, like most people, but there was a kid slaughtering walleyes and releasing everything. I introduced myself, asked him what he was doing, and he introduced me to his streamer set-up. I’ve been making them ever since.”

Foss is always curious enough to strive to improve as a hunter and angler, and had seen enough to buy a fly-making table. Not all flies are made the same, he said, and every dabbler has their own method of turning out a favorite. Mike keeps his flies simple, primarily a light, bucktail hair-dyed purple or chartreuse on hooks from #4 the smallest to #2 the largest. The fly is rarely dressed with minnow or other added enticement. He believes a key is using large eyes to emulate baitfish that attract gamefish.

He uses eight to 10-pound braided reel line, with a three-way swivel leading to a pencil weight of one-ounce or less anchored on a one-foot, six-pound test line that will

hopefully break if snagged, saving the fly. A three-to five-foot, eight-pound mono-leader enables the submerged fly to float above the river floor in the current, with an ultra-slow retrieve or occasional pop enticing strikes.

Foss stresses buying high-quality hooks, keeping them sharp, and discarding leaders that easily becomes frayed or worn with river use. “It’s important after the day to change the leader,” he said. “If I snag a fly three times, I retire it. I watched a kid lose three big walleyes because his hooks weren’t sharp. Then it all comes down to time of run, current flow, and patience.”

“It’s been an excellent spring on the Mississippi from Winona to Red Wing. After four years, I see more walleyes taken on flies than jigs, plastics, crankbaits, hair-jigs or anything else.”

For more information on fly fishing walleyes or his Jinx Streamers, connect with Mike Foss at Fossbear1@gmail.com.



Mike Foss with a stringer of walleyes taken from shore near Red Wing on the Mississippi River with his home-made Jinx Streamers.



Simple and effective, a sampling of the Mike Foss flies tied in his workshop and used for river walleyes.

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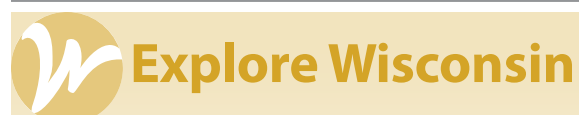
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SPOTLIGHT | **LANGLADE COUNTY**

Experience The Best of Summer

This summer, escape to Langlade County, where scenic beauty, outdoor adventure, and small-town charm come together for the perfect getaway. Whether you're seeking relaxation or excitement, there's something for everyone to enjoy - and plenty of reasons to stay the night!

Langlade County is a paradise for hikers, ATV/UTV riders, mountain bikers, and golfers. Explore the breathtaking Wisconsin Northwoods by hiking the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the thrilling Parrish Highlands ATV/UTV trails. Take a scenic mountain bike ride on the Jack Lake Mountain Bike Trail or golf the three lush public courses.

Water lovers can enjoy Langlade County's 842 lakes, rivers, and trout streams. There's no shortage of fishing, kayaking, and swimming opportunities. Paddle down the crystal-clear Wolf River, perfect for whitewater rafting, or cast a line in one of the area's many fishing hotspots.

Enjoy classic Wisconsin fare at family-owned local restaurants or grab an ice cream cone as you stroll through



historic downtown Antigo.

Summer is the perfect time to experience the Music in the Park series, Antigo Farmers Market, and craft fairs where you can browse fresh produce, homemade goods, and local crafts.

Attend a variety of engaging events in Langlade County,

from the Old Time Plow Days on May 3, Memorial Day Weekend Bullhead Fishing Tournament on Upper and Lower Post Lake, and the Midwest Women's Off-Road Weekend from May 30 to June 1.

The Antigo Lions Roaring Raceway Off-Road Races runs from June 6 - 8. The Midwest Extreme Dirt Track Nationals takes place from June 20 - 21. The Northern Roundup Vintage Weekend Car Show goes from June 26 - 28, and Antigo's Summer Slam & Jam Pickleball Tournament will be held on June 28.

Check out Langlade County's event calendar at <https://www.langladecounty.org/calendars/events-calendar/>

After a day of adventure, unwind at one of Langlade County's welcoming accommodations. From modern hotels and charming cabins to lakeside resorts and peaceful campgrounds, there's a perfect place to rest after your summer explorations.

This summer, make Antigo and Langlade County your Wisconsin Northwoods sanctuary to unwind. Plan your perfect getaway today at www.langladecounty.org!



Come for the Action, Stay the Night



www.CountyOfTrails.org



SPOTLIGHT | OCONTO COUNTY

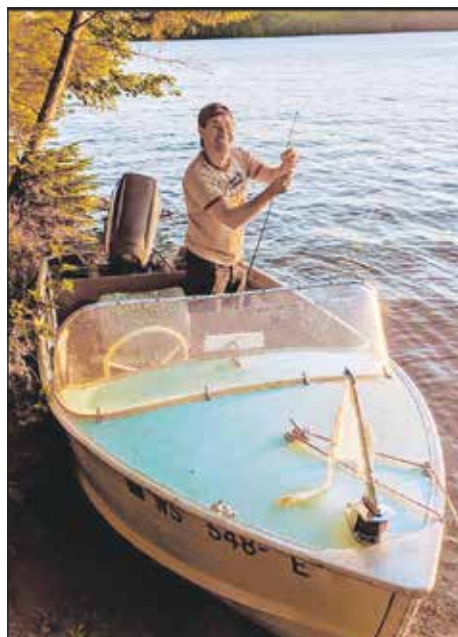


Where Your New Tales of Adventure Wait

Trails, Tails, AND Tales: Explore Northern Oconto County just a short drive from Green Bay, Northern Oconto County is the perfect place to embrace the vibrant transition of spring into summer. As the landscape bursts with new growth, warm weather and flowing waterways, this region offers an exciting blend of outdoor adventures for everyone.

Hit the Trails: Step by Step or Wheel by Wheel explore the variety of Northern Oconto County trails as they fully awaken. Hike through blossoming landscapes to scenic overlooks like Quartz Hill and Butler Rock. The Nicolet National Forest boasts trails for all levels, perfect for family outings. Rev your engines and gear up for ATV/UTV season on interconnected trails throughout the region. Enjoy exploring the Northwoods on four wheels.

Fishing Adventures: The Thrill of the



Tail Cast your line in Northern Oconto County's numerous lakes and rivers, where the flick of a fish's tail promises an exciting encounter. Enjoy excellent family fishing for walleye, pike, bass, and panfish in waters like the Oconto River, Chute Pond, Townsend Flowage and more. Trout enthusiasts can also find pristine streams where the swirl of a tail signals great opportunities throughout summer.

Tales to Remember: Family Fun Northern Oconto County is a fantastic destination for families as spring turns to summer, offering the perfect backdrop for crafting unforgettable tales. Enjoy hiking adventures together, discover scenic spots, and create memories that will last a lifetime (and look great on Instagram), providing stories to share for years to come.

Rest AND Recharge: Your Home Base for Adventure After a day of

exploring the trails, reeling in impressive catches, and creating lasting family memories, you'll need a comfortable place to rest and recharge. Northern Oconto County offers a variety of lodging options to suit every taste and budget. From cozy cabins nestled in the woods perfect for a quiet escape, to welcoming resorts with modern amenities, you'll find the ideal home base for your adventures. Explore our charming towns and discover their unique hospitality.

Plan Your Northern Oconto County Getaway: Escape to Northern Oconto County and experience the beauty and excitement of this vibrant season. With its variety of outdoor activities, warm hospitality, and stunning scenery, it's the perfect place for your next family-friendly adventure, where new tales are waiting to be written. 🌲



SPOTLIGHT | PLATTEVILLE



More to Explore From Our Mining Heritage to The Great Outdoors

EXPLORE OUR MINING HERITAGE

The home of the state's first mining school is now an engineering educational hub known as the University of Wisconsin - Platteville. The college's mining roots also led to the creation of the World's Largest 'M', which stands for 'mining', on a mound approximately five miles from the campus. The 'M' is a public recreation area with 290 stair steps (and three viewing platforms) to the top, where you have a spectacular view of the tri-state area and an opportunity to hike through the woods for a closer look at the mound's geology. At UW - Platteville's Homecoming each fall, the 'M' is lit and a spectacular fireworks display is cast overhead.

Platteville's mining heritage is best showcased by descending into the Bevans Mine as part of a tour through The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. There you will see the conditions miners faced as they hunted for lead and zinc in Southwest Wisconsin. Across town, a historic home - the Mitchell-Rountree Stone Cottage - has been carefully preserved to showcase a founding family's way of life. Both museums are open for tours May through October each year.

GET ACTIVE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Platteville has taken pride in providing a variety of outdoor recreation options. The



CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



SPOTLIGHT | PRAIRIE DU CHIEN



Planning The Perfect Summer Getaway

As spring warms into summer, Prairie du Chien comes alive with exciting events and scenic riverfront charm. Start your adventure Memorial Day weekend (May 24–26) just across the river in Marquette, Iowa, at the Flea Market under the Bridge - perfect for treasure hunting with a view of the mighty Mississippi.

In June, step back in time during the Prairie Villa Rendezvous & Flea Market (June 12–15), one of the Midwest's largest reenactments of the fur trade era. Explore tents filled with handmade crafts, historical demonstrations, and tasty eats.

Later in the month, raise a glass at the Annual Lazy River Beer & Wine Fest on June 28. Sample local and regional brews and wines along the riverside, with live music and unforgettable views. And don't miss the action-packed Great Lakes Watercross Race June 28–29, where high-powered jet skis take over the river with thrilling speed and skill.

Need help planning your perfect getaway? Stop in at the Prairie du Chien Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center, where our friendly staff can help map out your itinerary, share local tips, and make sure you don't miss a thing. Whether you're into history, shopping, or sipping by the Mississippi River, make Prairie du Chien your summer destination! 🍷

For more information call 800-732-1673 or visit us at prairieduchien.org.



