

On Wisconsin Outdoors

With the Dick Ellis Experts

www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com

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Showtime *Wisconsin winter brings the outside in*

By Dick Ellis

Two things were certain this week strolling down the aisles of the Milwaukee Boat show at State Fair. When the “outside” comes inside and the outside is below zero anyway, people will indeed come in. And, there’s a lot more shows where this one came from across the great state of Wisconsin over the next three months. Almost every one of them, it seems, is asking for promotion. They would like to see your face in their community...and your wallet no doubt. But there are many excellent out-

door extravaganzas out there, often assisting a worthwhile cause.

Pheasants Forever National Pheasant Fest 2009 presented by Cabela’s will be held February 6, 7 & 8 at Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. National Pheasant Fest 2009 will combine a national consumer show, habitat seminar series, and family events complete with puppies, tractors, shotguns and art. The Fest promises to be the country’s largest event for upland hunters, sport dog owners, and wildlife habitat conservationists. To order tickets and for more information, connect with www.PheasantFest.org.

The Wisconsin Deer Classic and Hunting Expo will be held February 27- March 1 at Shopko Hall, Veterans Memorial Complex, Green Bay. Seminars are highlighted by top hunting authorities including deer biologist C.J. Winand, and scouting expert Steve Bartylla. The Classic will feature displays, outfitters, antler contest, DNR Wall of Shame, State Championship taxidermy competition, kids’ archery and air rifle competition. Roger Sigler’s antler dogs which find sheds and track, Andrea and Amy’s Get Wild

gourmet venison recipes will also be back by popular demand. For more information connect with 920-434-SHOW, 800-628-7971 or www.greenbaysportshows.com.

The Northeast Wisconsin Sport Fishin’ Show will be held March 6-8 at Shopko Hall in Veterans Memorial Complex, Green Bay. The show “with more fishin’ info” features Musky Master Bob Mehsikomer, Mike Mladenik on finding and catching big fish, Tas Kaliska with a woman’s perspective, and Lee Haasch with a Lake Michigan focus. One room will be dedicated to “all muskies.” Displays, demonstrations, a trout pond and attractions for every fishing enthusiast. Lures, boats, motors, electronics, charters, resorts, publications, trout ponds and tons of tackle at great pre-season prices. For more information connect with 920-434-SHOW, 800-628-7971 or www.greenbaysportshows.com

The Wild Game Chili Cook Off will be held March 28, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Fox River Christian Church, S46 W24130 Lawnsdale Rd., Waukesha, WI 53189. The event will feature legendary deer tracker R.G. Bernier, who has devoted much of his life to studying, writing, photographing, lecturing and hunting “the greatest animal God ever created” the whitetail deer. He is northeastern



No matter your outdoor passion, shows from Green Bay to Sparta and Minocqua to Madison will offer something for everyone in February, March and April.

field editor for Deer & Deer Hunting magazine and hunting editor for The Outdoors Magazine. For event information, including mini-seminars, raffles, silent auctions and the Wild Game Chili Cook Off, contact Dave Bohn at widbohn@yahoo.com or 262-970-9533.

Look for several new elements at the **Wisconsin Deer & Turkey Expo** April 3-4-5 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison along with special events and regular features. The new features at the extrava-



Hunting and fishing shows bring the outside in throughout Wisconsin in February, March and April.

ganza celebrating its 25th year include a deer decoying demonstration area and information seminars, John Zawaski's broadhead collection, firearm's answer man, Outdoors without Limbs for the disabled, and antler measuring demonstrations. There will be three-day ticket and reduced tickets for military personnel. For details on the Wisconsin Deer & Turkey Expo including exhibitor list, seminar schedule, contest details, shooting range information, hotel list and directions to each event, connect with www.deerinfo.com.

Wisconsin waterfowlers are invited to attend the **7th Annual Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunter's**

(western Wisconsin); Dana Olsen at 715-463-2481 or Perry Stewart at 715-341-2970) northern Wisconsin). Pre-registration deadline is February 6, which also qualifies the participant for a shotgun drawing.