PLATTEVILLE, FROM PAGE 15

Platteville Community Arboretum's David Canny Rountree Branch Trail is three miles of paved and lit non-motorized recreation trail open to the public year-round. The trail follows the Rountree Branch, a very scenic Class I trout stream, and features artwork, gardens, outdoor gym, bike repair stations and educational kiosks. Fat tire bike trails as well as cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobile trails are all available in the community. It connects to the paved seven-mile Mound View State Trail to Belmont.

And if you are ready to "tee up" for another great golf season, Platteville and the surrounding area have several scenic golf courses to try out. Test your swing at all of the Grant County golf courses and see where your game has the best results! Choose from Birchwood, in Kieler; Cole Acres, in Cuba City; Hickory Grove, in Fennimore; Lancaster Country Club, in Lancaster; or Platteville Golf and Country Club in Platteville. Check with the individual locations for green fees, golf lessons, equipment rental, and general information.

To learn more, visit www.platteville.com or call the Platteville Regional Chamber and Wisconsin Welcome Center at 608-348-8888. 🍷



2025 MAY & JUNE EVENTS

May 1.....	Fort Crawford Museum Opens
May 15-17.....	78th Alice in Dairyland Finals
May 16-17.....	Rummage Along the River
May 21.....	Villa Louis Opens
May 21-Oct 5.....	Mississippi River Tours
May 24-26.....	Flea Market under the bridge, Marquette, IA
June 7.....	Crawford County Dairy Breakfast
June 12-15.....	Prairie Villa Rendezvous & Flea Market
June 21 & 27.....	Villa Louis Behind the Scenes Tour
June 28.....	Annual Lazy River Beer & Wine Festival
June 28-29.....	Great Lakes Watercross Race













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SPOTLIGHT | ST GERMAIN



As Good as it Gets

A summer week in St. Germain is about as good as it gets. There are long warm days on the lake, lazy evenings by the campfire, and timeless summer events and activities that the whole family can enjoy. Here's a quick guide to some of our main events.

Enjoy an evening of libations, food, and live music during the **"Martinis in May"** contest as local bartenders compete in three categories: People's Choice, Judge's Choice, and Best Presentation. The event takes place Saturday, May 17, 6 - 10 pm, at the Whitetail Inn, 9038 Highway 70 West.

The St. Germain Chamber is excited about a bigger and better **"Tacklebox Tournament."** This open-water fishing tournament takes place Saturday, May 31, 7 am to 4 pm, on St. Germain Area lakes or any Vilas or Oneida County lake. Prizes will be awarded for different species, age groups, and fun categories.

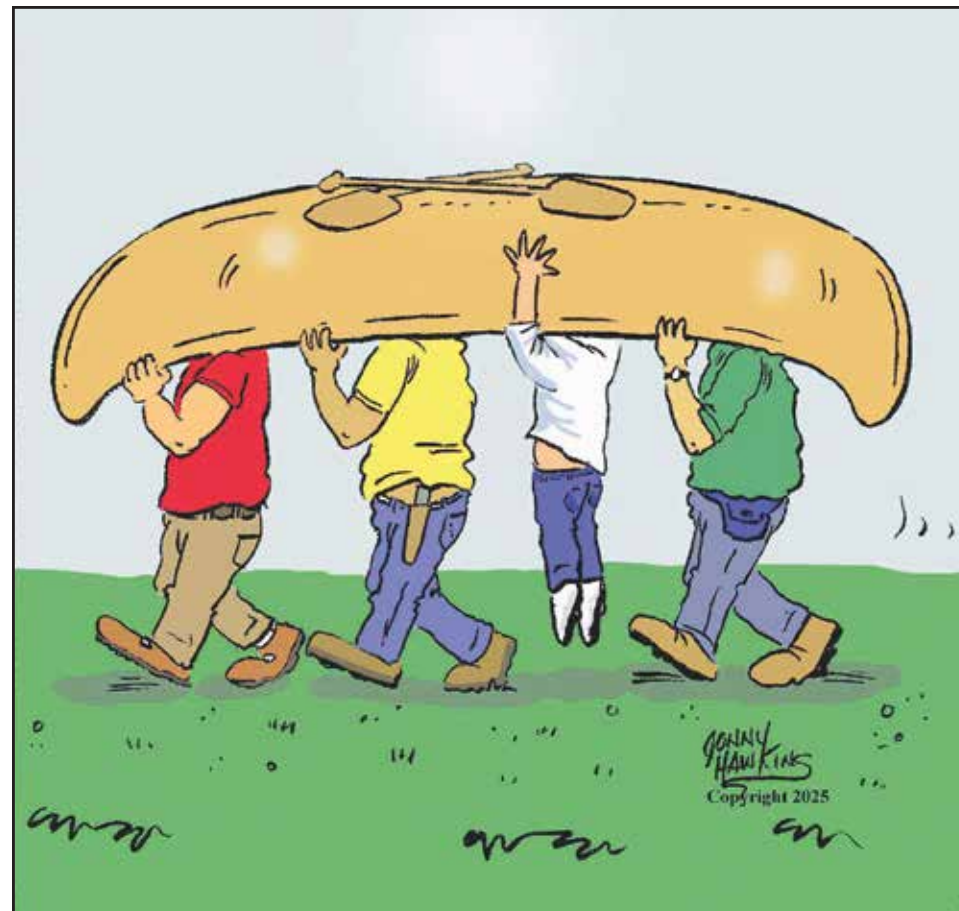
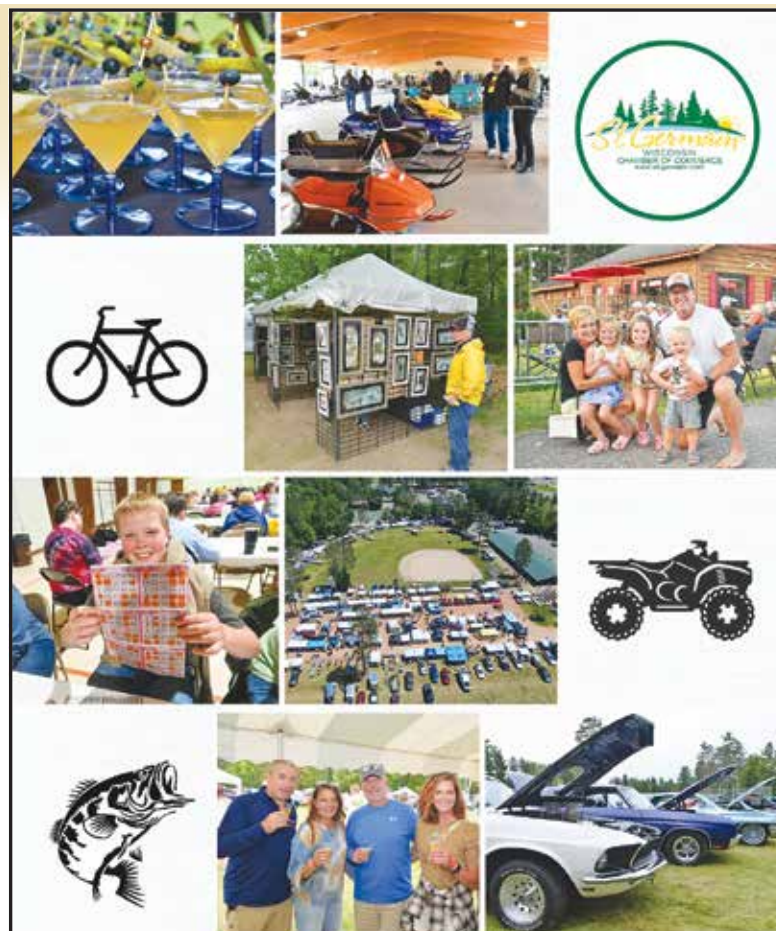
New this year on Friday, May 30, will be a vendor fair at the St. Germain Community

Center, 6 - 8 pm. Area tackle shops, fishing guides, and boat and rental sales representatives will be available to talk to and purchase merchandise.

Stroll among the pines at our **"18th Annual Walk in the Woods Art Fair,"** Saturday, June 14, 9 am to 3 pm, at St. Germain Chamber Park, 473 State Hwy 70. Featured will be regional artists with an eclectic mix of pottery, paintings, photography, wood carvings, homemade candles, and jewelry. Enjoy wine sampling and live music as you walk through the woods to find one-of-a-kind treasures at the St Germain Chamber. Food and beverages will be provided by the St Germain Lions Club.

St. Germain celebrates **Independence Day** all day long, Sunday, June 29, 9 am to 3 pm. Featured events include a craft show. While shopping, enjoy food, music, demonstrations, a parade, fireworks and more. 🎆

For more information, visit our website at st-germain.com/



MAY 17: Martinis in May
MAY 25: Classic Sled Round Up
MAY 31: Tackle Box Tournament
JUNE 14: Walk in the Woods Art Fair
JUNE 29: Independence Day Celebration
JUNE 2-AUGUST 25: Monday Night Bingo
JUNE 25; JULY 9, 16, 23, 30; AUGUST 6: Concert Crawl Series

*In the Heart
of the
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SPOTLIGHT | CITY OF MARINETTE



Menominee Indian Nation: The Stories of Life And Perseverance

Step into the Legacy of the Menominee Indian Nation in Marinette

Bursting with rich heritage and cultural significance, the City of Marinette invites you to explore the deep roots of one of North America's oldest Indigenous tribes—the Menominee Indian Nation. Their origin story begins at a sacred place: the mouth of the Menominee River where it meets the Bay of Green Bay. Here, a towering symbol of tradition stands proud Awasha, the Great White Bear.

This stunning 15-foot statue, a faithful replica of the original hand-carved sentinel, stands at Menekaunee Harbor, marking the Menominee's ancestral homeland. Before Awasha lies a striking marble pentagon memorial, representing the five sacred clans (the Bear, Wolf, Eagle, Crane, and Moose) that formed the heart of the Menominee Nation. Each side speaks to a rich legacy of unity, resilience, and kinship with the land.

Along the harbor's fence line, a vivid historical tapestry tells the unfolding story of the Menominee people through



time - battles fought, lands protected, and traditions passed down. As you stroll the harbor's scenic walking bridge, nature becomes a storyteller. Wild prairie blossoms bloom along your path, fish sticks and wild rice reclaim their place

in the waters, and an osprey nest sits high above to remind us that this land has always been alive with meaning.

This experience is more than a visit—it's a journey through generations. And it's just the beginning.

Marinette's new Menominee Heritage Trail offers visitors a self-guided tour through sacred sites, natural wonders, and historical landmarks tied to the Menominee legacy. Interpretive signage and digital storytelling bring the past to life in unforgettable ways.

Whether you're a history buff, a cultural explorer, or a curious traveler, you'll find inspiration, knowledge, and deep connection here in Marinette.

Come walk the trail. Hear the stories. Feel the spirit of the Menominee. For more information, contact the Marinette Welcome Center at 715-732-4333 and request your informational guide, OR email us at skatzbeck@marinette.wi.us and start your adventure today! 📱



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SPOTLIGHT | KENOSHA



Embrace The Outdoors: Kenosha's Natural Playground Awaits

Kenosha isn't just a charming city nestled along the shores of Lake Michigan; it's also a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. With its stunning lakefront, sprawling parks, and interconnected trail systems, Kenosha offers a diverse range of recreational opportunities for every age and interest. Whether you're seeking adrenaline-pumping adventures or tranquil escapes into nature, Kenosha's outdoor playground has something special to offer.

The jewel of Kenosha's outdoor scene is undoubtedly its Lake Michigan shoreline. Miles of accessible beaches invite sunbathers, swimmers, and those seeking the soothing rhythm of the waves. Simmons Island Park and Pennoyer Park are popular spots for picnics, kite flying, and simply soaking in the breathtaking lake views. For the more active, kayaking, paddleboarding, and sailing opportunities abound, offering a unique perspective of the city skyline and the vast

expanse of the lake. The Kenosha Community Sailing Center provides lessons and rentals for those looking to get out on the water.

Beyond the lake, Kenosha boasts an impressive network of parks and trails. The Kenosha County Bike Trail System offers miles of paved paths perfect for cycling, walking, and running, connecting various points of interest throughout the city and county. Petrifying Springs Park, with its natural beauty and winding trails, is ideal for hiking and exploring the area's unique geological features. Bonus: The on-site golf course and Petrifying Springs Biergarten offer additional fun!

For those seeking a more immersive natural experience, Hawthorn Hollow offers a picturesque group of trails to explore. Guests will enjoy wildlife viewing and the serene beauty of the local ecosystem. Birdwatching aficionados will find several prime locations throughout the nature sanctuary to not just see and hear avian life, but also capture great

photos.

Kenosha also caters to outdoor sports enthusiasts. With dozens of public parks, it's easy to bring your racket and gear to enjoy pickleball, tennis, basketball, pickup baseball games, and so much more. Courts are readily available in various parks, encouraging friendly competition and active lifestyles. Fishing is another popular pastime, with opportunities both on Lake Michigan and in inland lakes and rivers. Anglers can try their luck at catching salmon, trout, perch, and other local species.

As the seasons change, so too does the outdoor recreation landscape in Kenosha. From summer days spent swimming and boating to crisp autumn hikes and peaceful winter strolls, the city offers year-round opportunities to connect with nature and enjoy an active lifestyle. So, pack your gear, breathe in the fresh air, and discover the natural wonders that await in Kenosha's vibrant outdoor playground. Learn more at VisitKenosha.com.



Whether you're seeking adrenaline-pumping adventures or tranquil escapes into nature, Kenosha's outdoor playground has something special to offer.



REEL IN THE MEMORIES.

Head out on the open waters of Lake Michigan for a morning of fishing and fun. Return to shore to discover a downtown filled with eclectic shops, vibrant art galleries, unique museums, and inviting restaurants. Ride an authentic streetcar, explore the lakefront Sculpture Walk, or even climb a lighthouse. Wherever your family's interests lie, Kenosha offers adventure beyond the expected. Start planning your springtime getaway now.

Scan to explore Outdoor Recreation in Kenosha!



[VISITKENOSHA.COM](https://VisitKenosha.com)





SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON



With Port Washington's Experienced Charter Captains And Crews, Expect Limits of Fish And Fun

Unsurpassed fishing, and so much more

Port Washington draws many anglers each season for an incredible fishing experience on the Lake Michigan charter fleet and from shore. Our fish market that can smoke, and even ship, your catch directly home, is another bonus. But with a welcoming touch of New England charm nestled on the big lake just north of Milwaukee, there is so much more our harbor town has to offer. Coming down the hill to Lake Michigan, the Art Deco lighthouse welcomes our visitors. This iconic symbol of the community has kept watch at the end of a half-mile long pier for more than eight decades. Port's unique dining destinations are locally-owned and diverse in their

offerings with many housed in historic storefronts. Brewpubs, barbecue, Mexican, Italian, deli, supper-club fare, or fresh farm-to-table options await. Saturdays, select your favorite fresh food at the downtown farmer's market. Also on Saturdays, in summer and fall, our very popular lakeside beer garden, with food and music, will bring you back again.

Include a stop into the old-fashioned meat market. Even if you don't buy anything, it's worth a visit simply for the smell of it. The winery not only makes and sells wine, but can help you make your own! A number of stores offer outdoor attire and gear for fishing, biking, or paddling. There are also galleries

and boutiques, each offering something unique and different. Our outdoor recreational opportunities are exceptional. Bike, bird, run, or hike on nearby trails.

Plan your Lake Michigan vacation with our visitor's resource guide for hotels, bed and breakfasts, shopping, events, farmers markets, lakefront festivals, and more. Make sure to stop by the historic Pebble House Visitor Center for more information. Don't forget your camera; there are breath-taking views everywhere you look.

For more information, call 800-719-4881, or connect with us at www.visitportwashington.com



You're Invited!



visitportwashington.com



SPOTLIGHT | WATERTOWN



A Perfect Blend of Outdoor Recreation, Small Town Charm

Watertown, nestled along the scenic Rock River, offers visitors a perfect blend of outdoor recreation and small-town charm. Whether you're looking to paddle through tranquil waters or cycle along picturesque trails, Watertown has you covered with convenient kayak and bike rental options.

Kayak Rentals on the Rock River For water enthusiasts, the kayak rental station at Riverside Park, located off Division Street, is a gateway to exploring the beauty of the Rock River. Single and tandem kayaks are available for rent through the InstaPaddle app, making it easy to embark on your adventure. Paddle along the serene river, surrounded by lush greenery and wildlife, and enjoy the peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Rentals are self-serve, ensuring flexibility for visitors to plan their outing at their convenience. Life vests are provided, and safety guidelines are in place to ensure a secure and enjoyable experience.

Bike Rentals at the Interurban Trail Cycling enthusiasts will love the Interurban Trail, accessible from the bike rental locker station off Clark Street. This



trail offers a smooth, paved path perfect for riders of all ages and skill levels. Adult and children's bikes are available for rent, also through the InstaPaddle app. The trail itself is a gem, winding through scenic landscapes

and connecting Watertown to nearby communities. Whether you're seeking a leisurely ride or a more vigorous workout, the Interurban Trail provides an ideal setting to soak in the natural beauty of the area.

Both kayak and bike rental options are designed to make outdoor recreation accessible and hassle-free. Visitors can simply scan a QR code at the rental stations to unlock their equipment and begin their excursion. For those who may need assistance, rentals are accessible to all adventure-seekers, with financial assistance available by contacting the Watertown Park and Rec Department or the Watertown Public Library for a free rental code.

Watertown's kayak and bike rentals are perfect for families, solo travelers, and groups looking to explore the area's stunning scenery. Whether you're paddling on the Rock River or cycling the Interurban Trail, these activities promise unforgettable experiences that showcase the natural beauty of Watertown. Plan your visit today and embrace the adventure! 🚣🚲

To learn more about recreation in Watertown, visit www.visitwatertown.com.

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BIKE RENTALS
AT INTERURBAN
TRAIL TRAILHEAD
Humboldt & Clark St.

BIKE & KAYAK
Rentals

SELF-SERVE
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-Gregg Borneman



Our 36th Year Serving Southeast Wisconsin



Wisconsin at War

Until the War of 1812, Prairie du Chien was an oasis of peace in an otherwise violent and treacherous land of shifting alliances.

Originally French territory, Prairie du Chien was the second second oldest community in what is now Wisconsin and a vital fur industry hub. The area was a place where whites and Native Americans struck deals for their furs, the Tribes forged treaties and alliances among themselves and white and indigenous peoples held family and tribal rendezvous.

After the French and their indigenous allies were defeated by the British and their Native American partners in the Seven Years War (1756-1763), the British took control of Prairie du Chien from the French. Prairie du Chien did not change much under the British, except now it was Britain, not France, that controlled the Northwest Territory fur trade.

Prairie du Chien also came out of the Revolutionary War unscathed. In fact, nothing really changed after the British were defeated and the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1783 which gave America control of much of the land east of the Mississippi. For all intents of purposes, Britain still controlled the fur trade for decades after the war.

That all changed beginning in 1812. Coveting Canada and fed up with the British navy kidnapping American sailors to serve on their ships, the United States declared war on Britain. Whomever controlled Prairie du Chien, controlled the fur trade and also the main routes that Britain could take to attack America.

Col. William Clark of Louis and Clark fame, 61 soldiers and 150 militia men and Indian allies were tasked by the U.S. government with building a fort and solidifying Prairie du Chien as American territory. On their way from St. Louis, the US forces captured some Sioux and Winnebago Indians whose tribes were allied with the English. Upon reaching Prairie du Chien in June of 1814, the

Americans were astonished to see many British flags flying throughout the community. After confirming that the construction of the fort was progressing, Clark returned to St. Louis. Not long after, the Americans massacred their captives, although some historians contend that the prisoners escaped. Whatever the case, the Native Americans believed their people were killed without provocation. When Britain decided to reclaim Prairie du Chien, they had plenty of tribal volunteers.