The 18th Annual Kids' Ice Fishing Clinics will be hosted by local fishing clubs at five Milwaukee County Parks on Saturday, February 7 beginning on the hour every hour from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the clinics, members of southeastern Wisconsin fishing clubs teach kids everything from proper fishing equipment use and knot tying to ice safety. Locations include Humboldt Park, 3000 S. Howell Ave, hosted by

Tuesday, February 17 at Old Hickory Golf Club, W7596 Hwy 33, Beaver Dam, 53916. Dinner, auctions, raffles, games, limited edition items included. For more information contact Art at 920-326-4139. e-mail: acsart@centurytel.net or Paul at 920-927-3445. e-mail: jumper16@live.com.

The Wisconsin Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show will be held Saturday, March 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn 1355 W. 2nd Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54902. 920-966-1300. for more information contact Roger Ludwig at 920-233-0349.

The DHS Outdoor Show

kee/Washington County Chapter will be held on Saturday, March 7 at the County Inn Suites, Port Washington. Festivities include raffle of more than 20 firearms, guided hunt and pheasant deer and the ultimate ice-fishing packages. All proceeds are spent on pheasant habitat preservation and restoration projects. For more information, contact Marc Daniloff at 414-531-0005.

There will be some good "Shows" outside too that you won't want to miss. The **Knights of Columbus Council 524 Big Muskego Ice Fishing Jamboree & Winter Card Party** at Boxhorn Gun Club, S90 W13960 Boxhorn Dr. Muskego will be held Saturday, February 21. There will be a \$10 entrée fee for heaviest fish contest 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. with categories including pike, bass, crappie, bluegill and perch. Play cards with meat raffles, silent auction and door prizes all day. Grand raffle prizes include two round trip Midwest Airline tickets, GPS and Aqua Vu underwater camera. For information contact Bob Mercier at 262-719-2743 or the Knights of Columbus Council 524 at 414-327-5541.

The Winnebago System Sturgeon Spearfishing Season runs February 14 through March 1 on Lake Winnebago and those dates too for the Upriver Lakes including Lake Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan. Season will close on both bodies of water if a pre-set harvest cap or pre-set Winnebago system cap is reached. To participate, you must already have your harvest permit. But, this Show is worth just showing up at one of the many registration station around the Winnebago System.

There will be an **ATV and Ice Fishing Jamboree** on Squirrel Lake near Minocqua on February 7. For more information contact Northwoods Worknsport in Minocqua at 715-356-5400.

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Old reliables like the Wisconsin Deer & Turkey Expo in Madison celebrating its 25th year and newer shows like the Wild Game Chili Cook Off at Fox River Christian Church in Waukesha bring the outside in this winter. Hunters and fisherman can live vicariously through a variety of outdoor shows coming to Wisconsin over the next three months until their seasons open again.

Conference March 6 & 7 at the Ramada Inn in Stevens Point. The conference is designed, developed and managed by a committee of independent waterfowl hunters, supported by individuals, conservation organization and government agencies with a focus on preserving and enhancing our waterfowl hunting heritage and improving waterfowl hunting. For information on attending please visit the website at www.wisducks.org/wwhc.htm or contact one of the following regional representatives: Mike Bell at 920-872-2917 (eastern and southern Wisconsin); Keith Brauneiter at 608-386-4321 or Joe Barstow at 608-526-4894

the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen and the Milwaukee Casting Club; McCarty Park, 8214 W. Cleveland, (wheelchair accessible) hosted by the Southside Sportsmen; McGovern Park, 5400 N. 51st Blvd. (wheelchair accessible), hosted by Badger Fisherman's League; Scout Lake Park, 5902 W. Loomis Rd. (wheelchair accessible), hosted by Walleyes Unlimited; and Wilson Park, 1601 W. Howard Ave., hosted by the Wisconsin Fishing Club. For more information contact Matt Coffaro 414-263-8614.

The Dodge County Area Friends of the NRA Committee is proud to present its **5th Annual Friends of the NRA Banquet**

will be held at Deerfield High School, 1959 N. Waukegan Rd., Deerfield II, Saturday and Sunday, February 28 and March 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. More than three huge gymnasiums full of exhibitors will also include free prizes, casting lessons, paddle boat races, rock climbing, shore lunch, guides, resorts, charter boats and tackle. Seminars will include bass, musky, walleye trout & salmon, dog training, fly casting competition and native gardens to attract wildlife to your yard. For more information connect with www.deerfieldoutdoorshow.com.

Pheasants Forever 2009 Fundraising Banquet Ozau-