On July 17, 1812, 160 British soldiers armed with one six-pound cannon and 400 Native American volunteers arrived at Prairie du Chien. The Americans never had a chance. There were approximately only 60 of them to guard the fort. Having fulfilled the terms of their six-month enlistment, most of the militia members made their way back to St. Louis.

Upon their arrival, the British soon nearly sank the Americans' gun boat with cannon fire. The boat then fled downstream with much of the American fort's provisions, its sole cannon and most of the ammunition. Within several days, the Americans were nearly out of food, ball and powder. Furthermore, the British commander informed them that unless they surrendered, his troops and allies would torch the fort. The Americans complied and the British told them to go back where they came from. Which they did.

Not long after the cessation of hostilities in Prairie du Chien, a peace treaty was signed between Britain and the United States, but not before the British set fire to the White House and drove the Americans out of Canada. By 1814, the British had bigger fish to fry. Embroiled in a war with Napoleon, they needed their troops in Europe. Britain agreed to stop press ganging American sailors, the Americans agreed to leave Canada alone, and the boundaries between the two countries returned to those set before the war.

The path was now clear for America's westward expansion. 🍷



Pan-Roasted Skatewing with blue crab and chorizo hash, sweet corn, and citrus beurre blanc

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Texas Elk Osso Bucco with goat cheese polenta, roasted tomatoes, and braising jus





SPOTLIGHT | DE SOTO



De Soto's Playground

Fish, eagles abundant on Mississippi River

The pride of De Soto is the grand Mississippi River and there's no better time to explore all it has to offer. Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is a haven for migratory birds, fish and wildlife. Bald eagle nests can be observed along the banks of the river where it runs past De Soto.

This area of the Mississippi River - Pool 9 - is legendary among anglers who know the Upper Midwest. The fish are plentiful in the Mississippi River at De Soto this time of year and many head to De Soto Bay, which is a hot spot for fishing. Smallmouth bass are usually biting and you can always catch big northern pike and walleye. Pan fish - crappie, bluegill and ring perch - also are usually abundant. The variety of fish is amazing and includes largemouth bass, northern pike, catfish and freshwater drum (sheepshead).

You can fish from the riverbank or a boat - even a

kayak. The boat landing at De Soto has been freshly dredged and is expected to reopen early to mid-May. A barge company in nearby Genoa offers fishing by the dam on floating docks or piers. Fishing tackle is sold at a gas station in De Soto and a cheese store in nearby Ferryville has a great selection of top-notch lures.

The De Soto area offers places to sleep, eat, taste wine, bike and hike. Blackhawk Park has camping and picnic sites at the river. Another place to fish and picnic is the old fish hatchery pond at Veterans Park.

The pond at Veterans Park also will be the site of the first annual Great River Canoe Race August 1 -2. The categories will include canoes and kayaks and one-person or four-person relays.

Interested participants in the race can check the DeSotoWIAreaTourism Facebook page for more information. 📺

By Pamela Cotant



The Mississippi River channel and its backwaters offer plenty of boating opportunities from excursion vessels to fishing boats to sightseeing kayaks.
Photo by Mitch Schiffer.

Great River Canoe Race
Aug. 1-2 in Veterans Park



De Soto: Nestled in the heart of Wisconsin's Driftless Area

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DENNY MURAWSKA

An Aquatic Education

Meat eaters of the misty bogs

Just outside St. Germain, my cousin has a cabin on a small, spring fed lake. It appears to be like many such unnamed ponds throughout Wisconsin. This one is special. Just off either side of a weathered pier lies a unique ecosystem that begs to be explored. Over the centuries, sphagnum moss has lived and died here, creating a vast shelf of peat that creeps into the crystal-clear water. Cautiously stepping onto it, one experiences a strange sensation of the ground heaving up and down like the surface of a waterbed.

As I am often compelled to do, I had to dive in with full snorkeling gear. There, in the spooky dark overhang, hefty bass and bull bluegills lurked. I knew they were there, since I had caught a good share of them. But to go eye to eye with them in their shadowy world was a real kick.

As I stood on the pier casting, I noticed several plant inhabitants of this unique niche.

Carnivorous plants. The standouts were pitcher plants, flanked by smaller sundews. Pitcher plants have leaves that are shaped like a tapering funnel. Bright red vein-like structures capture the attention of insects, along with an irresistibly attractive odor around the opening of the funnel. As insects land, a slippery compound causes them to lose footing and slide down into the watery interior of the trap. Downward pointing hairs inside the funnel prevent escape, and bugs are devoured by digestive enzymes in the liquid.

Sundews use a different strategy. Their leafy traps unfurl like a fern frond to show off bright red hairs tipped with sticky drops of nectar. Any insect that lands is trapped, and the pads curl up and slowly digest the victim. Both types of carnivores evolved to gain extra nitrogen from their ingested proteins, since bogs are nutrient poor. Bogs get their water from rain, while fens have a spring source that provides more nutrients and more abundant life in the pond. Bogs



eventually fill in with vegetation over many years and their acidic water support limited aquatic life. My pond full of fish was a fen.

Be very cautious if you visit such a quaking bog. If you end up falling through the mat of floating peat and sphagnum, it would be like falling through ice except there is no light, and not much to grip onto to haul yourself out. A death trap. The good news is, bogs and fens harboring carnivorous plants are found throughout Wisconsin. Fen State Natural Area near Berlin is an interesting destination.

In popular Door County the Ridges Sanctuary encompasses 1,600 acres of one of the midwest's most biologically diverse ecosystems. Trails and an educational center make this a great family experience. Pickerel Laker Fen near East Troy is a designated natural area in the southern part of the state. Up north, Beulah Bog state natural area and Hunt Hill feature boardwalks to safely get you to where the plants are snapping up bugs. 🦋



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SPOTLIGHT | **BARABOO**

Choose Your Own Adventure

Adventures await in Baraboo

- Explore Wisconsin's most-visited state park
- Take in the circus in the Ringling Brothers' hometown
- Stroll through a historic downtown straight out of a Rockwell portrait

If you visit Baraboo, you won't have to choose. But you might not be able to do it all in one day.

Devil's Lake State Park lies just south of town, affording breathtaking views of the Baraboo Range to those willing to scale the bluff. While hikers and climbers navigate the rocks, paddlers and swimmers glide through tranquil waters below. Devil's Lake is an ideal spot to camp, but make your reservation early!

Baraboo was the site of the Ringlings' first circus performance more than a century ago, and the show goes on each summer at Circus World. Located on the riverbanks where the circus impresarios launched their touring show, Circus World presents two big top shows daily. On June 14, Baraboo will celebrate its circus heritage

with a Big Top Parade through the downtown streets.

Those very streets are home to an eclectic array of specialty shops. Downtown Baraboo's architecture makes it a historic site, but its enticing selection of destinations – from a toy store to a day spa to an old-fashioned soda fountain – also make it a bustling business district.

Enticing restaurants operate downtown, from the Little Village Café on the courthouse square to Broadway Diner, located just down the street in a former dining car. Families will love the Log Cabin Restaurant on the east side of town. Adults will want to try the self-serve beer taps at Draft City Taproom on the west side.

Speaking of beverages, if you find yourself parched after a long day of exploration, Baraboo has you covered. This community is home to three wineries, two breweries and an award-winning distillery. Driftless Glen Distillery operates alongside the Baraboo River, serving gourmet meals and craft spirits next door to Circus World. Tumbled Rock Brewery and Al. Ringling Brewing pair their craft



brews with distinctive menus. Wine enthusiasts can choose between the scenic views of Baraboo Bluff Winery west of town and Balanced Rock Winery to the south. Then again, why choose when you can try both?

So many options await you in Baraboo. Which adventure might you choose? Try them all, if you like, but be sure to block off an entire weekend. Learn more at baraboo.com.



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SPOTLIGHT | **ASHLAND COUNTY**

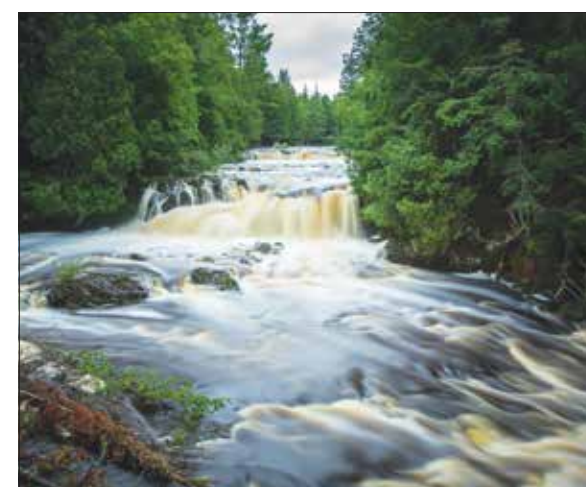
Springtime-Your Best Time for Waterfall Hunting

Springtime is the best time to go waterfall hunting. Ashland county is home to both Copper Falls State Park and Morgan Falls and St. Peter's Dome viewing areas.

Copper Falls has black topped trails, and can accommodate a wheel chair. Morgan Falls is a one-quarter mile hike and great for children.

Spring is a great time to get outside and play, so why not head to Ashland County and find yourself Next to the Water. 🌿

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How will you love Ashland County? Let us count the ways, starting with Copper Falls.



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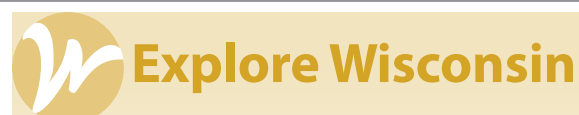


**MAY 16-18**Spring Vintage Weekend
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Memorial Weekend ATV Rally Can't be Beat

Hurley's 39th Annual Memorial Weekend ATV Rally is roaring back this spring—four days of trail-riding, community celebration, and unforgettable Northwoods fun! The excitement begins **Thursday, May 22**, and continues through **Sunday, May 25**, with something for everyone who loves adventure and a good time.

Over 200 Miles of Trails

Explore Iron County's stunning ATV trails with over **200 miles of scenic routes**, perfect for both seasoned riders and newcomers. Join our popular **county-wide poker run** for a chance to win prizes while taking in breathtaking views.

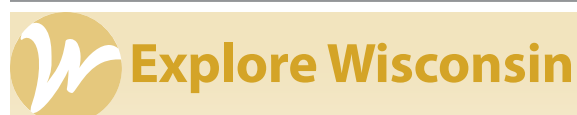
Friday Night Parade – A Community Favorite

Join us on **Friday, May 23 at 7 pm** as ATVs line up for our iconic parade down Silver Street.

- Before the parade, enjoy a **live performance by Liz Mathias from 3:30 - 6:30 pm at Pocket Park in Hurley.**
- **Desiree Walowinski, a Hurley local, will sing the National Anthem live at 7 pm to officially kick off the parade.**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



SPOTLIGHT | **TURTLE LAKE**

A Place to Stay, While You Play

Located at the crossroads of US Highways 8 and 63, Turtle Lake is the perfect destination for a quick getaway up North. Whether you're looking to relax in the great outdoors or stay active and socialize, we offer something for everyone.

Outdoor fun awaits. Turtle Lake is surrounded by beautiful lakes, making it an ideal spot for fishing, kayaking, and enjoying the fresh air. Our campgrounds and hotels provide easy access to ATV/UTV trails that offer the perfect launch point for exploring the stunning landscapes of Barron and Polk Counties. Whether you're an adventure seeker or just looking to unwind, Turtle Lake has it all.

We offer vibrant nightlife and weekend entertainment. After a day of outdoor fun, enjoy Turtle Lake's exciting nightlife. With gaming action and live music every weekend, there's always something happening to keep the energy high.

Upcoming Events to Look Forward To:

Turtle Lake hosts a variety of unique events throughout

the year. Here are some highlights for this summer:

May - June: The Turtle Lake Museum is open the second and third weekends of each month throughout the summer.

May 3 & 4: The Turtle Lake Library Book Sale at the Village Hall – a must-visit for book lovers.

June 13 - 15: The St. Croix Chippewa Tribe hosts an elaborate contest pow-wow that is held at the Ma'koode Arena with hundreds of participants, Native American jewelry, vendors and food trucks.

July 11 - 13: The Turtle Lake Inter-County Free Fair. Food, carnival rides, live music, truck and tractor competitions along with a Grand Parade on Sunday.

August 10: Cars and Crafts in the Park – Vintage cars and crafts. It's a fun-filled event for all ages.

Whether you're fishing, shopping, camping, biking, kayaking, or just relaxing, Turtle Lake is the place to stay while you play. 🐢

Make your plans now and visit Turtle Lake. Your adventure awaits.

HURLEY, FROM PAGE 28

This is one of the best ATV parades in the Midwest—and it just keeps growing!

Food, Music & More

Local establishments along the route will be serving up delicious **food, drinks, and live music** throughout the weekend. Whether you're on the trails or just soaking in the vibe downtown, there's something to satisfy everyone.

Sunday Mud Pit

Close out the weekend with a splash at the **fan-favorite Mud Pit event at noon, Sunday, May 25 behind Iron Horse Saloon**. It's dirty, thrilling, and always a crowd-pleaser! (register on-site 10 am -noon).

Discover the Northwoods

Beyond the rally, Hurley offers **waterfalls, hiking trails, and pristine lakes** perfect for fishing, relaxing, or exploring.

Coming Up Next:

Iron County Heritage Days Festival – Parade Saturday, July 26 at 2 pm

Theme: "Headlines Through History"

Cash prizes for top float—get creative and celebrate iconic moments!

Festival Italiano – Saturday, August 30, 2025

More details in our next edition!

Get Involved & Stay Informed

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On the crossroads of US Highway 8 and US Highway 63, Turtle Lake is the natural choice. Whether you'd like to relax in the fresh air and great outdoors or get out to socialize and stay active. We have it all in Northwestern Wisconsin. With lovely hotels and all sorts of accommodations, Turtle Lake is the place to stay while you play.

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MAY 22-25

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Henry Repeating Arms Commits 100% of Its Operations to the State of Wisconsin

RICE LAKE, Wis., March 18, 2025 — Henry Repeating Arms, one of America's leading firearm manufacturers, is announcing a firm commitment to establishing 100% of its manufacturing operations in the state of Wisconsin. The commitment includes transferring all of its Bayonne, New Jersey manufacturing operations to its newly expanded state-of-the-art headquarters in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and two additional facilities in nearby Ladysmith, Wisconsin. The company is also closing on a third Ladysmith facility in mid-summer 2025. This strategic transition accommodates the need for increased production capacity and better supports the company's future growth driven by innovative firearms design.

Planting its flag firmly in the state of Wisconsin solidifies Henry Repeating Arms' commitment to American craftsmanship in the heart of the Midwest and underscores the company's relentless pursuit of enhancing the quality of its offerings, leading the industry in both aesthetic and functional design engineering, and delivering unmatched value to its growing customer base.

"We are putting all of our eggs in one basket, the Wisconsin basket, because it makes us more efficient, more productive, and allows for more collaboration amongst our design and engineering teams, all while sustaining and enhancing Henry's solid reputation for quality," said Anthony Imperato, Founder and CEO of Henry Repeating Arms. "With about 400,000 square feet of cutting-edge manufacturing operations in four facilities within minutes of each other, Henry Repeating Arms is well positioned for its next chapter."

"This transition allows us to double down on what we do best—making world-class rifles, shotguns, and revolvers right here in the heart of America," said Andrew Wickstrom, President of Henry Repeating Arms. "Our Wisconsin operations have been essential to our success for a long time, and now it is the cornerstone of our bright future."

Henry Repeating Arms has played a principal role in the increased consumer demand for American-made lever action rifles, a platform the company has



The company's entire catalog of more than 200 different rifles, shotguns, and revolvers, including the flagship Golden Boy rifle, will now have a "Made in Rice Lake, WI" barrel roll mark. (Henry Repeating Arms)

been committed to since its founding. As the company introduces new, innovative lever-action rifles and expands into other segments, its increased capacity in Wisconsin accelerates speed to market, streamlines distribution, and enhances quality control to effectively meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's firearm enthusiasts, competitors, hunters, and collectors.

For more information about Henry Repeating Arms and its lineup of rifles, shotguns, and revolvers, visit www.henryusa.com. 🇺🇸

Henry Repeating Arms Launches HUSH Series Optimized for Suppressor Use

RICE LAKE, Wis. – April 25, 2025

Henry Repeating Arms, one of America's leading firearms manufacturers and the world leader in lever-action rifle production, is proud to introduce the HUSH Series. The new line of suppressor-optimized lever-action rifles is the debut release from the company's Special Products Division (SPD), a new R&D initiative focused on forward-thinking innovation. This release marks a significant expansion in Henry's modern firearm offerings with a platform purpose-built to deliver the optimal solution for suppressed shooting and hunting without compromising weight and balance.

Lever-action rifles have long been celebrated for their inherent balance, reliability, fast follow-up shots, and more recently, their innate suppressibility due to a closed action. The HUSH Series builds on those strengths by dramatically reducing the weight forward of the receiver, ensuring the rifle's natural point of balance is preserved even with a suppressor mounted. These refinements define Henry's Ultimate Suppressor Host (HUSH)—offering a quieter, smarter, and more capable solution for modern hunters and shooting enthusiasts.

"Suppressor use is growing rapidly, and for good reason," said Andy Wickstrom, President of Henry Repeating Arms. "It protects hearing, minimizes recoil, reduces game spooking, and improves the overall experience when out at the range. With the SPD's HUSH Series, we deliver the best possible platform for running suppressed without compromise."

Key features across the series include:

- Match-grade 416R stainless steel barrel encased in a tension-wrapped carbon fiber sleeve, manufactured in partnership with BSF Barrels of Delavan, Wisconsin
- Lightweight, skeletonized aluminum forearm featuring M-LOK® accessory slots, designed in collaboration with TAPCO, The American Parts Company
- A checkered, lightweight, matte dark gray American hardwood laminate stock with a rubber recoil pad
- Receiver-mounted forged carbon fiber Picatinny rail for optics mounting
- Threaded muzzle for suppressor use
- Matte-finished magazine tube, lever, and trigger components for a refined aesthetic

"With the HUSH Series, our engineering team started with a clean slate and a clear objective: design the ideal suppressor host from the ground up," said Nick Chappell, Vice President of Engineering at Henry Repeating Arms. "Every design decision, from the carbon fiber tension-wrapped barrel to the aluminum forearm and forged carbon optics rail, was made to reduce weight, enhance balance, and maximize performance. This is the most technically advanced lever-action ever produced, and we're just getting started."



Equipped with a match-grade carbon fiber-wrapped stainless steel barrel, a skeletonized aluminum forearm, a durable laminate buttstock, and a forged carbon fiber optics rail, the HUSH Series offsets the weight gain and balance impact of adding a suppressor. (Henry Repeating Arms)



The HUSH Series from Henry Repeating Arms' Special Products Division is now available, providing hunters and enthusiasts with the ultimate suppressor host. (Henry Repeating Arms)

The HUSH Series is now shipping to Henry's distribution network and will be available at Henry Dealers nationwide in five popular calibers: .45 Colt, .357 Magnum/.38 Special, .44 Magnum/.44 Special, .30-30 Win, and .45-70 Gov't. The MSRP for each model is \$1,999.

Each rifle is proudly built in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and backed by Henry's Lifetime Warranty and 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.

To learn more about the new SPD HUSH Series, visit henryusa.com. 🇺🇸

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BILL THORNLEY

The Communities of Crex Meadows

Sights and sounds grace wildlife area

Each spring the marshlands begin to stir. Little by little the ice sheets retreat and the snowpack disappears. And once again, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area near Grantsburg begins to come to life.

With open water, many birds return, from trumpeter swans and Canada geese to mallards, blue-winged teal, gadwalls and sharp-tailed grouse. Everything becomes a little more accessible. It gets easier to see sandhill cranes, wild turkeys, and bald eagles. One might catch a glimpse of a wandering bobcat, beaver, red fox, or even a solitary grey wolf.

Crex Meadows is a 30,000-acre property in Burnett County, managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources-Bureau of Wildlife Management.

Fox, Lakota, and Chippewa Indians had long used Crex, hunting geese, ducks, and cranes there in the nesting areas. There was other game such as rabbits and deer, and even shaggy bison historically roamed the

area.

White settlement brought changes to the Crex area as large-scale commercial drainage of the marsh began in 1890. The entire ecological pattern of the area was upset as the marsh went from being a productive wet prairie to a dry sedge prairie. Prairie chickens thrived, but nesting ducks and geese declined.

In 1946, the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area was established, and the area thrived and became the popular, successful wildlife area it is now.

Crex is the perfect place to disappear for a few hours. Crex is filled with waterfowl, wildlife, peace and quiet. As the orange glow expands, one can look across the icy still water and spot the motionless and silent silhouettes of thousands of Canada, white-fronted and snow geese, tundra swans and various species of ducks.

Like the blackness of the retreating night, the quiet is only temporary. With first light you hear the musical chirping of a single

wren. That is followed by the cackles of a red-winged blackbird, and that does it. It's as if those first sounds ignite a flurry of motion and sound. Soon the air is filled with the gobbling of turkeys, honking of geese, quacking of ducks, calls of sandhill cranes, yips of coyotes, barking of foxes and drumming of grouse.

Visitors may come across a red fox in the prairie grass, or a red-tailed hawk perched on a tree limb scanning the ground for an unlucky mouse. One may even observe the mating dances of sharp-tails. Watching them, it is easy to see where some Native American tribes historically got their dance steps.

Red-winged blackbirds perch atop wind-blown branches, and a tiny 13-lined ground squirrel nibbles on a seed nearby. Everywhere, overhead and on the ground, sandhill cranes can be seen and heard, looking almost prehistoric as they fly. The sounds of small birds such as sparrows, cardinals, snow buntings, purple finches,



Kings of the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, sandhill cranes are among the creatures most identified with the area. Their throaty calls echo across the marshes as they fly, and it is not uncommon to see large flocks of the birds during the spring and autumn seasons.

downy woodpeckers, chickadees and many others fill the air like a chorus.

Normally, the best of the morning show concludes by around 7:30 am. But the incredible lure of Crex Meadows is strong and timeless. Crex is a place where nature is at home and we are just passing through.



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DICK ELLIS

Wolf Tracks

Delisting Bill Clears House Natural Resources Committee

In April, a federal bill that would remove the gray wolf from the **Endangered Species List** and ensure that the action is not subject to judicial review cleared the House Natural Resources committee. **The Pet and Livestock Protection Act** would restore authority back to state lawmakers and state wildlife officials to control the gray wolf population, and is headed to the full House of Representatives for a vote.

“The damage to pets, livestock and wildlife from an unmanaged wolf population can no longer be ignored,” said Wisconsin Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07), co-sponsor of Bill H.R. 845 with 32 members of congress. “The gray wolf has exceeded federal and state recovery goals. It’s time to take the next step, delist them, and let people closest to the gray wolf manage their population levels.”

In 2020, the Department of the Interior and the **US Fish and Wildlife Service** under President Trump delisted the Gray Wolf in the lower 48 states through a process that included the best science and data available. Despite ample evidence of the Gray Wolf’s recovery, California Judge Jeffrey White unilaterally relisted the Gray Wolf under the **Endangered Species Act** in 2022. The Pet and Livestock Recovery Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to reissue the 2020 Department of the Interior final rule that delisted gray wolves in the lower 48 states.

Support for the Pet and Livestock Protection Act include: Hunter Nation, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), Public Lands Council (PLC), National Rifle Association (NRA), Safari Club International (SCI), International Order of T. Roosevelt (IOTR), Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Wool Growers, New Mexico Cattle Growers, Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association, Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Cattlemen’s Association, Nebraska Cattlemen, and Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association.

“The delisting of the gray wolf is a policy change we have been fighting for since our founding,” said Keith Mark, President of **Hunter Nation**. “The recovery of the gray wolf is an incredible conservation success story that should be celebrated. This legislation allows each state to manage the now recovered wolf population just as they manage all other wildlife within the state. The best part of the legislation is the provision that prevents judicial review of the legislative action which will preclude anti-hunting groups from using activist judges to interfere with sound, science-based conservation.”

Wolf Advisory Committee Applications to be Reviewed

The DNR will be reviewing applications received from Wisconsin residents prior to the May 4th deadline seeking to serve on the **DNR Wolf Advisory Committee**



01-05-2016 Lincoln County 1 Wolf

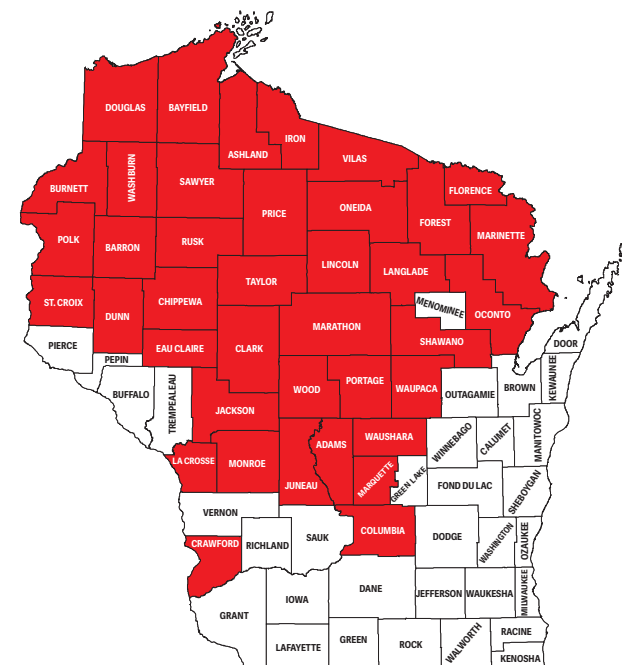


01-22-2025 Sawyer County 2 Wolves

(WAC). The purpose of the WAC is to assist the DNR with implementation of the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan. Approved in 2023, the plan, as quoted from a DNR media release, “details the objectives, strategies and products that will help guide wolf conservation and management efforts in Wisconsin. The WAC provides input and recommendations to the DNR on various topics, including policies, plans, season structures and harvest quotas.”

The WAC will be comprised of relevant DNR staff, representatives of government agencies/entities, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, **Wisconsin Ojibwe tribes** and up to **10 stakeholder seats**. DNR statements introduce the stakeholder seats, divided evenly among five categories (two each) as “structured to represent a broad and balanced spectrum of interest groups and viewpoints.”

On Wisconsin Outdoors publishers strongly believe that less than forthright contributions to wolf management in particular by Ojibwe Tribes and anti-hunting forces



Credit: Hunter Nation

including the US Humane Society, other radical left stakeholders and the DNR itself are responsible for wolf mismanagement, and the decimation of Wisconsin deer numbers and deer hunting. We also believe untruthful media coverage of the wolf in Wisconsin is a major contributor to severe challenges to our hunting heritage. On Wisconsin Outdoors encourages close scrutiny of the DNR,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

WOLVES, FROM PAGE 33

Wolf Advisory Committee and the media moving forward. Our own opinions stem from vigilant observation with DNR and stakeholder groups. OWO welcomes your scrutiny of our work as well.

Stakeholder group definitions as provided by DNR include:

Hunting and Trapping Interests:

Organizations whose mission includes ensuring the hunting and trapping heritage in Wisconsin remains strong **while embracing changing societal values**, specifically promoting the use of regulated harvest as a primary tool to manage wildlife species.

Agriculture and Ranching Interests:

Organizations whose mission includes ensuring the rural agriculture or ranching lifestyle in Wisconsin remains strong, specifically promoting the use and advancement of **a wide array of abatement measures** to effectively resolve wolf conflicts.

Environmental interests: Organizations whose mission includes ensuring the sustainability of wildlife and wildlife habitats in Wisconsin, **specifically promoting wolf-related coexistence as part of maintaining healthy ecosystems**

and natural landscapes.

Conservation Science and Education

Interests: Organizations whose mission includes the conservation of wildlife in Wisconsin through science-based management and educational outreach, specifically promoting sound science in management decision-making and sharing science-based public educational outreach on wolves.

At-Large, Unaffiliated Interests:

Available to any Wisconsin residents who are generally interested in and/or affected by wolves and wolf management (as detailed on their application and determined by the department). It is expected these members would provide viewpoints that may not be captured by other organization representing specific interests.

For an introduction to why On Wisconsin Outdoors is skeptical of DNR **wolf Management** and the **Wolf Advisory Committee**, visit our homepage at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Click on "On Wisconsin Outdoors Wolf Series".

OWO Informal Wolf Census Continues

On Wisconsin Outdoors' ongoing,

informal wolf population census continues. Please send your trail cam photos, videos or hand-held camera shots of wolves in Wisconsin to wolves@onwisconsinoutdoors.com. List the counties where the photos were taken, the date, and verify the number of wolves visible in each photo. Your name will not be published. Red coloring on the adjacent map represents counties from which we have already received photos from readers over the last 18 months.

Accurate population numbers are imperative to proper science-based management and a necessary starting point prior to any action, including hunting or refraining from a hunt can take place. It is not helpful to this goal that DNR did not issue an over-winter wolf population estimate for 2024, citing a high rate of failure in GPS tracking collars and a lack of survey tracking snow in the winter of

2024. The annual report is mandated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, but did not include the population estimate for the first time since Wisconsin began producing the summary in 1980. It is also most telling and a clear threat to our hunting heritage that the DNR did not include a numerical population goal in the new Wolf Management Plan.



Explore Wisconsin



SPOTLIGHT | ELKHORN

A Summer's Worth of Reasons to Visit

Warm weather means that gardens are blooming and the farmers' markets are coming! Be sure to visit downtown Elkhorn for the Saturday on the Square fresh market kicking off May 24 and running through August 30 this year. Saturdays on the Square is open from 9 am - 1 pm where you can enjoy a variety of vendors from local artisans to area farmers with their fresh picked produce and hand cut flowers. Local honey, baked goods and beautiful handmade pottery can all be found downtown Elkhorn at Saturdays on the Square.

Locals and day trippers alike love to celebrate the spring and summer season at The Apple Barn Orchard and Winery. Visit the 40 acre farm and stroll the orchard, pick through the strawberry patch and don't forget to swing through the wine room for daily tastings. The gift shop is stocked with seasonal gifts, quaint merch and tasty cheeses.

Stop by the neighbors, Duesterbeck's Brewing Company (located one mile down the road), and check out the newly built barn brewery where you can check out live

music and enjoy a variety of freshly brewed flights and taps.

Elkhorn is waiting for you to explore its outdoor amenities this spring and summer. Fishing, hiking, mountain biking and a quick round of nine all await you right here in Elkhorn. Check out Alpine Valley Resort and Evergreen Golf Club for all your golfing needs.

Whether you choose to navigate on four wheels or two, there's always great shopping and eating to celebrate in Elkhorn. No matter what time of year, there is always something unique and fun to enjoy with friends and family. Come see for yourself! #53121FORFUN.

Head to Elkhorn for the following special events:

- Spring Food Truck Festival - May 17
- Antique Flea Markets - May 18, June 29, August 10 and September 28
- Bacon Fest - June 5 - 7
- Elkhorn RibFest - July 9 - 13

For the full calendar of events go to visitelkhorn.com

TWO-WHEEL FUN
Elkhorn, WI

WWW.VISITELKHORN.COM

Bob's Bear Bait

Avoiding the big three in baiting mistakes

Are you making these baiting mistakes? The following are the top three mistakes we see year after year and how you can avoid them:

1] Not Using Scents All Season

Bears can smell seven times better than a bloodhound and can even pick up smells from over a mile away. Scent lures are what makes a bear curious and interested in coming into your site and will keep them coming to your site all season long. Scent will also attract new bears.

Scent lures can draw a new bear and the regulars rely on it to know whether or not you recently baited. Many mature bears will hang back in the woods 100-plus yards downwind. If they don't smell a strong, tasty odor, they will assume you haven't baited and that it's too risky to check.

2] Setting Up Bait Sites Too Late

We're seeing more and more hunters setting up their sites later in the season, even though in Wisconsin you can start baiting in April. While hunters or guides that bait in the same area year after year can get away with it, you might not. On property that rarely gets baited for bears, or if you're hunting public land, the earlier you can start the better! Don't start later than July 4th. This gives you plenty of time to get a site established, and if you find out there's no bears in that area, you have time to set up a new one.

If you have the means, start even earlier. Bears in Wisconsin are looking for a mate from mid-May to July and during this time they are covering a lot of miles. This is a great time to bring some new bears to the area that would otherwise not know you

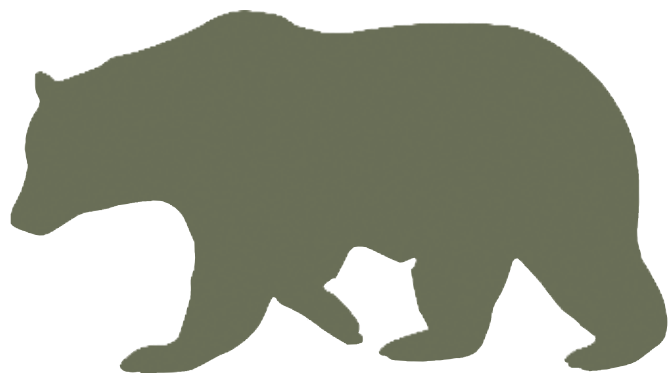
were there had you started baiting later. While these bears might move on shortly after finding your bait site, they keep it stored in their memory as a great place to catch a quick bite. It might just make your season come September.

3] Skimping On Bait

While bears aren't known for being picky, you'd be surprised what bears turn down. You'd think serving delicious cookies essentially on a silver platter would be every bear's dream, but if your area is heavily baited, the neighboring bait sites might just be more appealing. With the number of Wisconsin bear hunters increasing, competition between neighboring bait sites can be fierce.

Find out what your neighbors are using for bait and use something different. Secondly, don't make the top two mistakes listed above. Lastly, don't skimp on bait. Sure, if you start early in the season, buy something cheap and go light in volume. By the middle of July, you should be providing a high-quality bait along with a variety of flavors. Change up the flavors daily, which is easy to do with toppings like peanut butter, fruit fillings and frosting. You'll quickly find out what their favorite treat is and what they can do without.

Bob's Bear Bait has locations in Appleton, Birnamwood, Tomahawk, Phelps and Ishpeming and has stocking bait at Superior Sport & Feed in Crystal Falls, Michigan. Stay up to date with our latest news and sales on Facebook. To see a list of our bait or locations, go to bobsbearbait.com. If you wish to speak to Bob directly, email him at sales@bobsbearbait.com or call (920) 419-1238. Don't forget to stock up early for the best goodies here at Bob's Bear Bait, your one stop shop for all your baiting needs!



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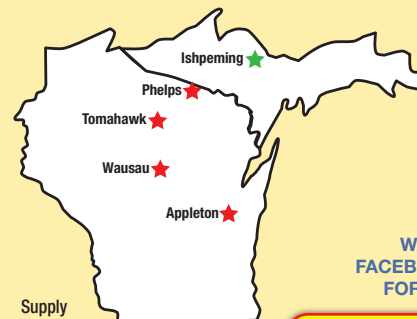


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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

A Historical Shooting Journey

Skeet - the forgotten clays game

A brief history: Back in 1920 two New England grouse hunters wanted a clays game to simulate some of the shots they encountered in the field. They invented a game they called “shoot around the clock” using a full circle, throwing both singles and pairs of targets. Later they condensed the game into a semi-circle with eight stations to save on space. Ironically, just about the same time, shooters in Great Britain were inventing a game they called sporting clays. The idea was the same: throwing pairs of targets and simulating shots taken at game in the field. In a contest to re-name the game in 1926, a lady won a \$100 top prize using the Norwegian word for “shoot” (skyte) for the new name.

During WWII skeet was a valuable training tool for teaching the principles of aerial gunnery to new recruits. On a range in the Nevada desert, skeet targets were shot from the back of a pickup truck that drove along the course.

This taught future machine gunners how to estimate leading flying targets. The heyday of skeet shooting was the 1950s -1960s, with big Hollywood stars of the time engaging in it. Robert Stack of “The Untouchables” fame held two world records, and Rick Jason from “Combat” was an avid skeet shooter. In 1968 Skeet shooting became an Olympic event, and legendary US Olympic shooter Kim Rhode won gold medals in six consecutive Olympics from 1996 - 2008.

Targets are thrown from the High House (10 feet off the ground) or Low House (three feet off the ground) with the High House target thrown first. After the singles, a pair of targets were then thrown. Twenty-five total targets engaged from eight stations set in a semicircle. The final station, number eight, is in the center of the course and requires some fast shooting! Try visualizing how to take the simultaneously thrown pairs, and remember to follow



through. If you hit both targets with one shot, you have to take the pair over.

Skeet shooters use shorter barrels and open chokes like cylinder and improved cylinder. Semi-auto or over/unders are the preferred shotguns. Light loads of size eight or nine shot are used. The same shotgun you use for sporting clays will work with more open chokes installed. My advice, if you have never shot skeet before, is to have an experienced shooter guide you through the round. Back in the mid-1980s when sporting clays took American shotgun sports by storm, skeet was already waning in popularity. Today only a few clubs still offer skeet shooting. 🎯

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Wern Valley offers the finest in upland bird hunting and a professional full-time staff dedicated to sportsmen and women. Our nationally recognized sporting clays course and 5-stand are open to the public. Wern Valley is located just minutes from most of Waukesha County and only a half hour west of Milwaukee, WI. Bring along your family, shooting buddies, or your four-legged companion and see all that Wern Valley has to offer!



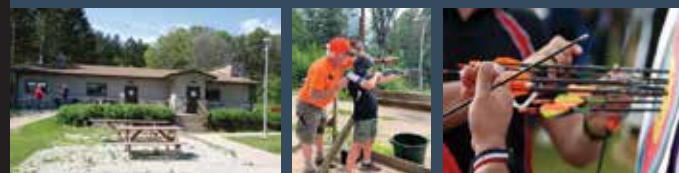
For more information, visit wernvalley.com or call 262-968-2400

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For more information, visit mcmillersportscenter.com

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Memorial Day - A time to honor, mourn

*Publisher's Note: **Memorial Day**, observed annually on the last Monday of May, was established to honor and mourn United States military personnel who have died in the service of their country. The following information was received by **On Wisconsin Outdoors** from the **White House** as introductions to President **Donald J Trump's Proclamations of Remembrance honoring 250th anniversaries of the Battles at Lexington and Concord, and Patrick Henry's speech, "Give me Liberty or Give me Death."***

We remember now the first to fall. And we remember the one million Americans who have died for our freedoms since. Join us too in never forgetting that Patrick Henry's message is timeless. American freedoms will always demand defending by Americans, with eyes on

the olive branch first. Start by passing down stories of American history to generations yet to follow, the most respectful and necessary acts to honor and mourn.

We appreciate the ultimate sacrifice of the fallen across the generations. And the American freedoms we have today earned with their lives.

To read these stories as submitted by the White House and Donald J. Trump's Proclamations of Remembrance of the 250th anniversaries of the Battles of Concord and Lexington and Patrick Henry's speech, connect with our homepage at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Click on First to Fall posted next to this posted online issue.

Dick Ellis, Publisher

First to Fall The Battles of Lexington and Concord

Two and a half centuries ago, a small band of minutemen answered the call of freedom in the battles of Lexington and Concord, the first major armed conflict of the Revolutionary War. We honor the memories and remember the sacrifices and courage of every hero of liberty who gallantly shed his blood for the cause of independence on April 19, 1775.

After years of intensifying frictions and escalating hostility between the British Crown and the American Colonies, all avenues to peace and diplomacy had been exhausted, and it became clear to the patriots that war was inevitable. Following the Boston Massacre, the oppressive Intolerable Acts, and the lasting grievance of taxation without representation, the colonists began organizing militias as a final recourse in defense of their right to self-government.

Reflective of this, Patrick Henry had risen to the pulpit of St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia a month before the battles on March 23, 1775 to address the Second Virginia Convention in a fateful turning point in America's epic struggle for Independence. His speech included the immortal words passed down through generations. "Give me Liberty, or give me death!"

Henry delivered his stirring address before more than 100 delegates. His audience included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and many of the statesmen who would go on to sign the Declaration of Independence.

With British tyranny on the rise American leaders deliberated whether to continue their pursuit of peace, or as a final recourse, to take up arms in rebellion. Henry, a respected lawyer who had recently

served as a delegate to the Continental Congress, arrived at the Convention with one goal in mind: to galvanize militiamen into securing "our inestimable rights and liberties, from those further violations with which they are threatened."

Overcome with righteous indignation, Henry rose from his seat with no notes in hand, boldly speaking to his fellow Virginians: "If we wish to be free," he said, "we must fight!"

At a moment when America's fate hung in the balance, his words sparked daring action in the souls of patriots, fortified the cause of freedom, and set America on the path to ultimate triumph over forces of tyranny and oppression. By a narrow margin, the Second Virginia Convention passed the resolution to form a militia and take the first critical step to Independence.

"It is not now easy to say what we should have done without Patrick Henry," Thomas Jefferson later wrote. "He was before us all in maintaining the spirit of the Revolution."

The British regime's reign of tyranny reached a breaking point when, in his fearless midnight ride from Boston, Massachusetts, Paul Revere announced the news that the Redcoats were marching to Concord, Massachusetts, to arrest colonial leaders and seize American arms. By the time they reached Lexington at dawn, the British encountered 77 intrepid American minutemen, led by Captain John Parker, boldly standing their ground in defense of their independence. The surprised British fired a volley, mortally wounding eight American patriots; the first American soldiers to lay down their lives for our emerging Nation.

The British ambush at Lexington became known as the "shot heard 'round the world,"



A shot heard round the world. The battles of Lexington and Concord saw the first Americans fall for freedom on April 19, 1775.

prompting thousands of brave young men to leave behind their homes and livelihoods to fight for our freedom on the frontlines of the American Revolution. The greatest fight for liberty in the history of the world had begun.

Later that morning, the Redcoats arrived at Concord to find and set fire to patriot military supplies. At the sight of rising smoke from atop a lofty hill, the colonists believed the Redcoats were burning the town, provoking them to advance to the North Bridge. As Captain Isaac Davis, whose company stood at the front of the column, said of his soldiers gearing up to take on the Redcoats, "I haven't a man who is afraid to go."

As 400 militiamen descended down Punkatasset Hill toward the North Bridge, the startled British opened fire, killing 49 Americans, including Captain Davis. "Fire, fellow soldiers, for God's sake, fire!" shouted Major John Buttrick of the Concord militia at the sound of the discharging muskets, sending the British retreating to Boston in a resounding victory for colonial forces. For the next 12 miles, the patriots relentlessly pursued the Redcoats, ambushing them

from behind trees, walls, and other cover. As one British soldier is said to have recalled, the Americans "fought like bears, and I would as soon storm hell as fight them again."

April 19, 1775, stands to this day as a seminal milestone in our nation's righteous crusade for liberty and independence. An extraordinary army of American minutemen defeated one of the mightiest armies on the face of the earth and laid the foundation for America's ultimate triumph over tyranny.

Two and a half centuries later, their fortitude remains our inheritance, their resolve remains our birthright, and their unwavering loyalty to God and country remains the duty of every American patriot. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our Nation's independence next year, we honor the valiant men who fought in defense of their sacred right to self-government, we renew our pledge to restore our republic to all of its greatness and glory, and we commit to rebuilding a country and a culture that inspires pride in our past and faith in our future. 🇺🇸

Editorials are the opinions of the OWO Publishers and do not reflect the opinions of our advertisers or contributing professionals.

JOHN ELLIS

Election Integrity in Wisconsin-Part Eleven

How Wisconsin's state lawmakers deny the will of voters

The results below from Wisconsin's April 1st election, provide a comparison between the Supreme Court race and the Voter ID Referendum.

Supreme Court Election

Votes for Crawford 1,286,748

Votes for Schimel 1,050,816

Difference 235,932

Voter ID Referendum

Votes for 1,418,637

Votes against 842,534

Difference 576,103

Votes for Voter ID Referendum vs. Votes for Crawford

Votes for Voter ID Referendum 1,418,637

Votes for Crawford 1,286,748

Difference 131,889

Votes for Voter ID Referendum vs. Votes for Schimel

Votes for Voter ID Referendum 1,418,637

Votes for Schimel 1,050,816

Difference 367,821

The Supreme Court election was widely

understood to be the most important race on the ballot, followed by the race for Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Voter ID Referendum. Brad Schimel was known to be the Supreme Court candidate who would uphold voter ID laws, and Susan Crawford was known as the candidate who would strike them down.

Wisconsin voters passed the Voter ID Referendum with **1,418,637** votes, and by a margin of **576,103** votes. **The 1,418,637** votes for the referendum exceeded Crawford's Supreme Court votes by **131,889** votes.

For the Supreme Court results to be legitimate, **367,821** people who voted *for* the Voter ID Referendum, had to *not* vote for Schimel in Wisconsin's most important race.

As unlikely as the Wisconsin Supreme Court race results were, they were also completely unverifiable. During the April election, as in all recent elections, the Wisconsin state lawmakers allowed:

- A. Four million ineligible voter names to be on the Wisconsin Elections Commission's statewide voter

registration list. The millions of ineligible names are an obvious source of unverifiable fraudulent ballots created and counted in Wisconsin's elections.

- B. 250,000 people who are in Wisconsin legally but ineligible to vote, to have driver's licenses that are identical to those given to people who are eligible to vote. Because a driver's license is all you need to register, the ineligible voters with the licenses can easily vote.

These two easily corrected problems with Wisconsin's election system, combined with the fact that every vote counted can't be tied to a verifiable eligible voter, make it impossible for the actual will of Wisconsin voters to be known.

Since *On Wisconsin Outdoors* began reporting on *why* Wisconsin's elections are unverifiable two years ago, not one state lawmaker has challenged our reporting because they can't. The reporting is true and our numbers are accurate. Their tactic has been to remain silent and keep the people of Wisconsin in the dark.

Wisconsin is *not* a deeply divided

state. The illusion of division is created by Wisconsin's unverifiable elections that were put in place, and are allowed to continue, by the state lawmakers from both parties. Wisconsin's unverifiable elections allow the state lawmakers to deny the will of voters, stay in power, and continually raise money for the *next* unverifiable election.

The lawmakers include Democrat Governor Tony Evers (608-266-1212), Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (608-237-9163), Republican Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (608-266-2056), and all of Wisconsin's rank-and-file legislative members. To find out how to contact your state legislator go to legis.wi.gov.

The process of restoring verifiable elections in Wisconsin has started. Two resolutions submitted to the Republican Party of Waukesha by *Joan Beglinger* have passed unanimously through the county and district levels, and will now be voted on at the state convention in May (See adjacent sidebar). After verifiability is restored, we will find that Wisconsin is much more unified as a state than the lawmakers have led us to believe. 🗳️

JOHN ELLIS

Resolutions to be voted on at the Republican Party of Wisconsin State Convention

Joan Beglinger, a former independent candidate for Wisconsin Governor and the sister of OWO Publishers Dick and John Ellis, recently joined the Republican Party of Waukesha to facilitate change from within.

Her first order of business was to submit two resolutions to the Party that call on Wisconsin's state lawmakers to correct problems that make Wisconsin's elections unverifiable.

The resolutions:

Require that only currently eligible voter names be on the State of Wisconsin Registered Voter List, and that the list be made available to any citizen of Wisconsin, upon request, free of charge. There are currently more than 4 million ineligible names on the list, and a

copy of it costs \$12,500.00.

Require that all Wisconsin Driver's Licenses issued to lawful non-citizens be clearly designated as "Not for Voting." There are currently 250,000 people in Wisconsin who are ineligible to vote, who have driver's licenses that are identical to those of people who are eligible to vote.

The resolutions have passed the Waukesha County and Wisconsin State District Caucuses, and will now be voted on at the Republican Party of Wisconsin State Convention to be held on May 16th and 17th.

The only people who would vote against the resolutions, are those who want Wisconsin's unverifiable elections to continue. 🗳️

A Reader's Excellent Example

The email below was forwarded to *On Wisconsin Outdoors* by a reader in New Berlin. It was sent to his Wisconsin State Representative, **Dave Maxey**, and provides an excellent example for those of you who want to ask your own legislators the same questions. You can find out who your legislators are at legis.wi.gov. We'll let you know how Mr. Maxey replies.

Greetings to you. My wife and I are very long-time residents of New Berlin. I have a few simple questions that I would like you to address below.

The WEC maintains the official list of people who can vote. The list has over 7.6 million names on it. Yet by all accounts only about 4.6 million adults age 18 or older live in Wisconsin. Do you materially disagree with these numbers? Yes or no.

If you have no material disagreement with these numbers, then by employing the simplest math, there are at least 3 MILLION ineligible voters on the official state of Wisconsin voter roll. Do you concur? Yes or no.

If you concur, where have the Wisconsin assembly and senate been these past four years? This is grotesquely unacceptable.

Publishers Note: The actual number of names on the WEC's list is **8.2 million**.

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